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Page 1B **Page 5**

RODEO ROYALTY



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Shayley Morris smiles as she is presented her first place diamond horseshoe ring by Ken Rheams of Rheams Diamond Shop.

Pageant win a dream for Lefors' Morriss

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com
 It hasn't even been a week into Lefors' Shayley Morriss' reign as Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas 2011 and she's already dreading the day she has to give it up.
 "Winning) was a little bitter-sweet," said Morriss, 18, with a shy smile. "It's just because I know I'll have to give it up this time next year. I don't know if I want to give it up. This has been so cool."
 Not that she's already gotten too comfortable with her royal status, mind you. Even

as she got ready to pick up her first place diamond horseshoe ring at Rheams Diamond Shop earlier this week, Morriss still couldn't believe that she's wearing the Rodeo Queen sash.
 "I was really nervous about it, so it was really exciting when I knew that I had won," she said. "I've wanted to be (Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas) since I was little. I'm still thinking to myself, 'This is cool, this is so crazy.'"
 This year marked Morriss' second foray into the annual pageant, having taken home the contest's Personality award in 2007. Now, Morriss, whose

grandfather Robert was a former rodeo director, is excited to join the sorority of pageant winners.
 "My family rodeos, so I always saw the Rodeo Queen growing up," she said. "Seeing (Top O' Texas Rodeo office manager) Cindy (Kemph)'s daughter, Brandy, and also Mandy Poole, who's been the Rodeo Queen three different times, I always thought it would be cool to follow in their footsteps. When I won, I was just so happy. They said (my grandfather) had a little bit of tears in his eyes."
MORRISS cont. on page 6

**County talks
 budget for
 new year**

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Commissioners Court met at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 15 at the Gray County Court House to discuss their budget for the upcoming fiscal year and renewing the burn ban. Commissioner Joe Wheeley presided over the meeting during Judge Richard Peet's absence.
 Items addressed during the meeting were as follows:
 • Commissioners appointed Election Judges and Alternate Judges for the November 8, 2011 election.
 • They approved the Primary Joint Resolution with Republican and Democrat parties for the Elections Administrator to conduct elections.
 • The commission decided to extend the burn ban for another 90 days.
 • Commissioners approved CSCD's budget for fiscal year 2012 and 2013.
 • Commissioners decided to include I-9 requirements in the Gray County Employee Policy.
 • Commissioners considered a COBRA insurance request during executive session, and no action was taken on this matter.
 • The Commission approved the rerouting of a portion of County Road 16 in order to avoid rebuilding a bridge.
 • The commission set the Road and Bridge tax rate at .047720 per \$100.
 • The commission considered and approved continuing a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the USDA Forest Service.
 • The commission approved the purchase of a shredder to consolidate space that has been devoted to records management.
 • Cary Rushing was approved to replace Joe B. Hoard in the Sick Leave Pool Committee.
COUNTY cont. on page 3

PHS graduate Linn works with LIGO research team

RANDY PRIBBLE
 rpribble@thepampanews.com
 A young woman from Pampa recently spent her summer in at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, working as part of a large, multinational project to detect gravitational waves.
 Courtney Linn, 21, is a 2009 graduate of Pampa High School who will be a junior this fall at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. Her summer opportunity came in the form of an International Research Experience for undergrads offered through the University of Florida.
 In Glasgow, she worked with one of more than 800 scientists worldwide who are part of the LIGO scientific collaborative.
 LIGO, or Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory,

is a project to detect gravitational waves.
 "I just started working doing a small materials project for one of my professors," Linn said. "(Glasgow University) has the largest department in the collaboration that is dedicated to gravitational research."
 To understand the complex nature of the project, skim through the language on the LIGO website (<http://www.ligo-la.caltech.edu/LLO/overviewsci.htm>):
 "Albert Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves in 1916 as part of the theory of general relativity. He described space and time as different aspects of reality in which matter and energy are ultimately the same. Space-time can be thought of as a 'fabric' defined by the measuring of distances by rulers
LINN cont. on page 3



submitted photo

Courtney Linn of Pampa visited the Glasgow Botanical Gardens on the River Kelvin when she participated in a summer program in Scotland.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries	2A	Dog Talk	5A
Local Record	2A	Puzzles/Dear Abby	6A
Weather	2A	Classifieds	7A
Afternoon Rush	3A	Sports	1B
Viewpoints	4A	Comics	3B



MORNINGRUSH

Linn

Zynga sued for infringement

NEW YORK (AP) — Zynga Inc., the maker of popular online games such as "FarmVille" and "CityVille," is being sued for patent infringement by a Texas gaming startup.

Agincourt claims Zynga is violating two of its patents related to systems for redeeming prizes in games. The patents were awarded in 2001 and 2004.

Zynga has plans to offer an initial public offering of stock. About 230 million people every month play addictive Zynga games such as "Farmville," "CityVille" and "Texas HoldEm Poker," much of the time through apps on Facebook.

Agincourt, which is based in Plano, Texas, describes itself as a "start-up aggregator and renovator of underappreciated games." Its website links to an online game called Pantheon.

Agincourt filed the lawsuit Wednesday in the U.S. District Court in Wilmington, Del.

Zynga declined to comment.

TPW banking on weevils

WOODVILLE (AP) — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials are dumping into an East Texas lake thousands of tiny beetle-like weevils they say will munch on and destroy an invasive exotic plant that's carpeted areas of water with thick mats, threatening to erase all life beneath it.

The distribution Wednesday of some 7,000 weevils native to South America into parts of Lake B.A. Steinhagen is the state's latest effort to try to halt the spread of giant salvinia.

The fast-growing plant, also native to South America, looks like small heads of lettuce or squished green grapes. It's infested fresh water lakes and waterways across the South, thriving in areas of moderate climate and shallow lakes like Steinhagen, about 125 miles northeast of Houston in Tyler County.

Texas ACT scores under average

DALLAS (AP) — Texas members of the high school class of 2011 have posted ACT college entrance exam scores slightly below the national average.

Officials with ACT Inc., the Iowa-based not-for-profit that administers the test, reported Wednesday that the nationwide average composite score was 21.1 on the 1-to-36 scale.

The Texas average composite score was 20.8, which is the same as last year.

Twenty-five percent of ACT test-takers across the country met the college-readiness standard in the four core subjects of English, math, reading and science. In Texas, the rate was 24 percent.

Man charged in dog bite shooting

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who allegedly was bitten by a dog during a party in Houston has been charged with killing the animal's owner.

Police say 37-year-old Walter Hinton was arrested Wednesday on a murder charge. He was caught at a home in northeast Houston.

Electronic jail records did not immediately provide further details on Hinton or whether he has an attorney.

Police say Hinton was bitten on the leg, allegedly by a dog owned by 60-year-old Robert Jones, and the men began to argue. Police say Hinton left the party, but returned with a pistol and fatally shot Jones, plus two other men.

Investigators say the wounded men have been treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Son accused of killing father

LONGVIEW (AP) — An East Texas man has been accused of killing his father who earlier raised mental stability concerns about the son.

The Gregg County Sheriff's Office says 30-year-old Anthony Cort Phelan of Longview was jailed Wednesday on a murder charge, with bond at \$500,000.

Electronic jail records did not list an attorney for Phelan, who allegedly had blood on him when he was arrested Tuesday walking near Lake Cherokee.

