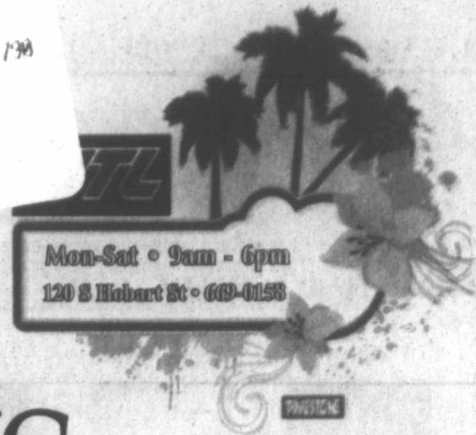


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The PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, May 25, 2010 Volume 105 • No. 317 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Skinner case escalates to Supreme Court

DAVID BOWSER editor@thepampanews.com

The ongoing Hank Skinner saga took a new turn Monday as the U.S. Supreme Court decided to take the case up in its next term, further postponing the execution of the man convicted for killing Twila Busby and her two sons. Skinner, 47, was originally convicted of the three murders in 1995. Skinner had finished his last meal and was in a holding cell next to the execution chamber in Huntsville when the U.S. Supreme



Skinner

Court blocked the execution in March. This week the Supreme Court said it will decide whether Skinner and other death row inmates should have access to DNA evidence under federal civil rights laws. For their part, a handful of former law enforcement officers involved in the case more than a decade ago indicated their frustration with the ongoing nature of the case. Former Gray County Sheriff Randy Stubblefield, former District Attorney Investigator Bill McMinn and former Pampa Police Detective Terry Young all said today that they have no comments at this time. McMinn and Stubblefield followed Pampa Police Lt. Alan Smith into a darkened room in a Pampa woman's trailer house in the early morning hours of Jan. 1, 1994, where they found Skinner amid clothes hanging in a closet. Young was the Pampa police detective SKINNER cont. on page 5

May Flowers are blooming at The Floor Store! Get any in-stock laminate and tile for just .89/sq. ft. with installation purchase, while supplies last

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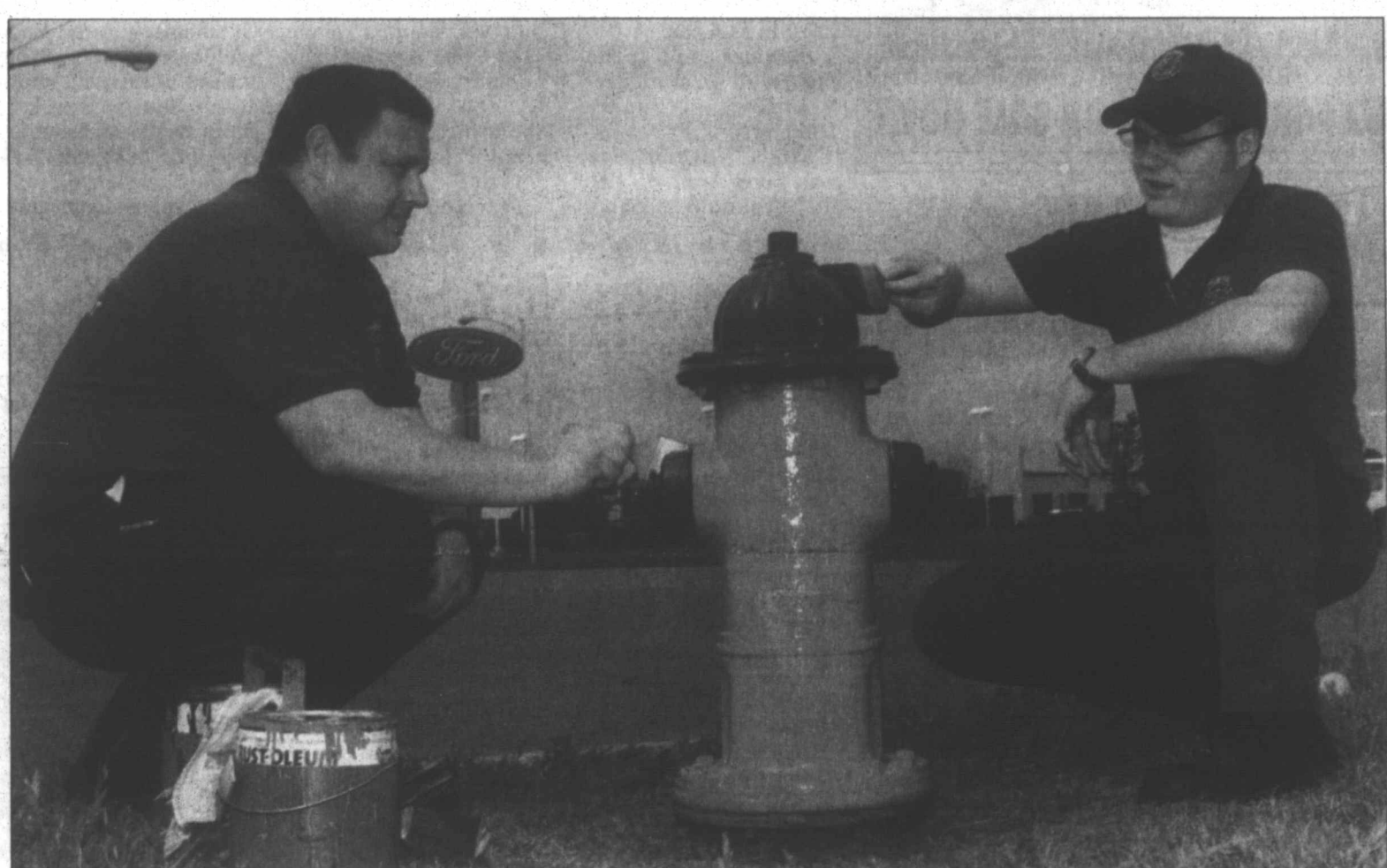
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staff photo by David Bowser

