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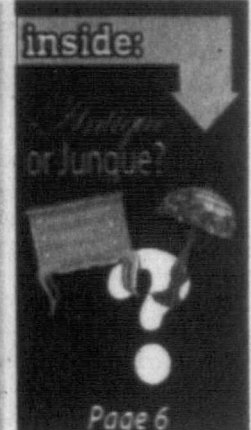
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# The PAMPA NEWS



**Eyeing progress**  
 Baseball team recognizes improvement at banquet  
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Thursday, May 19, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 38 75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

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## 2011 Best of Gray County BY ANY OTHER NAME



The Keyes Pharmacy staff (from left to right) includes Emily Ruhl, Yelitzta Anguiano, Ronna Raber, Merlin Rose, Monica Esparza, Rikki Lauer and Lisa Wills.

### Rose voted county's top pharmacist

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com  
 With a broad grin, Merlin Rose joked that he didn't get very far.  
 A native of Pampa, his career as a pharmacist has been based here.

"I was born in Worley Hospital," he said, standing in his pharmacy at 928 North Hobart, "and grew up about eight blocks west of here."  
 He said Pampa's a nice place to grow up and do business.  
 "I was in this pharmacy as a child," Rose said. "My mother

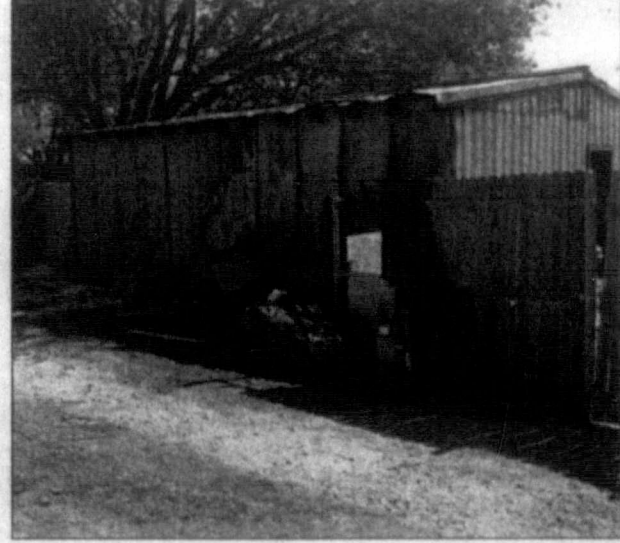
worked at the Pampa Clinic across the street. We got our prescriptions from Mr. Keyes."  
 He said he's proud to serve the community.  
 "I've owned Keyes Pharmacy since 1982," Rose said. "I've been a pharmacist in Pampa  
**ROSE** cont. on page 7

### Meeting to set runoff tomorrow

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com  
 A special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Pampa will be held at noon tomorrow at City Hall to officially order the runoff election slated for June 25.  
 The runoff will decide the election for Ward 1 Commissioner, a post previously held by current mayor Brad Pingel. Neither first place vote-getter John Studebaker nor second place Cleo Meaker  
**MEETING** cont. on page 7

### New energy agency called for at PPROA

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com  
**AMARILLO** - John Hofmeister wants a 21st century energy solution and is proposing a new government agency to achieve it.  
 Speaking at the 82nd Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association Convention this week, Hofmeister called for a structural change in the way the United States governs its energy industry.  
 Hofmeister, former president of Shell Oil Company and founder of Citizens for Affordable  
**HOFMEISTER** cont. on page 8



An early morning fire on North Faulkner heavily damaged a garage and workshop.

### Morning fire deals damage to garage

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com  
 An early morning fire today heavily damaged a garage and workshop on Faulkner.  
 Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said the call came in shortly after midnight concerning a fire in the alley  
**FIRE** cont. on page 6

### CAMP CANTONEMENT CAVALIER ATTITUDE



**Pampa's Ken Fields**, with his horse and in an authentic cavalry uniform as part of the High Plains Battalion reenactors, visits with Mark Warner during ceremonies at the site of Camp Cantonement on a ranch east of Pampa this past weekend. The White Deer Land Museum organized a trip to the site in honor of the first military installation in the Texas Panhandle. Troops later moved about 12 miles northeast to establish Fort Elliott as their major installation in the area to try to keep Indian tribes on Oklahoma reservations and away from their traditional hunting grounds in the Texas Panhandle.

**Boomtown Block Party & Business Expo and Top O' Texas BBQ Cook-off**  
 July 9 at Recreation Park/Rodeo Grounds  
 Registration forms available at the Chamber Office  
 200 N. Ballard

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### PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 80 Low 53	High 84 Low 55	High 88 Low 59

**Tonight:** Increasing clouds, with a low around 58. Windy, with a southwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Friday:** Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 80. Windy, with a west southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 53. Windy, with a west southwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 84. Windy, with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55. Windy, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 88. Windy, with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 59. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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## Jobless applicants down again this week

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell sharply for the second straight week, suggesting the job market is slowly recovering.

Applications for benefits dropped 29,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 409,000, the Labor Department said.

The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose slightly to 439,000. It was the sixth straight increase.

The declines come after applications spiked last month to an eight-month high of 474,000. The increase was largely because of temporary factors. Still, it lifted applications nearly 100,000 higher than February's three-year low of 375,000 — a level typically consistent with sustainable job growth.

Weekly applications peaked during the recession at 659,000.

Economists said they were encouraged to see applications declining again. But many said they would feel more optimistic about the job market when applications fall below 400,000.

"It will likely take several weeks before this average falls back below 400,000, and there is a risk that flooding in the Mississippi area could distort the claims data in the next one or two reports," said John Ryding, an economist at RDQ Economics.

Labor Department analysts said the jump two weeks ago was largely the result of an unexpected increase in layoffs at New York schools. More of the state's school systems closed for spring break than expected. That boosted temporary layoffs among school bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other hourly employees. A new extended benefits program in Oregon also caused applications to rise.

This week, the department said tornadoes that devastated parts of Alabama in late April caused applications in that state to jump by nearly 6,000. Still, job growth has been strong this year. Businesses have added a net total of more than 250,000 jobs per month, on average, in the past three months. That's the fastest hiring spree in five years. The unemployment rate has dropped nearly a full percentage point in the past five months, though it remains very high at 9 percent.

The total number of people receiving benefits dropped 81,000 to 3.7 million. But that doesn't include millions of people receiving aid under extended programs put in place during the recession.

All told, 7.9 million people received benefits during the week of April 30, the latest data available. That's about 50,000 lower than the previous week.

## Obituaries

### Jerome K. Littlefield, 80

Jerome K. Littlefield, 80, died May 17, 2011, in Pampa.

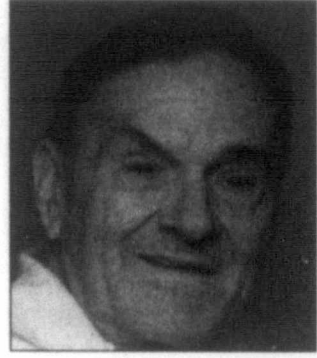
Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 2011, at Lighthouse Baptist Church, with Pastor Jerry Webb, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Littlefield was born March 3, 1931, in Daytona Beach, Fla. He married Esther Delcid on September 9, 1964, in Tucson, Ariz. She preceded him in death on October 15, 2005. Jerome was an electrician and a member of IBEW for over 50 years. He enjoyed working on his two classic cars.

Survivors include his son, Rick Littlefield and wife Linda of Pampa; two grandsons, Nickolas Littlefield of Los Lunas, N.M., and Cameron Littlefield of Pampa; a granddaughter, Lauren Littlefield of Pampa; brother, Alex Littlefield and wife Ann of Tallahassee, Fla. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alex and Geraldene Littlefield; and a brother, Francis Littlefield.

Memorials may be made to Lighthouse Baptist Church, 725 W. Brown, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



Littlefield

### Martha Sue West, 67

Martha Sue West, 67, died May 18, 2011, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, May 20, 2011, at Highland Baptist Church with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. West was born February 27, 1944, in Turlock, Calif. She was a former resident of White Deer, working at Clint & Sons as a cashier. After moving to Pampa, she worked at Frank's Thriftway as a cashier. Martha was a member of Highland Baptist Church. She was a loving mother, sister and friend. She enjoyed spending time with her family, children and grandchildren. She will be deeply missed.

Survivors include three sons, Terry West of Pampa, Scott West and wife Willa of Stinnett, and Randy West of Lubbock; two daughters, Kelly West of Plano and Denise Allen of Pampa; a brother, Charles Butcher of Pampa; two sisters, Norene March and Barbara Mesneak, both of Pampa; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Martha was preceded in death by her parents, Floyd and Opal Butcher, and a son, Dennis Ray West in 1992.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



West

## For the record

### Police Department

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

Police reported 21 traffic-related reports, two abandoned vehicles and three accidents.

Animal control reported 11 animal-related calls. Pampa EMS reported four ambulance calls.

**Monday, May 16**  
 Officers reported one attempt to serve legal papers in the 800 block of East Beryl.

A burglary was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson.

An alarm was reported in the 200 block of East Brown.

Officers had escort duty in the 600 block of North Ward.

A theft was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

A suspicious person was reported in the 600 block of North Doucette.

A theft was reported in the 1000 block of North Hobart.

A fraud was reported to police.

A suspicious person was reported in the 700 block of East Frederic.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2100 block of North Perryton Parkway.

A suspicious vehicle was reported to police.

Disorderly conduct was reported to police.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of South Banks.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of North Hobart.

A theft was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 600 block of North Deane.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1400 block of West Somerville.

Officials shut off the water in the 600 block of North Sumner.

An assault was reported in the 200 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported at Reid and Frederic.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2200 block of North Charles.

An alarm was reported in the 300 block of West Kingsmill.

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of East Craven.

**Tuesday, May 17**  
 Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of North Nelson.

...

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

Police reported 43 traffic-related incidents.

Animal Control Officers reported nine animal-related incidents.

Pampa EMS reported four ambulance calls. The Pampa Fire Department reported one medical call.

**Wednesday, May 18**  
 Officers had escort duty in the 600 block of North Ward.

Officials reported a violation of city codes in the 400 block of North Russell.

Violation of a protective order was reported to police.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson.

Harassment was reported to police.

A suspicious person was reported at Somerville and Francis.

A grass fire was reported in the 1100 block of North Terrace.

Officers made a welfare check in the 1600 block of North Sumner.

Phone harassment was reported in the 100 block of South Faulkner.

A theft was reported in the 800 block of North West.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of East Jordan.

Hit and run accidents were reported in the 100 block of East Browning and in the 2000 block of North Hobart.

An alarm was reported in the 500 block of West Kingsmill.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of North Christine.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Village Drive.

Harassment was reported in the 900 block of Sierra.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Sumner and Randy Matson.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of North Lowry.

An alarm was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1700 block of West Alcock.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of South Denver.

**Thursday, May 19**  
 A structure fire was reported in the 1900 block of North Faulkner.

A structure fire was reported in the 900 block of North Frost.

### Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the

following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

**Monday, May 16**  
 Bobbi Lerae Bolton, 45, of St. Louis, Mo., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety trooper on charges of tampering with physical evidence and possession of marijuana greater than 20 ounces but less than 40 ounces.

