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# The PAMPA NEWS

**TODAY IN SPORTS**  
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 Page 8  
 Page 3

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## JUST BEING NEIGHBORLY



Steve York was the auctioneer at a benefit held Saturday by Pampa's VFW Post 1657 for a post in Childress that was damaged by a storm. *staff photo by Randy Pribble*

## VFW chips in for Childress comrades

**RANDY PRIBBLE**  
 rpribble@thepampanews.com

When a 2009 storm severely damaged the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2512 in Childress, it looked like it might be the end of the road for the post. "I have a lot of older veterans in my post, so I can get a few volunteers, but it isn't really enough to make a dent," said Childress Post Commander Lily Harwell. Since then, the 46-member post has held meetings at places like the local senior citizens center and the electric company's meeting room. **VFW cont. on page 2**

## CRP grazing deadline extended

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

In response to ongoing drought conditions — possibly the worst in state history — the Texas Farm Service Agency State Committee has extended the deadline for emergency grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for Gray County, according to local USDA FSA Executive Director Matthew Street. Emergency grazing of land enrolled in the CRP has been extended through Sept. 11, Street said. Gray is one of 25 Texas counties that received the exemption; the others are Bailey, Baylor, Callahan, Coleman, Concho, Dallam, Duval, Frio, Gaines, Hidalgo, Hill, Kinney, LaSalle, Maverick, Medina, Pecos, Randall, Runnels, Shackelford, Starr, Taylor, Terrell, Terry and Uvalde. "Producers in counties that are also approved for emergency haying of CRP acres should note that this extension only applies to emergency grazing," said Street. Eligible producers may either use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or grant another livestock producer the use of the CRP acreage. To do so, the producer must first request approval to graze the eligible acreage and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Under these provisions, there will be a 25 percent CRP payment reduction for acres used for grazing under the emergency circumstances. According to Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas is now in the midst of its most severe one-year drought in recorded history. Reports from the National Climatic Data Center show that July was the warmest month ever statewide in Texas, with data going back all the way to 1895. The average temperature of 87.2 degrees broke the previous statewide high of 86.5 **CRP cont. on page 2**

## DPS car chase near Pampa turns fatal

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

The Department of Public Safety's pursuit of a Lewisville man turned deadly on Friday night when the man's vehicle left the roadway, ejecting him and coming to a rest on top of him. At 11:50 p.m., William Roland Mayberry, 54, was evading a DPS trooper and headed southbound on Gray County Road 3, approximately a mile and a half north of State Hwy. 152 and four miles west of the Pampa city limits. According to the DPS, Mayberry lost control of the vehicle, sending it into a ditch. The car rolled over, ejecting Mayberry, and fell on top of him. Mayberry was not wearing a safety belt. Gray Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman pronounced him dead on the scene and ordered an autopsy in Lubbock; the procedure is set to be performed on Monday, with a preliminary autopsy report expected late Monday afternoon. The DPS has yet to indicate if the pursuit was of a high speed nature or the cause of the chase itself. Lewisville is in Denton County, about nine miles north of Dallas.

## RICK PERRY PRAYER EVENT Perry to evangelicals at prayer rally: I'm one of you

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry sent a strong message to the nation's evangelicals Saturday: he is a member of the important constituency for Republicans that he soon may call upon to help him secure the GOP presidential nomination. The state's longest serving governor hosted what he called a national day of prayer, an event at Reliant Stadium that drew roughly 30,000 people and that was broadcast on cable Christian channels and the Internet nationwide, including in at least 1,000 churches. "Father, our heart breaks for America," Perry said in 12 minutes of remarks that included prayer and Bible passages — but no direct mention of politics or his presidential plans. "We see discord at home. We see fear in the marketplace. We see anger in the halls



**Perry**  
 well as for the American troops killed in the weekend attack on a U.S. helicopter in Afghanistan. The moment gave Perry a national spotlight before a pivotal voting group in the GOP nomination fight — in the early voting states

of Iowa and South Carolina in particular — as he nears a decision on whether to run for president. His entrance into the field could shake up the contest because Perry could attract both social and economic conservatives at a time when the GOP electorate is unsettled with the current slate of candidates. Many have been campaigning for months and are trying to break out of the pack. As Perry held court in Houston, for instance, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann were holding multiple campaign events each day in Iowa ahead of next weekend's test vote, a straw poll that is a barometer for a campaign's organizational strength five months before the state's leadoff caucuses. Both have **PERRY cont. on page 2**




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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Obituaries . . . . . 2	Viewpoints . . . . . 4
Local Record . . . . . 2	Comics . . . . . 5
Weather . . . . . 2	Puzzles/Dear Abby . . . 6
Afternoon Rush . . . . . 3	Classifieds . . . . . 6,7
Social Security & You. 3	Sports . . . . . 8



### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
		
High 103 Low 69	High 99 Low 69	High 96 Low 69

**Today:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 103. North northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. North wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east.

**Tuesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southeast. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69. South southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 96. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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# Schools pay big to part with leaders

**DALLAS (AP)** — State records show that Texas school boards have paid more than \$7.7 million in severance pay over the past several years to buy out the contracts of superintendents.

The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday that school trustees have offered buyouts to 71 superintendents since 2005. Most received six-figure checks.

The deals have become a common way for school districts to for part ways with their top school administrators. Among the largest settlements in recent years were in the Richardson and Irving school districts.

Though teachers have one- or two-year contracts, superintendents routinely have contracts of at least three years. School trustees also sometimes extend the contracts as shows of support during annual evaluations. To dismiss a superintendent and end the contract early requires a process that involves hearings, appeals and legal costs. So school boards choose to pay severance instead of paying salaries for the full length of superintendent contracts.

Some school district officials say the severances are easier and cheaper than trying to fire a superintendent. But critics say the big-money buyouts divert money from students.

Grapevine attorney Neal Adams, who has negotiated settlements for many superintendents over 25 years, says superintendents are not to blame. He says school trustees, often newly elected members who dislike the administrators, unnecessarily push superintendents out of their jobs or into retirement.

