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Tuesday, June 7, 2011

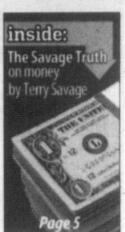
Volume 107 • No. 53

PHS grad Watson returns to help with softball camp

now

TODAY IN SPORTS Then and

Page 9



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City officials address water conservation

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

Other Panhandle cities have begun to institute water regulation measures, but Pampa City Manager Richard Morris said today that as long as local citizens are conservative with their water use, Pampa

should be all right. "Dumas and Panhandle have both implemented their water conservation plans," said Donny Hooper, Pampa's public works director.

Those plans, he said, mainly address watering lawns and washing cars.

Echoing Morris' concern over water use, Hooper said that water usage in Pampa is up at the summer begins.

"What we normally see in July and August," he said, "we pretty well ran that all the way through the month of May.'

That usage is in the four to four and a half million gallon a day range. WATER cont. on page 8

Carmen Overtstreet (left) at the city's Fred Thompson Municipal Water Treatment Plant goes over water supplies with Donny Hooper, Pampa's Director of Public Works. With drought conditions across the Texas Panhandle, water is becoming more of a concern. >



staff photo by David Bowser

OVER THE HUMP



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Steven Wright of Holmes Construction dumps dirt onto a lot by Pampa Junior High School on Monday. Crews are busy readying the grounds for construction of a new park-

FSA reminds farmers of **IRS** forms

DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Farmers wanting USDA program payments must have an Adjusted Gross Income verification consent form on file with the Internal Revenue Service, according to Matthew Street, Farm Service Agency executive director in Pampa.

The consent forms, Street said, authorizes the IRS to verify for the Farm Service Agency whether a payment recipient's Adjusted Gross Income meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. The form has been required for payment eligibility with the 2009 crop year, but Street said that many program participants have not completed the form.

"IRS and USDA reports show that nationwide FSA is still missing the required consent forms from many producers for 2009 and 2010," Street said. "In order to avoid an interruption of program payments, producers need to check their business records and turn these forms in to the IRS immediately if they have not done FSA cont. on page 8

Top O' Texas Rodeo earns honors; queen pageant official



photo courtesy of Cindy Kemph

ARNIE AURELLANO

editor@thepampanews.com

You could hear the smile in Cindy Kemph's voice as the words came out of her mouth: This year's rodeo will have a

Kemph, the office manager of the Top O' Texas Rodeo, announced that, after meeting on Monday evening with other

≺ Longtime Top O' Texas Rodeo Association Director James Baggett poses with the awards the rodeo recently received from the TCRA. The rodeo was recognized as the 2010 Cowboys' Choice Rodeo of the Year and the 2010 Highest Paying Rodeo of the Year.

rodeo officials, it has been confirmed that the 2011 Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Pageant will again be a part of the event, which will be seeing its milestone 65th iteration this year.

The 2011 queen pageant, like last year, will be a one day event, set for Thursday, Aug. 11. Also like last year, Kemph added, this year's pageant will have two contestants, but with a slight twist.

"It's just the opposite of last year," said Kemph. Last year, we had the younger girls, and this year we're going to have the older girls."

This year's contestants are Pampa's Jennifer Huffhines, 20, and Lefors' Shayley Morriss, 18. Huffhines has previously reigned as the rodeo's teen queen, and Morriss has also competed in the pageant before, Kemph said.

RODEO cont. on page 8

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IN THIS ISSUE:

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PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday Thursday



Low 68



Low 70



Low 70

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 65. Windy, with a south southwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 64: Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 94. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. Breezy, with a east wind around 15 mph. with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Breezy, with a north northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65 Breezy, with a east wind between 10 and 15 mph. with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Obituaries

Vivian Spoonemore Bichsel, 81

WHITE DEER-Vivian Spoonemore Bichsel, 81, died Saturday, June 4, 2011, in Pampa, Texas

Vigil will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with Rev. Joseph Ravi, associate pastor of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church of Pampa, officiating, and funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2011, Bichsel at Sacred Heart Catholic

Church in White Deer, with Rev. Mieczyslaw Przepiora, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of

Mrs. Bichsel was born June 3, 1930, in Athelstan, Iowa. Vivian married Louis Leo Bichsel, Sr. on November 7, 1947, in Corning, Iowa and he preceded her in death on June 3, 2008. Vivian has been a resident of White Deer since 1947 where she was a housewife. She was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Vivian was an avid bowler. She owned and operated Viv's Ceramics and formerly worked for Vantines in Pampa.

Survivors include three daughters, Diana Bichsel and Becky Baten and husband Gene all of Pampa, Debbie Alford and husband Greg of Katy; two sons, Louis "Rudy" Bichsel, Jr. of Pampa, Randy Bichsel and wife Barbara of Booker; two brothers, Claude Spoonemore of California, Eddie Merle Sparger of Kansas; two sisters, Flondene Stenstrom of Wisconsin, Janet Anderson of Louisiana; nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Vivian was preceded in death by a brother, Gussie Spoonemore and a sister Ramona Jennings.

Memorials may be made to Odyssey Hospice, 6900 1-40 West, Suite 150, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

Jerry N. Noel, 79

Jerry N. Noel, 79, died Saturday, June 4, 2011', in Ama-

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Noel was born June 14, 1931, in Lefors. Jerry was

a lifelong resident of Pampa. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving during the Korean Conflict. Jerry married Mary Green on July 21, 1967 in Sayre, Okla. She preceded him in death on June 7, 2008. He was an electrician for the Pante: Plant for 38 years, retiring in 1997. He was a member of the Barrett Baptist Church and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Survivors include one daughter, Rebecca Blair of Pampa; one step-son, Dale Morgan of Amarillo; one step-daughter, Janet Wheeler of Santa Marie, Calif.; one sister, Dorothy Marie Hammons of Amarillo; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Jerry was preceded in death by a daughter, Bobbie Neilia Noel in 1963; two brothers, Roy B. Noel and Jimmy Larry Noel.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 415 W. 8th Ave., Suite 300, Amarillo, TX 79101. Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

Bill Watt, 83

Bill Watt, 83, of Amarillo, died Saturday, June

Services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, 2011, in Boxwell Brothers Ivy Chapel with John Henley officiating. Burial will be at Llano Cemetery. Arrangements are by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors, 2800 Paramount

Mr. Watt was born on April 7, 1928, in Pampa,

to Carson and Annice Watt. He graduated from Pampa High School. He then served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He worked for Beacon Supply for many years and then worked for Transwestern Pipeline until his retirement. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Pampa.

Watt

He married Wathena Burton on October 9, 1954, in Boise City, Okla. They celebrated 56 wonderful years

Survivors include his wife, Wathena Watt, of the home; son, Carson Watt of Midland; daughter, Frankie Mercurio and husband Guy and his pride and joy, granddaughter, Avery Mercurio, of Dallas; a sister, Dorothy Hayes of Colorado Springs, and many beloved nieces and nephews.



