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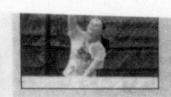
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rellywu, Page 10



Monday, September 19, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 138

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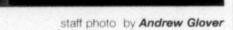


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Lefors seniors Seth Scully and Kaittlynne Porter were crowned homecoming king and queen before the Pirates' Friday game against Higgins. The royal couple were treated to a 62-6 victory.

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Woody Guthrie Days!



Clockwise from top: Ann Guthrie, wife of Roy Guthrie and sister-in-law to Woody Guthrie, with her daughter, Marie Nunley, listen to Rick Scott perform several original songs about Woody; Erin Caldwell and Pat Stewart perform "Put Your Finger in the Air," a children's song written by Woody Guthrie; Michael Sinks plays guitar and provides vocals for the Corn Cob Coalition performance on Saturday evening.



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Page 6A

Cellphones a factor in recent accidents

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

We text during movies, meetings and during dinner, but there is one place where we should never pick up our phones - our cars.

Gray County is leading the district in crash fatalities, with five fatal crashes since July. 12 personal injury crashes and 60 crashes that involved property damage have also occurred here during the last few months.

In most of these crashes cellphones were involved.

Corporal Jessie Cerda with the Texas Department of Public Safety, who usually looks for alcohol as a factor in accidents, has been surprised by the negative impact of cellphones on the road.

"Cellphones, at one time, were considered a want and not a necessity. Now people rely on them more as a necessity, but it's important to stay away from them when driving,"

CRASHES cont. on page 3



Chamber Luncheon

Tuesday, September 20 · Noon · \$10/person 200 N. Ballard • MK Brown Room (Kingsmill entrance)

Speaker will be Larry Boyer from Pantex Catered by Dixie, Sponsored by State Farm/Sheila Webb RSVP to Chamber at 669-3241 or admin@pampachamber.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

Chamber Page 5

Puzzles/Dear Abby... 6 Obituaries 2 Local Record......2 Comics Social Security & You. 8 Weather 2 Afternoon Rush 3 Classifieds8,9 Sports 10 Viewpoints 4



PAMPA FORECAST



Tuesday

Wednesday

High 80 Low 56 Low 51

High 68 Low 47

Today: Sunny, with a high near 80. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

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COMMUNITY *calendar*

Monday, Sept. 19

•PHS Football Booster Club meeting, 7 p.m. in the Ready Room at the Pampa Athletic Office.

Wednesday, Sept. 21

 Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office.

 Top O' Texas Republican Women meeting (public invited), noon at the Pampa Senior Citizen Center.

Thursday, Sept. 22 - Saturday, Sept. 26 •PHS Class of 1956 reunion. For more info call 806-665-

0213. Friday, Sept. 23

·Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

Saturday, Sept. 24

•20th Century Club's Home Tour, 10 a.m - 2 p.m. For more info, call 665-5693.

 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 83rd Birthday celebration, 9 a.m.- noon, Parish Hall, 727 W. Browning . Community Blood Drive, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 9

Sunday, Sept. 25

•Small-Fry Fishing Tournament Association meeting, 3 p.m. at Lake Meredith NRA headquarters, 419 Broadway, Fritch. For more info call 806-857-2541 (Meeting also set for Oct. 2.)

Monday, Sept. 26

•PHS Football Booster Club meeting, 7 p.m. in the Ready Room at the Pampa Athletic Office

Tuesday, Sept. 27

•CASA information meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the offices at 315

·Altrusa International of Pampa meets, 6:30 p.m. in Lively Hall at First United Methodist Church.

N. Ballard St. For more info call 669-7638.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

 Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office.

Friday, Sept. 30

Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the

First Methodist Church.

Tuesday, Oct. 4 •Guitar and Cello Duo of Richard Smith and Julie Adams

in concert, 7 p.m. Chamber of Commerce Building. Altrusa International of Pampa meets, noon in Lively Hall at First United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office.

•Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

Saturday, Oct. 9

•Friends of the Library annual paperback book sale, Lovett Memorial Library, 2 p.m..-6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 8

•Pampa Fine Arts Craft Show, M.K. Brown Civic Audito-

•Friends of the Library annual paperback book sale, Lovett

Memorial Library, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. ·St. Vincent de Paul Parish fundraiser - dinner, auction,

Wednesday, Oct. 12

dance and drawing. For more info, call 665-8933. •Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room

of the Chamber office.

Friday, Oct. 14 Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the

First Methodist Church. Saturday, Oct. 15

 Chamber of Commerce's 27th annual Country Fair "Octoberfest Texas Style," 6 p.m., M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium. For ticket info, call 669-3241.

Wednesday, Oct. 19 Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office.

Obituaries

Nelda L. Wall, 81

Nelda L. Wall died Friday Sept. 16, 2011 in Pampa. She was 81.

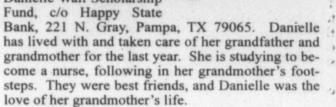
Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, at Fairview Cemetery with Dr. Jeff Knighton, pastor of First Christian Church, officiating. Memorial services will be at 3 p.m., Tuesday, at the First Christian Church, with Rev. James Boardman, Nazarene minister and her brother-in-law, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Wall was born January 25, 1930 in Knox City, Tx. She married Franklin "Frank" Wall on March 7, 1950 in Clovis, NM. Nelda graduated from Highland General Hospital LVN school in August 1969 as valedictorian. She was a licensed vocational nurse for Dr. Raymond Laycock for 25 years. She was a member of First Christian Church.

Survivors include her husband, Franklin Wall of the home; a son, Barry D. Wall of Amarillo; a daughter, Troyce L. Wall of Pampa; a granddaughter, Danielle Wall of Pampa; a sister, Lynda Boardman and husband Rev. James Boardman of Olathe, KS; a brother, Kenneth Land and wife Urania of Chula Vista, CA; a sister-in-law, Paula Lowrie and husband

of Pampa; several nieces and nephews, and by her treasured pet, Punkin. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. Don Herbert Land and Edna Elms Land, by a brother, Rev. Leroy Land, and two sisters-in-law, Virginia Land and JoAnn Fenno.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Danielle Wall Scholarship Fund, c/o Happy State



The family would like to express their thanks to the staffs of Pampa Nursing Center and BSA Hospice for their wonderful care and kindness.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-what-David of Clarendon; a brother-in-law, C. E. Fenno

Public Meeting Agendas

Pampa City Commission meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. at City Hall. Call to order -Invocation - Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens who have signed a card to speak to the City Commission will be heard at this time. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, unless the subject matter of the presentation is on the agenda, the city staff and City Commission members are prevented from discussing the subject and may respond only with statements of factual information or existing city policy. Citizens are limited to three (3) minutes for their presentation to the City Commission. Authorizations

