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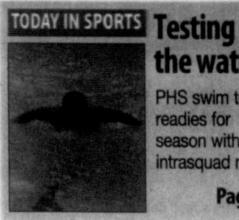




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the waters PHS swim team

readies for season with intrasquad meet

Page 8



Monday, September 26, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 144

75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

BRING ON THE FALL

Sweltering summer finally ends

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

Friday was the first day of fall, and with it came the end of a very hot, dry summer for Pampa and the Panhandle at large.

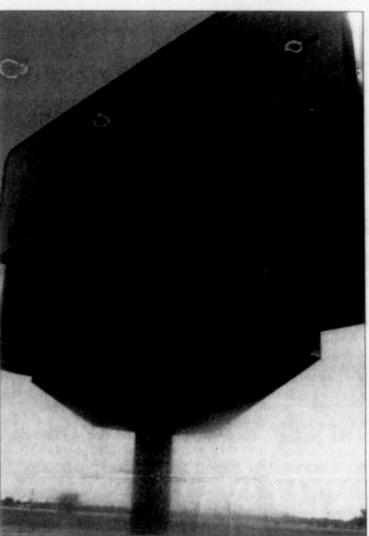
According to the National Weather Service, Pampa has had a little under 6 inches of precipitation since June, along with staggeringly high temperatures. Locals saw 49 days this summer hit or surpass 100 degrees, and July was Pampa's hottest month, with an average high of 100.1 degrees and an average temperature of 85.8 degrees.

"We're stuck in a La Niña pattern," said Kurt Buffalo, meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "We had one of the warmest and driest summers that we've seen."

La Niña, which affects weather patterns, occurs when ocean temperatures are cooler than usual, causing drier than normal conditions in the southwest during summer and winter months.

"We had one of the roughest summers that anyone can remember around here. The temperatures were extremely high, and water usage was extremely high early on in the year, which sent us into a little bit of a panic to see where we were going to be at the end of the summer," said Donny Hooper, Director of Public Works with the City of Pampa.

During the hottest part of the summer, Pampa's water usage peaked at 5.1 million gallons a day, and with a low lake supply and some of the city's wells



After a sizzling summer in which the temperatures climbed above 100 degrees for 49 days, sub-90s temperatures are a welcome change for many Pampa residents.

down, conservation was put in the public eye. The city saw a favorable response to pamphlets encouraging Pampans to cut back on water use.

"It put the water conservation issue into the forefront, which is something that has needed to be there for a long time," said Hooper. "We dropped our usage back, we got back into a manageable situation, and I think that's just because of the cooperation we had from the citizens. So at the end of the year, as we head into the cooler months where we don't have as much usage, we're going to be

just fine." The city is already preparing for next summer with the drilling of two new wells. The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA), of which Pampa is a member city, has also been taking steps to conserve Lake Meredith. Member cities currently draw water from the lake to supplement their supply only during the hottest part of the summer when their usage is the highest and they need it the most. CRMWA also authorized a project to construct a channel **SUMMER** cont. on page 3

Schaub is new Rec Coordinator

ANDREW GLOVER adlover@thepampanews.com

The City of Pampa has a new Recreation Coordinator.



Autumn Schaub taking over former coordinator Enrique Cabrales, who relocated to California. Schaub, 24, graduated from Pampa

in 2005 and went to school at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, where she graduated in the fall of 2009 with a Bachelor's of Science in Exercise and Sports Science. She then moved to Louisville, Ky., to work as an urban missionary at a homeless shelter before making her way back to

She was trained Thursday en route to taking over the position full-time on Friday. Schaub said she is excited about the new job

"It's a way to give back to my community," Schaub said. "I'm excited."

Schaub said she will mostly be in charge of the recreation activities in the city.

"I'll be working with the kickball, softball and volleyball leagues," Schaub said. "I'll be trying to come up with other things people can be involved in. My office is at M.K. Brown, so I will be doing work there too."

Along with working in the Recreation Department, Schaub will be working as an intern with the First Baptist Youth Group.

"I'll be working with them for the school year until (FBC) finds a youth minister," Schaub said. "I'll be helping on Wednesdays and Sundays with what (FBC SCHAUB cont. on page 2

CASA volunteers dedicated to helping needy kids

JANET WATTS Casa of the High Plains

Many abused or neglected children from Pampa have a better chance in life today because a CASA volunteer dedicated themselves to seeing that their needs were being addressed and everyone was working toward getting them into a permanent home. What follows is the story of two of these children.

Phillip is a precious little 10 year old boy. He was in the foster care system for seven years. Today, thanks to the dedication of a caring CASA volunteer, he is at home with his mother and three siblings. Phillip and his brothers were placed in the foster care system seven years ago because of issues his mother had. His mother



started out slowly completing the steps necessary for her boys to be returned to her care. After two and a half years, three of the boys had been returned home. Phillip, however, remained in foster care. His special diagnosis of autism meant that his mother had to be able to meet his special needs as well as maintain the care of the other three boys. Almost everyone involved had given up hope that Phillip would ever get to go home.

Two years ago, though, Phillip was appointed a new CASA volunteer. She began to see him CASA cont. on page 6



photo courtesy of Janet Watts

CASA volunteers go through an extensive training program to make sure they are well-equipped to help local children in need.

7th Annual Country Fair berfest Texas Style irday, October 15th

K Brown Auditorium

open 6 p.m./\$30 per person

IN THIS ISSUE:

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



PAMPA FORECAST

Today

Tuesday

High 84 Low 56

High 84 Low 58

High 85 Low 59

Wednesday

Today: Sunny, with a high near 84. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph

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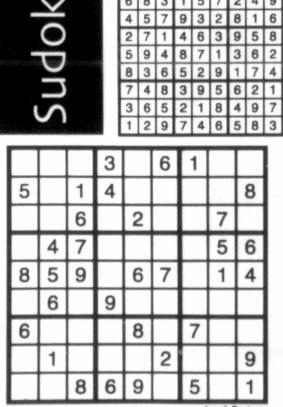
BANANAGRAMS!

