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The **PAMPA NEWS**

TODAY IN SPORTS
 Working overtime
 Pampa edges Perryton in extra innings
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 Dog Talk
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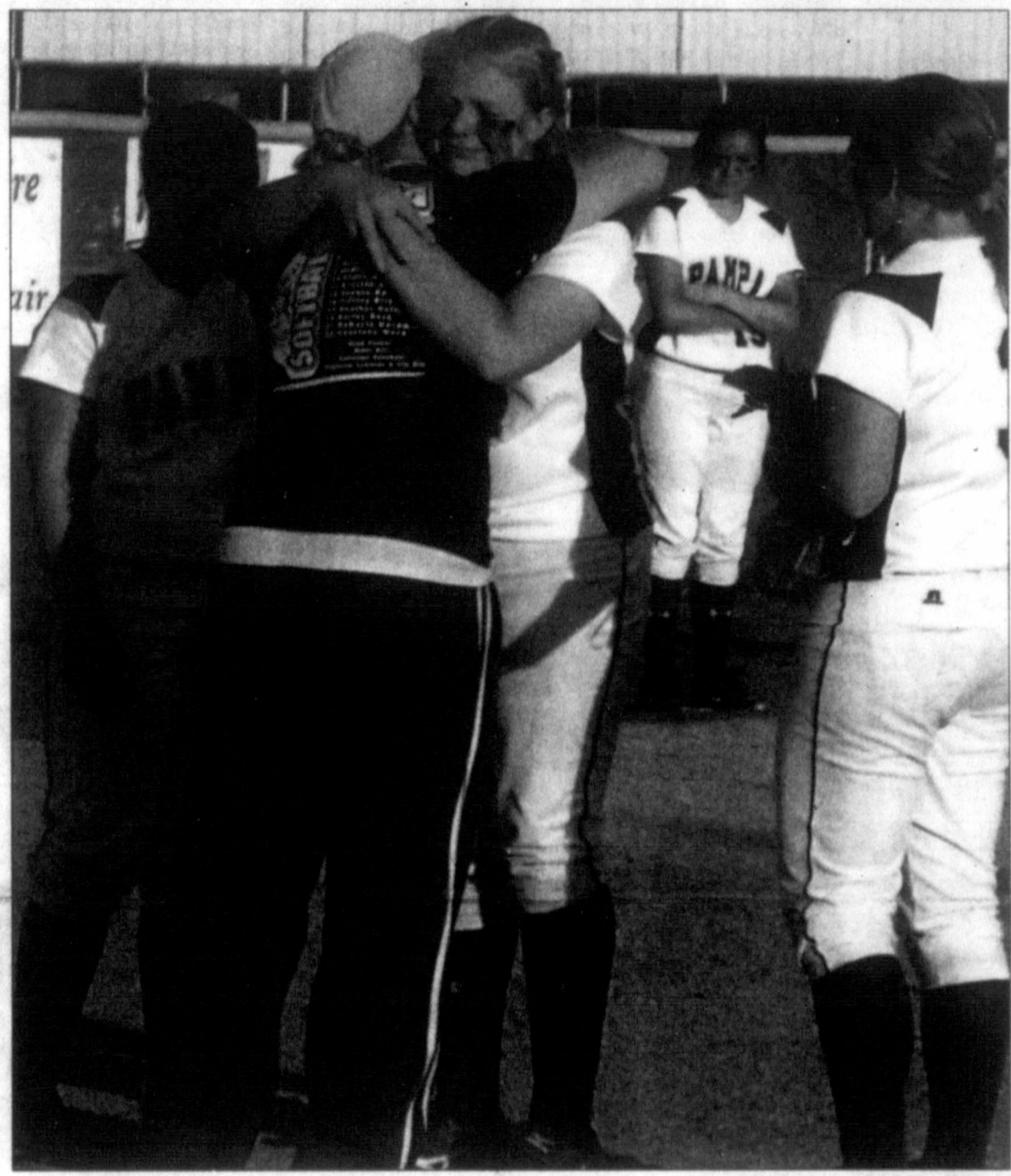
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THAT WINNING FEELING



Senior Madi Shults can't help but get a little emotional as she embraces head coach Bobbi Gill after playing her final game at Lady Harvester Field. Shults and the Lady Harvesters won 13-6 over the Perryton Rangerettes. Full coverage in **SPORTS**, page 10.

City gives first OK to PEDC buy

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

In a special meeting this week, the Pampa City Commission passed on first reading an ordinance approving the Pampa Economic Development Corporation's purchase of the old Celanese plant west of town.

Meeting at noon Tuesday at city hall, the city commission passed the first reading of the ordinance amending the appropriation and expenditures in support of the PEDC's purchase of Pampa Energy Center, the old Celanese plant.

PEDC officials said \$3,642,000 was moved from their reserves to their budget. Officials said \$2,109,570 was already budgeted, bringing the total amount to \$5,751,570.

Officials said \$2.5 million of the amount is a loan from local financial institutions.

The city commission must still approve the PEDC's proposal on second reading before it becomes official. That is expected to be at the city commission's April 26 meeting.

Officials said the sale is expected to close on May 5.

In other business:

- The commission also adopted on second and final reading an ordinance amending the revenues and appropriations providing for the purchase of an access control system for city hall and equipment for the city's paperless agenda system.
- The city commission adopted a resolution supporting efforts by local entrepreneurs to buy and run the hospital in Pampa.

Pampa's district to be paired in map proposal

KIAH COLLIER
 Associated Press

The likelihood West Texas will lose two districts in the Texas House increased after a committee vote Tuesday, but some rural Republican lawmakers say the fight isn't over.

A House redistricting map released last week includes two "pairings" of four districts in West Texas, representing not only a significant loss of political clout but setting the stage for at least one uncomfortable standoff in the next election between the representatives who have lost their district and plan to seek re-election. The pairings are maintained in a revised version of the map the House Redistricting Committee approved Tuesday.

The committee accepted some alterations to the map, including an amendment by Rep. Burt Solomons, the Republican from Carrollton

who chairs the committee, to add back in two districts with majority Latino voters. But the revised map doesn't improve the outlook for the western half of the state.

The 11-to-5 committee vote fell along party lines, minus one dissenting vote from West Central Texas Rep. Harvey Hilderbran of Kerrville, who was the only Republican to vote against the proposal. In an interview after the vote, Hilderbran said the map could be drawn in a way that makes the two West Texas pairings "unnecessary" by making districts more compact and a better representation of communities of interest.

Hilderbran pointed specifically to the new incarnation of House District 88, one of the paired districts currently represented by Republican Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa. As proposed, the district is a skinny line of single counties running west to east across

School board tables action on fence, abstinence program

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees tabled two items on this week's agenda.

Meeting Tuesday night at the Carver Learning Center, 321 W. Albert, the school board tabled action concerning the concrete fence around Pampa High School and changes in the district's abstinence curriculum.

Sena Brainard was the only person to speak to the two items during the board's public comment period.

Brainard said she understood that the concrete fence built by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s was to be left alone.

Now, the school board has indicated that the deteriorating fence should be torn down.

"I think the fence should stay," Brainard said.

Derrell DeLoach, school board president, said the district does not have the funds to rebuild the fences. He said he thinks it should come down.

Brainard

"The people in this community that take pride in the way the fence looks," DeLoach said, "need to step forward and build a fence."

He said parts of the fence should be preserved for historical reasons, however.

Board member Dana Terry suggested replacing the fence with a fast-growing hedge.

Board member David Teichmann suggested allowing people to pay for parts of the fence repair.

"I'd buy a piece," he said.

Concerning the abstinence issue, Brainard said the current program is a failure.

She said other school districts have moved on and have been successful with health clinics. Brainard said that such clinics have lower sexually transmitted disease rates and birth rates




Summer Celebration
 planning meeting
 Thursday, April 21 @ 1:30
 at Chamber
 All interested parties welcome

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PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
High 78 Low 54	High 82 Low 47	High 68 Low 47

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of rain after 1 a.m. Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 46. Breezy, with a southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: A slight chance of rain before 11 a.m., then a slight chance of rain and thunderstorms after 4 p.m. Patchy fog before 11 a.m. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 78. Windy, with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. Windy, with a east wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Breezy, with a east northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

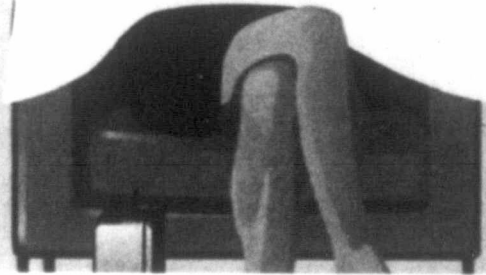
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. Breezy, with a east wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Obituaries

Brandon Lee Childress, 38

WHEELER—Brandon Lee Childress, 38, died Saturday, April 16, 2011, in Beckham County, Okla.

Funeral services will be held Friday, April 22, 2011, at 2 p.m. at the Wheeler High School Gymnasium, Wheeler, with Shawn Davis officiating.

Burial will be in the Wheeler Cemetery, Wheeler, under the direction of Wright Funeral Directors, Wheeler.

Brandon was born on November 26, 1972, in Garden City, Kan., to Kenneth Childress and Brenda Carol Herrell Childress. Brandon has lived in Wheeler all his life. He graduated from Wheeler High School in 1991. Brandon worked in custom hay bailing, worked for the Hardcastle Farms for many years, and was currently employed at New Park Drilling Co. He was fun loving, always outgoing, and had a heart of gold. Brandon is preceded in death by his mother, Brenda Childress on July 4, 2010.

Brandon is survived by his father, Kenneth Childress of Wheeler; one sister, Tami Jo Thompson and husband Shawn of Miami; two brothers, Draton Childress and wife Donna of Wheeler, Casey Childress and wife Nicole of Wheeler; several nieces and nephews, Kenny Childress, Shaylie Thompson, Quincy Childress, Hadley Thompson, Ryan Childress, Kenna Childress, Bracston Childress; and many cousins and friends.

Please sign online guest book at www.wrightfuneraldirectors.com.