Consent Agenda – All Consent Agenda items listed are considered to be routine in nature by the City Commission and will be enacted by one motion. There

will be no separate discussion on these items unless a City Commissioner so request, in which event that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in normal sequence on the agenda. · Consider approving the minutes of the Septem-

ber 13, 2011 Public Hearing /Regular City Commission meeting as presented. Excuse the absence of Commissioner Rebec-

ca Holmes from the September 13, 2011 Public

Hearing/Regular City Commission Meeting. Consider reappointing Dick Stowers, Ray Jaramillo, Lynn Allison and Roy Morriss to the Board of Adjustment for a two year term beginning Octo-

ber 1, 2011 ending September 30, 2013. · Consider reappointing Tim Roberts, Kevin Carr and Bobby Burns to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two year term beginning October 1,

2011 ending September 30, 2013. · Consider reappointing Sara Carmichael, Jerri Erickson and W. Wesley Green to the Lovett Memorial Library Board of Directors for a two year term beginning October 1, 2011 ending Septem-

ber 30, 2013 Consider reappointing Janie Shed and Harold Price to the Planning and Zoning Commission for

a two year term beginning October 1, 2011 ending September 30, 2013. Consider reappointing Rusty Tapp and Marvin Allison to the Hidden Hills Golf Advisory Board of Directors for a two year term beginning October 1,

2011 ending September 30, 2013. Consider adopting on second and final reading

Ordinance No. 1556, an Ordinance of the City of adopting the 2011-2012 Operating Budget.

 Consider adopting on second and final reading Ordinance No. 1557, an Ordinance of the City of

setting a tax rate of \$0.621027 on each \$100.00 valuation of property and levying an Ad Valorem

 Consider approving the List of Disbursements dated August 31, 2011.

 Consider cancelling the September 27, 2011 Regular City Commission meeting.

Pampa ISD School Board meeting

First Methodist Church.

the Chamber office.

First Methodist Church.

at First United Methodist Church.

Friday, Oct. 21

Tuesday, Oct. 25

Friday, Oct. 28

submission.

Wednesday, Oct. 26

Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Carver Center admin. building. The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are

·Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the

Altrusa International of Pampa meets, 6:30 p.m. in Lively Hall

Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of

·Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the

If your nonprofit or community organization has an upcoming meeting

or event, submit it to The Pampa News Community Calendar at least

Submissions should include only the date, time and contact number

one week in advance by e-mailing to rpribble@thepampanews.com.

for the event. The Pampa News reserves the right to edit or reject any

order shown on this meeting notice. Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time. Declaration of a quorum / call meeting to order

as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the

II. Public Comments (7 p.m.)

III. Spotlight on Excellence IV. Consent agenda

A. Consideration and action to approve monthly financial reports. B. Consideration and action to approve board

meeting minutes: August 18, 2011 and September 15, 2011 C. Consideration and action to approve Gray

County 4H personnel as adjunct PISD staff D. Consideration and action to approve resolution regarding extracurricular status of 4H orga-

E. Consideration and actor to approve the sale of delinquent tax property 24

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. Consideration and action to approve 2011-2012 PHS Band trip

B. Consideration and possible action to issue invitation to bid on portion or portions, or all, of the Baker Elementary property

C. Consideration and possible action to issue invitation to bid on two portable buildings located at the former Pampa Junior High School

D. Consideration and possible action to approve 3 an interlocal agreement with the City of Pampa E. Consideration and possible action to approve Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) for design build services for a 20kw wind turbine generator

F. Consideration and action to approve PISD aide exemption requests 60

G. Discussion and possible action to change the election date / board terms of office for the Pampa ISD Trustee election pursuant to Senate Bill 100 H. Discussion, and possible action, to adopt a resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with the Comptroller of Public Accounts, State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), for a grant

to reimburse puchase of HVAC equipment I. Discussion and action to aprove the Pampa ISD concussion response team and procedures J. Consideration and action to approve payment

for Pampa ISD advertising K. Consideration and possible action to approve a resolution to suspend portions of FDB(LOCAL): Admissions: Intradistrict Transfers and Classroom Assignments for the 2011-2012 school year L. Consideration and action to approve a request to TEA for a maximum class size waiver excep-

M. Review and possible action to approve the Pampa ISD Board Operating Procedures

N. Discuss and possible action to delegate to the superintendent the final authority to select district personnel

VI. Personnel

A. Employment of professional employees VII. Reports

A. Purchases made through Interlocal agreements and cooperatives report 86

B. Highly Qualified Report C. Enrollment report

LAST MINUTE ADS The Pampa News is not responsible for the content

of paid advertisement FRONT DESK / Recep-HAVING A Garage,

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Moving or Estate Sale? Going to put an ad in the Pampa News Classified Garage Sale column? Don't miss the deadline to get your ad ir the paper!! Be sure to call the Pampa News Classified Dept. 669-2525, and ask for ... SIZE DOES matter! Check classified deadline for garage out our 4.04 ct. round dia- sale ads. Remember your ad mond. Rheams Diamond needs to be read, the evening before the sale starts!!

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MORNING*RUSH*

Ark. unhappy with Texas mag

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP) - City officials in Texarkana, Ark., are unhappy with the name of a magazine published for Texarkana, Texas, that promotes the Texarkana Convention Center on the Texas side of the two cities.

"Texarkana: The Magazine" was published last month and promotes the Texarkana Convention Center that's under construction.

The Texarkana, Ark., Board of Directors meet Monday and will consider a resolution asking that the name of the magazine be changed to "Texarkana, Texas: The Magazine."

Arkansas-side city attorney Ned Stewart told the Texarkana Gazette that the intent of the magazine is to drive business to the Texas-side convention center. He says the Texas-side center will compete with a convention center that's to be built on the Arkansas side starting next month.

Texas-side city officials could not be reached for comment.

John Wayne exhibit opens

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NEW YORK (AP) - John Wayne fans will be able to see the eye patch he wore in "True Grit," scripts with handwritten notes and a Golden Globe he won when an exhibition of his memorabilia opens in New York.

The exhibition features 100 items from among 750 scripts, costumes, awards and letters that Wayne's estate is putting up for auction. His American Express card, his personal saddle and the hat he wore while playing Rooster Cogburn in "True Grit" will also be on display.

The exhibit will be Sept. 23-25 at the Fletcher Sinclair Mansion on 79th Street. The auction will be in Los Angeles Oct. 6-7, but fans can place bids online at the Heritage Auctions website.

Wayne's real name was Marion Robert Morrison. He died in 1979.

OKla. adds 250 oil and gas jobs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - The Oklahoma Department of Commerce says two new oil and gas companies are expected to create 248 new jobs in northeast Oklahoma.

SERVA Group LLC and Dover Fluid Management both were approved Friday to participate in the state's Quality Jobs Program, which provides cash rebates to qualifying companies.

A manufacturer of oil and natural gas equipment, SERVA is expected to add 148 new jobs at its Catoosa facility. Dover Fluid Management plans to add 100 new jobs in Tulsa.

Dover manufacturers sucker rods, a device used in oil and gas production.

To qualify for the rebates, companies must meet certain criteria, including offering basic health insurance coverage to all employees, and 80 percent of its workers must work at least 30 hours per week.