Lori Suzanne Gillpatrick, 39, of Tulsa, Okla., was arrested by deputies on a grand jury indictment charging her with credit card abuse.

John Paul Parks, 44, was arrested by police on warrants charging him with not having a valid driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear, having an open container in the vehicle and an unsafe start.

...

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

**Wednesday, April 18**  
 Brenda L. Sims, 48, was arrested by deputies on charges of animal at large, nuisance and having an animal without a rabies vaccine.

Carl Allen Hinds, 28, was arrested by deputies on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

Renard Lee Villarreal, 38, was arrested by police on charges of driving while intoxicated, evading arrest, failure to identify, not having a driver's license, failure to appear, failure to control speed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

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# AFTERNOONRUSH Bill aims to reduce wrongful convictions

## State's rights resolution approved

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House has approved a state's rights resolution that serves "notice to the federal government to cease and desist from certain mandates," and calls for repealing certain federal laws.

Approved 102-44 Wednesday, the measure is based on the 10th Amendment. Democratic Rep. Marc Veasey attached language saying it doesn't endorse segregation - as some have used the banner of state's rights to do historically.

Opponents also charged the measure is an attack on the Obama administration. But its chief sponsor, Republican Rep. Brandon Creighton, said it wasn't political.

Gov. Rick Perry has cheered the measure.

## Budget riding on rev measure

AUSTIN (AP) — Consideration of a "must-pass" revenue bill has ground to a halt and a key lawmaker warned that failure to pass the legislation would "guarantee" a special session.

The legislation to raise more money had been set for debate in the House Wednesday. Budget writers say it must pass in order to balance the next two-year state budget. But after being piled up with hundreds of volatile amendments, House leaders postponed it until Thursday. Republican sources said they'll work to strip most of the amendments.

Postponing the so-called fiscal matters bill "I think guarantees a special session," said Sen. Steve Ogden, the chief Senate budget writer. "Yeah, I'm kinda frustrated."

The regular legislative session ends May 30.

## Sanctuary cities bill derailed

AUSTIN (AP) — An immigration bill that had flared into one of the most divisive issues of the legislative session has been derailed in the Texas Senate.

The original bill would allow local police to question anyone they detain about their citizenship status. It had already passed the House.

A key Senate committee, however, voted Wednesday to eliminate the police enforcement measure that citizens had packed a committee room to testify against.

The so-called "sanctuary cities" bill had been declared an emergency by Gov. Rick Perry and been the center of emotional and racially charged debate.

## Egg producer to pay \$1.9M fine

DALLAS (AP) — Federal officials say a Texas-based egg producer has agreed to pay \$1.9 million fine for polluting streams and waterways with animal waste from its operations.

The Justice Department and Environmental Protection Agency announced Wednesday that Mahard Egg Farm Inc. failed to comply with the Clean Water ACT at egg production facilities in Texas and Oklahoma.

Agency officials say the civil penalty is the government's largest involving an animal feeding operation.

Mahard will spend an additional \$3.5 million to ensure the company complies with the law. Mahard is based in Prosper, near Dallas.

The settlement filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court.

## Texas, Mexico restoring bridge

RIO GRANDE CITY (AP) — Texas and Mexico officials have decided to restore the 83-year-old San Pedro-Roma Suspension Bridge over the Rio Grande in stages while waiting for more funding.

The bridge links Roma, Texas, and Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, in Mexico and is the only bridge between Texas and Tamaulipas. However, it has long been closed to traffic because of structural deterioration.

Texas, Starr County and Roma are pledging \$1.5 million for initial repairs, with Tamaulipas and Miguel Aleman pledging another \$1.5 million. That would be enough to make the bridge safe for pedestrian traffic. Roma City Manager Crisanto Salinas tells The Monitor of McAllen that full restoration will cost about \$7 million, and he says border interests hope for further funding to come from both sides of the river in the future.

## Offshore drilling bill blocked

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has rejected a GOP bid to speed up and expand offshore oil drilling in the face of \$4-a-gallon gasoline prices.

A procedural vote failed Wednesday, 57-42, on a GOP bid to speed decision-making on drilling permits and force the government to conduct previously scheduled lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and off Virginia's coast. The sales were suspended after the BP oil spill.

The vote comes days after President Barack Obama directed his administration to ramp up U.S. oil production by extending existing leases in the Gulf and off Alaska's coast and holding more frequent lease sales in a federal petroleum reserve in Alaska.

Both parties say they want to allow responsible oil and gas drilling, but they appear far apart on details.

## Children mistake meth for candy

LONGVIEW (AP) — An East Texas woman has been charged with negligence after her children told police they tried methamphetamine because they thought it was candy.

Amanda Gail Walker of Hallsville was in the Gregg County Jail on Thursday with bond set at \$6,000 bond. Electronic jail records did not list an attorney for Walker, who was arrested Tuesday at a Longview hotel following a fight with a relative.

Walker is charged with assault causing bodily injury, possession of a controlled substance and criminal child negligence. She also faces an outstanding DWI warrant.

Police say Walker's 9-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter told investigators that they saw something that they thought was candy, so they tasted it. Police confiscated a bag believed to contain methamphetamine. Child Protective Services was summoned after Walker's arrest.

AUSTIN (AP) - Law enforcement agencies would be required to standardize eyewitness identification procedures under legislation passed Wednesday by Texas senators in hopes of reducing wrongful convictions in the state.

The bill would require written policies relating to how agencies conduct procedures for photographs and lineups. Agencies would be encouraged to develop blind procedures, where the person administering a lineup doesn't know who the suspect is.

In the state that leads the nation in exonerations based on DNA evidence, lawmakers have been working for years to fine-tune procedures so fewer Texans are put behind bars for crimes they didn't commit.

Eyewitness identification is the leading cause of wrongful convictions,

with 80 percent of wrongful convictions involving eyewitness identification error, according to The Innocence Project, a nonprofit working to free wrongfully incarcerated people.

Eyewitness identification reform is the result of recommendations from the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions, named after the first Texan to be posthumously exonerated of a crime by DNA testing. Cole was convicted of a rape he did not commit in 1986 and died in 1999 while serving his 25-year sentence.

"(The bill) enacts a simple best practice to ensure we have reliable evidence in our courtrooms to ensure the conviction of the guilty and the protection of the innocent," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, the bill's sponsor.

The House already has

passed an identical bill authored by Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine. The bill now goes to Gov. Rick Perry's desk before it can become law.

The Senate also approved a bill Wednesday that would give a Texas man wrongfully imprisoned for capital murder compensation he was previously denied by the state comptroller.

The bill would allow Anthony Graves to collect \$1.4 million in compensation for his wrongful conviction. Graves spent 18 years behind bars, 12 of them on death row, for the 1992 slayings of six family members, but was declared innocent by a special prosecutor.

Under a 2009 Texas law, exonerates can receive

\$80,000 for every year they were imprisoned. The state comptroller had denied Graves' claim because the order detailing the exoneration lacks the words "actual innocence." Perry has indicated that he would support efforts to get Graves the compensation he deserved.

The bill amends current law to say that a person is eligible for compensation if they were granted relief in accordance with a writ of habeas corpus and an affidavit from the prosecutor.

The bill also makes sure attorney fees for state compensation claims are not excessive and gives exonerates affordable health insurance through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

## Revenue estimate up based on economy

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs has increased her state revenue estimate based on a strengthening economy.

"I am raising the general revenue estimate for the next biennium by \$1.2 billion," Combs said. "Maintaining a cautious outlook for the next biennium, my office estimates sales tax, oil production tax and motor vehicle sales tax will bring in more revenue than previously estimated in the next biennium. We are updating the revenue estimate after reviewing numerous economic indicators and yesterday's franchise tax filing deadline."

The Comptroller is increasing the sales tax revenue estimate for the fiscal 2012-13 biennium by an additional \$1 billion.

The state's motor vehicle sales tax revenue projection for the fiscal 2012-13 biennium is increased by an extra \$100 million.

Oil production revenue is projected to increase by an additional \$400 million for the 2012-13 biennium. Three-quarters of this extra oil production revenue, \$300 million, is constitutionally reserved for future deposit into the Rainy Day Fund and the remaining \$100 million will be available for general revenue spending.

"I will keep working with lawmakers as they go through the process of finalizing a budget for the 2012-13 biennium," Combs said. "While Texas continues to add jobs as our state recovers from the recent recession, the state's housing market is sluggish, with new home construction levels similar to those seen in the mid-1990s. We will also monitor different aspects of the economy, including any potential burden on consumers and businesses if oil prices move higher."

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Thursday, May 19, the 139th day of 2011. There are 226 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 19, 1967, the Soviet Union ratified a treaty with the United States and Britain banning nuclear and other weapons from outer space as well as celestial bodies such as the moon. (The treaty entered into force in Oct. 1967.)

### On this date:

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In 1780, a mysterious darkness enveloped much of New England and part of Canada in the early afternoon.

In 1921, Congress passed, and President Warren G. Harding signed, the Emergency Quota Act, which established national quotas for immigrants.

In 1935, T.E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia," died in Dorset, England six days after being injured in a motorcycle crash.

In 1943, in an address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan.

In 1962, during a Democratic fundraiser at New York's Madison Square Garden, actress Marilyn Monroe sang "Happy Birthday to You" to guest-of-honor President John F. Kennedy.

In 1964, the State Department disclosed that 40 hidden microphones had been found in the U.S. embassy in Moscow.

In 1971, poet Ogden Nash, known for his humorous light verses, died in Baltimore at age 68.

In 1994, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died in New York at age 64.

**Ten years ago:** The Arab League called on Arab governments to sever political contacts with Israel until the Jewish state ended military action against Palestinians.

**Five years ago:** A key U.N. panel joined European and United Nations leaders in urging the Bush administration to close its prison in Guantanamo Bay, saying the indefinite detention of terror suspects there violated the world's ban on torture; the report by the Committee Against Torture came as the U.S. military disclosed that prisoners wielding improvised weapons had clashed with guards trying to save a detainee who was pretending to commit suicide.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama condemned Arizona's crackdown on illegal immigration and pushed instead for a federal fix he said the nation could embrace, showing solidarity with his guest of honor, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who called Arizona's law discriminatory.

**Today's Birthdays:** PBS newscaster Jim Lehrer is 77. TV personality David Hartman is 76. Actor James Fox is 72. Actress Nancy Kwan is 72. Author-director Nora Ephron is 70. Actor Peter Mayhew is 67. Rock singer-composer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 66. Rock singer-musician Dusty Hill (ZZ Top) is 62. Singer-actress Grace Jones is 59. Rock musician Phil Rudd (AC-DC) is 57. Actor Steven Ford is 55. Actor Jason Gray-Stanford is 41. Rock singer Jenny Berggren (Ace of Base) is 39. Actor Drew Fuller is 31. Actor Eric Lloyd is 25.

**Thought for Today:** "The most exciting happiness is the happiness generated by forces beyond your control." — Ogden Nash (1902-1971)



## Gingrich and Romney run against their own party

Exit Mike Huckabee. Enter Newt Gingrich. Exit Donald Trump. It's been a busy week in the race for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination.