For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following

incidents over the weekend. Officers responded to 67 traffic-related incidents and 8 accidents.

Animal control officers reported 24 animal-related Browning. incidents.

ambulance calls.

ment reported five medicalrelated calls, one investigation and one structure fire. The Lefors VFD respond-

ed to one accident. Friday, June 3

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of E. 1900 block of N. Sumner.

An escort was provided in the 600 block of N. Ward. A welfare check was re-

ported in the 1300 block of 700 block of E. 15th. N. Coffee. A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 1100 block of S. Varnon. An alarm was reported in E. Albert.

the 100 block of W. Kings-

was reported at Crawford and Prairie. A follow-up investigation was reported in the 2800

block of N. Charles. A follow-up investigation was reported in the 1500

block of W. Kentucky. A follow-up investigation was reported in the 700

block of E. 15th. A follow-up investigation was reported in the 200

block of W. Kingsmill. A domestic disturbance was reported in the 600

block of N. Magnolia. An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill. A runaway was reported in the 1500 block of N. Cof-

was reported in the 1000 block of W. 30th. block of N. Wells.

reported at Jupiter and A threat was reported in

Pampa EMS reported 14 the 300 block of S. Tignor. Theft was reported in the

The Pampa Fire Depart- 200 block of N. Gray. A suspicious vehicle was Kingsmill. reported in the 100 block of

N. West. Fingerprinting was pro-

vided in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill. Theft was reported in the

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of mill.

W. Kingsmill. Water was shut off in the

Water was shut off in the

800 block of N. West. A suspicious person was

reported in the 900 block of Public intoxication was

reported in the 1100 block A follow-up investigation of W. Somerville.

A welfare check was reported in the 2100 block of

N. Hobart. Water was shut off in the

1000 block of Duncan. Water was shut off in the 300 block of N. Starkweath-

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of E. Scott. A follow-up investiga-

tion was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

A violation of city ordinance was reported at Starkweather and Foster.

Theft was reported at Ripley and Nelson.

Water was shut off in the 1000 block of S. Farley.

ported in the 600 block of Sloan.

A follow-up investiga-

A domestic disturbance tion was reported in the 100

A 911 hangup was reported at Denver and Henry. A suspicious person was An offense against family

and children was reported in the 200 block of W. Kings-

Harassment was reported in the 200 block of W.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of E. Foster.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 700 block of

E. Murphy. An alarm was reported in

the 300 block of W. Kings-

Saturday, June 4 Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 500 block of N. Hazel. A suspicious vehicle was

reported in the 700 block of E. Murphy. A threat was reported in

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the 500 block of Maple. An assault was reported in

the 300 block of N. Christy. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of W. Albert. A suspicious person

was reported at Wilks and Faulkner A violation of city ordi-

nance was reported in the 1100 block of N. Christine. A suspicious person was reported in the 2300 block

of N. Primrose Ln. A suspicious person was reported in the 1000 block

of N. Frost. An alarm was reported in the 1000 block of W. Har-

An alarm was reported in the 700 block of N. Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was A welfare check was re- reported in the 1100 block of Duncan. An escort was provided in

the 600 block of N. Ward. An attempt to serve was

reported in the 900 block of S. Wells. An attempt to serve was

reported in the 400 block of S. Pitts. An attempt to serve was

reported in the 1300 block of N. Garland. An attempt to serve was

reported in the 1900 block of N. Banks. An attempt to serve was

reported in the 400 block of N. Russell. A suspicious vehicle was

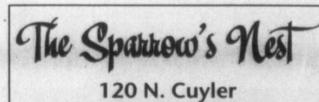
reported in the 300 block of N. Somerville.



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Court rejects tuition challenge

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WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court has rejected a challenge to a California policy that gives tuition breaks to illegal immigrants to attend public colleges and universities.

The justices on Monday refused to review a California Supreme Court ruling that upheld a state law giving California high school graduates reduced tuition at state schools, regardless of their immigration status. The court did not comment on its action.

The law's challengers say it conflicts with federal immigration law that prohibits post-secondary education aid to illegal immigrants.

Eleven other states grant similar benefits to illegal immigrants. They are: Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

States challenge 'tailpipe rule'

AUSTIN (AP) - Texas has filed the opening brief in a legal challenge it and eight other states are making to the Environmental Protection Agency's "tailpipe rule."

That rule aims to limit greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. The brief filed by the Texas attorney general's office calls the rule "arbitrary" and exceeds the EPA's authority under the federal Clean Air Act.

The brief was filed on behalf of Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota.

In a statement Monday, EPA spokesman Brendan Gilfillan defended the rule as a cost-saving measure for consumers that will also reduce air pollution and U.S. dependence on oil imports.

Nurse retaliation trial to begin

LUBBOCK (AP) — A jury will hear opening statements in the trial of a West Texas sheriff accused of helping retaliation against two nurses who made an ethics complaint anonymously against a doctor who was his friend.

The Midland County jury will begin hearing the case Tuesday of Winkler County Sheriff Robert L. Roberts Jr. He's charged with two counts each of felony misuse of official information, felony retaliation and misdemeanor official oppression. If convicted, he could get up to 10 years in prison on each of the felonies.

The nurses Roberts is accused of investigating for his doctor also had faced charges of misuse of official information. However, charges were dropped against nurse Vickilyn Galle, and nurse Anne Mitchell was acquitted in February 2010.

DPS to terminate top official

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Public Safety has begun termination proceedings against the former administrator of its homeland security grant funds.

Janice Bruno had been administrator of the State Administrative Agency. A terse DPS statement issued Monday says a five-month investigation by the Texas Rangers and the State Auditor's Office had found evidence of criminal misconduct. The statement did not specify what wrongdoing was found.

Bruno had been on suspension since Dec. 9, when State Auditor John Keel notified the DPS of an allegation of criminal misconduct. The DPS statement says the entire leadership team of the State Administrative Agency was replaced. All SAA contractors and related contractor invoice payments also were suspended.

A message left at a telephone number listed for Bruno wasn't returned.

Feds grant protection for snails

SILVER CITY, N.M. (AP) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is designating 76 acres in eastern New Mexico and 61 acres in West Texas as critical habitat for three federally endangered aquatic snails and a freshwater shrimp.

Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity lauded the announcement Monday, which stems from the center's 2001 settlement over protecting the rare species from oil and gas development and groundwater pumping.

The order protects the Roswell springsnail, Koster's springsnail, Noel's amphipod and the Pecos assiminea

The new designation protects 73 acres on the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, nearly three acres in Roswell and 61 acres in Pecos County, Texas.

Dismissing teachers made easier

AUSTIN (AP) - The Texas Senate has passed a measure that allows school administrators to move quicker to dismiss teachers to help ease budget strains.