Investigators say 64-year-old Johnny Phelan minutes earlier called 911 to say he was being attacked by his son at their home.

Chief Deputy Chuck Willeford says the father apparently was stabbed after calling. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Deputies on July 23 were also summoned by the father, who reported his son had mental issues and wasn't taking his medicine.

Changes to sex crime status

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas parole board is now removing the sex offender status or holding hearings for parolees who've never been convicted of a sex crime.

The *Austin American-Statesman* reports the policy change stems from a recent Texas appeals court ruling. Several hundred parolees could be affected.

Some had been caught urinating in public years earlier, for example. Others were accused of committing sex offenses but pleaded guilty to other crimes.

For years, state officials have fought in court against giving parolees a hearing before labeling them sex offenders.

But that's changed since a Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruling in May. It said the parole board can't brand a prisoner as a sex offender without a conviction for a sex-related crime.

County

cont. from page 1

- Commissioners approved the transfer of the Hangar Area Lease at the Perry Lefors Airport from Rusty Stevens to Reynolds Jacobs.
- Payment of bills and salaries was approved.
- Commissioners approved the Treasurer's Report from July 2011.
- The commission approved its minutes from the previous meeting.

and the measuring of time by clocks. The presence of large amounts of mass or energy distorts space-time — in essence causing the fabric to 'warp' — and we observe this as gravity. Freely falling objects — whether a soccer ball, a satellite, or a beam of starlight — simply follow the most direct path in this curved space-time.

"When large masses move suddenly, some of this space-time curvature ripples outward, spreading in much the way ripples do the surface of an agitated pond. Imagine two neutron stars orbiting each other. A neutron star is the burned-out core often left behind after a star explodes. It is an incredibly dense object that can carry as much mass as a star like our sun, in a sphere only a few miles wide. When two such dense objects orbit each other, space-time is stirred by their motion, and gravitational energy ripples throughout the universe."

The LIGO project is an attempt to detect these ripples by using a device called a laser interferometer, which precisely measures the time it takes controlled laser light to travel between two reflective surfaces. The interferometers, Linn said, are so sensitive that they can detect variations equal to one thousandth the diameter of a proton.

Linn's part of the project had to do with investigating the properties of the materials used to coat the reflective surfaces used in the study, such as sapphire, amorphous silicon and an alloy called tantalum 205.

It's certainly complicated stuff, but Linn said that she felt that the hurdle may be as much psychological as it is intellectual.

"Even if I try to put it in layman's terms, people put up a wall and it is really frustrating," she said. "I don't understand why people are so afraid of science. They say things like, 'I'm not smart enough'... "During the years of the

moon missions, people were so connected to it. They were interested in the science of it. Now, there is this huge disconnect.

"To me, science is logical, straightforward," she continued. "I think that soft sciences like sociology are way harder, but people are more likely to try to understand it, and I think that science can be (just as manageable) too if you're open about it."

She said she is very lucky to have had the guidance of good teachers in

high school.

"I was very lucky to have teachers like Beth Shannon (chemistry) and Mark Elms (math), who really pushed me," she said. "They showed me that I was smart enough to do science. With a physics degree, you can do just about any graduate level program you want to. And there was a high school aerospace program, an online program, that got me really interested in aerospace studies."

Linn is the daughter of

Don and Melanie Carter of Pampa. She is set to graduate in two years with a degree in space physics.

"I don't know if I want to do gravitational physics," she said, "but I definitely see the option of a doctorate."

"I want to stay in academia, teach and research as a professor. I'd like to be at Cambridge University. I got to go there for a week and use some of their equipment and it was really awesome."

cont. from page 1

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Photos by Jake Lyall

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 11, the 223rd day of 2011. There are 142 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 11, 1934, the first federal prisoners arrived at Alcatraz Island (a former military prison) in San Francisco Bay.

On this date:

In 1810, a major earthquake shook the island of St. Michael in the Azores.

In 1860, the nation's first successful silver mill began operation near Virginia City, Nev.

In 1909, the steamship SS Arapahoe became the first ship in North America to issue an S.O.S. distress signal, off North Carolina's Cape Hatteras.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman nominated General Omar N. Bradley to become the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1952, Hussein bin Talal was proclaimed King of Jordan, beginning a reign lasting nearly 47 years.

In 1954, a formal peace took hold in Indochina, ending more than seven years of fighting between the French and Communist Viet Minh.

In 1962, the Soviet Union launched cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev on a 94-hour flight.

In 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly black Watts section of Los Angeles.

In 1975, the United States vetoed the proposed admission of North and South Vietnam to the United Nations, following the Security Council's refusal to consider South Korea's application.

In 1991, Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim kidnapers in Lebanon released two Western captives: Edward Tracy, an American held nearly five years, and Jerome Leyraud, a Frenchman who'd been abducted by a rival group three days earlier.

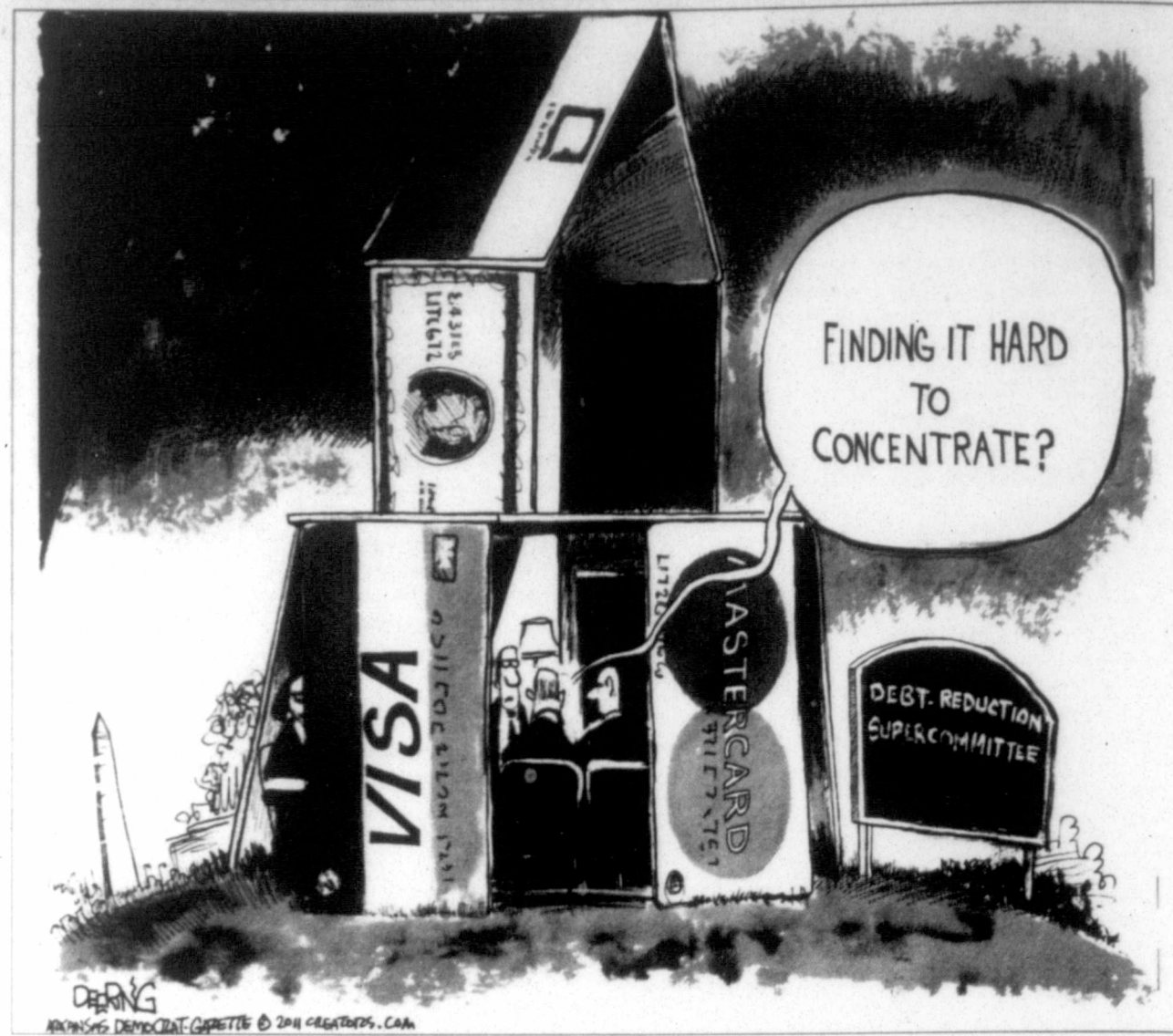
Ten years ago: In his weekly radio address, President George W. Bush said his decision to restrict but not forbid federal financing of embryonic stem cell research placed him at the crossroads between protecting and enhancing human life.