Exec's body found on island

AUSTIN (AP) - Police say a former telecom executive whose body was found on a remote island near Port Aransas was shot.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that Christopher Tiensch, a 43-year-old father of two, disappeared from his Port Aransas hotel Sept. 11 after a fishing excursion.

Tiensch's body was discovered Thursday, and his death was ruled a homicide. The investigation was continuing.

Tiensch was a State Capitol staffer in the early 1990s. He went on to operate the European arm of SBC Communications and, later, several overseas telecom ventures.

Officials are awaiting additional results from the autopsy and other exams, including results from toxicology tests that could take weeks to complete.

It was not clear how Tiensch's body arrived at the island, which is accessible by boat or plane

Pumpkin shortage in northeast

NEW YORK (AP) - Northeastern states are facing a jack-o'-lantern shortage this Halloween after Hurricane Irene destroyed hundreds of pumpkin patches across the region, farmers say.

Wholesale prices have doubled in some places as farmers nurse their surviving pumpkin plants toward a late harvest. Some farmers are trying to buy pumpkins from other regions to cover orders.

"I think there's going to be an extreme shortage of pumpkins this year," said Darcy Pray, owner of Pray's Family Farms in Keeseville, in upstate New York. "I've tried buying from people down in the Pennsylvania area, I've tried locally here and I've tried reaching across the border to some farmers over in the Quebec area. There's just none around."

Hurricane Irene raked the Northeast in late August, bringing torrents of rain that overflowed rivers and flooded fields along the East Coast and into southern Canada. Pray saw his entire crop, about 15,000 to 20,000 pumpkins, washed into Lake Champlain.

But pumpkin farmers had been having a difficult year even before the storm. Heavy rains this spring meant many farms had to postpone planting for two or three weeks, setting back the fall harvest, said Jim Murray, owner of the Applejacks Orchard in Peru, N.Y.

A late harvest can be fatal to business because pumpkin sales plummet after Halloween on Oct. 31. Wholesalers need to get pumpkins on their way to

stores by mid-September. Another spate of rain about two weeks before Irene caused outbreaks of the phytophthora fungus - type of water mold - in many fields, said Jim Stakey, owner of Stakey's Pumpkin Farm in Aquebogue, on New York's Long Island.

This week a cold snap threatened to kill the surviving

vines, Murray said.

The wholesale price for a bin of 32 to 45 pumpkins ranged from \$150 to \$200 in upstate New York, about twice the normal price, Pray said.

Crashes

said Cerda.

According National Highway Traffic Administration, 85 percent of all accidents are contributed to by some form of distracted driving. This includes everything from people talking on the phone and texting to the brave souls who shave or put on makeup on their

way to work. Anything that takes your eyes or mind off of the road counts as a potentially dangerous distraction, and sometimes our need to be constantly connected can lead us to forget this.

"Texting is one of the leading causes as far as fatal accidents are concerned. When people are

talking or texting on the phone, it's easy to get distracted, and sometimes there's no recovery from errors," said Cerda.

"People believe a vehicle's just a vehicle, and they don't realize it's a heavy piece of machinery that can kill themselves or other people," he added.

Safe driving practices

cont. from page 1

are a particular priority for parents like Cerda, whose daughter just got her learner's permit.

"I stress to her to stay off of her cell phone even if it's me calling. I tell her to pull over to a safe location, and then answer the phone," he said. "It's, not worth getting into an accident over."

Bush library fundraising surpasses \$300M goal

DALLAS (AP) - George W. Bush has already surpassed his goal of raising more than \$300 million to support his presidential library.

The Dallas Morning News reports that financial statements the Bush Foundation filed with the federal government last week show that the former president collected \$313 million in donations in 2009 and 2010.

A Bush spokesman said the foundation will not name the financial backers though it plans to name some later. The largest single contribution in the past

Missing out

on community

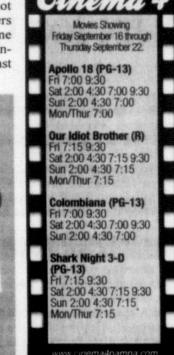
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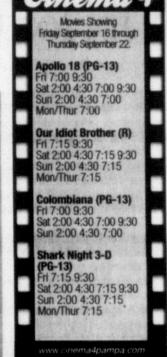
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year was \$25 million. Bush's 227,000-square-foot library will be the third located in Texas. The library of his father, George H.W. Bush, is located on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station. Lyndon B. Johnson's presidential library is located on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Constitutional Amendments Special Election November 8, 2011

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 14)

SJR 14 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to provide the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran with an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the surviving spouse's residence homestead as long as the surviving spouse has not remarried, the property was the residence homestead of the surviving spouse when the qualifying veteran died, and the property remains the residence

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: 'The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran.

spouse.

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 4)

SJR 4 would amend the constitution to authorize the Texas Water Development Board to issue additional general obligation bonds on a continuing basis for one or more accounts of the Texas Water Development Fund II, with the restriction that the total amount of bonds outstanding at any time does not exceed \$6 billion.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows:
"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$6 billion at any time outstanding.

Proposition Number 3 (SJR 50)

SJR 50 would amend the constitution to authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or its successors to issue and sell general obligation bonds on a continuing basis for the purpose of financing educational loans for

students, subject to certain constitutional restrictions, including a restriction as to the maximum principal amount of bonds outstanding at any one time.

688-9192 / 688-9229

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance educational loans to students.'

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 63)

homestead of the surviving HJR 63 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area within the county, and to pledge increases in ad valorem tax revenues imposed on property in the area by the county for repayment of such bonds or notes. The amendment does not provide independent authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates.

> The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area and to pledge for repayment of the bonds or notes increases in ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area. The amendment does not provide authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates."

Proposition Number 5 (SJR 26)

SJR 26 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to allow cities and counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities and counties without having to assess an ad valorem tax and set aside a specified amount of funds for the payment of costs under the interlocal

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment

authorizing the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of

Proposition Number 6 (HJR 109)

HJR 109 would amend the constitution to increase the amount of principal that is available for withdrawal from the permanent school fund each year and would also clarify certain references to that fund in the constitution. Increased access to the principal of the state public education trust fund would be based upon HJR 109 granting the authority to consider alternative market calculations when determining the amount of principal that is available for distribution to the available school fund. HJR 109 would also provide authority to distribute to the available school fund annual revenue from school fund land or other properties up

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment clarifying references to the permanent school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund to provide additional funding for public education, and providing for an increase in the market value of the permanent school fund for the purpose of allowing increased distributions from the available school fund."

to \$300 million per year.

Proposition Number 7 (SJR 28)

SJR 28 would amend the constitution by adding El Paso County to the list of counties authorized to create conservation and reclamation districts to develop parks and recreational facilities financed by taxes.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: 'The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.'

Proposition Number 8

SJR 16 would amend the constitution by requiring the legislature to provide for taxation of open space land devoted to water stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: 'The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of openspace land devoted to water-stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity.'

