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# The PAMPA NEWS



**TODAY IN SPORTS**  
**This time, it's personal**  
 PHS volleyball seeks to avenge Berger ouster  
 Page 10

**inside:**  
 The Savage Truth on money by Terry Savage  
 Page 3

Tuesday, September 27, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 145 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## Sunday incident leads to woman's arrest

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

A series of violent incidents on Sunday led to the arrest of a Denton woman after she attempted to drive a vehicle into a Pampa police officer.

Karla J. Dobbs of Denton was picked up by the Pampa Police Department and charged with aggravated assault on a public servant.

At around 1:45 p.m. on Sunday, the Pampa Police Department responded to a call at Florida and Somerville.

Dobbs, 55, supposedly had struck a man with her vehicle while he was sitting in his yard.

When officers arrived on the scene, Dobbs was inside her vehicle and still in the yard. Officers asked her to get out of the vehicle, but instead,

she tried to drive away. Dobbs first backed up, then drove forward towards an officer, who fired into the hood of the vehicle to disable it.

Dobbs was then arrested. According to Pampa PD Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar, alcohol and illicit drugs are not believed to be a factor in this case, which is still under investigation.



Dobbs

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## BOOK WORMS



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Coulytn McGahen, 8, Perla Vizcaino, 7, Juan Miranda, 8 and Julian Ruliz, 7 read in Julie Britten's second grade class at Lamar Elementary Monday.

## Pampa PD community forum Thurs.

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Have you ever wanted to pick the brain of Pampa's Police Department to get a better idea of what is going on around town? If so, Thursday will be your lucky day.

Pampa PD is hosting a community forum, and encouraging Pampans to come with questions in hand. The forum is the latest in the series of meetings started by the department this year to better connect with the Pampa community.

"A lot of times, we as police officers, know what's going on in terms of our cases and crime in the area. These meetings give citizens a chance to come in and ask any questions they may have," said Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar.

The community forums, which occur every three months, focus not on individual cases or tickets, but on overall trends that officers are aware of. Thursday's meeting will cover the recent upsurge in burglaries, Halloween safety and any other issues brought to the table by attendees.

The forum will be held 6:30 p.m. Thursday evening at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

## See You at the Pole Wed. at PHS, PJHS

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Every year, students gather around flag poles at high school and junior high campuses around the country with one simple mission: prayer.

On Wednesday morning, Pampa Junior High students will congregate at 7:15 a.m., and students at Pampa High School will meet at 8:15 a.m. The prayer event will be followed by Saw You at the Pole, hosted by Trinity Fellowship Church at 7 p.m. Lubbock pastor Daniel "Tiny" Dominguez will speak.

Many around Pampa's religious community see the event as a great way to get kids more

active in their faith.

"A lot of good things come out of this event. It challenges youth to live out their faith on campus," said Brian Taylor, youth minister at Cornerstone Baptist Church and one of the organizers of the event.

Taylor said that after last year's See You at the Pole, students from Pampa High School formed a Christian club called Awakening.

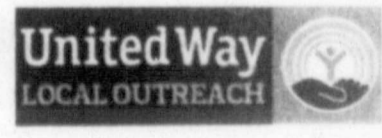
"The greatest thing about See You at the Pole is that we have students who are reenergized and inspired to reach their classmates for Christ," said Taylor. "It's a time for believers to come together to pray for the town of Pampa, our schools and our leaders."

## Optimist Club teaches lessons through sports

**CHRIS PORTER**  
 Pampa Optimist Youth Club

When Sarah first came to the Pampa Optimist Club, she quietly asked if there was any way that she could pay for her two young sons' registration fees over the length of the football season.

After explaining about payment plans and an available scholarship program, she explained her financial situation. She had recently become a single parent, and was trying to raise her two sons and daughter, while finishing her Nursing Degree. She explained that she had never had to ask for financial help before. It was not an easy thing to do, but she realized that the valu-



and courage she was forced to find, to survive, were instilled early with the help of youth sports. She wanted to pass those same lessons to her children.

She also told the person signing her boys up that she was making the decision between buying enough groceries and paying for her boys to play. She promised that if we would help her, at this time of need, that once she earned her degree, she would pay for the scholarships and the regular fee so someone

**OPTIMIST cont. on page 7**

**27th Annual Country Fair**  
**Oktoberfest Texas Style**  
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 Doors open 6 p.m./\$30 per person

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Obituaries .....	2	Viewpoints .....	4
Local Record .....	2	Comics .....	6
Weather .....	2	Puzzles/Dear Abby .....	8
Afternoon Rush .....	3	Classifieds .....	9
The Savage Truth .....	3	Sports .....	10





# MORNINGRUSH

## Doritos creator dies in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) - Arch West, a retired Frito-Lay marketing executive credited with creating Doritos as the first national tortilla chip brand, has died in Dallas at age 97.

A statement issued by the West family says he died Tuesday at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. A graveside service is scheduled for Oct. 1. Daughter Jana Hacker of Allen tells The Dallas Morning News the family plans on "tossing Doritos chips in before they put the dirt over the urn."

West was a marketing vice president for Dallas-based Frito-Lay in 1961 when, while on a family vacation near San Diego, he found a snack shack selling fried tortilla chips. Hacker says her father got a tepid corporate response to the tortilla chip idea but conducted marketing research that led to the Doritos rollout.

## Cook offers free last meals

HOUSTON (AP) - A former Texas inmate who once cooked the final meals for condemned prisoners is offering to continue the practice at no cost to the state now that prison officials have announced they've stopped the special meals.

Brian Price, who now runs an East Texas restaurant, says he's extending his offer to any condemned inmate in the state and taxpayers will be out nothing. Price is author of a book called "Meals to Die For," a cookbook that references his previous duties.

Officials who oversee the country's busiest death chamber stopped the practice last week after a prominent state senator complained about a hefty request from a man executed for his role in the notorious Jasper dragging death. Inmates now are to get only what other inmates eat that day.

## Cain: Straw poll not a fluke

WASHINGTON (AP) - Businessman Herman Cain says his victory in the Florida Republican straw poll was authentic and wasn't a statement by voters against Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Cain tells NBC's "Today" show the weekend test balloting was "not a protest vote." Cain says his performance shows "the voice of the people is more powerful than the voice of the media."

He won roughly 37 percent of the vote, compared to 15 percent for Perry and 14 percent for former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Cain also says he doubts Perry's poor showing was the result of his uneven performance earlier in the week in the Orlando candidate debate. Cain says the straw poll illustrates that "people are listening to the message and not just, with all due respect, to the media."

## Listeria cause of Dallas Co. death

DALLAS (AP) - An 89-year-old Dallas County resident who became ill from listeria linked to cantaloupes from a Colorado farm has died.

Dallas County Health and Human Services said Monday the resident had been hospitalized but gave no other details. The person wasn't identified.

According to the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is from last week, eight deaths have been reported nationwide from the outbreak. That did not include a death in Texas.

