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The PAMPA NEWS

Monday, June 27, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 70 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

TODAY IN SPORTS



Queens of the rock

PHS cheer squad earns top camp honor

Page 8

inside:

Social Security and you by Tom Margenau



Page 3

Studebaker takes city commissioner runoff

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com



Studebaker

John Studebaker was coaching first base at his daughter's softball game in Amarillo over the weekend when he heard that he'd been elected the city's newest commissioner.

"Somebody sent me a text," he laughed. "I found out right there on the field."

Studebaker had originally gar-

nered the most votes for the Ward 1 City Commissioner position during May's general election, but a runoff was ordered because

Studebaker did not receive 51

percent of the vote. According to official numbers from the Gray County Elections office, Studebaker beat out Cleo Meaker 253 votes to 199, or 56 percent to 44 percent. Voting for the runoff closed at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

"It's an honor to be voted in," Studebaker said. "I'm looking forward to serving the city."

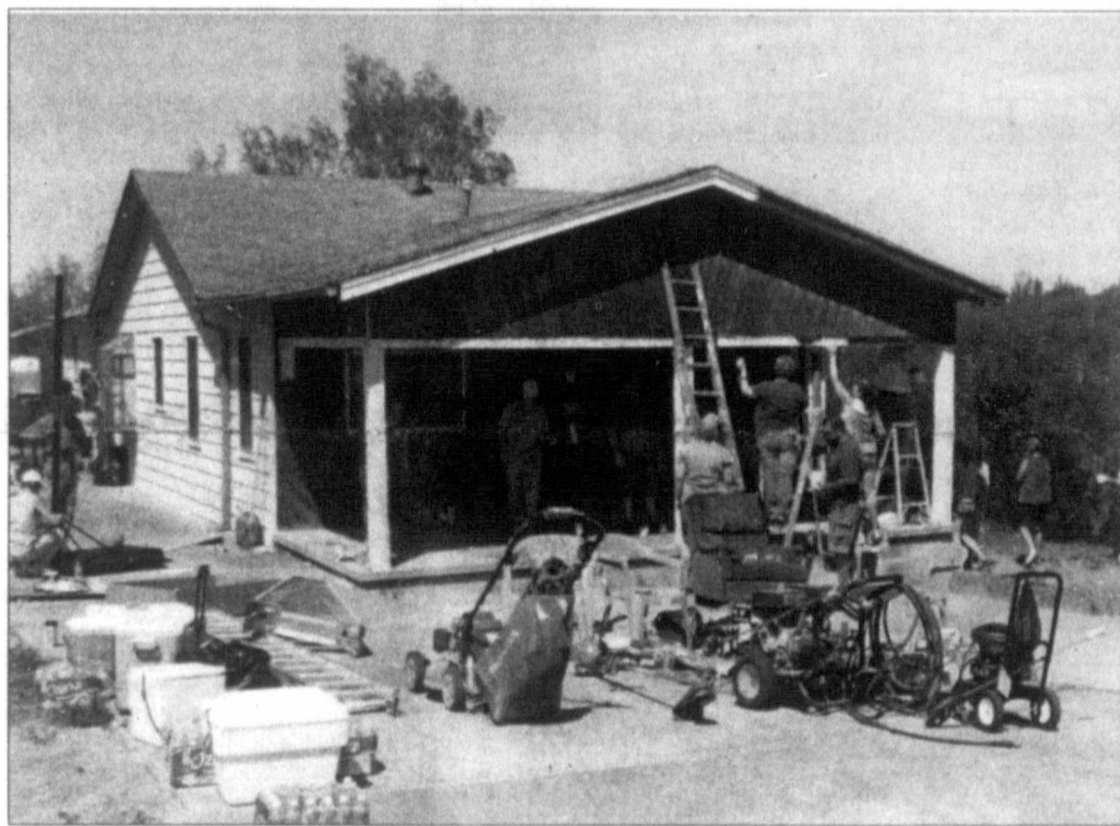
Studebaker will be sworn in at 4 p.m. at tomorrow's regular

City Commission meeting. The Ward 1 commissioner post has been vacant since the previous commissioner, Brad Pingel, was voted the city's new mayor in May.

City officials said that they're ready to have the City Commission back at full strength.

"(Studebaker) is going to hit the floor running," said City Secretary Karen Price. "We're **STUDEBAKER** cont. on page 3

RED LETTER DAY



staff photo by Ryan Frazier

About 70 volunteers showed up to help Paint This Town Red clean up the Griffin family's home on Saturday.

First PTTR outreach project a success

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Just look to the ABC show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" to see how a group of volunteers can impact a family's life through their home.

Local homeowners Jacob and Patti Griffin got to experience a mini-version of that when Paint This Town Red, Pampa's newest outreach-based minis-

try, held Project Red No. 1 Saturday.

When Paint This Town Red pastors Ryan and C.J. Frazier first approached the Griffins' home on the 600 block of Hazel on June 13, they found an overgrowth of weeds, malfunctioning plumbing, a patio roof that was falling apart and a broken gas line with a \$700 bill that wasn't able to be paid.

Ryan said the project got off

to a running start when Paint This Town Red volunteers fixed the plumbing early in the week. The new outreach church then had a large number of volunteers show up to the Griffin's home on Saturday to finish the rest of the household cleanup.

"At 10 o'clock we had little more than 70 people show up," Frazier said. "We broke up into three teams and we were **RED** cont. on page 3

NRCS, USDA participate in food drive

THE PAMPA NEWS

The local branch of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is participating this year in the third annual USDA "Feds Feed Families Food Drive," which is going on now through August 31.