Add a W to each of the words below and then rearrange the letters in each word to form a LEVEL new six-letter word.

> AEON YEAST

Yesterday's Answer: HANDBAG, PARFAIT, ANTIWAR, ABUSIVE, VIBRATE, MAILBOX

> Answer to yesterday's puzzle 9 1 2 6 8 4 7 3 5 6 8 3 1 5 7 2 4 9



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COMMUNITY calendar

•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 N. Ballard St. For more info call 669-7638. Altrusa International of Pampa meets, 6:30 p.m. in Lively Hall at First United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

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

Friday, Oct. 7 ·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 Auditorium. ·Friends of the Library annual paperback book sale, Lovett

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

Memorial Library, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Parish fundraiser - dinner, auction, dance and drawing. For more info, call 665-8933. Wednesday, Oct. 12

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 "October-" fest 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. Friday, Oct. 21

Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the

First Methodist Church. Tuesday, Oct. 25 ·Altrusa International of Pampa meets, 6:30 p.m. in Lively Hall-

at First United Methodist Church. Wednesday, Oct. 26 Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of,

the Chamber office. Friday, Oct. 28

Curl and Jacob Jans.

neralhome.com.

Pampa.

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

Amarillo; brother, Clifford (Ethyle) Parker, Albuquer-

que; brother, Frank Parker (Joan), San Antonio; sister-

in-law, Alvro (Leo) Dorman, Virginia Beach, Va.; niec-

es, Linda Parker, Shari Parker, Barbara Parker (Robert)

Morse, and Leslie (Ron) Boerger. She is also survived

by: nephews, Tom (Lynda) Curl, and Paul Parker; great-

nieces Kennedy Shuler, Megan (Michael) Jans and Clair

Parker Siburt; great-nephews Rob Curl, Chris (Vanessa)

Curl, Brian (Kristi) Curl, Justin Curl, Grant Shuler and

Andrew Morse; great-great-nieces, Jordan, Taylor, Au-

tumn, and Dakota Curl; and great-great-nephews Hunter

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church Col-

lege Scholarship Fund, 3001 Wolfin Ave., Amarillo, TX

79106 or Roberts County Museum, Box 249, Miami, TX

Please sign our online guest book at www.schoolerfu-

Melvin M. Davis, 73

Obituaries

Leona Parker Woods, 89

AMARILLO-Leona Parker Woods, 89, died September 21, 2011, in Amarillo. Funeral services will be Wednesday, September 28, 2011, at the First Christian Church in the Robinson Chapel at 10:30a.m., with Dr. Linda Parker officiating. Burial will be in the

Maddox Parker section of the Miami, cemetery at 3

Woods p.m. Wednesday. Arrangements are by Schooler Funeral Home, 4100 South Georgia St., Amarillo. Mrs. Woods was born in Miami, on March 15, 1922,

to Franklin Spencer and Minnie Maddox Parker. Leona graduated from Miami High School in 1939, and from Draughn's Business College, Lubbock, in 1941, being certified in accounting. She then earned a Bachelor of Science degree from West Texas A&M University in Ed-She was employed at the Pampa Independent School

Tax Office at the time she met John W. Woods. They were married on April 15, 1954, at her parents' home in Miami. Soon after marriage they moved to San Antonio for John to attend the St. Mary's University School of Law. They moved to Stratford, in 1968, where Mr. Woods opened his law office. He later became Justice of the Peace and Sherman County Judge. Mrs. Woods taught school two years in Spearman and then taught in the Stratford Schools until she retired.

Mrs. Woods became a member of the First Christian Church in Miami at an early age and in the remaining years of her life was active in Christian churches in the towns she lived in.

Leona was an avid quilter and won many ribbons in quilt shows for the work on her quilts. She was adept in other forms of stitchery such as needle point, embroidery, crewel and mending. While living in Stratford, she was the Mending Lady for the nursing home.

She was always a volunteer wherever she lived. She taught Sunday School classes while living in Stratford. She has been a long time member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, is a life member of the Texas State Teachers Association, Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Club in Pampa, and the Canyon Retired Teachers.

Since moving to Amarillo in 1995, she has been active in the First Christian Church, the Friendship Class, the Happy Timers, the Ruth group of the Christian Women's Fellowship, and a member of the Continental Resident Council. John and Leona moved to Amarillo in 1995, and moved to the Continental Retirement Center in 2000. John died January 31, 2006. In October 2006, Leona moved into the Harrington Assisted Living Center.

Visitation will be 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at the Schooler Funeral Home, 4100 South Georgia St., Amarillo.

She is preceded in death by her husband; her parents; and a nephew, Jerry W. Curl of McAllen.

Mrs. Woods is survived by: sister, Mary Alice Curl,

p.m. Monday, September

26, 2011, at First Baptist Church with Rev. Mike Watson, pastor of Hobart Baptist Church, and Rev. Jim Powell, retired Baptist pastor, officiating. Burial will be at Fairview

Melvin M. Davis, 73,

Services will be at 2

Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funéral Directors.



Mr. Davis was born July 26, 1938, in Wheeler to Wylie and Cleo Davis. He had been a resident of Pampa since, 1954. He married Norma Jean Bullard on December 22, 1957, in Pampa. Melvin worked for Natural Gas Pipeline for 28 years, retiring in 1996. He began coaching with the Pampa Optimist Youth Club in 1965 and became a lifetime member in 1968. He had been a member of Hobart Baptist Church since 1997. He enjoyed fishing, watching sports, embroidering, working crossword puzzles, camping and spending time with his family. He was a wonderful husband, father, Paw Paw, friend and mentor.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanne Davis of the home; two sons, Clifford Davis and wife Dennel of Ulysses, Kan., and Kevin Davis and wife Whitney of Pampa; five sisters, Cleta Trimble, Joy Haynes and husband Walden and Sharon Brown, all of Pampa, Nellie Williams of Sudan, and Glenda Ruth Pecka of Tucson, Ariz.; four grandchildren, Amanda Germann and husband Brad, Nathan Davis, Keenan Davis and fiancée Ashlee Winkleblack and Tanner Davis; one great-grandson, Zach Germann; and many other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, James Davis and Aaron Davis; and a sister, Wylene Lee.