"My client, who is sitting there doing their job, should not be penalized because of the political whims of a school board," Adams said. "If they are playing that game, they are going to have to recognize the superintendent has a contract, and they need to be paid accordingly."

State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, said school boards must be held accountable for large payouts. She sponsored a 2001 law to rein in high-dollar payments.

"The payments take money away from the school programs," Van de Putte said.



staff photo by **Randy Pribble**

**Patti Stilson and Alan Calhoun**, a.k.a. Two for the Road, perform at the street dance during the VFW's benefit for its sister post in Childress on Saturday.

## VFW

Meanwhile, the holes in the post building's roof remain unpatched.

"We've tried to have an ongoing building program, but we are also trying to cover what bills we have and what the national organization requires us to pay," Harwell said. The lowest bids from Childress contractors to fix the roof came in at \$35,000, a roof that the commander called "humongous."

"Since it has been leaking through actual holes in the roof, there has been a lot of inside damage as well," Harwell said, adding, "For a while, we nearly gave it up, thought there was no hope. But Patti brought the



**Harwell**

building back to life and so we are hoping that it gets us off on the right foot."

"Patti" is Patti Stilson, a VFW Auxiliary member and entertainer from Fort Worth. Stilson and Alan Calhoun, who comprise the musical duo Two for the Road, and provided entertainment for a street dance Saturday evening in Pampa.

The dance, along with a Poker Run

and an auction, was a benefit for the Childress Post by Pampa VFW Post 1657.

"We had fun and quite a few people attended," said Post Commander Danny Martin. "We took in a little money and the entertainment was good."

The effort allowed the post to contribute \$2,540 to their comrades in Childress.

The Pampa benefit is one of a series of benefits that Harwell and Stilson hope to hold in the Panhandle.

"I was happy with (the benefit)," said Martin, "but you can never be too satisfied."

cont. from page 1

## CRP

degrees, set in 1998.

The July monthly rainfall total of 0.72 inches also ranks third driest on record, behind months in 1980 and 2000 when 0.69 inches was the

recorded rainfall total. According to Nielsen-Gammon, Texas would need to receive more than 4.5 inches of rain in the next two months to avoid breaking the record for driest consecutive 12-month period, set in 1956.

For more information about emergency grazing use of CRP acreage, call the Gray County FSA office at 806-665-6561, ext. 2.

cont. from page 1

## Perry

a lot riding on the outcome.

Perry has been talking with potential donors, GOP operatives and party leaders about a possible run. But he has been tightlipped about just when he would announce a decision, though he plans to visit at least one early-voting state — South Carolina — over the next week.

He plans to keep what aides say is a long-held commitment to headline a conservative conference in Charleston, S.C., on Aug. 13, as well as meet with activists in the state scheduled to host the South's first primary. The trip will put Perry in touch with voters and activists who would be influential to a Republican primary campaign, much like the Houston event Saturday did.

Ministers long have been a valuable constituency in the early nominating campaign, especially in Iowa, where they formed an influential network for 2008 candidate Mike Huckabee's caucus victory, and this year's candidates are trying to make inroads. Bachmann, for one, announced the endorsement of her by 100 Iowa clergy Friday; the tea party favorite meets regularly with pastors when she campaigns in Iowa.

Perry's audience Saturday was filled with people who sang with arms outstretched in prayer — and wept — as Christian groups played music on stage. And Perry, himself, huddled on the stage in a prayer circle with several ministers who helped lead the event. It was Perry's idea and was financed by the American Family Association, a Tupelo, Miss.-based group that opposes abortion and gay rights and believes that the First Amendment freedom of religion applies only to Christians.

"We feel that God moved on him to do this. It will be read by the enemy, the political enemy, as a tool to win votes," said Gwen Courkamp of Houston, who plans to vote for Perry if he runs for president.

The governor also earned high marks from attendee Justine Schaefer, who said: "He'd get my vote ... Today really impressed me. He showed that he's sensitive to the Lord's leading to have this."

Critics argued the event — called The Response — inappropriately blended politics and religion.

Perry insisted that the event had no political motivation, though he did say during his remarks: "We pray for our nation's leaders, Lord, for parents, for pastors, for the generals, for governors, that you would inspire them in these difficult times."

The other speakers focused primarily on prayer and redemption, though politics seeped in at times, tied to social issue policy. Dozens of people throughout the daylong event decried legalized abortion, while some also condemned gay marriage, although far fewer.

Protesters gathered outside the arena to condemn the event.

"The brand of Christianity being offered today is one of fear, and we want to let people know that God loves everyone, not to be afraid," said Dan DeLeon, a pastor from the United Church of Christ in College Station, who wore his robe in near-100-degree heat.

Rodney Hinds, who drove to Houston from Amarillo, waved a sign at traffic demanding "Pastor Perry Must Resign" and said: "He abused the power of his office by calling this event from his office as governor."

Whether that's true or not, this much is clear: Perry may have laid down a marker on Saturday with social conservatives that would allow him to enter the race as a candidate focused on jobs, but with credibility with values voters.

"He has the best record in the field on jobs, and doesn't have to get off message beefing up bona fides on social issues, since they are firmly established," said Mary Matalin, a former adviser during both Bush presidencies.

Given Texas' recent uptick in jobs, that combination could make Perry a potentially strong challenger to Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who leads in national polls. Perry has business credentials but leaves cultural conservatives questioning his sincerity on their issues.

cont. from page 1

# AFTERNOONRUSH

## Small earthquake in Dallas area

DALLAS (AP) — A small earthquake has been recorded in the Dallas area.

A spokesman for the U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake occurred about 11:45 p.m. Saturday. No injuries were reported.

Geophysicist Paul Caruso told The Dallas Morning News that the late-night quake was a magnitude 2.6.

The epicenter was six miles west-southwest of Dallas, and it was felt as far away as Greenville, according to reports to the agency's Web site. Caruso said experts "don't expect significant damage or injuries until the magnitude is in the 5.5 range."