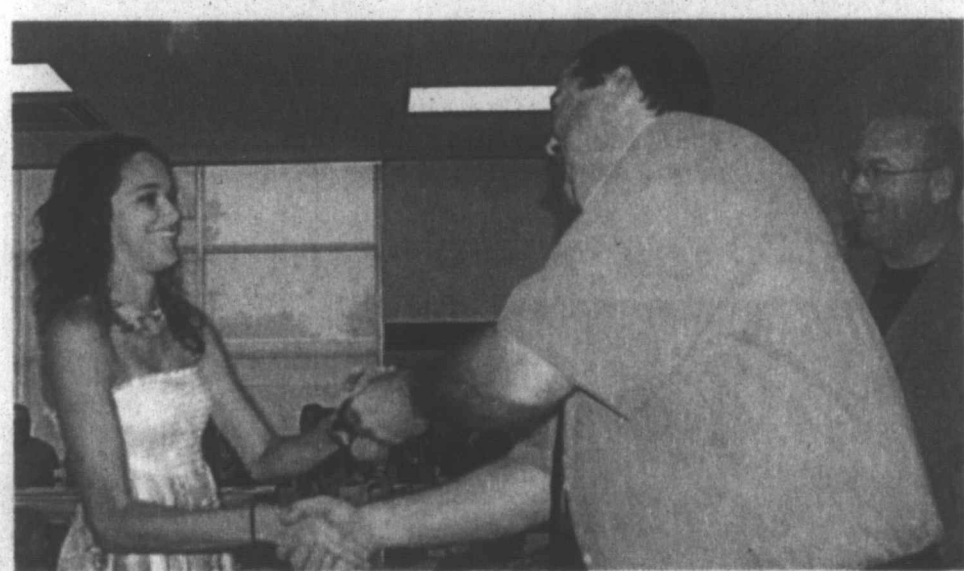
Pampa firefighters Andy Schroeder (left) and Kasey Presson continue the never-ending job of painting the city's fire hydrants. Even under leaden skies threatening rain, the routine maintenance must be performed.

Municipal pool to open this Sunday

ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

Summer fun seekers will have a new local option this weekend when the M.K. Brown Swimming Pool officially opens for the 2010 season. According to Pampa Recreation Superintendent Enrique Cabrales, the pool's opening "Splash Day" will be Sunday, coinciding with the formal closing of the 2009-'10 school year. The pool will be open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. "We're excited to get started," Cabrales said. "We're looking forward to our summer season. That 'Splash Day' is a big day for us, and we want to make sure that everything goes all right." Cabrales said that regular maintenance for the pool's opening is proceeding on schedule.

"There's water in the pool, our chemicals are balanced and the heater's up and running," he said. "We've still got the usual things to double check on between now and when we open, but everything is moving along. "The main thing is that we always think about what the customer can complain about, anything that could make the customer's experience at the pool any worse than it should be. "First priority is to make sure the visitors are safe. Of course, we also want to make sure the facility is clean. We want to make sure that everything is just right so our visitors can enjoy a fun day at the pool." Cabrales added that the upcoming opening of the city's new aquatic park will not affect POOL cont. on page 3



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Junior Taylor Overstreet accepts the Algebra II Award from Lefors High School math teacher Tory Peet (center) as Lefors ISD Superintendent William Clay Montgomery looks on.

Lefors celebrates academics

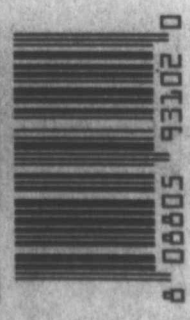
DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

Lefors High School honored academic achievements at their end-of-year banquet Saturday at the high school. The night started with the induction of the new members to the National Honor Society: senior Wakely Pairsh, junior Shayley Morriss and sophomores Kaittlyne Porter and Seth Scully. The night continued with the presen-

tation of the academic awards by the teachers to the top person of each class. Superintendent William Clay Montgomery said the awards students receive should be kept as a memory of their times at Lefors. "I hope you put those on your letter jacket, which I know all of you have received in your career," Montgomery said. "About 20 years from now, when you move to a new job you're going to see that leather jacket, and all of a sudden LEFORS cont. on page 3


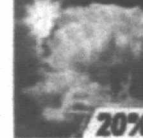

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday
 30%	 20%	
High 80 Low 63	High 81 Low 63	High 85 Low 63

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind around 10 mph.

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- ARTS CAMP** for ages 6-11, June 7th-18th, 9:00-4:00 M-F, \$80 per week. Call CREATE a Beat! 665-7474 or check the web www.createabeate.org
- ANDERSON APPLI.** Serv., Cody, 662-1841.
- LOST KEYS??** Found at Shutterbug-go by Pampa News or call 669-2525 to describe unusual key chain.
- GREAT PERENNIALS.** Enjoy for years! The Potting Shed, 410 E. Foster.
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- SUMMER GYMNASTICS** camps & clinics sign ups May 25th & 27th 6:00 - 7:30 pm or call 662-6923.
- WATER LILIES & Pond Plants.** The Potting Shed, 410 E. Foster.
- CERAMIC TILE:** Showers, Counter-tops, Floors, Tub Surrounds, Back Splashes. Call Keith Taylor, 874-1779 tv. msg.
- EARLY DEADLINES** due to Memorial Day Holiday. (No newspaper on Mon. Memorial day). For Tues. June 1 classified ads-deadline Friday May 28 before 4 p.m. For Tues. regular display June 1-deadline is Fri. May 28 noon. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday! Pampa News.
- CAR SEAT** Checkup, Wed., May 26, 1-3pm. Pampa Mall, 2545 Perryton Parkway.

Obituaries

Ida Mae "Punkin" Boland, 90

Pampa — Ida Mae "Punkin" Boland passed away on Sunday, May 23, 2010 in Pampa. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at Fairview Cemetery with John Curry officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Boland was born Oct. 12, 1919 in Sedan, Kansas to Oscar O. and Rachel Elizabeth Jones. She came to Pampa in 1930 and graduated from Pampa High School in 1937. She married James D. "Red" Boland on May 27, 1950 in Clovis, New Mexico. Ida Mae was legal secretary for Walter

E. Rogers during his private practice and while he was city attorney and district attorney. In 1942, she went to work for the Civil Service at the Pampa Army Airfield in public relations where she worked until 1945. When the base closed, she returned to work for Mr. Rogers. Punkin was a longtime member of First Christian Church, Business and Professional Women's Club, and VFW Ladies Auxiliary #1657. She loved to cook and won many awards for her peanut butter fudge at the Tri-State Fair in Amarillo. She enjoyed playing the organ. Survivors include her

sister: Betty Hink of Pampa; Brother: Clarence Jones and wife Wanda of Laverne, Oklahoma; 3 nephews: Jere Hink of El Paso, Mike Jones and wife Teresa of Piedmont, OK, and Mark Jones of Laverne, OK; 2 great nephews, 1 great niece, and 1 great great nephew. She was preceded in death by her husband, Red, in 1984, and by her parents. Memorials include Gray Cares, 511 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065, Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065 or a favorite charity. The family will receive friends from 7:00-8:00



