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The **PAMPA NEWS**

TODAY IN SPORTS



Turf toe
Harvesters prepare for Pirates, playing surface
Page 10

inside:
Antique or Junque?
Page 3

Thursday, May 5, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 26 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Pampa celebrates National Day of Prayer

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

Millions across the country are observing the 60th National Day of Prayer today, and certainly, Pampa is no different.

Marking the occasion with a special citywide service at the M.K. Brown Civic Center at noon today, the Pampa community of faith took the time to recognize that, despite all our differences, prayer brings us all together.

"I think it's wonderful," said Dr. Johnny Funderburg of First Baptist Church, one of the three pastors who led today's ceremony. "It's

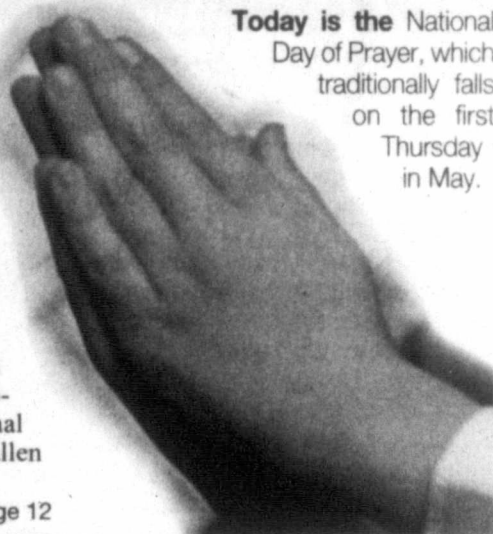
the church universal. It's worship universal. In spite of some of the points of theology that are different (between the churches), we come together in the spirit of Jesus to worship and honor and praise, and that's great."

"It brings together people of all faiths to pray," echoed Paul Nachtigall of Highland Baptist Church, a longtime organizer of Pampa's Day of Prayer event. "For our nation, for our military, for our schools, our businesses and the media, that God will be able to use all of those things for his will.

Certainly, the National Day of Prayer has its national detractors. On April 29, President Barack Obama declared today the National Day of Prayer in the face of continuing opposition from atheist groups and other nonbelievers. The president's proclamation reflected the climate of controversy that the National Day of Prayer has fallen under.

PRAYER cont. on page 12

Today is the National Day of Prayer, which traditionally falls on the first Thursday in May.



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2011 Best of Gray County PRESTIGE INDEED



The winning team for a second year in a row, from left to right on the front row, John Locke, Chad Quarles, Ryan McCarley and Tye Powell. From left to right on the back row, Casey Knutson, Bobby Petroski and Jason Gray. Not pictured, Larry Knutson, Gene Gray and Stephen McCarley.

Body shop takes second 'Best of' honor

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Prestige Auto Center is a family business in the truest sense of the term.

Owner Chad Quarles proudly acknowledged that many of the

business are related and those that aren't are still like family.

For the second year in a row, Prestige Auto Center is the winner of The Pampa News' Best Auto Body Repair Shop.

Quarles said that Prestige celebrated their sixth year

this past April.

His wife, Amy, said they have a lot of family, and they are all involved in the business.

"There's my father-in-law, brother-in-law, two step brothers-in-law," Quarles said.

PRESTIGE cont. on page 12

Somebody Cares drive collecting

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

The recent tragic events in Alabama have not been lost on the Pampa community.

With a large-scale tornado devastating much of Birmingham and Tuscaloosa last week, Lonny Robbins, mayor of Pampa and pastor of Trinity Fellowship, is partnering with national Christian nonprofit Somebody Cares to help bring some much-needed aid to the area.

"When the people of your city are hurting, sometimes it's the little things that are significant," Robbins said. "These people are reduced to nothing, and it's our hope to be able to give them a little something to help them get back on their feet and back to normal."

To that end, Trinity Fellowship, 2225 N. Hobart, and the Pregnancy Support Center, 210 N. Ward, are collecting items for personal care packages to send to the tornado-stricken people of Alabama. Robbins said that the Pregnancy Support Center is taking donations through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., and Trinity Fellowship will be collecting on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Robbins said that the hope is for the first shipment to be sent on Monday, but if people want

DRIVE cont. on page 12

DCP program sign-ups to continue through June 1

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Sign-ups for Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will continue through June 1, according to Gray County Executive Director Matthew Street.

Advance payments of 22 percent on the 2011 DCP became available Dec. 1, 2010. The remaining 78 percent will be issued after Oct. 1, 2011, Street said.

"Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices," he said.

DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the sign-up deadline of June 1, 2011.

The Average Crop Revenue election

(ACRE) program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cycle payments under DCP, Street said.

"A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a five year average state yield and the most recent two year national price for each eligible commodity," Street said.

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) ends July 29, 2011, he said.

SURE provides benefits for 2008-2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters, Street explained.

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish

an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provision for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process, Street said. No tax data will be included in the report that the IRS sends to FSA.

Participants in the CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 1, 2011, to avoid interruption of program benefits.

Street said more information is available at the Gray County Farm Service Agency office or online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

Pampa Partnership Golf Tournament
call today to be a Meal Sponsor or a T-box Sponsor
Pampa Chamber of Commerce 669-3241

IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries	2	Viewpoints	4
Local Record	2	Dear Abby	5
Weather	2	Comics	7
Afternoon Rush	3	Classifieds	8
Antique or Junque? ..	3	Sports	10,11



PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 87 Low 51	High 86 Low 57	High 93 Low 58

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. Breezy, with a north northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 87. Windy, with a south southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 86. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. Breezy, with a southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 93. Windy, with a south wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. Windy, with a southwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

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ANNUAL BIG / Barbecue, Saturday May 7, 5-7 pm, Adults \$9 advance, \$10 at the door, children 4-10 half price. Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan. All proceeds benefit local charities.

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JAMMING AT Woody Guthrie Music Center, Fri. 6-8pm

SENIOR DANCE, Sat. May 7, 7-11pm, Moose Lodge. Bob Walter performing. All Sr. Citizens invited! \$5 ea. Info. 806-236-6665

SADDLE UP for St. Jude, Trail Ride, Arrington Ranch, Sat. May 7, gates open 8am. \$20 to ride, lunch furnished. Bring Coggins. Questions-call Kathy 207-0172. Money is donated to St. Jude's.

ANNUAL RABIES Drive May 6th & 7th (no appt. necessary), at Gray County Veterinary Clinic & Easley Animal Hospital. Rates Reduced at both locations!!

In tornado zone, hopes fade in search

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — A yellow mutt named Chance sniffs through the splintered limbs of a toppled tree and sits down near a piece of carpet that came from someone's home. It's his way of telling handler Tracy Sargent that human remains are nearby.

Such scenes are common as hope fades for finding survivors a week after tornadoes ravaged the South, killing 329 people in seven states and leaving an uncertain number missing or unaccounted for when entire communities were ripped from their foundations and thrown across hollows and hills. In Tuscaloosa alone, officials say, more than two-dozen dog teams are searching a massive debris field that stretches for miles, and still more could arrive.

Chance didn't find a body this time Wednesday. The animals commonly called cadaver-sniffing dogs are trained to detect any human remains, and Sargent suspected there was blood on the rug fragment that caught Chance's attention. The dogs' noses are so sensitive that it doesn't take much for them to alert handlers to decaying human tissue including blood drops, which fell all over town from about 1,000 people being injured.

Earlier this week, Chance and another of Sargent's dogs located the body of a University of Alabama student as his grieving father watched. It only took the dogs minutes to locate the remains in a maze of twisted trees and debris that had been searched by humans for hours.

"(The father) went over there and bent over and touched his son and started talking to him. And he hugged him, started crying, and told him that he loved him and that he would miss him," said Sargent. "That in itself is why we do what we do."

The body was found about 300 yards from the concrete slab that had been the student's home, an indication of the difficulty searchers have even knowing where to look.

It's uncertain when the last survivor was pulled from the rubble in Tuscaloosa, where officials say 41 people were killed when an EF-4 tornado with winds up to 190 mph mowed down some of the city's most densely populated neighborhoods. But the work for searchers is far from over.

On Thursday, about two-dozen rescue workers combed through the rubble of an apartment building. They have been using heavy machinery to clear debris and search dogs to look for remains. Nearby sit an overturned SUV, a dented air-conditioning unit and pieces of walls.

Sometimes the dogs check an area because residents or workers report a foul smell; other times they

zero in on a debris pile near where someone was last seen. They also sweep through entire sections of town quickly to eliminate the possibility that a body is nearby, said Sargent, who works for Georgia's homeland security agency and is participating in the Alabama search as a volunteer during her vacation.

Mayor Walt Maddox fears there aren't many survivors left to rescue. Officials say 25 people are listed as missing in the city, a number that had decreased from the previous day.

Still, Maddox said authorities are thinking in terms of people and not statistics.

"Sometimes, making it right may mean telling someone that their relative or friend is deceased," he said Thursday.

Fire Chief Alan Martin said that despite multiple sweeps, not a single neighborhood or community hammered by the storm had been searched thoroughly enough to eliminate it from the grids used by teams to plot their days work.

"We have not totally cleared any area," he said. That includes the Rosedale Apartments. A search and rescue crew waded through what was left of the complex Wednesday, breaking down doors with sledgehammers as a black Labrador retriever led the way through boot-high rubble laden with bicycles, children's toys, mattresses and cinder blocks.

Now in a shelter, Billie Sue Hall, 54, hopes the searchers find her friend and neighbor Betty Cunningham, whom she hasn't seen since the twister and can't reach by telephone. Hall said they talked daily, including on the day of the twister.

"If you get out of the storm," Hall said Cunningham told her, "I'll call you back."

That call never came, though Hall acknowledges that Cunningham may be staying with a relative or may simply be safe in another shelter. Homes all over their working-class neighborhood were destroyed; it's among the areas Sargent has searched with her dogs.

At the same shelter, 20-year-old Johnnie Brown, is growing increasingly agitated each time his calls go straight to voicemail on his missing sister's cell phone. He hasn't spoken to her since right before the tornadoes hit. A flyer with a picture of his older sister, Latoya, is on the wall.

"She always picked up her phone — definitely if I called," he said.

The police have been out searching for her, he says, but the family is starting to fear the worst.

"When I think about it, man, I just want to be by myself. I don't want nobody talking to me, nothing," Brown said, his voice barely audible.

Obituaries

Vera Scott Minter, 94

GAINESVILLE—Vera Scott Minter, 94, died May 4, 2011, in Gainesville.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Minter was born December 17, 1916, in Wellington. She married Walter Buford "Shorty" Minter on October 7, 1934, in Hollis, Okla. He preceded her in death on March 14, 2000. She had been a resident of Lefors for 55 years. She moved to be closer to her children and lived in an independent living center in North Richland Hills for 10 years. Vera spent her last year in the Renaissance Care Center in Gainesville.

Vera did not like limelight. She preferred being behind the scenes, making sure everything went smoothly as planned. She had a sweet spirit and was a good, faithful servant. Vera was a strong prayer warrior.

She enjoyed gardening, walking, baking and was particularly fond of working with adolescents. Vera was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lefors, and was the Junior Department Director for 47 years. Together, Vera and Shorty had a combined service to the Lord of just over 100 years.

Survivors include a son, Kenneth D. Minter and wife Julie; granddaughter, Shana Bohnsack and husband Brent; grandson, Clint Minter; great-granddaughter, Ashlynn Bohnsack; sister-in-law, Audie Mae Scott; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Children and Youth Department, 315 E. 4th Street, Lefors, TX 79054.