Five years ago: The U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution calling for a cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah.

One year ago: In Baton Rouge, La., police and FBI agents captured Michael Francis Mara, suspected of being the so-called "Granddad Bandit" who'd held up two dozen banks in 13 states for about two years. (Mara later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Arlene Dahl is 83. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 68. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 68. Country singer John Conlee is 65. Singer Eric Carmen is 62. Computer scientist and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is 61. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 58. Singer Joe Jackson is 57. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 54. Actor Miguel A. Nunez Jr. is 47. Actress Viola Davis is 46. Actor Duane Martin is 46. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 44. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave is 43. Actress Anna Gunn is 43. Actress Ashley Jensen is 43. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 43. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 41. Actor Will Friedle is 35. Rapper Chris Kelly (Kris Kross) is 33. Actor Chris Hemsworth is 28. Singer J-Boog is 26. Rapper Asher Roth is 26. Actress Alyson Stoner is 18.

Thought for Today: "Journalism is literature in a hurry." — British poet (1822-1888).



Perry's colorful tongue on national stage

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — In the words of Gov. Rick Perry, secession was one scenario on the table for frustrated Texans. The BP oil spill? Might have been an act of God instead of corporate errors. And if the Federal Reserve puts more money in the U.S. system, as Perry told voters in Iowa this week, you could chalk it up as a treasonous act that would be treated "pretty ugly" back home.

No, that wasn't on the same level as his famous interview signoff, "Adios, mofo." But Perry's just warming up.

Just four days after launching his GOP presidential run, the man from Paint Creek, Texas, already is showing off a colorful tongue. The 61-year-old with maybe the most famous jogging-while-armed story ever — "Don't attack my dog or you might get shot ... if you're a coyote" — may emerge as the most quotable candidate in the Republican field.

But will that hurt as well as help him?

The governor's mouth may come across as amusing to some Texans who have grown accustomed to "Perryisms" over his decades in public office. Now, however, he's on a larger stage with a brighter spotlight. Will his quips be a plus — something for voters to identify with — or a vulnerability in the campaign?

Obama said Tuesday he was inclined to cut the governor "some slack" since it was so early in his run. The president was asked on CNN about Perry's suggestion that military members would respect the Texan more than him because Perry served in the military and he didn't.

"I think that everybody who runs for president, it probably takes them a little bit of time before they start realizing that this isn't like running for governor or running for Senate or running for Congress," Obama said. "You've got to be a little more careful about what you say."

Not everyone was so understanding about Perry's latest comments. "Inappropriate and unpresidential," tweeted Tony Fratto, a Republican who worked at the

Treasury Department and in the White House under President George W. Bush.

That was his quick verdict after Perry said at a campaign appearance Monday in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke would be committing a "treasonous" act if he decided to "print more money to boost the economy." Perry said such action by the Fed would amount to a political maneuver aimed at helping President Barack Obama win re-election.

"If this guy prints more money between now and the election, I don't know what y'all would do to him in Iowa, but we would treat him pretty ugly down in Texas," Perry said, responding to a question from the audience.

He stood by that comment later, telling reporters on Tuesday in Dubuque, Iowa: "I am just passionate about the issue, and we stand by what we said."

On Monday, Perry also said he would be a president who was "passionate about America — that's in love with America." Asked whether he was suggesting that Obama didn't love his country, Perry said, "You need to ask him."

Obama campaign adviser Robert Gibbs hit back Tuesday.

"The statements that Perry makes are remarkable in that just two years ago, the governor of Texas openly talked about leading Texas out of the United States of America, and now this campaign has caused him to profess his love to the United States," Gibbs said during an appearance on MSNBC.

Gibbs added, "Any day now Rick Perry will probably ask to see the president's birth certificate," planting the notion that Perry would stoke falsehoods that Obama was not born in the U.S.

Former President Bill Clinton put it another way this week, dismissing Perry as a "good looking rascal" whose policies are "crazy."

Perry never advocated Texas actually would break away from the United States at a tea party rally in 2009, but he did suggest that Texans might get so fed up they'd want to secede at some point.

In the decade that Perry has served as the longest-running governor in Texas history, he's

had more than a few memorable remarks.

Following the BP oil spill last year, he used the term "act of God" to describe the disaster, then later defended the comment as a legal term to emphasize his point that nobody knew what happened. Ending a television interview in 2005 — he says he didn't realize the station was still broadcasting — Perry famously shot a wry smile toward the camera and signed off with what became a Texas catchphrase: "Adios, mofo."

His joke in June about an official whose name sounds like Jose Cuervo, a brand of tequila, being a perfect fit for the state's alcohol and beverage commission fell flat to a ballroom of Hispanic lawmakers. When an American tourist was allegedly gunned down in Mexican waters last summer, Perry drew criticism for asking Mexican President Felipe Calderon to call him within 48 hours to say the body had been found, "or they're not looking hard enough."

Even Perry has acknowledged that some of his beliefs might be a bit out of the mainstream for a presidential run. As the polls closed on Election Day 2010, when Perry would be elected to a third full term, he told The Associated Press that the ideas laid out in his new book were proof that he couldn't seek the White House. He called for scrapping Social Security in his book "Fed Up!" and compared the program to a Ponzi scheme. He's suggested states would do a better job than the federal government managing Medicare.

"Because when you read this book, you're going to see me talking about issues that for someone running for public office, it's kind of been the third rail if you will," Perry said last summer.

But political observers say that even when it looks as if Perry is veering off script, he knows how far to take it.

"I think there is a fire burning with the base of the GOP, and Rick Perry knows how to fan the flames," said Mark McKinnon, a political consultant who advised George W. Bush's campaigns. "The key will be to see whether he can keep the fire from burning out of control in the general election."