Ida M. Boland

PM Tuesday at the funeral home. Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Athene "Penny" Ironmonger, 87

McLean — Athene "Penny" Ironmonger, 87, passed away on May 24, 2010 in McLean. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Ironmonger was born April 4, 1923 in Seminole County,

Oklahoma, to Andrew and Beatrice Branscum. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1949. She married Jack Ironmonger on August 4, 1986 in Panhandle. She owned and operated Penny's Lounge for 16 1/2 years. Survivors include 2

brothers: Bill Branscum of Pampa and Bob Branscum of Duncan, Oklahoma; a sister: Euda Weldon of Stephenville; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband: Jack Ironmonger; and 5 brothers: Albert Branscum,

Herman Branscum, Orville Branscum, Lawton Branscum and J.C. Branscum. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

EMERGENCY SERVICES

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today. Forrest Britt, 48 of Pampa was arrested by Gray County Sheriff Officers Monday on charges of capias pro fine VCO no solicitation permit. Corey Graham, 18 of McLean was arrested by Gray County Sheriff Officers on Monday on a warrant of sexual assault on child Yvette Torres, 25 of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police officers on Monday on charges of capias pro fine no valid drivers license and capias pro fine failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Cynthia Edith Torres, 19 of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police officers on Monday on charges of capias pro fine no insurance and capias pro fine failure to appear. Michael Lee Elms, 23 of Pampa was arrested by Gray County Sheriff Officers Monday on charges of warrant failure to notify and report sex offender and violation of parole failure to register as sex offender.

PAMPA PD

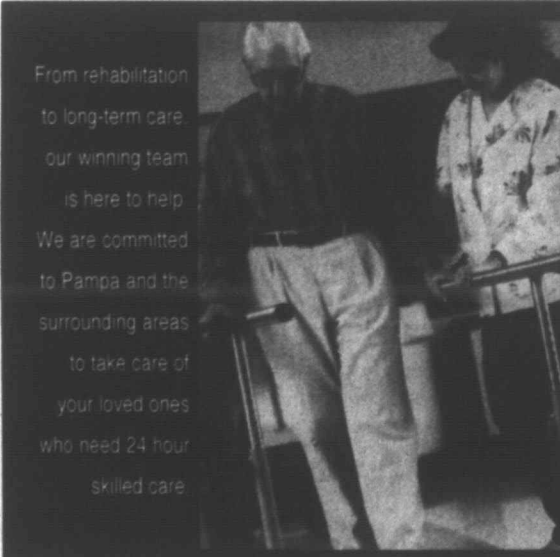
The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today. Officers reported seven traffic-related calls and three accidents.

Animal control officers reported 11 animal-related calls. Pampa EMT reported three ambulance calls. The Pampa Fire Department reported three medical calls. **Monday, May 24.** Criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of North Williston. Officers attempted to serve papers in the 1500 block of Williston. The burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of North Fir. Theft was reported in the 500 block of North Roberta. Found property was reported in the 1600 block of North Fir. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of South Sumner. A domestic disturbance was reported in

the 700 block of North Somerville. A suspicious vehicle was reported at Pennsylvania and Russell. Criminal mischief was reported in the 3100 block of North Perryton Parkway. A domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart. Officers made a welfare check in the 1100 block of Willow Road. **Tuesday, May 25.** Officers made a welfare check in the 1800 block of North Coffee. Alarms were reported in the 1900 block of West Carter, the 200 block of East Brown, the 300 block of East Brown and the 600 block of North Hobart. Phone harassment was reported in the 2100 block of North Chestnut.

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, May 26, 2010: This year, you move in new directions, inspired by other people and what they have discovered. Day-to-day communication will be active, and sometimes volatile, depending on how you handle challenges. Running away won't work. You might want to get into an exercise program of sorts to help reduce stress. If you are single, you could meet someone and have an instant fight. The attraction is that high! The energy skyrockets between you. If you are attached, the two of you need to express yourselves while not judging each other. It is just who this person is. **SCORPIO** is a good teammate.

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) ★★★★★ Deal with others directly. You might feel like you are juggling two different concerns. Your knowledge and understanding need to come out. A partner cannot be all wrong. Tonight: Togetherness works.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Deal with others directly. You might feel pushed beyond your limits. A family member needs to make his or her point, but sometimes you might be offended by his or her style. This person could be caustic. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Flow through a problem and look at all the possibilities. A partner gives you strong feedback, whether you like it or not. You could feel uncomfort-

able with some of the conversations that come up. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Allow more imagination and creativity into your work and life. Whether coaxing a child or letting someone in on a secret, the words and style in which you choose to communicate make all the difference. Tonight: Fun and games!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Plunge into work knowing that you might have to adapt. Much seems to be changing on a day-to-day level. You easily could get fed up with a family member. Remember that words said cannot be taken back. Tonight: Exercise rather than let tension build.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Communication could sizzle, and you might misunderstand what someone else is saying. You don't want a problem, so choose your words with care. You can come up with interesting solutions. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ A friend could push you in a direction that might not be comfortable. You have a lot to do and accomplish. You might need to establish some strong boundaries and do some internal processing in order to quiet down a domestic issue. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You are close to unstoppable, and that can be witnessed by your responses. Where a partner or associate could feel defeated, you are empowered in no uncertain terms. Listen to news with a touch of cynicism. Tonight: Don't let someone trigger your temper.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Know when to cut out and not get plugged into a volatile issue in the office or with a partner. At the same time, with your mind visiting other scenery, you easily could come up with a workable solution to the issue. Tonight: Share an idea with a partner. Be ready to debate!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You might want to understand exactly what the mechanism driving key people is. A meeting proves to be the perfect background for just those questions. A partner could be gruff. Let him or her be. Tonight: Where people are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Taking charge proves to be difficult, especially as others might be inclined to give you a lot of flak. Nevertheless, you are in the driver's seat and have no option but to act that way. Tonight: Could be a late night.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Your imagination could take you where others cannot even grasp. You tend to see situations much differently from many people. You can and will accomplish a lot if you stay mellow and willing to find solutions. Tonight: Go for a mental pursuit.