The outbreak has been traced to cantaloupes from Jensen Farms in Holly, Colo., which recalled the tainted produce earlier this month. Jensen Farms said the recalled Rocky Ford-brand cantaloupes were shipped from July 29 through Sept. 10 to more than a dozen states, including Texas.

## Parents protest refinery refund

PASADENA (AP) - Parents and grandparents in Pasadena are handing out fliers and offering \$10,000 cookies at a mock bake sale designed to raise awareness about the possibility that area refineries could be awarded a multimillion dollar tax refund.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality may force refinery towns and cities to refund more than \$135 million in taxes. The three commissioners appointed by Gov. Rick Perry are considering a request by the refineries that argues new pollution reducing units should be tax exempt.

The concerned families handed out fliers and asked parents dropping children off at school Monday to sign petitions to express opposition to the move. The Pasadena Independent School District may have to return \$11.3 million to two refineries.

## Smuggler convicted in deaths

McALLEN (AP) - A federal jury in McAllen has convicted a Mexican man involved in a smuggling operation during which nine immigrants died after the vehicle they were riding in fell into a South Texas canal in 2004.

U.S. Attorney Jose Angel Moreno announced Monday that a jury convicted 43-year-old Joel Cardenas-Meneses late Friday of smuggling the immigrants who drowned.

Prosecutors alleged that Cardenas-Meneses was in charge of recruiting Central American immigrants for the smuggling ring, getting them to Reynosa, Mexico, and coordinating their trip across the Rio Grande.

On Aug. 9, 2004, a 17-year-old was driving the immigrants away from the river without his headlights on when he drove into a canal. The nine immigrants, all citizens of Honduras and El Salvador, drowned.

## Perry to make Georgia debut

ATLANTA (AP) - Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry will make his Georgia debut with a speech Friday before a conservative think tank.

The Texas governor will speak about taxes, torts and his home's state's economy in a speech before the Georgia Public Policy Foundation in Atlanta. The group is holding its 2011 legislative conference. The event is modeled after the annual briefings by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a sister think tank in the Lone Star state.

Perry will also headline a lunchtime fundraiser Friday at an upscale Atlanta restaurant.

It will be Perry's first trip to Georgia since joining the race for the White House.

# Four financial checkups to do this fall

TERRY SAVAGE  
Creator's Syndicate

There's a certain amount of energy associated with the fall season. Maybe it's left over from the days of our childhood, when autumn meant new school supplies, new clothes and the start of a new school year.

Fall is also a good, uncluttered time to take a fresh look at your finances. That gives you time to make adjustments before the frenzied holiday season.

Right now, your tax preparer is bored, your insurance agent is dozing, and your stockbroker is lonely. In other words, if you take action now, you'll get a lot more attention from the financial professionals you need to rethink your situation and plan for the future.

### Life insurance checkup

Most people buy life insurance, cringe when the premium payment notice arrives — and then forget about it. But life insurance styles and prices change frequently — just like fashion. How long has it been since you've had a life insurance checkup?

While you don't want to change policies unnecessarily because that will trigger a new "contestability" period (typically at least two years), sometimes it makes sense to update or increase your coverage.

For example, if you purchased a 20-year level term policy a decade ago, you're getting closer to the end of that fixed price period. At the time you bought your insurance, you might have thought you'd need life insurance only until your kids graduated college, or until the mortgage was paid off. But now, getting older, you might want to extend coverage for the benefit of your spouse.

There are two possibilities. You could, if the policy allows, convert the policy to a cash value policy — without evidence of "insurability" if the policy allows. This might be the best solution if your health has changed, making it difficult to qualify for a new policy.

Or you could shop online for a new policy at a site like Accuquote or SelectQuote. You might be pleasantly surprised to find that prices have dropped in recent years. You might even price a 30-year level term policy and find it affordable.

## The Savage Truth on money



If you have a "cash value" policy, such as universal life, it's especially important to ask your agent (or contact the insurance company) for an "in-force ledger" — an estimate of how the cash in your policy is growing, and how long it will help subsidize your annual premium. With these low interest rates, your policy may "run out" of money long before you run out of life! Then you could be hit with huge premium payments when you are older and can least afford it.

### Homeowner's insurance checkup

The market value of your home may have dropped — but not the cost of replacing the structure and contents. This is the perfect time to contact your agent and determine the true "replacement" cost of everything you own.

It's also a good time to tour your house with a video or "flip cam" to record specifics, such as expensive woodwork or carpet. That will help you justify the replacement cost.

Of course, you should keep the photos stored online or off premises, in case your home is destroyed by fire. More expensive items such as artwork, silver and jewelry must be "scheduled" separately to receive full coverage.

Tip: Ask about discounts, such as combining home and auto insurance. Or your policy may cost less if you are now a senior driver, or if your teen has moved out and gone to college. And consider raising your deductible if you can afford it. That can also cut annual costs.

### Evaluate your estate plan

This is the last thing you want to think about now — and it could be the most important. You never know when fate will deal an unexpected blow to your financial plans. And if you've made a mistake, you won't be around to fix it.

Making an "estate plan" — a will and revocable living trust — doesn't have to be an expensive

proposition. But I suggest going to a professional to avoid issues after your death. To find an estate planning professional, ask your personal banker. Seniors can search at [naela.org](http://naela.org) — the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Or go to [search-attorneys.com](http://search-attorneys.com).

Fall is the perfect time to pull out that old plan and contact your attorney for an update. Your family situation may have changed in the intervening years. Surely, you don't want money to go to an ex-spouse! And children may have grown and have differing needs.

Before you skip this step, consider the consequences. I'm superstitious. I think that being unprepared is tempting fate.

### Evaluate your 401(K) investments

I've saved this step for last, because it may be even more "painful" and tempting to avoid than dealing with your estate plan. But now — before year's end — is the time to make adjustments. It's tough to get advice on your 401(k) allocations, because brokers who are paid on commissions receive no payment for decisions on investments made inside your retirement plan.

Some employer plans do offer advice through third-party advisers such as Financial Engines or Morningstar. A new report by Financial Engines shows the dramatic performance advantage for plan participants who get professional advice. A good part of that success comes from the discipline an adviser can bring to the process.

If your company does not offer this kind of advisory service, you can get a one-year free trial to Financial Engines, simply by clicking on the link at my home page at [TerrySavage.com](http://TerrySavage.com). Even if you try it just once, for a snapshot of their analysis, the insights will be helpful. I'm sure.

Fall is not the time to forget your money. It's the perfect time to get organized. And that's the Savage Truth!

*Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at [www.terrysavage.com](http://www.terrysavage.com).*

## Texas job creation outpaces nation

COLLEGE STATION - Texas continues to outperform the United States in job creation, according to the Real Estate Center's latest Monthly Review of the Texas Economy.

The state gained 271,400 nonfarm jobs from August 2010 to August 2011, an annual growth rate of 2.6 percent compared with 1 percent for the United States.