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403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525 • Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher
rpribble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager
rwoods@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative
spribble@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising
classified@thepampanews.com

Kera Kent

Subscriptions
circulation@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting
bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Arnie Aurellano

Editor
editor@thepampanews.com

Mollie Bryant

Reporter
mbryant@thepampanews.com

Andrew Glover

Reporter
aglover@thepampanews.com

Marijane Kent

Composing
composing@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor
press@thepampanews.com

Chico Ramirez

Circulation Manager
Circulation2@thepampanews.com

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Perry expresses doubts about manmade global warming

BEDFORD, N.H. (AP) — GOP presidential candidate Rick Perry told New Hampshire voters Wednesday that he does not believe in manmade global warming, calling it a scientific theory that has not been proven.

"I think we're seeing almost weekly, or even daily, scientists that are coming forward and questioning the original idea that manmade global warming is what is causing the climate to change," the Texas governor said on the first stop of a two-day trip to the first-in-the-nation primary state.

He said some want billions or trillions of taxpayer dollars spent to address the issue, but he added: "I don't think from my perspective that I want to be engaged in spending that much money on still a scientific theory that has not been proven and from my perspective is more and more being put into question."

His comments came at a packed breakfast meeting with local business leaders in a region known for its strong environmental policies. And he made his global warming comment in response to a question by an audience member who cited evidence from the National Academy of Sciences.

But Perry's opinion runs counter to the view held by an overwhelming majority of scientists that pollution released from the burning of fossil fuels is heating up the planet. Perry's home state of Texas releases more heat-trapping pollution carbon dioxide — the chief greenhouse gas — than any other state in the country, according to government data.

Global warming has become an issue

for contenders for the Republican nomination to run away from, since many conservatives question overwhelming evidence showing climate change is happening and the big government solutions to stem it.

Jon Huntsman, Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney — who all at one point supported steps to curb global warming pollution — have since tempered their stances. But unlike Perry, both Romney and Huntsman acknowledge the scientific evidence.

On Wednesday, Perry promised to return regularly to a state that was not kind to a past Texas governor; Arizona Sen. John McCain upset GOP frontrunner and former Texas Gov. George W. Bush here in the 2000 presidential primary.

For many New Hampshire voters, Wednesday offered their first close look at the longtime Texas politician, who formally launched his White House bid over the weekend.

At the breakfast, Perry also questioned the loyalty of the Federal Reserve, just days after saying that if the Federal Reserve puts more money in the U.S. system, it could be considered a treasonous act that would be treated "pretty ugly" back home.

He noted the criticism he took for the comment, but did not back away from them. And he called on the institution to open its books.

"It would go a long way toward either finding out whether or not there is some activities that are improper of that they've been handling themselves quite well," he

said. "But until they do that, I think there will continue to be questions about their activity and what their true goal is for the United States."

Perry also said he would not have signed the debt-ceiling compromise brokered by congressional leaders and the

White House to avoid a national default. "No I would not have signed it," he said. "We got to quit spending money."

Perry was meeting with more business leaders Wednesday before touring the seacoast region Thursday.

Spill report seeks better procedures

The flag state for the drilling rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico last year wants improved procedures for activating emergency systems and maintaining fail-safe devices meant to prevent blowouts like the one that led to the massive BP oil spill.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, a Micronesian nation of atolls and islands in the Pacific Ocean, also says in a report released Wednesday that there should be better communication between regulatory bodies about the operation of offshore rigs.

The report also recommends rig operators ensure that new crew members, con-

tractors and visitors are told when they board about the roles and responsibilities of people in charge of the vessel, and how the chain of command works in emergencies.

But it does little to place blame for the disaster on the principal companies involved, Deepwater Horizon rig owner Transocean Ltd. and British oil giant BP, which leased the rig to drill at its Macondo well site off the southeast Louisiana coast.

In somewhat of a pass for Transocean, the report concludes confusion regarding decision-making authority during the incident was not a cause of the disaster.

The many talents of trained therapy dogs

Dog Talk



Many people think of therapy dogs as guide dogs leading the blind, or dogs sitting with seniors

at an assisted living facility. While therapy dogs are responsible for these jobs, they do so much more — including acting as a trusted companion for someone diagnosed with cancer.

Although many therapy dogs are specially trained in their roles, just about any well-mannered dog can serve in a therapeutic capacity. People may be surprised at all the many assistance roles dogs can play.

• **Help children read:** Dogs are not judgmental and offer no criticism, which makes them prime helpers for children who need help learning to read or who have stage fright. Children can read stories to dogs who listen quietly and build up their confidence levels. Some schools and libraries even institute programs where dogs are invited as the audience to student readers.

• **Seizure alert:** Some dogs are trained to alert epileptics and those with seizure disorders to an upcoming episode, although this method of detection is not always foolproof. In general, seizure dogs provide companionship and security to a person during and after an episode.

• **Cancer therapy:** Getting diagnosed with cancer can be a stressful event. Going

through chemotherapy and radiation can take its toll on the body. Cancer patients often need all of the love and affection they can get or sometimes just a quiet companion. In a program like Pets for Pals, therapy dogs sit with cancer patients, often sensing what ill people need. Dogs have the innate ability to love unconditionally. Having a dog around gives patients a different topic of conversation other than their health and treatment. Petting a dog has been known to lower blood pressure and reduce stress as well.

• **Helping hands:** Individuals who are handicapped may rely on dogs to do tasks around the house, from turning on lights to grabbing remote controls. Some dogs help companions move around a space by offering stability and a handhold.

• **Security:** Dogs have long been used as security guards. But even if a dog isn't a trained guard, he or she can alert if something is amiss in the house or if someone is at the door or outside of the home. Individuals who live alone can benefit from the companionship and level of security that dogs provide.

Many therapy and service dogs start their lives as stray dogs or shelter dogs. Some training facilities actually seek out calm, well-mannered shelter dogs and give them a new lease on life as a person's helper or companion.

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Texas agriculture losses forecast at record \$5.2. billion

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas cattle producers could take several years to fully recover from the drought blistering the state, which agriculture officials estimated Wednesday has caused a record \$5.2 billion in livestock and crop losses since last fall.

Officials say producers in the nation's leading cattle state have sent more animals than usual to auction, because there's nothing for them to graze on. That means fewer animals available to buy down the road, and they'll cost more because there will be fewer around.

It will also take time before ranchers will have new animals to sell, said Texas AgriLife Extension Service drought specialist Travis Miller.

"I really expect a three-year recovery in livestock when we start getting rain," he said.

Drought has spread over much of the South this year, setting records from Louisiana to New Mexico. But the situation is especially severe in Texas, the nation's second-largest agriculture state behind California.

Field surveys from November 2010 to Aug. 1 this year indicate livestock losses of \$2.1 billion and crop losses of \$3.1 billion in the state, extension service economist David Anderson said. By the time crops are done being harvested, it might be more.

"There can still be some losses there when we see what's harvested," Anderson said. "I think it's going to get bigger."

The previous record annual loss was \$4.1 billion for the 2006 growing season, Texas agricultural officials said.

Texas leads the nation in cotton and cattle production. But some parts of the state haven't had rain since last fall, and forecasters predict its drought will persist through at least September.

Jim McAdams, a fourth-generation rancher, said

demand and prices for beef are up and export markets are thriving, making it an ideal time for ranching — were there any food for animals to graze.