The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Home in Pampa from 6-8 PM on Friday, May 6, 2011.



Minter

Shannon Morgan Horton, 70

Shannon Morgan Horton, 70, died May 5, 2011, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Horton was born June 21, 1940, in Beatrice, Neb. She was raised in Skellytown and graduated from White Deer High School. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1956. She married Gene Horton on January 17, 1960, in Miami. He preceded her in death on December 22, 2000. Shannon was a waitress for many years for Dyers, Danny's Market, and Tom's Country Inn. She owned Pak-A-Burger #2 for several years. She retired after 12 years of service with the Amarillo State Center for MHRM. Shannon loved taking care of the elderly. She was a member of the Church of Christ. She was a very loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be missed dearly.

Survivors include two daughters, Cynthia Meeks and husband Robert and Sherry Bolch, all of Pampa; two sons, Jerry Horton and wife Carla of Panhandle, and Michael Horton of Pampa; three sisters, Patty Boyd and husband Deano, Katy Roe and Betty Kitchens, all of Pampa; 10 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Shannon preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Tony Morgan.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



Horton

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 19 traffic-related calls and three accidents.

Animal Control reported six animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported four ambulance calls.

Wednesday, May 4

An alarm was reported in the 1200 block of North Williston.

A warrant was served in the 1500 block of North Banks.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North West.

A suspicious person was

reported in the 100 block of South Ballard.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of North Russell.

Officers delivered a message in the 1100 block of Juniper.

The burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of East Francis.

A burglary was reported in the 1200 block of East Darby.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of Darby.

A threat was reported in the 900 block of Sierra.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of North Russell and in the

1000 block of East Foster.

A threat was reported in the 1000 block of Huff.

Thursday, May 5

An alarm was reported in the 2100 block of Beech.

Sheriff's Office

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

Wednesday, May 4

Angela Ann Pickett, 23, of Borger, was arrested by police on charges of driving while license is invalid, having expired motor vehicle registration, not having a valid vehicle inspection sticker and failure to appear.

Antonio Gonzales, 42, was arrested by police on

charges of disregarding a red light and failure to appear.

Sixto Felipe Albear, 28, was arrested by deputies on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Christopher Dale Reames, 23, was arrested by police on charges of aggravated sexual assault on a child.

Lydia Joy Reames, 21, was arrested by police on a capias pro fine warrant charging her with having an expired motor vehicle registration.

Albert Garay, 55 of Borger, was arrested by police on charges of driving while license invalid and having a fictitious or obscured vehicle registration.

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events?

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AFTERNOON RUSH

Tax cut for chewing tobacco

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House members have approved a bill to lower a tax on loose-leaf chewing tobacco like Red Man and others brands despite the health risks.

The bill passed 83 to 53 Wednesday. Republican Rep. Allan Ritter of Nederland says his bill is a "good thing" for "all of us that chew tobacco." Ritter says the measure corrects a weight-based tax the Legislature levied in 2009 that penalized heavier loose-leaf tobacco.

Republican Rep. Jason Isaac of Dripping Springs says the tax cut is wrong because it will encourage people to "use cancer-causing products" and lead to more long-term health costs.

The Austin American Statesman reports the bill would drop the tax rate by 33 cents per ounce on some chewing tobacco.

The Senate still has to take up the measure.

Shepard honored today

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — More than 600 people marked the exact moment when the first American rocketed into space 50 years ago.

Thursday's ceremony took place at the spot where Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard blasted off on a 15-minute suborbital flight on May 5, 1961.

The crowd at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station included Shepard's three daughters, about 100 Project Mercury workers and one of the two surviving Mercury seven astronauts, Scott Carpenter. They listened to a recording of Shepard's journey, timed to the second of his launch at 9:34 a.m.

Shepard was the second man in space. Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin beat him into space by less than a month.

Shepard later became the fifth man to walk on the moon. He died in 1998 at age 74.

Study warns of mercury in Arctic

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Global mercury emissions could grow by 25 percent by 2020 if no action is taken to control them, posing a threat to polar bears, whales and seals and the Arctic communities who hunt those animals for food, an authoritative international study says.

The assessment by a scientific body set up by the eight Arctic rim countries also warns that climate change may worsen the problem, by releasing mercury stored for thousands of years in permafrost or promoting chemical processes that transform the substance into a more toxic form.

"It is of particular concern that mercury levels are continuing to rise in some Arctic species in large areas of the Arctic," despite emissions reductions in nearby regions like Europe, North America and Russia, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program, or AMAP, said.

Vets to get better tax treatment

AUSTIN (AP) — Military veterans who are totally disabled would get some help with their property tax bills under legislation approved by the Texas House.

Under the bill, approved Wednesday, disabled veterans could get a generous residential homestead property exemption even if they moved into the home after Jan. 1. Now disabled veterans can only get the tax break if they are counted as having lived in the home for a whole calendar year, according to a House analysis of the provision.

The legislation lawmakers approved would allow the tax break, which applies to the total value of the property, would begin to kick in the moment the disabled veteran moved in. It ties the break to the individual, not the house. The Senate has a different version of the bill.

Seatbelt campaign under way

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Law enforcement officers from across the state will join officials from the Texas Department of Transportation in San Antonio to open the 10th annual "Click It or Ticket" campaign to promote the use of seat belts.

They'll all appear at a news conference in front of San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium on Thursday to promote seat-belt awareness as the Memorial Day holiday and summer driving season approach.

State law requires the use of safety belts by all occupants of a car or truck.

House approves concussion bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House wants schools to develop protocol for identifying and overseeing concussions sustained by student athletes.

The vote Wednesday would require districts to have a concussion oversight team of medical professionals and a district athletic trainer. Members of the team would be trained in the evaluation, treatment and oversight of concussions.

Students would also have to be removed immediately from a competition or practice if it is reasonably believed that they suffered a concussion.

The student would have to be cleared by a physician - not a coach - to return to play.

Rep. Walter Price said he wants his bill to raise awareness to the issue because often symptoms of a concussion go unrecognized.

The bill would be named "Natasha's Law" after an athlete who sustained five concussions.

Four guilty of Medicare fraud

HOUSTON (AP) — Four people have been convicted in Houston of conspiring to defraud the Medicare program out of \$5.2 million over a three-year period.

A Justice Department statement identifies the four convicted Wednesday as 46-year-old Ezinne Ubani, 45-year-old Caroline Njoku and 47-year-old Terrie Porter, all of Houston, and 55-year-old Mary Ellis of Missouri City.

The federal jury in Houston acquitted 62-year-old Estella Joseph of Houston, all after a 15-day trial before U.S. District Judge Nancy Atlas.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 20-21. Ubani and Ellis could receive up to 20 years in prison, Njoku could get up to 15 years in prison, while Porter could get up to 10 years in prison.

Seven others had previously entered guilty pleas.

Perfume bottles produce a sweet profit

ANNE MCCOLLAM

Q: Enclosed is a photo of a glass perfume bottle set that belonged to my grandmother. Each bottle stands 3 inches tall with a 1.5-inch stopper and a sticker with the name "Fenton." Still in perfect condition, the bottles are white with cranberry-colored dots.

I am curious about their origin and value. Anything you can tell me will be appreciated.

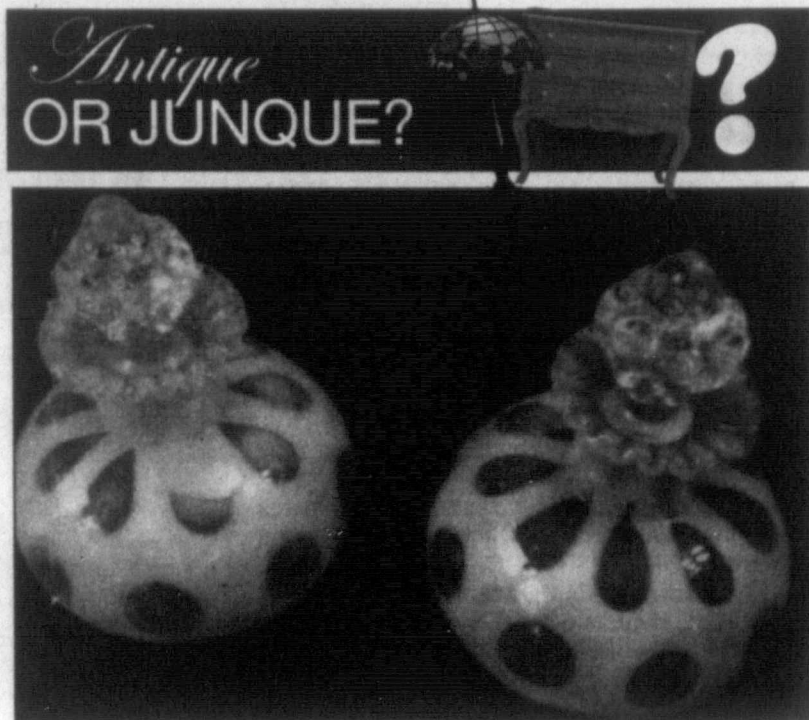
A: You have a pair of cranberry Art Glass perfume bottles that were made by Fenton Art Glass Co. In 1907, Frank Fenton opened his factory in Williamstown, W.Va. They produced a myriad of glassware that included carnival, opalescent, chocolate and custard glass. Introduced in 1948 and discontinued in 1956, the pattern is Cranberry Coin Dot. The perfume bottles were part of a three-piece vanity set that included a powder puff dish.

Each perfume bottle would probably be worth \$250.



Metlox Potteries produced a line of dinnerware, kitchenware and glassware.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of my grandmother's 2-quart covered



Fenton Art Glass Co. has been in business since 1907.

casserole dish. On the side of the dish, there's the image of a walking rooster with yellow, brown, green and red feathers against a cream background.

I hope you can provide information on the vintage, value and the maker.

A: Metlox Potteries made your casserole dish. They were located in Manhattan Beach, Calif., from 1927 to 1989. "California Provincial" is the name of the pattern, while "Poppytrail" is the term for a line of dinnerware, kitchenware and glassware. "California Provincial" was inspired by early American toleware and pottery.

Your casserole dish was made around 1950 and would probably be worth \$125.

Q: When I was a little girl, my best friend gave me a Hummel

figurine for my birthday in 1960. Standing 8 inches tall, it is "The Umbrella Girl." Marked on the bottom, there's a bee in a "V" with "W. Germany — 152-B."

What is it worth?

A: W. Goebel Porcelain Factory was located in West Germany at the time. Hummel figurines were inspired by the drawings of Sister Maria Innocentia (Berta Hummel), a Franciscan nun from Bavaria.

Your Hummel figurine can be found selling in the range of \$1,200 to \$2,300.

If you have any antique inquiries, address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Items of a general interest will be answered in this column. Due to the volume of inquiries, she cannot answer individual letters.

State budget likely headed to committee

AUSTIN (AP) — The 2012-13 Texas state budget is likely headed for a House-Senate conference committee after Senate Republicans pushed their bill to passage by using a loophole to bypass Democrats.

The Senate plan would make about \$11 billion in cuts from the present budget, although the cuts are less drastic to those in the House's austere \$176.5 billion spending plan. The plan next goes back before the House, which is expected to reject the Senate version and appoint a conference committee to negotiate a compromise.