Proposition Number 9 (SJR 9)

SJR 9 would amend the constitution to authorize the governor, on the written recommendation and advice of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, to grant a pardon, reprieve, or commutation of punishment to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervi-

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervi-

Proposition Number 10 (SJR 37)

SJR 37 would amend the constitution by extending the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain local elected officeholders if they announce candidacy or become candidates for another office from one year to one year and 30 days.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office."

Published by Secretary of State Hope Andrade, www.sos.state.tx.us. 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2011. There are 103 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 19, 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although the British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

On this date:In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published.

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2 1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

In 1957, the United States conducted its first contained underground nuclear test, code-named "Rainier," in the Nevada desert.

In 1959, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, visiting Los Angeles, reacted angrily upon being told that, for security reasons, he wouldn't get to visit Disneyland.

In 1960, Cuban leader Fidel Castro, in New York to visit the United Nations, angrily checked out of the Shelburne Hotel in a dispute with the management; Castro ended up staying at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

In 1961, Barney and Betty Hill, a New Hampshire couple driving home from vacation, experienced what they later claimed under hypnosis was a short-term abduction by extraterrestrials.

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500

Ten years ago: The Pentagon ordered dozens of advanced aircraft to the Persian Gulf region as the hour of military retaliation for deadly terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 drew closer.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, speaking to the U.N. General Assembly, tried to quell anti-Americanism in the Middle East by assuring Muslims he was not waging war against Islam

One year ago: The BP oil well at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico was declared "effectively dead" by retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man on the blowout disaster, after it was sealed with a permanent cement plug

Today's Birthdays: TV host James Lipton ("Inside the Actors Studio") is 85. Actress Rosemary Harris is 84. Actor Adam West is 81. Actor David McCallum is 78. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 71. Singer Bill Medley is 71. Singer Sylvia Tyson (Ian and Sylvia) is 71. Singer Freda Payne is 69. Singer David Bromberg is 66. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 66. Actor Jeremy Irons is 63. Actress Twiggy Lawson is 62. TV personality Joan Lunden is 61. Actor Scott Colomby is 59. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 59. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 56. Actor Kevin Hooks is 53. Actress Carolyn McCormick is 52. . Actresscomedian Cheri Oteri is 46. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 45. Actress Sanaa Lathan is 40. Actress Stephanie J. Block is 39. Comedian and TV talk show host Jimmy Fallon is 37. TV personality Carter Oosterhouse is 35. Actress-TV host Alison Sweeney is 35. Rock musician Ryan Dusick is 34. Actor Columbus Short is 29. Actor Kevin Zegers is 27. Actress Danielle Panabaker is 24.

Thought for Today: "Do not let yourself be tainted with a barren skepticism." - Louis Pasteur. French scientist (1822-1895)



A fix for Congress must run deep

There were plenty of reasons to be somber as we marked the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks recently. Honoring the lives lost and communities shattered on that day were foremost among them. But for many of us, there was also the worrying realization that Americans believe we are adrift, saddled with a political system that is ineffective at addressing the challenges that beset

Congress, in particular, has lost the faith of its constituents. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks, its approval rating jumped to above 80 percent. Now, according to a mid-August Gallup poll, that figure stands at an abysmal 13 percent, while public disapproval has reached a historic high of 84 percent. To borrow a term from the housing meltdown, Congress is deep underwater.

It has been years since Congress acted as if it took seriously its responsibility, as the separate and coequal branch of government envisioned in the Constitution, to make the country work. Yet that is precisely how it needs to behave at this moment — it should not require an attack on our shores to boost its public standing.

Removing the roadblocks to institutional effectiveness will take hard work. Congress has gotten its house in order before, however, and it can do so again.

It could start by addressing the filibuster rule, which effectively requires 60 votes in the Senate in order to move most legislation, a formidable hurdle in a closely divided Senate. In the name of efficiency, Congress routinely embraces giant omnibus bills which allow the leadership basically to undermine the deliberation, transparency, and

our system; it needs to return to the regular order developed by Congress over many decades

The country also needs more robust congressional oversight into every nook and cranny of government, and a vigorous ethics system which enforces the basic rule that every member act in such a manner as to reflect credit on the institution. A Congress seriously

interested in effectiveness would pursue procedural fixes to reduce the excessive partisanship that too often paralyzes Capitol Hill. None of them are mysterious: redressing the outsized role of special-interest money in elections; reducing partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts; eliminating closed state primaries, which enable ideological activists to dominate elections; and wringing the intense partisanship of committee staffers out of the legislative process.

These "process" solutions only skirt a deeper problem, though. Our Founders envisioned Congress as a co-equal branch of government, with the elevated standing both to critique and to form a partnership with the executive in making this nation strong and effective. Congress needs

to live up to that constitutional role. The noted historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. once wrote that at heart, politics is about "the search for remedy" - finding a way to fix the problems that beset us. None of our challenges - not the debt ceiling, not the economy, not our entanglements overseas or our growing inequalities back home - are insurmountable. But they do require politics at its best: an honest effort to find remedies that are fair and

lasting. We need members who think about how their proposals would work in the real world, and who try to build the broadest consensus possible, so that their proposals have a chance to advance solutions to our challenges.

This requires reconciling the manifold needs and interests of an extraordinarily diverse people. Despite all that unites us,

we are also divided by differences in philosophy, background, and community. Congress is where those differences come together, which is often why debate there is - and should be- long and contentious. But diversity only explains conflict; it's not an excuse for failing to over-

LEE H.

HAMILTON

It is not hard to find members on the Hill who speak for a defined narrow interest. It is much harder, though not impossible, to find members who search for a remedy, as opposed to a political position. We need more members who reflect the diversity of this great and varied country yet work to bring it together, not tear it asunder.

Turning Congress around will take some effort. But make no mistake. Congress can live up to the faith our Constitution and our democracy place in it. But we, as Americans, have to insist that the people we elect make this a priority. Congress has to want to change, and we as voters have a major role to play in helping to bring that about.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

PAMPA NEWS

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

Marijane Kent Composing

composing@thepampanews.com Carrie Hair Accounting

Arnie Aurellano Editor

editor@thepampanews.com

Mollie Bryant Reporter mbryant@thepampanews.com

Andrew Glover Reporter aglover@thepampanews.com

Ryan Frazier Composing composing2@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins Press Supervisor

bookkeeper@thepampanews.com press@thepampanews.com

Chico Ramirez Circulation Manager Circulation2@thepampanews.com

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accountability we expect and need in

Will Rick Perry be the Michael Dukakis of 2012?