Texas jobs created during that period accounted for 21.1 percent of nonfarm jobs created in the nation.

The state's private sector grew by 284,200 jobs (3.3 percent) compared with 1.6 percent for the U.S. private sector.

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.5 percent in August 2011 from 8.3 a year earlier. The nation's rate decreased from 9.5 to 9.1 percent.

All Texas industries except the information industry and the state's government sector had more jobs in August 2011 than in August 2010. The state's mining and logging industry ranked first in job creation followed by the construction, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality industries.

All Texas metro areas except Abilene and Texarkana had more jobs in August 2011 than a year earlier. Victoria ranked first in job creation, followed by Odessa, Lubbock, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission and Midland.

The report was written by Research Economist Dr. Ali Anari and Chief Economist Dr. Mark Dotzour.

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Precious Memories make Precious Gifts

# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2011. There are 95 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

Sept. 27, 1941 was "Liberty Fleet Day" as the United States launched 14 rapidly built military cargo vessels, including the first Liberty ship, the SS Patrick Henry, which was personally launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Baltimore.

### On this date:

In 1540, Pope Paul III issued a papal bull establishing the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, as a religious order.

In 1779, John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War's peace terms with Britain.

In 1854, the first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1928, the United States said it was recognizing the Nationalist Chinese government.

In 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commission, which found that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a nationally broadcast address that he was eliminating all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons, and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture. In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the "Contract with America," a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

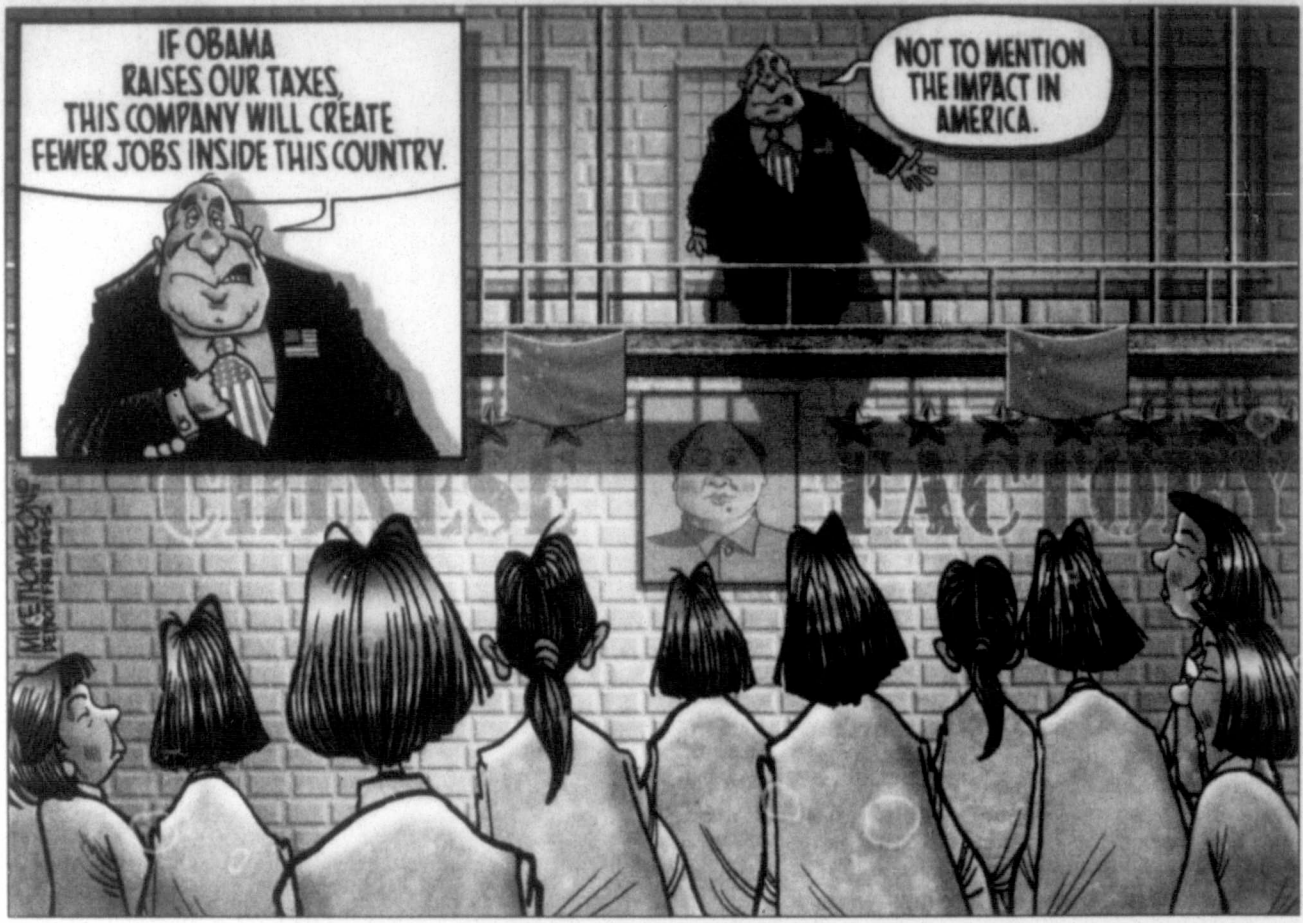
**Ten years ago:** An armed man went on a shooting rampage in the local parliament of Zug, Switzerland, killing 14 people before taking his own life.

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush hosted a peacemaking dinner at the White House for the bickering leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan, General Pervez Musharraf and Hamid Karzai.

**One year ago:** Southwest Airlines announced the \$1.4 billion purchase of AirTran.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Jayne Meadows is 91. Actress Kathleen Nolan is 78. Actor Wilford Brimley is 77. Actor Claude Jarman Jr. is 77. Author Barbara Howar is 77. Producer Don Cornelius ("Soul Train") is 75. World Golf Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth is 72. Singer-musician Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 68. Rock singer Meat Loaf is 64. Actress Liz Torres is 64. Actor A Martinez is 63. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is 62. Actor Cary-Hirovuki Tagawa is 61. Rock musician Greg Ham (Men At Work) is 58. Singer Shaun Cassidy is 53. Rock singer Stephan Jenkins (Third Eye Blind) is 47. Actor Patrick Muldoon is 43. Singer Mark Calderon is 41. Actress Amanda Detmer is 40. Actress Gwyneth Paltrow is 39. Rock singer Brad Arnold (3 Doors Down) is 33. Christian rock musician Grant Brandell (Underoath) is 30. Rapper Lil' Wayne is 29. Singer Avril Lavigne is 27.

**Thought for Today:** "I have lived in this world just long enough to look carefully the second time into things that I am most certain of the first time."  
—Josh Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw), American humorist (1818-1885)



## Texas refineries may get back \$135M

PASADENA (AP) - Three commissioners appointed by Gov. Rick Perry may grant some of the nation's largest refineries a tax refund of more than \$135 million. The money would help pay teachers and provide other public services.