BORN TODAY
 Singer Stevie Nicks (1948), astronaut Sally Ride (1951), singer Peggy Lee (1920) ***

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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AFTERNOONRUSH TxDOT meeting at Chamber tonight

Gulf plume getting darker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Live video of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill shows the underwater plume getting significantly darker. A top oil engineering expert says that suggests heavier, more-polluting oil is spewing out.

The color of the oil gushing from the main pipe has changed in color from medium gray to black. Two scientists noticed the change, which oil company BP downplayed as a natural fluctuation that is not likely permanent.

But engineering professor Bob Bea at the University of California at Berkeley says the color change may indicate the BP leak has hit a reservoir of more oil and less gas. Gas is less polluting because it evaporates.

Oil has been spewing from the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that exploded April 20.

Accident leaves two kids dead

ROCKDALE (AP) — The Department of Public Safety says two children from Rockdale died and two other people were hurt after their car was hit by a train in Milam County.

DPS spokesman Tom Vinger on Tuesday identified the children who died as 9-year-old Monterious Hancock and 8-year-old Ahkeem Williams.

DPS says the woman driving the car and a 4-year-old passenger also were hurt in the accident Monday afternoon about two miles east of Rockdale. Further details on their conditions were not immediately available.

DPS says the driver was the only person in the vehicle wearing a seatbelt.

Obama, GOP to talk immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are talking immigration reform with President Barack Obama, including plans to deploy thousands of National Guard troops and drones to tighten border security.

Republicans expect to try to attach the proposals to an almost \$60 billion war spending bill. The subject was expected to come up Tuesday during a closed-door session with the president. The administration's response to the Gulf Coast oil spill, as well as the economy and jobs also are expected to be discussed.

During his presidential campaign, Obama promised to push legislation paving the way to citizenship for some 11 million illegal immigrants. He has said more recently, though, that Congress has little appetite for a massive bill on the subject this election year, so lawmakers are looking at ways to enact more incremental changes.

Perry to blast D.C. in new book

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry has long criticized the federal government, and now he's writing on the subject in a new book called "Fed Up."

Perry's office confirmed and book publisher Little, Brown and Company announced Tuesday that the GOP governor is writing the book. It's due out in the fall, in time for the midterm elections.

The book will further push Perry into the national spotlight. Last year he made national waves by flirting with the subject of secession. He said he can understand why citizens might get so fed up with the federal government that they would consider the idea, though he stopped short of endorsing secession.

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will host an informational meeting at 6:00 p.m. tonight at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, 200 N Ballard, in the M.K. Brown Room.

This informational meeting is held to explain how the department plans transportation projects. TxDOT is seeking the public's input regarding the current Transportation Improvement Plan for the Amarillo District.

The meeting will cover transportation plans for all areas of the Panhandle and the city of Amarillo. An overall view of the planning process will be presented, as well as the criteria used for selecting individual projects.

Draft versions of current transportation plans will be presented at the meeting for public comment.

The public is invited to speak regarding projects currently planned or any additional projects that might be proposed. Speakers will be limited to five minutes. All interested citizens are invited to attend this public meeting.

PISD trustees to discuss graduation

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees will hold a special meeting Wednesday in con-

nection with the Pampa High School graduation exercise.

The board will discuss and possibly take action to revise the policy on commencement.

The may also take action on the

employment of professional employees.

The school board will meet at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, at the Carver Center Administration Building, 321 Albert.

Lefors

you're going to stop and think about all the times you had at this school."

Seth Fry made the all A Honor Roll, having straight A's for all four years in high school. Along with making honor roll, Fry won the English IV Dual Credit, Government dual credit, Economics dual credit and Anatomy and Physiology awards. Fry said achieving those awards was simple.

"I just did my homework," Fry said.

Freshmen Colten Helfer took home the English I, World Geography, Algebra I, Biology and Applied Agriculture Science awards. Helfer said he expected to win those awards.

"Ever since I was in sixth grade, I was best in my class," Helfer said. "It's regular for me. I felt relieved that all my hard work is paying off."

Porter won the Chemistry, Geometry, One Act Play Technology and Spanish I awards. The sophomore said it felt pretty good to do the best in her class.

"I just pay attention in class," Porter said. "The classes aren't too bad if you pay attention."

Porter had several extracurriculars, including cheerleading, cross country and basketball. The sophomore said she had to give her teachers credit.

"The teachers tell us what we've missed and stay on us till we turn it in," Porter said.

Morris won the Physics, History Dual Credit, and Spanish

cont. from page 1

II awards. Czubinski earned the Spanish III and Business Image Management and Multimedia awards. Senior Casey Wyant won the Applied English and Applied Math awards. Senior Keely Callaway won the Government award and shared the Economics award with Pairsh. Joey Czubinski said Callaway and Pairsh were dead even.

"I couldn't get a separation," Czubinski said. "Average, points, attendance, you name it — dead even down the line. I've got to give it to two."

Pairsh also won the English IV, Home Maintenance and Improvement and One Act Play awards. Overstreet won the English III and Algebra II awards. Scully won the World History, Intro to Agriculture Mechanical Science and One Act Play Technology awards. Junior Johnny Reagan won the U.S. History award. Senior Lacie Johnston won the Desktop Publishing, Animal Science and One Act Play awards. Freshman Shelby Whatley won the BCIS award. Joey Johnson won the Food tech award. Freshman Andrew Morris won the Intro to Agriculture award. Sophomore Dennis Sprouse won the Plant Animal Production Award. Senior Jason Hartline won the Agriculture Metal Fab award.

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Pool

cont. from page 1

the quality of the M.K. Brown Swimming Pool experience.

"We're really excited about the new water park," he said. "With that said, we're not relaxing on the quality of the pool. We'll do everything we

can to make sure that people in Pampa have a pool here (at the M.K. Brown Swimming Pool) that they can be proud of."