Memorials may be made to Pampa Optimist Youth, Club, P.O. Box 802, Pampa, TX 79066-0802, or Hobart, Baptist Church, 1100 W. Crawford, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

Schaub

(Owens) needs.

local church.

music

cont. from page 1

Barry

pastor)

Schaub was also active

within her church during

week and did community

outreach," Schaub said:

"I was plugged into the

her time in Louisville. "I worked five days a

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Cold front may increase danger

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The Texas Forest Service warns that the arrival of a cold front Sunday afternoon will create more dangerous wildfire conditions across Texas.

The agency said in a statement that warm temperatures, dry air and gusty winds will push through ahead of the front, resulting in extremely critical conditions. The conditions will be made worse by the drought, which has left an overabundance of dried and dead vegetation.

Areas at risk include parts of the Hill Country, Central Texas, upper South Texas, lower North Texas, the Rolling Plains and central East Texas.

Since wildfire season started on Nov. 15, 2010, officials say firefighters have responded to 23,519 fires that have burned almost 3.8 million acres and destroyed 2,742 homes. They say another 34,756 homes have been saved by firefighting efforts.

Ex-con torches house

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — He spent 26 years in prison for fatally stabbing a man. At age 46, Randall Lee Church had completed his sentence and stepped into the outside world for the first time in a quarter-century in April.

He didn't like it. He wanted to go home.

Church told the San Antonio Express-News the job he had at a prison in Beeville was the best he ever had. He wanted it back.

July 10, he doused a vacant house in San Antonio with gasoline and tossed in some flaming rags and paper towels.

He confessed to police, saying he wanted to return to his job at the Beeville prison.

Church pleaded guilty to arson and is returning to prison, but it's undetermined which one — and which job.

Mexican cops still underpaid

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A government report shows many Mexican police officers still earn \$350 per month or less, despite reform efforts aimed at increasing wages and decreasing corruption.

A report by the government's National Public Safety System says the average wage for state police in Mexico is 9,250 persos — equal to about \$650 per month or about \$8,000 annually.

But in the drug-violence-wracked northern border state of Tamaulipas, state officers receive on average about 3,618 pesos, or \$300 per month.

Officers in the far-less-violent central state of Aguascalientes receive five times more than that.

The report released Sunday urged lagging states and municipalities to raise police wages.

Low salaries have been cited as one reason for police corruption.

Memo to Rick Perry: Ponzi, schmonzi

Tom Margenau Creator's Syndicate

Will all my readers out there who think Rick Perry's ruggedly handsome mug should be carved onto Mount Rushmore please stop sending me emails about Social Security as a Ponzi scheme? The astute governor from Texas, apparently one of the country's leading experts on Social Security, has been running around comparing the federal retirement program to such a doomed investment plan.

I've addressed this issue many times before in this column. I don't want to bore my regular readers with another long dissertation on this topic. But since Gov. Rushmore broached the subject, I'll make three quick observa-

First: Social Security is *not* an investment scheme. It's a social insurance program. (The word "social" in "Social Security" means something!)

In addition to providing workers with a basic and stable income in retirement, Social Security was established to achieve larger goals for our country as a whole. One of those goals was to raise the standard of living of lower-income workers in retirement. This is accomplished with a weighted benefit formula that gives those retirees a higher "replacement rate" — when comparing their average income with their Social Security retirement benefit — than their more well-to-do fellow taxpayers can expect.

Second: Many emailers wrote to tell me how Social Security started out with thousands of taxpayers for each Social Security beneficiary, how we now suddenly find ourselves at a three-to-one ratio, and how the entire scam will implode when we reach two to one. That's a classic Ponzi-scheme scenario, they say.

Well, obviously, in the earliest days of the program (the early 1940s), workers far outnumbered Social Security beneficiaries — but the ratio was more like 40 to one, not "thousands" to one. But as more and more people quickly qualified for benefits, the taxpayer-to-beneficiary ratio rapidly dropped, and by about 1970, it had matured to the three-to-one ratio that has held strong

Social Security and you

for 40 years now.

As the baby boomers retire, we are indeed heading toward a two-to-one ratio. But with some modest adjustments to benefits and/or tax rates, the system can continue to operate quite well at such a worker-to-beneficiary ratio.

Finally, third: Ponzi schemes, by their very definition, have short life spans. Social Security has been around for 75 years now.

Q&A

Q: I paid maximum Social Security taxes from the time I started working in 1971. I plan to keep working until the end of 2011, when I will retire at age 66. How much will I pay in Social Security taxes? How long will it take for me to get that back?

A: I normally don't like answering this kind of question, because I think it just lends credence to the Social-Security-as-an-investment-scheme scenario I just spent the first part of this column debunking.

On the other hand, I totally understand that people want to know if they're getting their money's worth out of the program. That's just human nature. But before I answer your question, I have to make the following points.

First, in addition to what you get out of the program, you have to consider what the country gains from a national social insurance system. I alluded to one of the program's social benefits above. In a future column, I will spell out more.

Second, these "payback" numbers can be presented in all sorts of ways. For example, some insist the employer's share of Social Security taxes should be factored into the equation. This is the amount your employer kicked into Social Security to match your tax payments.