The property tax refund would mean more pain for some communities after a year in which state lawmakers grappled with a \$27 billion shortfall and slashed spending on public schools by more than \$4 billion. Nearly half the refund would be taken from public schools, and those in cities where the refineries are based would be hurt most.

We were already cut at the knees as it is, but more cuts? It's appalling," said Patricia Gonzales, a single mother of 13-year-old twins at Park View Intermediate School in Pasadena, a refinery town just south of Houston. Gonzales is president of the school's new parent-teacher organization, formed this summer after the state budget cuts left the school lacking everything from pencils to paper towels.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is evaluating 16 requests for the refund, which concerns a piece of pollution-controlling equipment. If granted, the refund total for those requests could add up to more than \$135 million, according to county tax data and application documents analyzed by The Associated Press. What's more, agency documents show that if the commission grants the requests, at least 12 other refineries that have not sought a refund also could qualify.

The three-person commission last year expressed some support for the refund, prompting concern the panel is preparing to side with the industry in the middle of a budget crisis.

Should the commission approve the request, it would fall in line with Perry's argument on the GOP presidential campaign trail that by being friendly to business he has attracted businesses and jobs to Texas while other states suffered.

"Gov. Perry appoints individuals who are qualified and willing to serve, and expects they will consider all of the facts and make the appropriate decision," said Lucy Nashed, a spokeswoman for Perry.

The refund request has to do with a piece of technology used by refineries to minimize pollution. Beginning in 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began requiring refineries to remove sulfur dioxide from diesel and gasoline in an attempt to reduce vehicle pollution. Many refineries had to either upgrade existing "hydrotreater" units or purchase new, more effective equipment.

Valero first asked for the refund for six of its refineries in 2007, and wants payment retroactive to that year. Since then, at least four other companies have asked for the same retroactive refund.

Valero argues the units should be exempt under a Texas law that says industrial plants don't have to pay taxes on equipment purchased to reduce on-site pollution. The law saves companies millions, and is meant to encourage investment in new technology.

At first, the request was denied. The commission's staff said the hydrotreaters reduce pollution in

diesel and gas, not necessarily at the plant. In fact, staff said, the hydrotreaters actually increased sulfur dioxide pollution near the refineries because the toxic gas is now burned off in a flare.

Valero appealed, and the panel's chairman, Bryan Shaw, said last April that the Legislature likely intended a broader interpretation of the law. He instructed his staff to research whether they could award partial exemptions to Valero. Shaw declined to be interviewed for this story, saying it could present a conflict because the issue will be brought before him again.

Valero alone could potentially get a refund of more than \$92 million, but spokesman Bill Day said the San Antonio-based company believes the final refund - if approved - would be much smaller. He said appraisers will ultimately decide the value of the refinery properties and it's unlikely the numbers will be as high as those the companies noted on applications submitted to the commission.

There is no timeline for a ruling. The slow pace of decision-making has left municipalities and school districts in an uncomfortable position in which they collect - and spend money they could be forced to return, acknowledged Susana Hildebrand, a chief engineer at the TCEQ.

"We don't have a statutory deadline, so there's not a legal impetus," she said. "I understand the concern that the taxing authorities have."

Refunding tax money would be yet another hit for counties, cities and school districts already cutting corners and improvising to make up for lost funds. Schools alone could be forced to fork over \$62.8 million, according to data compiled by the AP.

In smaller, more rural counties - where property taxes from large industrial complexes provide a big chunk of funding for schools and government services - the impact could be greater. For example, in Moore County, where a Valero refinery is seeking exemptions on two units, a \$15.8 million refund would amount to more than \$720 per person.

"If it was a good year and property values were up it wouldn't be so bad," said Hugh Landrom Jr., president of Hugh Landrom and Associates, an engineering firm that does industrial appraisals for Galveston and other counties that are home to large refineries and chemical plants.

"It's compounded by the state budget cuts that are being passed down to everybody," Landrom said.

And because of a complex law aimed at evening the playing field between areas that have large refineries - and a strong tax base - and those that don't, all schools in the state

ultimately would be impacted if the abatement is approved, though refinery towns would be hurt the most, said David Hodgins, consultant and attorney for the Texas Association of School Administrators.

"The dollars that are lost by these school districts directly affect the children of the employees that help make these companies what they are," Hodgins said.

For Gonzales and other parents in Pasadena, the prospect of the school district having to hand back money is terrifying. Already, the middle school her children attend has laid off eight staff members and is asking for parents to donate money to pay for basketballs, volleyballs and even gloves for the science teachers, Gonzales said.

Now, the AP's analysis shows, the Pasadena Independent School District may have to refund \$11.3 million to two refineries if commissioners grant the request.

Early Monday, Gonzales and others handed out fliers, collected petition signatures and offered \$10,000 cookies and brownies at a mock "bake sale" designed to raise awareness about the money at stake. Eight Houston schools planned similar mock sales for later in the day.

The mom-turned-activist said she learned about the refineries' requests while unsuccessfully lobbying earlier this year to convince Perry and the Legislature to dip into the state's so-called rainy day fund to ease cuts to the schools.

Gonzales lives near a miles-long stretch of refineries, where massive pipes and stacks light the night like skyscrapers do in other cities. An intense, burnt chemical scent hangs over the town.

"You smell it. That's what we're known for. Stinkadena because of the refineries," Gonzales said. "There are days when we can't go out because our children's asthma is that bad ... and then they want money back?"

Valero said no one - not the refinery owners, municipalities, commission or appraisal districts - knows how much the industry could get if a refund is granted.

"It's not going to be a disaster," said Day, the company spokesman.

"I guarantee you, it's not a surprise to the school districts," he added. "Yes, they spent the money, yes we're asking for an abatement on our pollution control equipment ... but this is really no different than a homeowner appealing their property tax, just on a larger scale."

Parents, meanwhile, plan to hold fundraisers and boycott gas stations if necessary to fight the request.

"We pay taxes every day. Small businesses pay taxes," Gonzales said. "Why should big corporations get breaks?"

## The PAMPA NEWS

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

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## We welcome your letters

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- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.

## Skeletal remains found in forest north of Conroe

CONROE (AP) - Montgomery County and U.S. Forest Service officials are investigating the discovery of apparent human bones in the Sam Houston National Forest north of Conroe.

Detectives were summoned Saturday afternoon when the bones first were spotted. A search of the area continued through Sunday. The nature of how they were found was not immediately disclosed.

The bones have been taken to the Montgomery County Forensic Center for analysis.

Sheriff's Lt. Bill Bucks said Monday no identification of the remains has been made and no gender has been determined although the bones are believed to be the remains of an adult.

## Forney ISD must pay back state for mistake

FORNEY (AP) - A North Texas school district has overestimated its student population over several years and now must pay back \$13.6 million in overfunding to the state.