"You would hope that this thing would turn around," he said, adding that fertilizer, fuel and other costs are pulling down ranchers' bottom lines. "We're spending more money to make the same."

The crop losses include about \$1.8 billion in cotton, \$327 million in corn, \$243 million in wheat, \$63 million in sorghum and \$750 million in lost hay production. The \$5.2 billion estimates do not include any losses from fruit and vegetable producers, horticultural and nursery crops, or other grain and row crops.

The estimate also does not include losses from wildfires in the state. Since Nov. 15, state and local firefighters have battled 18,300 fires that have burned a record 3.4 million acres.

The loss estimates, Miller said, were based largely on U.S. Department of Agriculture surveys that he called "pretty conservative."

Texas' corn production is estimated to be down about 30 percent and wheat yields were down from a five-year average of 30 bushels to 26 bushels per acre and crop abandonment was up, Texas agriculture officials said in a statement.

On the South Plains, the world's largest contiguous cotton patch, drought, winds and triple-digit heat doomed producers who rely on rain. Cotton production overall in the region was expected to be down 48 percent from last year.

Some cotton producers who irrigate were even affected and chose to stop doing so, because they might not be able to recoup the money to keep pumping along with their other costs.

Since 1998, drought has cost Texas agriculture \$13.1

billion, a figure that does not include the latest loss estimate.

Crops and rangeland across the state have been scorched this year from a lack of rainfall and record triple-digit temperatures. Most of the state has been in the two worst stages of drought since the beginning of May, which means there has been complete or near complete crop failure or no food for grazing livestock.

"We run less cattle and we've had to be very cautious and conservative in the decisions we've made," said McAdams, 61.

There's also not a lot of time before winter wheat in the Panhandle and Rolling Plains is planted in about a month. Ranchers need the rain so their young animals will have something to eat, Miller said.

Texas' economy will take direct hit from the losses. Agriculture accounted for \$99.1 billion of the state's \$1.1 trillion economy, or 8.6 percent, in 2007, the most recent year such data was available. Losses in that sector have a ripple effect that's about twice the amount of the actual agricultural loss.

Consumers will eventually see the cost of the drought passed on to them, although Anderson has said it's hard to say by how much since processing, marketing, transportation and other costs also play a big role in retail prices.

At this point, Texas would need more than 4.5 inches of rain in the next two months to avoid breaking the 1956 record for driest 12 consecutive months.

While rain is the only thing that's going to bring back growth on grazing lands across the state, Miller said precipitation will bring its own set of consequences.

"It's just bare soil out there," he said. "Rainfall will fill creeks with sediment" from pastures.

U.S. law enforcement to train police officers from Mexico

LAREDO (AP) — U.S. law enforcement will train local and state police officers from Mexico as part of the next phase of the two countries' joint fight against transnational drug cartels, a U.S. State Department official said Wednesday.

U.S. agencies have been training Mexican federal police on both sides of the border for several years. However, William Brownfield, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs, said it is clear that local forces face the most concentrated violence, especially in northern Mexico, and are in the most need of training.

"If we do not address these problems cooperatively today, we will be addressing them on our own front doorsteps in five years," Brownfield said.

Brownfield was in the Texas border town of Laredo on Wednesday, signing an agreement outlining how deputies from the Webb County Sheriff's Office could spend periods of three months, six months or more training their counterparts in Mexico.

It was the first such agreement the State Department has signed with a local law enforcement agency anywhere on the U.S.-Mexico border. Brownfield

said more trainers are needed and the high rate of bilingual deputies with border experience made Webb County an attractive place to start such a program.

Police training has been a significant part of the Merida Initiative, which outlined the U.S. partnership with Mexico and Central America in the drug war and has committed \$1.4 billion since 2008. However, the focus now shifts to historically out-gunned and ill-prepared local forces ducking bullets and facing ominous threats on a daily basis.

Mexico received \$327 million for police training in fiscal 2009 from the U.S. State Department through Merida, placing it behind only Afghanistan and Iraq in total funds received for police training from the departments of State or Defense, according to a report from the Government Accountability Office in April.

Details of the proposed training programs have not been worked out, but Brownfield envisions three or four training centers in Mexico. He is holding complementary meetings with Mexican officials on this trip to begin working out the program's shape. He said he spoke with officials in Juarez on Monday and will hold similar meetings in Monterrey Thursday.

Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon states, respectively, have been two of Mexico's hardest hit by drug gang violence.

According to official figures, at least 35,000 people have been killed in drug violence in Mexico since late 2006, when President Felipe Calderon launched his crackdown on organized crime. Other sources, including local media, say the number is closer to 40,000. The federal government has not released an update of its numbers since December.

U.S. involvement in Mexico has drawn attention there recently after Mexico's government confirmed that U.S. intelligence agents operate there, analyzing and exchanging information. The New York Times had reported that CIA agents and former U.S. military personnel are working at a Mexican military base in the fight against drug gangs.

Brownfield stressed that involvement of U.S. trainers will come only with Mexican approval and that the training centers would be under Mexican authority. He also said a longer-term vision could include pairing trainers from an agency such as the Webb County Sheriff's Office with a National Guard deployment from Texas. The National Guard has been active in the drug war

on the U.S. side of the border in intelligence analysis.

The agreement signed Wednesday "sets guidelines for the Webb County Sheriff's Office to train, advise and mentor international law enforcement agencies and officers." The sheriff's office will pay the upfront costs and receive reimbursement from the State Department. Its trainers, which it will release on a voluntary basis, will not carry weapons in other countries and will have to be approved in advance by the State Department. The State Department will be responsible for screening any trainees and will give pre-deployment training to trainers.

The agreement leaves open the possibility of training on U.S. soil, but Brownfield said from a cost standpoint it made more sense to send a few trainers to Mexico than bring hundreds of trainees to the U.S.

Brownfield said U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo was very active in pushing the venture. Cuellar's brother, Martin Cuellar, is Webb County sheriff. The congressman said the benefits worked both ways. "When the teacher goes down there, the teacher will learn from the students."

Okla. legislative water study begins work

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Lawmakers working to develop water policies for Oklahoma should engage officials from the state's 39 federally recognized Indian tribes or risk being caught up in expensive and protracted litigation, a tribal law expert warned on Wednesday.

Tai Helton, a professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, testified during the inaugural meeting of a joint legislative committee tasked with developing the state's long-range water policy.

"If we end up with a water war or water wars in Oklahoma, we will wind up exhausting precious money and precious time ... all while the ground gets drier beneath our feet," Helton said.

"There's no question that tribes have some water rights, but it will be very expensive to determine what those rights are. By negotiating ... the state and tribes really have a chance to craft a solution that works."

The committee is composed entirely of lawmakers and does not include representatives of any of the state's tribes, but co-chairman Rep. Phil Richardson said he has sent letters to officials with each of the Oklahoma-based tribes seeking their cooperation.

The issue of water policy is not just complicated by tribal rights and a maze of state and federal laws and compacts, but also because different parts of Oklahoma have different needs, said co-chairman Sen. Brian Crain, R-Tulsa.

"In northeast Oklahoma we have water quality issues. In western Oklahoma, there are continuous water shortages. Oklahoma City has fears about what their water future will be.

Southeastern Oklahoma worries that their greatest resource is about to be taken from them," Crain said. "All parts of the state have worries about water."