Childress

spouses and her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, mother and brother, Richard Miller.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, James Hart, of Tulsa, Okla.; two daughters, Chris Matthies and husband Les of Bixby, Okla., and Beth Kerley and husband Greg of The Woodlands; one son, Dan Hart and wife Kim of Tulsa, Okla.; her four beloved grandchildren, Katie (Kerley) Henson and husband Jimmy, Leigh Anne Hart, Lauren Hart and Paige Kerley; two great-grandchildren, Jack Henson and Tate Henson; her sister, Carole Herzberg and husband Jerry of Tulsa, Okla.; and her brother, Mike Miller and wife Jacquetta of Amarillo; her sister-in-law, Sue Derington of Pampa; countless nieces and nephews and her devoted caregiver of six years, Pam Campbell, who ministered to her every emotional and physical need throughout the end of her life.

The family would also like to thank all the caregivers, staff and administrators at the Tulsa Jewish Retirement and Healthcare Center who took excellent care of Pat and Pat's family during her four-year residency, including the staff of Miller Hospice who so compassionately managed her care during her last days.

Pat died after extended ill health due to COPD, congestive heart failure and Type II Diabetes. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Neuropathy Association®, Inc., 60 E. 42nd St. Ste # 942, New York, N.Y. 10165, 212-692-0662 or 800-247-6968. To donate online go to: www.neuropathy.org/SupportUs/TributeGifts.

The family will receive friends from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2011, at Carmichael-Whately Funeral Home in Pampa.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whately.com.

Minnie Olive Jackson, 97

Minnie Olive Jackson, 97, died Tuesday, April 19, 2011 in Amarillo.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Jackson was born July 14, 1913, in Roberts County and was a lifelong resident of Gray and Roberts Counties. She graduated from Canyon High School and attended what is now West Texas A & M University.

She worked for what is now the Farm Service Agency which is a part of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Minnie Olive married W. B. Jackson on Dec. 2, 1944, in Pampa. He preceded her in death on June 20, 1987. Following her husband's death, Minnie Olive farmed and ranched their land in Gray and Roberts Counties. She was a member of First Baptist Church and a member of the Wayside Club.

Survivors include her daughter, Georganna Briggs and husband Ronald of Amarillo; a grandson, Cliff Briggs and wife Melanie of Amarillo; two great-grandchildren, Chase Briggs and Shayne Briggs of Amarillo; two nieces, Nita Jo Tomlinson and husband Mart of Marble Falls and Janet Kampschroeder and husband David of Amarillo; a nephew, Wyeth J. Osborne and wife Sandy of Pampa; four great nieces, Cara Tomlinson of Austin, Katrina Taylor and husband Trent of Amarillo, Kindi Jo Fiscus and husband Bryan of Wichita, Kan., and Leigh Ellen Lafferty and husband Ladd of Watonga, Okla.; two great-nephews, Kerry Kampschroeder and wife Michelle of Clugerville and Barry Osborne of Amarillo. Minnie Olive was preceded in death by her parents, George and Carrie Talley Montgomery, and by two sisters, Juanita "Sis" Massengale and Roberta Pugh.

The family will receive friends Thursday and Friday at the home of Wyeth and Sandy Osborne at 1700 N. Russell in Pampa.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.



Jackson

Patsy "Pat" Miller Hart, 82

TULSA, Okla.—Patsy "Pat" Miller Hart, 82, of Tulsa, Okla. died April 18, 2011, at Tulsa Jewish Retirement and Health Care Center surrounded by family and friends.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa, Texas.

Pat was born in Maud, Okla., on August 17, 1928, to Harold and Mary (True) Miller. Her family moved to Pampa when she was a small child. Her mother died in 1945, when Pat was just 17 years old. She was a 1946 graduate of Pampa High School and married James W. Hart of Pampa in 1953.

Pat was a long-time member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa and formed many dear friendships through her church family. Bridge was almost as important to Pat as St. Matthew's and it was fortunate that most of these life-long friends were also bridge players.

Pat and James moved their family to Stillwater, Okla. in 1967, where they formed another group of cherished friends. If these friends weren't bridge players before meeting Pat and James, they quickly became bridge players. In 1991 Pat and James moved to Tulsa, Okla. to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Pat worked as a bookkeeper and administrative assistant for a number of diverse businesses including Cabot Corporation and the National Bank of Commerce in Pampa, and Stillwater Nursing Center and the School of Industrial Engineering at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Her family knows she will have heaven organized in a matter of days upon her arrival. Pat was an excellent seamstress and made most of her clothes and those of her daughters during their growing-up years. She became an accomplished needle-pointer and created treasured, heirloom-quality Christmas stockings for each of her children, their



Hart

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Police reported 38 traffic-related reports and six abandoned vehicles.

Animal Control Officers reported 11 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported six ambulance calls. The Pampa Fire Department, the Pampa Police Department and the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department each reported one medical call.

Tuesday, April 19 Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of South Faulkner.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Officers had escort duty in the 100 block of East Harvester.

Officers assisted a motorist at Browning and Municipal Drive.

A theft was reported to police.

A theft was reported in the 1000 block of South Neel.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of Kiowa and in the 2500 block of North Charles.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

A theft was reported in the 200 block of Henry.

A theft was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1200 block of North Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2300 block of West Alcock.

Phone harassment was reported to police.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Officers assisted another

torist at Browning and Municipal Drive.

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A suspicious person was reported in the 1200 block of North Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2300 block of West Alcock.

Phone harassment was reported to police.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Officers assisted another

agency in the 400 block of Quail.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of East U.S. Highway 60.

Prowlers were reported in the 700 block of East Murphy, in the 100 block of West Albert.

Wednesday, April 20 An assault was reported at One Medical Plaza.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of Starkweather.

A missing person was reported in the 500 block of Linda.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrest during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Tuesday, April 19 Arango Humberto Concha, 23, of Clovis, N.M., was arrested by deputies on a fugitive warrant out of New Mexico.

We invite you to join us in **Holy Week Activities**
 First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa

- Palm Sunday Service with Children's Celebration
Sunday, April 17, 10:30 am
- Stations of the Cross
Sunday, April 17, 7:00 pm
- Snack Supper \$2.00, Easter Egg Extravaganza, Youth Night Activities, & Adult Bible Study
Wed., April 20, 6:15 pm
- Maundy Thursday Covered-Dish & Prayer
Thursday, April 21, 6:30 pm
- Good Friday Rock Opera Service
Friday, April 22, 7:00 pm
- Son Rise Service
Sunday, April 24, 6:30 am
- Easter Sunday Service
Sunday, April 24, 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Jeff Knighton - Senior Minister
 Rev. Daniel H. Kovaly & Rev. Karakay Skaggs Ko - Associate Ministers

The Pampa News is now on facebook!
 Go to facebook and search for "The Pampa News"

AFTERNOON RUSH Remembrance: The Gulf one year later

Evac order lifted for west Texas

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Officials say all evacuation orders have been lifted for a stubborn but remote west Texas wildfire that has burned about 150,000 acres.

The Texas Forest Service said Wednesday residents were cleared to return to an area about 250 miles west of Dallas. Several communities and hundreds of homes were threatened, but the agency lists no structure damage.

A converted DC-10 jetliner that is one of the biggest firefighting planes in the world was used on the Wildcat Fire. Forest service spokeswoman Nicole Hawk says the jet carries up to 12,000 gallons of fire retardant.

The agency listed 23 active fires in various stages of containment that have burned a total of slightly more than 1 million acres, or nearly 1,600 square miles. Some have been burning for weeks.

Death row man loses appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has rejected an appeal from a man from El Salvador sent to Texas death row for the slayings of two women in Houston nine years ago.

Walter Alexander Sorto contended he was mentally impaired, making him ineligible for execution under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The Texas court said Wednesday he failed to provide enough evidence to support his claim.

The 33-year-old Sorto is one of two men condemned for the abduction, rape and fatal shootings of 24-year-old Roxana Capulin and 38-year-old Maria Rangel.

The women were waitresses at a restaurant in what's known as Houston's East End. Prosecutors said Sorto was on probation at the time of the killings and was responsible for at least two other murders.

Court limits inmates' suits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court has ruled that a federal law intended to protect the religious rights of prison inmates bars most lawsuits that seek money from states that violate the law.

The court said in a 6-2 decision Wednesday that inmates may file suit to force states to change their policies, but without the threat of monetary damages that might cause states to speed those changes.

The Obama administration and Christian groups warned that a ruling against the inmates would undermine the effectiveness of the 11-year-old law, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

The court ruled in a suit filed by Texas prison inmate Harvey Sossamon, who complained that he was denied the chance to participate in Christian worship services.

Funeral for fallen firefighter

OLDEN (AP) — Family and friends will gather Wednesday to honor a Texas volunteer firefighter who died while fleeing a fire truck that had been trapped in a wildfire-consumed pasture.

State investigators say Eastland firefighter Greg Simmons apparently died Friday after being struck by a vehicle during his flight. He was found on a rural roadside, but investigators are not yet sure if he was hit by a car or one of several fire trucks working a raging 3,000-acre fire that filled the air with thick smoke, senior State Trooper Phillip "Sparky" Dean said.

The funeral for Simmons will be at the Leon River Cowboy Church in Olden, Texas, with burial in the Oaklawn Cemetery in nearby Gorman, Texas.

Olden is 4 miles east of Eastland and 85 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

Bush twins to accept award

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Former President George W. Bush and his family will be honored with the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum's Reflections of Hope award.

Bush's twin daughters, Barbara Pierce Bush and Jenna Hager, will be in Oklahoma City to accept the award at a noon luncheon at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum on Tuesday.

The award honors a living person or organization that embodies two beliefs of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation: hope can survive despite political violence and in environments where there is violence, problems can be solved in a peaceful manner.

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation created the Reflections of Hope award in 2005, in honor of Linda Lambert's service to the Memorial. Former President Bill Clinton was honored with the award last year.

Commission to mull water flow

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is expected to discuss new standards for water flow to bays and rivers on the state's southeast coast.

Some environmental groups say the new rules will reduce water flow so much that they will cripple ecosystems of the bodies of water in question, Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake; as well as the Trinity, San Jacinto, Sabine and Neches Rivers.

But the regulations under consideration grew out of a 2007 law designed to preserve Texas resources while meeting the growing water needs of a booming state population.

Under that law, new rules for the bay, lake and rivers must be adopted by June 1.

The commission meets Wednesday in Austin and can choose to vote on the standards, or wait for a future meeting.

Blagojevich re-trial behins

CHICAGO (AP) — Rod Blagojevich's second corruption trial began Wednesday with little of the hoopla that surrounded the first, as potential jurors quietly began filling out questionnaires aimed at weeding out anyone with strong biases for or against the ousted Illinois governor.