The measure must now pass the House. The Legislature is meeting in special session to pass new school finance laws to balance the budget. Lawmakers are reducing the state's obligation to school districts by \$4 billion.

Republican Sen. Florence Shapiro said the bill passed Monday would give school administrators more flexibility in adjusting to the budget cuts. Among other things, it changes the deadline for when administrators tell teachers whether or not their contract will be renewed. It also allows districts to put teachers on furloughs to save

The measure allows administrators to do away with the last-in, first-out practice of lay-offs in most districts.

Ex-oil accountant accused

HOUSTON (AP) — A former Houston oil services company accountant and several members of her family are charged with first-degree felony theft, with the woman accused of stealing more than \$13 million from her employer over 10 years.

Harris County prosecutors say Nancy Moreno paid the money to dummy accounts from company funds while working at Davis-Lynch Inc. Prosecutor Wendy Baker says she then funneled money from those accounts to herself and several relatives

Baker said Moreno had been "a trusted employee" who had taken years to build that trust. She said the money was paid to dummy vendors with names similar to legitimate

Family attorney Philip Hilder declined to comment, telling the Houston Chronicle that he would argue the case in court.

AFTERNOONRUSH Texas Senate OKs new redistricting map

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas senators approved a new congressional redistricting map on Monday after a fierce debate over minority representation.

The Republicans' chief mapmaker, Sen. Kel Seliger, spent much of the debate Monday defending his map against Democratic attack. The measure passed the Senate on an 18-12 party-line vote and now goes to the House for consideration.

Lawmakers redraw congressional districts every 10 years when new census data comes out. This year Texas is adding four seats in Congress, bringing the total to 36.

Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville,

questioned why Hispanic communities along the Rio Grande, in Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth area would not see an increase in congressional representation in line with the state's growing diversity.

"How is it fair that although Anglos only make up 45 percent of our population, but they control 72 percent of our congressional districts," Lucio asked. "It does not make any sense; it is unfair."

Critics complain that Seliger's map also splits the Austin area into five different districts, denying the most Democratic part of the state a single seat. U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, the Travis County Democrat who would have a difficult time getting re-elected under the new map, condemned it.

"This map violates the Voting Rights Act and represents little more than another Republican slap at Hispanics. Its crooked lines harm families throughout the San Antonio to Austin corridor," Doggett said. "But this map is far from final and will likely look very different on Election Day.

Once a map is approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor, the next step is the Department of Justice. Groups opposing the map can file suit in federal court, where alternative maps can be introduced and considered by the judge.

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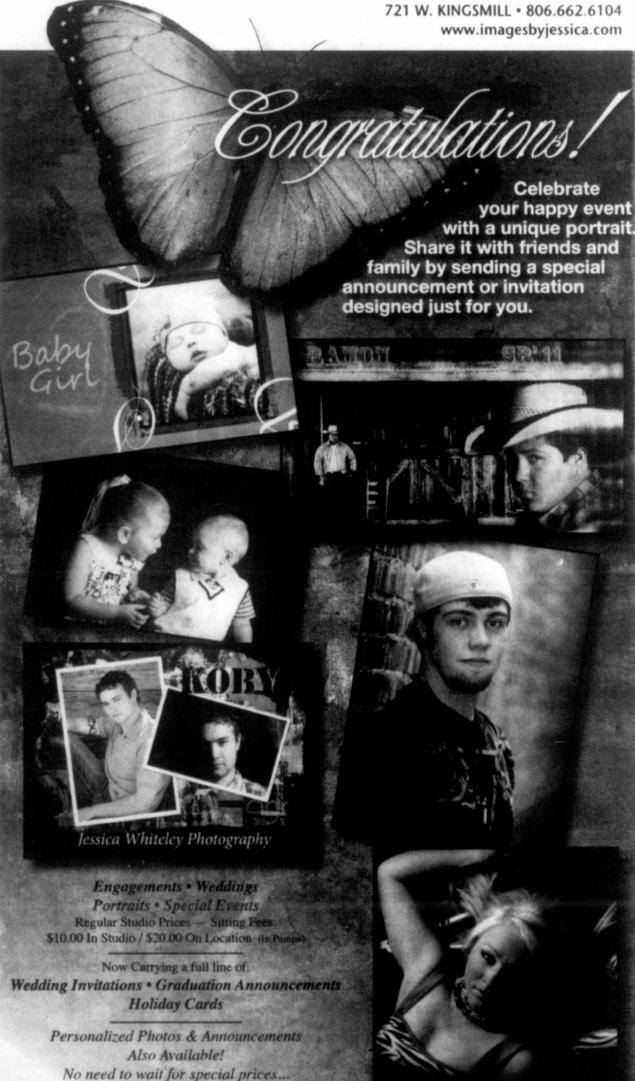
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 7, the 158th day of 2011. There are 207 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposed to the Continental Congress a resolution stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

On this date:

In 1654, King Louis XIV, age 15, was crowned in Rheims, 11 years after the start of his reign.

In 1769, frontiersman Daniel Boone first began to explore present-day Kentucky

In 1848, French painter and sculptor Paul Gauguin was born in Paris.

In 1929, the sovereign state of Vatican City came into existence as copies of the Lateran Treaty were exchanged in Rome.

In 1948, the Communists completed their takeover of Czechoslovakia with the resignation of President Edvard Benes.

In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Israelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

In 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death for the crime; a third received life with the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh abandoned all appeals after a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected his request to delay his impending execution.

Five years ago: Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of al-Qaida in Iraq, was killed by a U.S. airstrike on his safe house.

One year ago: U.S. defense officials announced that Army Spc. Bradley Manning had been detained in Baghdad in connection with a video posted on WikiLeaks showing Apache helicopters gunning down unarmed men in Iraq.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director James Ivory is 83. Actress Virginia McKenna is 80. Singer Tom Jones is 71. Actor Ken Osmond ("Leave It to Beaver") is 68. Former talk show host Jenny Jones is 65. Actress Anne Twomev is 60. Actor Liam Neeson is 59. Actress Colleen Camp is 58. Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg is 58. Actor William Forsythe is 56. Latin pop singer Juan Luis Guerra is 54. Singer-songwriter Prince is 53. Rock singer-musician Gordon Gano (The Violent Femmes) is 48. Rock musician Eric Kretz (Stone Temple Pilots) is 45. Rock musician Dave Navarro is 44. Actress Helen Baxendale is 41. Actor Karl Urban is 39. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 33. Actress Anna Torv is 32. Actress Larisa Oleynik is 30. Tennis player Anna Kournikova is 30. Actor Michael Cera is 23. Actress Shelley Buckner is 22.

Thought for Today: "That would be a good thing for them to cut on my tombstone - 'Wherever she went, including here, it was against her better judgment." - Dorothy Parker American writer (born 1893).