Fans of both men will be upset, but the political similarities between the 1988 Democratic presidential nominee, former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, and 2012 Republican presidential front-runner, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, are more than

True, Dukakis, a self-proclaimed 'card-carrying member " of the American Civil Liberties Union, was a cerebral reformer, embraced by reformers and liberals. And Rick Perry, whose unspectacular academic record at Texas A&M did not prevent his becoming the Lone Star State's first "Aggie" governor, is the heartthrob of the tea party as well as a human Oreck in sucking up funds in

corporate suites. Like all humans, Dukakis and Perry are both products and prisoners of the places from which they come. For Dukakis, for all but four years at college and two in the U.S. Army, that was Brookline, Mass., a town known and envied for its good schools, green spaces and clean government. But Brookline's politics were something else. Consider this: George McGovern, who as the Democratic nominee in 1972 lost 49 states to Richard Nixon, still won 62 percent of the votes in Brookline. Ronald Reagan, who won 44 states the first time and 49 the second time, won just 30 percent of the votes in Brookline. It's a good bet that Michael Dukakis did not know anyone personally who had voted for Reagan -- which illprepared him for a

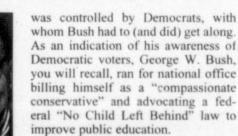
national race. For Perry, it is his home state that he left -- for part of his five-year Air Force tour of duty -- when he served as a C-130 transport pilot attaining the rank of captain. Perry's Texas is as

politically unrepresentative of the nation's politics as Dukakis's Brookline. There are 29 elected statewide officeholders in Texas -- including nine justices of the state Supreme Court -- and every one of them is a Republican.

SHIELDS

In the Texas state House of Representatives, the GOP has more than a two-to-one majority. While Democrats have won three of the last five presidential elections, no Democratic presidential nominee has carried Texas in the last 35 years. It's a pretty good bet that Rick Perry does not know anyone socially who voted for Barack Obama, the only Democrat other than Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson in the last 180 years to win more than 50.1 percent of the national vote.

Understand that George W/ Bush came from a different Texas. He had to defeat a popular Democratic incumbent, Ann Richards, to win the governorship. The legislature he confronted



When you live in a one-party political bubble like Perry has, you don't pay any political price for saying really dumb things, like suggesting in Cedar Rapids that Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke's policies could be "almost treasonous" and adding, "I don't know what you all would do to him in Iowa, we would treat him pretty ugly down in Texas" -- a reckless and conspicuously insensitive remark to all who remember the "wanted for treason " newspaper ad that welcomed another Washington officeholder's tragic visit to Texas in November of 1963.

How about, "I think you want a president who's passionate about America - that's in love with America"? Was Perry suggesting that President Obama does not love America? "You need to ask him." Those are the words of an unthinking man unprepared for a national race with its intensity of scrutiny, a man who has not been held accountable in a competitive political environment for what he says.

Mark Shields is a nationally syndicated

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Chamber

Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce Calendar of Events

September 20

Chamber Luncheon - Noon in the MK Brown Room, \$10.00 per person. (please RSVP by Sept. 16)

Sept. 24

Pampa Community Blood Drive, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Cornerstone Baptist Church, 2410 W. 23rd Ave. September 30

Deadline for the "Name the Christmas Events Theme Contest" Win \$20 in Pampa Bucks. Email – harvest@pampachamber.com

Guitar and Cello Duo, Richard Smith & Julie Adams, 7 p.m., Chamber building, \$15 per person pay at the door Oct. 8

Pampa Fine Arts Craft Show at the MK Brown Auditorium

Oct. 15

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of for Pampa Chamber of Commerce 27th Annual Country Fair "Oktoberfest Texas Style Dinner," auctions, dance & drawing, tickets are \$30 per person, doors open at 6 p.m, dance starts at 9 p.m.

It takes us all to make the Chamber work

Elsewhere on this page, you will see the ribbon cutting at the Kids Bank at Austin

by Happy State Bank The school and bank people asked me to address the student body and tell them a little about the Chamber. At first, I thought it might be a little tough

to get it on their level, then I had an idea. This is basically

what I told them: "I have been asked to tell you a little about the Chamber of Commerce. At your age, you may think the Chamber doesn't affect you or that you don't have much to do with the Chamber, but let's see.

"As I look around, I notice that all of you that I can see are wearing clothes. I'll bet that you have eaten something in the last 24 hours. I'll bet most of you came to school today in a vehicle—a car or bus that runs on gasoline. Then you have benefitted from the Chamber of Commerce.'

motes Pampa business. So if your clothes came from Walmart; if last night's supper came Elementary, sponsored from Domino's Pizza,



WEAVER

or McDonald's, or from groceries your mom bought at United or Fiesta; or your dad filled the car up at Pak-A-Sak, you have benefitted from the Chamber of

Commerce. All of those businesses and many more are members of the Chamber and we work together to make Pampa a nice

place to live. An ironic thing is that none of the Goldcoats in attendance represented those businesses-or even those types of businesses. There were two lawyers, two insurance agents, the city manager, one retiree, and the owner of a construction and glass company—all sort of tough concepts to get across to elementary students. But it goes to show that it takes us all to make the Chamber work!

"The Chamber pro-

the chamber around town



Kid's Bank opens at Austin Elementary

photo by Diane Jennings Goldcoats at Happy State Bank's "Kid's Band" ribbon-cutting (at Austin Elementary School) were John Warner, Alissha Jefferis, Bryan Guymon, Darville orr, Joe Weaver, Ronnie Wood, Richard Morris, Sheila Webb and Chamber Executive Director Joe Weaver

Pantex manager to speak at Chamber luncheon

Larry Boyer, manager, Safety and Industrial Hygiene Department at Pantex, will the the guest speaker at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon Tuesday.

Larry Boyer is a Certified Industrial Hygienist and is the Manager of the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Department of the Environment, Safety & Health Division with **B&W** Technical Services - Pantex.

Born Colorado he holds a Bachelor Degree in Computer from Science University of Maryland.

He joined the United States Air Force in April of 1973 and during his 20+ year career, was assigned to Air Force bases in Mississippi, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Italy, West Germany, and Texas before retiring in August of 1993.

During his Air Force career, he specialized in health and safety matters dealing with Industrial Radiation Hygiene, Toxicology Safety, Epidemiology, Environmental Chemistry, Public Health, Industrial Safety and Ergonomics. He was on the faculty of the US Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, where he taught courses in Industrial Hygiene, in Denver, Toxicology, Chemistry and the Medical Aspects of Science of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare. For his final Air Force assignment he was stationed at Brooks Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, where he was the Superintendent of the United States Air Force Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory; the U.S. Air

Force's premiere center

-- Featuring --

DOUBLE SHOT

Dance Band

Pampa Chamber of Commerce

27th Annual "Country Fair"

Dinner + Auction + Dance

Saturday, October 15th

MK Brown Civic Auditorium

Doors open at 6:00

\$30.00 per person

Purchase tickets at the Chamber of Commerce - 200 N. Ballard

for worldwide consultation and assistance in health and safety matters dealing with Radiation Safety, Toxicology, Epidemiology, Environmental Chemistry, Industrial Hygiene, Public Health, personnel safety and Ergonomics. Following his retirement from the Air Force, and while working at Pantex, he also was a supplemental faculty member at Amarillo College, teaching continuing educa-Hygiene and Toxicology.