Announced by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, this annual event is designed to help food banks across the nation that are struggling through tough economic times. Each NRCS office across the state of Texas will be collecting non-perishable and nutritious food to help feed families in local communities.

"Even with the support and assistance USDA offers tens of millions of Americans every day, for nearly one in six Americans, hunger is a reality," Vilsack said. "And while many children and families are looking forward to summer break, we know all too well that hunger does not take a vacation. When the final school bell rings for the summer, our nation's children who receive free and reduced price meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs are at a higher risk of going hungry."

The USDA's Summer Food Service Program helps fill that gap to an extent, but millions of Americans still across the country turn to food banks and food pantries for emergency food assistance over the summer.

Brittany Anderson of the local USDA office said that food collected locally **DRIVE** cont. on page 3

Military training benefits Dean

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

"First time I was in a fire," John Dean said, "I was in the Air Force."

That was the Dude Fire in Arizona, a wildfire near where Dean was stationed. "We just went there to do whatever needed to be done," Dean said.

He said it was the biggest fire he'd ever seen.

"I've been hooked since," Dean said. He's been with volunteer fire departments since 1991. He's now with the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department.

"I've been with this department since 2004," Dean said.



Dean laughed that in his real life he works at the pig farm. He's at Smithfield Premium Genetics east of Pampa.

Joining the Air Force was one of Dean's goals in life, he said.

"It was one of those things I was going to do when I was growing up," Dean said. "I was going to fly airplanes, work on ranches and be a firefighter. Those **DEAN** cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

John Dean served in the Air Force before joining the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department.

Top O' Texas BBQ Cook-off
July 9th
Recreation Park/Rodeo Grounds
Registration Forms available at the Chamber
Opens to Public at 4:00 \$10 a ticket

IN THIS ISSUE:

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PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 98 Low 70	High 103 Low 70	High 102 Low 70

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. Breezy, with a east wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 98. Breezy, with a south southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 103. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 102. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Obituaries

Richard L. Smith, 79

Richard L. Smith, 79, died Saturday, June 25, 2011, in Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, with Kurt Foster officiating, with cremation to follow. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Smith was born April 11, 1932 in Ensign, Kan. Richard married Helen Shoemaker on July 29, 1955, in Liberal, Kan. He has been a resident of Pampa since 1962. Richard was an operator for Celanese Chemical Corp. for 24 years retiring in 1988.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Smith of the home; one son, Scott Smith and wife Nancy of Pilot Point; one daughter, Chrisa Gatlin and husband Jim of Pampa; three granddaughters, Raelynne Glaesman of Pampa, Kirby Smith and Lindsay Smith both of Pilot Point; two great-grandchildren, Carrie Glaesman and Aiden Glaesman both of Pampa. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, six brother and three sisters.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: Memorial/Honor Program FH, One St. Jude Place Bldg., P.O. Box 1000, Department 300, Memphis, TN 38148-0552 or Shriners International Headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607

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



Smith

grandparents, Ruth Collier and Marilyn Bryant both of Amarillo; one sister, Robyn Sanders and husband Michael of Pampa; one brother Charles Young and wife Cindy of Amarillo; three nephews, Josh Sanders of Stinnett, Aaron Sanders of Pampa and Timothy Wells of Amarillo; many aunts and uncles. Randy was preceded in death by his grandfather, Harce Bryant and his grandparents, Jack and Marjorie Bristow.

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

E.E. "Shelly" Shelhamer, 98

E.E. "Shelly" Shelhamer, 98, died Sunday, June 26, 2011, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Shelhamer was born August 3, 1912, in Sumner Co., Kan. He graduated from Winfield High School in Winfield, Kan. and attended Southwestern College in Winfield. Shelly came to Pampa in 1936 from Winfield. He married Lois Martin on June 11, 1939, in Pampa. Shelly was a veteran of the U.S. Army Signal Corps during WWII and was discharged as a staff sergeant. He was secretary/treasurer of Beacon Supply for 25 years and became a partner with Bob and Gene Sidwell. After retiring from Beacon in 1961, Shelly was an agent for Southwestern Life Insurance Co. for several years. He was a member and deacon of the First Baptist Church and was secretary of the Everyman's Bible Class for over 55 years. Shelly was a member and past president of Pampa Rotary Club and received the Paul Harris Fellowship Award in 2008. He was a member of the Pampa Independent School District Board of Trustees for four years, serving as president for one year. He was a member of the Pampa Senior Citizens Center board for over 30 years. Shelly was a member of the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM, board member of Adobe Walls Council of Boy Scouts of America, and was a past president of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Shelhamer of the home; two sons, Dr. Gene Shelhamer and wife Carolyn of Abilene, and Dr. Jim Shelhamer and wife Ruth of Kensington, Md.; a daughter, Pamela Grant of Denver, Colo; ten grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066 or Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



Shelhamer

Randy Young, 26

Randy Young, 26, died Saturday, June 25, 2011, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Randy was born October 21, 1984, in Pampa. He attended Pampa schools. Randy pursued music passionately with his friends. In October of 2006 he found his true calling when he became a father. Randy loved his boys and countless friends.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria Young of the home; two sons, Ryden Young and Razdan Young both of the home; parents, Archie and Mitzy Young both of Pampa;



Young

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: My wife had an unhappy five-year marriage to her high school boyfriend. They divorced when their son, "Noah," was 20 months old. Then she met me, and we have been married for 34 happy years.

I adopted Noah with the consent of his birth father, who also remarried and had a family. My wife and I added a daughter to ours.

I was aware that Noah had re-established contact with his birth father and half-siblings. We supported it. But we were blindsided when Noah told us he plans to take back his original surname. He says it isn't "personal," but he wants his children to have their "rightful" name and know their "true" lineage.