## ...and two in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Two small earthquakes have shaken the Oklahoma City metropolitan area but there have been no reports of damage.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, a magnitude 2.0 quake hit about 2:34 a.m. Sunday. It was centered about eight miles southeast of Oklahoma and had a depth of 3.1 miles.

The survey reported another earthquake about 8 a.m. located 13 miles northeast of Norman. That quake had a magnitude of 2.3 and also had a depth of 3.1 miles.

Geologists say earthquakes of magnitude 2.5 to 3 are generally the smallest felt by humans.

## Mexican chopper lands in Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — A Mexican military helicopter has landed in Texas by mistake.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says the helicopter landed Saturday afternoon at Laredo International Airport after the pilot mistook the airport for a landing strip in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Laredo Port of Entry spokeswoman Mucia Dovalina says customs agents checked out the helicopter's occupants and let them return to Mexico. She declined to say how many people were on board or whether they were armed.

The Houston Chronicle reports this is the second time Mexico's military has crossed into Texas in recent weeks. A convoy rolled across the international bridge at Donna in July. More troops have been deploying in northeastern Mexico as the nation attempts to combat drug gang violence.

## West Nile Virus suspected

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County health officials suspect a possible human case of West Nile Virus in Houston.

The Houston Chronicle reported that authorities on Friday were awaiting tests to confirm the case, just a day after Montgomery County confirmed its first case of the year.

Carrie Williams, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of State Health Services, said the Montgomery County infection is the second human West Nile case confirmed in the state this year.

# Bogus Social Security history lesson

TOM MARGENAU  
Creator's Syndicate

## Social Security and you



Like an irritating canker sore that just won't go away, there is a plague of propaganda on the Internet that lingers and lingers — spreading half-truths and outright lies about Social Security to millions of Americans. At least once or twice a day, someone forwards me an Internet message that claims to be providing a bit of a history lesson about Social Security. But it's really a lesson in how to take tiny kernels of truth and twist them into big fat whoppers of misinformation.

I've addressed this issue before in past columns. That's because the messages it contains have been out there polluting people's opinions about Social Security for years. I first saw it maybe 20 years ago, being passed around via fax and snail mail and other pre-Internet forms of communication. For the past 10 years, it's been a staple of the conservative blogosphere. And like so much misinformation on the Internet, if the message is spread far and wide enough and repeated often enough, no matter how preposterous it is, it starts to take on an aura of authenticity. So it's time once again to set the record straight.

Although this so-called Social Security history lesson states, "It doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or Republican, facts are facts" — it quickly reveals itself to be an attempt to convince people that the Democrats have messed up the original Social Security program beyond all recognition. In today's column, I'll cover about half of the allegations in the email. I'll save the rest for next week.

Allegation: "Franklin Roosevelt, a Democrat, introduced the Social Security program. He promised that it would be completely voluntary. It no longer is voluntary."

Fact: Participation in the Social Security program never was voluntary. Although early Social Security planners, including Roosevelt, gave some thought to making the program a voluntary one, they quickly realized it could never work that way. They figured that if given the choice, the rich would opt out of

system, and a large segment of the lower middle class and poor (the very people who would need Social Security the most in retirement) would choose not to participate. Social Security would never have been the success it is today — the best anti-poverty program for seniors the government has ever come up with, giving tens of millions of Americans a stable income in retirement — had it been a voluntary program.

Allegation: "FDR promised the participants would only have to pay 1 percent of the first \$1,400 of their annual incomes into the program. Today, people pay 7.65 percent of the first \$106,800."

Fact: Social Security planners, including President Roosevelt, knew from day one that as the program grew, taxation and revenues would have to grow. This is just common sense. Show me one large-scale pension plan or government program anywhere in the world that has the same funding structure it did 75 years ago! And by the way, the Social Security tax rate is not 7.65 percent, as is often stated. The Social Security tax is 6.2 percent. The other 1.45 percent of the payroll tax is used to fund the completely separate Medicare program.

Allegation: "Social Security money would be put into an independent trust fund and therefore would be used to fund Social Security and no other government program. Under Johnson (a Democrat), the money was moved to the general fund and spent."

Fact: All Social Security monies are still deposited into the Social Security trust funds. But every nickel of those trust funds is, and always has been, invested in U.S. treasury securities. In other words, as Social Security tax collections come into the Treasury Department (and that's at a rate of about \$2 billion per day), those revenues

are instantly converted into treasury notes that are deposited into the trust funds. But the actual cash goes into the government coffers and is spent for whatever purposes the government spends money on. But the point is, the Social Security trust funds still hold the Treasury notes. And every month for the past 75 years, the government has made good on its obligations to Social Security by redeeming enough bonds to cover Social Security benefits due.

This is the way the program has always worked. I usually ask critics: If you were in charge of Social Security, what would you have done with all the money? Bought Enron stock? Buried it under a mattress? Putting the money in treasury securities has always been considered the safest way to invest Social Security's holdings.

So President Lyndon Johnson didn't "move the money to the general fund to spend it." What LBJ did do was change an internal government bookkeeping practice. Social Security's income and expenditures used to be kept on a completely separate set of books. He simply added Social Security's accounts to the general government budget. But that did not change in any way the method used to invest and spend Social Security money (as explained above).

But let's be honest. Johnson moved the balance sheets for Social Security money into the overall government budget for one sneaky reason: All the Social Security income made the actual government deficit, caused at the time by spending for the Vietnam War, appear smaller. But please note that no president since, Democratic or Republican, has changed that little accounting trick — for the very same reason: Adding Social Security's surpluses to the overall government ledgers makes for a rosier (albeit duplicitous) budget scenario.

Next week: more allegations and more facts.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at [thomas.margenau@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.margenau@comcast.net).

# Witnesses: Polygamist leader Jeffs ruled with heavy hand

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) - Convicted polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs ruled with a heavy and abusive hand, several former followers testified Saturday, recounting how the man they once revered as a prophet banned parades, Sports Illustrated magazine and even the color red upon rising to power.