A few questions remain to be answered. Enter Mitch Daniels? Exit Sarah Palin?

But already two of the best-known candidates seem bent on ruling themselves out of contention.

One is Newt Gingrich. He's being denounced for his comments on House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's Medicare plan by the likes of Rush Limbaugh, Bill Bennett, the Wall Street Journal editorial page and Charles Krauthammer on Fox News.

Ryan's Medicare plan was part of the budget resolution that all Republicans but four voted for in the House. It is for all practical purposes the platform of the Republican Party. And Gingrich seemed to trash it.

He did so in response to a tendentious question from "Meet the Press's" David Gregory, who asked whether Republicans "ought to buck the public opposition" and "really move forward to completely change Medicare."

The smart response would have been to challenge the premises of Gregory's question. The Ryan plan is not necessarily unpopular — public sentiment depends heavily on how poll questions are worded. And the plan wouldn't completely change Medicare. The current system would remain in effect for everyone now 55 and over.

But Gingrich accepted Gregory's premises. "I don't think right-wing social engineering is any more desirable than left-wing social engineering," Gingrich responded. "I don't think imposing radical change from the right or the left is a very good way for a free society to operate."

So a former Republican speaker of the House who wants to become a Republican president has just given Democrats a warrant to label a major Republican proposal "right-wing social engineering" and "radical change from the right."

It's not hard to see why Russell Fuhrman, an Iowa Republican who happened to run into Gingrich in Dubuque, said: "You're an embarrassment to our party. Why don't you get out before you make a bigger fool of yourself?"

From his own personal experience, Gingrich should have known what is happening here. The party's congressional wing, with its majority in the House, has taken the initiative in setting party policy — as it did when Gingrich was speaker in 1995 and 1996.

Republican presidential contenders didn't disparage Gingrich's ideas in anything like the way Gingrich disparaged Ryan's. Gingrich sees himself, accurately, as a generator of new ideas. But the party he seeks to lead is already committed to ideas that are apparently contrary to his.

If Gingrich has put himself out of line with Republican policy more or less purposefully, Mitt Romney had no way of knowing that he would be aligned with President Obama when he formulated his Massachusetts health care plan back in 2006.

Congressional Republicans have almost unanimously supported repeal of the Obamacare bill jammed through Congress in March 2010 with

a mandate, modeled on the one in Massachusetts, requiring everyone to buy health insurance. Twenty-seven state attorneys general or governors, almost all Republicans, are bringing lawsuits arguing that the Obamacare mandate violates the Constitution.

Romney delivered a health care speech last week in Michigan defending his Massachusetts plan and insisting that a state mandate is a different kind of duck from a federal mandate. But the response of the large mass of Republicans seems something like the little girl confronted with a green vegetable says, "I say it's spinach, and I say the hell with it."

Some Romney fans are saying he has recovered by raising \$10.25 million in a single day this week. It's an impressive fundraising feat.

But what is money for in a presidential nomination race? It can help build state organizations, it can introduce an unknown candidate to voters, and it can present arguments for a candidate or against his opponents.

Some of those things, however, can be done much more cheaply these days through new media. And it doesn't seem likely that even millions of dollars of ads can make Republican primary voters and caucus-goers love the Massachusetts mandate.

Romney is running as a technocrat, someone who can analyze data and get results through good management. But Republicans this year are looking not for a technocrat but for someone to reverse the Obama Democrats' vast increase in the size and scope of government.

Romney, too, seems out of line with party he seeks to lead.



MICHAEL BARONE

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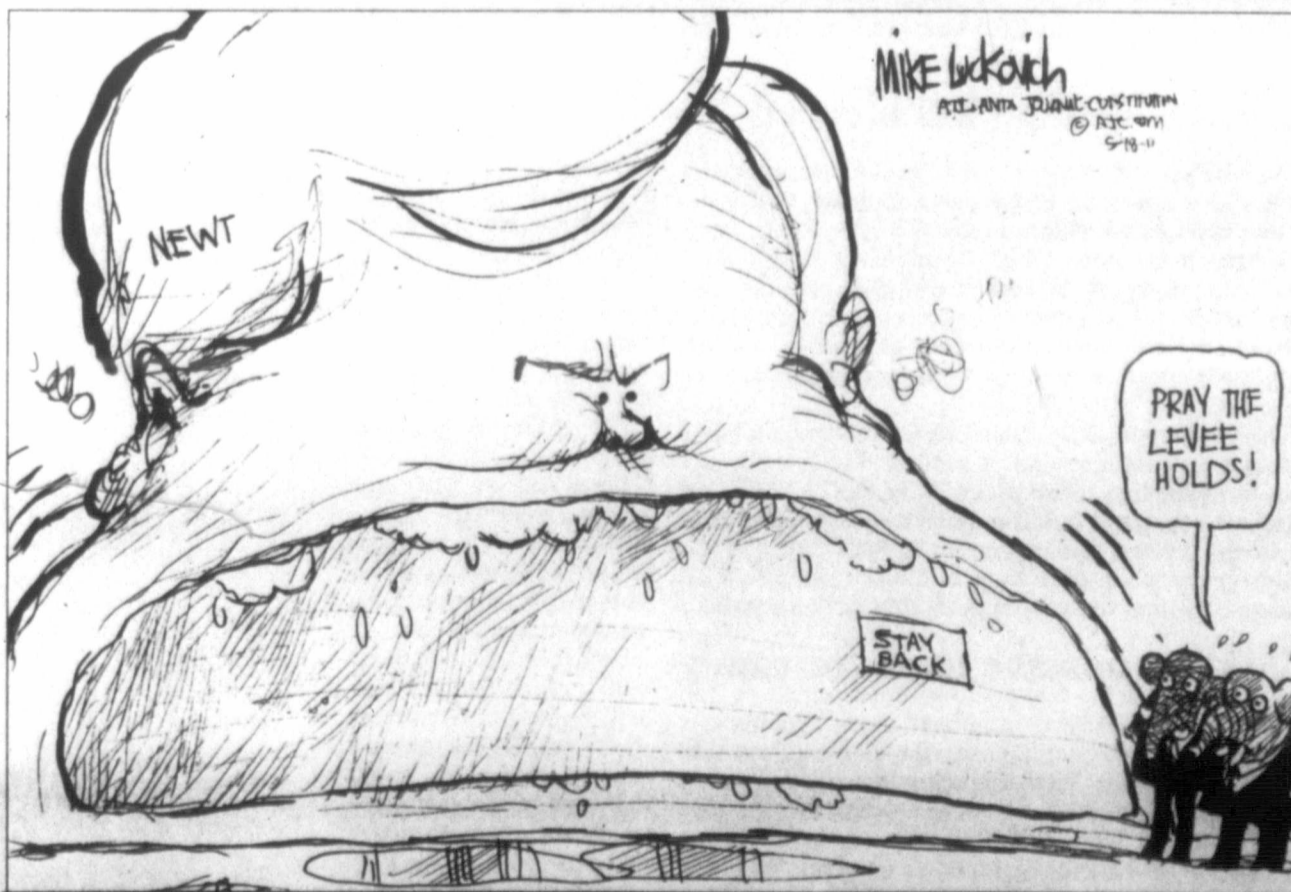
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- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.



# High used-car prices make it ideal time to sell

**TOM KRISHER**  
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - It's the best time in years to sell your car.

People are holding on to cars and trucks for about a year longer than they did before the recession, which has created a tight supply of used vehicles. So few are on the market that prices have risen to their highest in at least 16 years.

Dealers are paying an average of \$11,660 for a used car or truck, up almost 30 percent since December 2008.

"You're not going to find a situation like this very often," says Jonathan Banks, executive auto analyst for the National Automobile Dealers Association used car pricing guide.

The run-up in prices for used cars has been so dramatic that it almost doesn't make sense to buy them anymore, says David Whiston, an auto analyst for Morningstar. That's probably a good indication that prices are at or near a peak.

"For just a little bit more I can buy a brand-new car," he says. "There's a tipping point. I think we are getting very close to seeing that."

Take the Honda Accord, known for reliability and holding its value. A dealer would sell a 2008 four-cylinder Accord LX sedan in good condition with about 45,000 miles on it for \$16,175.

With no down payment and a loan at 5 percent interest, it would cost \$373 a month to pay off the Accord in four years. But Honda is offering a three-year lease on a new 2011 Accord for just \$250 a month. The company will even make the first payment. You still have to pay \$600 up front and 15 cents for each mile you drive over 12,000 a year.

In Greensboro, N.C., Jeremy Barnes and his wife are expecting their first child, so they decided to replace a white 2007 Accord with a bigger, new vehicle. He wasn't sure what they could get for the Accord when he checked prices on the Kelley Blue Book website.

"I was pleasantly surprised," says Barnes, 30, a heating and air conditioning equipment salesman.

He's asking \$15,200 for the car, which is in good shape and has 47,000 miles on it. While waiting for a buyer, the couple are looking at vehicles like the Jeep Grand Cherokee.

The rise in used-car prices is a byproduct of the recession. The average car on the road now is 10.6 years old, according to the Polk research firm. That's up from 9.8 years in the middle of 2007, a few months before the recession struck and people began to rethink major purchases.

Another source of used cars got choked off when credit tightened during the 2008 financial crisis and car companies cut back on leasing new ones. Companies sell leased cars as used when leases expire.

Japan's earthquake and tsunami are also driving up the price of some used cars. New models of some small cars, such as the Toyota Prius and Honda

Fit, are expected to be in short supply. Dealers are buying used ones to sell in their place. That won't last, though.

Manheim, a big auction house where dealers buy used cars, says prices this year are the highest since the company began collecting data in 1995. Tom Webb, chief economist there, predicts that used-car prices will rise for around two more months and then level off. They may fall in 2012 and beyond as more used cars come on the market.

There are already signs that used-car prices will come down. Leasing was 21 percent of U.S. sales in February, which was up from 11 percent in 2009, according to Experian Automotive. That should bring more used cars onto the market as three-year leases end.

Banks and auto company finance arms have also loosened up credit for people with poorer credit ratings, meaning more buyers can get a loan for a new car.

# President Obama puts immigration in Congress' court

**ALICIA A. CALDWELL**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - With a re-election campaign looming, President Barack Obama is pushing Congress to overhaul the immigration system, but lawmakers seems to have little appetite to take on the issue.

In recent speeches at the Mexican border in El Paso, Texas, and the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, Obama said his administration has followed through on demands to secure the border, and now it's time for Congress to put revamping immigration back on the agenda and make something happen.

"Comprehensive immigration reform is not only an economic imperative or a security imperative, it is also a moral imperative," Obama told the prayer breakfast.

But Republicans say any effort to allow illegal immigrants to stay in the country or any effort that doesn't address the inadequacies they see in border security is doomed to fail.

Although legislation has yet to be introduced, many lawmakers agree the most likely first step toward immigration legislation is a requirement that all businesses use E-Verify. The E-Verify program lets businesses know whether employees have the necessary papers to work in the U.S. Such legislation could give Democrats political cover by addressing immigration requirements that preclude tough crackdowns on immigrants, and give Republicans an opportunity to say they provided a new enforcement tool to stop illegal immigration.