Abby, we are hurt and confused. This has caused a painful rift in the family. Please help. — NOAH'S REAL DAD IN NEW YORK

DEAR REAL DAD: I strongly believe that the people who raise a child are that child's "true" parents, regardless of whether the child meets his or her birth parents. Is there any ill will between you and Noah? Could there be money or prestige connected with Noah's birth father's name, which could account for what's happened?

After investing 34 years of yourself in that child, you have reason to feel hurt. Family counseling might smooth some of this over. I am sorry for your loss.

DEAR ABBY: My 20th high school reunion is coming up, and I'm extremely excited. The main activity has been planned for the Saturday evening.

One member of the reunion committee has been put in charge of scheduling other activities such as a picnic. She has planned a hike.

I love hikes, but the hike she has planned is a strenuous trail that gains 2,000 feet of altitude over three-quarters of a mile. My hometown is already at a high altitude, and for those of us who no longer live there, it takes some getting used to. And, quite honestly, not all of us are in good enough shape to do this kind of hike.

I'm disappointed that this woman is scheduling an activity that seems so noninclusive. Many of my classmates feel the same. Some of us have discussed making our own plans for a safer activity everyone can participate in. What are your thoughts? Can we plan alternative events on our own without offending the reunion committee? — CLASS OF '91 ALUMNA

DEAR ALUMNA: Rather than make alternative plans on your own, you and your former classmates who feel the hike would be too much should inform the reunion committee. Have the reunion committee

come up with alternative plans for that afternoon. There could be medical reasons why some of you shouldn't indulge in strenuous activity (as well as lack of interest.) And remember, attendance at the reunion activities is voluntary, not compulsory.

DEAR ABBY: Now that we have arrived at that time of year when weddings are at their peak, would you please let us know if written thank-yous are still appropriate and proper?

My husband's niece was married last December, and my mother-in-law told her, "No one sends thank-yous anymore." I thought that on this, above all occasions, a thank-you for a wedding gift is necessary. Or am I crazy? — TAKEN ABACK IN COLORADO

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: You're not crazy. A gift for ANY occasion should be acknowledged. The proper way to do that is in the form of a written note thanking the person. It does not have to be long, fancy or flowery — just sincere. And prompt!

LAST MINUTE ADS

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Took on

1 Port — 43 Swirly (French prints cheese)

6 Rotisserie babies

10 St. Patrick's Day celebrants

11 Scottish lakes

13 Garson of film

14 "Not — out of you"

15 Greedy one

16 Be decisive

18 Arthur of TV

19 Tony-winning musical of 1979

22 Drops on the lawn

23 Salary

24 Accumulate

27 Toys with tails

28 Like bulls

29 Fragrant tree

30 Tony-winning musical of 2009

35 Salt Lake City player

36 Hoopla

37 Future embryos

38 More wise

40 Spud

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Saturday's answer

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 12 Black suit | 27 Explosion unit |
| 17 Church seat | 29 Nourished measure |
| 20 Failed car | 32 Small amounts |
| 21 Spin from | 33 Blatant |
| 24 Attack hiding | 34 Small pies |
| 25 Rum drinks | 39 Poet's contraction |
| 26 Brisk tempo | 41 Clumsy guy |

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	44							45	



The Pampa News is now on facebook!

Go to facebook and search for "The Pampa News"

Dean

cont. from page 1

were my three childhood dreams.”
Born in Mesquite in 1967, Dean went to Letourneau University in Longview in East Texas.

“That’s what got me into the Air Force,” he said. After the Air Force, Dean went into agriculture. “I went to Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas,” he said.

That was about as different from the lush green campus at Longview as he could get.

At Sul Ross, Dean earned a couple of Bachelor’s and a couple of Master’s degrees, all related to animal science and biology.

From there he went to work for Carroll’s Foods, the country’s second largest swine producer, which Smithfield ended up buying for \$500 million in 1999.

He says he’s been working at swine operations for 13 years.

“I’ve been all over the country and the world with them,” he said.

He started out with a pig operation in North Carolina and then went to Illinois, Indiana and Iowa.

“Now with my job,” Dean said, “I visit farms in 33 states and three countries.”

Smithfield has farms in Mexico, Poland and Romania.

From 1993 to 1997, though, Dean was with the Negrito Hot Shots, fighting fires for the U.S. Forest Service in the Gila National Forest area of southwest New Mexico.

“I loved it,” he said. “You do a lot of work, but you don’t get paid a lot of money.”

Working as one of the Hot Shots — the first ground troops to be deployed to fight forest fires — he worked only during the summer season.

“I didn’t have any full time position,” he said. “I decided I needed to get a real job to support my wife.” His wife, Lynnette, is from Phoenix.

Whether it’s the Gila or the Texas Panhandle, Dean said he loves to be anywhere there’s a big fire.

The big difference, he said, between wild fires in the Panhandle and forest fires in the mountains is that the fires here are fought on trucks. In the mountains, firefighters hike in a long single file to fight the fires.

He admits that he hasn’t cut down a tree in a long time.

“It’s been a while,” Dean said.

He said that he’s found that with the dry conditions that the Panhandle has had, water doesn’t always stop the fire.

“You put it out,” he said, “and something goes wrong and it crosses the line to 10 or 15 feet in front of the black.”

Dean said it’s a different type of firefighting.

“Hot Shots, you’re there for the adrenaline,” he said. “These fires here, I go for the fun and enjoy what I do.”

With a grin, he said that now if a fire gets his adrenaline up, it’s way too close.