After a week of delay, Senate leaders used a procedural maneuver to get around a long-held Senate tradition that requires a two-thirds agreement for the chamber to consider any legislation. Senators voted 19-12, along party lines, to approve the plan.

Normally a two-thirds majority is necessary in the Senate to take up any bill, a supermajority that leaders didn't have for the budget plan. But Republicans bypassed Democratic opposition by using a special rule that allows House bills to be considered on certain days without a two-thirds approval. The Senate's budget plan originated as a House bill.

Senators have hailed the two-thirds tradition as a mechanism that nurtures compromise and bipartisanship in the Senate.

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, the Senate's Democratic leader, said she and other Democrats were concerned about the precedent set by the maneuver.

"No longer will any minority party in the Senate have a say in the budget bill," Van de Putte said.

The GOP has a 19-12 majority in the chamber, but criticism over the budget mounted from both sides of the aisle over the use of about \$3 billion from the Rainy Day Fund. Republicans argued that \$9.4 billion in the reserve fund should be left untouched, so it would be available during future state emergencies. Democrats said proposed cuts to schools and other programs are inhumane when the reserve fund is sitting idly by.

Sen. Steve Ogden, the chief Senate budget writer, defended the budget, arguing his team was able to maintain current services despite a multibillion-dollar revenue shortfall.

"What do you do when the economy is not so healthy? The first thing is, you do no harm to that economy, you do everything you can to get that economy back on its feet," Ogden, R-Bryan, said shortly before the vote. "This budget ... is a bridge to the future. It does not hurt the economy."

In response to the eroding support, Ogden offered an amendment Wednesday that stripped the contentious rainy-day money from the budget. The move helped him garner support from conservative Republican senators - but it cost him support from key Democrats.

The plan makes about \$11 billion in cuts, compared with the current budget, though the cuts are much less severe than those in the bare-bones House version. Public schools and Medicaid providers, including nursing homes, would take the brunt of the cuts.

"This budget treats people as numbers," Van de Putte

said. "We cannot forget those numbers are people and I have heard their voices and I have seen their faces and I cannot ignore their pleas."

Ogden's GOP-condoned compromise replaces about \$3 billion in rainy-day money by underfunding Medicaid, pushing those payments to the end of the budget period. Absent increased revenue from an improving economy - which he expects - the budget would then force across-the-board cuts to state agencies other than basic public school operations.

"The promise is that the money is going to be there, and frankly, I dated guys like that," Van de Putte said, casting doubt on assurances that state coffers would see an uptick in revenue as the economy improves.

Ogden's plan underfunds public schools by more than \$4 billion. It cuts reimbursement rates to Medicaid providers by 6 percent, compared with more than 10 percent proposed in the House.

"Some seek to distract attention from the draconian cuts by emphasizing that the budget passed by the

House of Representatives is significantly worse," said Sen. Judith Zaffirini, a Democrat from Laredo. "Unfortunately, while the House budget is horrific, the Senate budget is simply awful."

She said the Senate plan "blocks or delays access to critical health services for thousands of older Texans, Texans with disabilities and Texans with chronic diseases." The state is facing a revenue shortfall of at least \$15 billion. The hole is partially because of the economic downturn, but a structural deficit in the state's taxing system also has contributed to the gap. Leaders have said for months that the budget would have to take a cuts-only approach, without raising taxes.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, May 5, the 125th day of 2011. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Freedom 7, a Mercury capsule launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

On this date:
In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1862, Mexican forces loyal to Benito Juarez defeated French troops sent by Napoleon III in the Battle of Puebla.

In 1891, New York's Carnegie Hall (then named "Music Hall") had its official opening night.

In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces landed on the Philippine island of Corregidor.

In 1955, West Germany became a fully sovereign state.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed a law raising the minimum wage to \$1.15 an hour, then to \$1.25 an hour, for currently covered workers.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

Ten years ago: Pope John Paul II became the first pope to visit Syria, where President Bashar Assad asked him to take the Arabs' side in their dispute with Israel, referring to what Assad described as Jewish persecution of Jesus Christ.

Five years ago: A military transport helicopter crashed in eastern Afghanistan, killing all ten U.S. soldiers on board. CIA Director Porter Goss resigned in a second-term shake-up of President George W. Bush's team.

One year ago: Preliminary plans for a mosque and cultural center near ground zero in New York were unveiled, setting off a national debate over whether the project was disrespectful to 9/11 victims and whether opposition to it exposed anti-Muslim biases.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pat Carroll is 84. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 77. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 73. Actor Michael Murphy is 73. Actor Lance Henriksen is 71. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 68. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 67. Actor Roger Rees is 67. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 66. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 63. Actor Richard E. Grant is 54. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 52. NBC News anchor Brian Williams is 52. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 45. Actress Tina Yothers is 38. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 32. Singer Craig David is 30. Actress Danielle Fishel is 30. Actor Henry Cavill is 28. Soul singer Adele is 23. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 23. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris Brown is 22.

Thought for Today: "It's a very sobering feeling to be up in space and realize that one's safety factor was determined by the lowest bidder on a government contract." — Alan B. Shepard Jr., American astronaut (1923-1998)



Texas redistricting ritual back again

DAVE MCNEELY
The Port Arthur News

The long knives are out. Short ones, too. This is the month Texas legislators sort out who their friends are — and who aren't.

The reality TV show could be called "Survivor: the Texas Capitol."

After the federal census every 10 years, states re-draw their legislative and congressional districts to reflect shifts in population.

This has become much more involved since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the 1960s that districts should be roughly equal in population — the "one person, one vote" mandate.

Texas legislative tradition was that the House would draw its districts, and the Senate would draw its districts, and then each would rubber-stamp the other's.

This has become more complex as Republican/Democrat partisan division in Texas has become much more pronounced. The House, which has 101 Republicans and 49 Democrats, has passed a redistricting map for itself, by a vote of 92-52. All but three of the "aye" votes were cast by Republicans, while ten voted against the map. Several Democrats think the map didn't create enough new Latino districts, and promised to pursue that later in court. Because of the unexpected wave of success for Republicans in the 2010 elections — gaining 22 seats from Democrats, when there had been expectations of 5 or 6 — they were faced in redistricting with trying to preserve as many of the 101 Republican seats as they could.

However, some of those gains were in areas where population growth has not kept up with the rest of the state or even declined. So several of

this new bunch of Republicans — many of them elected with the help of the Tea Party furor — will stay home after the 2012 elections.

There are seven districts on the new map in which Republicans will be "paired" — which means two of the incumbents will have to either decide which of them will run, or square off against each other. Two Democrats are also paired.

Because the House passed what some see as a draconian budget that cuts considerable spending for schools, nursing homes and other services, some Democrats predict the 101 Republicans will number 90 or less after 2012 elections.

We will find out whether the people that voted these folks in have changed their thinking once they realize how proposed cuts in state services will affect them.

Meanwhile, the Senate redistricting is on hold, pending passage of its version of the budget. It spends \$12 billion more than the House bill, but most Democratic senators think it still way short of what's needed to maintain vital state services.

If either the redistricting for the House, or the Senate, has not passed by the session's end May 30, the constitution requires that districts be drawn by a five-member Legislative Redistricting Board.

Its members, should it convene, are House Speaker Joe Straus, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, Atty. Gen. Greg Abbott, Comptroller Susan Combs, and Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. The five Republicans would have 90 days to convene, and after convening, 60 days to draw the districts.

House and Senate districts have wound up being drawn by the LRB in 1971, 1981, and 2001. The only redistricting year when

the Legislature actually got bills in place without the LRB since the passage of the Voting Rights Act was 1991. And then the Senate map was thrown out by a three-judge federal court, which drew its own. Dewhurst predicted to Ross Ramsey of the Texas Tribune that senators would draw their own map.

"There's talk by one or more who want to run for Congress," Dewhurst said — since there will be four new congressional districts. "But I think we in the Senate will agree on a map. Otherwise, it will go to the Legislative Redistricting Board. If I was a Democratic senator, I'd much rather work with my colleagues and agree to a map rather than have it drawn by a board made up of five different Republicans."

As for the congressional re-districting, if the Legislature fails to get the new map drawn by the end of the regular session May 30, the governor can either decide to call the Legislature into special session to draw the map, or let it go to a three-judge federal court.

In 2001, the Senate couldn't decide on its own districts, ignored the House's map that had been sent over, and never got around to the congressional map. So the LRB drew the House and Senate maps, and Gov. Rick Perry left the drawing of a congressional map up to the court, rather than call a special session.

Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, has tried fruitlessly for a couple decades to create an independent commission to draw the maps rather than the Legislature.

A growing number of legislators think Wentworth may be onto some-

Letter to the Editor

Reader objects to Cinco de Mayo celebration

To the Editor:
March 2, 2011, Texas Independence Day, occurred on a school day Wednesday. Texas Statehood is noted every December 29, which in this case was during the Christmas holidays. President's Day was this past February 21,

which was a Monday. Why am I noting the above dates in re Texas and American history, you ask?

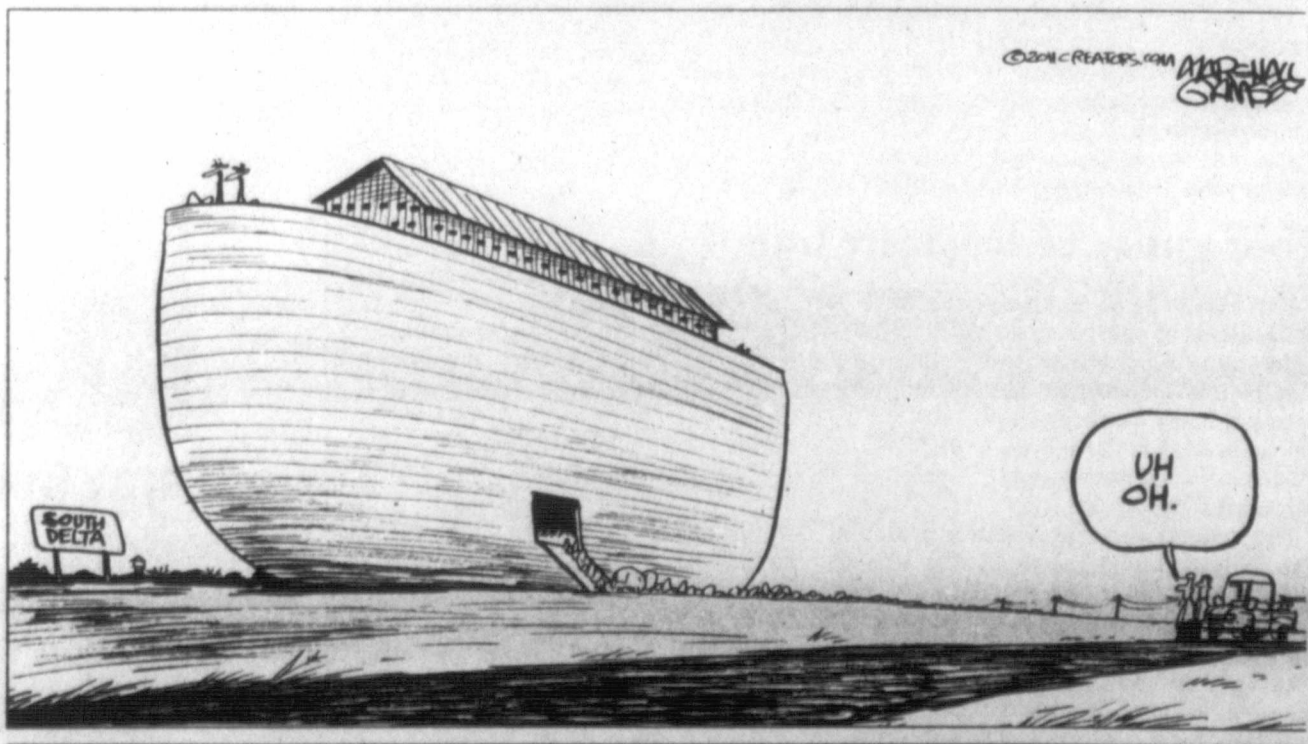
Why, of all things politically correct, PSD is celebrating a Mexican holiday with all sorts of festivities. A Mexican holiday...

