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# The PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 60

75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## Hoover Volunteer FD recognized for safety

**DAVID BOWSER**  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Hoover Volunteer Fire Department was nationally recognized this week for its safety efforts that were an outgrowth of an incident that cost an Amarillo firefighter his life.

On April 23, 2005, Amarillo Firefighter Brian Hunton fell out of his ladder truck while it was responding to an alarm. He was not wearing a seatbelt. Two days later, Hunton died of injuries suffered

in the fall.

This week Amarillo Fire Chief Steve Ross came to Pampa to present the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department with **HOOVER** cont. on page 3

**Hoover Fire Chief Joe Millican** accepts an award from Amarillo Fire Chief Steve Ross concerning a pledge by firefighters to wear safety belts. ▶

staff photo by **David Bowser**



**TODAY IN SPORTS**

**Student to teacher**

PHS grad Eubank helps with volleyball camp

**Page 8**

**inside:**

**Dog Talk**

**Page 3**

## ROAD WARRIOR



staff photo by **David Bowser**

**Matt Gonzales** was cutting up today in Pampa. Gonzales with Amarillo Utility Construction was cutting into the pavement in the 200 block of East Kentucky today as a company crew worked on Pampa's water system.

## Child welfare board seeks membership

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
editor@thepampanews.com

With child welfare and abuse increasingly becoming an area of concern within Gray County, the Gray County Child Welfare Board is looking for members to ensure that the needs of kids in the care of Child Protective Services are met.

Darla Ingram, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services community initiatives specialist for Gray County's region, said that the numbers suggest that the board needs more members to keep up with the caseload.

"According to our official data book numbers for 2010, in Gray County, there were 424 alleged victims of abuse and neglect," Ingram said. "That concluded in 49 removals from the home. There's definitely a need (for help).

"We just need some interested people in the community that want to help out kids. (People who) are interested in the whole process of assisting kids who come into the care of Child Protective Services. Those are kids that, of course (are in trouble through) no fault of their own, and it's our child welfare board that has a partnership with Child Protective Services to meet their needs. We just need responsible citizens who will be appointed by the Commissioners' Court to help out in that process."

Ingram said that becoming a member of the Child Welfare **BOARD** cont. on page 5

## City Commission denies SPS service proposition

**DAVID BOWSER**  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa City Commission voted to deny a Southwestern Public Service move concerning interruptible service.

Pampa City Manager Richard Morris told the city commission that Southwestern Public Service offered interruptible service to their customers during peak demand months in the summer with rewards for interruptions, but the city relies on electric service for water and the water treatment plant, particularly in the summer.

Morris said that the cities in the Southwestern Public Service area fear that accepting the electric utility's proposition would enable it to

bypass the Texas Public Utility Commission when it came to rate increases.

In other business:  
• The commission adopted a resolution to participate in the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority's purchase of the \$93 million purchase of water held by T. Boone Pickens' Mesa Water in Roberts, Lipscomb, Ochiltree and Hemphill Counties.

A signing ceremony will be held Thursday, June 23, in Plainview with CRMWA and Mesa officials.

CRMWA provides water for Pampa and 10 other municipalities in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains.

Morris said that Pampa's share of the cost of the project would be about \$3.3 million.

• The City Commission also approved a resolution proposed by the Pampa Economic Development Corporation to extend a loan to Tumbleweed Services in order to lower the monthly payments from \$1,000 a month to \$500 a month. The loan was initially approved prior to the economic problems faced by the country today.

• The commission also approved on first of two readings changes to a city ordinance proposed by Pampa Police Chief Kelly Rushing concerning permits for door-to-door salesmen.

Rushing proposed reducing the time limit on such permits from one year to 30 days and requiring the salesmen to carry some sort of **CITY** cont. on page 5

### Chamber Luncheon

Tuesday, June 21 • Noon

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### PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday      Friday      Saturday



High 101  
Low 68

High 101  
Low 69

High 101  
Low 68

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. Windy, with a south southeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 101. Windy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 101. Windy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 69. Windy, with a west southwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 101. Windy, with a west southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

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## Obituaries

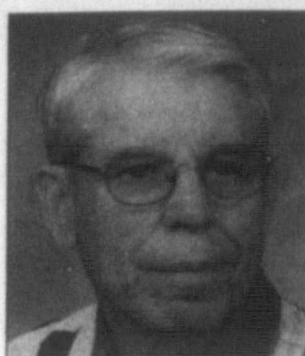
### Eberardo E. "Benny" Rodriguez, 83

Eberardo E. "Benny" Rodriguez, 83, died June 12, 2011, in Pampa.

Vigil will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, and funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 16, 2011, at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, with Rev. Joseph Ravi, associate pastor, officiating.

Burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery with military honors courtesy U.S. Army, Fort Hood. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Rodriguez was born June 8, 1928 in Winters. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1965. He married



Rodriguez

Bernardita Herrera in Grants, N.M. She preceded him in death on June 25, 2001. Benny worked for Phillips Pipeline for 42 years, retiring in 1991. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean Conflict with the 839th Aviation Engineering. He was a member of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. Benny was a pioneer in drag racing and a member and longtime fan of the NHRA. He was also an avid bowler.

Survivors include two sons, Shaun Rodriguez and wife Tammy of Pampa, and John Rodriguez and wife Erin of Midlothian; five grandchildren, Phillip Rodriguez, Nicholes Rodriguez, Brianna Rodriguez, Johnathan Rodriguez and Devon Rodriguez; one great-grandchild, Chelsyn Rodriguez; stepmother, Trinidad Rodriguez Cruz of Borger. He was preceded in death by a sister, Irene Aleman.

Memorials may be made to Pampa Optimist Youth Club, Inc., P.O. Box 802, Pampa, TX 79066-0802, or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

## AZ wildfire may be biggest in state history

LUNA, N.M. (AP) — Authorities expected a massive wildfire in eastern Arizona to become the state's largest by later today, as investigators focused on two people whose campfire may have started the blaze and firefighters fought to keep the flames from devouring a small New Mexico mountain town.

Fires also grew elsewhere in New Mexico, including one near the Colorado border that forced the closure of a busy interstate highway.

Kelly Wood, a spokesman for the multi-agency effort battling the Arizona blaze, said late Tuesday that two people of interest were being questioned about an abandoned campfire but he didn't immediately have details. He said the U.S. Forest Service would release more information Wednesday.

In Luna, N.M., just across the Arizona state

line, evacuation plans were in place for the roughly 200 residents. Crews have been working to protect the town for days, hacking down brush, using chain saws to cut trees and setting small fires to burn anything that approaching flames could use as fuel.