Dean said he’s happy now and plans on keep doing what he’s doing.

Prisoners and social security benefits

TOM MARGENAU
Creator’s Syndicate

Social Security and you

Q: My brother gets Social Security disability benefits because of some severe mental problems. He has had these problems for many years. Recently, he was convicted of driving while intoxicated, so he will be spending six months in jail. We were shocked to learn that his Social Security payments were stopped. When I asked the people at our Social Security office, they said: “Why should the government pay your brother twice — once with free room and board and a second time with free Social Security checks?”

But those Social Security checks weren’t free. My brother worked and paid taxes for many years to earn his monthly benefits. I totally understand that nothing excuses what he did. He made some bad choices to drink and drive. But I still think he should be allowed to keep his Social Security checks. Could you write a column about this topic?

A: I’m probably one of the few people on the planet who thinks prisoners should be allowed to collect their Social Security benefits. As you implied, Social Security isn’t welfare. These folks have worked and earned their benefits, and I think they should be able to receive their checks no matter where they are living — even if it’s in jail.

Benefits to prisoners were eliminated during the Reagan years. It was an extremely popular move. Before the change that occurred in the early 1980s, Social Security checks were routinely sent to prisons around the country. It wasn’t a large number of monthly payouts. As I recall, the number was in the tens of thousands (out of about 40 million total benefi-

ciaries).

A conservative approach to government fiscal management took this view. It wasn’t the inmate’s money that was being sent to prison in the form of Social Security checks. It was the taxpayer’s money. And because the taxpayer was already footing the bill for the prisoner’s room and board, why should the person behind bars get the added bonus of Social Security money?

Q: Some friends passed along an email with a news story pointing out that the Democrats in Congress are trying to pay Social Security benefits to illegal immigrants. If this isn’t an example of the liberals giving away our money to people who don’t deserve it, then what is?

A: It is an example of something all right, but not what you think. What you sent me is yet another Internet rumor that spreads like wildfire. And just by its very omnipresence, it takes on the validity of an actual news report.

As I’ve pointed out many times in this column, undocumented workers, or illegal immigrants, have never and will never collect Social Security benefits. Many of these people who are picking our vegetables and cleaning our toilets are paying Social Security taxes. But none of them actually collects Social Security benefits. You have to prove you are a U.S. citizen, or provide documentation that you are living in this country legally, before

you can ever receive Social Security monthly payments.

And as I’ve also pointed out frequently in this column, Social Security actuaries report that illegal immigration is actually a financial plus for the system. That’s because undocumented workers pump millions of dollars into the program and never get anything in return. (Please bear in mind that the actuaries are not saying that illegal immigration is good for the country. But they are saying that it is good for the balance sheets of the Social Security system.)

This recent so-called “news” story was filled with so much hyperbolic, anti-liberal nonsense that it was difficult to understand what little kernel of truth they might have twisted into their allegation that the Democrats have a plan to pay Social Security benefits to illegal immigrants. But I think I figured it out.

As part of the ongoing debate on what to do about the issue of undocumented workers in this country, one of many proposals provides a path toward citizenship — if the person living here illegally meets many different criteria. And as part of that discussion, one unresolved issue is this: If an undocumented worker meets all of the legal requirements and jumps through all the hoops and eventually becomes a citizen of the United States, what do you do with the Social Security earnings and credits that person might have earned while he or she was living here illegally? Most Republicans want that money to remain part of the general Social Security funds.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

Red

cont. from page 1

focused on painting, yard clean up and trash removal.”

Ryan said they gathered seven loads of trash and limbs. The family had their gas turned on Friday after the bill was paid. The PTTR group also gave the family a gift basket with cards to Wal-Mart, tickets to the water park, movie tickets and flowers, all items provided by local donors. Ryan said the project had a great impact.

“For us it was one of the top five coolest days of our lives,” Frazier said. “A few weeks ago we were out there and did an interview and it was a sad interview. This time the spirit of the house was different, it was smiles, it was energy and excitement. Everyone was pumped. After seeing that, it can be highly addictive to watch peoples lives change in a good way.”

Ryan said they were excited about what they saw, and came up with a new vision for their next big project.

“We actually want to create four teams of 60 people to commit one weekend a month about four hours,” Frazier said. “If we can build four teams to do that once a month, we can do one house like this a week. We can rehab 52 houses a year.”

Ryan said he is looking for four people to be captains to recruit people and will ask for donations and support.

“Based on this house, (we’re looking at) about \$2,500 or less,” Frazier said. “If it doesn’t need repairs, just beautification, then there won’t be any cost except for paint. People can donate resources. Mainly if we can get those teams together we can do that every week.”

Frazier said they have potential needs for Project Red Number Two next month. If someone has a need, they can submit it on the church’s website www.paintthis-townred.org and click “Meet the Need.”

Drive

will go to Good Samaritan Christian Services, so it will go right back to needy families in Gray County.

“It’s important to help our neighbors,” Anderson said.

Last year, the federal workforce far exceeded the Feds Feed Families campaign goal of 1.2 million pounds of food with dona-

tions of 1.7 million pounds to food banks and pantries across the nation. USDA’s goal this year has been set at nearly 500,000 pounds, including 100,000 pounds of fresh produce from the People’s Gardens initiative.

People looking to participate in the program can bring items to

donate to the Gray County Service Center in the Gray County Annex Building at 12125 East Frederick, across from the John Deere Dealership.

For more information, contact Anderson at 806-665-1751, ext. 108.

cont. from page 1

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

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	8	6			1	4	3	

Level: Beginner

Studebaker

cont. from page 1

excited to have him.”