The Dallas Morning News reports that Forney school officials met with officials of the Texas Education Agency on Monday. The district said in a statement that it will work closely with the TEA "to ensure that any overpayment is adjusted in a manner that will cause as little hardship as possible."

The district will present a repayment plan to the education commissioner for money overpaid over four years, starting in 2007-08.

State funding of Texas school districts is based on average daily attendance.

## Hummingbirds make annual fall visit to S. TX

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) - Like the springtime arrival of swallows at San Capistrano, the hummingbirds are back in Corpus Christi and other parts of South Texas for their fall migration south.

The tiny speedy birds show up along the Texas Coastal Bend in late September and early October, feeding on small insects so they can beef up for the long annual trek to Central and South America.

Jay Tarkington, the aquatic education program director at the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi says some of the birds will follow the coastline south while others will take the more direct route over the Gulf of Mexico.

He told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times Monday 17 species of hummingbird can be seen in the Coastal Bend area.

## Company: Power back in Texas wildfire area

AUSTIN (AP) - Power is back on in all parts of a Central Texas county affected by the most destructive wildfire in the state's history.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative officials made that announcement Monday.

Crews have been restoring power to homes and businesses since the blaze started Sept. 4 near Bastrop. It destroyed more than 1,500 homes and killed two people.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that crews have been clearing debris near power lines and marking trees that could fall on them.

A Texas Forest Service investigation shows that trees and branches falling onto power lines sparked the Bastrop fire and another one in the county.

The wildfires near Austin forced thousands to flee their homes, burned out of control for days and blackened more than 50 square miles.

## Santa Fe tops global rankings for air quality

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico's capital, which regularly tops rankings for its quality of life, has something new to brag about. The first-ever World Health Organization survey on air pollution says Santa Fe's air quality readings are among the cleanest in the world.

Santa Fe Mayor David Coss says he's pleased but not surprised as the city consistently gets high rankings from the American Lung Association.

He says the clean air is one of the things he loves about living in Santa Fe.

The high mountain desert city is used to ranking high on lists of best places for living, visiting and playing. In fact, Coss said he is traveling to New York next month to find out if it will win Conde Nast travel magazine's No. 1 ranking of places to visit.

## Water-contact bans remain on Okla. lakes

TULSA, Okla. (AP) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is warning people that swimming and wading bans remain in place at several popular Oklahoma lakes because of toxic blue green algae.

The Corps' Tulsa office released a reminder Monday that bans remain in place for portions of Skiatook, Eufaula, Keystone, Waurika, Tenkiller, Fort Gibson, Waurika and Texoma lakes.

All Corps recreation areas remain open for camping, and boating and fishing are still allowed.

Testing at each of those lakes has revealed a toxic form of the blue green algae, resulting in the bans and advisories. The Corps says retesting will be complete in a few weeks, and it's possible the warnings and advisories will be lifted at that time.

Cooler temperatures and increased rainfall are expected to ease the blue green algae threat.

## Keystone XL pipeline meetings under way

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Environmentalists told officials from the U.S. State Department on Monday they opposed the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline, claiming it would move a "dirtier" and "environmentally devastating form of energy" from Canada through Kansas and other states to the Texas coast.

Rabbi Moti Rieber, coordinator of the Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, said he and others in his coalition, disagreed with the State Department's report, which said there are unlikely to be any serious environmental problems with the proposed 1,700-mile pipeline. Rieber said he strongly opposed the pipeline, which he called a "direct threat" to the Kansas environment.

"Exploring tar sands will keep us hooked on this form of oil for another 50 years," Rieber said. "The Keystone XL pipeline represents not energy independence but a new dependence on an even dirtier environmentally devastating form of energy."

"An energy policy that moves the nation toward an even dirtier form of oil and involves such devastation of God's creation represents a profound moral failure," he said.

Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, kicked off the meeting, attended by about 200 supporters and opponents, said that while he supports exploring alternative energy sources like wind and solar, he also supports building the \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline because "for the foreseeable future we're going to need oil."

"I think this is an important security for the United States," Brownback said. "I have been at the front end and the back end of this pipeline. I have been where the oil sands are developed and processed in Canada, and I've been to oil refineries in Kansas where they use the oil sands," he said.

"The idea of us being able ... to have that oil source from a friendly nation that's next door rather than shipping oil in tankers from half way around the world in a many times unstable environment is a good thing for us. It's a good thing for America, a good thing for Kansas."

David Barnett, financial secretary for the Pipeliners Union 798, of Tulsa, Okla., said losing the pipeline would cost his members "up in the millions of dollars" in paychecks.

"If common sense prevails it should get approved," Barnett said before the three-hour meeting began. "We have the world's best welders, pipefitters ... ready to build this project, and I think this project will start literally the next day once they decide."

Several other members of labor unions, citing high unemployment figures and tough economy, also said they want to see the project move forward.

The pipeline would move tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, and hook up to Calgary-based TransCanada's existing pipelines and move oil to Oklahoma and the Gulf of Mexico.

The meetings Monday in Topeka and Port Arthur, Texas, kick off this week's series of hearings on the Keystone XL pipeline with meetings Monday in Topeka, Kan., and Port Arthur, Texas.

Officials from the State Department said they don't plan to answer any questions, reserving most of the time for comments from the public.

Other meetings have been scheduled this week in Montana, South Dakota, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Even in that deeply conservative state there is growing concern about the pipeline's effect on the Ogallala Aquifer, a vast subterranean reservoir that spans a large swath of the Great Plains and provides water to much of Nebraska and seven other states.

The State Department, which has to approve the pipeline because it would cross the U.S.-Canada border, is expected to decide by the end of the year. The sessions are likely to focus on the department's final draft of its environmental impact statement on the pipeline, which found that special conditions put on the pipeline would result in a project with a "degree of safety greater than any typically constructed domestic oil pipeline system under current regulations."

TransCanada and its supporters say the pipeline would mean tens of thousands of U.S. jobs and more energy security for the country.

"If the activists feel that they're facing an uphill battle, it's because the facts don't support their overheated rhetoric," TransCanada spokesman Shawn Howard said earlier. "It has been shown that the outrageous claims these groups have made aren't true."

## Lockheed laying off 540 employees, mostly in Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - Lockheed Martin Corp. is laying off 540 employees in plane-making operations in Texas, Georgia and California.

The company said Monday it expected most of the affected workers to leave by year-end.

The layoffs are part of a move announced in June to eliminate 1,500 jobs in the aeronautics business as Lockheed cut costs to respond to pressure to limit U.S. defense spending.

Spokeswoman Laura Siebert said 370 of the layoffs will be salaried executive and administrative workers in Fort Worth, Texas, where the company has 15,000 employees and a mile-long assembly line. Another 115 jobs will be eliminated in Marietta, Ga., and 55 in Palmdale, Calif.