Federal prosecutors have simplified their case and dropped complex charges to address previous juror complaints that the evidence was too difficult to follow.

Blagojevich still faces 20 charges, including allegations he sought to sell or trade an appointment to President Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat for campaign cash or a top job.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Relatives of some of the 11 men who died aboard the Deepwater Horizon oil rig are flying over the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday, back to the epicenter of the worst offshore oil spill in the nation's history.

Meanwhile, on land, vigils were scheduled in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida to mark the spill.

On the night of April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon, a rig owned by Transocean Ltd., burst into flames after drilling a well for BP PLC, killing 11 workers on or near the drilling floor. The rest of the crew evacuated, but two days later the rig toppled into the Gulf and sank to the sea floor. The bodies were never recovered.

Over the next 85 days, 206 million gallons of oil — 19 times more than the Exxon Valdez spilled — spewed from the well. In response, the nation commandeered the largest offshore fleet of vessels since D-Day, and BP spent billions of dollars to clean up the mess, saving itself from collapse.

"I can't believe tomorrow has been one year because it seems like everything just happened," Courtney Kemp, whose husband Roy Wyatt Kemp was killed on the rig, wrote on her Facebook page Tuesday. "I have learned a lot of things through all of this but the most important is to live each day as if it were your last ... what matters is if you truly live."

Natalie Roshto, whose husband Shane Roshto also died on the rig, posted a message on Courtney Kemp's Facebook page on Tuesday evening: "Can't believe it's been a year.. It has brought a lot of tears and a great friendship I'm Sooooo thankful for.. We are a strong force together!! Love u sista."

In a statement, President Barack Obama paid tribute to those killed in the blast and thanked the thousands of responders who "worked tirelessly to mitigate the worst impacts" of the oil spill.

"But we also keep a watchful eye on the continuing and important work required to ensure that the Gulf Coast recovers stronger than before," Obama said in the statement.

Transocean invited up to three members of each family to attend the flyover. They were expected to circle the site a few times in a helicopter, though there is no visible marker identifying where their loved ones perished. At the bottom of the sea, 11 stars were imprinted on the well's final cap.

Several families said they didn't want to go on the flyover, and Transocean didn't allow media.

At a solemn candle-lit ceremony facing New Orleans' cathedral in Jackson Square shortly after sunrise, environmentalists and religious leaders joined to remember the perished rig workers and call on the nation to take the steps to prevent another environmental catastrophe. The ceremony organized by the Sierra Club attracted only a handful of attendees, underscoring the point of a rabbi who addressed the group.

"Our souls are slumbering in moral indifference," said Rabbi Edward Cohn of the Temple Sinai in New Orleans. "People quite rightly are asking: How and when, and by whose insistence and stubborn support, will the public's mind be refocused upon what happened in the Gulf?"

Elsewhere around the world, BP employees were observing a minute of silence Wednesday.

BP chief executive Bob Dudley posted a message on the company's website Wednesday that said, in part: "We are committed to meet our obligations to those affected by this tragedy and we will continue our work to strengthen safety and risk management across BP. But most of all today, we remember 11 fellow workers and we deeply regret the loss of their lives."

The solemn ceremonies underscore the delicate healing that is only now taking shape. Oil still occasionally rolls up on beaches in the form of tar balls, and fishermen face an uncertain future.

Louis and Audrey Neal of Pass Christian, Miss., who make their living from crabbing, said it's gotten so bad since the spill that they're contemplating divorce and facing foreclosure.

"I don't see any daylight at the end of this tunnel. I don't

see any hope at all. We thought we'd see hope after a year, but there's nothing," Audrey Neal said.

"We ain't making no money. There's no crabs," said Louis Neal, a lifelong crabber.

"I'm in the worst shape I've ever been in my whole damn life. I'm about to lose my whole family," he said. "I can't even pay the loans I have out there. That's how bad it's gotten."

His wife said the financial hit was only part of the past year's toll. "Our lives are forever changed," she said. "Our marriage, our children, it's all gotten 100 percent worse."

She said the couple received about \$53,000 from BP early on, but that was just enough money to cover three months of debt. They haven't received a dime from an administrator handing out compensation from a \$20 billion fund set up by BP, they said.

Still, it's not all so bleak.

Traffic jams on the narrow coastal roads of Alabama, crowded seafood restaurants in Florida and families vacationing along the Louisiana coast attest to the fact that familiar routines are returning, albeit slowly.

"We used to fuss about that," said Ike Williams, referring to the heavy traffic headed for the water in Gulf Shores, Ala., where he rents chairs and umbrellas to beachgoers. "But it was such a welcome sight."

Many questions still linger: Will the fishing industry recover? Will the environment bounce back completely? Will an oil-hungry public ever accept more deepwater drilling?

Most scientists agree the effects "were not as severe as many had predicted," said Christopher D'Elia, dean at the School of the Coast and Environment at Louisiana State University. "People had said this was an ecological Armageddon, and that did not come to pass."

But biologists are still concerned about the spill's long-term effect on marine life.

"There are these cascading effects," D'Elia said. "It could be accumulation of toxins in the food chain, or changes in the food web. Some species might dominate."

Meanwhile, accumulated oil is believed to lie on the bottom of the Gulf, and it still shows up as a thick, gooey black crust along miles of Louisiana's marshy shoreline. Scientists have begun to notice that the land in many places is eroding.

For example, on Cat Island, a patch of land where pelicans and reddish egrets nest among the black mangroves, Associated Press photographs taken a year ago compared with those taken recently show visible loss of land and a lack of vegetation.

On a tour of the wetlands Tuesday, Robert Barham, Louisiana's wildlife secretary, showed reporters the lingering damage.

Roseau cane is growing again where it was cut away during early cleanup efforts, but Barham said the 3- to 4-foot-high stalks should be a lush green. Instead, they were pale green and brown.

"It's because of oil in the root system," Barham said. He put his hand into the dirt and pulled up mud saturated with oil. Tossing the sludge into nearby water, it released a rainbow-colored sheen.

Barham complained that BP had not done enough to clean the area. "What they've done thus far is not working."

In the remote Louisiana marsh, there's still yellow boom in places — not to keep oil out but to keep the tides from carrying oil to untouched areas.

Confidence in Louisiana's seafood is eroding, too.

"Where I'm fishing it all looks pretty much the same," said Glen Swift, a 62-year-old fisherman in Buras. He's catching catfish and gar in the lower Mississippi River again. That's not the problem.

"I can't sell my fish," he said. "The market's no good."

But the BP spill has faded from the headlines, overtaken by the tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan, unrest in the Middle East and political clashes in Washington.

"Nationally, BP seems like a dim and distant memory," said Douglas Brinkley, a Rice University historian. But the accident will have long-lasting influence on environmental history, he said.

3,200 Gulf wells unplugged, unprotected

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — More than 3,200 oil and gas wells classified as active lie abandoned beneath the Gulf of Mexico, with no cement plugging to help prevent leaks that could threaten the same waters fouled by last year's BP spill, The Associated Press has learned.

These wells likely pose an even greater environmental threat than the 27,000 wells in the Gulf that have been plugged and classified officially as "permanently abandoned" or "temporarily abandoned." Those sealed wells were first tallied and reported as a major leaking threat in an investigative report by the AP in July.

The unplugged wells haven't been used for at least five years, and there are no plans to restore production on them, according to the federal government. Operators have not been required to plug the wells because their leases have not expired.

As a result, there is little to prevent powerful leaks from pushing to the surface. Even depleted wells can repressurize from work on nearby wells or shifts in oil or gas layers beneath the surface, petroleum engineers say. But no one is watching to make sure that doesn't happen.

The addition of the unused but officially active wells, as documented in a list provided to the AP by federal officials under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, means at least three-fifths of the 50,000 wells ever drilled in the Gulf have been left behind with no routine monitoring for leaks.

The 27,000 decommissioned wells were drilled mostly on federal leases that have now expired. Government rules for expired leases on the sea floor require operators to plug the wells or make plans to reuse them within a year. In its original report, the AP documented how oil and gas companies regularly flouted the rules regarding temporary abandonment, with some wells "temporarily abandoned" since the 1950s.

Rules for unexpired leases are different, and have allowed operators to simply walk away from idle wells. Some of the roughly 3,200 unsealed wells contained in the latest list were drilled 60 years ago, and most are more than 10 years old.

Federal regulators described idle wells on active leases as a "potential threat" to the environment in a September letter to operators announcing a new program, dubbed "Idle Iron," to plug them within three years. The letter said the program would cover more than 3,000 idle wells but didn't say what kind of wells

would be included or whether the wells already contained at least some cement plugging.

The list of specific wells covered by the Idle Iron initiative was provided to the AP by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, which regulates oil and gas leases on federal lands on the sea floor.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 20, the 110th day of 2011. There are 255 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 20, 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, leased by BP, killed 11 workers and began spewing (by government estimates) about 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico for nearly three months.

On this date:

In 1812, the fourth vice president of the United States, George Clinton, died in Washington at age 72, becoming the first vice president to die while in office.

In 1861, Col. Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the United States Army. (Lee went on to command the Army of Northern Virginia, and eventually became general-in-chief of the Confederate forces.)

In 1889, Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria.

In 1945, during World War II, allied forces took control of the German cities of Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

In 1968, Pierre Elliott Trudeau was sworn in as prime minister of Canada.

In 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation in schools.

In 1978, a Korean Air Lines Boeing 707 crash-landed in northwestern Russia after being fired on by a Soviet interceptor after entering Soviet airspace. Two passengers were killed.

In 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, shot and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

Ten years ago: A Peruvian air force jet shot down a small plane carrying American missionaries in Peru's Amazon jungle region, killing Veronica Bowers and her infant daughter, Charity.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush welcomed Chinese President Hu Jintao to the White House; the ceremony was interrupted by a protester who shouted to Bush to stop the Chinese leader from "persecuting the Falun Gong."

One year ago: Airplanes began taking to the skies of Europe again after five days of being grounded by a drifting volcanic ash.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Leslie Phillips is 87. Actor George Takei is 74. Singer Johnny Tillotson is 72. Actor Ryan O'Neal is 70. Bluegrass singer-musician Doyle Lawson (Quicksilver) is 67. Rock musician Craig Frost (Grand Funk; Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band) is 63. A Actress Jessica Lange is 62. Actress Veronica Cartwright is 62. Actor Clint Howard is 52. Actor Crispin Glover is 47. Actor Andy Serkis is 47. Country singer Wade Hayes is 42. Actor Shemar Moore is 41. Rock musician Mikey Welsh is 40. Actress Carmen Electra is 39. Reggae singer Stephen Marley is 39. Rock musician Marty Crandall (The Shins) is 36. Actor Joey Lawrence is 35. Country musician Clay Cook (Zac Brown Band) is 33.