The president's recent push, which started in April with a White House meeting on immigration issues and other events involving Latino celebrities, prompted Senate Democrats this month

to reintroduce the DREAM Act. The bill would give a path to legal status for law-abiding young people who were brought into the United States without documents as children and who either plan to attend college or join the military.

"Our immigration laws prevent thousands of young people from fully contributing to our nation's future," Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said in a statement announcing the bill he drafted. "These are honor roll students, star athletes, talented artists and valedictorians. These children are tomorrow's doctors, nurses, teachers, firefighters, soldiers and senators, and we should give them the opportunity to reach their full potential."

Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif., has introduced a similar bill in the House.

Republicans, who control the House, insist the DREAM Act will never pass.

"It's amnesty for up to 2 million people," said Rep. Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which has some jurisdiction over immigration legislation. "I just don't see it when you are still talking about amnesty." Smith said the bill rewards the undocumented parents and is "an open invitation to fraud."

But GOP House members have pledged to introduce an E-Verify bill for employers.

Some Democrats have suggested a compromise bill incorporating elements of both DREAM and E-Verify, even as they acknowledge the prospects for such a deal are dim.

"We are at a stalemate, but I am willing to sit down and work through issues to accomplish something in the interest of the country," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. "But it takes two to do that."

Smith said there is no room for compromise with any bill that includes a path to legalization.

The DREAM Act passed the House last year before falling five votes short in the Senate in December. While three Republicans supported it, five Democrats opposed it.

What support it had among Republicans has eroded as some face primary challenges from the right. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, dropped his support of the DREAM Act last year because he said Americans are more concerned with border security. And Indiana's Sen. Richard Lugar backed away from the most recent version because the president's speeches turned immigration into a "divisive election issue," said his spokesman, Andy Fisher. Lugar is facing a Tea Party primary challenge.

Smith said the reintroduction of failed legislation doesn't seem like a serious effort and chided Obama for focusing on the issue again in hopes of scoring campaign points with Hispanic voters.

Winning the Hispanic vote is thought to be critical in Obama's bid for re-election. In 2008, Latinos made up more than 7 percent of voters, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, and their numbers are greater in swing states such as Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado and Florida.

The Obama administration has made a point of highlighting enforcement efforts, though they differ dramatically from those of former President George W. Bush's administration.

The current administration has shied away from the high-profile immigration raids at businesses that routinely yielded large numbers of arrests of illegal workers. Instead, Immigration and Customs Enforcement has shifted strategies, focusing instead on audits of the documents employers must maintain that show their workers are eligible to work in the United States. The audits, officials have said, put the focus on employers who knowingly hire illegal workers.

Speaking in El Paso, Obama said his administration had done what Republicans in Congress have asked by adding Border Patrol agents, intelligence analysts and unmanned aerial vehicles.

"We've gone above and beyond what was requested by the very Republicans who said they supported broader reform as long as we got serious about enforcement," Obama said from a national park not far from the violent Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez. "All the stuff they've asked for, we've done."

# US predicts 3 to 6 major Atlantic hurricanes

MIAMI (AP) - U.S. government forecasters are expecting three to six major hurricanes from an above average Atlantic storm season.

The National Ocean

## Life sentence for child-killer

VERNON (AP) - A Northwest Texas jury has deliberated just eight minutes before sentencing a man to life in prison for beating his girlfriend's 5-year-old daughter to death.

A Wilbarger County jury in Vernon sentenced 43-year-old Tommy Israel Castro of Amarillo on Wednesday. The same jury deliberated about two hours Tuesday before finding him guilty of murder in the July 4, 2009, death of Kati Earnest.

Prosecutors had sought a capital murder conviction, but jurors were given the option of a non-capital charge. District Attorney J. Staley Heatly says Castro must serve 30 years in prison before he becomes eligible for parole.

The conviction and sentencing comes about 8 months after the girl's mother, Kristina Earnest, was sentenced to 50 years in prison after pleading guilty to injury to a child.

and Atmospheric Administration released its forecast for the 2011 season Thursday.

Scientists say as many as 18 named tropical storms may develop. Six to 10 of those could strengthen into hurricanes with top winds of at least 74 mph. Three to six could become major hurricanes, with maximum winds of 111 mph and up.

The six-month Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30.

Last year's hurricane season was one of the busiest on record with 19

named storms, including 12 hurricanes. No major hurricane has made a U.S. landfall in the last five years

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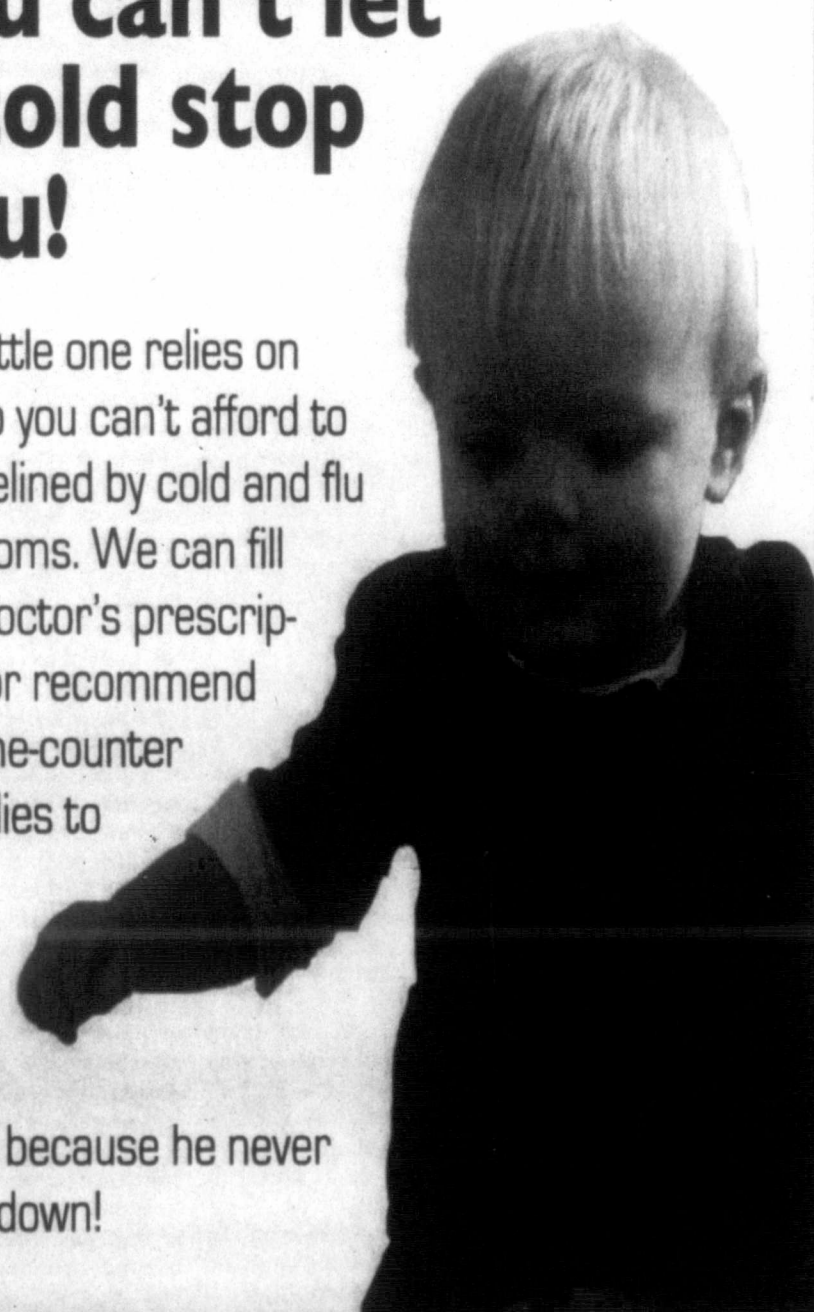
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## Long-feared flood reaches Louisiana

AMELIA, La. (AP) — The oil-and-seafood hub of Morgan City has been hit by one disaster after another, from hurricanes to the BP oil spill. The latest trouble involves a deluge of water that was diverted from the Mississippi River and is headed toward the town of about 12,000 people.

The Army Corps of Engineers, desperate to save Baton Rouge and New Orleans from flooding, opened a spigot on a spillway over the weekend, intentionally flooding this part of Cajun country, an area much less populated. But the cascade of water from the Morganza floodway is hampering the local oil industry and fishermen on the bayou.

Meanwhile, what is believed to be the first death related to the flooding since the river's rising waters began affecting Mississippi and Louisiana was reported Thursday in Vicksburg, Miss. Walter Cook, 69, who drowned, died early Thursday at a hospital after being pulled from floodwaters Wednesday.

Also, the threat of flooding prompted at least one school district in Louisiana to end the school year early. Students in Assumption Parish schools will not have to attend classes next week because the school board voted Wednesday to end the school year on Friday.

Back in Morgan City on Wednesday, Harry Ribardi, a shrimper, was still waiting on the check BP promised to make up for his losses last year. Now he's facing another man-made disaster.

"This water is messing me up right now," Ribardi, 68, said in a heavy Cajun-French accent. "Even if it don't flood me, it's going to shove the shrimp way offshore where it's hard to get them."

The Morganza floodgates send Mississippi River water down a 20-mile spillway and into the Atchafalaya River. Homes spread along the river south to Morgan City are vulnerable when the Atchafalaya spills over into the complex of bayous and lakes common in the basin.

And while Morgan City has a 20-foot floodwall that is expected to protect the town, workers have rushed sandbags into place and shored up levees just in case. National Guardsmen have zipped up and down the road along the bayou, troops loading four-ton sand bags and lugging them into place. The river is expected to crest here May 25.

Trudy Dupuy, 62, has lived a block from the Atchafalaya River in Berwick, just outside Morgan City, for 35 years. She believed the area would be OK, in part, because the protective floodwall was raised from 9 feet to its current height of 20 feet after the 1973 flood.

"I'm not worried. This is home, I was born and raised here," she said.

In 2008, Hurricane Gustav slammed the area, and before that, Hurricane Andrew hit in 1992. Last year, the oil spill closed Gulf of Mexico fishing grounds, idling workers.

The area swarmed with activity Tuesday — mostly work to get ready for a flood.

At ABA Fabrications, which builds equipment for the oilfields, the payroll dropped from just under 600 workers before the spill to 140 now. Owner Russell Andras, 71, complained flood preparations were taking time and labor away from his recovering business.

"It was just starting to get a little better, but this flood could make it really bad again," he said.

The Morganza flood gates were completed in 1954, and last opened in 1973. The unlocking of the gates was part of the drastic measures taken by Army engineers during the flood. The corps opened another floodgate north of New Orleans to send water into Lake Ponchartrain, and it blew up a Missouri levee to save the town of Cairo, Ill., sending water into 130,000 acres of farmland.

Unlike the Missouri decision, residents near the Atchafalaya basin live with the risk every year that the drain pipe could be opened. Many accept the potential dangers posed.