Studebaker said that he is ready for the challenge of helping steer the city.

“First, I’m going to try and settle in and see where we are,” he said. “But I feel like I’m an independent thinker and I’m looking forward to helping Pampa, the place that I’ve enjoyed living in for 16 years, and help it grow.”

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 27, the 178th day of 2011. There are 187 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 27, 1944, during World War II, American forces liberated the French port of Cherbourg from the Germans.

On this date:

In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Ill.

In 1846, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

In 1893, the New York stock market crashed.

In 1942, the FBI announced the capture of eight Nazi saboteurs who had been put ashore in Florida and Long Island, N.Y.

In 1950, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution calling on member nations to help South Korea against an invasion from the North.

In 1957, more than 500 people were killed when Hurricane Audrey slammed through coastal Louisiana and Texas.

In 1967, the Fillmore East rock concert hall in New York closed after more than three years in business.

In 1995, the Supreme Court struck down state advertising association rules that prohibited advertising agencies from advertising their fees for routine advertising.

In 1995, the legendary Route 66, which originally stretched from Chicago to Santa Monica, Calif., was declared a national historic landmark.

In 1995, the Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was the first black to sit on the nation's highest court. He announced his retirement. (His departure paved the way for the contentious nomination of Clarence Thomas to succeed him.)

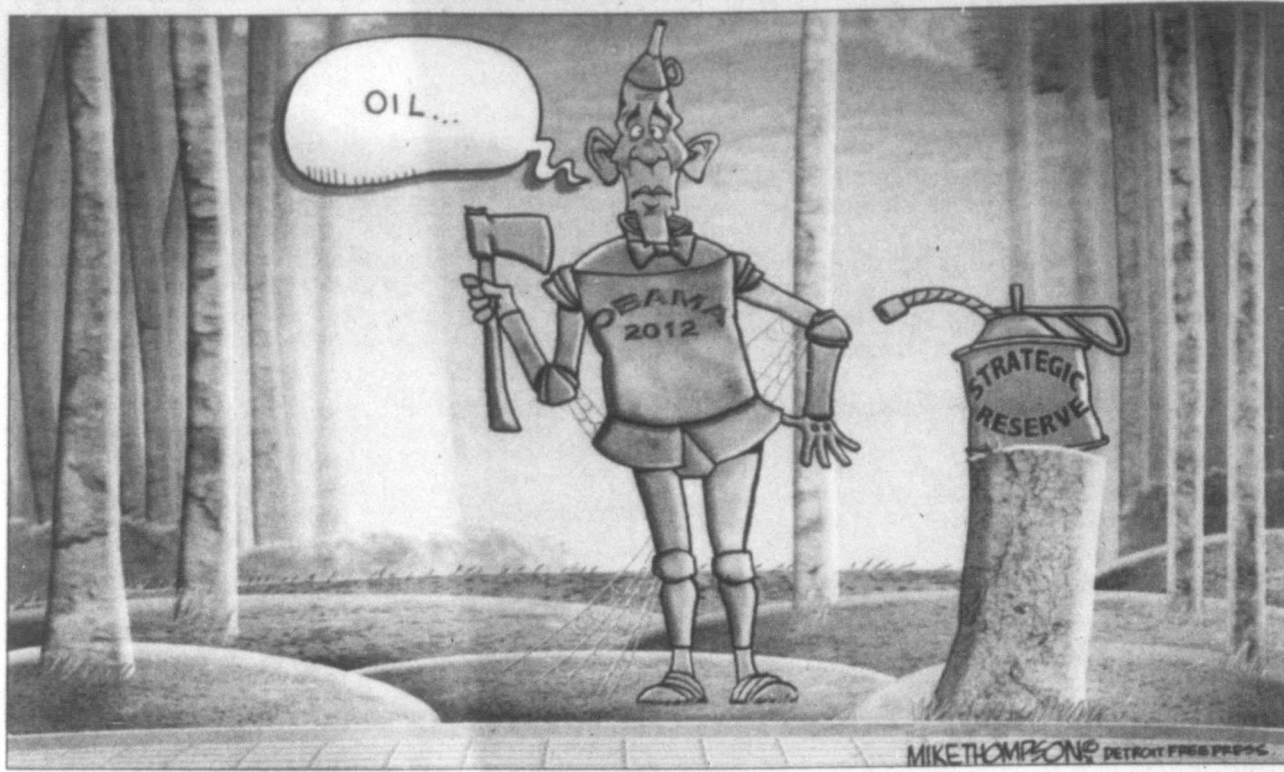
Ten years ago, the United Nations concluded a 10-year campaign on HIV/AIDS after adopting a strategy of setting tough targets for reducing the disease, which is called for protecting the rights of people living with the virus.

Five years ago, a constitutional amendment to allow the use of the American flag died in a Senate vote, falling one vote short of the 67 needed to pass the states for ratification.

One year ago, wars of slamming on the stimulus check, the economy but shaken by the European debt crisis, and a meeting in Canada to discuss the government deficits in richer nations, and the 2011, with wiggle room to the end.

Today's Birthdays: Business executive Ross Perot is 70, former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is 70, singer musician Bruce Johnston is 69, actress Julia Duffy is 60, singer of the 1960s, 80s Country singer Lorrie Morgan is 52, Actor Brian Driller is 51, Writer-producer director J.J. Abrams is 45, Olympic gold and Paralympic medal figure skater Viktor Petrenko is 42, TV personality Bo Frost is 41, Actor Yancey Arias is 40, Actor Christian Kane is 37, Actor Robert M. Johnson is 36, Gospel singer Leigh Nash is 35, Actor Drake Bell is 25, Actor Ed Westwick is 24, Actor Madeline Sweeten is 20.