Fires have devoured hundreds of square miles in the Southwest and Texas since wildfire season began several weeks ago. Scant winter precipitation in Arizona, New Mexico, part of west Texas and southern Colorado is blamed on La Nina, a term describing cooler waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean that keeps the jet stream from dipping down and bringing storms to the region.

It instead sent rain and snow farther north, which has led to huge snowpack in the Sierra Nevada range in California and in the Rockies.

The wildfire outlook issued by the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, calls for fire potential to be above normal in those areas through September, but normal or less than normal across the rest of the West.

The huge blaze in Arizona was also made worse by the extremely thick forest, the result of a century of fire suppression that allowed additional tree growth in the world's largest ponderosa pine forest. Fires that would typically scorch only grasses and small trees on the forest floor across the West now leap into the crowns and skip across miles of terrain through the treetops.

The Arizona fire has burned more than 747 square miles since Memorial Day weekend and destroyed 32 homes and four rental cabins. It was 20 percent contained.

Arizona's largest fire was the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski fire, which burned 732 square miles but destroyed far more buildings — 491.

While the current fire has surpassed Rodeo-Chediski in size, it still wasn't considered Arizona's largest fire as of Wednesday morning because several thousand of the 478,452 acres that have burned were in New Mexico, where firefighters had intentionally set blazes to keep back uncontrolled flames, said Sean Johnson, another fire spokesman. Officials expected the blaze in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, which is chewing up thousands of acres a day, to become the state's largest by morning, he said.

"It's just not there yet," Wood added.

Although the fire is enormous, other U.S. blazes between 1997 and 2009 have been much larger.

The biggest was a 2004 blaze in Alaska that burned more than 2,000 square miles. The largest in the continental U.S. were a 2006 Texas blaze that consumed 1,417 square miles, followed by a 2007 Idaho fire that burned 1,018 square miles.

About 2,700 people who live in several Arizona resort communities in the forest remained evacuated from their homes. Wood said residents of the mountain town of Nutrioso would be allowed to return to their homes after 10 a.m. Wednesday, and fire officials said evacuation orders for the picturesque

hamlets of Alpine and Greer might be lifted in several days.

Greer, considered the jewel of eastern Arizona's summer havens, lost more than 20 homes and a couple dozen outbuildings as flames moved into the valley last week.

In northeastern New Mexico, a wildfire fanned by high winds has forced hundreds of people from their homes near the Colorado border and grown to more than 39 square miles. The blaze over more than 25,000 acres near Raton was burning on both sides of Interstate 25, closing the highway and sending summer motorists on lengthy detours. The fire has destroyed or damaged nine structures in New Mexico, including two houses. One cabin has burned in Colorado.

Another wildfire in southern Colorado spread to about 3 1/2 square miles and forced the evacuation of a church camp. Residents of 50 homes were told to evacuate and another 50 warned to do so, Custer County Sheriff Fred Jobe said Tuesday.

Another fire in southern New Mexico had burned about 39 square miles near the Carlsbad Caverns and was threatening the visitor center and housing at the tourist destination.

Several other fires were burning around Arizona, including a huge blaze near the southeastern border town of Portal that has burned more than 267 square miles since May 8. It was about 60 percent contained. Another fire that broke out Sunday outside Sierra Vista near the Coronado National Memorial also forced evacuations.

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# AFTERNOONRUSH Hoover

## Fireworks amnesty for Amarillo

AMARILLO (AP) — A fireworks amnesty program has been announced for some Texas Panhandle communities so banned explosives can be turned in and not set off during dangerous hot, dry conditions.

The city of Amarillo and Potter and Randall counties have joined forces to offer to pick up and dispose of illegal fireworks. The two counties are among 209 across Texas with outdoor burn bans Wednesday during the lingering drought.

Fire Marshal Terry McKinney said Tuesday that it's illegal to possess or store fireworks in the Amarillo city limits.

The amnesty program will give residents of Potter and Randall counties a chance, before the Fourth of July holiday, to also have old ammunition and gunpowder picked up with no fear of prosecution.

The explosives will be destroyed by bomb squad experts.

## Houston squad car rammed

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police say one vehicle theft suspect has been shot and two others are in custody after a chase in which a stolen truck rammed a patrol car.

Police say no officers were hurt in the incident early Wednesday.

The vehicle chase started after an officer tried to stop the three men in the stolen pickup. Police say the suspects ditched the vehicle and tried to run when one of them was shot by an officer. Police say the wounded suspect is hospitalized in serious condition.

The other two suspects were captured following a foot chase.

Names of the three suspects have not been released.

Investigators are trying to determine if the man who was shot had been driving the stolen truck. The driver could face vehicular assault charges.

## Harbor Bridge facing repairs

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The underside of Corpus Christi's Harbor Bridge is facing rust repairs and that will mean additional traffic delays through early 2012.

Texas Department of Transportation local construction director Joe Gaytan says the bridge is still safe with or without the repairs. Gaytan says traffic weight must be reduced during the work to repair gusset plates that have rusted.

The \$29 million project began in May 2010 and was to have been completed this September.

The *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* reported late Tuesday that motorists can expect multiple lane closures until next March. Gaytan says commuters in each direction could face half-hour delays.

## Board considers plant permit

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas agency that oversees crucial parts of the state's water supply will consider awarding a water permit to a proposed coal-fired power plant.

The Lower Colorado River Authority on Wednesday will discuss and may vote on the request by the White Stallion Energy Center.

The authority says the request for 25,400 acres of water annually won't affect Central Texas lakes after a new reservoir is built. It says the multimillion-dollar contract will benefit future projects — but wants \$55 million up front and \$250,000 annually once the plant is built.

Opponents say the contract would take precious water away from farmers in the sometimes-arid region, especially during droughts.

Texas has 19 operating coal-fired plants, most in the nation. Nine new plants have been permitted, and two have started construction.

## Baptists elect first black pastor

PHOENIX (AP) — Members of the Southern Baptist Convention elected an African-American pastor to its No. 2 position for the first time on Tuesday, signifying an effort to diversify its leadership and flock at a time of declines in overall membership and church attendance.

Fred Luter Jr., the head pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, was elected with 1,558 votes, or 77 percent. Some of his supporters had expected him to be unopposed, but he picked up a local Arizona challenger in Tuesday's session. Rick Ong, a deacon at First Chinese Baptist Church in Phoenix, received 441 votes, or 23 percent, according to results from the Baptist Press.