The second day of Jeffs' sentencing hearing later ended with a woman, now 28, tearfully alleging that Jeffs also sexually abused her as a young girl. Charges were never filed in that alleged incident. Three jurors cried during the woman's testimony, and state District Judge Barbara Walther adjourned court until Monday.

The same jury convicted Jeffs on Thursday on charges of sexually assaulting two underage girls he had taken as brides in Texas. He faces up to life in prison, and jurors are likely to decide his punishment early next week.

For the second straight day, Jeffs wasn't in court. He walked out in protest Friday and has continued boycotting the proceedings, choosing instead to remain in another room of the courthouse.

Jeffs, 55, is the ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which believes polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. More than 10,000 followers consider him God's spokesman on Earth.

One of them was Ezra Draper, who testified that

FLDS men began taking brides younger and younger after Jeffs took over the polygamous group in 2002.

"You could see which girls were with which fellas. It would repeat itself week after week," said Draper, who left the church in 2003. "Then they were with child."

Prosecutors have tried showing in the sentencing phase that Jeffs ruled the FLDS with a far heavier and crueler hand than his father, who Jeffs succeeded. Draper testified that while Rulon Jeffs allowed fun activities such as parades and dances, his son abruptly put a stop to it in the community.

Draper said Jeffs threw out copies of Sports Illustrated and Car and Driver found in the boys' bedrooms. Books that featured talking animals were banned because Jeffs considered it teaching lies. Even the color red became prohibited, Draper said.

Jeffs also kept meticulous records of FLDS as jurors found out during the conviction phase of the trial. One of the most uncomfortable pieces of evidence so far has been an audiotape of what prosecutors said was Jeffs sexually assaulting one of his victims when she was 12.

On Saturday, prosecutors again dipped into a trove of Jeffs' records seized from a 2008 police raid on a remote FLDS ranch in West Texas. This time it was lengthy instructions on building a bed in the all-white, top-floor room in the ranch's temple. The instructions allegedly written by

Jeffs were exact: 5-inch thick table legs, and padded sides on the bed while "the Lord does his work with me."

Jurors were shown the typed notes shortly after a nephew of Jeffs testified that his uncle sodomized him when he was 5 years old. Brent Jeffs, now 28, said Warren Jeffs told him during the alleged assault that "this is God's work." Jeffs was never charged with sexually assaulting his nephew.

The Associated Press typically does not name alleged sexual assault victims, but Brent Jeffs has went public with his allegations including filing a civil lawsuit against his uncle in 2003. Brent Jeffs said the suit was settled in a deal that included him getting some land.

During the trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Jeffs fathered a child with one victim when she was 15.

Jeffs represented himself during the trial, routinely interrupting the proceedings and choosing to stand silently in front of jurors

for nearly a half-hour during his closing arguments. His absence from the sentencing phase since Friday made for a more typical trial atmosphere.

Walther ordered Jeffs' stand-by counsel to represent him. But having been sidelined by Jeffs for the last two weeks, attorney Deric Walpole struggled Saturday to keep up with witnesses and evidence, some of which he was seeing for the first time.

At one point Saturday, Walpole jumped from his chair to object while Draper testified. He asked Walther to have the jury leave the courtroom.

"I have no idea what that man is getting ready to say,"

Walpole said. His objection was overturned.

Jeffs burned through a slate of seven high-powered attorneys, including Walpole, in the six months before he decided to represent himself. Prosecutors have accused Jeffs of trying to stall the case against him.

Walpole declined to say whether he'll call witnesses during the sentencing phase. He has indicated that his plea for leniency will focus on Jeffs being a product of his environment and a culture that hasn't changed for centuries.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2011. There are 145 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 8, 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of members in the U.S. House of Representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more members when New Mexico and Arizona became states. (The number of House seats has remained at 435 ever since, except for a temporary increase to 437 after Alaska and Hawaii were admitted to the Union.)

### On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1861, biologist William Bateson, founder of the science of genetics, was born in Whitby, Yorkshire, England.

In 1942, six convicted Nazi saboteurs who'd landed in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others were spared.

In 1953, the United States and South Korea initiated a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign - which he ended up doing.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective the next day, following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal.

**Ten years ago:** Former President Ronald Reagan's daughter Maureen died in Granite Bay, Calif., at age 60.

**Five years ago:** Sen. Joe Lieberman lost the Connecticut Democratic primary to political newcomer Ned Lamont (however, Lieberman ended up winning re-election to the Senate by running as an independent).

**One year ago:** Flooding in Gansu province in China resulted in mudslides that killed more than 1,400 people.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Esther Williams is 90. Actor Richard Anderson is 85. Actress Nita Talbot is 81. Singer Mel Tillis is 79. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 74. Actress Connie Stevens is 73. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 72. Actor Larry Wilcox is 64. Actor Keith Carradine is 62. Movie director Martin Brest is 60. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 59. Actor Donny Most is 58. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 54. TV personality Deborah Norville is 53. Actor-singer Harry Crosby is 53. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 50. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 50. Rock musician Ralph Rieckermann is 49. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 38. Country singer Mark Wills is 38. Actor Kohl Sudduth is 37. Actress Tawny Cypress is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Drew Lachey (98 Degrees) is 35. Actress Lindsay Sloane is 34. Actress Countess Vaughn is 33. Actor Michael Urie is 31. Actress Meagan Good is 30. Actor Ken Baumann is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "Man adjusts to what he should not; he is unable to adjust to what he should." - Jean Toomer, African-American author-poet (1894-1967)



GOVERNMENT IS BAD. GOVERNMENT IS INTRUSIVE. THE LESS GOVERNMENT, THE BETTER!



UNINSPECTED TURKEY BURGER, ANYONE?



## Letter to the Editor

### Medical staff supports efforts to sell hospital

#### To the Editor:

The Medical Staff of Pampa Regional Medical Center would like to express our support of the current efforts by Signature Hospital Corporation to sell the hospital.

The medical staff have been aware of this effort for well over a year and much like our community, would love to see this process come to fruition at the earliest possible date.