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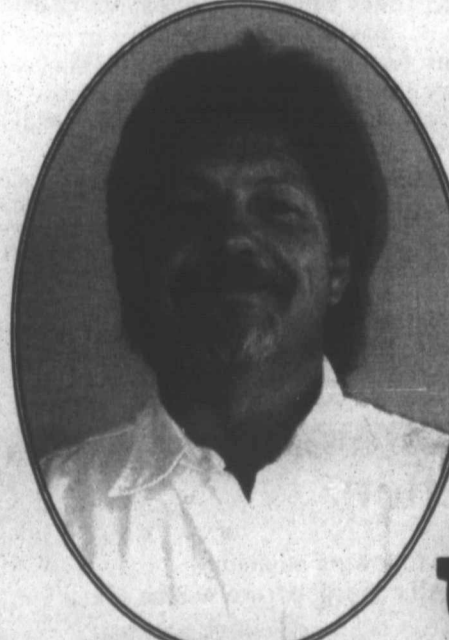
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ROP Display (boxed ads in regular paper) -

Monday, May 31.....No Paper

Tuesday, June 1.....May 27th at Noon

Wednesday, June 2.....May 28th at Noon

Classified -

Tuesday, June 1.....May 28 at 4 p.m.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

- The Pampa News

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 25, the 145th day of 2010. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On May 25th, 1810, Argentina began its revolt against Spanish rule with the forming of the Primera Junta in Buenos Aires.

On this date:
In 1787, the Constitutional Convention began meeting in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for a quorum.

In 1895, playwright Oscar Wilde was convicted of a morals charge in London; he was sentenced to two years in prison.

In 1916, the Chicago Tribune published an interview with Henry Ford in which the American industrialist was quoted as saying, "History is more or less bunk."

In 1935, Babe Ruth hit the 714th and final home run of his career, for the Boston Braves, in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy, addressing Congress, called on the nation to work toward putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

In 1968, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis was dedicated by Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

In 1979, 273 people died when an American Airlines DC-10 crashed on takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare airport.

Ten years ago: The government proposed a five-star rating system telling consumers how prone vehicles were to rolling over. Iranian state radio announced that former President Hashemi Rafsanjani had resigned from the incoming parliament, depriving hard-liners of a leading figure in the power struggle between conservatives and reformists.

Five years ago: Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen won Senate confirmation as a federal appeals judge after a ferocious four-year battle. The defense rested in the Michael Jackson child molestation trial without calling the pop star, who was acquitted.

One year ago: North Korea claimed to have carried out a powerful underground nuclear test; President Barack Obama called on the world to "stand up to" Pyongyang and demand it honor a promise to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

Today's Birthdays: Lyricist Hal David is 89. Former White House news secretary Ron Nessen is 76. Actor Sir Ian McKellen is 71. Actress-singer Leslie Uggams is 67. Movie director and Muppeteer Frank Oz is 66. Rock singer Klaus Meine (The Scorpions) is 62. Actress Connie Sellecca is 55. Rock singer-musician Paul Weller is 52. Actor-comedian Mike Myers is 47. Rock musician Glen Drover is 41. Actress Anne Heche is 41. Actresses Sidney and Lindsay Greenbush are 40. Actor-comedian Jamie Kennedy is 40. Actress Molly Sims is 37. Singer Lauryn Hill is 35. Actor Cillian Murphy is 34. Actor Ethan Suplee is 34. Rock musician Todd Whitener is 32.

Thought for Today: "There is nothing final about a mistake, except its being taken as final." — Phyllis Bottome, English author (1884-1963).



Obama needs to talk to GOP leaders - soon

It's understandable why President Barack Obama wouldn't want to play golf with Rush Limbaugh, but he needs to start talking to Republican leaders Mitch McConnell and John Boehner.

Elected on a promise to end toxic partisanship, Obama has not had any one-on-one contact with Republican congressional leaders during his presidency and has failed to develop personal relationships with them.

As Roll Call's Emily Pierce reported earlier this month, "The last time Obama and McConnell spoke privately, one-on-one, was prior to Obama's January 2009 inauguration."

Obama did call the Senate Minority Leader briefly to advise him he was nominating Solicitor General Elena Kagan for the Supreme Court — "something we already knew," the Kentucky Republican's spokesman said.

House Minority Leader Boehner's office confirmed that the Ohio Republican has had no contact with Obama, either, outside of group sessions such as White House leadership meetings.

It's not clear that personal contact would have resulted in any Republican support for his policies — there's been precious little, of course — but it might have, assuming conversations led to compromise.

Arguably, Obama hasn't needed bipartisanship to get his programs through Congress. Democrats had a 70-seat margin in the House and, until recently, 60 votes in the Senate.

But every indication is that Republicans will be stronger in the 112th Congress that takes office in January, so Obama will either be forced to deal with the GOP leadership if he wants to get anything done in the next two years, or be thwarted.

And as primary elections so far indicate, the GOP center of gravity will be further right than it is now, and the Democrats' will be further left — with stalemate in the offing unless Obama can break it.

One top Obama aide told me that the White House considers McConnell to be a "hard-line partisan," implying that there was no dealing with him — but the Kentuckian is a far cry from the Limbaugh-Tea Party school of conservatism that's now ascendant.

According to accounts of a forthcoming book, Zev Chafets' "Rush Limbaugh: An Army of One," when a high-ranking Democratic operative conveyed the author's proposal of a golf game, Obama replied: "He can play with himself."

McConnell has criticized Obama's



MORTON KONDRACKE

policies as "big government takeovers" and has used his considerable political and parliamentary skill to unify his GOP colleagues and obstruct Democratic legislation. But he's never — like Limbaugh — likened Obama to

Hitler and Stalin.

The No. 3 Senate GOP leader, Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, says that Obama's lack of contact with Republicans constitutes a tale of "missed opportunities."

He cites a Jan. 23, 2009, speech to the National Press Club in which McConnell characterized Obama's "promise of post-partisanship" as opening "the possibility of a new era of cooperation."

McConnell blamed both parties for lack of comity, lamented that "vulgar insults hurled from overcaffeinated activists can pass for legitimate political discourse" and offered to help Obama reform Social Security, lower the national debt and increase energy independence.

In the speech, McConnell also recalled times when "working on a bipartisan basis to achieve big things for the nation didn't mean exposing oneself to attack ads by one's own colleagues," and when "real friendships across party lines were common," citing examples such as the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., and former Senate GOP leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

Did McConnell mean it? Obama should have tested him out — face to face — but never did.

Alexander told me that, had Obama and McConnell had a personal relationship, they might have worked out a way to get 60 votes to establish a bipartisan debt commission and even compromise on health care.