The move to elect Luter comes at the same time the SBC is making a push for greater participation among what it sometimes calls its "non-Anglo" members in the life of the convention, particularly in leadership roles.

Luter's church is one of an estimated 3,400 black churches in the nation's largest Protestant denomination, a small minority of more than 45,700 total SBC-affiliated churches with about 16 million members total.

## Americans found among graves

MEXICO CITY (AP) — An American was found among the 193 corpses recovered in April in mass graves in Mexico near the U.S. border, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Mexican authorities identified the remains of an American in San Fernando, a town 85 miles (137 kilometers) from the border with Brownsville, Texas, and alerted the U.S. State Department, said a State Department official who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

The official did not identify the victim because the family has not authorized it.

Mexican officials said many of the victims buried in the mass graves in San Fernando were migrants heading to the U.S. who were kidnapped from buses, killed and buried by the Zetas drug cartel.

The U.S. consulate in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, released a message when the graves were being unearthed saying the consulate had received three reports from U.S. citizens or their families regarding buses being boarded by criminals.

"In at least one instance, male bus passengers, including an American citizen, were forcibly removed from those buses and have yet to be located," the message said. It is not known whether the U.S. citizen the consulate reported missing was the one found in one of the 47 pits excavated.

cont. from page 1  
a certificate acknowledging that all the members of the Hoover fire department have pledged to wear their seat belts while riding a fire truck.

"There's been a very large national campaign now since 2006 trying to get firefighters to wear seatbelts," Ross said at a meeting with the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department Tuesday night. "There's been very limited success in getting fire departments to comply out of tradition."

Ross said it takes leadership to get a fire department to comply with the seatbelt standard, and he said seatbelts save lives.

"You don't want to walk behind that casket," Ross said from personal experience, "and you don't want to put their families through that. You don't want to put each other through that."

He said the Hoover fire department has shown significant leadership within the department to stand up and say this needs to be done.

"They're really setting the right example for future firefighters," Ross said.

Dr. Burton Clark of the National Fire Academy started the seatbelt pledge campaign, Ross said.

"They named the seatbelt pledge after Brian," Ross said. Firefighters pride themselves on helping others, he said.

"We can't help people until we get to their homes," Ross said. "Firefighters are willing to cut corners to save lives, including putting their own lives in jeopardy."

Ross acknowledges that it's been hard to get firefighters to wear seatbelts because they don't want to take the time to put them on.

"I think that the significance of the seatbelt pledge is that it takes a lot of courage for a firefighter to say to another one, 'I don't want you dying unnecessarily,'" Ross said.

He said the Hoover firefighters didn't have the significant loss that the Amarillo Fire Department did, but they were willing to respect Hunton and say that they weren't going to put anybody's family through that pain.

Ross said a firefighter's attention is focused on providing public safety and taking care of others, not themselves.

"That's why I wanted to come up and present this award to them personally," Ross said.

# Hot weather tips for pets

## Dog Talk



Men and women anticipate the arrival of warmer weather in the same way children look forward to Christmas morning. With a snowier-than-usual winter and chilly start to the spring in many regions, summertime sun and heat might be more coveted than ever before.

While many individuals have been counting down the days until 85-degree weather, pets may not have been sharing the same enthusiasm. The hot weather can bring discomfort to our four-legged friends.

It's widely known that keeping a dog chained up outdoors in the sun and heat is cruel, as is keeping him locked in a car while running errands. However, there are many other factors that come into play regarding keeping pets cool and comfortable when the mercury rises.

Unlike humans, pets cannot simply shed layers of clothes to cool down. Nor do they have the communication skills to tell people to turn up the air conditioning. It's up to pet parents to be in tune with their pets' needs and provide what they require. In order to keep pets content when the weather is warm, consider these suggestions.

### Outdoors

- Cool down. Have a source of water for pets to use to cool down. This may be a retired baby pool, a misting hose, even a damp towel that can be used to rub over a pet's coat. Be sure this water source doesn't pose a drowning threat (i.e., don't leave a pool of water around young children or puppies).

- Offer shade. The shade can reduce temperatures by several degrees. When spending considerable time outdoors, have a shady spot to which both people and pets can retire. If a pet is an outside animal, be sure there is a covered area that will offer generous shade.

- Provide cold water to drink. Pets can become dehydrated and suffer from heatstroke just like humans can. Some animals will avoid a bowl of water if it has heated from being outside. Be sure to regularly refresh water bowls so that animals have cool, refreshing water to drink.

- Watch for hot feet. A person who has walked barefoot across hot pavement knows just how painful it can be. Although the pads of dogs' feet are thicker than human skin, they are sensitive as well. Too much walking across

hot surfaces can burn the pads. Check regularly for redness and gauge your pet's comfort level while walking. If he is limping or showing distress, it's time to cut the walk short.

- Prickly foes. Seeds from foxtails and other grasses tend to be barbed and sticky. Cats and dogs may inhale these seeds or have them lodge in their paws and coats. If a pet seems to be under duress after being outdoors, grass lawns and burrs could be the culprit. Seek assistance from a veterinarian.

### Indoors

- Keep it cool. Don't turn off the air conditioning simply because you won't be home. If it's incredibly hot indoors, pets will become uncomfortable. Keep a ventilation source available, such as an open window, turned-on ceiling fan or leave the A/C set to low.

- Leave water out. An indoor water bowl is a necessity, too. Check before leaving the house that there is plenty of water available to all pets.

- Offer comfort. Summertime often comes with loud thunderstorms, motorcycles passing by or fireworks. These loud noises can startle pets. Routinely check on animals to be sure they aren't frightened or doing damage to the house from being scared. If you will be out, have a neighbor check on the pet. A radio left on or a television can help mask the summer sounds and soothe a scared pet.

- Groom the pet. Talk with a groomer to decide on a cut that's comfortable for the pet. While many people assume shaving off all fur is the best option, fur actually insulates an animal. Removing it all can put the pet at risk for sunburn.

### Other Tips

- Walk dogs early in the morning and in early evening so that the jaunts take place when the weather is cooler.

- If you'll be taking a dog along on a hike during warm weather, be sure to pack enough water for both of you.

- Consider the use of dog booties to protect pads from hot pavement.

- Dogs may not be allowed on beaches during the summer tourist season. Check ahead before planning a seaside adventure.

- Warm weather helps parasites multiply. Don't keep food left out or it may attract bugs and become spoiled.

- Check with a vet about medications that can ward off ticks and fleas, which tend to be in full force during warm weather.

For more summertime health tips for a pet, consult with a veterinarian or visit [www.vetinfo.com](http://www.vetinfo.com).