In recent months, many of our patients have become more concerned about persistent rumors in the community regarding possible closure of the facility, and are seeking reassurance about the hospital's future and how that future might affect our current medical staff.

Please know that along with PRMC's board of trustees, various Pampa business and commu-

nity leaders, members of our medical staff have been invited to take part in ongoing meetings over the past year with Signature Hospital Corporation's leadership, including their Chief Financial Officer, to discuss the proposed sale of the hospital.

At these meetings, we have been assured there is no reason to fear closure of the facility as it is financially sound and has been consistently profitable year-over-year at its present location.

Based on past performance, we believe speculation of the hospital's demise is without basis in fact, and should be considered just that - speculation. These type of rumors have the potential to create tremendous obstacles to future recruitment efforts, injure the reputation of the medical community and create unwarranted fear in the mind of many of our community's citizens. The medical staff remains very

supportive of Signature's efforts to attract a new owner for our local hospital, and will continue to be engaged in this process to ensure that the new owner is responsive to our community's needs.

We are confident in the strong foundation of our hospital's nursing and medical staff, and believe our best days are yet to come.

Sincerely,  
Dan C. Powell, M.D.  
Chief of Staff  
Pampa Regional Medical Center

#### And medical staff members:

Robert Julian, MD  
Kevin D. Sieck, MD  
Jill Terry, DO  
Brent Michener, DO  
Bobby W. Smith, DO  
L. Kamnani, MD, FACC  
Rene P. Grabato, MD  
N. Kamnani, MD

## Upcoming campaign will not be pretty

Just as birds have to fly and fish have to swim, pundits have to predict. Please be warned that what follows comes from the same forecaster who, 11 years ago, assured readers that President John McCain in 2004 would not seek a second White House term.

But as the transvestite linebacker said: "You win some. You lose some. Some are rained out. But one way or the other, you have to dress for all of them."

I am convinced that the 2012 presidential campaign will be one of the ugliest public spectacles you or I have ever endured.

Here's why. Any election with an incumbent president running for re-election is, by definition, a referendum on the incumbent's first term. The incumbent candidate seeking re-election can, if things are going well and the electorate is not unhappy, run a high-road campaign that celebrates the positive changes and argues a variation of "one good term deserves another."

If, on the other hand, things have not gone swimmingly during the first term and the voters are annoyed or angry, then the incumbent will almost certainly run a low-road campaign that seeks to switch public attention away from his faults and blunders to his opponent's alleged defects of intellect, character or judgment.

Barring a near-miraculous improve-

ment in public prosperity, President Obama's 2012 campaign will spend most of its time, money and energy trying to convince us that the Republican nominee, for perverse amusement, likes to stick bamboo shoots under the fingernails of widows and orphans.

An iron rule of American politics holds that when the economy is bad, the economy is the only issue. When unemployment is low and economic confidence is high, voters will tolerate a presidential campaign -- like that of 1988 between then-Vice President George H.W. Bush and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis -- where the Republican candidate not only made mandatory recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance a constant issue but, to emphasize his commitment to the cause, paid a campaign visit to an American flag factory in Verona, N.J. -- to which one wit suggested Bush had come "for a fitting."

Rather than discuss or defend the disappointing present -- or to make a public apology acknowledging the mistakes they've made and the human pain they have unintentionally

caused -- Democrats, you can bet, will repeatedly document for us between now and Nov. 6, 2012, the collective overdue library books, unpaid parking tickets and marital lapses of the Republican(s).

An incumbent running in hard times needs to first convince voters that he understands that things have not gone, during his stewardship, as he had planned and as they had expected. But then the beleaguered incumbent had better be able to persuade the skeptical public that, because of his foxhole experience, he now has a credible, realistic plan to improve the lives of all Americans in the next four years. Democrats must know that if 2012 becomes a referendum on the status quo, they lose.

So I strongly suspect that the relentless refrain from unidentified senior officials in the Obama re-election campaign will be the Republican nominee a) would steal a hot stove and then go back for the smoke, b) will not order his marriage counselor to make public his records, c) has consistently refused to buy any Girl Scout cookies and d) would not take a breathalyzer test once in 1975.

This campaign, I am sad to say, will not be pretty.

Mark Shields is a nationally syndicated columnist.