Several thirsty North Texas communities also are eying Oklahoma's water. The Tarrant Regional Water District has unsuccessfully tried to gain access to billions of gallons of southeastern Oklahoma water from three tributaries in far southern Oklahoma and sued the state in an attempt to force the sale of water. A federal judge dismissed the case, which is now on appeal in the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In another case last year, a federal judge rejected a plan by the city of Hugo to sell Oklahoma water to Irving, Texas. That case also is being appealed.

Lawmakers have delayed any action on a proposed sale of water to Texas or water-related legislation for several years pending the release of a water plan being developed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board that is due out in October. Officials with the Tarrant Regional Water District in Texas have offered to pay Oklahoma between \$15 million and \$65 million a year depending on how much water

is used, revenue that could help build pipelines to deliver water to parched areas of western Oklahoma.

Any proposal to sell water has drawn fierce resistance in the Legislature, particularly from lawmakers in southeast Oklahoma. House Speaker Kris Steele, R-Shawnee, urged the committee members to put aside their political differences and develop a water policy that will serve the needs of future generations in Oklahoma.

"In order to live up to the high standard of the last generation, we must put politics aside and do what is best for all of Oklahoma as it pertains to our water needs," Steele said.

"Please let your decisions be guided by facts and science rather than emotions and politics. Strive for the best solutions for tomorrow, not the easiest path for today."

"Please, meet this challenge so our children and grandchildren can have the water they need to live and prosper in Oklahoma."

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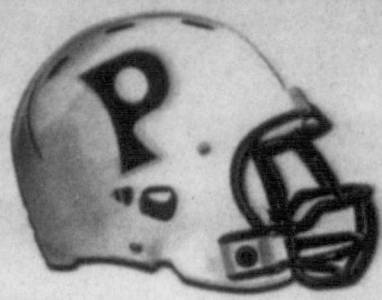
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SCRIMMAGE WEEK 2
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Harvesters battle Dons in final tune-up before opener

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters have one last chance to fine-tune their skills before the season opener when they scrimmage the Palo Duro Dons 6:30 p.m. Friday at Harvester Field.

Junior defensive back and wide receiver Taylor Woods said the defense has improved since the first scrimmage last Saturday against Bushland.

"Our corners got 10 times better in covering the deep ball and setting up for screens," Woods said. "The safeties are showing up in the run game like they are supposed to."

Senior quarterback Reid Miller said the offense is executing better in practice adding it had to shake off the jitters.

"Last week we were a little sluggish," Miller said. "We were young and nervous. It's a scrimmage and that's expected. You can't expect anything less. You just have to get things ironed out before the real stuff starts."

Senior receiver and defensive back Latigo Collins said the offense is not changing anything it runs but improving on those plays.

"We got the same stuff," Collins said. "We are just trying to execute it better than at Bushland."

Woods said the team feels pretty good about what they saw in the film from the scrimmage.

"We have a few dings to work out and what not," Woods said. "We feel pretty good about it. Everyone is where they need to be."

Miller said the offense has spent the week working on ironing out issues from the scrimmage.

"We are executing things better," Miller said. "Saturday we didn't execute well at all. Today and the whole week we have been ironing out the things we didn't do

Saturday."

Palo Duro has been known for its strong running game and quick backs. Players and coaches have heard it is going to play a spread offense. Woods said the defense will be ready for anything the Dons throw.

"Instead of just running, (Palo Duro) is going to throw short gain passes," Woods said. "Our corners are going to have to look upon that as well as our safeties. We got tons of corners and safeties, so whatever they throw at us we will be able to handle."

Linebackers coach Tad Smith said he still expects Palo Duro to run.

"I think they will still run the ball once or twice," Smith said.

Collins said he still expects to see the same thing in previous matches with the Dons.

"They are going to run screens and have fast backs," Collins said. "We have to play like we always have. They are going to be fast and do the same stuff."

All players agreed the Dons' speed will be the team's biggest challenge.

"(Palo Duro) is a run team," Woods said. "They are going to have fast kids. We have to contain outside and get it done."

"Their athleticism is going to be the best we've seen up there all year," Miller said. "They are going to be fast and flying everywhere. You just have to execute and play football smart."

Keep an eye on:
WR/DB

Latigo Collins, Sr.

Collins has had his first full week of practice. Look for him to play a bigger role in the passing game and secondary Friday.



Collins



Woods



Miller



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Ryan Smith, Sheldon Reeve and Latigo Collins jump to deflect a ball from a Bushland receiver Saturday. The secondary could have a key role Friday.

Lady Harvesters up four spots



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Caitlin Sieck leaps to hit a ball against Palo Duro Tuesday. Pampa moved up four spots in the Texas Girls Coaches Association Poll to 12th.

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters volleyball team has moved past their end-of-season ranking as they moved up four spots to 12th in the Texas Girls Coaches Association Poll released Monday.

Pampa finished last season 13th. Head coach Libby Garza said she doesn't look into rankings too much, adding that it can help or hurt the team.

"It's just a number to me," Garza said. "It can give us the confidence we need, but could give us too much where we take for granted or get too cocky."

Senior Kirsten Kuhn said she is excited about the ranking and hopes the team moves up but admitted she prefers to fly under the radar.

"While it's early, we like to be the underdog that no one expects," Kuhn said. "We have a huge dream this year and we won't stop until we get to the top."

Senior Ramie Hutto said she is excited about the team's ranking.

"Last year, we didn't get ranked until the middle of the September," Hutto said. "It's an honor to be ranked but it's also a reminder that we have got to keep pushing towards are goal."

The Lady Harvesters (7-2) are seeking a state title. Kuhn said the higher ranking early in the season puts pressure on the team.

"We definitely have a lot expected of us this year," Kuhn said. "How we deal with pressure throughout the season will determine how successful we are."

Pampa hosts Dumas 6 p.m. Tuesday.



Hutto



Kuhn

Optimists hope to add volleyball

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

At the end of last year's Lady Harvester volleyball season, 200 people approached the Optimist Club president Chris Porter about starting a younger volleyball league. Today's 7 p.m. meeting at the Optimist meeting room could determine if third to sixth grade girls will get to play the sport competitively in September.

Porter said the club is holding an organizational meeting to see how much interest there is.

"We are looking for people who are interested and can volunteer," Porter said. "We have talked with Libby Garza about it and she said she will help out any way she can."

Garza, the Pampa High School head volleyball coach Libby Garza said she is excited about the possibility.

"My three-year-old daughter plays, not on a team, but I work with her everyday with volleyball," Garza said. "It will

bring Pampa up to speed with Amarillo."

Porter said if there is enough interest, the club will start signups the same time as football.

"We hope to start signups next week," Porter said. "We'll either draft teams or divide equally and hopefully start around mid to the end of the September."

Porter said he hopes the expansion of volleyball will strengthen the girls programs at the Optimist Club.

"Our softball and girls basketball programs have been weaker," Porter said. "We need to try and figure out how to bring people in. It's hard to compete with dance, ballet and piano and whatever interests our younger girls."