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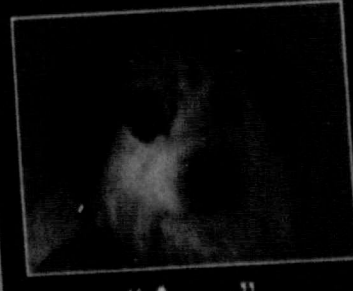
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"Ace"  
Male Spite

For more info about these pets or any other questions, call 806-669-5775 or visit us at the Hobert Street Park. All photos of animals can be viewed online at [www.cityofpampa.org](http://www.cityofpampa.org). The animals can be seen through the window of the shelter any time.

If you're looking for a "forever friend," call or visit us today!

The Shelter is open to the public Mon. - Sat. from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 15, the 166th day of 2011. There are 199 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 15, 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter") at Runnymede.

### On this date:

In 1219, forces led by King Valdemar II of Denmark defeated the Estonians in the Battle of Lyndanisse.

In 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

In 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state.

In 1864, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton signed an order establishing a military burial ground, which became Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steamboat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1942, the Albert Camus novel "L'Étranger" ("The Stranger") was first published in France.

In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan during World War II. B-29 Superfortresses carried out their first raids on Japan.

In 1978, King Hussein of Jordan married 26-year-old American Lisa Halaby, who became Queen Noor.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people.

**Ten years ago:** On the eve of his first meeting with Vladimir Putin, President George W. Bush, in Poland, chastised Russia for suspected nuclear commerce and encouraged the former Cold War rival to help "erase the false lines that have divided Europe."

**Five years ago:** The death toll of U.S. servicemen and women in the Iraq war reached 2,500. A divided Supreme Court made it easier for police to barge into homes and seize evidence without knocking or waiting.

**One year ago:** In his first Oval Office address, President Barack Obama promised that "we will make BP pay for the damage their company has caused," describing the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as a "siege" on the shores of America.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former New York Governor Mario Cuomo is 79. Rock musician Lee Dorman (Iron Butterfly) is 69. Rock singer-actor Johnny Hallyday is 68. Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 62. Rock singer Steve Walsh (Kansas) is 60. Comedian-actor Jim Belushi is 57. Country singer Teri Gibbs is 57. Actress Julie Hagerty is 56. Rock musician Brad Gillis (Night Ranger) is 54. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Wade Boggs is 53. Actress Eileen Davidson is 52. Bluegrass musician Terry Smith is 51. Actress Helen Hunt is 48. Rock musician Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 48. Actress Courteney Cox is 47. Country musician Tony Ardo is 47. Country musician Michael Britt (Lonestar) is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Rob Mitchell is 45. Rock musician Jimmy McD is 43. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 42. Actress Leah Remini is 41. Actor Jake Busey is 40. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Johnson is 39. Rock musician T-Bone Willy (Save Ferris) is 39. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 38. Actor Greg Vaughan is 38. Actress Elizabeth Reaser is 36. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 35. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 30. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "The times are not so bad as they seem; they couldn't be." — John Franklin Carter, American commentator and author (1897-1967).



## Texas House passes immigration bill

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Senate Republicans flexed their muscle again, shoving aside angry and tearful objections from Democrats to pass a bill that gives police officers broader powers to ask people they detain about their citizenship status.

The 19-12 vote early Wednesday came after nearly eight hours of emotional debate in which Democrats railed against the bill as racist and a tool to harass Latinos.

The bill pushed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry now goes to the House for consideration, where it is expected to easily pass. The Republican super-majority in the House passed a similar version during the regular session.

Perry and supporters say the bill will help police fight crime committed by illegal immigrants. But opponents, including law enforcement chiefs in the state's largest cities and immigrant rights activists, say the measure will allow rogue officers to target Hispanics.

"This bill is open season on Latinos," said Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Houston. "This bill is the most racist, Latino-bashing, anti-immigrant bill I've ever seen."

Many Texas law enforcement agencies discourage their officers from asking people they detain in everything from routine traffic stops to serious criminal investigations whether they are in the country legally. The bill bans agencies and local governments from adopting such policies for their officers and deputies. Those that do would be cut off from state grants.

Senate Republicans were determined to give powers to individual police officers that many in law enforcement have said they don't

want or need.

Critics, including law enforcement chief in Austin, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio, worry the bill will be used by rogue officers to target Latinos and lead to mistrust of police in immigrant communities.

Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, said police take an oath to uphold state and federal law and should be free to ask about detainees' immigration status because they could catch criminals or terrorists who have slipped into the country.

The bill is "not about race or fear-mongering," Williams insisted.

But Senate Democrats railed that white suspects will never be challenged on their citizenship, and that Hispanics who are U.S. citizens will be harassed.

"When you tear apart families in my community, I will not be forgiving," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio.

At one point, the Senate's seven Hispanic members all stood as symbols of who may be asked to prove they are citizens. At the same time, a man in the public gallery unfurled a sign that read "SHAME" before he was apprehended by security and removed. "This bill strikes at the hearts and souls of the Latino people of Texas," said Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio. "Any furtive glance or misstatement can put you under suspicion. All that matters is the color of your skin and if you have an accent. I shouldn't have to prove I'm a citizen."

Democrats blocked the bill during the regular session, but Perry, who is considering seeking the GOP nomination for president, added immigration enforcement issues to the call of the special

session. Voting rules that helped Democrats block the bill last month don't apply in the special session.

Perry has said federal immigration enforcement has failed and that Texas must protect its own borders. Supporters of the bill also noted several cases of crimes, including murders and drunken-driving fatalities, committed by illegal immigrants.

"There are crimes being committed right now by people who are in this country illegally," Williams said.

An estimated 1.6 million illegal immigrants are in Texas, according to the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington.

Democrats complained the term "detention" is too vague and could lead to immigration inquiries even in cases as simple as violating restrictions on watering lawns or a traffic stop for faulty brake lights. They argued the bill does nothing to prevent illegal immigration.

Opponents said the bill does nothing to prevent illegal immigration and argued that crime victims fearing interrogations about their immigration status won't report domestic violence or activity by drug cartels.

The bill also requires every person's name to be checked in federal immigration databases through a program called Secure Communities, and gives

Texas Department of Public Safety the authority to make sure someone is in the country legally before issuing a driver's license.