I disagree. After all, it's not like your employer was sending *your* money to

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the government. The employer's share is simply another tax a business pays. Think of it this way: if Social Security were abolished tomorrow (or when

Gov. Perry is elected president), do you think your employer is going to increase your salary by the amount of that matching share of Social Security tax? Will he say, "Oh,

here's that money of yours we've been sending to the government for you! You can have it back now!" I don't think so. But if you disagree with my take on

this, then simply double the number I give you when I present the amount of Social Security taxes you've paid.

I also must point out that I fully understand that I'm presenting the

understand that I'm presenting the "payback times" for someone who works for wages. A self-employed person pays twice as much in Social Security taxes — although, over the years, that rate's been reduced by various tax write-offs.

And finally, I must make it clear that in adding up the "taxes paid" column, I used the Social Security tax, which varied from 4.6 percent when you first started working in 1971 to 6.2 percent in 2010. (And in 2011, you paid only 4.2 percent, due to a provision in last year's economic stimulus package.) When some people attempt to do these payback times, they mistakenly add in Medicare taxes paid. Medicare is a completely separate program and is entirely separately funded. It makes absolutely no sense to factor in Medicare taxes when trying to figure out Social Security payback times.

Having said that, here are the numbers. Assuming, as you said, that you paid Social Security taxes on maximum earnings from 1971 to 2011, you will have paid \$132,740 in Social Security taxes during those 40 years. You should expect to get a monthly Social Security retirement benefit of about \$2,400. That means you will recoup all the taxes you paid in about 55 months, or a little more than four and a half years.

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

Sophisticated.

Complicated.

Flirty.

Serious.

Summer

that will direct water from the watershed to the Canadian River, and into Lake Meredith from there.

"As it was before, it was so wide and there was so little water flowing through it that when the water would hit it, it would disperse outward and just soak into the ground. It would never reach the lake," said Hooper. "You want to capture as much of that rainwater as you can, so that's what they're trying to do."

The summer's dry conditions led to a busy season for the Pampa Fire Department and the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department, which covers all of Gray County outside of the Pampa city limits.

"Wildfires have increased not just state-wide but through-out the country," said Randy Dunham, Deputy Chief of the Pampa Fire Department. "The situation hasn't improved that much. We're still dry, and the only thing that has helped has been cooler temperatures and a higher humidity."

The Pampa Fire Department responded to 13 grass fires since June and 52 fires total. Between June and August, the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department fought 28 fires that destroyed 2,000 acres in Gray County.

Chief Joe Milligan of the Hoover department estimates fires have been up 30 percent over a typical summer.

"We've had a few timely rains that have helped the county," said Milligan. "(The grassfires) take a toll on equipment and firefighters."

In addition to an increased danger of fire, farmers and ranchers have dealt with a series of blows this summer, including a ripple effect of elevated commodity, feed and production costs.

"We have a lot of irrigated land, but we still depend on rainfall," said Brandon McGinty of the Gray County branch of Texas AgriLife Extension Service. "Normally even in dry years, we have dry land cotton and sorghum that makes. This year we had almost no rainfall and no soil moisture to plant into, and then there was no grass grown or it was eaten off already."

These conditions pushed up feed prices, forcing many ranchers to sell their herds.

"Cattle prices were good for a while, but cow prices have dropped, because the cow market has been flooded," said McGinty. "Everybody's selling. Calf prices have held strong. Those will probably increase, but that will only help the guy

cont. from page 1

that has calves to sell."

If nothing else, the summer has brought attention to the need for conservation, and appealed to many people's sense to plan well ahead for the future, particularly when we don't know what lies

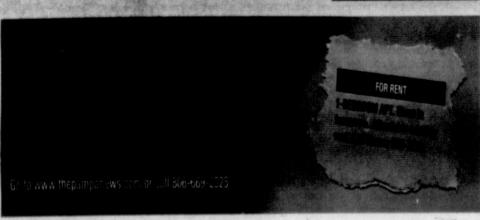
ahead.

But Buffalo predicts we have not seen the last of the drought.

"La Niña will strengthen once again during the winter, so dry conditions are likely to continue into winter months," he said.







iewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2011. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 26, 1789, Thomas Jefferson was confirmed by the Senate to be the first U.S. secretary of state; John Jay, the first chief justice; Edmund Randolph, the first attorney general.

On this date:

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1892, John Philip Sousa and his newly formed band performed publicly for the first time, at the Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield, N.J.

In 1914, the Federal Trade Commission was

In 1918, the Meuse-Argonne offensive, resulting in an Allied victory against the Germans, began during World War I.

In 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place in Chicago as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience.

In 1981, the twin-engine Boeing 767 made its official debut in Everett, Wash.

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating.

In 1991, four men and four women began a twoyear stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Ariz., called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

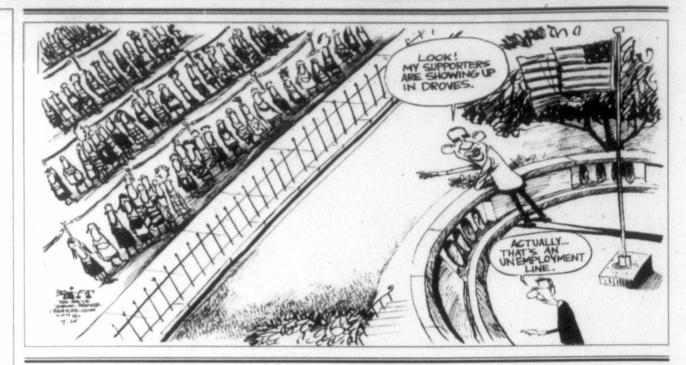
Ten years ago: In truce talks held at the urging of the United States, Israel and the Palestinians agreed on a series of confidence-building measures aimed

at ending a year of fighting Five years ago: A declassified version of a government intelligence report ordered released by President George W. Bush said the war in Iraq had become a "cause celebre" for Islamic extremists, breeding deep resentment of the U.S. that was likely

to get worse before it got better. One year ago: Gloria Stuart, the oldest Academy Award acting nominee as the spunky survivor in "Titanic," died in Los Angeles at age 100.