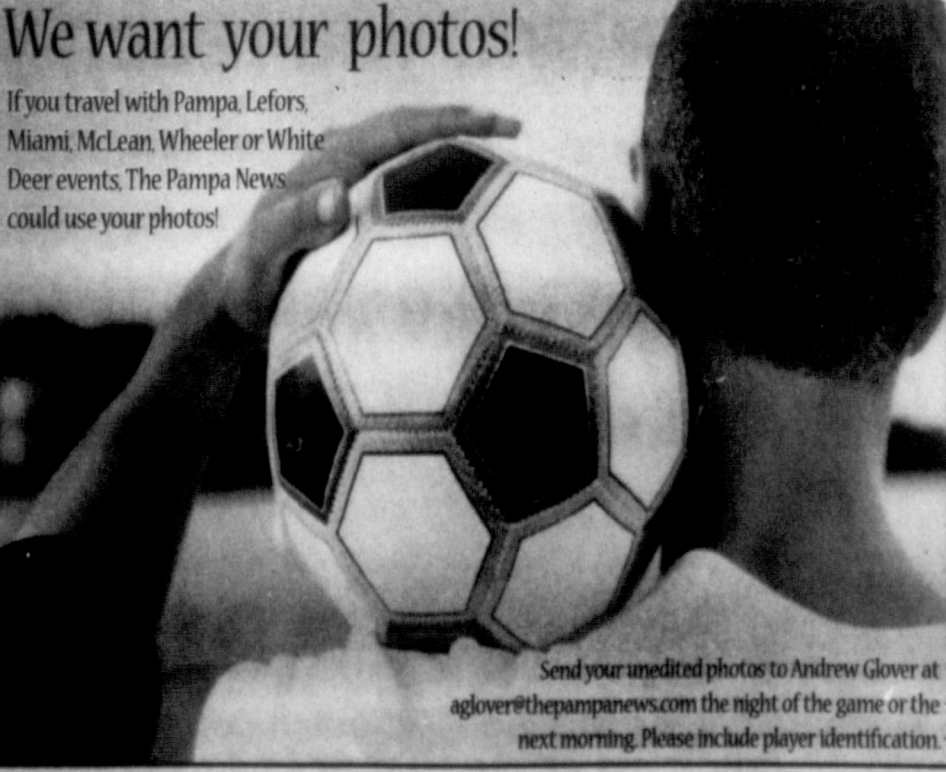
Porter said the softball traveling teams in Amarillo have taken a lot of girls away.

"They want to play against tougher competition," Porter said. "They get to play teams for Lubbock and Midland."

The Optimist Club is located at the 600 block of East Craven Avenue.

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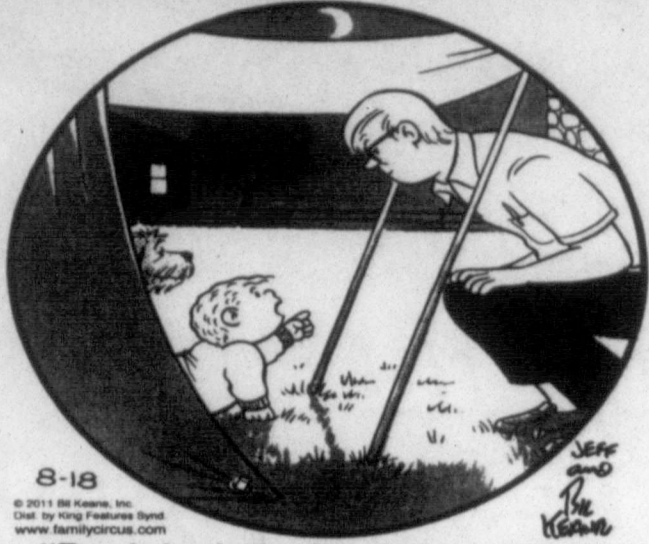
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* Survey conducted by the National Newspaper Association and the Center for Advanced Social Research at the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Researchers surveyed adults 18 years old and up in markets with fewer than 100,000 residents.

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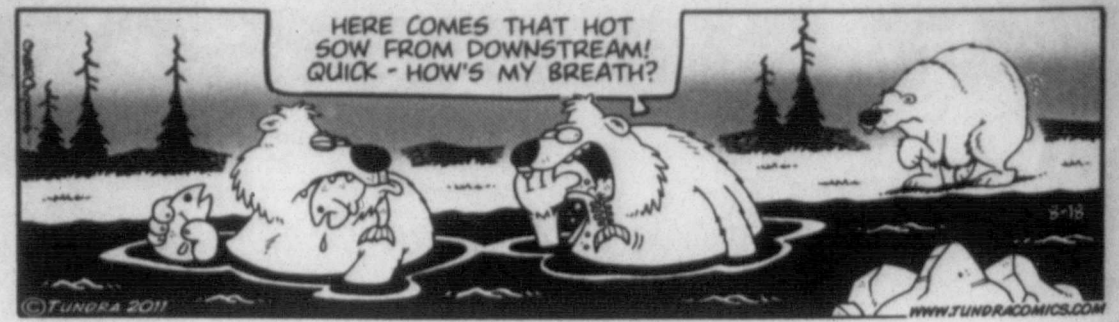
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



8-18

"Don't lock the back door, 'cause somebody might want to come in and see what time it is or somethin'."

Tundra



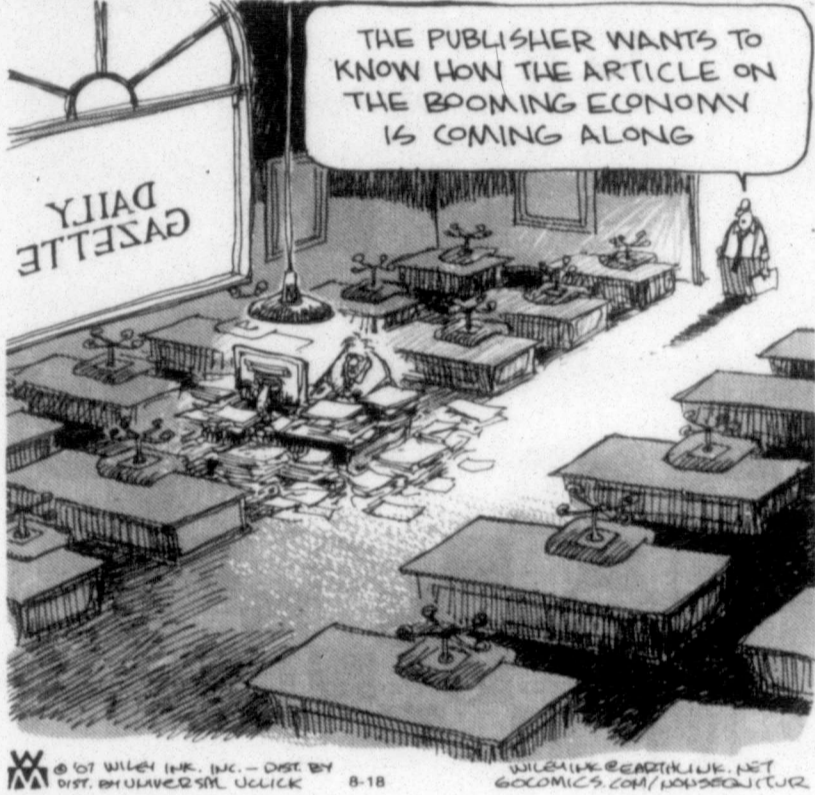
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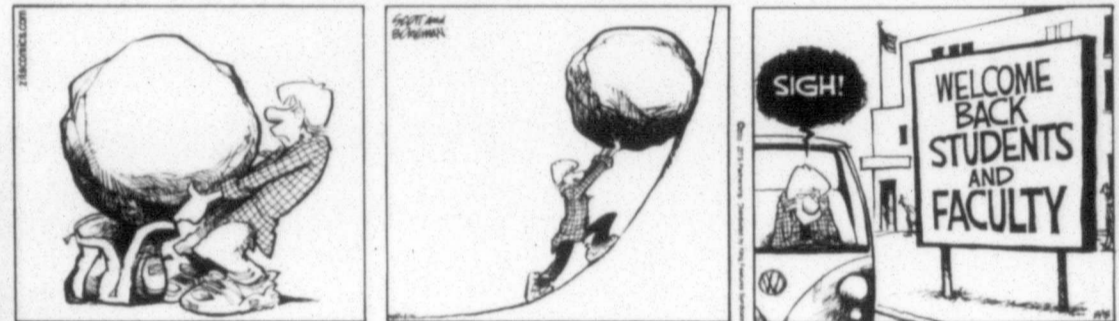
Mother Goose and Grim