"It would have been really hard, but (Obama) would have had to sit down with Mitch McConnell at the beginning of the process and said, 'OK, Mitch, what can we do here?'"

Instead, Alexander said, Democrats opted for the "shooting-gallery approach" to GOP senators, "trying to pick off one here and one there. ... To negotiate with Republicans, you've got to start with the leader."

"My conclusion," Alexander said, "is that (Obama) either doesn't know how to be bipartisan or he doesn't want to — or some of both. He spent

so little time as a senator, maybe he does not understand this place.

"And then, he had 60 votes and his left wing was saying, 'We won the election. We'll write the laws.' And he let them. But that won't work next year."

That's for sure. A White House aide said Democrats would be "lucky" to limit their House losses to 30.

And on Tuesday, McConnell was humiliated in his home state for being "too Washington," his choice for the Senate (also Dick Cheney's and right-wing former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum's) trounced by Tea Party favorite Rand Paul.

Republicans could have five, six or eight more Senate votes in the next Congress — but, as developments in Kentucky, Florida and Utah suggest — they may be more loyal to super-partisan Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., than to McConnell.

In Utah, Republicans rejected Sen. Bob Bennett because he cooperated with a Democrat, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, on model health care legislation and because he voted for President George W. Bush's rescue package that saved the U.S. economy from catastrophe.

One sad possibility is that, had Obama and McConnell developed a strong relationship — say, like Lyndon Johnson's with Senate GOP leader Everett Dirksen (Ill.) or Ronald Reagan with Speaker Tip O'Neill, D-Mass. — McConnell might be even weaker politically than he is now.

Or, as Alexander suggests, they might have been able to produce bipartisan results that would have countered the discontent raging in the country.

But what now? The best suggestion I've heard — from Illinois Rep. Mark Kirk, the Republican Senate nominee — is that Obama invite McConnell and Boehner to Camp David for a weekend.

Given the level of paranoia rampant among the tea party set, maybe the confab had best be secret.

But, if they want to get anything done, they'd better talk. Otherwise, they will spend the next two years — maybe four, maybe six — in nonstop combat, and the nation will fall deeper into debt and oil dependency, its standard of living and world standing jeopardized.

A veteran journalist who's spent almost all of his nearly 40-year career in Washington, Kondracke is also a regular commentator for Fox News Channel, a nightly panelist on "Special Report with Brit Hume" and co-host of "The Beltway Boys."

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Food manager certification offered

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

Statistics indicate food-borne illness continues to be a health issue in the U.S., causing one in four Americans to become sick, one in 1,000 to be hospitalized and 5,000 to die annually, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Gray County is offering a professional food manager certification training course called "Food Safety: It's Our Business," to help food establishments meet a Texas Department of State Health Services requirement, said Joan Gray-Soria, AgriLife Extension family and consumer sciences agent for Gray County.

The program will be offered on June 15 at the Gray County Annex, located at 12125 E. Frederic Ave. in Pampa. The \$100 fee covers training, materials and the state food manager certification examination, Gray-Soria said. Deadline to register is Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

Under the Texas Department of State Health Services jurisdiction, each food establishment is required to have one certified food manager on site. Food manager certificates will be valid for five years. This program is designed to not only prepare food-service managers to pass the cer-

tification examination, it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food, Gray-Soria said.

According to statistics, Gray-Soria said almost 50 cents of every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home. Therefore, careful attention to food safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied. Food-borne illnesses are estimated to cost thousands of dollars in lost wages, insurance and medical bills.

She outlines some of the know benefits of improved food safety, including increased customer satisfaction, improved relationships with health officials, and prevention of bad publicity and lawsuits due to food-borne illness.

By attending the course, Gray-Soria said, food-service managers will learn to: identify potentially hazardous foods and common errors in food handling; prevent contamination and cross-contamination of food; teach and encourage personal hygiene for employees; comply with government regulations; maintain clean utensils, equipment and surroundings; and control pests.

Food-borne illnesses can be prevented by following simple food safety practices, she said.

For more information about the Professional Food Manager Certification Training course of AgriLife Extension call Gray-Soria at 806-669-8033.

Suburban Dallas man to be executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Convicted killer John Alba was headed to the Texas death chamber Tuesday evening for barging into a suburban Dallas apartment almost 19 years ago and fatally shooting his estranged wife while she was trying to evade him.

Alba, 54, would be the 11th prisoner executed this year in the nation's busiest death penalty state. Another execution is set for next week.

Alba and his wife, Wendy, 28, had a rocky marriage marked by alcohol abuse and infidelity and repeated visits from police responding to calls of domestic violence, according to trial testimony. At the time of the 1991 shooting in Allen, in Collin County northeast of Dallas, Alba had just posted bond after being jailed on a charge of molesting a 12-year-old girl.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals rejected a request for a reprieve Monday in an appeal that argued that Alba's sentence was improper because he wasn't eligible for life without parole under a law passed just a few years ago, that his Hispanic race illegally figured into his sentencing, that he shouldn't have been charged with capital murder and that his sentencing was unconstitutional.

Alba's lawyer took the appeal Tuesday to the U.S. Supreme Court. The justices had refused to review Alba's case last week.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles denied a clemency request.

Alba declined to speak with reporters as his execution date neared.

Skinner

who took Skinner's statement that morning.

Young, now with the Brazos County Special Investigation Unit, said today that he would not have a statement until after the case has been concluded.

McMinn, now retired, also offered no statement except to express amazement that Skinner's appeals have gone on for so long.

Stubblefield, too, expressed frustration at the length of time Skinner's appeals have taken, but offered no further comment until after the appeals have been concluded.

Skinner is suing 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer over not releasing blood-spatter evidence that Skinner claims could exonerate him in the murders.

The evidence had originally been made available to the defense during Skinner's trial and during appeals afterward by then 31st District Attorney John Mann and portions of it were tested.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld Skinner's conviction in 2009, and said that further testing of the DNA evidence was not necessary.

In 2010, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, upheld Skinner's conviction and agreed with lower courts that Skinner had failed to demonstrate that the blood spatter evidence was critical to Skinner's conviction.

More than 300 pieces of physical evidence were introduced at Skinner's trial. The trial was moved from Pampa to Fort Worth on a change of venue.