Today's Birthdays: Retired baseball All-Star Bobby Shantz is 86. Actor Philip Bosco is 81. Actress Donna Douglas is 79. Actor Richard Herd is 79. South African nationalist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is 75. Actor Kent McCord is 69. Television host Anne Robinson is 67. Singer Bryan Ferry is 66. Actress Mary Beth Hurt is 65. Singer Lynn Anderson is 64. Singer Olivia Newton-John is 63. Actor James Keane is 59. Rock singer-musician esar Rosas (Los Lobos) is 5 Actress Linda Hamilton is 55. Country singer Doug Supernaw is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cindy Herron (En Vogue) is 50. Actress Melissa Sue Anderson is 49. Actor Patrick Bristow is 49. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 49. Singer Tracey Thorn (Everything But The Girl) is 49. TV personality Jillian Barberie is 45. Actor Jim Caviezel (kuh-VEE'-zuhl) is 43. Singer Shawn Stockman (Bovz II Men) is 39. Jazz musician Nicholas Payton is 38. Actor Mark Famiglietti is 32. Singer-actress Christina Milian is 30. Tennis player Serena Williams is 30.

Thought for Today: "Pity the meek, for they Don Marquis, American shall inherit the earth." journalist-author (1878-1937).



Better? Sure, but outlook still twisted

Stocks collapsed roughly 700 points over two days after the Federal Reserve launched its "Operation Twist." The market correctly perceives that the central bank's plan to swap \$400 billion of short-term notes for long-term bonds adds no new reserves to the financial system. So it wasn't QE3, that's for sure. No stimulus. In fact, with the Treasury yield curve flattening, the Fed's sterilized asset swap actually tightened financial markets.

The Fed should have listened to the GOP congressional leadership, which in a letter advocated no more stimulus and no more market-subverting interference.

But the real issue is the new FOMC forecast: "There are significant downside risks to the economic outlook, including strains in global financial markets." That was the killer statement.

So let me repeat: We are on the front end of a recession. The profits picture is very much in doubt. More Obamanomics tax hikes are in the air. Europe is unsolved. U.S. finances are a mess. All this is being discounted by slumping stocks.

Corporate credit risk spreads have been widening, which is a negative for the profits picture, as economist Michael Darda has pointed out. Profits are the mother's milk of stocks. And the European funding markets have tightened substantially, as their much-wider financialstress spreads all indicate.

Indeed, the European banking and sovereign-debt crisis is still a shoe



KUDLOW

or to recapitalize banks in the wake of those default restructurings.

restructurings,

Meanwhile, September purchasing managers' indexes for European manufacturing and services teeter on the brink of recession. In Asia, Hong Kong shipping volumes are way down, and China's PMI came in weak. The global transportationdelivery powerhouse FedEx just lowered its worldwide earnings and sales outlook

And coming back home, the Obama \$1.5 trillion tax-hike plan, and his veto threat for any deficit package that doesn't include big tax hikes on successful earners, investors and businesses, is another sword of Damocles hanging over the economy and the stock market.

Is the U.S. stock market now predicting recession? Well, the cyclical economic sectors are in bear-market mode, with roughly 25 percent declines since late April for energy, industrials and materials. Banks, which are being hurt by credit downgrades and yield-curve flattening, are off over 30 percent.

How bad might the recession be? Well, it's hard to say. But in all likelihood the answer is not so bad. The yield curve has narrowed from 10s to 2s, from nearly 300 basis points in March to about 150 basis points currently. But the curve is not inverted, and that's important as a recession signal. And over the past 10 years or so, the average spread has been about 160 basis points, not far from today's reading.

Also, the U.S. banking system is flush with cash, as is corporate America. And for better or worse, interest rates in the Treasury market are negative (easy money). Business profits will slow significantly, but are still likely to rise a bit. And with oil dropping to about \$80, a price shock that was a key slowdown factor is going away

Housing is still in the tank, and consumer spending looks very iffy. And we had zero jobs and zero retail sales in August -- two very bad signs. On the other hand, exports and business investment are still

So it's not 2008. Not by a long shot. But it's not a pretty picture

Lawrence Kudlow is an economist, television personality, and newspaper columnist. He is the host of CNBC's The Kudlow Report. As a syndicated columnist, his articles appear in numerous U.S. newspapers and web sites, including his own blog, Kudlow's Money Politic\$.

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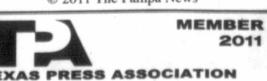
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It's gang-up time on Israel again. Right on schedule, here come the huffers, puffers and pipsqueaks. Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, arrives in New York to demand a seat at the United Nations. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, right on cue, arrives from Iran in a cloud of bluster and bombast.

It's all for show, of course, irritating in the way a noisy neighbor's drunken fight with his wife at 3 in the morning can be irritating. But the show, such as it is, makes a convenient backdrop for what looks like an authentic hope for change in American presidential politics.

Here come the Republicans in several Christian varieties riding rhetoric to the rescue of the Jews. The Democrats mostly squeak at a safe distance in the high weeds, their ranks divided by cheers for both sides. What's different this time is that Jewish voters, the reliable yellow-dog Democrats, are suddenly showing a streak of unaccustomed independence.

If Anthony Weiner's Brooklyn/ Queens congressional district can go red after being the deepest navy blue since 1923, there's Republican hope for turning Florida and Pennsylvania reliably red. That includes both the congressional and presidential races.

Jewish voters have been reliably partisan Democrats since they arrived on waves of immigration in the early decades of the 20th century. Most American Jews have never been to Israel and identify with the New Deal that defined the modern Democratic Party. "Many Jews can only vote with their left hands," Jay Lefkowitz, who was an adviser to President George W. Bush. "It's almost as if they think if they vote with their right hand it will fall off."