Thought for Today: The main dangers in this life are the people who want to change everything without having any ideas. *Nancy Astor, American-born British politician*



Is Obama only postponing the inevitable?

In deciding to pull all of the 30,000 troops from the surge out of Afghanistan, six weeks before Election Day 2012, but only 10,000 by year's end, President Obama has satisfied neither the generals nor the doves.

He has, however, well served his political interests.

A larger drawdown would have risked the gains made in Kandahar and Helmand and invited a revolt of the generals, some of whom might resign and denounce Obama for denying them the forces to prevail.

Sen. John McCain, citing some generals, is already saying that, with fewer troops and more missions per unit, U.S. casualties will rise.

A smaller drawdown would have enraged the left, whose support is indispensable to Obama's winning a second term.

So, our president did what comes naturally: cut the baby in half.

Strategically, removal of 30,000 troops in 15 months means that Obama has given up all hope of victory over the Taliban. Gen. MacArthur's dictum -- "In war, there is no substitute for victory" -- is inoperative in yet another American war.

Obama's strategic goal now is the avoidance of defeat, until the election of 2012 is behind him. And by retaining 70,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan during the fighting season and political season of 2012, he has an insurance policy against a Taliban Tet-style offensive or major U.S. military reversal as voters begin to fill out absentee ballots.

In the post-speech analysis, there was much chatter about a "political solution" -- a peace conference including Pakistan, India, Russia, China and Iran that would bring the moderate Taliban and Karzai government together to iron out their differences.

This is self-delusion, born of hope not rational analysis.

Have we not been here before? With Mao's Communists and Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists being pushed toward a coalition by Gen. George Marshall in the late 1940s. With the Viet Cong and North and South Vietnamese making peace in Southeast Asia in 1973.



PAT BUCHANAN

Like the old communists, the Taliban are all-or-nothing people.

They have a vision, an agenda grounded in religious faith about how a society should be structured, about how men and women should live. They fought their way to absolute power in the 1990s. And they have shown themselves more willing to die for their beliefs and leaders than the Afghan National Army.

This is not to denigrate the brave Afghan soldiers who have bled and died. But the Taliban have not needed U.S. training, U.S. arms, U.S. air and fire support or U.S. paychecks to go into battle. All the suicide bombers who give up their lives are -- Taliban.

They recruit themselves. And for 10 years the Taliban have battled U.S. soldiers and Marines, backed up by NATO troops, to what Gen. Stanley McChrystal called "a draw."

And if Afghanistan has become a stalemated war between the Americans and Taliban after a decade in which 1,600 Americans have given their lives and 12,000 have been wounded, how well will the Karzai regime and ANA make out when the Americans, the best soldiers in the world, depart, and they face the Taliban alone?

"This war does not lend itself to a military solution" is the cliché of the hour. And, surely, if the United

States cannot achieve victory over the Taliban with 100,000 troops, we are unlikely to achieve it with 70,000, or however many may remain after 2014.

But has anyone heard the Taliban concede, "This war does not lend itself to a military solution"? Even should the Taliban come to the table and agree to compete democratically, does anyone think it will be faithful to a commitment given to the infidel Americans, once the infidel Americans depart? Why should they?

Over the next 15 months, the United States will be pulling out all or almost all of its 50,000 troops from Iraq, plus the 30,000 from the Afghan theater.

Our NATO allies will execute similar drawdowns.

This will leave Iraq up for grabs. But the Islamic world will see the U.S. pullout from Afghanistan for what it is: a retreat, forced upon a war-weary America by Islamic holy warriors who are the sons of the mujahedeen who drove out the Red Army in the 1980s and helped to bring down the Soviet Empire.

Make no mistake, Obama is headed for the exit ramp, and the Karzai government and Afghan army will not succeed where that same government and army, backed by 150,000 U.S. and NATO troops, could not succeed.

McCain and the neocons will blame what is coming, a terrible day in Kabul and across Afghanistan, on those who refused to soldier on, no matter the cost in blood and treasure.

But the people who should be indicted by history are not those who, after half a trillion dollars and a decade of bleeding, decided to cut America's losses, but those who stampeded this country into two of the longest and least necessary wars in the history of the republic.

Pat Buchanan is a nationally-syndicated columnist.

Candidate Perry peddling Texas snake oil

Step right up, ladies and gentlemen, and get your ticket to see "Rick the Wonder Worker!"

Texas Gov. Rick Perry is less than revered back home, where he is widely ridiculed as Gov. Good Hair. So he's now on the road with a traveling medicine show, billing himself as the "Texas Miracle Man." From New York to New Orleans, he's been wowing the Republican hard core by telling astounding tales of his job-creating prowess in our state, suggesting he can do for America what he's done for Texas.

Such GOP sparklies as Rush Limbaugh and Newt Gingrich are hailing the economic wunderkind, and his roadshow spiel has prompted some party stalwarts to tout him for the presidency, hoping he can do for America what he has done for Texas. As a giddy New Yorker put it, "We want a piece of that!"

Hold it right there. First, while the Texas unemployment rate of 8 percent is 1 percent lower than the national rate, 23 other states are doing even better -- including New York. Also, his self-touted record of job growth is essentially the same as Democratic Gov. Ann Richards produced and far lower than what Texas had under George W.'s governorship.

Most damning, however, is that Perry-jobs are really "jobettes," offering low pay, no benefits and no upward mobility. In fact, under Rickonomics, Texas has added more minimum wage jobs than all other states combined! After 10 years in office, Gov. Perry presides over a state that has more people in poverty and more without health coverage than any other.