"They took pressure off the levees, and that was important," Ribardi said. "If the levee broke in Baton Rouge we'd still be in trouble."

Each year, near the beginning of high-water season, the corps mails approximately 1,000 notices about the possible use of the spillway to known property owners and others with interests in the area, corps spokesman Ricky Boyette said. This year, a second notice went out May 6, as the likelihood of the spillway's opening increased.

Ribardi, whose 68-foot shrimp boat "Sea Chariot," is docked behind his modest, white-frame house, said spring is where the money is for shrimpers. He expects more problems in the summer months.

"The fresh water, if it hits slowly, will chase the shrimp and crabs out to sea," Ribardi said. "If it hits too fast, or if they get trapped in someplace, it will kill them."

Sterling Fryou harvests crawfish and crabs in the inland wetlands. If the flood doesn't get his house, it could create a bounty by dumping nutrients into the swampy estuaries home to the shellfish.

"In the end, we'll see bigger crawfish and crabs because of it. After the '73 flood, we had three or four really good years," said Fryou, 74.

The lanky, energetic man with a hearty laugh and a Cajun accent has been a fisherman for 60 years. Even before the flood threat, nature had not been kind this year.

"It was a bad year already because it was so dry," he said. "There was no rain to get the crawfish moving and growing. Now the current is so swift out there they are just holding on so they don't get swept away."

## Fire

cont. from page 1

behind 1907 North Faulkner.

Upon arrival at the address, Fire Capt. Jesse Hanes called for more fire units, Powell said.

Ultimately, three fire units and 10 firefighters were called to the scene.

Powell said the fire appeared to have started in a wood pile in the alley and spread to involve a wooden fence and metal building housing a workshop and garage.

Powell estimated the damage at \$20,000.

The cause of the blaze was under investigation this morning.

## Platform carpet rocker is Victorian era

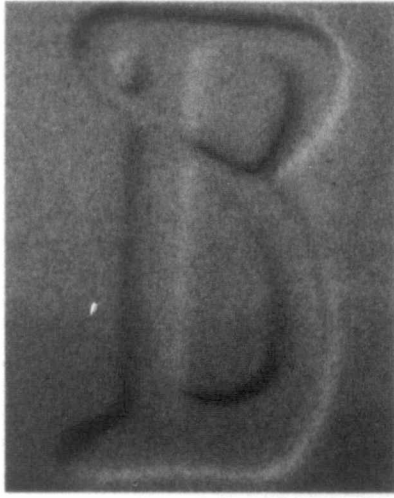
ANNE MCCOLLAM

Q: This rocking chair has been handed down through my husband's family. We have a picture of my father-in-law sitting in it around 1933 when he was approximately 2 years old. The rocker was originally upholstered with a carpet type of fabric. One arm has been broken and was not repaired properly; as a result, it sits a little cockeyed.

I have several questions about our rocker. Should I refinish the wood? How old is it? We would never sell it, but we would like to know its value.

A: Your platform carpet rocker was made in the Victorian era around 1880. This type of rocker was usually upholstered with carpet, thus the name carpet rocker. The platform was a 19th-century innovation designed to keep the rocker from creeping across the floor when rocked. Unless the finish is extremely bad, repair the arm and enjoy it.

In today's market, your circa 1880 carpet rocker would probably be worth \$300 to \$350.



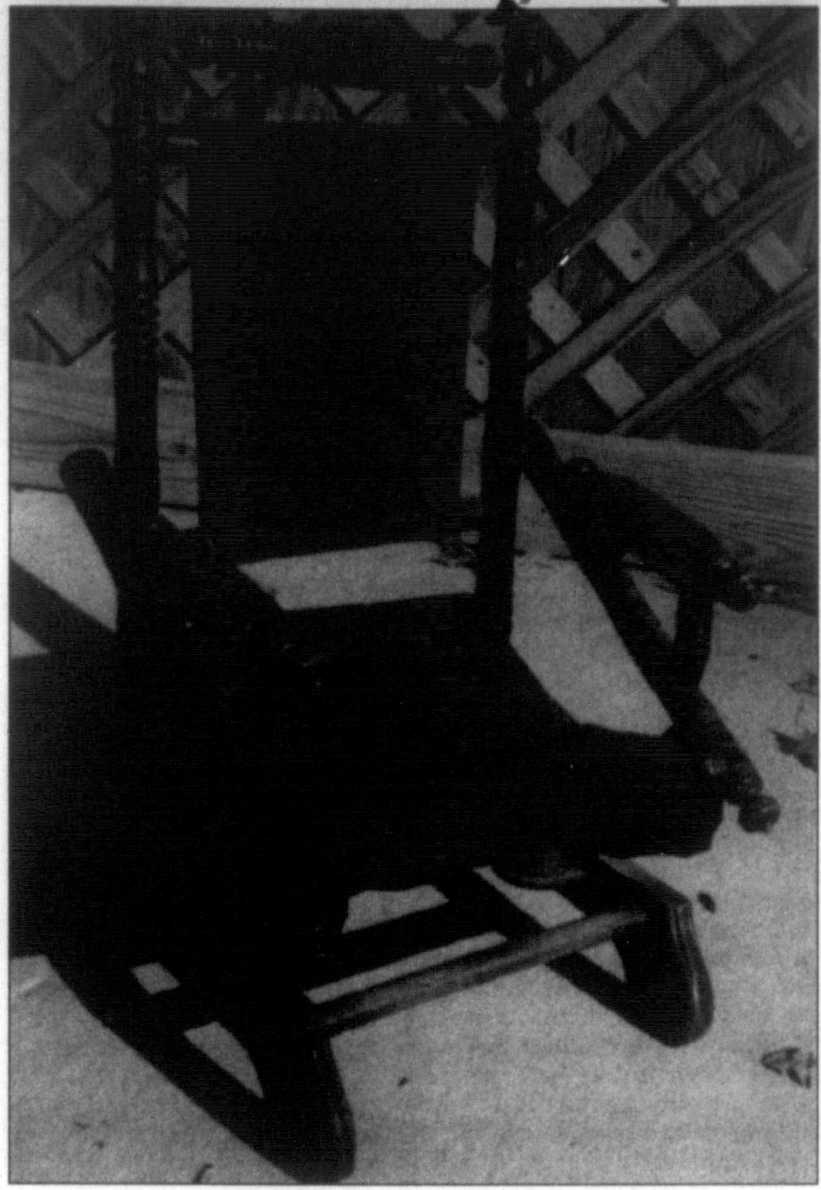
The Arts and Crafts Movement inspired a contemporary vase.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of my pottery vase. I would like to learn more about the maker, vintage and value. Standing 12 inches tall, the vase is decorated with a yellow matte glaze.

I hope you have answers to my questions.

A: Your vase is not an antique. It is a contemporary design that was inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 1800s and

## Antique OR JUNQUE?



The platform carpet rocker was made around 1880.

early 1900s. Bret Bortner, an artist and potter, created his vases as a tribute to the pottery of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the 1990s. Finished with matte glazes, his vases represent the essence of the period.

The value of your vase would probably be \$100 to \$150.

Q: I have five Parian, porcelain-framed limited editions by George McMonigle. Inspired by Wedgwood porcelain tiles from 200 years ago, they are blue and white. Issued by the Franklin Mint in 1988, each is matted in linen with solid wood frames. The overall dimension of each plaque is 11 inches by 8 inches. The titles of

the plaques are Leda and the Swan, Athena and Pegasus, the Lady and the Unicorn, and Diana and the Stag.

Can you tell me what each might be worth? Is there a market for them?

A: Your Parian plaques are collectible and can be found selling on the Internet in the range of \$200 to \$350 each.

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.

## Mideast speech offers punishment, praise

### Obama promises U.S. aid, decries Syrian president Assad

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his first comprehensive response to revolts across the Arab world, President Barack Obama is doling out punishment and praise, targeting Syrian President Bashar Assad for attacking his people but also promising fresh U.S. aid to nations that support democracy. Obama is also trying to erase any doubt that the U.S. supports the call for change.

Obama was expected to use his Middle East speech Thursday to sharply defend new sanctions on Assad as the U.S. government toughens its message for the repressive leader: Embrace democracy or get out. In a primary thrust of his address, Obama also was announcing aid for Egypt and Tunisia, the two nations seen as models while protests for freedoms elsewhere have been crushed.

Collectively, Obama's economic proposals will account for much of what's new in a speech that, by design, is intended to look back and let him put his imprint on the massive change across the Middle East and North Africa over the last six months. The core of what Obama will argue is that the United States must help nations modernize their economies and give job opportunities to their young people so that democracy can take hold and thrive — the kind of regional stability that is deeply in the political interests of his government.

The president plans to forgive roughly \$1 billion in debt owed by Egypt to free up money for job-creation efforts there. And he will reveal other steps to bolster loans, trade and international support in Egypt and in Tunisia, where uprisings led to dictators being overturned. Protesters in Bahrain, Yemen, Syria and other nations have endured brutal setbacks.

Senior administration officials offered some details of the speech in advance only on condition of ano-

nymity. The president was speaking Thursday morning at the State Department.

Obama also was expected to recalibrate the U.S. position on the flailing Israeli-Palestinian peace process. He will warn both sides that they face greater risks by not coming together on a peace deal than by going their own ways. It is an effort in which he has sunk his own political capital and will spend more before his heavy week of Mideast diplomacy ends.

Overall, Obama will try to convince American audiences that the fate of countries in the region is worth the money and attention of the United States even during weak economic times at home. To his global audience, Obama wants to leave no doubt that the U.S. stands behind those seeking greater human rights even as it has had to defend its responses to crises.

Obama's speech was expected to be roughly split into thirds: a review of the political changes across the region for better and worse, country by country; the economic aid package; and the push for better security in the region, which will include the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It will all be presented in the context of a future with al-Qaida terrorist Osama bin Laden dead and gone.

The White House on Wednesday announced the sanctions on Assad and six senior Syrian officials for human rights abuses over their crackdown on anti-government protests.

It was the first time the U.S. personally penalized the Syrian leader for the actions of his security forces. More than 850 people have died since the uprising began in March.

Obama, in an executive order, said the Syrian government leaders were being held to account for "attacks on protesters, arrests and harassment of protesters and political activists, and

repression of democratic change."

The Obama administration had pinned hopes on Assad, seen until recent months as a pragmatist and potential reformer who could buck Iranian influence and help broker an eventual Arab peace deal with Israel. But U.S. officials said Assad's increasingly ruthless crackdown left them little choice but to abandon the effort to woo Assad and to stop exempting him from the same sort of sanctions already applied to Libya's Moammar Gadhafi.

Obama has not called on Assad to step down, but his government came close Wednesday.

"It is up to Assad to lead a political transition or to leave," the State Department said in talking points prepared for the announcement of sanctions.

The sanctions will freeze any assets Assad and the six Syrian government officials have in U.S. jurisdiction and make it illegal for Americans to do business with them. The U.S. had imposed similar sanctions on two of Assad's relatives and another top Syrian official last month but had thus far refrained from going after Assad himself.

The U.S. move came as Assad claimed the country's crisis is drawing to a close even as forces unleashed tank shells on opponents.