Non Sequitur



Zits



Garfield



Nest Heads



Beetle Bailey



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011:

This year, many people feel very positively about you, and you feel the same way about them. With the good vibes flowing, people will become more their authentic selves. As a result, you often are surprised by others' reactions. Be careful about sitting on anger, as it could come out in strange ways. Try to clear your mind and center yourself. If you are single, you could meet someone quite spectacular this year. If you are attached, the two of you could see a new addition to your household, or perhaps go on a second honeymoon. **ARIES** makes you smile.

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 have abundant energy. Remain direct and optimistic. A family member, perhaps even the cat, could be out of sorts. Follow a strong feeling concerning funds. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your instincts need to guide you with an investment. You are unusually lucky, but that doesn't mean a gamble is foolproof. Your anger could come out at any moment. Try to cool the flames. Tonight: Go for quiet and solitude.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Zero in on what is important to you. Be careful; follow your instincts with an investment or money matter. Don't lose your patience, as you could overspend. Know when enough is enough. Do your best to discharge your anger and frustration. Tonight: Add to your wardrobe.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Be aware of the needs and requests of others. A fun exchange lightens you up. People do their best to show their more positive side. A meeting allows you to gain a perspective. Tonight: In the limelight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You tend to be adventurous anyway, but those instincts are emphasized when dealing with news and others. For some people, you can detach and gain a perspective. For others, you simply have a need to break a pattern. Tonight: Decide to go with a different idea.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ A partner or several close associates demand your time and attention. You will want the same as you deal with different aspects of your day. You will definitely know who is on your side and who is not. Feelings on the emotional plane clear up. Tonight: Dinner for two.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Others might seem to be abrupt, as they have so many ideas and want to do certain projects their way. In the long run, you might be surprised by how well letting others do what they want works for you. Tonight: Start planning your weekend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Though someone might want to socialize, even at work, you want to complete certain tasks before you entertain that thought. A boss or contemporary admires your efficiency. Tonight: Get some much-needed zzz's.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might not be aware of it, but you have the solution needed to clear an obstacle. How you come up with it might be surprising. Tap into your imagination in order to find solutions. A brainstorming session can only help. Your sweetie shares some strong feelings. Tonight: Start the weekend early. Romp away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Right now you do your best work in solitude. Clear out work. If possible, make your work environment more like your home. You will be more productive. A partner shares interesting feedback. Listen and respond. Tonight: Make it easy, at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Keep conversations moving. Refuse to get stuck on any one point. You will flourish as long as you don't get hung up on a triggering situation. Use your high energy to clear out a personal issue. Express your caring, not only in your unique style, but also in a way that someone can hear you. Tonight: Visit with friends.

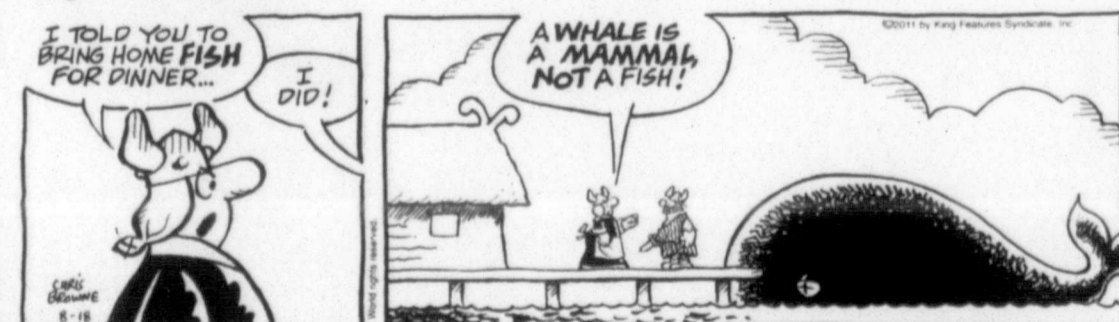
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Listen to what is being said with care. Honor another person's opinion, but don't lose faith in yours. Both can exist simultaneously, even if it seems to be black-and-white. There is a similarity in the issue. Tonight: First treat yourself well. Then treat another person well.

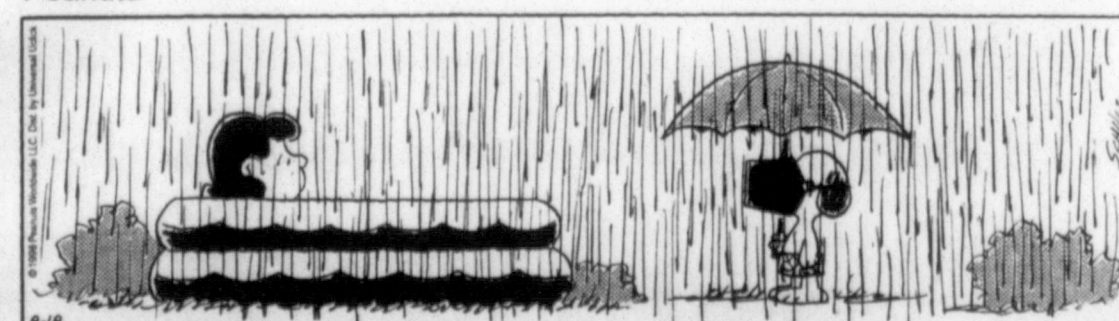
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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 Rebate - \$1,500
 = **\$16,040**



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Stock # C10178

'11 CHEVY TAHOE, 4 WD LT

MSRP \$49,810
 CS Disc - \$2,177.13
 = \$47,632.87
 Rebate - \$3,000
 = **\$44,632.87**

'11 GMC SIERRA 2500 4WD Ext. Cab SLE

MSRP \$43,410
 CS Disc - \$1,965.52
 = \$41,444.48
 Rebate - \$4,505
 = **\$36,939.48**



Stock # C11017



Stock # C11096

'11 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 4WD Ext. Cab

MSRP \$35,970
 CS Disc - \$1,148.78
 = \$34,821.22
 Rebate - \$3,005
 = **\$31,816.22**

'11 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 4WD Lt. Crew

MSRP \$44,910
 CS Disc - \$1,583.97
 = \$43,326.03
 Rebate - \$3,005
 = **\$40,321.03**



Stock # C11114



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