Thought for Today: "Life is made up of desires that seem big and vital one minute, and little and absurd the next. I guess we get what's best for us in the end." — Alice Caldwell Rice, *American humorist (1870-1942)*



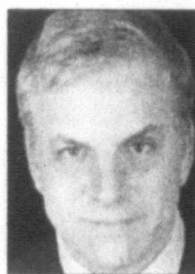
Democrats can win in budget debate

Having hesitated to fully enter the fiscal fray, President Obama has at last delivered a plausible, principled response to the budgetary flim-flams of the far right. But one speech, even a very good speech, won't fulfill his obligation in this fateful argument.

What Obama began to do this week is what Democrats ought to have been doing forcefully for many weeks, which is to ensure that Americans understand the central differences between Democratic and Republican budgeting -- and how the party's contrasting programs would affect them and their families. While acknowledging the need to bring the federal budget closer to balance in coming years, the president laid down real markers concerning how that objective should and should not be achieved.

It should not be done, he said, by raising the costs of medical care beyond affordability for most of the nation's elderly, as the Republican assault on Medicare would eventually do. It should not be done by slashing programs that assist the nation's poor and vulnerable. And it cannot be done at the expense of future generations, by vandalizing the nation's infrastructure through neglect or depriving the nation's children of educational opportunity.

It must be done instead, said the president, in ways that reflect American traditions of fairness (which in bygone days were once honored by the leaders of the Republican Party, who now disdain them). It must demand the most



JOE CONASON

from those who have benefited most, rather than treating them to still more tax cuts. It must restore the standards that made America the leader of the world in education, research and public investment ever since the Second World War, rather than accelerating our decline.

As expected, Obama the politician sought to position himself as close to the center (and independent voters) as he could, by reminding Democrats and progressives that the rapidly rising cost of health care is unsustainable -- and that the concept of "shared sacrifice" doesn't exempt anyone's priorities, including his and theirs. As usual, he gave away too much before the negotiating process has even started.

Yet the president and his political advisers clearly feel that they must establish credibility as budget balancers if they are to prevail. Bill Clinton began his presidency by confronting the Republican legacy of deficits with higher taxes and lower expenditures, but Obama had no realistic choice other than to increase spending substantially -- or let the country and the world sink into depression. Now, from the president's point of view, he is bargaining from a weakened position and has no choice but to emphasize

cutbacks over revenue.

Polls still show, however, that the public agrees with Obama on the most important issues, from preserving Medicare and Social Security entitlements to raising taxes on the wealthy to investing in education, the environment and infrastructure. Very few outside the most dogmatic precincts of the Republican Party believe that the richest of the rich need additional tax cuts, or that such cuts should take priority over food stamps and Medicaid.

Is that an "excessively partisan" or "dramatically inaccurate" way to describe the Republican fiscal philosophy, as House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan complained so bitterly in his rejoinder to Obama's speech? Is the president's plan "hopelessly inadequate," as Ryan said, when compared with his own ever-changing, wildly phony "path to prosperity"?

Ryan's angry response has opened up the possibility of a debate that the country desperately needs. Let us hope that Obama doesn't shrink from that challenge or delegate it to someone else. If his presidency is to become anything but the prelude to an era of decline, he must keep pushing forward just as aggressively as the Republicans push backward.

Joe Conason is a journalist, author and political commentator. He writes a column for the weekly New York Observer newspaper, for Salon.com and has written a number of award-winning books.

A morally untenable corporate system

It's good to know that some corporate chieftains do feel the pain of their underlings -- those hard-hit workers who keep being forced to do more for less reward. Take the example of Gannett, the media giant that owns 23 television stations and 82 newspapers, including USA Today.

Early this year, Gannett employees were notified that, for the third year in a row, they would get no raises and would have to take a week off without pay. Harsh financial realities necessitate these sacrifices, they were informed.

The bad news was delivered as gently as possible, including a thank you for their "continued commitment and great work." To soothe the pain a bit, the note added that Gannett's two top executives would take a commensurate cut in their salaries.

OK, team spirit! But don't grab the pom-poms and break out in cheers. Only two months later, bonuses totaling \$3 million were very quietly bestowed on the top two. And to add a bright cherry to this sweet delight, the duo of honchos also were awarded stock options and deferred compensation totaling as much as \$17 million.

So, some 32,000 workers were forced into furloughs to save about \$17 million for Gannett, but the corporation's No. 1 and No. 2 were then allowed to slurp up all of that savings and then some. Who says there's no "I" in team?

It's not like the executives are doing a terrific job. With them at the helm, Gannett's newspaper readership, revenues and stock price have fallen substantially, and the corpo-



JIM HIGHTOWER

rate chieftains are widely viewed as lacking imagination. But they are credited with "aggressive cost management" -- a cynical euphemism for throwing employees in the ditch.

Once again, working people are sacrificed because of management's failure, middle-class opportunities are shrunk, and top executives collect multimillion-dollar bonuses. Where's the morality in that?

Morality? This will seem like a fairy tale now, but not so long ago, it was actually possible for a CEO pay to constitute "an embarrassment of riches."

How quaint. Today, the riches are unimaginably massive, but the embarrassment gene seems to have been completely bred out of corporate chieftains. They have no qualms, much less shame, at producing negative results for the company, offing thousands of underlings, then wheeling in a front-end loader to haul their own pay to the bank.

Yet another ugly example of this piggish executive ethic recently popped into the news. Having cut 2,000 employees, the head man at Estee Lauder reaped a \$250,000 increase in his salary, plus new stock payments worth more than \$24 million (up from the \$14 million he got the previous year).

Are there no adults to supervise

the corporate playgrounds and teach such concepts as humility, sharing and common decency? In a word, no.

Technically, the board of directors is supposed to provide corporate governance, including the setting of CEO pay. But look at who's on these boards -- they're mostly other members of the corporate brotherhood who have obvious self-interest in keeping pay levels rising for all executives. Boards also include a smattering of "outsiders" who often turn out to have close financial or personal ties to the chief. And, of course, the chiefs themselves sit on their boards, usually chairing them.

The tale of boardroom coziness between directors and the bank bosses they supposedly govern was revealed in the disastrous Wall Street crash of 2008. Far from providing any reasonable restraints, few board members had questioned the casino games the banks were running, and fewer yet objected to giving reckless bankers billions of dollars in unwarranted bonuses.

Now, after the collapse, what has changed? Nothing. One survey of nine of the big banks we taxpayers bailed out shows that two-thirds of their failed board members are still there, and once again, they are shoveling inexplicably huge bonuses at the same old CEOs, who have returned to playing the same old casino games that caused the crash.

A system that enriches executive elites while crushing the middle class is worse than an embarrassment -- it's morally untenable.

Jim Hightower is a syndicated columnist, populist activist and author.

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Six ways to pamper pets

Dog Talk



Pets are an important component of a household. The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that 63 percent of all households in the United States feature one pet or more. Today's pets are genuine members of the family, and pet parents want to do as much as they can to pamper their cats, dogs, birds, and small mammals.

Dogs, cats and other pets are acquired through a number of methods. Statistics indicate that most pets come to families from friends or acquaintances for free or low cost. According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, 10 to 20 percent of cats and dogs are adopted, while only 2 to 10 percent of animals are purchased from a pet store.

Individuals who want to go above and beyond in their treatment of pets frequently push pampering to the limits. Some people treat dogs and cats as if they were children, with all of the same benefits. Thousands of dollars a year may be spent being sure these animals live the high life. Whether this has any benefit on the animals' well-being is debatable; the fact remains that individuals spend quite a few dollars caring for their pets.

Those who want to take pampering to new levels can consider these ideas.

1. Pet treats

While the occasional catnip or dog bone is a nice idea, there are entire bakeries designated to whipping up gourmet delights for pets. Many feature organically grown food items that are human-grade. Cakes, cookies and the like can be purchased that fit with the specific diet and tastes of the pampered pet.

2. Doggie daycare

Why leave the pooch home alone when he or she can hang out with other tail-wagging friends? There are a number of businesses that now cater to the canines and offer

fun activities and socialization for dogs who would otherwise be latch-key pups. Some daycare centers offer accommodations that mimic home, such as cozy couches and quiet corners in which to curl up. Furthermore, they enable dogs to catch up with their friends, a necessity when Mom or Dad won't let them log onto Facebook.

3. Home away from home

Instead of sending pets to a boarder when individuals are on vacation, people are choosing to take pets along. *Road and Travel* magazine has reported that many pet parents — approximately 78 percent of them — often take to the roads or the skies with their pets in tow. There are many pet-friendly accommodations, and travelers have been known to compare amenities and regulations when choosing a hotel/motel for their trips.

4. Pet birthday parties

One in four pet parents in the U.S. have admitted to celebrating their pets' birthdays, according to Best Friends Pet Care. Some go as far as hosting a birthday party in honor of the birthday pup or kitty. Some pet sitters and daycare centers actually will host pet parties where other animals can be invited to celebrate. Pet parties are growing in popularity and can be quite lucrative considering the millions of pets currently in the country.

5. Spa treatment

From lapping in a heated pet pool to receiving a massage, some pet owners treat their favorite friends to relaxation treatments. Gone are the days of a simple bath and haircut at the local groomer. Today's dogs and cats can receive massages, aromatherapy and acupuncture while enjoying additional resort-like amenities.

6. Spending time

Of course, one of the easiest ways to pamper a pet is simply to spend time and devote-attention to the animal. After all, most animals are content with some love and affection from their owners.

This content is syndicated by Metro Editorial Services.

Troops kill ten in Veracruz

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP) — Troops on Tuesday clashed with gunmen trying to establish a base in a city in eastern Mexico, killing 10 alleged assailants, the state government said.

Soldiers and marines were checking on a report of armed men in the Infonavit Rio Medio neighborhood in Veracruz when they came under fire, the Veracruz state government said in a statement. The troops then gave chase after some of the gunmen fled the scene and another shootout ensued, it said.

The troops also seized three automatic rifles, three police uniforms and two cars, it said.

The Red Cross in Veracruz said in a statement that a stray bullet

from the gunfight entered a home, hitting a man in the arm.