I must have overlooked Mexico becoming America's fifty-first state. By acquiescing to political correctness, PSD is evidently in support of our students not recognizing through

any equal celebration, our own state's and nation's historic dates...

Enough of this politically correct inanity! Until those PSD students who refuse to pledge allegiance to Old Glory start doing so, celebrating another nation's holiday can be done on the south side of the Rio Grande River!

Dennis Palmitier
Pampa



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Ethics reform may strip immunity clause

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The sponsor of legislation to require lawmakers to disclose more information about campaign transactions and potential conflicts of interest with lobbyists said he may remove an amendment attached by a fellow House Republican.

That amendment from state Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, could immunize lawmakers from prosecution on official corruption charges if they follow advice given by the Texas Ethics Commission.

The basic legislation sponsored by state Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, won approval Wednesday night in the Texas House. But the Hilderbran amendment says state attorneys "may

not prosecute" officials who follow advice given out by the Texas Ethics Commission. Geren said he may remove the provision when lawmakers take up the bill for its final procedural push through the House on Thursday.

"I'm not sure it's going to stay on it," Geren said. "We're going to get some legal opinions. If we need to strip it off, we will."

The bill takes aim at double-dipping spending practices by lawmakers that have led to a criminal investigation.

The legislation would clean up shoddy disclosure laws that have allowed lawmakers to pocket taxpayer money for political travel with little oversight or transparency. The Associated Press reported extensively on the spend-

ing practices, which have drawn scrutiny from Texas prosecutors.

By law, legislators don't have to detail transactions made between their campaign and their personal accounts. They also don't have to report when they earn interest or investment dividends, or when they get money back from deposits, rebates or other credits.


Geren's bill would require disclosure of those transactions, which would make it easier to see if politicians are using their campaign accounts to make money. Lawmakers voted to make the new disclosure requirements apply only to transactions in excess of \$100.

Geren's legislation also would require registered lobbyists to disclose their

paid relationships to politicians. Geren said Texans should be able to know who lobbyists are working for and whether their ties present conflicts of interest.

Companies often hire lobbyists without knowing about paid relationships they might have with lawmakers, and legislators often don't know that their colleagues have close connections to lobbyists pushing various policy initiatives in the Legislature.

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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Bush skipped event for 'low profile'

DALLAS (AP) — Former President George W. Bush decided not to join President Barack Obama at a Thursday ceremony at ground zero because he feels that acting presidents alone should preside over such official ceremonies, the former first lady said.

Laura Bush told The Associated Press on Thursday that she and her husband were out to dinner Sunday night when they received word that Obama wanted to speak with him. The former president went home to take the call informing him that U.S. military forces had killed Osama bin Laden in a raid of his compound in Pakistan, Laura Bush said.

The former first lady told the AP that her husband declined an invitation to attend Thursday's event in New York because "that's for President Obama to do at this point."

She said she and her husband both felt great pride for military and intelligence personnel after hearing the news.

"It was risky and it was dangerous for our members of the military," Laura Bush said at a Dallas elementary school where she announced grants from her foundation for school libraries.

The former president congratulated Obama and military and intelligence personnel in a statement Sunday night.

He was in power on Sept. 11, 2001, when agents from bin Laden's al-Qaida network hijacked planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, killing nearly 3,000 people in the worst terrorist attack on American soil.

Bush sent U.S. forces against al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan in October 2001.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a marriage counselor writing in response to the March 22 letter from the man who objected to his wife having dinner with a mutual (male) friend while the writer was on a business trip. I found his signature, "Feeling Cheated On in Illinois," excessive, perhaps even a signal he has an "ownership" attitude toward his spouse, which is associated with controlling behavior. In the absence of any reason to distrust her, why is he so upset?

My husband of 20 years was going to Japan for a week to visit our foster daughter. I was unable to go, so one of my female friends went with him instead. My husband is attractive, and no doubt has had many opportunities to cheat. I realize many spouses are unfaithful, but you don't keep them on a short leash. All that does is make a potential cheater sneakier.

Because spouses who cheat sometimes claim their lovers-in-waiting are "just friends" doesn't mean men and women can't be "just friends." "Illinois" is insecure at best, controlling at worst. I think he should have a one-time appointment with a therapist and discuss his expectations of his wife. — BARBARA IN MAINE

DEAR BARBARA: I heard from readers who have firsthand experience in this subject. And many of them agreed with you. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm an at-home wife of a husband who travels frequently. He has logged more than 3 million frequent flyer miles in the last 20 years. I'll bet the "Illinois" man dines out often with female colleagues. It's a fact of business life these days. And I'll bet a lot of the women are married, too. So, really, what's the difference?

He needs to look inward at his own actions and ability to trust. While travel

may be part of his job, why must his wife be denied adult companionship when he's away? A man and woman eating out together doesn't automatically equal "date." I do it often when my husband travels. I pay my own way and meet my friend(s) at the restaurant. It's a "get-together" and the only way I can stay sane. — BEEN THERE AND WILL CONTINUE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a married woman with single and married male friends. I go out for lunches and dinners with all of them. Some live out of state and we email often. I also have outings with female pals, some of whom are lesbians. "Illinois" needs to figure out why he doesn't trust his wife and his good friend. My husband socializes without me as well. He even goes to lunch sometimes with an old girlfriend. Either you trust your partner or you don't. — SECURE AND HAPPY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: I travel often and enjoy dinners with lots of people, both male and female. I've dined with my neighbor's husband while we were stranded at an airport trying to get home. Should we have sat at different

tables? Implying that this behavior is "questionable" is outrageous. My husband is sometimes invited to dinner by neighbors when I'm away and I thank them for their kindness. — JULIA IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: Something similar happened to me. It started with the remark that there's nothing wrong with a married woman having a man as her best friend. Three years later she filed for divorce, saying she didn't love me anymore. They worked together in the same office, started going out to lunch, then having after-work drinks and golf dates on the weekends I worked overtime. I understand what "Illinois" is going through. I hope his situation works out better than mine did. — LARRY IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I hurt for the wife who is stuck at home "several nights a week." Why couldn't her husband just say, "Good for you, you have company!"? Married people can be friends with other married members of the opposite sex. If "Illinois" can't handle that reality, then he should find a job that lets him be home with his wife every night. — CATHY FROM CLEVELAND

BANANAGRAMS!

For each of the three words below, change one letter to an A and then rearrange the letters to spell a condition or disease.

ENRICH
[] [] [] [] [] []

BRIDES
[] [] [] [] [] []

GULPER
[] [] [] [] [] []

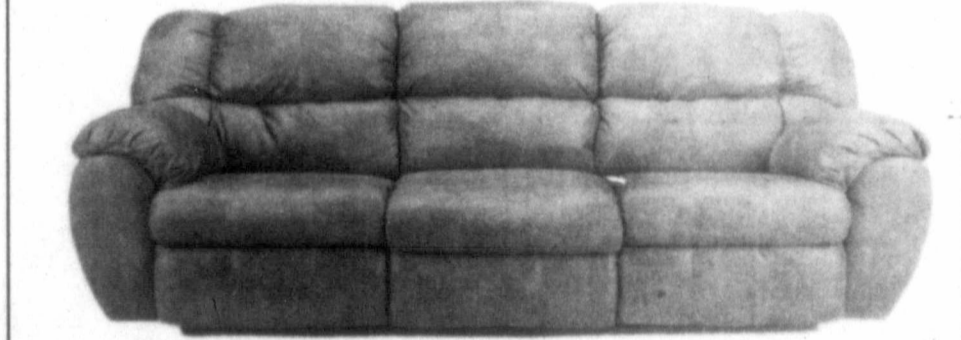
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Members of the Class of 1959 Reunion Committee met recently at the Pampa Public Bank in Pampa to present a \$1000.00 donation to the HHH Foundation. From left are Larry Holmes, Judy Davis, Happy State Bank President Greg Brown and Pat Ritthaler. The scholarship will be given to the Class of (58) to enable PHS students to continue their education in a field of their choice.

Conaway: FEMA denial hurts Texas

WEST WORTH TEXAS (AP) — A U.S. House member from West Texas says Texas is "disabled" by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's refusal to declare all of Texas a major disaster zone. "Without assistance, these communities face immense challenges as they attempt to rebuild from the disaster," U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Texas) said in a statement regarding FEMA's decision. "The denial will add pressure on the state to help residents deal with the aftermath of devastating wildfires. Democrats and Republicans said the denial will have been forced to deplete a decade's worth of reserves to help pay for the damage." "This season began in January, and 2,000 wildfires have burned 1.5 million acres and destroyed homes, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. We need more federal

assistance through a disaster declaration because FEMA has already approved 25 fire management assistance grants, said agency spokeswoman Rachel Racusen. Each grant reimburses 75 percent of the state's costs specifically for equipment, firefighters' meals and other emergency response work — and the disaster declaration denial doesn't preclude FEMA from awarding more grants. Gov. Rick Perry said the FEMA grants will help with only a small percentage of the fires. He said the state is considering whether to appeal the denial of the disaster declaration, which would provide a wide range of federal assistance for residents and public infrastructure. It would pay for 75 percent of the total firefighting expenses incurred by the state — not just the emergency response work. Texas faces a \$3.9 billion deficit in the current budget. Legislation is pending that would fill that hole with \$3 billion from the Rainy Day Fund, and \$1 billion in additional cuts.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Rockies

1 Skewered resort meat dish 44 Broken

6 Louvre locale

11 Old market

12 New York city

13 Gaga

14 "Spider-Man" star Maguire

15 Writer Dean

17 Owns

19 "The Matrix" hero

20 Take a load off

23 Harmonize

25 "Don't look —!"

26 Made hotel

28 Concerning

29 Roil

30 Golf support

31 Giant Mel

32 Seine summer

33 Game official

35 Contradict

38 Detached

41 "My Fair Lady" heroine

42 Exact copy

DOWN

1 Penn of films

2 Big head

3 Volume setting?

4 Florence's river

5 New Jersey city

6 Tie up one's boat

7 Full range

8 Umbrella part

9 Bar need

10 Utter

16 Must

17 Custom



Yesterday's answer

18 Make amends

20 Pantry

21 Folder's phrase

22 Fiesta Bowl

24 Islands strings

25 "Entourage" agent

27 Draw in

31 Poseidon's domain

33 Label info

34 Singer Fitzgerald

35 "Don't — stranger!"