He has been a First Line supervisor and manager at

Pantex for the past 18 years and is also a Key Member of the Pantex Plant Response Emergency Organization as a Team Leader for Hazardous Materials Consequence Assessments.

He is a Certified Industrial Hygienist. a Distinguished Toastmaster, and an active member of the Amarillo Chapter of the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO), provid ing officiating services for tion courses in Industrial Middle School and High School football through the panhandle of Texas







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STAY CONNECTED





staff photos by Mollie Bryant Clockwise from top: Ken Wilson speaks during a storytelling session with Linda Weaver, right. Attendees had the opportunity to share thoughts and

words of Woody Guthrie; Andy Price plays guitars and provides vocals with the Corn Cob Coalition at the Woody Guthrie dinner on Saturday night; Jerry Lister plays the mandolin during the Saturday night performance of the Corn Cob Coalition.

Republican women to meet Wednesday

Top O' Texas Republican Women will meet from noon until 1 p.m.on Wednesday, Sept. 21. The meeting will be held at the Pampa Senior Citizen

Center.

Spencer McElhannon, the director of Entrepreneur Alliance, will be the guest speaker. Lunch is available for purchase.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law was diagnosed with dementia more than a year ago. She lives alone and can no longer do anything for herself. She can no longer climb stairs, which means she can't get to her bed, shower or do laundry, and it takes her hours to dress herself. She also needs help getting and remembering to take her medi-

Because Mom can't drive, she can't get to the store, the bank or anywhere else unless one of her kids takes her. She does nothing all day but watch TV and eat sweets.

When do her kids stop treating her like a toddler and start treating her with dignity? She clearly needs assistance, whether it's a couple of days a week of companionship or an assisted-living center. She doesn't want to go, but when is it time to do what's best for her and stop listening to what she says she wants? Her kids are afraid to make her mad, so this poor woman is withering away in her two-story home lonely, smelly, sad and depressed.

I would move her into our home if we had a place for her, but we don't. What can be done for an elderly person who obviously can't take care of herself, but "fakes" it so her kids won't put her "in a home"? - HEARTBRO-KEN DAUGHTER-IN-LAW DEAR HEARTBRO-

marks the inauguration of God decided to bless us with

disease can be difficult for families, especially when the lost the ability to safely live alone or make sound deci-

When this happens, families must take steps to ensure that their loved one is safe and healthy. This into the home or exploring dreams. other living options. Fortunately, most communities son who wanted to be near offer resources that can help, including home-delivered meal programs, inhome care, assisted-living and residential memory

Because you are rightfully concerned about your mother-in-law's well-being. call a family meeting and discuss care options. The Alzheimer's Association has a consultation program that helps families navigate through these complex situations, It offers emotional support, needs assessment and information about local resources. To speak with a care consultant, call the Alzheimer's Association's toll-free, 24/7 helpline at

800-272-3900. DEAR ABBY: I have

KEN: Please accept my been with my love for more sympathy. Your letter is than five years. Our lives have timely, because September not been easy, but whose has? World Alzheimer's Month. a little one while we were still Accepting the realities too young, but we work hard of dementia or Alzheimer's to provide the best for our

Somewhere down the person with the disease has road the romance disappeared. I often wonder if he despises me for getting pregnant or for keeping our son. My love had big plans and still does, but he seems miserable. I know I can't force him to make the effort to change may involve bringing care his own life and pursue his

I miss my friend, the perme, hold my hand and hold me tight. Despite all my attempts to talk, nothing changes. Is it over? - ROMAN-TICIZING ROMANCE IN

DALLAS It will be money and time well spent.

Gray County Text pampanews to 35350 You receive headline news, alerts and deal/contest information from AMPA NEWS Check out our Facebook page or

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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 1 Military

topper 6 Challenge

10 Words to the maestro

11 Happening 13On the

ball 14Soup server

15 Winter ailment

16 Contented 5 Chief sound

18 Fellow 19 Bygone office

equipment 22 Brewery

sight 23 Carry on,

as war 24 Bowling

29 Rival

DEAR R.R.: As the saying goes, "It isn't over 'til it's over." The man you love may be unhappy that his life took an unexpected turn, but he's still with you and that says a lot. Because he won't talk out his feelings with you and appears to have withdrawn, remind him that you love him, want him to be happy and encoutrage him to talk to a 1censed therapist to help him get his future back on track. 44 "Edward

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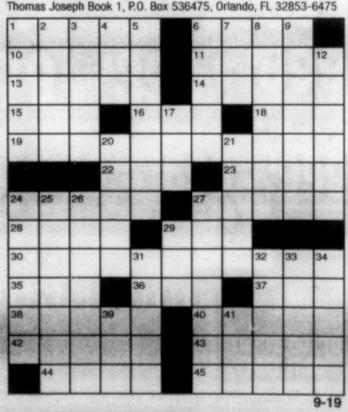
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Saturday's answer

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Sept. 19, 2011:

This year, you feel pressured to maintain a high profile at work and within your community. You might worry a lot about funds. Precautions and self-discipline are great; however, what might be a problem is a negative feeling. Negative thinking feeds more negative thinking. Change the pattern. Choose to see the glass as half-full. If you are single, you'll meet people through your work and commitments. Around your birthday 2012, you could meet someone significant. The friendship is equally as important as the love relationship. If you are attached, work and live as a team. Stoke the friendship. GEMINI admires your attitude.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** Keep a dialogue going. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening. A partner or associate is quite clear about his or her priorities. Take a cue from this person for the moment. Meanwhile, try to center yourself through a talk. Tonight: Avoid a snippy conversation. Lis-

ten and understand.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*★★ Be sensitive to expenditures. In the long run, even if your checkbook isn't the one paying, others could be resentful of your sometimes extravagant style. What they don't get is that you would make the same choices for yourself. Tonight: Become more aware of another person's limits.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** * Your perspective might change radically if you could take in another person's view. At the moment, you simply seem to be closed off. Remember, you don't have an exclusive on brilliant ideas; others can have one or two! Show interest in their thoughts. Tonight: Kick up your heels. Forget what day of the week it is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Take your time making decisions. You might not be as sure of yourself as you'd like. Take some personal time to look at your present lack of confidence and where it stems from. Try to air out this negativity and rebuild your security. Tonight:

Do for you. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Use today to focus on a key goal. You find that you have the backing and support of others. Reason with someone rather than fight with him or her. Con-

fusion could surround your finances as well. Tonight: Where people are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You have no control over others,
but you have control over yourself. Don't
push so hard with others, and zero in on
what is important. Accept extra responsibility, especially if you could use some
overtime or extra funds. Tonight: Burning
the candle at both ends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** If you follow your intuition and detach from a triggering situation, you'll stay on top of what is happening. Stay committed to your goals, but also be willing to test and check the validity of your ideas. Tonight: Let your mind lead and your body follow.

and your body follow. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Be more willing to try another approach or do something differently. A deep sense of uncertainty, perhaps unrelated to the present situation, could be undermining you now. Accept another person's advice. Tonight: A discussion could be illuminating

be illuminating.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Defer to others, which will allow you to do more of what you want. A meeting or friendship could be difficult, encouraging you to turn in a new direction. Why not? Confirm any meetings, calls or statements that might feel off. Tonight: Having fun, even if it is Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You could be more tired than you realize. True to form, you meet your responsibilities, though that usual pizazz isn't there. Be willing to take care of yourself first, and don't overextend yourself.