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Are wild horses native to US? BLM view challenged

SCOTT SONNER Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) - American history textbooks teach generation after generation that the wild horses roaming the Western plains originated as a result of the European explorers and settlers who first ventured across the ocean and into the frontier.

But that theory is being challenged more strongly than ever before at archaeological digs, university labs and federal courtrooms as horse protection advocates battle the U.S. government over roundups of thousands of mustangs they say have not only a legal right but a native claim to the rangeland.

The group In Defense of Animals and others are pressing a case in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that maintains wild horses roamed the West about 1.5 million years ago and didn't disappear until as recently as 7,600 years ago. More importantly, they say, a growing stockpile of DNA evidence shows conclusively that today's horses are genetically linked to those ancient ancestors.

The new way of thinking could carry significant ramifications across hundreds millions of acres in the West where the U.S. Bureau of Land Management divides up livestock grazing allotments based partly on the belief the horses are no more native to those lands than are the cattle brought to North America centuries ago.

Rachel Fazio, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, told a three-judge appellate panel in San Francisco earlier this year that the horses are "an integral part of the environment.

As much as the BLM would like to see them as not, they are actually a native species. They are tied to this land," she said. "There would not be a horse but for North America. Every single evolutionary iteration of the horse is found here and only here.'

Judge Mary Schroeder, former chief of the circuit, asked: "Just like polar bears?"

"Yes," Fazio answered, "they belong there.

The lawsuit cites researchers who say the most recent science backs her up and that the concept is widely accepted by most of the scientific community, with the most notable exception being the BLM itself.

"It's significant because BLM treats the wild horses like they are an invasive species that is not supposed to be out there," Fazio said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

A reversal of that long-held belief could have the effect of moving the native horses to the front of the line when divvying up the precious water and forage in the arid West.

BLM maintains the horse advocates are perpetuating a myth and many ranchers claim it's part of a ploy to

push livestock off public lands. There are plenty of horses out in the Nevada desert," said Tom Collins, a Clark County commissioner who has a ranch outside of Las Vegas and has run cattle on U.S. lands in Arizona, Idaho and Utah.

"Most of these folks, maybe their father slapped them or their mother didn't love them, so now they are in love with these wild horses that aren't really wild," he said

BLM devotes "Myth No. 11" on its Web site to the "false claim" that wild horses are native to the United States.

"American wild horses are descended from domestic horses, some of some of which were brought over by European explorers in the late 15th and 16th centuries, plus others that were imported from Europe and were released or escaped captivity in modern times," it says.

"The disappearance of the horse from the Western Hemisphere for 10,000 years supports the position that today's wild horses cannot be considered 'native' in any meaningful historical sense," BLM explains. It acknowledges the horses have adapted successfully to the Western range, but biologically they did not evolve on the North American continent

Jay F. Kirkpatrick, a leader in horse reproduction research who directs ZooMontana's Science and Conservation Center in Billings; Mont., is among those who say BLM's view is outdated.

"On the face of the science, it is just absolutely incorrect," said Kirkpatrick, who has studied reproductive physiology for decades since earning his degree at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

"It wasn't the predominant horse on the continent but it was here. It is native to North America," he told AP.

Kirkpatrick, who actually supports roundups as a necessary tool to control herd populations, said the key to determining if an animal is native is where it originated and whether or not it co-evolved with its habitat.

The mustangs "did both, here in North America," he said, beginning about 1.4 million years ago. He said they eventually crossed the Siberian land bridge into Asia before going extinct locally as recently as 7,600 vears ago

"This isn't about history, it's about biology,' Kirkpatrick said. "The Spanish were bringing them home."

Ross MacPhee, curator of the Department of Mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, agrees. He said the mustangs are classified as Equus caballus, which "evolved from more primitive forebears" in North America.

"There is therefore no question that it is 'native' within any reasonable meaning of that word ΓCö much more so than bison, for example, whose immediate ancestry is Asian," MacPhee said. "Yes, it disappeared from our shores for a few thousand years, but that has no bearing scientifically on whether it is historically 'native.'

BLM officials said they can't comment on pending litigation, but referred AP to their Web site descriptions and a leading scientist who agrees the agency's version is closer to the truth.

"Horses did evolve in North America but they went extinct 10,000 years ago," said Michael Hutchins, executive director of the Wildlife Society, a nonprofit scientific and educational association in Bethesda, Md.

Today's mustangs are "a domesticated, feral version that had gone through many, many generations of selective breeding to use as beasts of burden and were brought back to North America," he told AP. "They are a mishmash of domestic horses. They are not native. They are not wild horses."

If they are native, then so too are camels, cheetahs and lions that roamed the continent before extinction about the same time, Hutchins said. But they are not, he said, partly because the same ecological conditions no longer exist, the climate changed and most big predators gone.

Kirkpatrick said Europe's domestication of the horse over about 6,000 years may have changed the nuclear makeup of some genes but "it remains the same species and retains the same social organization and social behaviors that evolved over 1.4 million

"It matters not a Tinker's Damn if the ecology has changed," he said.

"E. Caballus is the same species that disappeared."

The case pending in the 9th Circuit could go a long way toward determining future management of the animals and has the potential to send BLM back to the scientific drawing board before it can resume seasonal roundups of thousands of mustangs it says are damaging the environment.

The case already has cleared an unprecedented legal hurdle in that the appellate court is entertaining arguments about the merits of the law at

In previous similar challenges, courts have denied requests for emergency injunctions to block pending roundups based on conclusions plaintiffs failed to prove significant harm was imminent and/or they were likely to ultimately succeed in proving the government broke the law

Then in a sort of "Catch-22," by the time a non-emergency hearing arrives, the BLM already has completed the roundup and persuades the judge the case is moot, any damage already

But that may be changing. David Schildton, a Justice

Department lawyer representing BLM, was following that script when he told the Ninth Circuit panel in January that "a live controversy" would have to exist for the court to act.

"And since the gather has already occurred and approximately seven horses were humanely destroyed because of pre-existing conditions, don't know that there is effective relief," he said.

Not necessarily, said Judge Johnnie Rawlinson.

"The remainder of the horses could be returned," she said. "The overall laim for relief is these horses were g taken from their native habitat.

horses are being housed at a long-term or short-term facility, they could be reinstated to their native habitat.'

The 9th Circuit ruling is still pending. But the judge in Sacramento who denied the original bid in September to block a 1,700-horse roundup in the Twin Peaks area along the California-Nevada line adopted a similar position in April when he refused BLM's request to dismiss the case.

U.S. District Judge Morrison England Jr. ruled it could go forward because "effective relief can still be granted" if plaintiffs prove BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act or the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of

"This court could conceivably provide relief in the form of an order returning all animals in ... holding facilities to either Twin Peaks or the West until all requirements of NEPA are met," he said.

BLM agrees Congress wants the horses treated as part of the environment, Schildton said, but the focus should be on protecting the land itself not affording the horses special treat-

'They are not an endangered species," Schildton said. "The effect on the horses themselves would be part of the environmental study... but the ultimate question is, 'Does this proposal bring about a significant environmental impact?"