MARK SHIELDS

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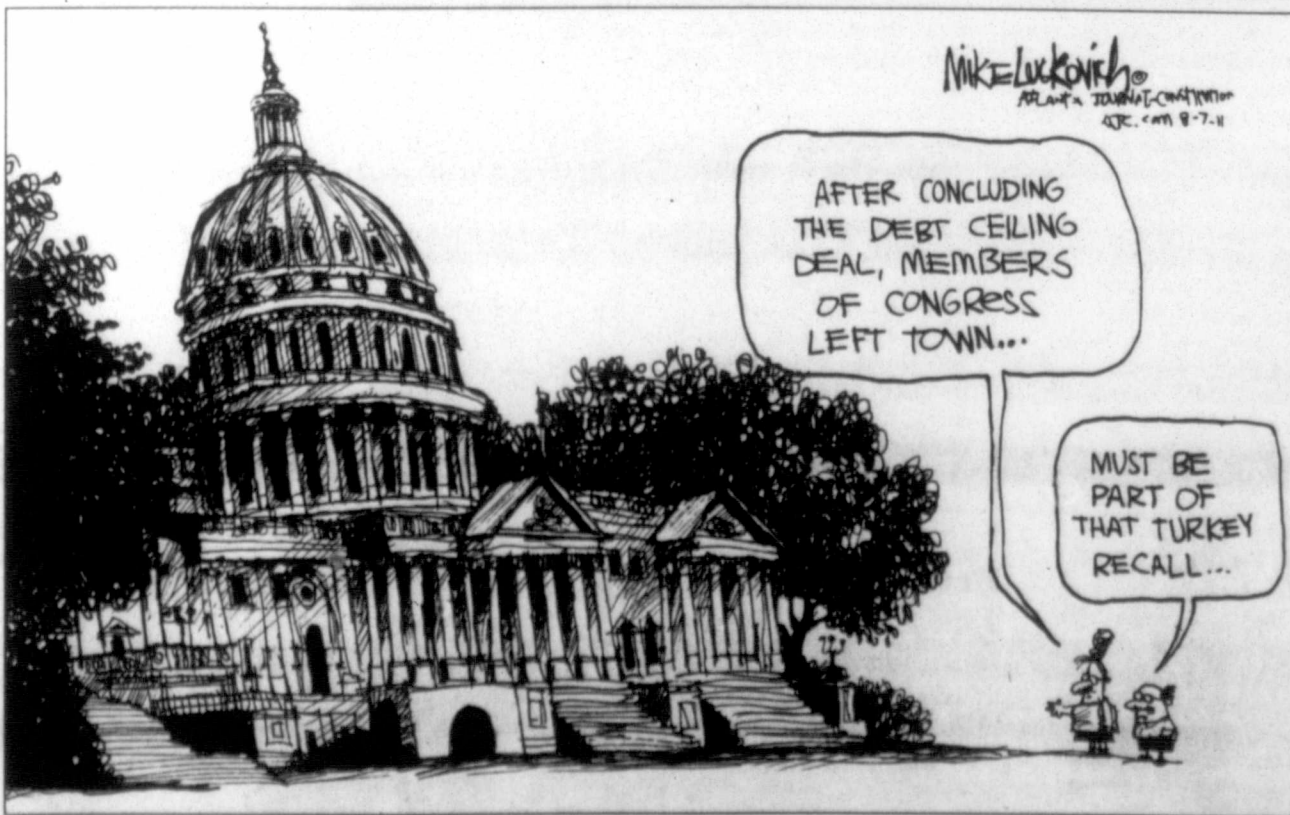
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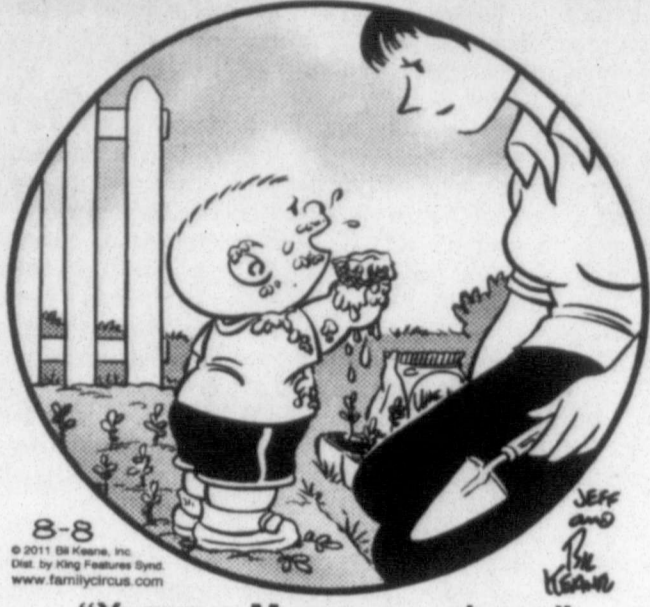
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MIKE LUCKWITZ  
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# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

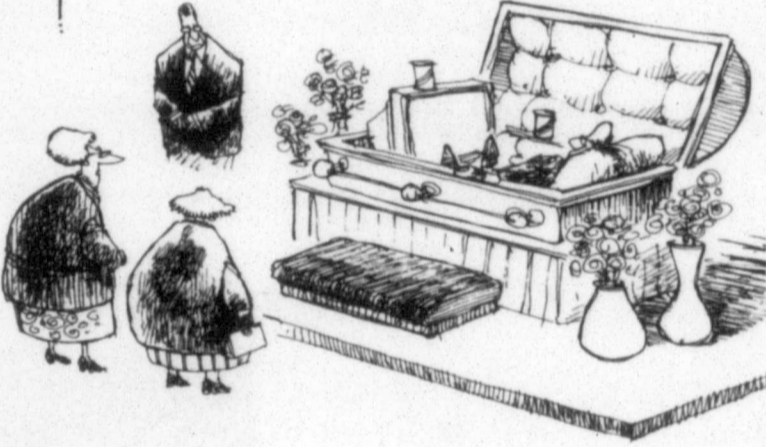


8-8

"Yummy, Mommy ... share."

Non Sequitur

YEAH...BUT MAYBE THERE'S SUCH A THING AS LOOKING TOO NATURAL...



Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Monday, Aug. 8, 2011:  
 This year, your creativity shoots upward to a new level. You have a lot to be happy about, as you will be welcoming many new opportunities into your life. If you are single, you very well might wave goodbye to that status. If you are attached, the two of you could start acting like newlyweds once more. Your intuition is strong, but also learn to appreciate and understand that others have a similar sense. At times you might attempt to rope yourself in and be more serious. Worry less about impressions, and just be yourself. SAGITTARIUS piques your interest.  
 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)**  
 ★★★★★ Your fiery side emerges no matter what you do. Understand which direction you are heading in. Someone reacts and closes off. Could this be a power play? Your imagination fires up in a discussion, attracting many. Tonight: Beam in what you want.  
**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Stay centered when dealing with family or a personal issue. The sooner you put this issue on the back burner, the more involved you can become in what is happening around you. A good feeling emanates from a one-on-one discussion. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.  
**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 ★★★★★ You might have all the suggestions you need, but they keep coming in. One of the major sources of these ideas might need to take the lead. Let him or her, and go off and do what pleases you. Make time for a loved one later on. Tonight: Just not alone.  
**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 ★★★★★ You might want to let someone know what is ailing you. Together you can find easy solutions to take some of the heat off you. Relaxed, you won't see the situation in question the same way. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.  
**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ It might be Monday, but you have the enthusiasm and energy associated with a fun adventure. Your vagueness about a financial or partnership matter could be getting the best of you. Communication