The layoffs came a month after 450 employees took

buyouts and agreed to leave by the end of the year. The company also eliminated 300 unfilled spots and cut 300 jobs at an aircraft-maintenance plant in Greenville, S.C., earlier this year.

Lockheed, based in Bethesda, Md., makes military aircraft including the F-35, F-22 and F-16 fighter jets, C-130 and C-5 cargo and transport planes, and P-3 and U-2 surveillance aircraft.

Siebert said Monday's layoffs were not related to any particular programs but rather to a need to reduce overall costs.

The company has 126,000 employees, including about 28,000 in its aeronautics business.

Lockheed Martin shares rose \$1.67, or 2.3 percent, to \$73.76 in afternoon trading.

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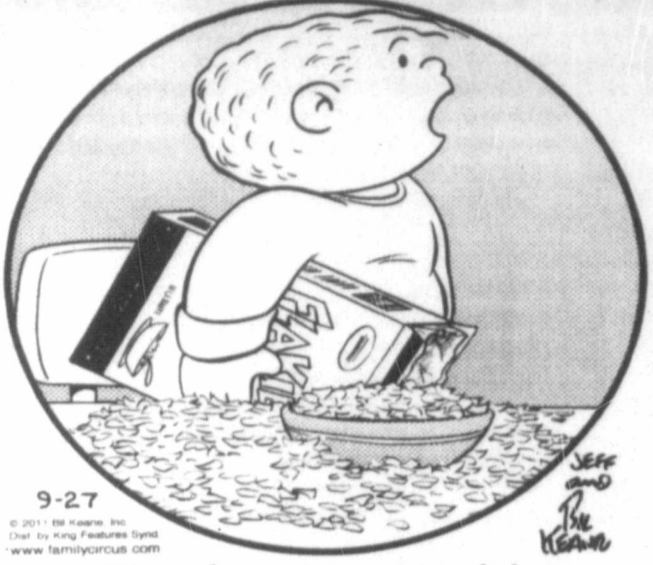
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The PAMPA NEWS

# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



9-27

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"They forgot to put raisins in my cereal!"

## Non Sequitur



KING of the JUMBLE

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## Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011:

Many currents move through your life this year. With them come options, new people and a personal assessment. You could hear many unexpected pieces of news. Often, you see so many paths that you could feel confused and not know which way to go. You get a new beginning this year. Be honest with yourself about what part of your life you would like to change, and do just that. For those who are single, you have an innate charisma that draws many admirers and suitors. If you are attached, you can infuse your relationship with some of the initial magic and charisma. You both will enjoy it. A fellow LIBRA understands you a little too well for your comfort!

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ Understand another person's expectations. At that point you'll have a choice of whether to meet his or her implied desires. A new beginning is possible within a relationship. Meanwhile, there could be a misunderstanding, and getting it straightened out could take talent. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Pace yourself. Try not to get involved in an upset. You might have a very strong reaction. Do everything you can to distance yourself from a situation that could be hurtful. Stay centered on certain key tasks you need to accomplish. Tonight: Put your feet up.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ Your creativity keeps mounting when faced with many different opinions. Some people might choose to say nothing. You could be set back by their attitude. Implicit in this experience is a misunderstanding. Tonight: Your creativity flows.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ You might strive for stability, but instead you are surrounded by chaos. Not sure about what to do, you feel torn. Why not detach and mentally put yourself in a position where you look down on the situation? It does look different, doesn't it? Tonight: Stay anchored.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ Speak your mind. There could be considerable upset in your immediate circle. Speak directly to a loved

one or dear friend, especially if you need to neutralize a problem. A new beginning becomes possible. Tonight: Where the action is.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ You might need to make an extra effort to pull a situation together. The unexpected has an impact. Confusion surrounds communication and plans. You might not be able to handle what is coming up. Tonight: Buy a little treat on the way home.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ You naturally bloom, and many people come toward you. You could be tired and need to take another look at a personal matter. A new beginning becomes possible. You have a lot to celebrate. Tonight: Full steam ahead.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ If you're questioning which solution might work best, stop. You aren't ready to act just yet. You might consider doing something very differently. Slow down and consider options you had not previously considered. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Zero in on your priorities. A meeting could pave the way to better understanding, if you are willing to let go. You feel very good about a key friend. Express your caring in a meaningful way. Tonight: Clear out a problem with a loved one.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Take a stand with a boss. You might not see the end results immediately, but you will eventually. In a sense, you have created a new beginning. Let go of the many self-imposed constraints. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

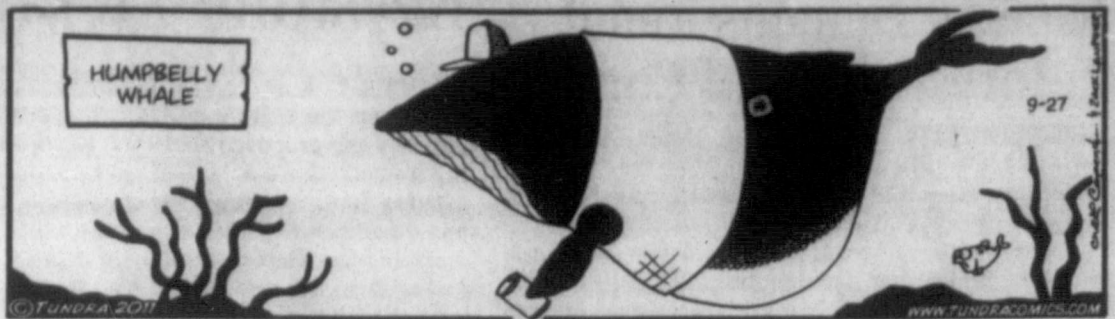
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ Try to detach, and you will be far happier. You have plenty of energy and get-up-and-go. A new beginning becomes possible because of your willingness to do something differently. Tonight: Change the tune.

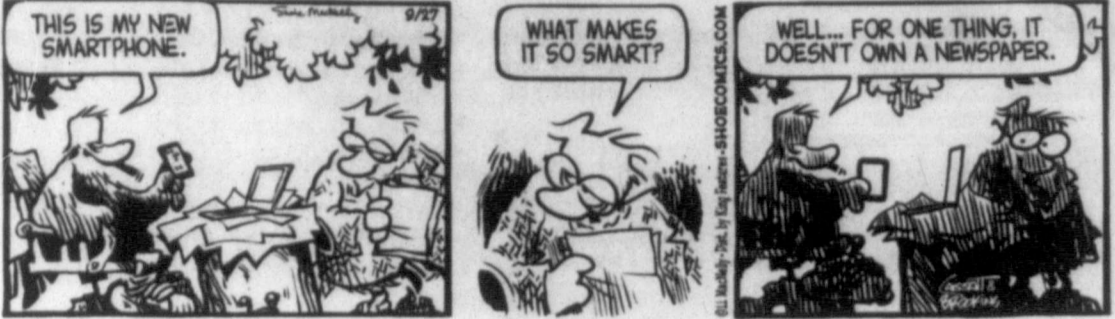
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Deal directly with a friend or loved one. Hemming and hawing won't work. Make an effort to loosen up and try another way. Be direct. Let someone else put in his or her two cents. Be ready to grasp a special opportunity. Tonight Have a long-overdue chat.