In March, as Skinner awaited his execution in a holding cell next to the execution chamber, Judge Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court stayed the

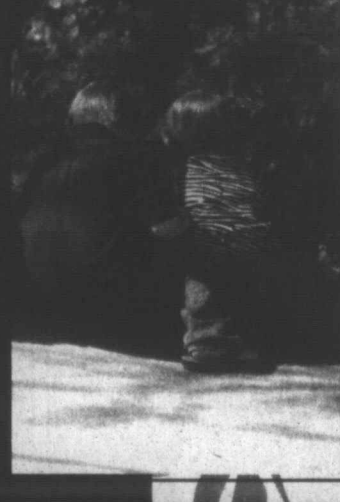
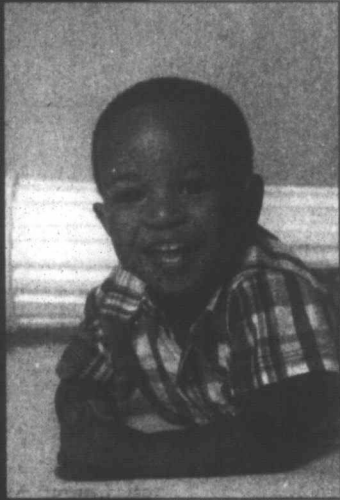
execution in order to review the case.

On Monday, the court agreed to hear the case next fall. The case is expected to set a precedence for when and if death row inmates are entitled to access to DNA evidence.

cont. from page 1

Jessica Whiteley

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Garfield



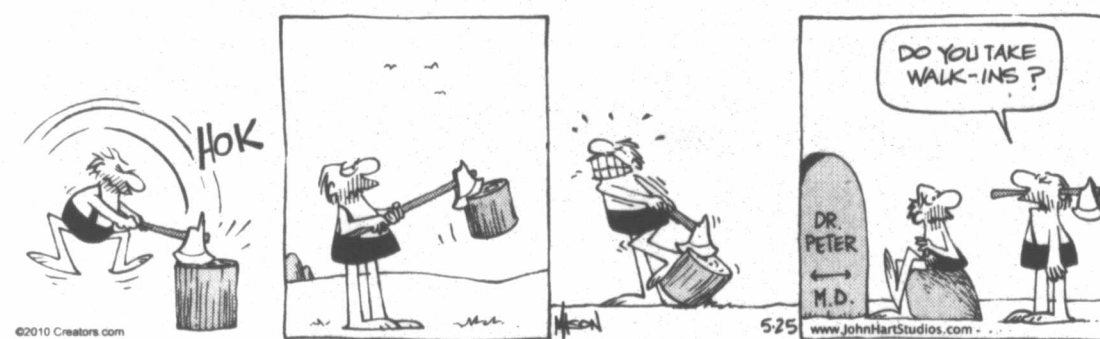
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

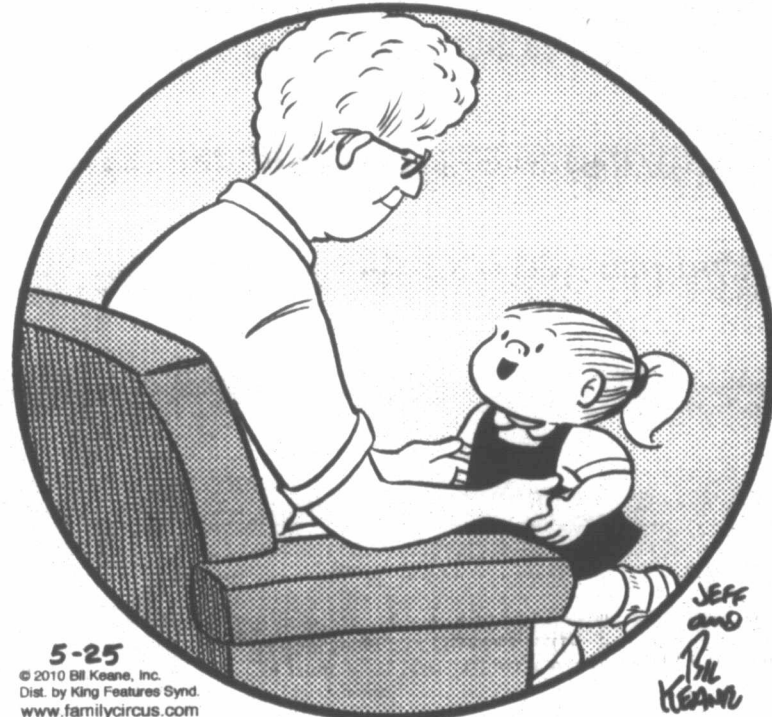


Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Grandma, I'll keep it a secret if you want to tell me I'm your favorite."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Incurred, as debt
- 6 Bungle
- 11 Not napping
- 12 Honolulu hello
- 13 One of the "Shrek" voices
- 15 Iris setting
- 16 Closest star
- 17 Whopper
- 18 Exercised one's right
- 20 "Shogun" setting
- 23 Fit for a king
- 27 Fan's favorite
- 28 Walking aid
- 29 Grass cutter
- 31 Nick of "48 HRS"
- 32 Henry VIII's house
- 34 Diner dessert
- 37 Golf goal
- 38 Lawn material
- 41 One of the "Shrek" voices
- 44 Pond life
- 45 Glisten
- 46 Prom goers
- 47 Accolade

G	E	R	M	A	M	P	S
M	O	V	I	E	H	E	A
A	T	A	L	A	G	R	E
M	O	D	E	L	E	R	A
B	L	E	D	W	A	G	N
O	D	D	D	E	S	O	T
SOLID							
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B	O	G	A	R	T	P	O
O	U	R	H	A	R	D	U
O	P	E	R	A	S	U	E
S	E	T	I	N	A	N	G
E	S	P	Y	P	E	A	S

Yesterday's answer

- 22 Sound of a comics punch
- 24 Guy's date
- 25 Crumb carrier
- 26 Golf's Trevino
- 30 Indian money
- 31 "Take your time!"
- 33 River stopper
- 34 Natural fuel
- 35 Not busy
- 36 Advantage
- 38 Rotate
- 39 Speed-skater
- 40 Fabric worker
- 42 McKellen of "X-Men"
- 43 Letter after pi

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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5-25