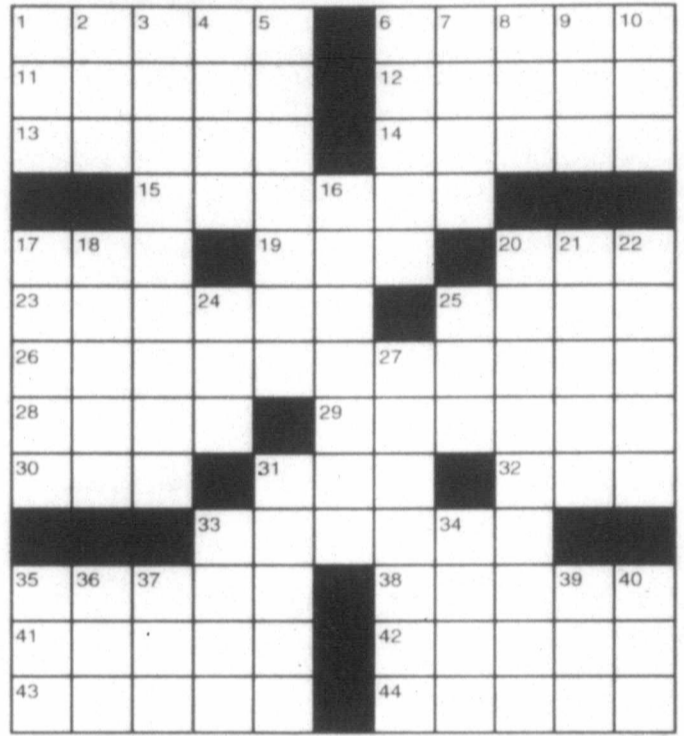
36 Golfer Ernie

37 Sassy talk

39 Wallet bill

40 Nourished

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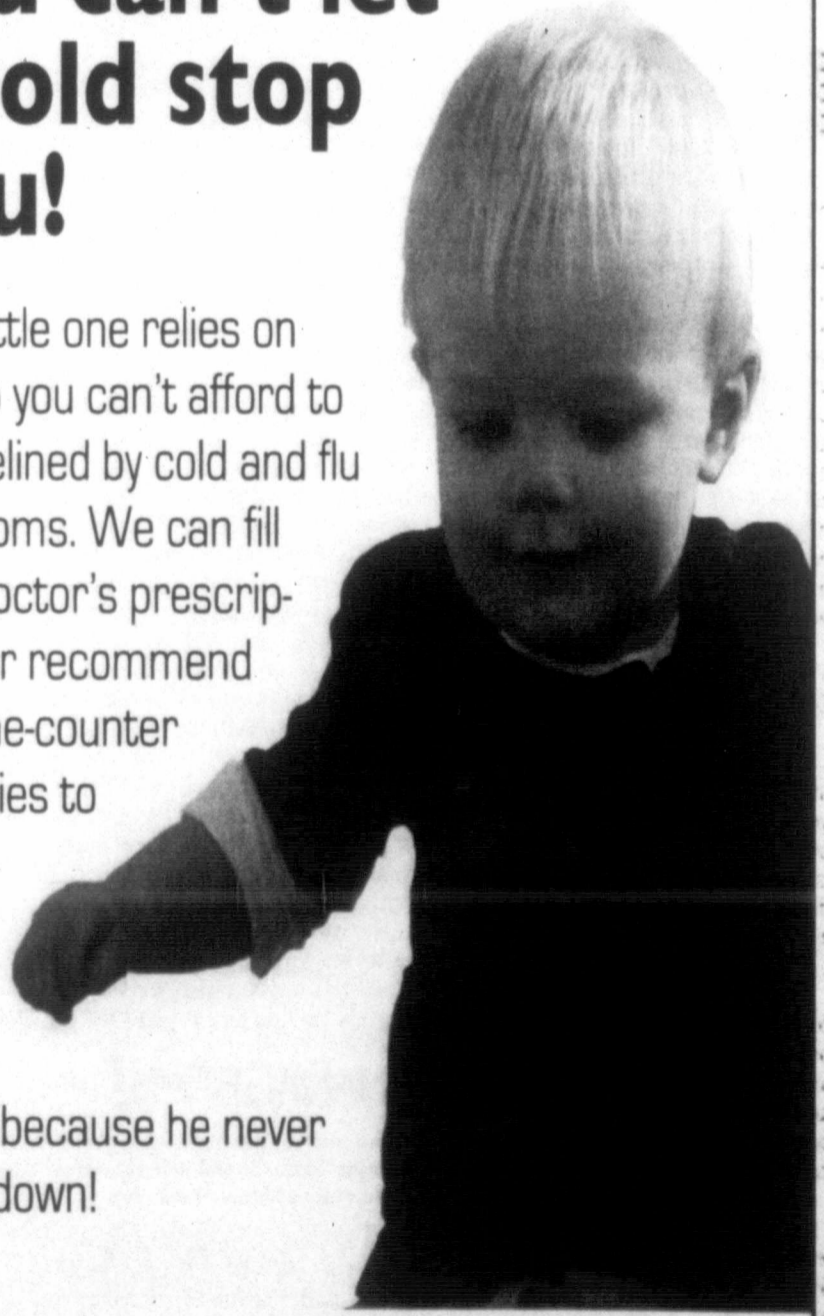
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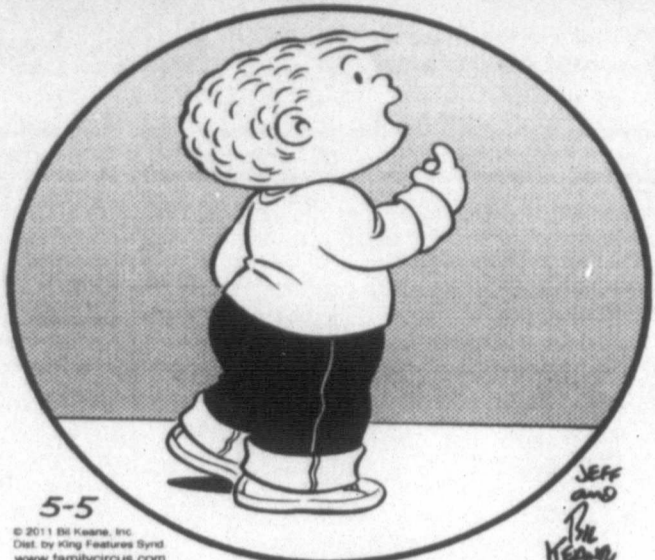
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

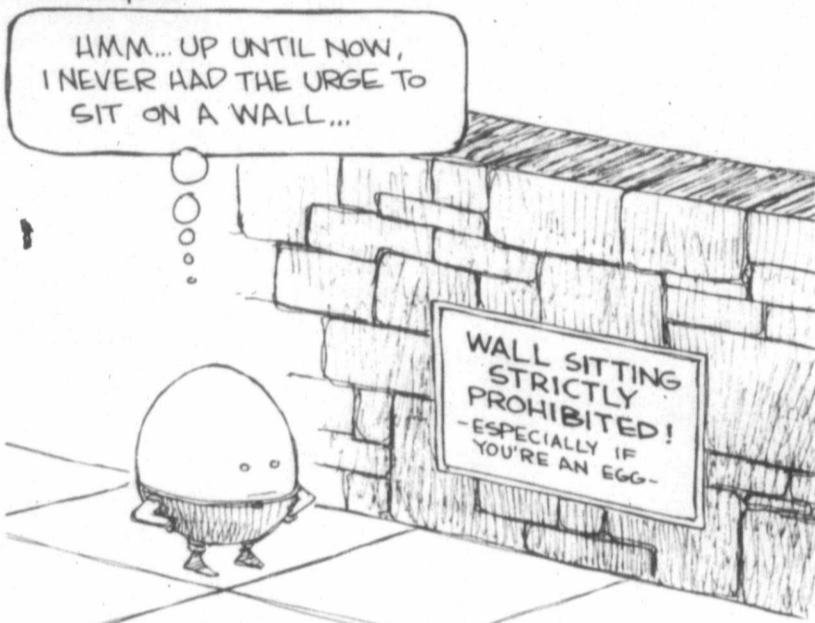


5-5

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"My mouth feels like it wants something bubbly to drink."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 6, 2011:

This year, be more aware of your finances, the stress around them and the potential for changing that situation. As you look to a new type of interaction, you will feel good and much more valued. You also will consider going back to school, traveling or perhaps allowing different types of people around you. Either way, you will learn much more about the world. If you are single, you could meet someone in your day-to-day travels. If you are attached, the two of you will tumble into one of your more romantic periods. **CANCER** draws you out.

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)
 ★★★★★ Keep talks moving. You might not be comfortable with everything you are hearing. You might wonder if another choice would be better. Realize what is going on with others before you make a financial decision. Tonight: Hang out with a friend, but make it an easy night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Be aware of where you are coming from financially. You might be overly tired and withdrawn. Be willing to say "no" to a money offer. Others know that you are authentic and cannot be bought. Tonight: Your treat. Let the good times roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You are all smiles and take a leap of faith. Nevertheless, a meeting defines your decisions. You now know which way to go. Understanding evolves to a different level. Be willing to back up your words with actions. Tonight: Living in the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ Know that you are best off holding your opinions back. Words come forward that might be irritating but force some type of internalization. You might wonder about the strength of your reaction. Tonight: Know what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might be a lot happier with a personal matter than you originally thought you'd be. Making a decision could lead to substantial discomfort. Realize what a friendship has to offer. Now ask

yourself if the friendship is worth it. Tonight: Lots of fun early on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Tension builds, whether you're conscious of it or not. This situation could change radically if you relax and try another approach. Sometimes a partner is rather assertive. Be willing to be more creative, empathetic and direct. Tonight: A late meeting could dissolve into a fun happening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your mind is everywhere but present in the moment. Strange things happen when you become too lodged in reverie. Optimism seems to surround you, encouraging you to clear out a problem with a key person. Become more vested in what is happening. Tonight: Split from the tried-and-true as soon as you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Your fun nature seems to separate those who have a lot to offer from those who are just riding your coattails. Your effectiveness is tested to the max, forcing your hand. Do you want or need a different approach? Tonight: Visit over munchies; the rest just happens.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Listen to what is being said, whether you agree or not. You are full of fun and energy. You are very lucky, and you make excellent choices. You seem to be able to handle nearly anything. Look at a situation as you would another person. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You have a lot to do, and you accomplish it quickly. Maintain your sense of humor. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. In a meeting in the evening, you see a situation differently because of a discussion. Tonight: So many people and so much to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Take off early. Your perspective is subject to change if you imagine what it's like to be someone else. Re-evaluate certain issues. Be imaginative with a child. Tonight: If you get tired early, just say so.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ If you can, work from home, or take a day off. You need a change of pace and will be much happier if you do. Realize what is happening within a relationship. Tap into your sense of humor. Tonight: Christen the weekend well.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



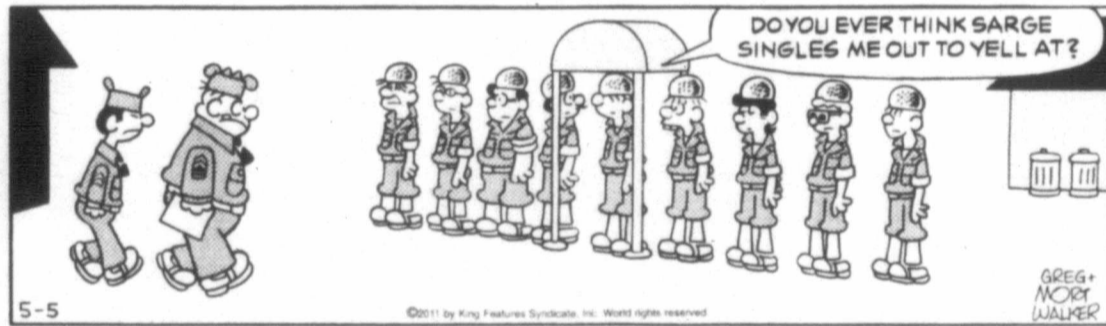
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible

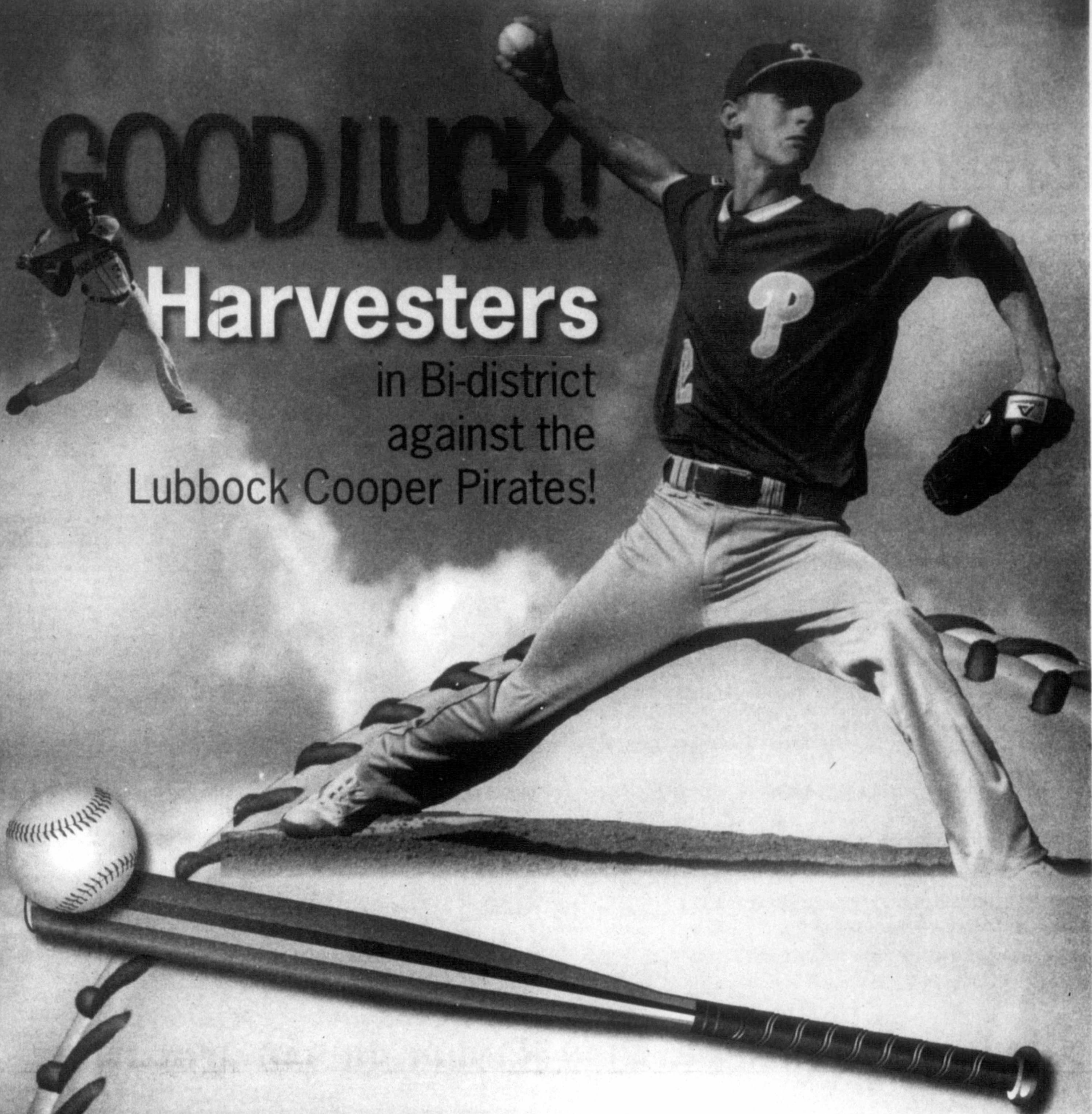


Peanuts



Blondie





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Harvesters

in Bi-district
against the
Lubbock Cooper Pirates!



Lady Harvesters

in Area Round
against
Midland Greenwood!

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Sports

Harvesters prepare for playing surface and Pirates

ANDREW GLOVER
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This week the Pampa Harvester baseball team practiced at Harvester Field, but not theirs.

The team set up their pitching machines and bases on the football turf to prepare for their bi-district series against the Lubbock Cooper Pirates (25-5, 8-2) on West Texas A&M's turf field May 6 and 7.

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said he is excited about being back in the playoffs.

"I've told all of these boys to enjoy every minute of it," Snelgrooves said. "Us as a coaching staff are doing the same thing. We've kept our routine but added some fun things to it."

Senior catcher Brent Green agreed. "This is the first time I've been to the playoffs," Green said.

Senior outfielder Zach Murray said the team doesn't know much about Cooper except their ranking and added it will be a challenge.



Snelgrooves

"They are ranked high in the state," Murray said.

Green said they will have to play their best game.

"We have to come ready to play," Green said. "We have to do our best and hopefully we will beat them."

Snelgrooves said the Pirates hit the ball well, so pitching will be key.

"I think if our pitchers do a good job and we play good defense, we can compete with anyone in the state," Snelgrooves said.

Murray said they have to hit the ball well and play good defense.

"We have to hit the ball hard," Murray said. "We have to make plays behind our pitchers."

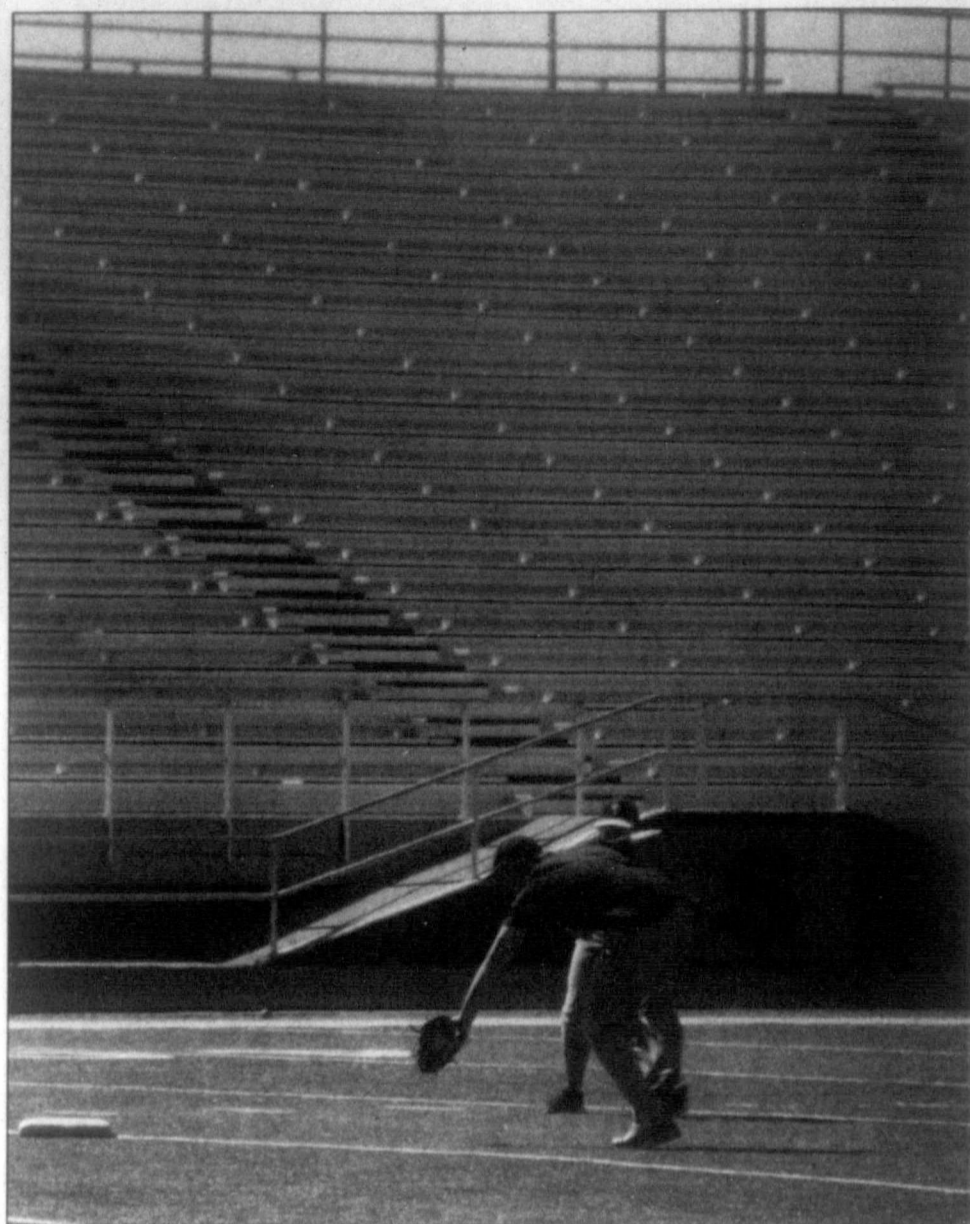
The Harvesters (13-14, 5-4) return to the playoffs for the first time since 2007. Game One is at 5 p.m. Friday and Game Two is 1 p.m. Saturday.



Green



Murray



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Sophomore Jordan Lemons fields a ball in practice Wednesday. The Harvesters practiced on the football turf to get adjusted to the surface they will play on at West Texas A&M.

Series Info

Pampa Harvesters (13-14, 5-4) vs. Lubbock Cooper Pirates (25-5, 8-2)

Game 1: 5 p.m. Friday at West Texas A&M

Game 2: 1 p.m. Saturday at West Texas A&M

Game 3: 30 minutes after Game 2 if necessary

How they got here: Pampa finished third in District 1-3A.

Lubbock Cooper finished second in District 2-3A.

Lady Harvesters set to face Rangerettes in area round

ANDREW GLOVER
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The Pampa Lady Harvesters have worked hard for two weeks and are ready to face the Midland Greenwood Rangerettes in the area round May 6 and 7 at Lubbock Coronado High School.

Junior McKinlee Stokes said she thinks the team is ready.

"We've been working hard for two weeks," Stokes said. "I think we are ready."

The Rangerettes beat El Presidio 13-0 Saturday in the bi-district round. Pampa had a bye because they won district.

Stokes said they don't know much about Greenwood but will have to play their best.

"We have to be ready for anything," Stokes said. "We have to have good defense and offense. We just have to play our game."

Freshman Krysten Miller said they have to execute the fundamentals.

"We have to hit the ball and pitch well," Miller said. "We can't coast."

Last year the Lady Harvesters reached the regional quarterfinals in 4A. Stokes said this year's team is similar to last year's at playoff time.

"We're pretty much the same team with different people," Stokes said.

Game One is at 6 p.m. Friday. Game Two is at 12 p.m. If a third game is necessary it will be 30 minutes after Game Two.

Head coach Bobbi Gill's comments were unavailable as of press time.