But altered circumstances invite Republican presidential candidates



SUZANNE **FIELDS**

to rush into neighborhoods where in the past even fools would not go. Mitt Romney calls the Palestinian ploy statehood for the direct result "Obama's repeated efforts over three years

to throw Israel under the bus and undermine its negotiating position.'

Rick Perry, the governor of Texas who wears his evangelical Christian witness on his sleeve, calls the Romney rhetoric and raises. He reminds an audience of Jews in New York that he stands firmly in Judeo-Christian tradition, because "as a Christian (I) have a clear directive to

support Israel." He assails Obama's Middle East policy as "naive, arrogant, misguided and dangerous." He offers the ultimate milk and honey as a sweetener: In a Perry administration, the United States embassy would be relocated to Jerusalem, something several presidents have blocked for years lest it intrude on something the diplomats insist on calling a "peace process."

Perry's critique of the president's naivete echoes Hillary Clinton's rhetoric in the presidential primaries of 2008, but as the president's mouthpiece she can't say that unless she resigns and runs against him.

She has to be sorely tempted. Romney and Perry both display a 'gut instinct" to protect Israel, something a growing number of Jewish voters think President Obama doesn't have. They think it required considerable chutzpah for Obama to suggest, as he did in speeches to audiences of Jewish and Israeli

leaders, to engage in "serious selfreflection," to "search your souls" to renew their attitudes toward peace. The only implication here is that Jewish "attitudes" toward peace

need renewal. The timing seems right for Republicans to act on what the polls tell them, that 75 percent of conservative Republicans sympathize with Israel, not the Palestinians. This is the highest number for all partisan groups, according to Pew Research Centers. Only 32 percent of liberal Democrats favor Israel in the poll, with 21 percent favoring the Palestinians. Among the coveted independents, 50 percent favor Israel and 12 percent favor the Palestinians.

More disturbing for the president as he heads toward 2012 is a poll by Secure America Now showing that only 43 percent of the Jews who voted for Obama in 2008 say they will vote for him next year. His poorest showing is among Jews under 40. If it holds, this suggests a radical change in Jewish loyalties.

The historian Paul Johnson observes how timing has been crucial to the birth and survival of Israel, from the original decision by the United Nations to declare a Jewish state in 1948. President Harry Truman (a Southern Baptist), equipped with that "gut instinct," recognized Israel within minutes.

An Israeli reporter asked Rick Perry whether relations between the United States and Israel are at crisis point.

"The American people are for Israel," the governor replied. "We may have an administration that feels differently. I hope you will tell the people of Israel that hope is on the way."

Suzanne Fields is a columnist with the



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"How much dirt is PJ allowed to eat before it spoils his dinner?"

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Nest Heads





HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Sept. 26, 2011.

This year, you will witness many changes in your life. Some of which you won't be comfortable with; others you might like. You will choose to spend a lot of time by yourself, more so than usual. Use this time to rest, digest what is happening and internalize it. If you are single, check out anyone you meet with care. Someone could be different from the person he or she portrays. If you are attached, you might take more of a back seat than in the past. Your sweetie might not understand why a new you is emerging. Share more. VIRGO

reads you cold. 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)

*** All work and no play can be debilitating, yet it is Monday. You must deliver professionally or within your immediate circle. Pace yourself; make lists. Demonstrate just how efficient you can be when you try. Tonight, Do only what you must.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Allow your creativity to flourish. Stop feeding undeveloped ideas to others who could be judgmental. You are asking for negative feedback. When you are ready, encourage greater giveand-take. Listen and share more. Others appear to be unusually receptive. Tonight, Squeeze in some fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Getting out the front door could be a major effort. You really would like to stay home. Who could blame you? If you can get enough done playing the recluse, then why not? Otherwise, know that this, too, will pass. Tonight, Head home. Touch base with someone at a distance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Speak your mind, but understand that not everyone wants to hear your conclusions. You might feel frustrated as you hit a brick wall. Use this moment to experiment with other styles of communicating. You want your points heard, don't you? Tonight, Hang out with pals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Keep your eye on your budget, whether deciding to bring treats in to work or buy a gift (even for you!). It is so easy to overspend and justify it. Keep your eye

on increasing funds rather than depleting them. Tonight, Balance your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Allow greater give-and-take between you and others. Someone in your daily life - it might even be at work could stress you out. There is an implicit misunderstanding between the two of you. Consider clearing it up soon. Tonight, Whatever knocks your socks off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** You simply aren't willing to discuss everything that is on your mind. Make that OK, though a child or loved one knows something is going on. This person might try to pry you open. Enjoy the attention rather than get annoyed. Tonight, Plan

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Zero in on what you want. There could be some confusion about a work, health or day-to-day matter. You haven't received a clear message, and you aren't giving one either. If you see confusion, step in and clarify. Tonight, Wherever the crowds are

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Take a stand and move forward in handling a career-related or key personal matter. Others will intuitively follow you rather than question you. You might want to add to the moment, making what you desire possible. Tonight, The ball is in your

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

** Keep reaching out for someone at a distance. This person could be an expert or someone who often tosses a different perspective on situations. Be careful with financial commitments. Tonight, Let your imagination rock and roll.

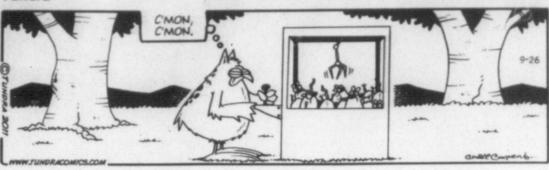
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

** * A partner or friend pulls in close and has a lot to share. You might have a mild sense of uneasiness with this person because he or she is so different from you. Sell, he or he has a lot to offer. Tonight, Chat over dinis

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Defer to others and maintain a sense of independence. Several friends, family and loved ones express their desires, each with a different, implicit agenda! You might be happiest doing your own thing. Tonight, Remember, you make the final call.