Tonight: Easy works.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** Your playfulness makes a big difference and allows greater give-and-take. Your intellectual gifts come forward, though you might need to slow down in order to explain your ideas to the rest of the world! Toright: Aren't you frisky?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You need to center on what is important and what is going on. Listen to your sixth sense with a family member. You have a multifaceted problem that might not be answered easily. Remain authentic. Tonight: A partner or friend gives you his or her opinion (whether you want it or not).

Tundra







Mother Goose and Grim







Zits









Garfield







Beetle Bailey





Marvin







Hagar The Horrible





Peanuts







Blondie





help returning combat veterans

"come home bearing scars" and the government has a role to play in helping them heal, Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Saturday night.

Perry spoke during the second annual gala for the Lone Survivor Foundation, which provides therapeutic and other support to wounded American combat veterans and their

Perry, the frontrunner in most polls sizing up the field vying for the Republican presidential nomination, believes in making government as inconsequential as possible in peoples' lives. But he said of returning veterans: "We must take care of them, every last one of them" and use whatever resources are necessary.

The governor said the state should help connect military veterans with employers and assist them in cutting through red tape with the Veterans Affairs Administration and other support networks. He added that there's no state better than Texas for helping returning veterans rejoin the U.S. workforce. He said 40,000 have gone back to work in Texas this

"Always bragging about Texas," he quipped, straying

The Lone Survivor Foundation was created by Marcus Luttrell, who was honored for surviving one of the worst single-day losses of life in Navy SEAL history. A native of Huntsville, Luttrell was awarded the Navy Cross for combat heroism as the lone SEAL team member to survive that June 2005 firefight with the Taliban in Afghanistan. He detailed the experience in his best-selling 2007 book, Lone Survivor.

Addressing a sympathetic crowd that gave him a standing ovation even before he began speaking, Perry called being in the military the highest possible public service and said, the United States has no match on the battlefield.

He thanked a SEAL team for killing Osama Bin Laden and recalled a helicópter crash in Afghanistan last month that killed 22 members of another SEAL team as they rushed aid to troops in a firefight.

Americans always face these challenges. We face them head on and they don't stop us because that's part of our national character," Perry said.

Luttrell said the governor agreed to address the gala long before he entered the presidential race - but still kept his promise to show up.

"He's like a father to me," Luttrell said. Perry said the pair didn't always agree, but joked "I am always right."

Perry: Gov't must | Quick-and-dirty Social Security

TOM MARGENAU Creator's Syndicate

As my longtime readers know, I usually answer only one or two questions in each column. That's because most Social Security rules are so complicated, and I try to cover as many "ifs, ands or buts" as possible in my answers. That inevitably limits the number of topics I can handle in any one column. But today, I'm going to give quick-anddirty answers to as many questions as possible.

Q: My husband is 72. I'm turning 62. Can I take benefits as a wife on his record now and switch to my own full Social Security at age 66?

A: No. If you take reduced Social Security benefits on any record, that reduction carries over to any other benefits you might be due. (FYI: that rule does not apply to widows.) So at 62, you will probably just get reduced benefits on your own Social Security account. However, if you wait until age 66, then you can take benefits as a dependent wife on your husband's record and later, at age 70, switch to full benefits on your own - benefits that would come with an extra 32 percent delayed retirement bonus.

Q: In a prior column, you wrote that only people who have worked and paid taxes into Social Security can get benefits. But my mother is getting Social Security widow's benefits, and she never worked a day in her life! Please explain.

A: In that prior column, I should have written: You get Social Security benefits only if you have worked and paid taxes into the system, or if you are the dependent spouse or child of someone who

Q: In a recent column, a woman who wrote that she was getting about \$850 per month from Social Security said she could get an extra \$100 per month from SSI. I get only about \$800 per month in Social Security, I checked with my Social Security office, and they said I don't qualify for SSI, because my

Security and you

income is too high. What's going

A: The woman who asked me about her eligibility for Supplemental Security Income lives in a different state than you do. SSI is a welfare program, and the eligibility rules vary from one state to another. You live in a cheap state with very low income-eligibility rules. The other woman simply lives in a more generous state. I guess you could either move or try to talk your very conservative governor and state legislators to pony up more money for folks like you. Good luck with that one!

Q: I'm 65 years old. I was married to my first husband for 27 years. I've been married to my second husband for 10 years. My first husband just died. Can I get any of his Social Security?

A: As long as you're married to your second husband, you aren't due any Social Security benefits from husband number one. But if your second marriage ends (by either death or divorce), then you would become eligible for divorced widow's benefits from your first husband. Or you could get widow's benefits from your second husband. Or you could get your own Social Security. Of those three options, you would be paid from the record that gives you the highest rate.

Q: I'm getting widow's benefits from Social Security. I'm 71 years old. I've been seeing a man for a couple of years, and he wants to get married. I told him no, because I would lose my Social Security. Was this the right answer?

A: I have no idea if "ves" or "no" was the right answer to his marriage proposal. But I can tell you that the "no" you gave him was based on incorrect information. You will not

benefits if you remarry. A woman who remarries after age 60 can keep her widow's benefits from her first husband, even though the's married to another man. Q: My current husband and I have been married for eight years.

lose your Social Security widow's

We're both in our 70s. He's in very poor health. I was told that if he dies, I won't get any of his Social Security, because we haven't been married for at least 10 years. Is this A: No, it's not true. The 10-year-

duration-of-marriage rule applies only to divorced women. A woman who is divorced must have been married to her ex-husband for at least 10 years to claim any kind of benefits on his Social Security record. But because you are currently married to your husband, that 10-year rule doesn't apply. There is a one-year-duration-of-marriage rule, but you're already seven years beyond that, so you're OK.

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Q: I plan to retire at age 58. I know I can't take my Social Security until I'm 62. My current annual statement that I get from Social Security says my age-62 benefit will be about \$1,500 per month. Can I count on getting that four years from now?

A: Not quite that much. That estimate assumes you're going to keep working until age 62. But you'll be retiring at 58. In other words, there will be four fewer years of recent earnings on your Social Security record - which in turn means your monthly benefit won't be quite as high as currently anticipated. You can go to SocialSecurity.gov and click on the benefit calculators. Indicate there that you'll be retiring at age 58, and you'll get a revised retirement estimate.

Wow - seven questions and answers in one column. That's a new record for me!