Obama's offering of economic help is intended to serve as an incentive for other peoples to keep pushing for democracy. Among the elements of his approach included the canceling of roughly \$1 billion in debt for Egypt. The intention is that money freed up from that debt obligation would be swapped toward investments in priority sectors of the Egyptian economy, likely to focus on entrepreneurship and employment for younger people. Unemployment rates are soaring in Egypt and across the region.





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# Abortion impasse could end women's health program

AUSTIN (AP) — A fight to keep state money from abortion providers and affiliates like Planned Parenthood has potentially terminated a key health care program serving hundreds of thousands of low-income women.

The Women's Health Program is set to expire this December unless renewed by law, and the senator sponsoring the legislation says he doesn't have the votes to bring the bill up for consideration on the Senate floor.

While Sen. Bob Deuell has the chamber's 19 Republicans on board, he said none of the Democrats are comfortable voting for the bill, which would renew the program for five years but bars Planned Parenthood and abortion affiliates from continuing as members. Twenty-one senators normally must vote to allow floor debate on a bill, so two Democrats would have to join the Republicans.

The most controversial provision of the bill is the one that's causing Democrats to balk. It completely dissolves the Women's Health Program if abortion affiliates sue to regain entrance to the program. Planned Parenthood never backed down, issuing a letter to Deuell at the beginning of May resolving to sue Texas for re-entrance into the program if the legislation passed.

"This is raw politics, and it's women's health that's on the line," said Sarah Wheat,

interim co-CEO of Planned Parenthood Texas Capital Region.

Deuell, a physician, has repeatedly said he had to include that provision to appease pro-life groups and to get the bill through the Republican, anti-abortion dominated House. He said without it there was no chance of the legislation passing through the lower chamber.

"I thought it would save the program—that's what I wanted to do," Deuell said.

Deuell was counting on Rep. Garnet Coleman, a House Democrat, to be able to pass the bill through his chamber and give Deuell some credibility with Democrats in the Senate.

But even if Deuell could get the bill voted favorably out of the Senate, he's run out of time to get the bill to the floor of the House for a vote. Less than two weeks remain in the legislative session.

The Women's Health Program is a Medicaid program that provides 90,000 low-income women exams, screenings and birth control. The program generates \$9 in federal funding for every \$1 dollar spent by Texas, a match Deuell said makes it a good investment for the state.

Planned Parenthood has argued that Deuell's bill shreds the safety net that is often the only health care many low-income women receive. The organization is the program's largest provider, stating that nearly half the women in the program

receive their primary health and family planning from one of their clinics.

"Those women will have to find other means to get their family planning, and there are other means available," said Deuell, who has provided family planning services to uninsured women in his own practice.

Though none of Planned Parenthood's state or federal dollars go to abortions, gutting family planning funding has repeatedly been a top priority for conservative lawmakers both state and nationwide. But Deuell said family planning and contraception need to be funded to decrease unwanted pregnancies and abortion.

"I don't think that position is inconsistent with being pro-life," he said.

Compounding the issue is a bigger fight led by conservative lawmakers in the House who succeeded in stripping more than \$60 million from family planning services and redirecting the funds to different items in the budget. The Senate version of

the budget spends more than the House, and negotiators have started hashing out the differences in funding in a conference committee.

But with House members digging in firmly against spending any more on family planning, senators have a hard fight ahead.

The Legislative Budget Board predicts that if the House cuts stay intact, nearly 300,000 women will lose family planning services and cost nearly \$100 million in Medicaid births over the next two years.

"It's incredibly devastating from a policy standpoint, fiscally and in terms of real lives," Wheat said. "These steps show an extraordinary disregard for women's health and the negative impact it will suffer."

But in a Legislature where bills never truly die, Deuell hints that there could be other avenues for the program to be renewed.

"We're not done yet," he said.

## Drought losses at \$1.5 billion

LUBBOCK (AP) — Preliminary figures show the worst drought in decades has amounted to \$1.5 billion in recent agricultural losses in Texas and could easily surpass the single-year record, officials said Wednesday.

The amount includes costs related to livestock and wheat, corn and sorghum crop losses from November through May 1, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service spokesman Blair Fannin.

Producers and ranchers are facing high input costs, including fertilizer and diesel fuel. Livestock losses of \$1.2 billion are from costs associated with trucking in water and for supplemental feed since November.

"This is a different beast than drought we've been through in previous years," Fannin said.

If drought conditions persist into June, officials say losses will easily top the 2006 record of \$4.1 billion in the state

that is the nation's second-largest agricultural producer.

Some parts of the Texas have not seen any significant precipitation since August. Much of the state is in the two worst stages of drought, extreme and exceptional. The dry conditions are the result of this year's La Nina, the sixth-strongest in records dating back to 1949, and have spawned wildfires that have burned more than 2.3 million acres.

Texas is now drier than in 1951, the first year of a six-year drought. But it's not nearly as dry as 1956. The current dryness is close to the surface, affecting plants with shallow roots. Last summer, heavy rains drenched most of the state, but the faucet shut off in September.

May typically is the wettest month in Texas, and farmers planting on non-irrigated acres are clinging to hope that relief arrives in the next few weeks.

## Rose

*cont. from page 1*

since 1972."

The most important thing about doing business in Pampa, Rose said, is personal service.

"These are people that I've known my entire life," he said of his cus-

tomers. "They are family to us."

Rose said every one at the pharmacy takes their patients very personally.

"We take our job very seriously," he said. "It's a very humbling experi-

ence when people you've known your entire life trust you with what you do."

He said that he and the people at the pharmacy have worked hard to earn that trust.

## Meeting

*cont. from page 1*

received the 51 percent of the vote required by the city charter and state guidelines to decide the general election.

Gray County Election Administrator

Linda Lewis said on Monday that the runoff would be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The location of the runoff is still to be confirmed.



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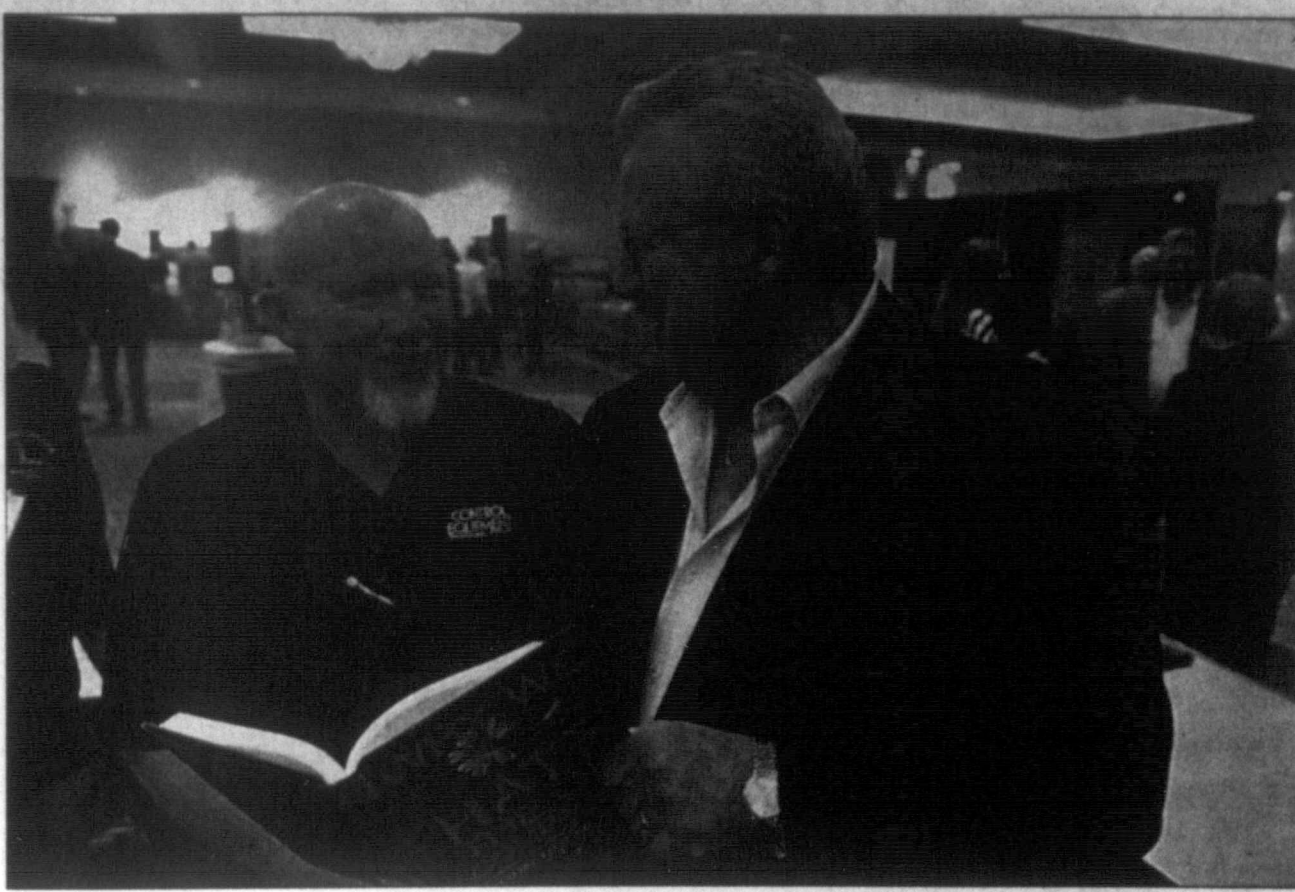
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staff photo by David Bowser

**Hal West of Pampa** (left) talks with John Hofmeister, former president of Shell Oil Company, about Hofmeister's new book 'Why We Hate the Oil Companies.' Hofmeister, now head of Citizens for Affordable Energy, was in Amarillo to speak to the Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association's annual convention.

## Hofmeister

Energy, said the last eight Presidents of the United States, beginning with Richard Nixon, have promised the country energy independence.

"We used to import 30 percent of our oil in the 1970s," Hofmeister said. "Now, we import 65 percent of our oil."

He said 19 Congresses and eight Presidents have failed to deliver energy independence.

Hofmeister called for changes to the nation's energy industry similar to the changes that the Federal Reserve Act imposed on the nation's

banking industry a century ago.

He said he wants to see an independent regulatory agency, free of political whims.

Neither Republicans nor Democrats have solved the nation's energy problems, Hofmeister said. There needs to be a long-term solution, he said, instead of short two-year solutions based on the election cycle.

Hofmeister said an independent energy agency could define energy sources; provide technology support for efficiency such as fuel cells;

regulate land, water and air sustainability; and provide the infrastructure to get the energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed.

Such an agency could determine short term, medium term and long-term energy plans.

A short-term plan in the energy business is 10 years, Hofmeister said. It's not a two-year election cycle.

Hofmeister said that such an energy regulatory agency would not only improve efficiency in the energy industry, but it would create jobs.

He said the nation and the energy sector need to move from the 20th century to the 21st century.

Then, and only then, he said would this nation enjoy seven or nine percent growth instead of two to three percent growth.

"We could use a little dose of that," Hofmeister said.