Veracruz is one of several eastern Mexican states where the Gulf and Zetas drug cartels are fighting for control. The state and its largest city have the same name.

Also Tuesday, Mexico's Defense Department reported it had captured nine suspects in connection with the killings of at least 145 people whose bodies were found starting early this month in pits in the township of San Fernando, in the border state of Tamaulipas.

The suspects were captured Monday in the Tamaulipas state capital, Ciudad Victoria. Three guns were seized during the arrests. They included

alleged members of the Zetas cartel. Four of the suspects are women.

The Zetas allegedly pulled passengers off buses in San Fernando in late March, possibly as part of a forced recruitment effort.

The statement said the suspects confessed to participating in the kidnapping of bus passengers by the Zetas "so that a member of that organization could select people."

The statement did not specify what they were being selected for.

The killings occurred in the same township where authorities say the Zetas killed 72 Central American migrants in August. Those migrants were allegedly killed after refusing to work for the Zetas.

Map

cont. from page 1

a significant portion of the southern Panhandle.

"Those folks don't have any community of interest," Hilderbran said, conceding that pairings are "unavoidable" but that two may be one too many. "We don't have to have two, but even if there were one, you can still draw the districts in a way that they are more compact and protect communities of interest better in West Central and West Texas, and all you have to do is look at that one district, that long, skinny strip, that is a poster child, a poster campaign for not doing it that way."

The West Texas pairings would pit Republican Reps. Jim Landtroop of Plainview and Rep. Charles Perry of Lubbock against each other in the next election. A standoff between Chisum and Rep. Rick Hardscastle of Vernon — the other West Texas pair — has not been an issue because Chisum has said he is stepping down to run for a place on the Texas Railroad Commission.

In a joint written statement released Monday, Landtroop and Perry said they were concerned not so much about their pairing as they are about a proposal they see as an "unnecessary and blatant attack on West Texas."

"The current map has the Panhandle/South Plains region potentially losing half of its representation," Landtroop said in the statement. "In a decade where Texas Tech seeks to gain Tier One status, wind energy opportunities abound and our producers need protection from the EPA, cutting our West Texas influence is not only unnecessary, but also unacceptable to Charles or myself and it should not be tolerated by other area representatives or senators either."

In the statement, Perry warned "The

vote we take on the House floor determines our representation in West Texas for the next 10 years, and if we dilute that representation unnecessarily, we dilute our voice for a decade."

"Jim and I are not willing to concede that without a fight," Perry said.

The map is based on 2010 census data of changes in population, race and ethnicity given to the Legislature last month. The eight total paired districts are located in areas that lost population over the last decade, including districts in West and east Texas, Dallas County, Harris County — where Houston is located — and Nueces County on the Gulf of Mexico.

The state Legislature is required to redraw political districts after every decennial U.S. census to account for any new growth or shifts in population. The 2010 census showed that the overall state population grew from 21 million to 25 million people since 2000 — the most of any state in the U.S.

Because the Texas Constitution caps the number of members in the Texas House at 150, the goal of redistricting is to place the population of each district as close to the number that's calculated when you divide the total population by the number of districts. For each Texas House district, that's now 167,000 people.

Rep. Drew Darby got lucky under the map. House District 72 is not paired, and it also is placed at the lower end median district population. However, the San Angelo Republican has said the other West Texas pairings are a concern.

"Any loss of rural representation in West Texas is troublesome," Darby said in a written statement.

The House may vote on the map sometime next week.

Board

cont. from page 1

among students.

"There are other options," Brainard said.

She said she believes that abstinence is the best course, but it's not working.

DeLoach suggested switching to an abstinence-plus approach instead of an abstinence-only approach.

Sarah Wheeley of the Pampa Learning Center told the school board that there are 44 pregnant or parenting students in the school system this year.

DeLoach that while the district's abstinence program 'Worth the Wait' has been free in the past, next year it would cost the district about \$27,000.

He suggested switching to 'Big Decision,' a program being used by San Antonio schools, which would cost the district about \$4,000.

Action was tabled and board members will be provided information on the 'Big Decision' program, DeLoach said.

In other business: Concerning Pampa High School's use of a Rural Technology Grant, Principal Tanya Larkin and Suzie Jameson, the district's technology director, have developed a focused approach for the district's efforts.

Larkin said it included a change in the approach to learning.

It means teaching students how to think, not what to think, Larkin said.

The system would also include using mobile devices.

Jameson said that initially, they propose to provide high school students with small Dell laptop computers that cost slightly less than

\$500 each. Several surrounding school districts are already using such programs, she said.

The program will cost about \$500,000 over a three year period. She explained that \$150,000 from the grant would be used initially and used in conjunction with \$350,000 already in the budget for technology.

Using such technology, the duo said, would save on money the district has to spend each year buying new textbooks, plus the technology can be upgraded more quickly than printed books.

The school board also amended the district's budget to allow for costs related to consulting on asbestos abatement at the old junior high school and made an update in the wording of a policy concerning the district's Gifted and Talented Program.

Concerning another policy debate related to the number and use of parent organizations, Superintendent Barry Haenisch explained to the board that under present policy, elementary and junior high schools are allowed to have only two fundraisers a year.

There had been some question as to whether the schools would need to have more because of possible budget cuts by the state.

Haenisch suggested waiting to see what the state was going to do.

The board approved bids for band instruments, approved the sale of delinquent tax property, approved the Spring 2012 PHS Choir trip.

It also approved a fundraiser application

for a Pampa High School fundraiser and professional staff absences.

The board also voted unanimously to deny relief to a district employee who had filed a grievance.

PET OF THE WEEK

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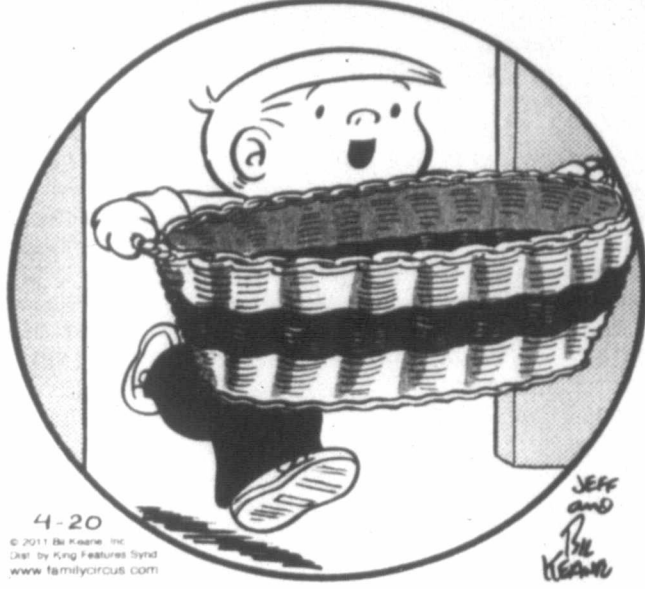
<p>Animal #10141</p> <p>"Jasper" Male Terrier Cross</p>	<p>Animal #10153</p> <p>"Oscar" Male Terrier Cross</p>	<p>Animal #10154</p> <p>"Lyle" Male Terrier Cross</p>
<p>Animal #101802</p> <p>"Arthur" Male Domestic Shorthair</p>	<p>Animal #10050</p> <p>"Freddie" Male Tabby</p>	<p>Animal #10181</p> <p>"Rosie" Female Pitt Cross</p>

For more info about these pets or any other questions, call 806-669-5775 or visit us at the Pampa Animal Shelter. All photos of animals can be viewed online at www.cityofpampa.com. The animals can be seen through the window of the shelter any time.

If you're looking for a "forever friend," call or visit us today!
The Shelter is open to the public Mon. - Sat. from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

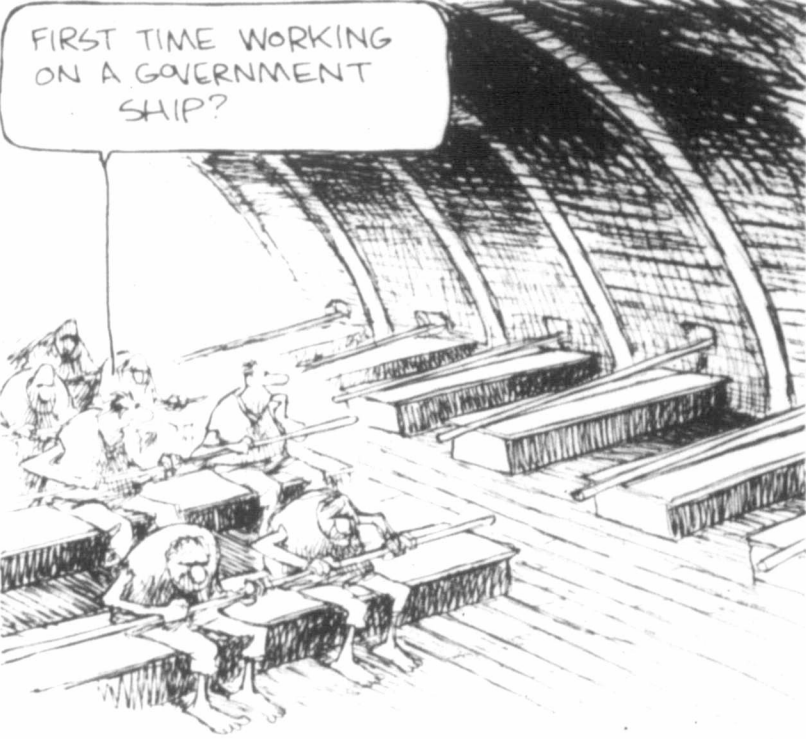
comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



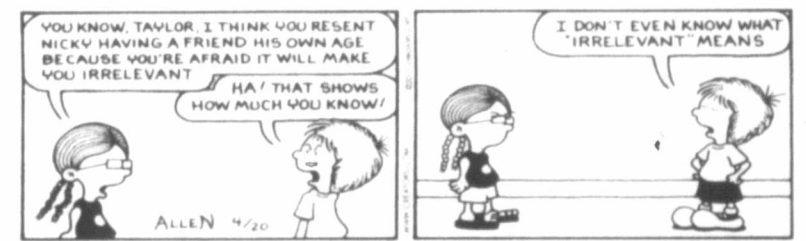
"I found a basket to use for Easter!"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, April 21, 2011:

This year, you will see significant changes within your personal and professional lives. Through May, you will be completing a 12-year luck cycle. Look back 11 years. What were you doing? What has happened since then? What are the common threads? Beginning in June, you enter a new life and luck cycle. Know that you can pull white rabbits out of your black hat! If you are single, during the months that follow, you might meet someone of significance. The end of August and beginning of September could be of significance. If you are attached, your optimism warms up the love temperature. Understand that your role might be more dominant than in the recent past: SAGITTARIUS can provoke strong responses.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Understand that even though you think you are clear, you might have to rehash a conversation or speak to someone again. Use this period to relax with those in your life and not to harp on an issue or push a project. Just a normal day. Tonight: Carry the banner into the night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Relate to a loved one directly. You are not going to make waves right now, but you can bond, swap ideas and enjoy what each other has to offer. Tonight: Visit with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others want to relate on more than just a business level. Two people would like to get past networking and become closer friends with you. Your perspective could be very different if you let those relationships evolve. Make sure you want to pal around with these folks. Tonight: So many suggestions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself and have a reasonable plan for after work or whatever your day might be. A good, balanced plan involves visiting with friends, completing an errand or two, exercising and doing on a loved one. Tonight: Play it easy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your imagination is an endless source of ideas, fun and whatever you

would like to create. If you are in an artistic field, you could see quite a difference in your output and productivity. You will want to repeat this type of performance. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Stay centered and be willing to move in a new direction. How you see a personal matter and the choices you follow might be a little off the beaten path. They are also subject to revision. Your directness is appreciated. Tonight: Stay centered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep communication flowing, and understand what others are really saying. We are not talking about the words, but the true meaning. Sometimes what isn't said is more important. Tonight: Hanging out is fun to do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ As a sign, you have a tendency to become extravagant or go overboard. Your greatest asset easily could be self-discipline. Though you may go to extremes, you'll find the midpoint — perhaps not today, but very soon. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your smile and energy up the odds for a home run. Everyone wants to work with you, which allows a spirit of cooperation to develop. Creative relationships and ideas flourish. Someone you meet today could set your heart afire. Spontaneous actions identify you. Tonight: Remember, you are the cat's meow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Keep a change of heart behind the scenes. You might feel very strongly at this moment, but given time, you could change your perspective. A family or domestic matter keeps popping into your mind. Isn't it time to handle it? Tonight: Happy at home.

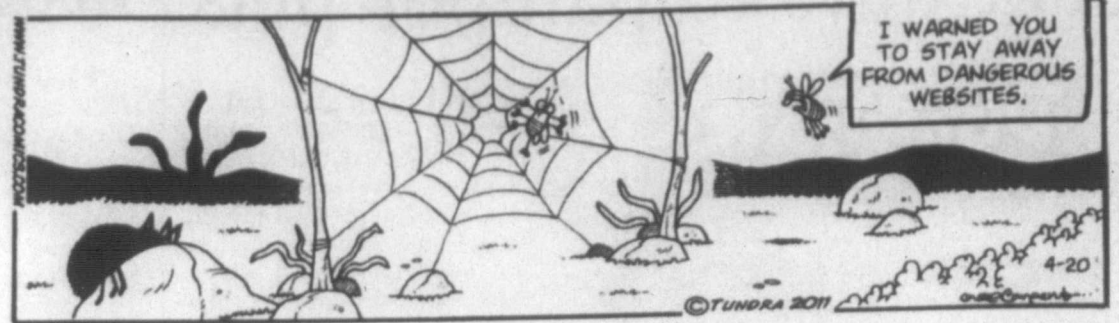
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might want to open up a discussion and allow greater give-and-take. Even if many ideas, messages and requests head in your direction, you will be able to remain responsive and in control. Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision. Though funds seem to be flowing, if the out becomes more than the in, you will be in trouble. Right now you express a devil-may-care attitude. There is a tomorrow. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

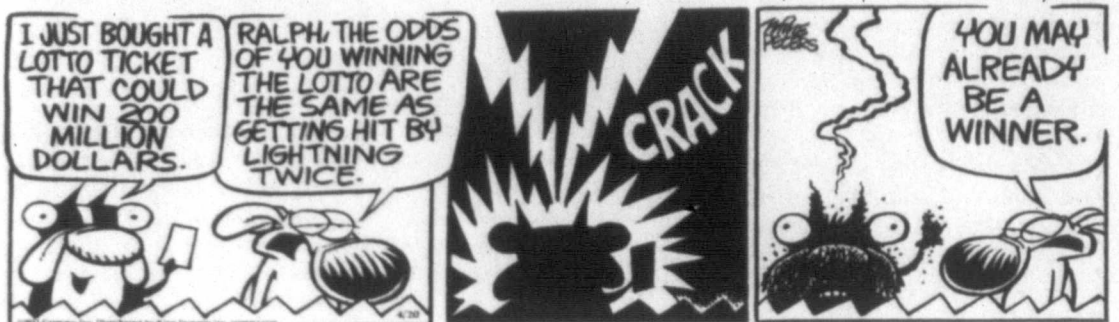
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Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



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Hagar The Horrible



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The Pampa News'

Classifieds

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Texas wildfire evacuees keep tabs on homes from afar

MINERAL WELLS, Texas (AP) — Since evacuating her lakeside Texas home, Jackie Fewell has turned her hotel room into the information hub for one of the state's largest wildfires, working the phones and using the Internet to get the word out to worried residents.

Fewell, her husband and several friends have been updating a blog she created about the fire around Possum Kingdom Lake, a community of mostly weekend homes about 70 miles west of Fort Worth. The fire has burned for nearly a week, tearing through several communities, consuming 150,000 acres and destroying about 150 homes and a church, according to the Texas Forest Service.

Fewell, a partner in a real estate company, said residents have been desperate for accurate information — even sending as many as 100 emails an hour. "It's because they weren't living there to begin with full-time and they didn't know what was going on, and they were hearing these crazy reports," she said.

Armed with cellphones and laptops, Fewell and her team have been chatting with some residents who refused to evacuate, listening to a law enforcement scanner and even watching live feed from a security camera at one of the homes. By Tuesday afternoon, nearly 62,000 people had visited the blog in about 12 hours — up from about 800 visitors on a regular day.

The Possum Kingdom Lake fire is one of several massive blazes across the state that firefighters were battling Wednesday morning, adding up to more than 1 million acres of land burned in a little more than a week in drought-stricken Texas.

Firefighters were being called in from around the country to help fight the Possum Kingdom fire starting Wednesday, said Haven Cook, a spokeswoman for the Southern Area Incident Management Team. Local crews that have been fighting the fire can stay on if they choose, Cook said.

Another team dispatched by the same national agency is managing a large fire in West Texas.

The funeral for a volunteer firefighter killed last week also was set for Wednesday. Eastland firefighter Gregory M. Simmons, 50, apparently was hit by a vehicle driving through a smoky area after he had been battling a wildfire.

But weary firefighters had some reason for hope as rain and higher humidity levels were forecast for the rest of the week in parts of the state.

A 20 to 30 percent chance of rain was forecast for Wednesday and Thursday in North Texas, said Daniel Huckaby, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

"Some areas will get some rainfall, but unfortunately most will not. And with the chaotic wind that thunderstorms can produce, and the lightning they can produce, that can make matters worse," Huckaby said. But as the humidity levels rise, "even without the rain, conditions are looking more positive."

The fire that started Friday in the Possum Kingdom

Lake area and spread into two other counties still was raging well into Tuesday night. That's when authorities ordered the 400 residents of Palo Pinto, about 50 miles west of Fort Worth, to leave because of the advancing flames, said Trooper Gary Rozzell of the Texas Department of Public Safety. The county's jail inmates also evacuated, as did the nearby community of Graford and the small town of Strawn, south of the lake.

Several roads in the area were closed, and boating access to Possum Kingdom Lake was closed Tuesday to everyone except emergency workers responding to the wildfire. White ash was falling from the sky in several nearby towns throughout the day, and National Guard helicopters from Austin and heavy air tankers could be seen dumping water to aid ground efforts.

Fewell said her blog has kept her from worrying about her home, which she found out Tuesday was not in the path of the fire.

"We've just pushed it to the back of our heads," she said. "It is what it is, and we're all in this together."

Doctors: Japan nuke workers at their limit

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Workers battling the crisis at Japan's stricken nuclear plant suffer from insomnia, show signs of dehydration and high blood pressure and are at risk of developing depression or heart trouble, a doctor who met with them said Wednesday.

The crews have been fighting to get the radiation-spewing Fukushima Dai-ichi plant under control since it was crippled by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated northeastern Japan.

"The conditions at the plant remain harsh," epidemiologist Takeshi Tanigawa told The Associated Press. "I am afraid that if this continues we will see a growing risk of health problems."

Tanigawa, the Public Health Department chairman at Ehime University's medical school, said he met and spoke with 80 of the workers over four days when he was allowed into another nearby nuclear plant where many of them take their breaks. He said

he was not able to carry out full physical exams on the workers before leaving Tuesday because of time constraints.

Tokyo Electric Power Co., the plant operator, said 245 workers from the company and affiliated companies were stationed at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant Wednesday. Soldiers, firefighters and police officers also were at the site.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I work in a dental office. My boss (the doctor) and his assistant have a problem keeping their pants up. Every time either of them reaches for something or, God forbid, bends over — they flash their backsides. It's just bad, and both of them are pretty good-sized men.

My boss is the kindest, most generous person I know. But frankly, this is an embarrassment for patients and co-workers alike. Something has to be done. Any suggestions to help us with this problem would be greatly appreciated. — EMBARRASSED FOR EVERYONE, TOWANDA, PA.

DEAR EMBARRASSED: The doctor and his assistant may be unaware of the show to which they are treating everyone. You say this is not only embarrassing for the employees but also the patients. Have any of them complained about it to you? If so, you have your opening to transmit that message to Dr. Derriere.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "Gil," for three years. We bought a house together six months ago. Prior to that, we had a discussion about the future. Gil told me he wanted to get married and have kids.

I expected a marriage proposal over the holidays. When it didn't happen, I asked him what he was waiting for. His response broke my heart. He said he no longer wants to get married. Gil says he loves me, I'm his "best friend," he is willing to move forward and have children — but not get married.

I'm not sure how I feel about his arrangement. I am depressed and don't know what to do. For me, Gil is "The One" — the love of my life. I feel like a failure and a fool for allowing myself to get into this situation. Please help me. — WEDDING BELL BLUES IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR WEDDING BELL BLUES: I don't blame you for feeling depressed and confused. The person you thought was The One led you on and convinced you to make a major investment under false pretenses. You should not have children with him under these circumstances. Before this goes any further and you feel even worse about yourself, I'm advising you to consult a lawyer about extricating yourself from this bad business deal. You're not the failure. He is.