Meanwhile, the Miracle Man has dug Texas into one of the deepest budget holes in the country -- \$27 billion short of the money needed to cover the same miserly level of state services Texans now get. Although his party controls the state Senate and has a supermajority in the House, he was unable even to get a budget passed in the regular legislative session, forcing him to convene a costly special session. His plan is to cut \$4 billion and as many as 100,000 teachers from our public education system, even as school enrollment is growing exponentially.

Do Republicans really want a piece of this kind of "leadership"? PR hype aside, Perry is so embarrassingly inept at governing that he has lately turned to prayer as his official solution for all problems. Interestingly, the 1836 Republic of Texas Constitution banned "ministers of the gospel" from holding office. Our problem these days, however, is not ministers in office, but politicians posing as ministers, literally, seizing the pulpit to preach and proselytize.

Perry's praying is not quiet and contemplative, but garish public displays -- Elmer Gantryism in action. In April, with a biblical-level drought and some 800 wildfires ravaging the state, his gubernatorial response was to proclaim three "Days of Prayer for Rain." The days came and went, but no rain. Presumably, Rick was praying up a storm, but not a drop fell from the heavens.

Undeterred, the gubernatorial padre



JIM HIGHTOWER

simply doubled down on prayer politics. Proclaiming Aug. 6 as a "Day of Prayer and Fasting," he has invited all other governors to join him in Houston for a seven-hour prayer-a-palooza, dubbed "The Response." It's billed as "a non-denominational, apolitical, Christian" event to unify all Americans by calling upon Jesus "to guide us through unprecedented struggles."

Wait ... Jesus? What about all those Americans who're Jewish, Muslim, Hindu or other faiths? No room at the inn for them?

Adding to this PR fiasco, Perry's co-sponsor for The Response is the American Family Association -- a Mississippi-based extremist outfit so infamous for bashing gays and Muslims that a watchdog group has characterized it as a hate group. So far, there's been no rush of governors RSVPing.

The governor's spokeswoman loudly insists that his Prayerfest "doesn't have anything to do with (Perry's presidential ambitions)" -- which, of course, means that it does. But if this political show is even too hokey for Republican governors, I doubt that God will be tuning in.

Toward the end of George W.'s right-wing presidency, national columnist and Texas icon Molly Ivins wrote, "Next time I tell you someone from Texas should not be elected president of the United States, please pay attention."

Jim Hightower is a nationally syndicated columnist.

The PAMPA NEWS

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The Pampa News (USPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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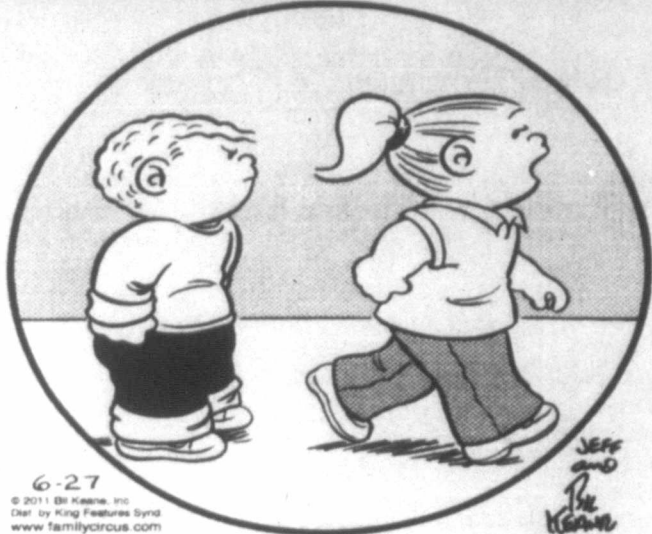
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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



6-27
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"Sorry, that's how it is. I'm your sister, so you're always gonna hafta be my brother."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, June 28, 2011:

This year, approach situations differently. You might want to be more sensitive to what isn't being said, then you will learn and understand much more. You need time alone to center and process feelings that might not be particularly comfortable. Anger could be an issue. Internalizing these feelings could be a source of physical illness or acting out. If you are single, you should check out a potential suitor, as you might be seeing someone as what you want him or her to be rather than who he or she really is. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from time alone together. You bond more strongly and keep passion heated. GEMINI makes an excellent healer.

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 might feel like you are tired of saying everything over and over. Be willing to try another style of communication. Others certainly will respond. Understand how direct some people need you to be. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might not realize exactly where someone is coming from. A change of direction and perhaps a different conversation could open up your sense of restriction. Finances could be an issue, especially if you spend to forget your troubles. Tonight: Gather your bills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation. Discussions driven by your need for change draw a strong reaction. You might not realize how much you are pressuring someone without intending to. Tonight: Back off from control issues.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Maintain a low profile and listen to what is being said. Unexpected developments surround a boss or community issue. You need to discuss your feelings, even if you are uncomfortable. Consider some exercise to help reduce anger. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Open up conversations. Take the initiative, especially with a neighbor

or close relative. You could be delighted by another person's take on a situation. You might want to free your mind of self-imposed restrictions. Tonight: Talk away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Pressure builds. Others have expectations that perhaps you do not want to meet. Unless you want a major falling out, you might not have a choice. Say "no" to unnecessary risks right now. You will be happier in the long run. Tonight: Could go until the wee hours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep looking for other ways. There is a solution that can make all parties fairly happy. Begin with what everyone has in common. Take a strong stand with someone at a distance. Tonight: Follow the music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Work with others directly. You might not like everything you hear, but you will find solutions. Don't take a comment personally. Someone could be aggressive when it comes to his or her concerns. Tonight: Talk through a problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You will have your hands full, as others really seem overly challenging and full of feedback. Recognize that nothing is engraved in stone. Be willing to break patterns. Don't get into a spat over money. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ An easy transition is likely if you work with a situation. If you block someone or try to interfere, the results could be less than great. Observe what is happening, and be ready to flex more. Tonight: Count on your energy.