Fazio said BLM misinterprets the

"The whole purpose of this act is to protect the wild horses from capture, arassment, branding and death," she said. "Multiple use if fine, but where lands are designated for horses - this icon of the West, this embodiment of freedom - you have to make a priority out of protecting them."

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VA mortgage loans good deal for vets

TERRY SAVAGE Creator's Syndicate

Last week's Memorial Day holiday served as a reminder of all who have served our country - and continue to do so even as we celebrate the start of summer. Our country has always recognized that we owe a special debt of gratitude toward our veterans.

One of the best programs available to those who were honorably discharged from the military is the Veterans Administration mortgage loan program. It stands out as one of the few government mortgage programs that not only works well, but is a great deal for those who are

A VA mortgage loan requires no down payment and carries a low. 30-year fixed rate, currently slightly over 4.5 percent.

I know that caught your attention! There are some conditions to getting a VA loan, but millions of Americans who are eligible are not even aware of this good deal.

There is no age restriction on qualifying for a VA mortgage loan, and you can get a new loan even if you had one many years ago. The surviving spouses of veterans with benefits also qualify if they have not remarried. Plus, there are good VA loan deals for those seeking to refinance an existing loan.

Perhaps you, or someone you know, could qualify. Here are the basic requirements to get a VA loan: You must have been honorably

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discharged from the U.S. military. · You must have a Certificate of Eligibility (available from the VA Eligibility Center at 888-244-6711).

Your credit score must be above

 You must be able to demonstrate steady income, or a two-year history of self-employment, or a stream of retirement benefits. Spousal income can help you

qualify. · Your total debt payments can-

not be more than 41 percent of your total income.

 You cannot have any unpaid liens or judgments.

· You must wait until two years after a bankruptcy to apply and cannot have any subsequent late payments.

If you're a vet with a higher rate or adjustable-rate mortgage, this is

The Savage on money

the time to lock in low fixed rates. It's worth investigating.

You can qualify for VA home loan benefits no matter how long ago you were honorably discharged. And even if you took out a VA loan many years ago, you remain eligible for another VA loan if the first loan was paid off.

The VA loan program is not intended for speculators or investors. The property must be owneroccupied, although the loan can be used for single-family homes, condos, or one- to four-unit properties. And a VA loan can also cover a "jumbo" mortgage, making it an attractive alternative for higher priced homes.

The maximum amount of the full VA no-down payment mortgage loan is \$417,000. However, if you purchase a more expensive home and need to borrow money above that amount, you must put down 25 percent of the amount above the \$417,000 limit, and pay a slightly higher rate to get the larger mort-

So, for example, if you want to purchase a home below that limit, you get a no-down-payment mortgage for the entire amount at a fixed rate of around 4.625 percent for 30 years. The monthly payment on a \$417,000 mortgage at 4.625 percent would be \$2,144, plus property taxes and insurance.

If you wanted to purchase a \$500,000 home, you must put down \$20,750, which is 25 percent of the difference between \$417,000 and the purchase price. The VA loan will cover the remaining \$479,250, and your interest rate will be about a quarter percent higher (4.75-4.875

When you take out a VA loan, the closing costs (not more than \$1,500) are rolled into the new mortgage. There is also a VA funding fee, typically 2.15 percent of the loan amount, also rolled into your loan. And you'll pay \$425 for an appraisal as you start the process, but you should not have any other out-ofpocket costs.

If you receive any service-related disability from the VA, however, they waive this fee altogether.

A VA loan can also be used to refinance your existing mortgage. In the case of a refinance, you can borrow up to 90 percent of the appraised value of the home, taking out cash to pay off other debts if there is equity available.

As with a new VA loan, you will have to pay \$425 upfront for an appraisal, although there should be no other fees required to apply for the loan. For a refinance, the VA funding fee is 3.3 percent rolled into the loan. This applies if you convert a conventional mortgage to a VA mortgage. But if you are refinancing an existing VA mortgage, the funding fee is only one half of 1 percent.

Whether you are taking out a new-purchase loan or refinancing an existing loan, there is no monthly mortgage insurance (PMI), so payments are lower than comparable standard loans that require PMI when there is less than 20 percent equity in the deal.

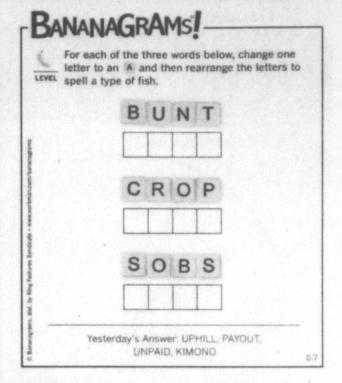
The VA loan guarantee program has aided veterans since 1944. These loans have historically been a good deal for the government, as well. Statistically speaking, veterans just don't default on their mortgages.

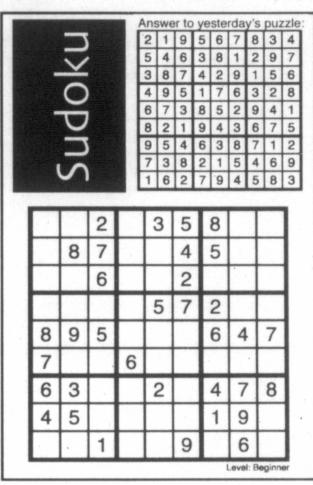
If you're a veteran and you think you may benefit from utilizing your VA loan eligibility, then I suggest you contact Daniel Chookaszian, a VA mortgage specialist and head of veteran lending at American Street Mortgage. He is also a volunteer chaplain for disabled vets. You can reach him at (312) 376-3760, or by e-mail at dchooks (at) americanstreet.com.

Or, you can contact the VA Regional Loan Center in St. Paul, Minn., at (800) 827-0611 to speak with a VA loan specialist.

In our current lending environment, credit has tightened everywhere. But the VA loan still offers vets the opportunity to purchase and refinance property with very attractive rates and programs. It's a welldeserved thank you to our military. 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.







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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

I understand "Loose and ject: Baggy in San Francisco's' appearance.