## Tundra



## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grim



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



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# Perry ups GOP ante with twist on Romney's 'four aces'

JEFFERSON, Iowa (AP) — Call it a personal class war: Texas Gov. Rick Perry is trying to draw sharp class lines with his chief GOP presidential rival, the well-heeled former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"As the son of tenant farmers, I can promise you I wasn't born with four aces in my hand," Perry recently told about 200 central Iowa GOP activists. He grinned and then paused to allow chuckles to roll through the audience as the message became clear: Perry was a product of humble beginnings — ordinary folk like them — while Romney came from privilege.

The line was a riff on Romney's zinger during a debate in Tampa, Fla., when he suggested that Texas' job growth had more to do with the state's natural gas and oil supply than Perry's leadership.

When asked how much credit Perry deserves for the state's growing employment, Romney replied: "If you're dealt four aces, that doesn't necessarily make you a great poker player."

Perry's advisers apparently saw the crack as an opportunity to illustrate personality, background and, perhaps, character differences between Perry and Romney, the top two candidates in a GOP field that mostly agrees on major policy issues.

In Iowa and elsewhere, Perry has started linking himself to the middle class, if not to low-income Americans, and tying Romney to the nation's upper echelon. His larger strategy is to paint Romney as a pre-packaged politician out of step with everyday Americans, plant suggestions with Republicans feeling the pinch of tough economic times that Romney doesn't understand their plight, and undermine Romney's attempts to connect with middle-class voters.

Perry sees another opening with his I'm-like-you-and-he's-not argument: Tea party activists and other conservatives who dominate the GOP primary electorate are clamoring for an authentic candidate to challenge a Democratic incumbent they view as a detached elitist.

He's also using class to draw distinctions in part to counter criticism that he is not up to challenging Romney, who ran for the GOP nomination in 2008 and led in national polls for 2012 until the Texan entered the race last month.

Still, reflecting the sensitivity of the issue, Perry has stopped short of acknowledging publicly that he was drawing a direct comparison with Romney.

"This country that we live in is not a class society," Perry said when pressed recently by reporters in Iowa. "This country is based on hard work and vision and anyone who does that can achieve anything."

Not that his campaign was even making an effort at subtlety.



Perry



Romney

In a sign of the sharp attacks to come, Perry aides sent out an email last week titled "Middle Class Mitt."

It noted that Romney has a net worth of more than \$190 million and resurrected a

Romney remark in which he seemed to suggest that he was part of "the great middle class — the 80 to 90 percent of us in this country." It also highlighted Romney's comment to voters last June: "I'm also unemployed."

"Hundreds of millions in the bank. Beach and lake houses around the country. A successful career acquiring and dismantling companies and jobs," according to the Perry camp statement — a script that read much like a possible future TV ad.

Perry's discussion of class differences comes as a debate rages in Washington between President Barack Obama, who is calling for higher taxes on the richest Americans, and the Republican-controlled House, which is accusing the president of "class warfare" as he seeks to rally support for legislation designed to boost the economy.

Within the GOP presidential primary, Perry's allies hope that he can sow mistrust of Romney, a multimillionaire former businessman born into a wealthy family, among conservatives who already are skeptical of the Northeastern Republican who has flip-flopped on a series of issues they hold dear.

The Perry strategy carries a risk: Discussions of class may

invite increased scrutiny of Perry, who today lives comfortably thanks to Texas taxpayers.

Still, the differences between the two couldn't be clearer.

Perry, 61, was raised on a west Texas farm, attended Texas A&M University and worked on the family's farm after five years in the Air Force before entering politics in the 1980s. He has spent the last 27 years in elected office, including a decade as governor, and has a net worth of roughly \$1.1 million.

But in small-town Iowa, Perry emphasized his up-by-the-bootstraps biography. He sketched a scene of his early life in west Texas, with its small churches and rural highways, familiar to many of the activists who attend the Iowa caucuses and the South Carolina primary, important early-voting contests next year.

"When I passed that county courthouse and that square, it was a good feeling to know I'm back in middle America where the values are really strong," he said during an appearance that showed him clearly at ease.

Conversely, Romney often is criticized as robotic and faces the challenge of personally connecting with voters. He is fighting the perception of an East Coast patrician, a caricature President George W. Bush successfully hung on his 2004 Democratic challenger John Kerry, a Massachusetts senator.

Romney, 64, was raised in an affluent Detroit neighborhood, the son of George Romney, a top automotive executive who became governor of Michigan. Romney attended Stanford, Brigham Young and Harvard universities and cut his own career in business, founding a successful investment capital firm.

He is well-known to GOP voters in early primary states given that he ran hard for the 2008 GOP nomination but lost.

## Live piranha caught in suburban Houston lake

HOUSTON (AP) - A fish caught by a pre-teen girl at a suburban Houston lake last month has been identified as a red-bellied piranha, making it only the second piranha ever verified in Texas waters and the first in nearly 30 years, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said.

The hand-sized fish chomped down on piece of hot dog used as bait Aug. 27 at the 23-acre lake at Harris County's Tom Bass Park, just south of Houston. When adults with the girl saw the fish's pointed and wedge-shaped razor-sharp teeth, they turned it over to authorities.

The species identification then was confirmed.

Robert Goodrich, assistant chief for fisheries law enforcement for the parks and wildlife agency, said officials have spotted more and more exotic illegal species in recent years.

"The Internet has made it a whole lot easier for people to get them," he said. "You can purchase almost anything on the Internet. That doesn't make it legal."

Parks officials told the Houston Chronicle (<http://bit.ly/oMxOL1>) the notoriously aggressive meat-eating piranha, about the size of a perch and native to the Amazon basin, likely was dumped in the lake by an aquarium owner who either got tired of it or the fish outgrew its aquarium home.

Goodrich said his people "quite often" run across piranhas as aquarium pets.

The only other time a piranha has been verified in Texas waters was in 1982 when one was taken from the Boerne City Reservoir in Kendall County, the newspaper reported Monday.

Piranhas have been found in waterways in a dozen states but haven't been able to establish a population in North America. They can't survive in waters where temperatures fall below 50 degrees.

Texas law bars sale and possession of live piranhas and other dangerous or potentially dangerous fish. Many other states, however, don't prohibit them and federal law bars importation of only a few fish species, and piranha isn't among them.

Possession of a banned fish is a Class C misdemeanor in Texas, carrying a \$500 maximum fine. Subsequent convictions could result in heavier penalties.

People caught releasing a live prohibited species also face a misdemeanor charge with repeat offenders subject to a felony charge.