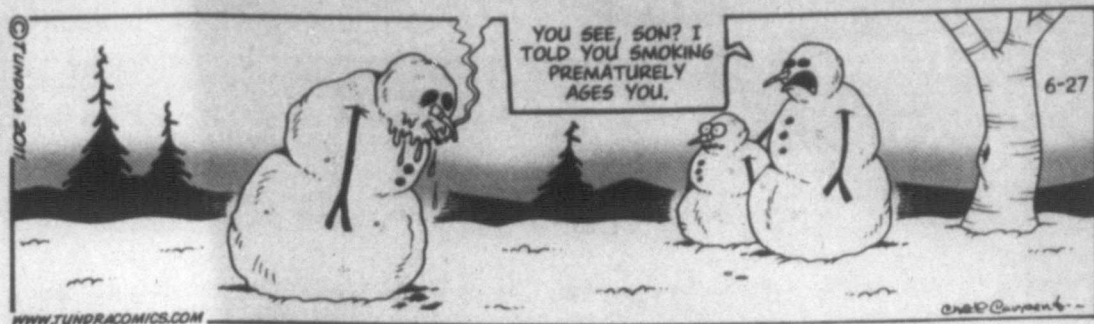
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You simply seem to have fun no matter what you are doing. Ideas pop up from out of nowhere, and you find answers out of the blue. Don't get caught up in an internal conversation that might not even be relevant. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Be aware of an implicit demand from a family member. You might want to change directions, especially if you feel like you are hitting resistance. Be careful if you seem to suddenly feel angry. Let go and relax. Tonight: Easy works.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



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Marvin



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The Pampa News Classifieds

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1 Public Notice

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Sports

PHS cheerleaders earn top honors at cheer camp

LORI VALENTINE
Special to The Pampa News

Pampa High School cheerleading coach Sandee Stokes was never happier about a rock than she was on June 4.

The rock she received was the highest prize at the American Cheerleader Association Camp, which the Pampa High School Cheerleaders won after the weeklong camp in Norman, Okla.

The award recognizes cheerleading teams that are growing together. The staff presented the award. Returning varsity cheerleaders Stephanie Allen, NaKayla Hardman, Megan Pirtle, Caitlin Sieck, Caylee Steward, McKinlee Stokes, Elizabeth Terry, Kailyn Troxell, Rachel Andrews, Robin Doan, Makayla Hampton, Elizabeth Woody and Rikki Earnest, who wears the Harvey the Harvester costume, attended the camp. JV cheerleaders Taylor Giles, Ashlyn Paronto, Erin Parr, Kelly Silva, Taylor Smith and Caitlyn Tracy also attended.

Several girls received individual awards. Pirtle, Stokes and Hampton were named to the All-Star Tumbler squad. Pirtle, Steward, Stokes, Giles and Smith were selected to the All-Star Jumper squad. Earnest was awarded Best Mascot. Pirtle, Steward, Stokes, Troxell, Woody, Parr, Silva and Smith were chosen to be on the All-Star Cheer Squad. Earnest, Pirtle, Sieck, Steward, Stokes and Troxell were given applications to be staff members at next year's camp.

As a team, the squad was voted Camp Favorites by all the schools at the camp. Pampa received a bid to compete at Nationals January in the Metroplex. The team earned the 5-Star award for their evaluation. Teams were scored on a range from 1 to 5. This is the nineteenth 5-star award the camp has given out in the last 20 years.

The cheerleaders awards are on display in the trophy case in the high school rotunda.



submitted photo
Pampa High School cheerleaders pose with ACA staff member Blake after earning the ACA Rock Award at the ACA camp at Oklahoma University.

BANANAGRAMS!

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

G A G A W H E W

L U L U P U M A

Answer: PAINTER, ILLUSTRATOR, SCULPTOR, ARCHITECT

No new proposal at NBA labor meeting

NEW YORK (AP) — With their turn, the players passed.

NBA players declined to present a new economic proposal to owners Friday, less than a week before the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

Dressed in matching T-shirts urging solidarity, about 40 players attended the negotiating session, the final one before owners could vote on whether to lock them out if no deal is reached. But once there, they decided not to make any move to close the distance between the sides' financial positions.

"There's still such a large gap, we feel that any move for us is real dollars we'd be giving back from where we currently stand, as opposed to where our owners

have proposed numbers that in our estimation don't exist right now," union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers said. "They're asking us to go to a place where they want us to go, so we've expressed our reasons why we don't want to continue to move economically."

The sides aren't scheduled to meet again until Wednesday or Thursday, hours before the June 30 expiration date.

The owners could make their next move by then, voting to authorize a lockout when they meet Tuesday in Dallas. Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver, the NBA's lead negotiator, said it would be "premature to talk about where we're going to find ourselves next week."

Billy Hunter, the union's executive director, said there was

enough good dialogue between owners and his expanded contingent of players that any lockout action may be unnecessary.

"I think that the nature of the discussion today was such that they may find it difficult to pull the trigger," Hunter said. "Even though we didn't make any progress, maybe they felt that the energy and the attitude in the room was such that it might necessitate further discussion."

The union's negotiating committee was joined by Boston's Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce — who both spoke in the meeting — Jason Terry of the NBA champion Dallas Mavericks, and a number of other players in town for player representative meetings.

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