Sports

Rotary Club downs Cabot, grabs possession of first

CHRIS ENGLE
Special to The Pampa News

Rotary Club notched its 8th win of the season and moved into sole possession of first place by defeating Cabot Friday night 13-4. Cade Engle picked up his fifth win on the season going four and a third innings striking out nine, he walked one, gave up four runs on five hits. Julian Silva finished things off pitch-

ing the last one and two thirds innings, he struck out four on his way to his fifth save of the year. Rotary's Brandon Sieck got things started in the first with a single, then stole second and trotted home on a double by Engle. Engle stole third and scored on a wild pitch. Carson Eubank singled, stole second then scored when Silva singled. Silva stole

second, advanced to third on a balk and then scored on a wild pitch. That would be it for Rotary in the first after tallying three runs on four hits. Cabot was unable to score in the 1st striking out twice and grounding out to the pitcher. Kade Woods worked a walk out of Cabot in the second and stole his way around the bases to close out Rotary's scoring for

that inning. Cabot managed a couple of singles in the bottom of the second tallying two runs and chipped away at the score making it five to two Rotary. The third inning started with a bang as Sieck worked a walk, stole second then jogged home on a booming two-run homer by Engle. Rance Tipps singled and later scored on a double by

Silva. Silva trotted home on a long single by Andreas Losoya, who later scored on a Aaron McKinney sacrifice. Cabot was unable to score in the third spotting Rotary with a 10-2 lead. Cabot ended their scoring in the bottom of the fourth with two runs cutting the Rotary lead to ten/four. Rotary added a little cushion in the

fifth scoring three more runs as Engle singled and scored, Tipps doubled and scored on a single by Silva. McKinney doubled to lead off the sixth and would hustle his way around the bases notching Rotary's last run of the game in a 13-4 win. The Pampa Optimist Club is a United Way Organization.

DFB knocks Glo-Valve Service out of first with victory

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, behind the pitching of Rhett Harden, knocked Glo-Valve Service out of first place Friday in Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken League standings with a solid 6-3 win. Harden allowed two runs and three hits in the first inning, but tightened up to allow only one more run and one more hit in the next five innings. He

retired 12 of the last 14 batters he faced. Harden struck out 11 and walked two in the complete game win. Ryan Lee, Brendon Woelfle and Colton Thompson pitched for Glo-Valve. DFB went down in order in the first inning. Joseph Radke led off the bottom of the first for Glo-Valve with a single. He stole second but was caught stealing on a throw from Adam Zuniga to

Jared Lake. A walk and a stolen base by Woelfle and singles by Thompson and Lee produced a 2-0 lead for Glo-Valve after an inning. Zuniga tripled to right to open the second inning and scored on a ground out by Lake as DFB cut the lead to a single run. Glo-Valve got the run back in the bottom of the third. Radke singled, stole second, went to third on an error and scored when Thompson was safe on an

error. Glo-Valve led 3-1. DFB came storming back in the top of the fourth inning. Harden singled but was forced at second by Braden Keown. Ethan Brock walked on a full count. Zuniga reached base on a throwing error which allowed Keown to score and send Brock to third. A passed ball and a wild pitch gave DFB a 4-3 lead. DFB added two insurance runs in the top of the sixth. Harden singled, stole second and scored on

two passed balls. Zuniga beat out an infield single, moved to third on walks to Lake and Landon Taylor and scored on a passed ball. The foiled stolen base from Zuniga to Lake and a throw home by Harden to Zuniga blocking the plate and making the tag were the two outstanding defensive plays for DFB. Thompson fired to Radke at shortstop to catch a runner stealing for Glo-Valve's outstanding defensive play.

Glo-Valve falls to 3-2 in league play, a game behind Rotary Club, who bested Cabot Corporation 14-4 in the early game. DFB avenged an earlier 12-9 loss to Glo-Valve. Monday's game features Claude Blue at Panhandle at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday finds Rotary playing DFB at 5:45 p.m. in Optimist Park while Cabot visits Glo-Valve at 7:45 p.m. The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

Pampa Country Club Thursday Night Scramble golf results

May 6, 2010

Tee 1A-First-27
Doug McFatridge
Marc Reed

Tee 1B-Second-28
Daniel Williams
Butch Thompson
Chris Roden

Tee 2A-30
Joel Burleson
Joe Manzanares
Bill Allison
Dr. Joe Donaldson

Tee 3A-31
Daniel Heuston
Howard Reed
Chad Imani

Connie Manzanares
Tee 4A-Third-30
Tim Sadler
Dennis Holman
Buz Tarpley
Brett Bromwell

Tee 5A-Fourth-30
Scott White
Britton White

Chuck White
Gregory White
Tee 6A-31
Terry Hall
Clint Curtis
Todd Little
Mike Castanon

Tee 7A-30
Riley Rodman

Dee Joiner
Peggy McGuire
Logan Reagan
Tee 8A-31
Jack Curtis
David McGill
Shelia McFatridge

Tee 9A-34
Kelly Everson

Greg Logan
Danny McCarley
Sonya Everson
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Second-\$33.50 each
Third-\$17.50 each
Fourth-\$10.00 each

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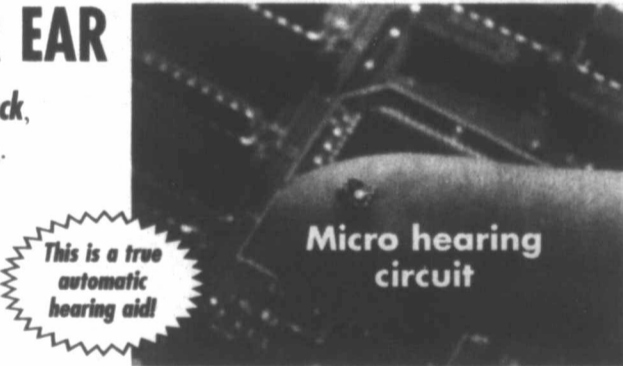
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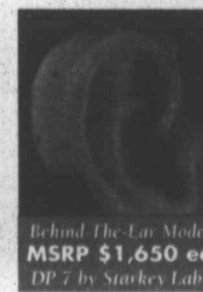
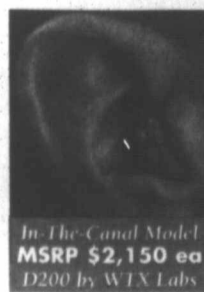
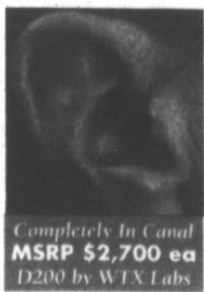


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