opens up. Tonight: Be your carefree self.  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ You could be vested in handling someone in a certain manner. You wonder which way to go with a key interaction. You rotate between trusting this person and feeling vaguely deceived. Your instincts might not serve you right now. Tonight: Head home.  
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Keep communication flowing. You could be unusually severe with a friend or sibling. Recognize your attitude, and you might not be surprised by the other party's reaction. A meeting could turn into a social happening. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.  
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Curb a possessive streak, which you might not even be aware of. Note others' reactions if they tend to back off sometimes. Listen to feedback. No one wants to be another person's possession. Would you? Tonight: Buy a token of affection for a loved one.  
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Understand what is happening with others, but don't slow down for too long. Keep on schedule, as you have much on your plate. Whatever you do, you do very well. Trust yourself. A meeting could be a drag. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.  
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 ★★★★★ Step back if you must understand exactly what is going on with you. A tendency to be overly sensitive and demanding could be at the root of this issue. Express your caring toward another person. Tonight: Work late if you are feeling overwhelmed.  
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 ★★★★★ A friend or several associates could be pointing in the direction they believe you should go. By now you must know it is important to respond to your own inner voice. Otherwise, a backfire is likely. Tonight: Where your friends are.  
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Take a stand and handle what you must with certitude and directness. You might need a timeout from the hectic pace you are keeping. A boss, parent or some other authority figure is certainly very demanding. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



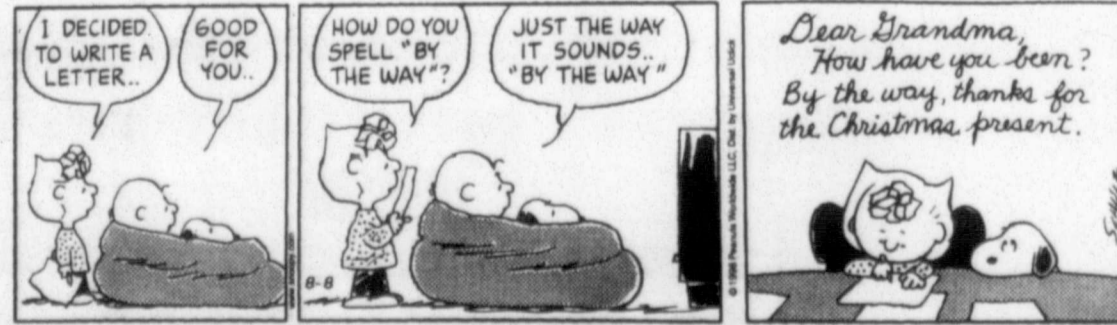
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie







# Sports

## Saturday scrimmage leads to optimism for PHS volleyball

ARNIE AURELLANO  
editor@thepampanews.com

Facing some high expectations after a breakout year, the Pampa High School volleyball team isn't backing down from the challenge.

That much was evident after Saturday's scrimmage in Bushland, during which the Lady Harvesters faced off against teams from Bushland, Amarillo San Jacinto and Perryton.

"We beat every team that was there," said senior Ramie Hutto. "It was a very good start. We have a first triad Tuesday night here, so it was a great start to the season."

The scrimmage was a welcome change of pace from the offseason, said senior Alanna Stephens.

"Oh, it felt really good to be out on the court," she said. "We did do so much better as a team than we usually do when we started out, and we never fell to the other team's level. We kept playing to our level, and the other team couldn't keep up."

Stephens said that no particular girls stood out during the scrimmage due to the entire roster having a solid outing.

"The whole team was looking really good, which was



Hutto



Stephens

loss as fuel to a fast start.

"Honestly, it's like we didn't even stop last year," Hutto said. "We've had offseason to think about (the playoff loss to Borger), and we've kind of just kept that intensity and we used that loss to boost us. We never want to feel like that ever again."

With juniors Maddie Fatheree, Taylor Gilles, Madison Joyce and Diamond Maruffo joining the returning players on varsity this year, Hutto and Stephens conceded that the team is seeing some minor flux, but both said that the new girls

awesome in starting out the year because we're usually a bit slow," she said.

The team, which ended last year with a heart-breaking defeat to rival Borger in the postseason, is hoping to use the

acquitted themselves well on Saturday.

"They did really well," said Stephens. "We don't consider them like, 'Oh, they're from JV.' They're all on varsity now with the rest of us. That's how we consider it."

"They worked throughout offseason, too, so we're kind of used to being together," echoed Hutto.

"They're there to push us, and they're doing a good job."

The girls added that chemistry issues from last year appear to be a distant memory.

"We are doing a lot better," Stephens said. "Instead of getting down on ourselves in the middle of a game, we'll just come and pull together."

"We're all best friends on and off the court, so we have a strong connection, everyone," said Hutto.

There are still things for the team to focus on — Stephens said, for one, that they are still working some kinks out in the defense — but if Saturday is any indication, the Lady Harvesters appear set to pick up right where they left off last year.

"There's some stuff we need to work on and a lot of improvement we have to do, because it's the beginning of the year," Hutto said. "We have a good team this year, and we have a lot of goals and high standards for ourselves."

### DALLAS COWBOYS CAMP

## Despite lack of new faces, Cowboys expect improved defense

SAN ANTONIO — After giving up a franchise-worst 436 points last season, the Dallas Cowboys are depending on basically the same defense to be better this year.

There are 10 of 11 defensive starters back in their positions. It would be all 11 if not for Alan Ball returning to cornerback from safety, where Abram Elam takes over after the free agent signed this week.

Sure, there is new defensive coordinator Rob Ryan — the son of Buddy and twin brother of Rex. But the brash and confident coach with a different playbook inherited a group coming off a season that started with hopes of being the first team to play in a Super Bowl at home and instead turned into an absolute misery.

"It's the same players, but different mentality, different motivation and sort of like a new rebirth," Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware said.

So just how can they expect to be a better defense with the same players?

Because they have been good before.

Those 10 returning starters were also part

of one of the NFL's best defenses in 2009, when the Cowboys were NFC East champions. They finished that regular season with the only consecutive shutouts in franchise history before the team's first playoff victory in 13 years.