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cont. from page 1

## BANANAGRAMS!

Each set of letters below is arranged alphabetically, and the ? is in the correct alphabetical position. Figure out what letter the ? represents and rearrange the letters to spell a six-letter word. For example, in A?ENTV the ? could be an A, B, C, D or E. Here it represents a D, which can be combined with the other letters to spell ADVENT. The last letter is placed to get you started.

A A G ? R U      D E E ? M P  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] R      [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] E  
 D E I ? M W      D E ? P U X  
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 E I E E L N ?      E G L O ? Y  
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Yesterday's Answer: Possible Solutions: ADORE, TREAD, TREND, INERT, UNITE, UNFIT, GLITZ, LEGIT, TIGER, GREET, VERGE, VERVE

5.19

## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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			4		6			5
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		5					6	3
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3							4	8

Level: Intermediate

## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: May I respond to "Bound for College" (April 9), the high school senior who is distressed because she may have to go to a state university?

This is America, the land of opportunity. NOT the land of entitlement. A college education is a luxury, not a right. How fortunate she is to have parents who can send her to college. It is my hope that her father does get that job at the university. What an excellent benefit he will have to get reduced tuition for his offspring.

If, however, that is not good enough for her, it is her right to refuse that gift. Then she may go to the school of her choice AND pay for it herself. With the cost of tuition today, that will be quite an undertaking. There are a number of options: student loans, grants, scholarships, a job or an enlistment in the military.

As you mentioned, Abby, in your response, education is what you make of it. My suggestion to "Bound for College" is, lose the attitude of entitlement, look at how blessed you are, rethink your priorities and make the most of your opportunities. — MIKE M. IN BLOOMSBURG, PA.

DEAR MIKE: Thank you for your letter. Readers unanimously agreed that "Bound" needs to make the most of the opportunities that come her

way and start thinking and acting like an adult. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I could have written the same letter years ago. The similarities are uncanny. I was accepted to my dream school, but due to my family's financial difficulties, I ended up attending my backup school, one of the largest public institutions in the country.

During the first semester, I was bitter and angry. Slowly but surely, I began to appreciate the benefits unique to a large state university. I enrolled in an honors academic program, which allowed me to receive a rigorous education from an amazing faculty. I became exposed to people from different cultures with differing perspectives. There were numerous student organizations and clubs. I found new hobbies and became active in causes that were important to me. Although I was worried about the school's party reputation, I quickly found other students who felt the same way I did.

"Bound," the college experience will be what you make of it. For me, it was instrumental in shaping my future. I took advantage of the many resources available on campus. It opened up avenues for me and, most important, helped me to discover myself. I will be starting graduate school as a financially independent adult, and I can finally do it on my own terms. — SO-

PHIA K., ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: You can party at any school, and you can get an education at any school. To a large extent, you get out what you put in. Yes, there may be distractions on some campuses, but there will always be academically inclined students and opportunities if one looks for them. The "fit" of a school can't really be determined until one gets there. So "Bound" should go where it is affordable and keep an open mind. She may find opportunities she has not yet considered. — L.C. IN CHARLESTON, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: Like "Bound," my parents promised I could go to any school I wanted. I applied to one school and got in, but my parents told me I'd have to take out a loan if I wanted to go there instead of a state school (something that was never mentioned). I took the news hard and resented that I was being forced to make my first adult decision and would have debt when I graduated.

I chose to stay in-state. The school was a party school, and I spent most of my freshman year angry that I was there. A year later, my anger was gone. Abby, please advise "Bound" that it's what you make of the college experience that counts. — BEEN THERE IN RICHMOND, VA.

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 TV explorer
  - 5 Peru neighbor
  - 10 Infamous czar
  - 11 Singer Twain
  - 12 Splinter group
  - 13 Fiddle
  - 14 Bringing into being
  - 16 Making folds
  - 20 Charmers
  - 23 Course start
  - 24 Tangential comment
  - 25 Poker ploy
  - 27 Went ahead
  - 28 Gets onto
  - 29 Sounding like old floor boards
  - 32 Defeating soundly
  - 36 Arcade chomper
  - 39 Jacob's twin
  - 40 Goodbyes
  - 41 Diamond of music
  - 42 Drink to
  - 43 Blab
- DOWN**
- 1 Software holder
  - 2 Finished
  - 3 Track event
  - 4 Tummy relief
  - 5 Panda's home
  - 6 Dangles
  - 7 Publicity
  - 8 Tall tale
  - 9 Lobed organ
  - 11 Hog holders
  - 15 Genealogy chart
  - 17 "Get — writing"
  - 18 High home
  - 19 Turns right
  - 20 Trig's cousin
  - 21 Manual reader
  - 22 Ocean motion
  - 25 Writer Jaffe
  - 26 Enhance
  - 28 Bearings
  - 30 High points
  - 31 Dog topper
  - 33 "Got it"
  - 34 Finger feature
  - 35 Sea flier
  - 36 Contrived
  - 37 Commotion
  - 38 Espionage org.

BOSS				DEED				
ALTOS				SERVO				
BIRTH				TAMED				
EVE				READING				
LEADING				NEE				
				SMELL				BED
				ALIBI				
				PIN				VENTS
				SET				BEADING
				HEADING				POE
				ALLIN				LETON
				VEINS				ELOPE
				ERAS				MESS

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Turns
- 20 Trig's
- 21 Manual
- 22 Ocean
- 25 Writer
- 26 Enhance
- 28 Bearings
- 30 High points
- 31 Dog topper
- 33 "Got it"
- 34 Finger feature
- 35 Sea flier
- 36 Contrived
- 37 Commotion
- 38 Espionage org.

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# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



5-19

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"We cleaned our rooms for nothin'!"

## Non Sequitur



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## Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Friday, May 20, 2011:

This year, frequently evaluate and consider your options. Your circle of friends is supportive, though one person could be unusually insightful. Value that immediate circle. If you are married or partnered, your significant other might be uncomfortable with your strong set of friends. You might need to work on keeping the situation less tense. If you are single, there could be a similar tension when you start to date. Take your time integrating a new person into your circle of friends. This year, you discover your goals could change. Just update them and allow greater flow in your life. **CAPRICORN** presents a very different point of view.

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)

★★★ You could wake up feeling somewhat tired. Your dream life is active. Keep your priorities out in front, or you could be easily derailed otherwise. Listen to a boss's take on a situation. You probably will need to go along with his or her view. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Be willing to walk in another person's shoes. You'll see a situation far differently as a result. Through identifying and sharing a common experience, you can work better with this person. Opportunities appear out of the blue. Tonight: Get into a Friday-night ritual.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might feel dwarfed — a rare experience for you. Know what is going on. Be willing to extend yourself more. Integrate another person's efforts in order to communicate on a far deeper level. Don't mask your upset with sarcasm or sharp words. Tonight: A long chat over munchies.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ So much is happening that you easily could be overwhelmed. Don't lose sight of what you want and expect out of a situation. A meeting could be significant today. Others seem to be more willing and able. Tonight: Aim high.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Get into a project. Energy and ideas simply flow between you and another person. If you want to let go of a problem or a negative situation, you can. Although, you

will have to go through a certain amount of discomfort. Tonight: Put your feet up.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Remain more playful and direct in your dealings. How you view a child or new love interest could be subject to change, but most likely in a positive manner. You know when you have had enough or need to move forward. Tonight: Let the spirit of Friday night hit.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You could be a bit depressed or off. How you handle a personal matter in your present mood versus when you are more upbeat could be most different. Give yourself some space to evaluate and think. Tonight: Anchor in.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Keep talking through an issue. Be willing to brainstorm with others. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with a relative or close friend. You might not want to express your perspective at this moment; just take in the whole scene. Someone could be more upset than he or she realizes. Hence the sarcasm. Tonight: Out and about.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Curb a need to be possessive or to demand your way. This type of behavior won't help a situation; it will only make it more complicated. You can, however, turn a situation around financially with an unusual idea. Tonight: Be a little lavish.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You could be more vulnerable than you realize. You might want to change directions. A brainstorming situation might be a necessity. Be clear about what you want to do. Open up conversations from one person to the next. Tonight: All smiles.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Others might find you to be distant, but in reality you are simply working through a lot of feelings and re-evaluating. The status quo might not be working for you. You might be reading into another person's actions. Try to lighten up. Tonight: Not to be found.

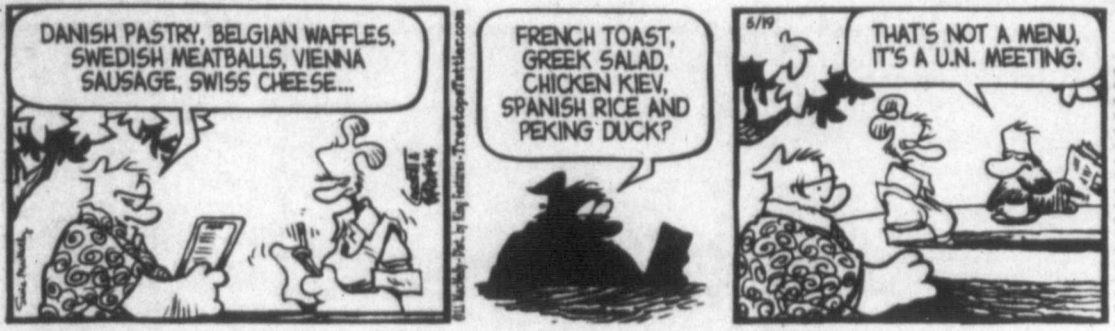
### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Meetings could be inordinately significant. Someone might have an unusual insight. Know what you are dealing with before you move to an agreement. You might see how the status quo in your life could change with this person around. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

## Tundra



## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grim



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie







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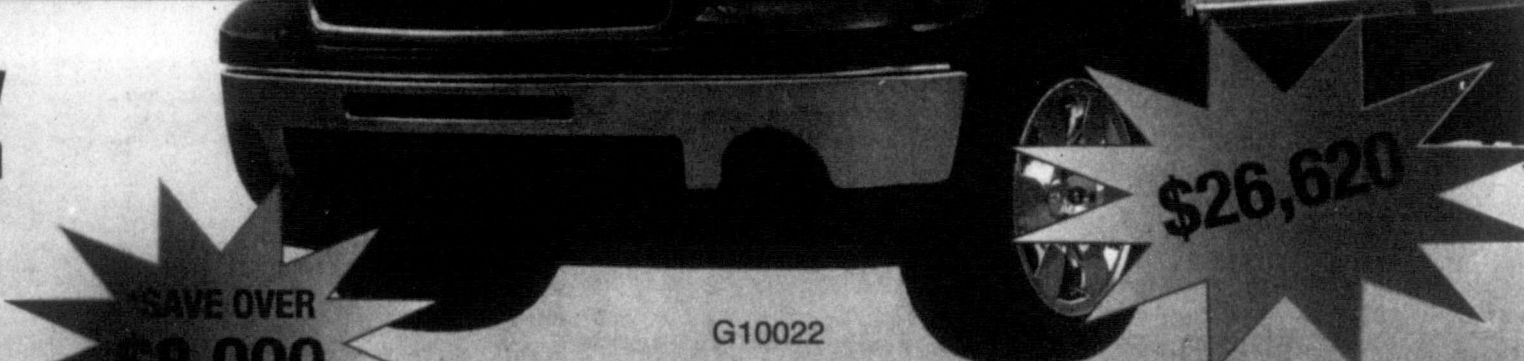
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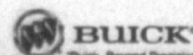
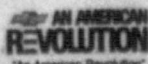
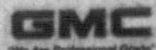
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# Sports

## Harvesters celebrate and remember 2011 season

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters spent time celebrating their accomplishments and looking back at the 2011 baseball season during their annual banquet Wednesday in the Pampa High School commons.