Tundra



Shoe





Mother Goose and Grim







Zits



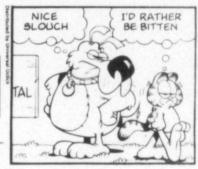




Garfield







Beetle Bailey





Marvin





Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts









Blondie







CASA

every month and become a part of his life. Phillip had never interacted to a large degree with anyone but his relationship with his CASA volunteer changed that. After many months of her consistent visits with Phillip, his CASA volunteer attended an event for Phillip that included his foster family. Upon her entering the room, Phillip turned around, looked at her and called out her name. He came running over to hug her. What an amazing example of how her involvement in his life had allowed him to connect with her! The CASA volunteer also was able to look at the case through new eyes and with much patience, encouraged the mother in her efforts to regain custody of her son. Today, Phillip is living with his mother and three brothers because his CASA volunteer was unwavering in her desire to see him have a permanent home.

John was a teenager when he was placed in foster care because his parents stated they were no longer able to control his behavior. He was placed in a group home in another city and had lost contact with anyone he had ever known. His CASA volunteers began to visit him in his new placement. After

they visited him consistently, he began to trust that they were really interested in him and his future. He was eventually placed in a center many miles from home. His dedicated CASA volunteers maintained telephone contact with him weekly and even made the long trek to see him in his placement. He was able to show such improvement that he was able to leave this placement and return to a home like setting. To assist with this transition, his CASA volunteers helped him get enrolled in school, made sure his records were transferred to that school, helped him get the school supplies he needed and gave him encouragement all along the way. John is so excited to be where he is at now and he has developed a strong trust in his CASA volunteers. He is determined to graduate from high school and be successful in his life. No doubt he will accomplish his goals because his CASA volunteers are cheering him on

cont. from page 1

Many abused and neglected children have been impacted by a CASA volunteer. Your support of the United Way helps make that possible. Please make a difference in the lives of these children by giving to the United Way.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

I'm doing this because I FUTURE wouldn't be comfortable dating someone who is still me out, but no one has and I'm a little bothered by at all. I don't wear my ring a very attractive person.

I have had several boyfriends throughout my life, and looking back at them heals enough to once again tactless. If you'd rather and my marriage, I realize send out "available and not be around him, folthat I was the first to show interested" vibes. You say low your instincts and an interest and ask them you're not quite there yet, avoid him. His wife and out. I'd like it if a guy approached me and made the not attracting any interest. friendship, and if the first move. I'm worried that when I'm ready to date it is so full - unless you no more foursomes, she won't happen. I understand meet someone at school should be told the truth. that approaching a stranger or through your job is a little unnerving, but I'm your love life may have to circle is shrinking, he may beginning to take it person- stay on hold until you can change his ways. And if he

Please don't suggest go-

DEAR ABBY: I'm go- and go to school full-time, to me. He recently told me DEAR LOOKING

(BUT NOT LOOKING): married. I told myself I If you're asking me how would politely explain this to get a man to ask you to any gentleman who asks out so you can tell him, "No, I'm not ready," I'm sorry but I can't help you. it. No one approaches me I don't know the circumstances of your divorce, ERS IN MILWAUKEE and I consider myself to be but if they were hurtful, it is not uncommon for the injured party to "become invisible" until he or she which may be why you're yours can continue their

squeeze it in.

ing to activities outside the friend who routinely makes ness. home to meet people. I work offhand, sarcastic remarks

ing through a divorce and so that's not an option any- my story wasn't worth lishave decided not to be- time soon. - LOOKING tening to, which makes me gin dating until it's final. FOR A DATE -IN THE wonder if he's insecure or just doesn't care for my company. I feel devalued and I'm beginning to be weary of his "zingers." Sometimes I'd rather not be in his company, but my wife and I have no problem with his wife. Any suggestions?

— SICK OF THE ZING-

> DEAR SICK OF THE ZINGERS: This "friend" may think he's being clever, or he may be utterly While your schedule woman asks why there are Once they see their social doesn't, you will no longer DEAR ABBY: I have a have to tolerate his rude-

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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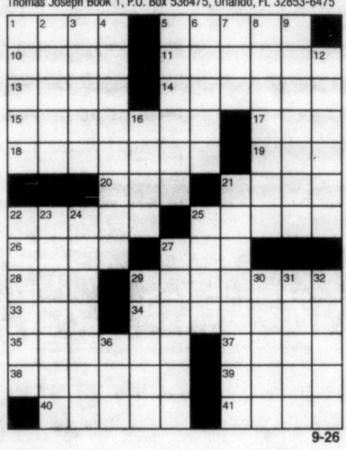
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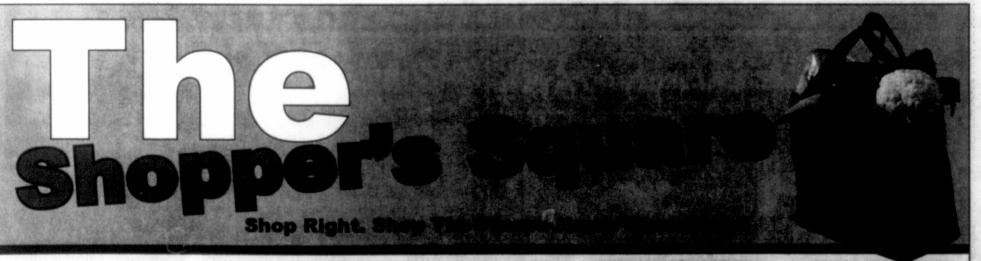
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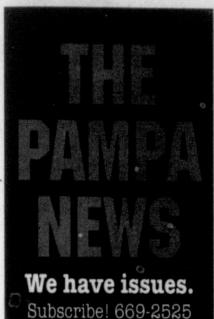
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977 Cinderella

1916 Zimmers

2112 Christy

533 Powell

612 Powell

614 Magnolia

914 Twiford.

732 Bradley

526 Wynne St

600 W 3rd Ave, WD

609 Gulf, Lefors

120 S. Gillespie

11756 Hwy 152

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Seminole Drive

Dogwood Ln.