"I do know that we all thought we had the players on the defensive side of the ball last year that we could play better than we did," owner Jerry Jones said. "You've got different potentials out here. You've got some that are not going to play over their potential, really. But I am satisfied with our personnel right now. We've got defensive personnel that can play at a level you might say we expected last year."

Jones never made a secret of his desire for the Cowboys to be in the Super Bowl being played at their new stadium last season. That dream got shattered in a hurry.

Despite all the players back from a play-off-winning team, the Cowboys lost seven of their first eight games last year. That led to Jones making the first midseason coaching change in team history. Head coach Wade

Phillips, also the defensive coordinator, was fired after a 45-7 loss at Green Bay.

The Packers were among eight opponents to score at least 30 points against Dallas (6-10). The previous season under Phillips, the Cowboys allowed an NFC-low 250 points with only two teams getting to 30 points.

"Last year was a little bit predictable, I guess," safety Gerald Sensabaugh said. "Rob moves around a lot. Last year's defense wasn't to trick the offense. It was more like we are just going to win our one-on-one battles. This defense has a little bit of trickery to it. Everybody line up on the line of scrimmage and stuff like that. It makes it hard on the quarterback. As long as you have the athletes to play in a system like this, you should be good to go."

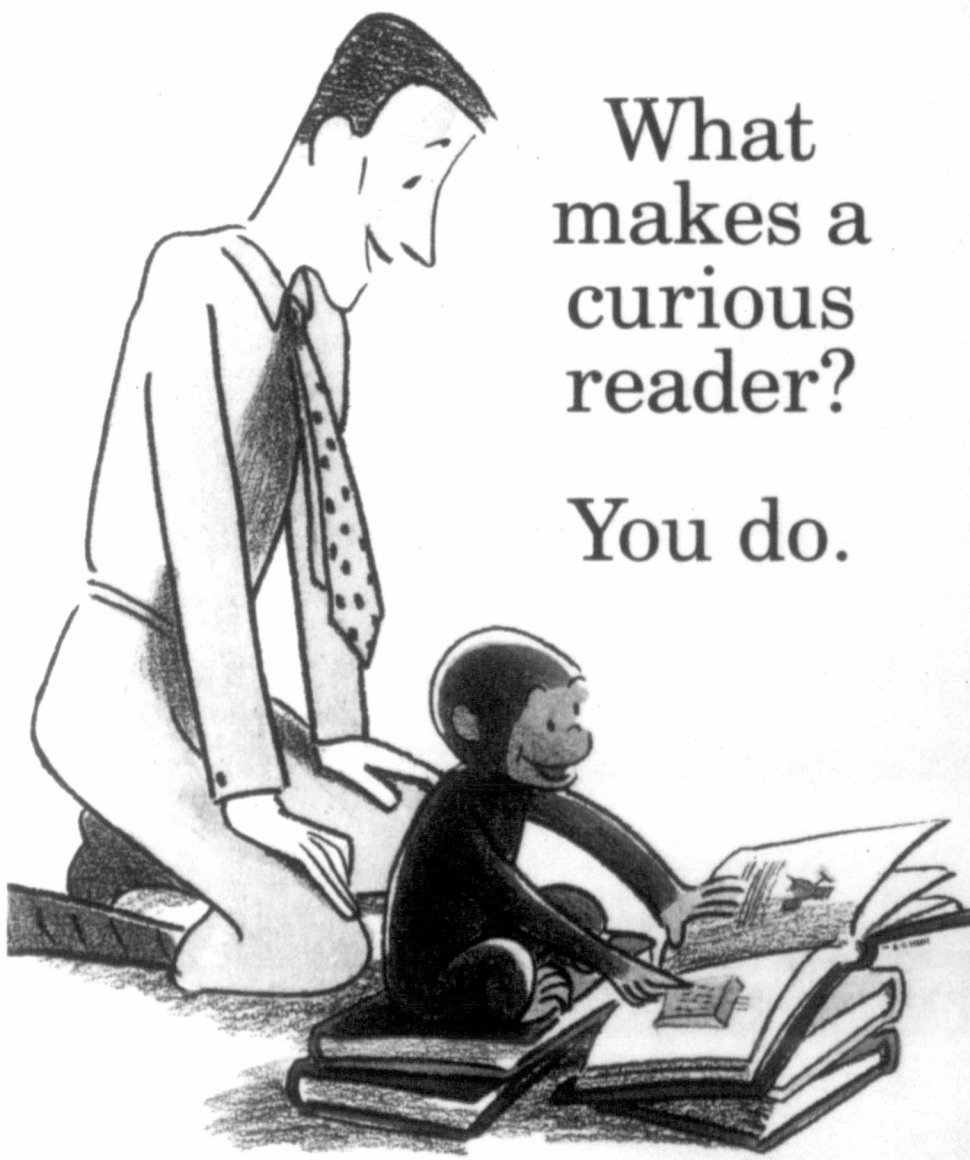
Soon after taking the job, Ryan declared that the Cowboys defense could be among the best in the NFL this season and that he would be tough and aggressive. After the 4 1/2-month NFL lockout took away the chance to install the system during offseason

workouts, his message to players when camp started was that they have to do their part.

"The first thing he said, the players make my defense, my defense don't make the players," Ware said. "It feels really good coming from a guy like Rob Ryan, because everybody knows how good his defenses have been. ... With our defense, we have a lot of athletes, guys that can play multiple positions, and that's what he likes."

Ware said having the continuity of the same teammates helps since they are all familiar with each other while moving around in the scheme. And they are not harping on the disappointment of last season.

"You sort of let the offseason lull let down and quiet that, and really just look forward to this season. Getting better and sort of getting that bad taste out of your mouth," Ware said. "You know what, we weren't a 6-10 team last year, but that's what the record was. With new improvements we have on defense, and the offense is always going to keep rolling, I think there's not going to be a 6-10 season this year."



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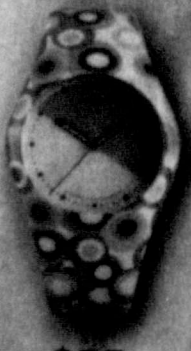











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