Stokes



Miller

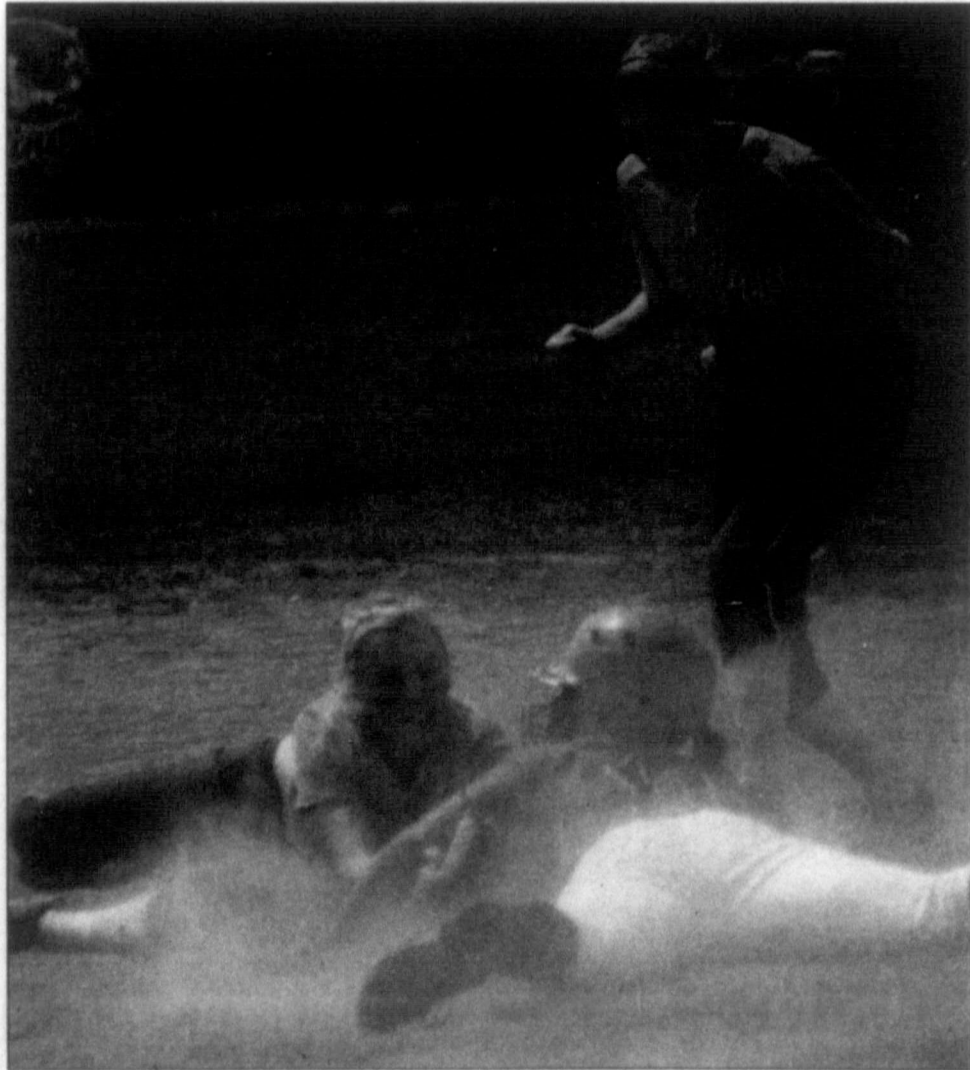


photo courtesy of Charla Shults

Junior McKinlee Stokes makes the final out against Borger April 16 as sophomore Claire Hopkins cheers on. The Lady Harvesters play Midland Greenwood in the area round Friday and Saturday.

Series Info

Pampa Lady Harvesters (26-7, 9-0) vs. Midland Greenwood Rangerettes (12-18)

Game 1: 5 p.m. Friday at West Texas A&M

Game 2: 1 p.m. Saturday at West Texas A&M

Game 3: 30 minutes after Game 2 if necessary

How they got here: Pampa earned a bye for winning District 1-3A. Midland Greenwood beat El Paso Presidio 13-0 in the bi-district round.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Mavericks squeeze past Lakers; take 2-0 series lead

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks have seen this playoff scenario many times before.

The higher-seeded team is reeling after two embarrassing losses, with its tentative play leading to locker-room discord and wholesale fan panic.

It's just that the Mavs are usually living this nightmare, not causing it for somebody else — and certainly not for the two-time defending NBA champion Lakers, who left Staples Center on Wednesday night wondering whether they'll be back this spring.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points, Shawn Marion added 14 and the Mavericks beat

Los Angeles 93-81 in Game 2, taking a 2-0 second-round lead with consecutive road wins.

"If you would have told me before that were going to win both games, that would have been hard to believe," Nowitzki said. "But I think we earned it."

Jason Kidd scored 10 points in a balanced scoring effort for the Mavericks, who pushed the Lakers halfway to playoff elimination with Nowitzki's stellar shooting, steady defense and a decisive 9-0 fourth-quarter rally. Dallas did nothing spectacularly well, yet was significantly better than the cold-shooting Lakers on both ends.

Dallas has endured a decade of playoff disappointment under owner Mark Cuban, including just one playoff series victory in the previous four postseasons since the Mavericks' only NBA finals appearance.

Time and again, Nowitzki and his revolving cast of teammates have flopped in pressure playoff situations — but these taller, tougher Mavs certainly appear primed to change their reputation with two more wins, starting in Game 3 on Friday night in Dallas.

"We talked about it, and this series is far from over," said Nowitzki, who again proved to be nearly unguardable

for the Lakers. "I've been around a long time. I've been up 2-0 before and ended up losing the series. I've been down 2-0, lost both home games ... and came back and won in Game 7. We've seen a lot of things happen in this league. We have to stay focused, stay together."

Kobe Bryant scored 23 points for the Lakers, who hadn't lost the first two games of a playoff series since the 2008 NBA finals — also the last series they lost. Only three NBA teams have come back to win a best-of-seven series after losing the first two at home, where dismayed fans sent the Lakers off with boos and jeers.

Sports

A look at the district champion Pampa Lady Harvesters



Bobbi Gill, coach
Gill enters her ninth season at the helm of the Lady Harvesters and has an overall record of 216-88-4. Gill has led the Lady Harvesters to eight playoff appearances and two regional semifinals.

#1 Madi Shults, Sr.
Played mostly at first base. Shults hit in the middle of the lineup and was one of the leaders in RBI. Shults was solid defensively as she turned several lineout double plays.



#2 Martecia Alexander, So.
Alexander is playing in her first varsity season and started in the outfield. March 19 against Amarillo Tascosa, Alexander hit a walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth.

#5 Alanna Stephens, Jr.
Stephens started at catcher. The junior turned into a solid power hitter with four home runs and was one of the leaders in RBI.

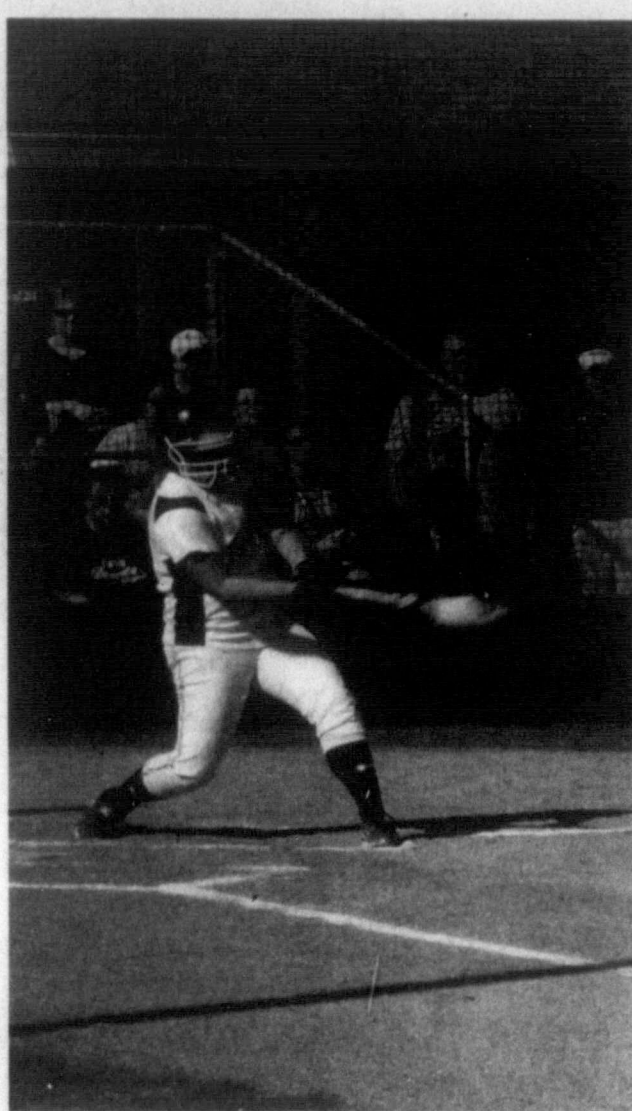


#8 McKinlee Stokes, Jr.
Stokes blossomed into a solid slap hitter and is one of the leaders in batting average. Her speed makes her a threat on the base paths. At second base, Stokes is a solid fielder.

#10 Claire Hopkins, So.
Hopkins was the leadoff hitter all season. Her speed on the basepaths was deadly. Defensively her speed helped track down several fly balls in center field.



#11 Krysten Miller, Fr.
Miller moved up to varsity during the second week of the season and was primarily used as the designated hitter. Though Miller did play a few games at third. April 16 at Borger, Miller hit for the cycle. Miller's power improved during district.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Jordan Mayhew was one of the power hitters and hit three home runs and was one of the leaders in RBI.

#12 Shanna Keown, Sr.
Keown played at right field. The senior did a good job of moving runners on sacrifice bunts and helped the top of the order drive home several runs.



#15 Tiffany Britton, So.
Britton pitched and played in the outfield. In her first varsity season, Britton amassed a 9-2 record including 2-0 in district.



#17 Heather Coffee, Jr.
In her first varsity season, Coffee emerged as a solid pitcher, posting a 14-2 record. Coffee earned wins in six straight Lady Harvester victories.



#18 Bailey Beck, So.
Beck played shortstop and became a solid No. 2 hitter, Beck homered against Garden City April 8 and Perryton April 19. The sophomore is also a solid base runner.

#21 Nakyla Hardman, Jr.
Hardman missed most of the season with a broken jaw. On opening day, Hardman scored two runs against Hereford.



#22 Courtney Ward, Jr.
Ward was used as a courtesy runner for pitchers and catchers. The junior stole a few bases and scored a few runs.



• Recently called up by Coach Gill to travel with the team were:

#7 Alexa O'Brien, Fr.
O'Brien spent time on both JV and Varsity and was a good pitcher at both levels.

#22 Monica Zubia, So.
Zubia was a solid hitter and baserunner.

Kaylene Wyant, Jr.
Pitched in several games for the junior varsity and helped them to a 26-6-1 record.

Bailey Wichert Fr.
Emerges as the leadoff hitter on junior varsity and has a lot of speed.

Macy Cochran, So.
Used as a runner and played some in the field.

Harley Mayfield Jr.
Played first and was designated hitter. Mayfield picked up several base hits.

**GOOD LUCK
IN THE PLAYOFFS,
LADY
HARVESTERS!**

PHS golf team looks back on a successful 2010-11 season

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters and Lady Harvesters golf teams looked back on their successes from this season at their annual banquet Wednesday in the Pampa High School commons.