"Drug traffickers and transnational gangs should think twice before they step foot in Texas," said Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

## The PAMPA NEWS

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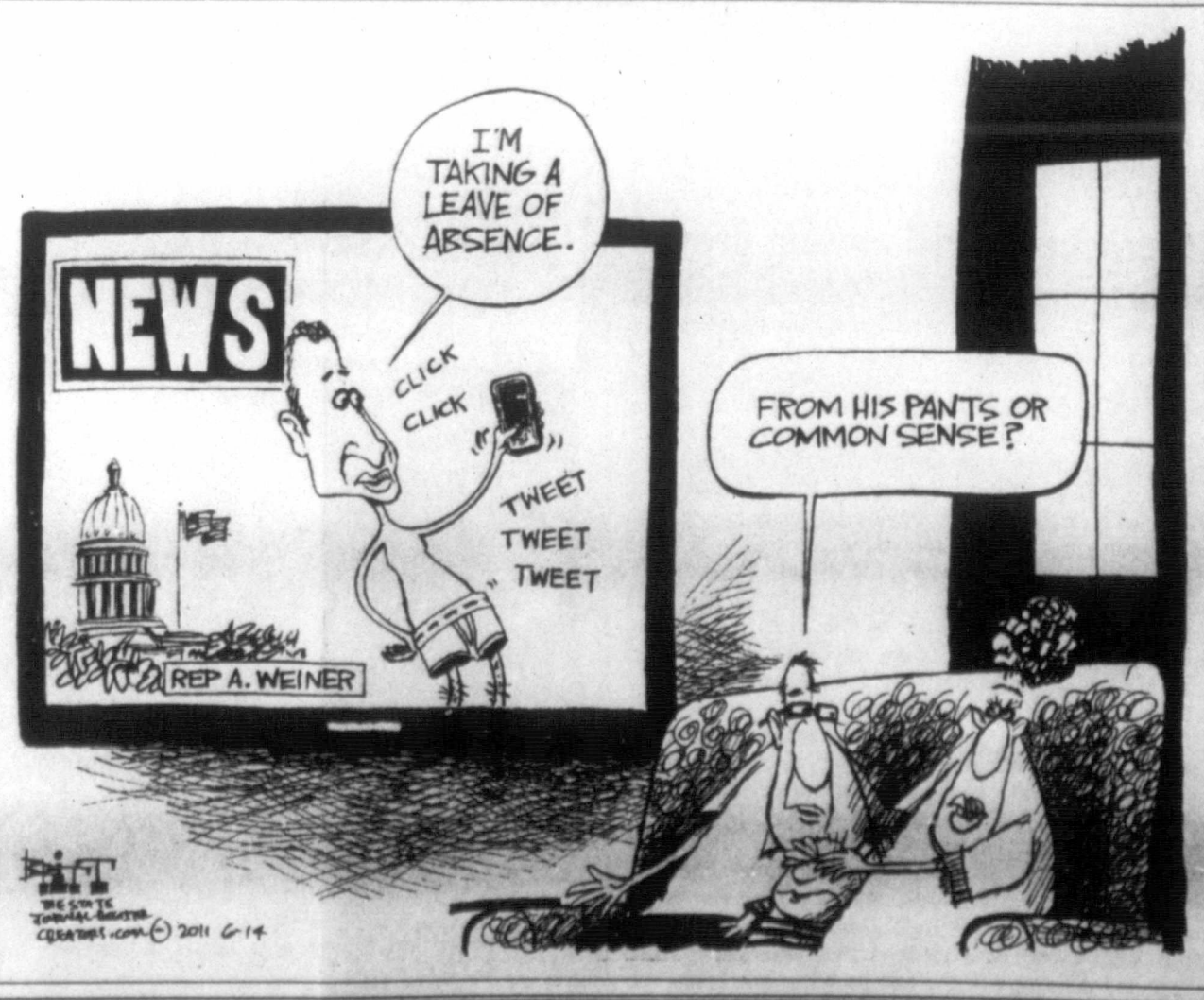
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# Convicted killer of three set for execution

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Condemned prisoner John Balentine looked to the U.S. Supreme Court to keep him from the Texas death chamber Wednesday evening for a triple slaying more than 13 years ago in the Texas Panhandle.

Balentine, 42, was convicted of fatally shooting three teenagers in Amarillo in the culmination of a feud he had with one of the victims.

He'd be the fifth inmate executed this year in Texas and the first of two scheduled for consecutive days in the nation's busiest capital punishment state.

Balentine already had a prison history in his home state of Arkansas when he was pulled over for a traffic violation in Houston. Police found he was wanted for the slayings six months earlier of Mark Caylor Jr., 17; Kai Brooke Geyer, 15; and Steven Watson, also 15. Caylor was the brother of Balentine's former girlfriend.

An appeal for Balentine pending before the U.S. Supreme Court argued his earlier lawyers failed to raise appeals contending his trial lawyers were deficient. The high court last week agreed to review an Arizona case

about whether a convicted offender is entitled to competent legal help in early stages of an appeal.

The Supreme Court refused Monday to review another appeal in Balentine's case. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, with three of the nine judges dissenting, on Tuesday rejected the appeal based on the ineffective legal assistance claim.

Two years ago, Balentine got within a day of execution before an appeals court halted the punishment.

In a tape-recorded confession to police played at his 1999 trial, Balentine said he learned Caylor was looking to kill him because he had "jumped on his sister," so he slipped into the house where he once lived with Caylor and shot all three teens in the head.

Condemned inmate Lee Andrew Taylor, 32, was set to die Thursday for the 1999 fatal stabbing of a fellow prisoner. At the time, Taylor already was serving a life term for the slaying of a 79-year-old Houston-area man, John Hampton, during a home break-in. Taylor insisted the prison killing was in self-defense.

## BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, a few tiles from the bunch have been placed. Reuse the 15 tiles in the bunch for each grid.

LEVEL

A F E Y T N W V  
E I N W U V J

Yesterday's Answer: CURLER, HARBOR, PARLOR, STURDY

6.15

## Board

Board is an easy process.

"Due to confidentiality reasons and since the Child Welfare Board is an extension of the county government, we do require a volunteer application which includes a background check," Ingram said. "After that, the chairman of the Child Welfare Board would then present the names to the County Commissioners' Court, and then they would be approved.

The difference a board member can make to a child, Ingram said, is immeasurable.

"You'd know that you played a role in impacting a child's life," Ingram said. "We've got so many

needs and stories that we could tell you. There's just lots of things that both kids and families need once they enter into the system. We have a whole unit of what we call 'family-based clients,' where CPS hasn't necessarily removed the child from the family, but we're working with them to keep the kids in the home. We have kids who are presently in foster care who sometimes need assistance with special things, whether that's camps, school trips, anything like that... The difference that you'd make as a Child Welfare Board member would be so big in that child's life."