Parents who through the quagmire of nearby. appearance-related issues their needs, yet not allow to become ashamed of her

BANK, CALIF. Thank you for your opin- cost just as much. ion. Many readers also

development of self-image add new cool-looking de- FRUMP IN TEXAS and overall self-esteem. tails to the clothes. "Loose This is a major reason for and Baggy" may also have my daughter was young-

I'm 15 now and still associated with these years have many of the same should work with their clothes. It has saved mondaughters by being open to ey in the long run because we can just let the stitches them to exceed boundaries out instead of buying new responsible for budgeting of decency, etc. A 13-year-clothes. At 13, she still has the amount herself for her old who wants clothing that some room for growth. fits should be accommodat- GRANDDAUGHTER OF ed. Otherwise, she stands A TOP-LEVEL TAILOR

appearance, inclined to act pathize with "Loose and on sale and roll over unout through her appear- Baggy." When my mom used amounts to the next ance once she gains control and I would go shopping, over what she wears, and it always ended in a big be overly obsessed with it fight with me in tears. I was well beyond her teen years. teased mercilessly by the the dollar. She also trades KAREN KAIGLER- other children for dressing WALKER, Ph.D. BUR- like a "40-year-old" and or consigns them to resale never had the cool things stores. "Loose and Baggy' KAI- the other kids were wear-GLER-WALKER: ing even though my clothes titlement" generation and

empathized with "Loose that with my daughter, tion. - SMART MOM/ and Baggy." Read on for and by the time she was SMART DAUGHTER

DEAR ABBY: While their views on the sub- 12 she was shopping for her own clothes. Our only DEAR ABBY: I had the rule was that she had to (April 23) mother's wish same problems when I was follow the three B's — no to get the most out of her 13. My mom always made butt, no boobs and no belly. daughter's clothing bud- me buy clothes that were At 16 she has an amazing get, as one whose career too large, too long, etc. sense of fashion and is ofhas been studying the so- But my grandmother was ten emulated. "Loose and cial psychology of appear- a clever seamstress who Baggy" should be given ance, I disagree with your helped "nip and tuck" the some boundaries and then response. A girl's early extra material away until I allowed to buy what she teen years are crucial to her needed it. She could also wants. - REFORMED

DEAR ABBY: When their obsession with their a relative with a talent for er, she had specific style clothing alterations, or if tastes that included exwant not, she most likely has pensive, trendy clothes. I to assist their daughters a tailor or alteration shop implemented a budget that allowed her to have a set amount of money on the first day of the new season. The money was given to her in cash or, later, in her checking account. She was clothes during that season.

Because of this she has learned how to manage DEAR ABBY: I em- money, shop "high end" season. She has become a responsible teenager who understands the value of outfits with her friends -sounds like part of the "enprobably would learn more I vowed never to do if she was part of the solu-

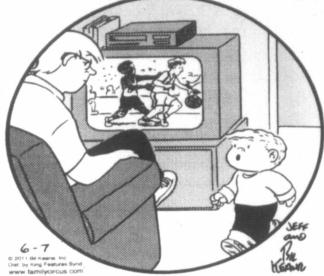
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

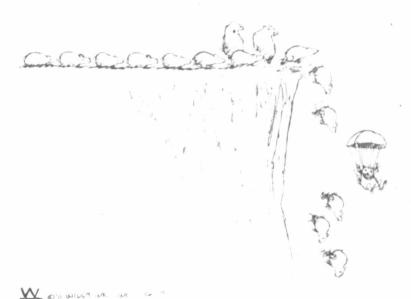
By Bil Keane



"Daddy, am I tall enough to watch basketball?"

Non Sequitur

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER ABOUT LARRY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FAITH



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Nest Heads







horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday.

June 8, 2011: This year, you sense an unusual amount of conflict surrounding you. If you listen, you might find a common theme or thread. Perhaps you are giving off mixed signals. Are you suppressing your feelings? If you are single, you meet people with ease, though it could be difficult this year to form a long-term bond. Don't worry; you will have one very soon. If you are attached, the two of you need lots of downtime together to deepen the bond and each other's understanding of one another.

be touchy. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

The relationship will benefit. VIRGO can

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ What happens today could be more significant than you might want to realize. Your ability to handle a boss or authority figure comes into play. Pull out of confusion and arguments. They are the fastest ways to waste time. Tonight: Go with a surprise

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Your creativity seems to come up each time there is an issue, and in between, too! Sometimes you are misunderstood. Rein in different interests, and proceed with one issue at a time. Trust yourself. You will know when to act. Tonight: Know that you are lucky.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**★ If you can, work from home. You are overwhelmed by everything that is occurring. Think in terms of new possibilities if you feel hemmed in. Be willing to break past a self-imposed but possibly about-to-be-identified restriction. Tonight: Don't be overly concerned with anything. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Your ability to accomplish a lot could be marred by a misunderstanding. Unfortunately, you might need to redo some work. Once more, a boss or parent proves to be unpredictable. Strap on your seat belt. Tonight: Catch up with a pal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Keep your foot on the brake when dealing with finances. You might not be ready for a commitment of this nature. Pressure builds because of several misunderstandings within a group of

people. Tonight: Your treat. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** You certainly might feel empowered, no matter what you do or which way you proceed. You could be thrown a little off by someone's behavior. A partner doesn't act in the way you anticipated or might like. Tonight: As you like.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★ Be careful when dealing with family. The confusion that surrounds you forces more questions. Don't take others' inquiries personally. The unexpected appears to run through your personal ties. A partner is lucky for you financially. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Stay on top of activities Friendship plays a big role in creating more of what you want. Others favor you in general and are willing to give a project that extra push. Deal with key people directly. Tonight: Extend a special invita-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Pressure builds with a boss or higher-up. Understanding comes through confusion. Try not to be as reactive or challenging. Just let the dust settle. Then you will know what action to take. Tonight: A midweek break. Be naughty and

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Detach, and you will succeed. If you become reactive to the present confusion, you will tumble into the same mire that everyone else does. You find that a family member might say something that triggers your imagination. Let your mind wander from the here and now briefly. Tonight: Movie night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** You demonstrate the ability to relate deeply to a particular friend. Understand what this person expects. Don't get plugged into a situation and become reactive. Detach. Then decide what to do. The result will be far better. Tonight: Invite a friend to join you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Others come forward with lots of information. The confusion that surrounds you could change if you can stay calm, cool and collected. Let others play out, not you. Try to tame a drifting mind. Tonight: Hang out.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits







Garfield







Beetle Bailey





Marvin

OUR MISSION TO EARTH SEEMS LIKE A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME, CAPTAIN QUIRK







Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts





Blondie







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Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the 14h Gen. Serv. General Local Runnoff Election held on Saturday, June 25, 2011 will be tested on Friday, June 10, 2011, 299-9563, at 3 p.m. at the Gray County Courthouse COX Fence Company. Law Library to ascertain that it will accu- build new. Free estirately count the votes mates. Call 669-7769. cast for all offices and

Signature of Officer

AUTOMATICAMENTE driveways, patios, side-Por lo presente se da walks, building slabs, aviso que el equipo stamped concrete. Hopara tabular automaticamente que se usara 1287 en la Eleccion General de Run-off de Local 14n Painting que se llevara a cabo el Sabado el 25 de junio 2011 se probana el vuernes, el 10 de junio de 2011 a las 3:00 P.M. en Bib:ioteca Gray de ley de Palacio de Justicia de Condado para determinar si el equipo contara con exacitud los votos para todos los puestos ofi- 21 Help Wanted ciales y sobre todos los

A-29 June 7, 2011

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TEXAS Rose Steak house is hiring for Brown Pit. Black Collar Cooks & Dishwasher. with green tag. 663- Apply in person. No phone calls!