Head coach Alan Segura said this was his best season.

"This is the first district championship that I won with girls, first team I've taken to regionals and first boy I've taken to regionals," Segura said. "I feel like it was really successful and I feel like we can continue to do that with the youth that we have."

The golfers were introduced in order of classification.

Junior Logan Reagan was presented with the Jay David Fatheree Eagle award for his dedication to the sport. Segura said Reagan is at the golf course all the time.

"This goes to an individual that puts all

of his effort and time into golf," Segura said. "(Reagan) does. Every hour that he is not at school or sleeping, I feel he is on the golf course."

Reagan also received certificates for participating in regionals and first team All-District for his finish at the district tournament. The varsity girls received certificates for participating in regionals. Senior Cori Cook made Second Team All-District for her finish in the district tournament. Alison Alexander, Liz Hoelting, Lindsay Brown, Samantha Kelly all received first team selections. Hoelting was named the team MVP. Hoelting was the second best individual in the district tournament.

The five seniors — Cook, Kelly, Hoelting, Jonathan Polasek and Joseph Mechelay — were recognized and received gift bags.

The banquet ended with a slideshow highlighting the season. The girls golf team won the District 1-3A title.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Logan Reagan receives a bundle of certificates from head coach Alan Segura at the golf banquet Wednesday in the high school commons.

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Pakistan army calls for cuts in U.S. military personnel

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's army on Thursday called for cuts in the number of U.S. military personnel inside the country to protest the American commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden, and threatened to cut cooperation with Washington if it stages more unilateral raids on its territory.

The statement, the first since Monday's raid, signaled the army's anger at the unilateral operation, but was also aimed at pacifying domestic critics who have accused it of failing to protect the country's sovereignty — potent charges in a country where anti-Americanism runs deep.

Ties between America and Pakistan were already strained before the raid because of American allegations that Islamabad was failing to crackdown on Afghan Taliban factions sheltering on its soil, and

Pakistani anger over U.S. drone strikes on its soil. It did not refer to international suspicions that the army, or elements within it, may have sheltered bin Laden, but admitted intelligence "shortcomings" in not spotting bin Laden, who was living in a large compound in Abbottabad, an army town just a two hours drive from the capital, Islamabad.

The statement was issued after a meeting of top generals. It said Pakistani army chief Gen. Ashfaq Kayani told his colleagues that a decision had been made to reduce the number of U.S. military personnel to the "minimum essential" levels. The statement gave no details on the numbers, and a spokesman declined to elaborate.

The U.S. has around 275 declared U.S. military personnel in Pakistan at any one time, some of them helping train the Pakistan

army. U.S. officials were not immediately available for comment.

The Pakistani army also warned that it would review its military and intelligence cooperation with Washington if the United States carries out any more similar raids. Earlier, the government had warned of "disastrous consequences" if the U.S. staged a similar attack on its territory.

It said the Inter-Services Intelligence agency had given initial information to the CIA about bin Laden, but claimed the "CIA did not share further development of intelligence on the case with the ISI, contrary to the existing practice between the two services."

The raid on bin Laden has sharpened tensions between the two countries. But while some U.S. lawmakers have been calling on Washington to cut its aid to the country, the

Prayer

cont. from page 1

"Let us be thankful for the liberty that allows people of all faiths to worship or not worship according to the dictates of their conscience, and let us be thankful for the many other freedoms and blessings that we often take for granted," he said.

The proclamation came just weeks after a federal appeals court reversed the 2010 ruling of another court that found the annual prayer day unconstitutional.

"I know that there has been an attempt to cancel (the Day of Prayer)," Funderburg said, "and I am very thankful that we're still having it. I think the essence of prayer is communing with God, sending him our prayers and having him heed them. But (the National Day of Prayer) is also a reminder that God is still on his throne and there are people in these United States who love him and serve him."

Blossom Matthews, pastor of First United Methodist Church, said that her hope is that today serves as a reminder of the importance of prayer, not just for one day of the year but all throughout our lives.

"I think the wonderful thing about it is it reminds us to do it every day," Matthews said. "If you're intentional about it one day, maybe you'll be more intentional about it every day."

"(Prayer) is something that we all do," said Pastor Kenny Rigoulot of the First Presbyterian Church. "It's something that we all share and it's something that we all feel is vital in our community. It's good to have a day that we can all do it together as one."

The pastors agreed that, especially in such a strong faith-based community as this one, the Day of Prayer is an important tool to stress that worship is a unifying force, not a divisive one.

"The National Day of Prayer is a signifi-

cant event in our community and around the country because it shows the unity of the body of Christ coming together to pray," Rigoulot said. "We can show that we can put aside our differences for an hour and pray for God to bless us all and those around us, so that we then might be a blessing to our communities."

"It's a great opportunity for leaders of all the different churches and denominations to emphasize the unity of Christ, which is often harder to see."

"It reminds us that despite our differences, we're all one faith, and that's great," Matthews said. "The danger is that churches can get competitive, and this reminds us that we're all in this together."

"We are all very blessed, and sometimes we take it for granted," she continued. "In some places, they don't have that. In China, they don't have that. There were people trying to worship during Easter and they weren't allowed. We are so blessed to share the ability to worship as we choose, and we need to celebrate that together. We are absolutely, tremendously blessed."

Nachtigall said that this year's prayer day is especially poignant because of all of the emotion that ongoing national turmoil, coupled with recent events, have stoked.

"I think it's extremely timely," said Nachtigall. "I believe that now, with all the uncertainty in some areas, and yet with the steps that have been taken by our military and our government, people are looking for something, and it's to come together and support each other through prayer."

"That's what prayer does. It brings us together, it supports us and it heals us. I hope that this day does that for our community, for whatever they may need."

Prestige

cont. from page 1

Harry Knutson, the body shop manager, is the father-in-law.

Quarles brother-in-law, Casey Knutson, is the accessory manager.

Stephen and Ryan McCarley, the step brothers-in-law, are accessory installer and painter, respectively.

John Locke is the bodyman and installer.

"Chad and John," Amy said, "they've worked together about 16 years."

Amy said that Chad has always been in the business. His father and brother were in it before him.

Chad struck out on his own six years ago. He had been working at Culberson-Stowers.

"I quit my job and had a new baby all in the same month," Chad said.

He said he had wanted to get into some-

thing broader than just collision repair.

With Prestige Auto Center, he was able to branch out into accessories and other areas of automotive maintenance.

Now, Quarles is thinking about expanding and adding another shop in the back.

"We have room to put up another building," he said. "We're running out of room."

Quarles said he hadn't planned on expanding when he first opened at Foster and Hobart, but those are problems that he liked to have.

Quarles graduated from Lefors High School, but has spent most of his life in Pampa. Amy is a Pampa native.

The rest of the staff include the father-son team of Gene and Jason Gray; Bobby Petroski, and Tye Powell.

Drive

cont. from page 1

to continue to give, the drive will continue to accept donations and make sure they get to the right distribution points.

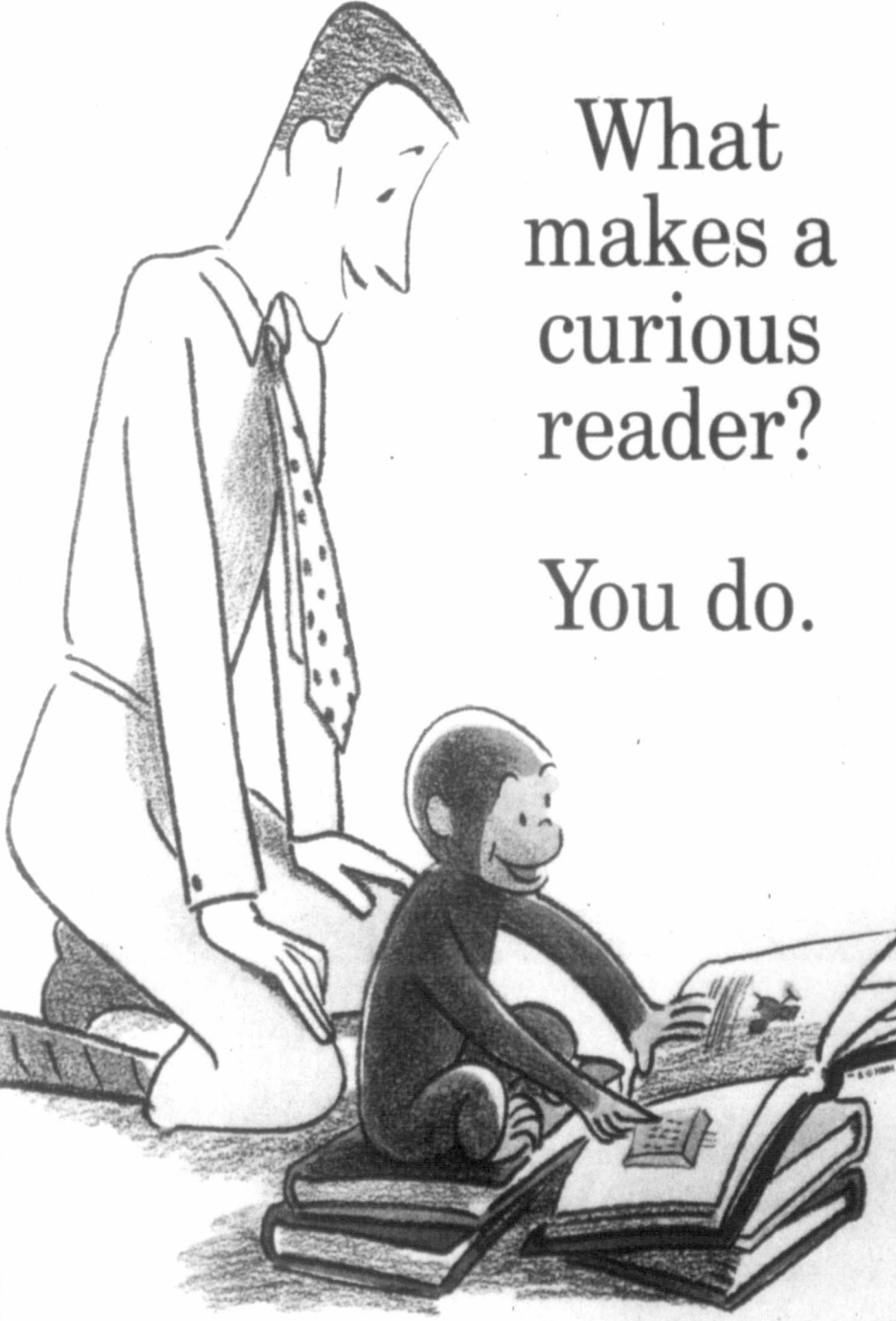
"I wanted to become involved in this simply because of the appeal that came specifically from the mayors of Birmingham and Tuscaloosa," Robbins said. "This is just one thing

where I said, 'Hey, we need to follow along with this thing.' Not just as a community, but as a people, we need to reach out to these people in shock and need.

The items the drive is seeking include toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels, soap, deodorant, combs and brushes,

lotion, hand sanitizer, wet naps, sanitary napkins, bandages, pain reliever, medical tape, sterile gauze, antiseptic wipes, antibiotic cream, blankets and diapers.

Financial donations can also be sent via the Somebody Cares America website, www.somebodycares.org.




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