Jupiter

Jupiter

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9.58 Acres east hosp....\$2,503,828

1008 W Buckler Ave.

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All current patients are encouraged to visit the Age: 18 months to 2 offices of Pampa Medical Group located at Brand, Marks, Identi-100 West 30th Suite fying Characteristics: 101, to sign releases to "429" hot branded on have their records trans- left hip, "429" on yelferred to other physicians of choice as soon Persons wishing to as possible.

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Jim Davidson (BKR/OWNR).... 662-9021

Linda Lapacka, GRI, ePro......662-9611

Sandra Schuneman (BKR) 662-7291

Andrea Walling

Donna Courter.

Katrina Bigham.

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Sports

PHS swim teams test waters in meet-like atmosphere

ANDREW GLOVER

aglover@thepampanews.com

Saturday at the Pampa Youth Center, there wasn't a team with different color swimsuits, but the Pampa High School swim teams didn't treat the meet differently as they swam against each other in the Green and Gold Meet.

Senior Karl Pfitzner said he thought the meet went well.

"Everyone swam well and kept up with their times," Pfitzner said.

Head coach Edward Garvin said it was good for his team to get meet action especially his junior highers.

"Some people got some good times today," Garvin said. "The main thing is our junior high kids getting a time. All the seventh graders have not been in a meet before. It was a learning experience. They now have to times to start with and to build on."

Sophomore Morgan Graef said she thought her team swam well.

"We did pretty good," Graef said. "It was a fun meet and everyone swam hard."

The Harvesters and Lady Harvesters swim in Lubbock for a relays meet October 8. Senior Spencer Estes said the teams will compete in various relays.

"We will swim in mixed, freestyle and medley relays," Estes said. "We go to the meet because we want to. It's just for fun."

Pfitzner said he feels the team will be ready for the "We're going to keep practicing hard," Pfitzner said. "We will be ready."

Pfitzner said the team will have to figure out where to put the new swimmers before the October 8 meet.

"We have to integrate the new swimmers," Pfitzner said. "They need to get used to the meet atmosphere."

Garvin said the team needs to work on the little things before its first meet.

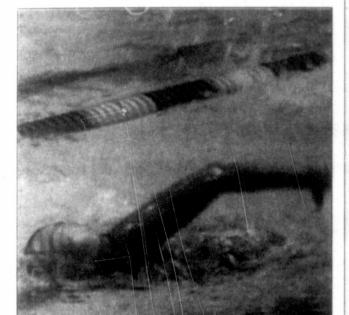
"We're not there yet," Garvin said. "We are getting there. We have to work mostly on the little things, turns and starts, just the little techniques to get faster."



On

665-0

Senior Karl Pfitzner takes a breath during the 500-meter freestyle at the Green and Gold Meet Saturday in the Pampa Youth Center.



staff photo by Andrew Glover Sophomore Morgan Graef breathes during the 100-meter freestyle at the Pampa Youth Center.

Pirates cage Tigers

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The No. 7 Lefors Pirates were without six players when they faced the McLean Tigers Friday. Not having all hands on deck didn't effect Lefors as it won 57-14

at Shaw Field The Pirates (5-0) had four starters suspended for violating team rules, one player still out with a concussion and one with ineligible residencey status. Head coach Joey Czubinski said he was proud of how his players stepped up

"They played outstanding football," Czubinksi said. "I'm really proud of them."

Sophomore Tjaden Swires scored four rushing touchdowns and caught one conversion pass. Junior quarterback Spencer Nicholson threw four touchdown passes and completed one conversion pass. Senior Dennis

Sprouse caught two touchdown passes and ran for one. The Tigers (0-4) didn't get closer than six. Junior Braden Hambright caught two touchdown passes from senior Jordan Herring for McLean's scores.

Lefors hosts Anton (2-2) 7:30 p.m. Friday. Czubinski said it will give his team a good challenge.

"(Anton) started with a ranked team out of the gate with Miami," Czubinski said. "We saw they had good athletes. The next game they put points on the board. Then they beat Holy Cross and pounded Lorenzo. I anticipate they will play us tough.

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
McLean	0	14	0	0	14
Lefors	12	20	13	12	57

Scoring Summary First Quarter

L G. Reagan 23-yard pass from Nicholson (kick failed)

L T. Swires one-yard run (kick failed) Second Quarter

M B. Hambright 12-yard pass from Herring (kick failed) L S. Scully 43-yard pass from Nicholson (Nicholson to Reagan)

L D. Sprouse 47-yard pass from Nicholson (Nicholson

to Scully)

L D. Sprouse one-yard run (pass failed)

M B. Hambright two-yard pass from Herring (Herring

Third Quarter

L T: Swires two-yard run (kick failed) L D. Sprouse 67-yard pass from Nicholson (Scully to Swires)

Fourth Quarter

L T. Swires one-yard run (pass failed) L Scully 18-yard run (end of game)

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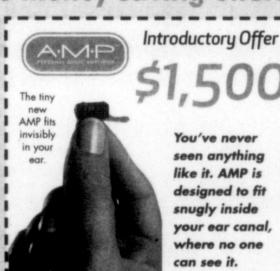
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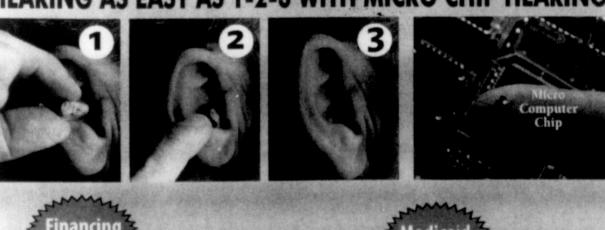
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