> SWINE GENETICS COMPANY smithfield Premius Genetics, (SPG), the eader in world class wine genetics is seeking to fill positions at

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W M G W . — X W K R K T V S I I Q X X K O Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALL MY LIFE, MY HEART HAS YEARNED FOR A THING I CANNOT

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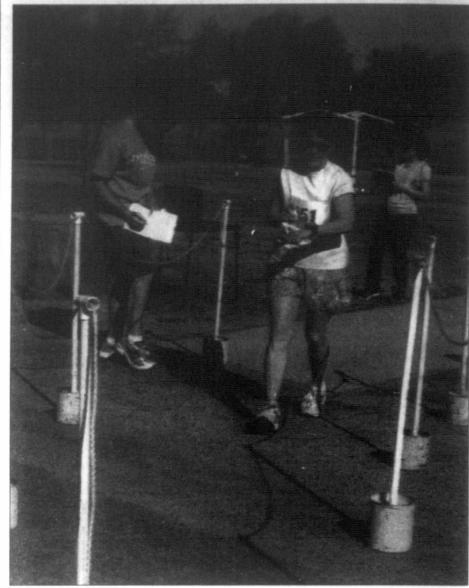


photo courtesy of Jeanne Autry

Mary Kaplan, 72, of Sunrise Beach crosses the finish line at the recent Pampa Meals on Wheels March for Meals at Recreation Park. Kaplan was the event's oldest winner, and she has won in her age division in every state in the U.S. She is now trying to run - and win - in each county in Texas

Texas House panel revives, joins health care compact

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas House panel revived legislation Monday to allow Texas to govern federal health care benefits on its own by joining a multistate agreement challenging federal health care

The plan already created in Oklahoma and Georgia would allow Texas to adopt its own health care rules in lieu of federal regulations if Congress approved.

The legislation by Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, was approved by the House during the regular session. States would receive federal health care funding as a block grant and then decide how to structure Medicaid and Medicare programs.

"This is a movement that's afoot," Kolkhorst said.

Kolkhorst said Texas would receive 2010 federal funding health care levels, when federal Medicaid dollars were "flowing at an all-time high."

Opponents argue that if Texas enters the compact, the state gives up its right

to increased federal funding for Medicaid and Medicare. They say additional funding is needed to take care of the millions of uninsured Texans.

'Capping the funding doesn't do anything to actually control health care costs," said Anne Dunkelberg, associate director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities. "Our concern is that there is no requirement stated in the legislation that Texas would continue to serve the same population it currently serves."

Kolkhorst said the elderly and the poor can have their voices better heard in Austin than in Washington, D.C.

"This isn't about throwing seniors off of Medicare," she said. "It's about protecting them."

Supporters say states are in a better position to make health care decisions for their citizens and shouldn't be forced to adopt a one-size-fits-all federal plan like President Barack Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

GOP chair to Weiner: Resign

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Republican Party said Tuesday that Rep. Anthony Weiner should resign after admitting to sexually charged online relationships with several women and lying about his misdeeds.

Reince Priebus said in a statement that either House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and Democratic chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz believe that members of Congress are held to a different standard, or they believe the congressman's actions demand his departure from the House

The Democratic National Committee did not have an immediate comment.

The National Republican Congressional Committee also seized on the Weiner scandal as a 2012 campaign issue, issuing press releases calling on more than a dozen House Democrats to return campaign contributions from Weiner.

Republicans sought to turn House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's celebrated campaign pledge in 2006 to "drain the swamp" of corruption and ethical abuses in Washington against the Democrats.

GOP ethics woes helped Democrats take control of Congress in 2006.

Weiner vowed on Monday he would not resign his seat, and apologized repeatedly at a news conference for his actions.

Perry invites nation's governors to August prayer meeting

AUSTIN (AP) Texas Gov. Rick Perry has invited the nation's governors to join him in a prayer day to seek-God's guidance to deal with the problems facing

The day for prayer and fasting is planned for Aug. 6 in Houston and is sponsored by the American Family Association, a Christian advocacy group. The organization's website says the event is intended to be a nondenominational, apolitical, Christian prayer service.

Perry's invitation comes on the heels of his announcement that he is considering a run for president. He is a strong advocate of the Christian conservative wing of the Republican party. He has attended numerous Christian events as governor, and was an early adopter of tea party rhetoric

This invitation, though, has attracted national atten-

"Given the trials that beset our nation and world, from the global economic downturn to natural disasters, the lingering danger of terrorism and continued debasement of our culture, I believe it is time to convene the leaders from each of our United States in a day of prayer and fasting, like that described in the book of Joel," Perry

Titled, "The Response," the event is scheduled to take place at Reliant Stadium. On the website dedicated to the event, organizers said "America is in the midst of a historic crisis.

We want the presence, power, and person of Christ to fill our nation and turn the hearts of millions to righteousness, peace, and joy in him," the group's website gives as a mission statement. "We want to see real change across our nation that only our God can perform.

In his invitation to the other 49 governors, he urged them to also proclaim Aug. 6 a day to pray for "unity

and righteousness." "We simply want to humbly ask our creator to intervene on behalf of our people and nation, and ask for His blessing and healing power to transform our lives," Perry said in the letter.

Michigan's Gov. Rick Snyder has already said he won't be attending. The Republican governor said his schedule was too busy.

The Secular Coalition for America issued a statement urging governors not to attend the event.

The last thing our officials should do in times of national struggle is promote a divisive religious event that proposes no real solutions to our country's real-world problems," said Sean Faircloth, executive director of the lobbying organization for secular and nontheistic Americans. "We urge all elected officials to reject Governor Perry's invitation to attend this explicitly Christian platform for theocratic grandstanding that does nothing to offer substantive solutions to our country's problems."

Mexican soldiers seize drug cartel cargo drugs in Tamaulipas

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican soldiers in a northern border state seized two more of the armored cargo trucks that drug cartels have been using for street battles with rivals, authorities said Monday.

The Defense Department said the trucks were found during a weekend search of a metalworking shop that had been used by a drug gang in the town of Camargo in Tamaulipas state. It said the trucks had inch-thick sheet steel welded over the cabin, doors and cargo container, complete with primitive fixed turrets and firing ports.

About 25 other trucks - some already partly modified — were also found at the workshop, the military's statement said.