## Optimist


cont. from page 1

else could be able to use the program.

Sadly, these stories are happening more frequently in Pampa. These children, and more like them, are able to keep continuity in their lives through the Optimist Club and the United Way. Without the support the Pampa Optimist Club receives from the United Way, it would not be able to sustain a scholarship program. It is a blessing for the citizens of Gray County to have these two selfless organizations, and the many volunteers who donate their time, for the betterment of our community.



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 One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

F B G Q V D V N X G L N V G C C O  
 F J I B V I Q H M H . B V F J C C  
 R J L G C C O M J I S H D V N G X V G L I  
 H R M H J L K . — K V H N K V  
 U V N L G N M I B G F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU PUT A BASEBALL AND OTHER TOYS IN FRONT OF A BABY, HE'LL PICK UP A BASEBALL IN PREFERENCE TO THE OTHERS. — TRIS SPEAKER

**21 Help Wanted**  
 NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

R. Chester Trucking is searching for good responsible and dependable hot shot drivers & truck drivers who are not drug addicts or drunks. We are a Family Based Company looking for the right people to join our family. If interested come and apply at 1800 W. McCullough, Pampa, TX 7am-5pm, or call 806-665-0379

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 TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

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**Key Requirements:**

- Must have high school diploma or equivalent.
- Must be registered by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
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- Experience in retail pharmacy is a plus.
- Pharmacy team will train, but individual must have the ability to complete on the job training and exam which includes, but not limited to: Guest service duties, efficient utilization of pharmacy technology, (computer, email, etc.) prescription input and preparation, pharmacy inventory control, and pharmacy related math.
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'11 Toyota 4 Runner black with leather \$34,900 call 661-3561

'07 Chevrolet Tahoe Gray with leather, Nice! \$21,400 call 661-3561

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# Sports

## VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

### No. 12 Lady Harvesters seek to avenge Borger loss

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The last time the Pampa Lady Harvesters and the Borger Lady Bulldogs met in November, Pampa had to watch Borger run loose in celebration of its regional quarterfinal victory. This season, the No. 12 Lady Harvesters start defense of their district title with the Lady Bulldogs 7 p.m. today at McNeely.

Pampa (20-8) won its first District 1-3A title last season with a 7-2 record. Head coach Libby Garza said her team is ready for district.

"The girls are ready for anything," Garza said. "It's just making sure we can be ready all together."

Senior Kirsten Kuhn said the team is ready to start.

"We're excited to get district started on Tuesday and carry on through Saturday," Kuhn said. "We're excited to see what our competition looks like."

Kuhn said the team knows it has a target on its back after winning the title.

"We are going to work hard to keep that title," Kuhn said.

Last year, the Lady Harvesters were 3-2 against the Lady Bulldogs. Besides the playoff loss, Pampa had to forfeit one game because of violation of a UIL rule. Senior Alanna Stephens said last year's playoff defeat taught them that they can't underestimate Borger.

"We know what happened in playoffs," Stephens said. "We just have to play them like we would any team."

Borger (18-12) is dealing with some off-court issues as its head coach, Michael Littlejohn, was placed on administrative leave on September 14 while the school conducts an investigation. Garza said it might have an

effect on the match.

"(Littlejohn) gets them going and fired up," Garza said. "We are treating it like nothing has changed and we still have to prepare and play our best. Every game in district, we have a target on our back."

Stephens said it won't change the team's approach to the game.

"We aren't going to think about that," Stephens said. "We are going to think about them as opponents."

Hutto said the team has to worry about itself.

"That doesn't bother us," Hutto said. "That's just them. It doesn't affect us at all. We know that we have to play our game no matter what happens, even

if they have a five-year-old coaching them."

On Saturday, Pampa plays at Perryton for its first district road test. Last year, the Lady Harvesters went 2-1 against the Rangerettes with their only loss being a victory they had to forfeit because of the aforementioned UIL violation. Kuhn said she hopes the team plays better than the game last year.

"We didn't play them well last year," Kuhn said. "We're excited about getting started, especially with two open weekends in a row."



Stephens



Hutto



Garza



staff photo by Andrew Glover

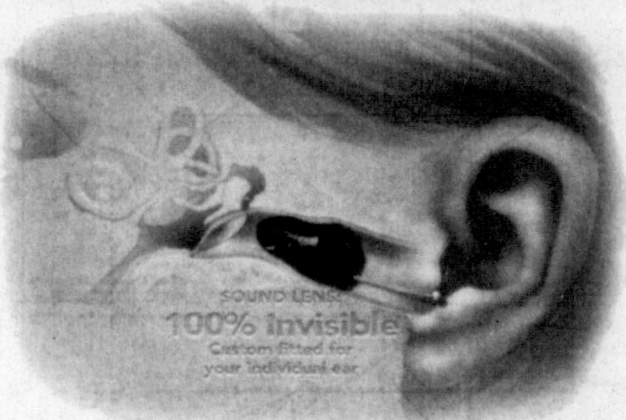
Senior Alanna Stephens passes a ball in a Sept. 2010 game at Borger. The Lady Harvesters and the Lady Bulldogs meet for the first time since the regional quarterfinals last November.

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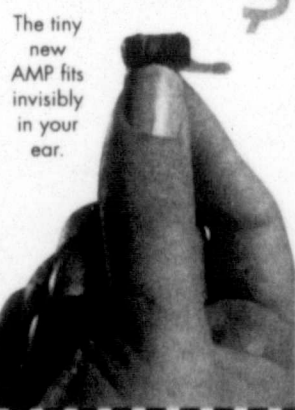
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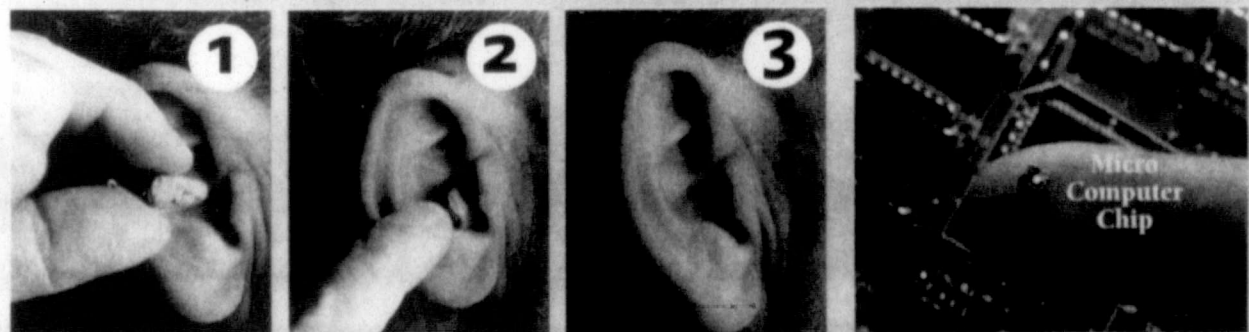


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