DEAR ABBY: I played matchmaker for a girl-

friend and introduced her to a buddy of mine from work. Two years later, he was arrested for molesting her children, and I just found out he'd had a record for this! She is no longer speaking to me. What do I do? — REGRETFUL IN OREGON

DEAR REGRETFUL: All you can do is apologize — which I presume you have already done. Although you were well-intended when you made the introduction, it implied that you were giving him your endorsement. However, you should not have been expected to have done a background check on him — that was your friend's responsibility as the mother of young children. And she may be madder at herself for not doing so than she is at you.

DEAR READERS: This Friday, April 22, is Earth Day. It offers all of us a chance to do something positive for the planet. Many parents use it as an opportunity to bond with their children by sharing in a project, and some schools offer credit to students who participate (hint, hint). So check your local newspapers and go online to find ways you can help in your community.

BANANAGRAMS!

Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, the path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

LEVEL

UNDID COMMA

PROBE GUILE

Yesterday's Answer: ABSENT, HAMLET, ATTEST, GIBLET

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

3	7	9	2	4	6	8	1	5
6	5	4	8	7	1	9	3	2
2	8	1	5	3	9	6	7	4
7	2	8	6	9	5	3	4	1
9	3	6	4	1	7	5	2	8
1	4	5	3	8	2	7	9	6
4	6	3	9	2	8	1	5	7
5	9	7	1	6	4	2	8	3
8	1	2	7	5	3	4	6	9

	4							
		2	8		9		1	4
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		5	4		1	3		
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				7				
		2	6				9	

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Mystery writer
 - 5 Scrooge cries
 - 9 Rome fountain
 - 11 Conductor's need
 - 12 Baltimore player
 - 13 Extremely
 - 14 Punk-rock offshoot
 - 15 Large profit, figuratively
 - 17 Amenable
 - 19 French article
 - 20 Hog holders
 - 21 Golf goal
 - 22 Resort off Venezuela
 - 24 Resistance unit
 - 26 Nogoodnik
 - 29 In the style of
 - 30 Cavity contents
 - 32 Placement on a poster
 - 34 Holiday lead-in
 - 35 Steer clear of
 - 36 Commercial cow
 - 38 "— kangaroo down ..."
- DOWN
- 39 Assesses
 - 40 Move slowly
 - 41 Diamond corner
 - 1 Scatter
 - 2 Friend of Porthos
 - 3 Rise up
 - 4 Broad st.
 - 5 Fancy dance
 - 6 Hun head
 - 7 Jack of rhyme
 - 8 Unforeseen problems
 - 10 More black
 - 11 Eur. country
 - 16 Pancreas product
 - 18 Neeson of "Unknown"
 - 21 One of the Fab Four
 - 23 Cohort of Haley and Lahr
 - 24 "Twelfth Night" heroine
 - 25 Luminous rings
 - 27 Midday break
 - 28 Is jealous of
 - 29 Let up
 - 30 Bona —
 - 31 Honking birds
 - 33 Green hue
 - 37 Chemist's place

OMELET	BOAT
FARINA	URGE
FOREST	GREEN
DUELS	
TOTE	EARS
HOBO	CARATS
ATE	BUM DUO
GASCAP	TIDY
LEAR	AHOY
NOBLE	
LEMON	YELLOW
ATOP	ERMINE
GAMY	STATED

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9			10		11			
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38					39			
40							41	

4-20

Sports

Harvesters' outduel Rangers in extra inning affair

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Senior Tyler Malone came up to bat in the bottom of the seventh in what looked to be his final at-bat at Harvester Field with his team trailing by one.

"I knew it was probably my last at-bat at home field and I was like, 'I got to do something,'" Malone said.

After striking out his first two at-bats, Malone made sure he connected, as he hit a game-tying home run and helped the Harvesters win 4-3 in the eighth inning over the Perryton Rangers on senior day Tuesday.

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooes said his seniors stepped up.

"(Malone) hits that home run to tie the game," Snelgrooes said. "(Garrett) Ericson pitched so well for us, Brent Green caught a great game, Zach Murray played great defense and hit the ball well."

Pitching in his final game at Harvester Field, Ericson earned the win, allowing three runs on 11 hits, walked two, hit one and struck out nine in eight innings.

Though it was Senior Day, it was a junior who came up with the game-winning hit as Collin Killgo hit a single to score Cole Engle in the bottom of the eighth. Killgo said the hit felt good and he was glad he came through for his senior teammates.

"I bet (the hit) means more to the seniors than it does me," Killgo said.

The Rangers (10-16, 4-3) took the lead in the first. Tony Loustaunau hit a leadoff single and stole second. Blake Turner drove him in with a single. Kevin Becerill followed with a walk and Fabian Villagran doubled. Turner was caught stealing and Braiden Vernor grounded out to end the inning.

Perryton expanded their lead in the top of the third. Noah Loma led off with a single and stole second. Becerill drove him in with a single to left. Perryton walked twice but Vernor left the bases loaded as he struck out looking.

The Rangers made it 3-0 in the top of the fourth. After Perryton lead off with a single, Loustaunau hit a RBI double but Loma flied out and Turner struck out to end the inning.

The Harvesters started their rally in the bottom of the fifth. Jordan Lemons led off with a walk and stole second. Sophomore James Thompson moved him to third on a sacrifice bunt. Sophomore Tyler Powell hit his second varsity home run and cut the Rangers lead to one.

In the seventh inning, Malone led off with a home run to tie the game at three. The winning run didn't cross the plate, as three of the next four Harvesters struck out. Powell reached base on a walk but was stranded at first.

Engle led off the eighth with a four-pitch walk. Senior Brent Green moved him to second on a sacrifice. Junior Jared Lusk was hit by a pitch before Killgo ended the game with a walk-off single.

Villagran took the loss for the Rangers allowing four runs on four hits, walked four, hit one and struck out 13. The starting pitcher was 3-for-3 with an RBI. Loustaunau went 3-for-5 with an RBI and Becerill went 3-for-4 with an RBI.

Lemons went 1-for-2 with a run scored. Powell went 1-for-2 with a two-run home run. Killgo went 1-for-3, with a RBI. Malone was 1-for-3 with a home run.

The Harvesters (12-13, 4-3) moved into second place and own the tiebreaker over Perryton. Snelgrooes said the victory keeps some of their goals alive.

"District championship isn't totally out of the picture but we are going to need some help," Snelgrooes said. "We are focusing at the game at hand. We got Lou Gehrig (win four) out of the way now we are going on to Joe DiMaggio (win five) in Dalhart."

Malone said the team is in good position.

"It's big to beat Perryton twice," Malone said. "We have the tiebreaker over them if it came down to it."

Pampa visits Dalhart (6-12, 0-7) 2 p.m. Saturday.



Junior Collin Killgo is set to swing against the Perryton Rangers Tuesday. Killgo delivered a walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth to give the Harvesters a 4-3 victory. The win moved Pampa into second place. photo courtesy of Joe Murray

How the seniors fared

- Garrett Ericson pitched a complete game, struck out nine and earned his fourth win of the season.
- Mitch Simon, who was injured, kept his teammates encouraged and cheered them on.
- Brent Green helped lead Ericson to nine strikeouts. Hit a sacrifice bunt to move Cole Engle into scoring position.
- Zach Murray caught a flyout and had a 100 fielding percentage.
- Tyler Malone hit a solo home run to tie the game at three in the bottom of the seventh.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Brent Green gives his mother Judy Green yellow roses as he is honored on senior day while his Dad Huey and sister Brittney look on. Green helped set up the winning run in the eighth inning.

PAMPA NEWS

athletes

of the week

Krysten Miller
Pampa High School

Pampa High School freshman softball player Krysten Miller is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Miller scored a run and singled against Dalhart April 12. Against Borger Saturday, Miller hit for the cycle and was the first Lady Harvester in four years to achieve that.

Reid Miller
Pampa High School

Pampa High School junior track athlete Reid Miller is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Miller won the 110-meter hurdles advancing him to regionals. The junior was part of the 400-meter relay and 800-meter relay teams that are also going to regionals.