According to the Gray County bylaws, the Child Welfare Board requires seven members to operate efficiently, Ingram said. The maximum number of members is 15, which is the number that Ingram said would be ideal.

"Several (members) have resigned due to taking jobs in other areas and things like that, so they barely have a quorum right now, which is five," Ingram said. "We definitely need more members."

Anyone interested in joining the board can contact board member Sara Sutherland, 806-669-6760, or e-mail Darla Ingram at darla.ingram@dfps.state.tx.us.

cont. from page 1

## City

identification. In some circumstances, a bond would be required of the salesmen.

Rushing said the ordinance is only for commercial enterprises and does not apply to religious or charitable organizations.

The commission also approved the appointment of Robert "Bob" Williams to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation board of directors to replace James Bradley, who resigned.

Commissioners approved bids on tax delinquent property as follows: Bonita G. Smith,

\$309 for 1424 East Francis; Bonita G. Smith, \$312 for 1300 Browning; Bonita G. Smith, \$322 for two lots on Short Street; E.E. Jackson, \$408 for 430 and 426 North Carr; Oliver Torres, \$500 for 1128 Varnon Drive; Jeffrey Young, \$2,100 for 1124 Prairie Drive; Jose A. Medina, \$6,250 for 403 North Somerville; Jose A. Medina, \$2,850 for 1309 East Kingsmill; Brandy Hulsey, \$300 for 932 Malone; Brandy Hulsey, \$300 for 810, 812 and 814 Brunow; Isidro Hernandez, \$1,500 for 1242 South Dwight;

Melvin B. Earl, \$750 for 538 South Ballard; Sherry A. Lang, \$400 for 904 East Francis; Guadalupe Estrada, \$600 for 912 East Jordan; and Bobby and Doris Tillmon, \$400 for 1175 Varnon Drive.

Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes reported to the city commission on the opening of Pampa's new water park over the last weekend.

Stokes said that about 250 attended the soft opening for city employees and guests Friday night, about 850 attended Saturday after the park officially opened, 1,200

attended on Sunday and about 950 attended the park on Monday.

He said grass will be planted in the park area on the north side of the water park later this week and playground equipment should be installed next week.

cont. from page 1

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

3	6	7	8	1	4	5	9	2
9	1	8	5	3	2	4	7	6
5	4	2	6	9	7	8	3	1
4	7	9	2	6	8	3	1	5
6	8	5	3	7	1	9	2	4
1	2	3	4	5	9	7	6	8
7	3	4	1	2	5	6	8	9
8	9	1	7	4	6	2	5	3
2	5	6	9	8	3	1	4	7

Sudoku

8				6	9	5		
			9					6
		3				4		
					6	2	3	
7			1					
			6	3				7
	9			8				
4								1
5		1	2	8	6			

Level: Intermediate



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I come from a Third World country and live as a legal alien in San Francisco. I grew up reading great American authors, watching American TV and Hollywood movies, so I thought I had a good understanding about your Western societal structure. I have made many friends in this wonderful city, but the women here drive me crazy.

I am a romantic at heart, but not desperate. However, my gestures are often misunderstood. One time I gave a feminist/radical girl a book about the feminist movement and she freaked out. She said she wasn't looking for anything serious and didn't want me to expect anything from her. Abby, it was just a book, not a diamond ring.

I was in a relationship for four months. It was fine, until I told her I was madly in love with her. She freaked out and said she didn't want to get tied down. I was dumbfounded and heartbroken.

A few months later, I started dating again and met an incredible woman who made my heart skip a beat. I enjoyed being with her so much I sent flowers to her workplace. She freaked out, too.

Am I being com-

pletely ignorant to believe in romance? Or is there something wrong with ME? — CALIFORNIA DREAMER

DEAR DREAMER: There isn't anything "wrong" with you, but I suspect you're coming on a bit too strong, too quickly. Life in the United States isn't the way it's depicted in novels, television and Hollywood movies. Getting to know someone takes time — so take more time before declaring you're madly in love. And the next time you feel the urge to give someone flowers, send them to her home because some professional women prefer to keep their private lives separate from where they work.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 27 years has been having chemotherapy for lymphoma off and on for two years. Friends and neighbors call him often. However, not one of them has ever asked me how I'm doing. I understand the awkwardness of emotional conversations, but it deeply disappoints me that people act as though my husband's cancer doesn't affect me.

What's the best way for us to care for each other? We are all so fragile and vulnerable. — HURTING

TOO IN HAWAII

DEAR HURTING TOO: I agree. The answer is for people to realize that life-threatening diseases affect the entire family, not just the patient. In your case, if someone asks how your husband is doing, you should say, "John" is doing well so far, but his illness has been very stressful for me. Thanks for asking." It may start the conversation you want to have.

However, if it doesn't, you should check out the American Cancer Society's website, www.cancer.org, which lists the location of support groups everywhere. It would be helpful for you emotionally and spiritually to join a group of caregivers who are coping with what you have been experiencing.

DEAR ABBY: An acquaintance recently announced that she's pregnant. None of us were aware that she was in a relationship. Is there a polite way to find out who the father is? — JUST CURIOUS IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR CURIOUS: I can think of two ways: The first is to wait for her to tell you. The other is to just ask.

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Fishing need
  - 5 Some-what
  - 9 Permitted
  - 11 Engine booster
  - 12 Sports spot
  - 13 Verdi songs
  - 14 Jiffy
  - 15 Instance of back-sliding
  - 17 Walk
  - 19 French article
  - 20 Nautical pole
  - 21 Went ahead
  - 22 "... lovely as —"
  - 24 Hr. part
  - 26 Happen
  - 29 Prohibit
  - 30 Nerve junction
  - 32 Astro-nomical event
  - 34 Spring mo.
  - 35 Commerce
  - 36 Iraq neighbor
  - 38 In shape
  - 39 Lugs
  - 40 Some linemen
  - 41 Created
- DOWN
- 1 Big party
  - 2 Drying frames
  - 3 Pole feature
  - 4 Pewter component
  - 5 Mystique
  - 6 Diamond feat
  - 7 Lowered
  - 8 Rx amounts
  - 10 La
  - Brea sight
  - 11 Yarn mark
  - 16 Un-claimed animals, in law
  - 18 Persia, today
  - 21 Luke's sister
  - 23 Actor
  - Borgnine
  - 24 Long vowel
  - 25 Not on the coast
  - 27 Rival of Athens
  - 28 Spotted
  - 29 Davis of film
  - 30 Raced
  - 31 Make blank
  - 33 Mid-month time
  - 37 — Kippur