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooes started the banquet thanking his wife and assistant coaches. Then the seniors recognized the special guests, including bus drivers and the Diamond Dolls, which were started last season by head volleyball coach Libby Garza.

The group helped support the team by making goodie bags for the players and decorating the bus before the playoff series. The Diamond Dolls also ran the concession stand so parents could watch the game.

Junior varsity coach Dustin Miller recognized his team, adding it improved drastically from last year.

"I don't know if I've seen a better hitting JV team ever," Miller said. "I'm not a baseball guy. I haven't been around baseball my entire life but I know a little bit about it. If you were there early in our season, before varsity got dismantled with some injuries and other issues, the junior varsity was run-ruling everybody."

Snelgrooes spoke about the varsity emphasizing their improvements from the past two seasons.

"Our team batting average last year was .251," Snelgrooes said. "This year .356.

Last year we scored 118 runs, sounds like a lot. This year 202. Last year we had 22 doubles. This year 66. Last year we had five triples. This year 16 triples. Home runs, last year we had nine. This year 15."

After the varsity was recognized, the whole team was given a scrapbook commemorate the season.

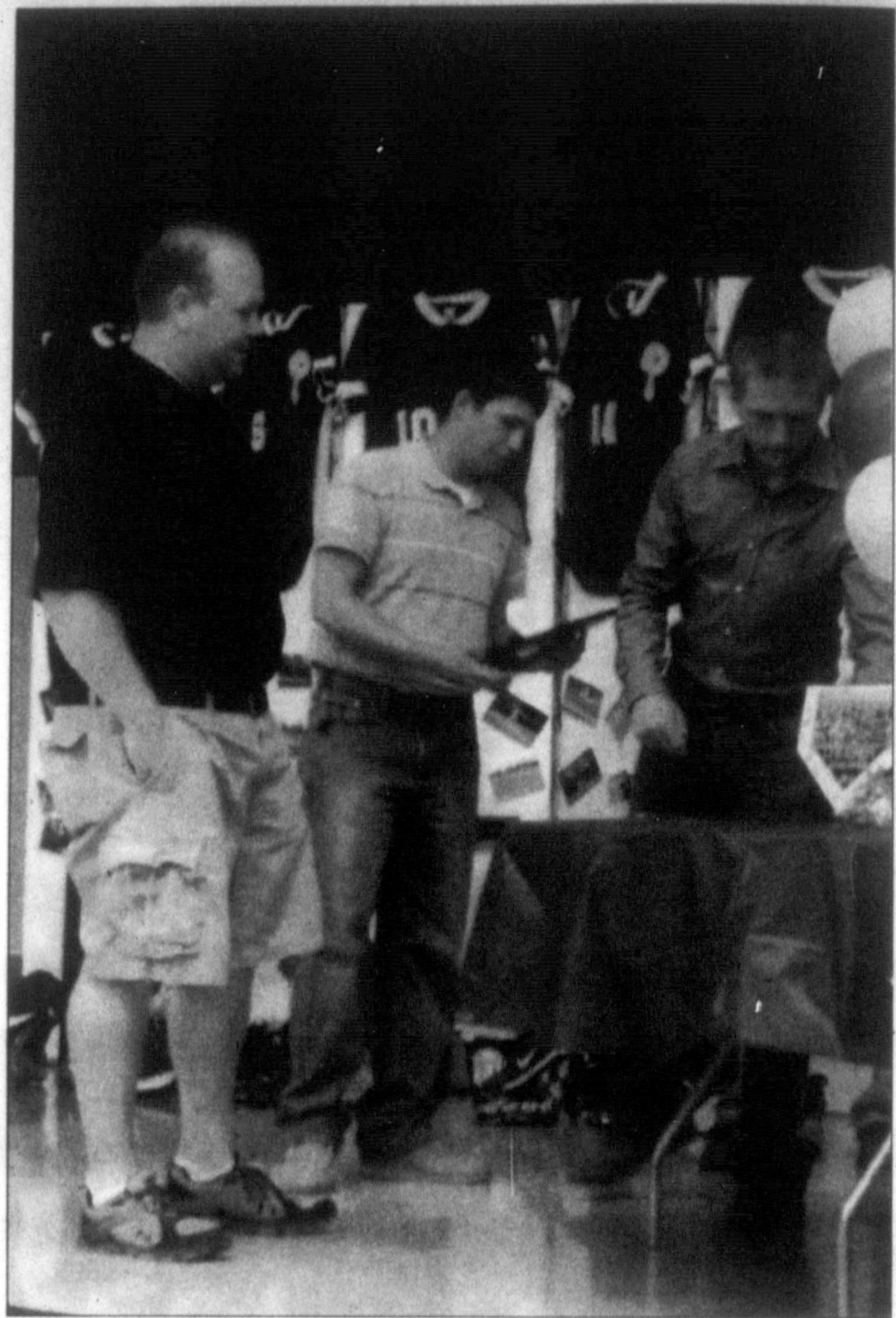
Then, Snelgrooes recognized his seniors, saying something about each of them. Snelgrooes got emotional when talking about Mitch Simon getting injured and wanting to play in the playoff game.

"Mitch, you can say at class reunion that you scored the first run for the Pampa Harvesters in a playoff game in four years," Snelgrooes said. "We were about to go to Dalhart and I was getting dressed and Robyn (Simon) calls me...She said we are going to take Mitch to the hospital he has shoulder problems. We didn't get him back. The heart this kid had is unbelievable."

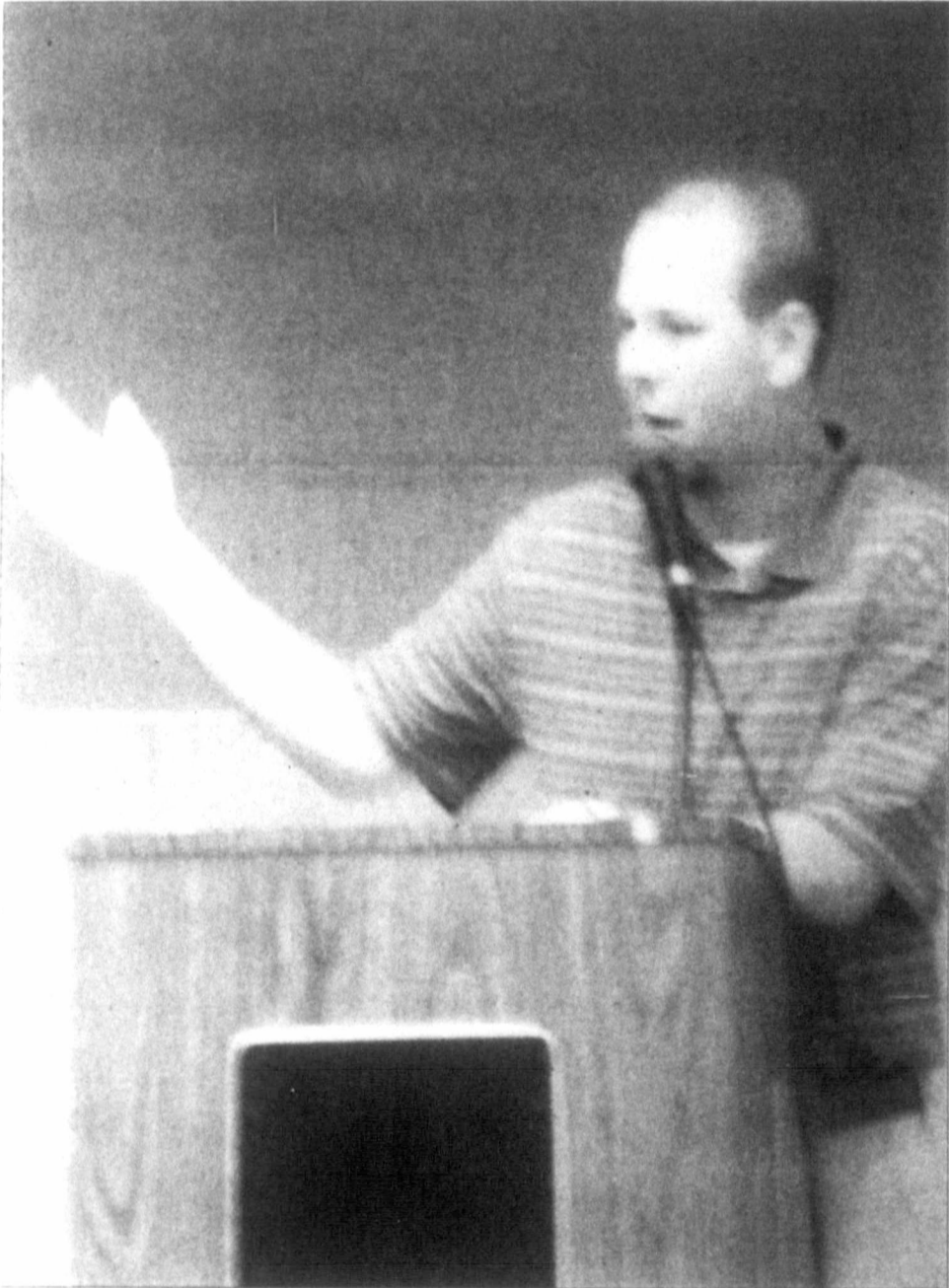
Following that, awards were given out. Junior Devin Coleman won the Dirt Bag award for having the dirtiest uniform and senior Tyler Malone won the Fighting Heart Award. Junior Collin Killgo won the Silver Slugger Award. Senior Garrett Ericson won the MVP award for the second consecutive season.

The banquet concluded with a video honoring seniors Ericson, Malone, Simon, Zach Murray and Brent Green.

The varsity finished 13-16 qualifying for playoffs for the first time in four years. The junior varsity finished 9-6.



Senior Tyler Malone hands coach Clint Allen (black) a signed plate as coach Tyson Hickman looks at his during the baseball banquet Wednesday.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooes shares highlights about his varsity at the baseball banquet Wednesday in the Pampa High School commons. The team made significant improvements qualifying for the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

### Harvesters Highs and Lows

#### Highs

- The Harvesters won almost double the games they won last year
- Pampa won the majority of their games against both Perryton and Dalhart
- The Harvesters went 6-3 at home.
- Pampa finished second in the Cavalier Classic even though they were missing three starters.
- The Harvesters qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2007

#### Lows

- Pampa lost all five games at the Burkburnett tournament
- The Harvesters allowed four late inning leads slip
- Pampa lost four games to Borger
- The Harvesters allowed 10 or more runs in nine games losing all of them
- Pampa end the season on a three-game losing streak

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