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

BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the two-letter groups below may be extended both on the right and the left to form a six letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

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Rain, economy hurting vendors at NM State Fair

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico State Fair officials say it's the safest on record in the event's 73 year history. But that doesn't mean that the fair hasn't been plagued by problems.

KOB-TV says lightning knocked out power at the fair on Saturday.

And the station says many fair vendors say they're down 30 to 50 percent in revenue this year.

The fair runs through Sept. 25 and the second Saturday is supposed to be the biggest money day for ven-

But many vendors say fair attend-

ees aren't spending much many his year, possibly because of the weak economy.

They say the rain didn't help sales, but they're hoping that better weather in the fair's final week will make up the difference in sales.



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Notice is hereby given that original Letters 2944. Testamentary for the Estate of PAUL F. JOHNSON, Deceased, were issued on September 14, 2011, in Docket 9862, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: MARY JEAN JOHN-SON.

The residence of the Independent Executrix is in Gray County, Texas. The post office address 1428 N. Russell. Pampa, Texas 79065 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed

DATED the 14th day of September, 2011. By: Harold L. Comer State Bar Card No.

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A-89 Sept. 19, 2011

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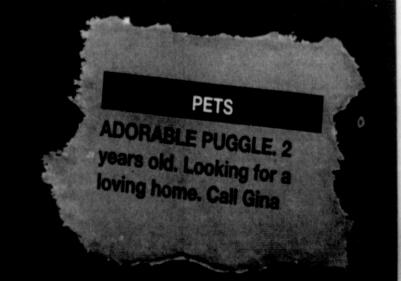
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Sports

PHS tennis serves past Perryton for second straight

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

For the second straight match, the

Pampa Harvesters' tennis team faced a district opponent. Just like the first game, Pampa emerged victorious with a 14-3 victory over the Perryton Rangers Saturday at Perryton.

Head coach Sarah Corse said her players performed well.

"Everyone stepped up," Corse said. "Landon (Karbo) is still winning. I don't think he has lost yet in singles. Our girls doubles team of Makayla (Hampton) and Elizabeth Terry are playing excellent. They won 8-0 and then turned around and played good singles."

district opponent.

and see where we are at," Corse said. "It helps show us what we still have to work

on."

The Harvesters (3-4) rematch with the Dumas Demons in Dumas 4 p.m. Tuesday. The Demons beat Pampa 14-5 September 8 in Pampa. Corse said she hopes her players improve.

"I'm putting a challenge to my kids to step up their game," Corse said. "It can be hard to get up after a team beats you, but I'm encouraging them to step

up especially the matches we lost in tiebreakers. Hopefully, we can win those this time."

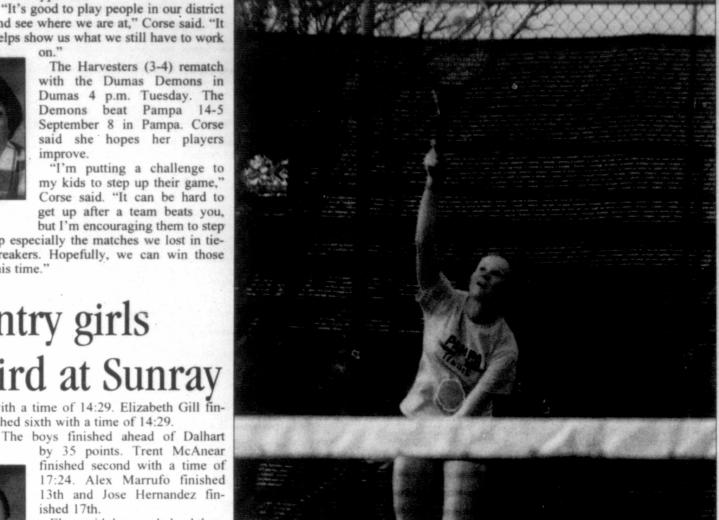


photo courtesy of Cody Moore

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"Hopefully we will be making Senior Delaney Clendening serves in a match against Borger Tuesday. The Harvesters beat Perryton 14-3 Saturday for their second straight win. Pampa rematches with Dumas Tuesday in Dumas.

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Edward Jones

PHS cross country girls fourth, boys third at Sunray

Corse said it was nice to beat another

aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa High School girls cross country team finished fourth and the boys finished third Saturday in Sunray.

Head coach Mark Elms said it was a good meet for his

"We ran good times and came home with a lot of hardware," Elms said.

The girls were just six points behind district rival Borger. J'Cee Holmes finished fifth

with a time of 14:29. Elizabeth Gill finished sixth with a time of 14:29. The boys finished ahead of Dalhart

by 35 points. Trent McAnear finished second with a time of 17:24. Alex Marrufo finished 13th and Jose Hernandez finished 17th.

Elms said the race helped them prepare for the district meet October 28th.

a trip to regionals," Elms said.

The Harvesters race in Lubbock

PARTY TIME

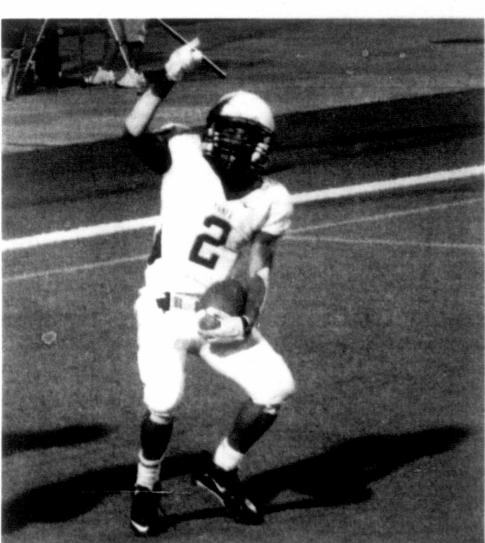
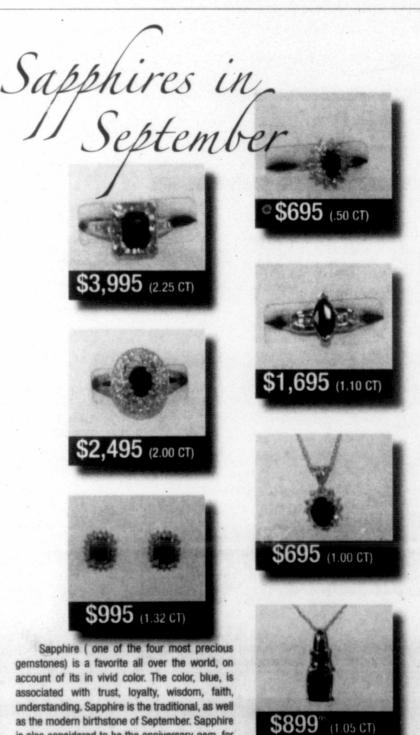


photo courtesy of Charla Shults

Sophomore Freddy Jackson celebrates his first touchdown of the game





is also considered to be the anniversary gem, for the 5th and the 45th years of marriage.

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