G	A	L	W	A	Y		G	A	L	A			
A	M	O	E	B	A		A	L	E	S			
S	I	G	N	A	L	F	L	A	G	S			
			T	C	E	L	L						
			T	E	A	K	O	O	P	S			
			T	E	X	T	P	A	N	A	M	A	
			O	P	T	C	A	T	R	I	P		
			A	I	R	M	A	N	N	I	L	E	
			D	A	U	B	R	O	S	E			
						T	O	P	I	C			
			P	I	R	A	T	E	F	L	A	G	S
			I	C	O	N	A	L	U	M	N	A	
			G	E	N	T	K	E	E	P	U	P	

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20						21	
				22		23		
	24	25			26		27	28
29				30				31
32			33					34
35						36	37	
38						39		
40							41	

6-15

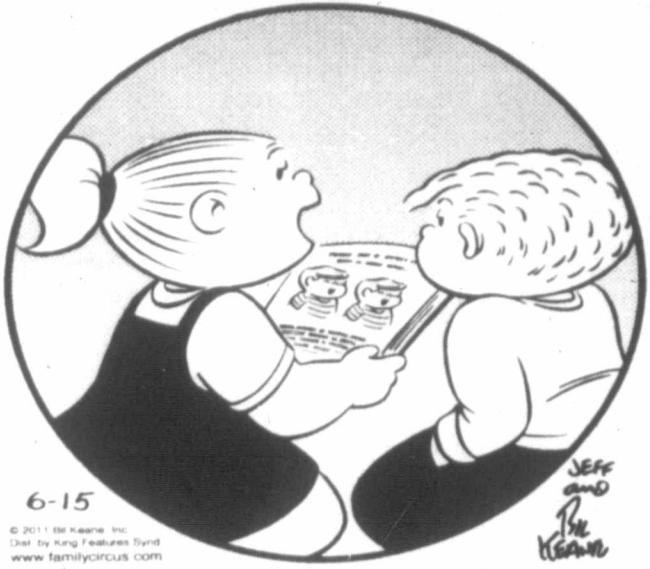


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# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

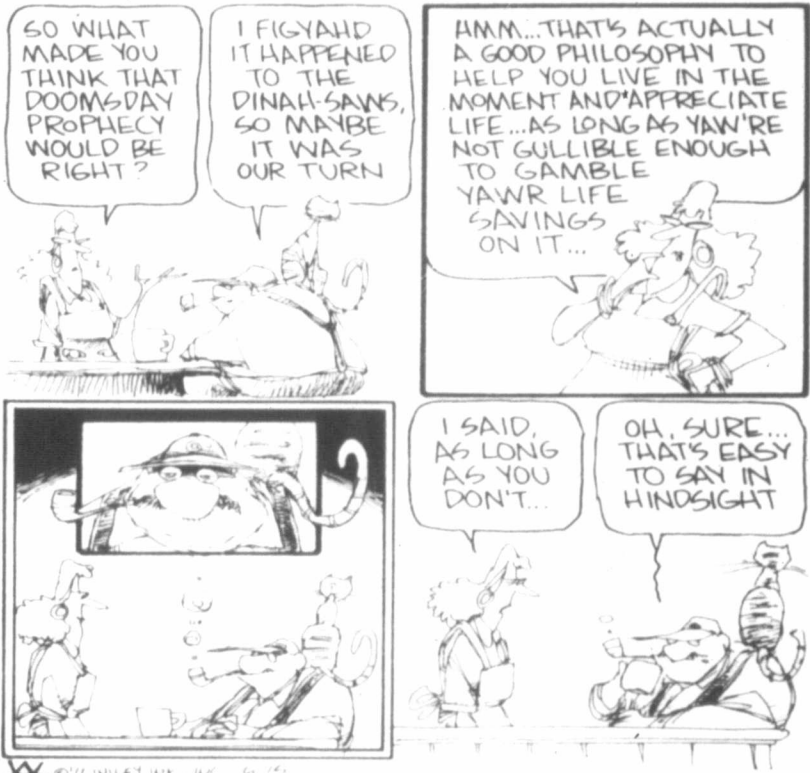


6-15

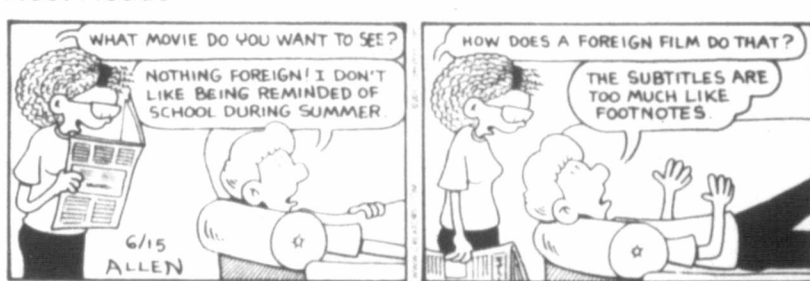
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"God creates twins whenever he makes a face he really likes."

### Non Sequitur



### Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Thursday, June 16, 2011:

This year, your focus needs to remain on a key partnership. For some of you, two relationships could take a higher priority. One could be professional. Finances and taking risks could be hot issues. There could be many more twists and turns than you expected, as surprises seem to greet you frequently. Your ability to flex and adjust could be very important. If you are single, you will quickly fall into a close bond. Be careful not to jump into the first situation that comes along. Alternatives will come forward. If you are attached, the two of you become closer, but often there are periods of withdrawal, followed by greater closeness. **CAPRICORN** helps ground you.

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)**  
 ★★★★★ Your ability to handle a problem allows for greater efficiency. Your intuition guides you with someone you put on a pedestal or must answer to. The unexpected occurs. Presently, you have a way of triggering that type of event. Tonight: A must appearance.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Touch base with an expert before making a full declaration about your next step. You might not be comfortable with what is being suggested. Intuitively, you make the right choice, which becomes more and more natural. Tonight: Look at a different approach.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 ★★★★★ A partnership increases in importance. Your instincts come through for you once more, though you need to keep yourself under control. A partner's or associate's position could totally change, tossing you into limbo. Tonight: Dinner for two.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Defer to friends or associates. A boss tends to act in the most unexpected manner. Look at the situation positively; at least you are not bored. Be more upbeat and positive in your dealings with those close to you. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Recognize what you must accomplish. Whether it's the thought of the weekend or the pressure of a situation, you focus and do what is needed. Remain open to