The first armored truck to turn up in Mexico was found wrecked in the Tamaulipas town of Ciudad Mier last year, in an area being fought over by the Gulf and Zetas drug cartels

There were no arrests in the raid on the metalworking shop, but the army said soldiers killed two suspects in a confrontation in another part of the state, the military said. Farther south, soldiers killed eight alleged gunmen in

a shootout in the Gulf of Mexico coast state of Veracruz,

the Defense Department said Monday. Troops were checking on a citizen's complaint of armed men at a cemetery in the town of San Julian on Sunday when they came under fire, a statement said. The soldiers returned fire, killing eight suspects, and they also

arrested one gunman, it said. Meanwhile, Mexican marines over the weekend seized a cache of weapons in the northern state of Coahuila that

allegedly belongs to the Zetas drug cartel, the navy said

The marines found 80 automatic rifles, 20 handguns, three grenade launchers, more than 50,000 bullets, a ton of fireworks and six pounds (three kilograms) of explosives in gel form, the statement said. It said the weapons were buried in an empty lot near the city of Monclova.

On Friday near Monclova, soldiers found a buried cache of weapons that included 154 rifles and shotguns and more than 92,000 rounds of ammunition, the Defense Department said. It said those weapons also were thought to belong to the Zetas.

Tamaulipas and Coahuila are two of several northern Mexican states where the Gulf and Zetas drug cartels are fighting for control.

so already.

The IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to the USDA, Street said.

Individuals must submit Form CCC-927. Legal entities must submit Form CCC-928.

"Without these forms on file," Street said, "producers will not receive USDA program payments.'

These consent forms, he said, are required for payments received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service as well as those received through the Farm Service Agency, he said. Completed

cont. from page 1

forms should be returned to the IRS.

For more information on the Adjusted Gross Income eligibility requirements or the Adjusted Gross Income verification process, Street said producers can contact the Gray County FSA office at 806-665-6561, ext. 2.

Water

cont. from page 1

He said those numbers hit Pampa pretty hard.

"But now that we have Lake Meredith online and we're receiving water from them," Hooper said, "we're keeping up with the demand just fine.'

In January, Pampa and the 11-member cities of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority voted to rely only on groundwater from their Roberts County well field and use the water in Lake Meredith only for the peak water demand months this summer.

Hooper said that Pampa also has its well field running as well.

He said the city is, however, encouraging Pampa citizens to remain conscious of their water usage and try not to waste any water.

Hooper said that it's important to adjust heads on sprinkler systems.

"A lot of people don't realize that you

can over-water your lawn," he said. Putting additional water on a lawn won't do any good.

"Just being conscious of those things and paying attention to what you're doing is important," Hooper said, "because water is such a precious resource."

As the drought continues through the warmest months of the summer, he said water could become even more

Hooper said that although Pampa is required by state law to have a plan, the city has not instituted it.

Looking at water resource numbers on a computer at the city's Fred Thompson Municipal Water Treatment Plant west of the city, Hooper said he hopes that Pampa will not have to implement any kind of water conservation emergency plan this summer.

Rodeo

The pageant day's schedule will unfold much like last year's. The day will open with the horsemanship competition at 8 a.m. at the rodeo grounds, followed by the queen's luncheon at noon at a to be determined location. Current Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Megan Pirtle will give her

farewell speech at the luncheon. Coronation will be later that evening, Kemph said.

"I'm not sure yet if it will be during the barbecue or the rodeo," she said. "That's something we still have to work out."

Also at Monday's meeting, rodeo officials received a pair of plaques from the Texas Cowboys Rodeo Association recognizing the 2010 event.

Choice Rodeo of the Year and Highest Paying TCRA Rodeo. The Rodeo of the Year award, Kemph said, was particularly special because

The rodeo won the awards for Cowboys'

2010 was the first year that the award was

cont. from page 1

'We were so honored," said Kemph. This is the first year they let the cowboys and the cowgirls vote on it because they didn't want it to seem like a committee that was (removed from the situation) was the one deciding the award. They turned to the cowboys and the cowgirls who actually made all the rodeos and they said, 'OK, which rodeo?'

decided by TCRA rodeo participants.

"For those people to turn around and say, 'Hey, you guys had the best rodeo,' I mean, that is quite a compliment. There's a lot of rodeos - and a lot of good rodeos around, and for us to be singled out, we were honored."

For more information about the 2011 Top O' Texas Rodeo or the 2011 Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Pageant, call the rodeo office at 806-669-0434.

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Sports

PHS graduate Watson returns, helps coach softball camp

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2010 Pampa High School graduate Shelbie Watson said she couldn't even remember when she started participating in Lady Harvester softball camp.

"I don't even know," Watson said.
"When I was really young, I know that."

Now, she has returned and is teaching other children at the annual camp that started Monday and runs through Friday at Lady Harvester Field.

Watson, who will be entering her sophomore year at Clarendon College, said she enjoyed learning from the coaches and former players.

"It was fun doing all the competitions," Watson said.

Some of the things the campers worked

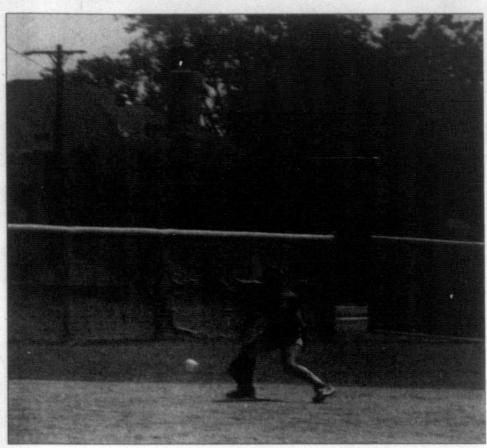
on was bunting, fielding and hitting. Watson said the camp helped because she knew what head coach Bobbi Gill expected.

"I knew how Coach Gill wanted it done because I learned it at softball camp," Watson said, "so I knew how everything should be done in high school."

Watson said it's fun coming back hoping to add to the future of the program.

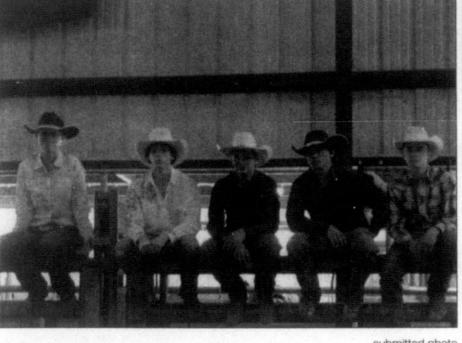
"I love to help out so these girls can be a Lady Harvester like I was," Watson said. "Do as good as I did or better and keep the Lady Harvester program going."

Other former Lady Harvesters included the program's all-time home run hitter Cassy Tice, 2010 graduate Emilie Troxell and recently graduated seniors Jordan Mayhew and Madi Shults.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Shiann Regelado, 14, fields a ball during the Lady Harvester softball camp Monday at Lady Harvester Field. The camp runs through Friday.



RODEO ALL-STARS

submitted photo

Tri State Rodeo Participants from left Cameron McDonald, Aaron McKee, Cordale Martin, Montana Medrano and Keenan Hughes pose after the rodeo May 7 and 8.



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