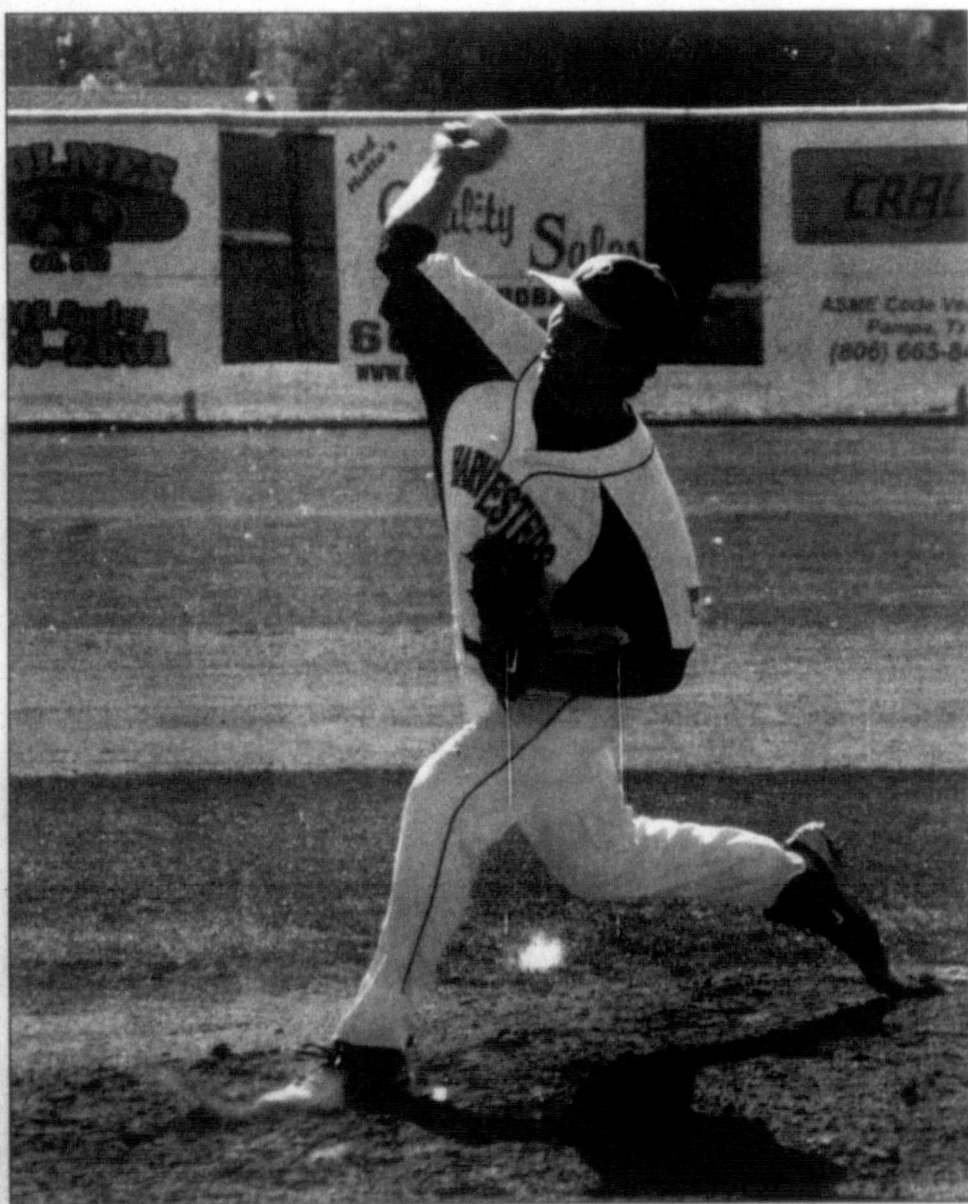


photo courtesy of Joe Murray

Senior Garrett Ericson throws a pitch against the Rangers Tuesday in his final home game. Ericson threw a complete game and earned the win in the Harvesters 4-3 extra inning victory at Harvester Field.

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Sports

Stephens' hit powers Lady Harvesters past Rangerettes

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Junior catcher Alanna Stephens was 0-for-3 when she came to the plate in the bottom of the sixth with game tied and runners at first and third. After fouling off the first pitch, Stephens made sure her senior teammates would leave Lady Harvester Field with a victory. She hit a RBI single to center and scored the winning-run in a 13-6 victory over the Perryton Rangerettes Tuesday.

Stephens said she wanted to do something since she struggled in her first three at-bats.

"I just wanted to hit it," Stephens said. "I knew I needed to because we were tied."

Head coach Bobbi Gill said her team was able to pull to it out because they tightened up defensively.

"We started making the routine plays," Gill said. "Kept chugging away at the plate till we got the runs we needed for run support."

Senior Jordan Mayhew started for the Lady Harvesters and breezed through the first inning, retiring the Rangerettes in order. The senior pitched four innings and gave up six runs (three earned) on four hits and struck out three in a no-decision.

Gill said it's fun to let a senior play a position they don't usually get to play.

"She did really good and I was proud of her," Gill said.

The Lady Harvesters (24-7; 8-0) got on the board in the bottom of the first. Sophomore Bailey Beck hit a home run to left field to score the first run. Freshman Krysten Miller singled and scored on an error by the center fielder in the next at-bat. Pampa left the bases loaded as senior Madi Shults flied out to left.

Perryton responded in the second inning. Shults couldn't catch a throw to first and allowed Bailey Walker to reach second. Miller over threw Shults, allowing Walker to score and Shelby Skaggs to reach second. Kaetlon Roberts hit a sacrifice fly to center and scored Skaggs.

Pampa broke the tie in their half of the second. Senior Shanna Keown led off with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice by sophomore Claire Hopkins. Beck singled to center and advanced Keown to third. Perryton's coach Rusty Thomas thought Keown tripped his short-stop going to third. The umpires initially confirmed the play but after a second discussion overturned it. Gill voiced her displeasure but couldn't get a second reversal. Mayhew hammered a home run to right scoring Beck and Miller. Pampa led 5-2 after the second.

Mayhew said it made her Senior Day

a special one.

"It was really fun and exciting," Mayhew said. "I'm really glad we took care of business and could really enjoy it with a win."

Perryton cut into the lead the next inning. Amber Hall singled to right and scored Christine Hargrove, who reached on an error by Martecia Alexander. In the fourth inning, Pampa's fielding continued to shoot them in the foot. Walker led off with a strikeout, but Stephens couldn't hang on to the ball and Walker reached first safely. Skaggs drove her in with a double to left. Roberts drove her in with a triple to right. Beck and junior McKinlee Stokes were both going for the ball and Beck missed the catch, allowing Roberts to give Perryton a 6-5 lead.

The Lady Harvesters immediately tied the game. Beck and Miller singled. A passed ball moved them into scoring position. Beck scored when Stokes reached on an error. Miller was stranded at third when Alexander flied out to Roberts.

Junior Heather Coffee took over the pitching duties and earned her eighth straight win. In three innings, Coffee allowed two hits, walked two, hit one and struck out three. In the Lady Harvesters' last five victories, Coffee has been the winning pitcher.

Gill said Coffee has been strong off the bench.

"I'm really proud of how she comes in and just competes and throws outs," Gill said. "She doesn't try to strike everybody out. She pitches out for her defense."

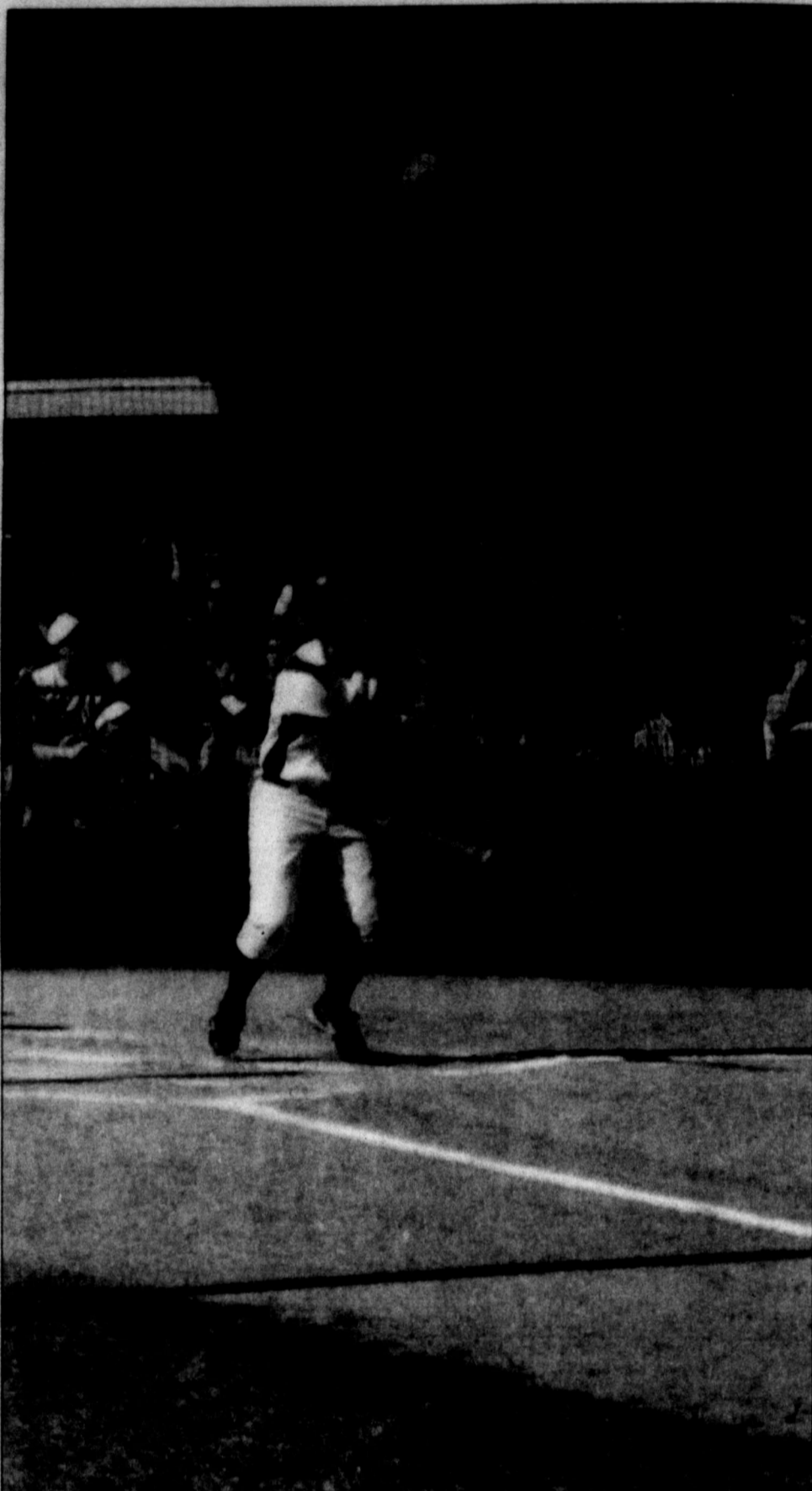
The fifth inning was scoreless and Perryton was held scoreless in the top of sixth. Pampa broke the game open in the bottom of the sixth. 10 Lady Harvesters batted and scored seven runs on seven hits. Seven of the nine batters scored. Stephens, Stokes and Alexander had RBI base hits. Shults hit a RBI sacrifice fly.

The top of the seventh was uneventful. Skaggs reached after she was hit by a pitch. Molly Tarango courtesy ran. Shults cut a line drive and stepped on first to complete a double play and end the game.

The junior varsity (24-6-1) tied 4-4. Pampa was down 4-1 and scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth to secure a tie. The game was called after the fourth due to diminishing daylight. Coach Jim Gill said he was proud of his girls.

"We've had three games we were down by four runs and came back and won," Gill said. "I love these girls and wouldn't trade anyone of them."

The Lady Harvesters visit Dalhart (23-10, 3-5) 5 p.m. Friday to close the district season. Pampa closes the season at home with former district foe Canyon 1 p.m. Saturday.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Sophomore Bailey Beck watches as the ball sails over the left field wall for a solo home run in the first inning against Perryton. Beck would score the game-winning run in the bottom of the sixth as Pampa won 13-6.

How the seniors fared

- Jordan Mayhew singled in the sixth and scored on a single by McKinlee Stokes.
- Madi Shults hit a sacrifice fly to center and scored Martecia Alexander.
- Shanna Keown singled and scored on an error by the catcher.

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