new technology or a suggestion that could transform the nature of your work. Tonight: Get some rest.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ You might be amused by someone's unpredictability, but it might be wise not to let this person know. Communicate your intentions in a meeting or get-together. Others will run with your idea, though they might continually update it. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Work with a family member and don't back off. Your ability to move in a new direction and let go could be stalemated. You need to deal with a key person directly, though on some level you find this person unpredictable. Tonight: Order in.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Your ability to communicate your needs allows greater flex from others. Sometimes you get quite nervous as you deal with one associate or person in your daily life. You never know what he or she will do next! Tonight: Join a friend.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Be sensitive to the costs of making a certain choice. As a natural risk-taker, you might decide to just go for it. Transforming your finances could go either way. Make sure you are acquainted with the facts. Tonight: Your treat.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 ★★★★★ Your ability to move in a new direction comes out. Someone close could feel somewhat jeopardized by your ability to morph right in front of him or her. A partner communicates his or her fears. Now is the time for a key discussion. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 ★★★★★ Know when to back off, and you'll get great results. Someone speaks or acts in a manner that actually might stun you. Though you might be revising your perceptions about this person, don't finalize anything right now. Tonight: Do just for you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Your focus is important in a decision, meeting and/or an evolving friendship. Don't do anything that involves risks and finances, despite another person's confidence. Face facts — it's your wallet that is going to take a hit. Tonight: Where you want to be, doing what you want.

### Tundra



### Shoe



### Mother Goose and Grim



### Zits



### Garfield



### Beetle Bailey



### Marvin



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



### Blondie





# Sports

## PHS grad Eubank returns to help with volleyball camp

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

2011 Pampa High School graduate Taryn Eubank started participating in the Lady Harvester volleyball camp when she was in the fourth grade. Now after completing a successful four-year career, Eubank returned to help future Lady Harvesters at the annual camp that started Monday and ended today.

Head coach Libby Garza said she had a great turnout.

"It has been great," Garza said. "All my incoming freshman attended."

Eubank said she enjoyed attending camp and learning from the coaches.

"I enjoyed learning about volleyball and meeting the junior high and high school coaches," Eubank said.

The recently graduated setter said attending camp helped her understand the coaches' terminology when she joined the program.

"Knowing how the coaches taught the defense and the different set calls helped when I became a part of the program," Eubank said.

Working alongside Garza, Eubank worked with campers on returning the ball. Eubank was a four-year varsity play-



Eubank



Garza

er, helping the Lady Harvesters to a district championship and regional quarter-final berth. The 2011 graduate also earned District 1-3A MVP.

Eubank said it's fun getting to teach the younger kids.

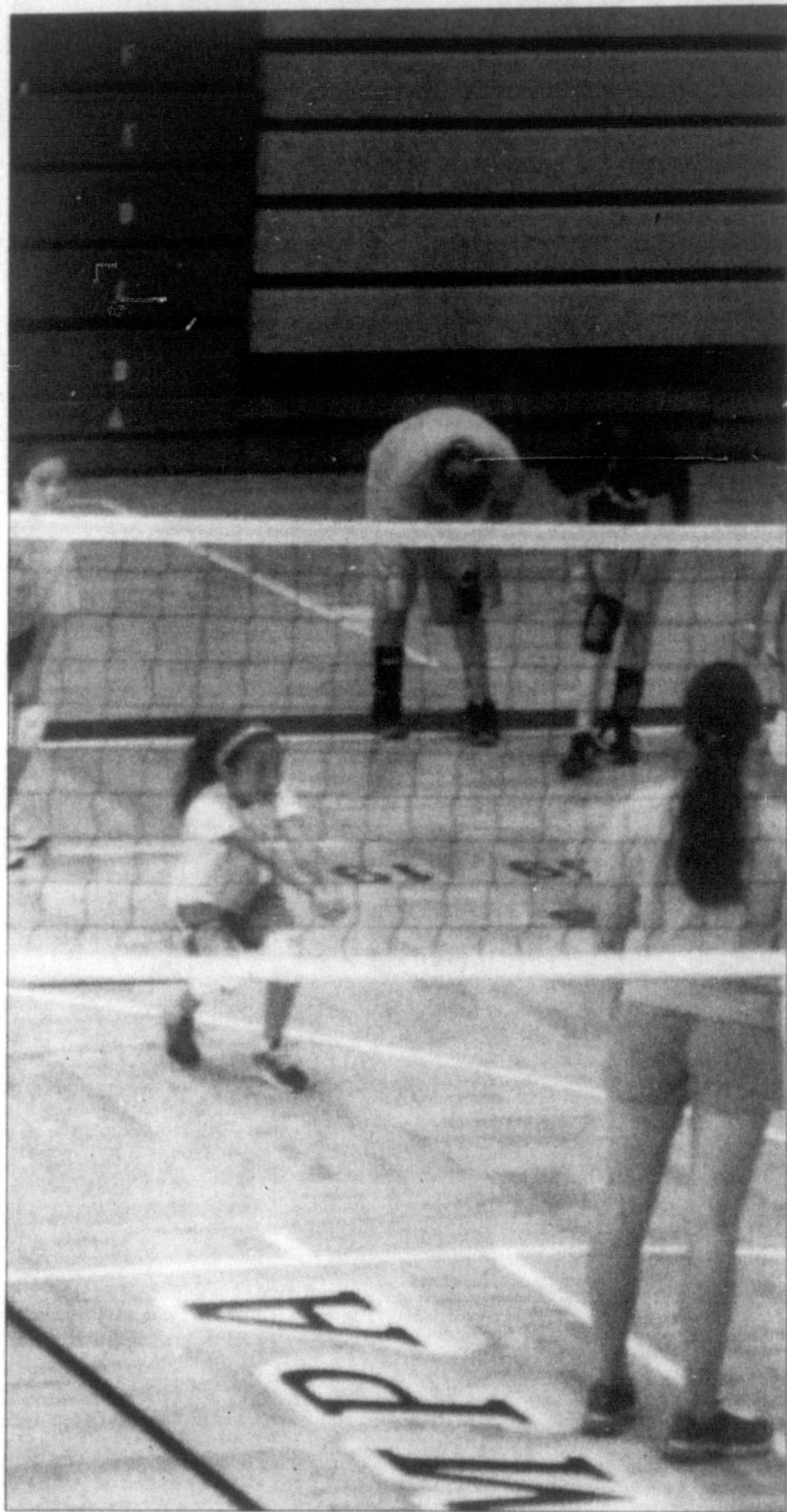
"It's great to get the opportunity to work with the younger girls that are just beginning their volleyball careers," Eubank said. "I hope to just help them along their way."

Garza said it's fun to have Eubank helping her.

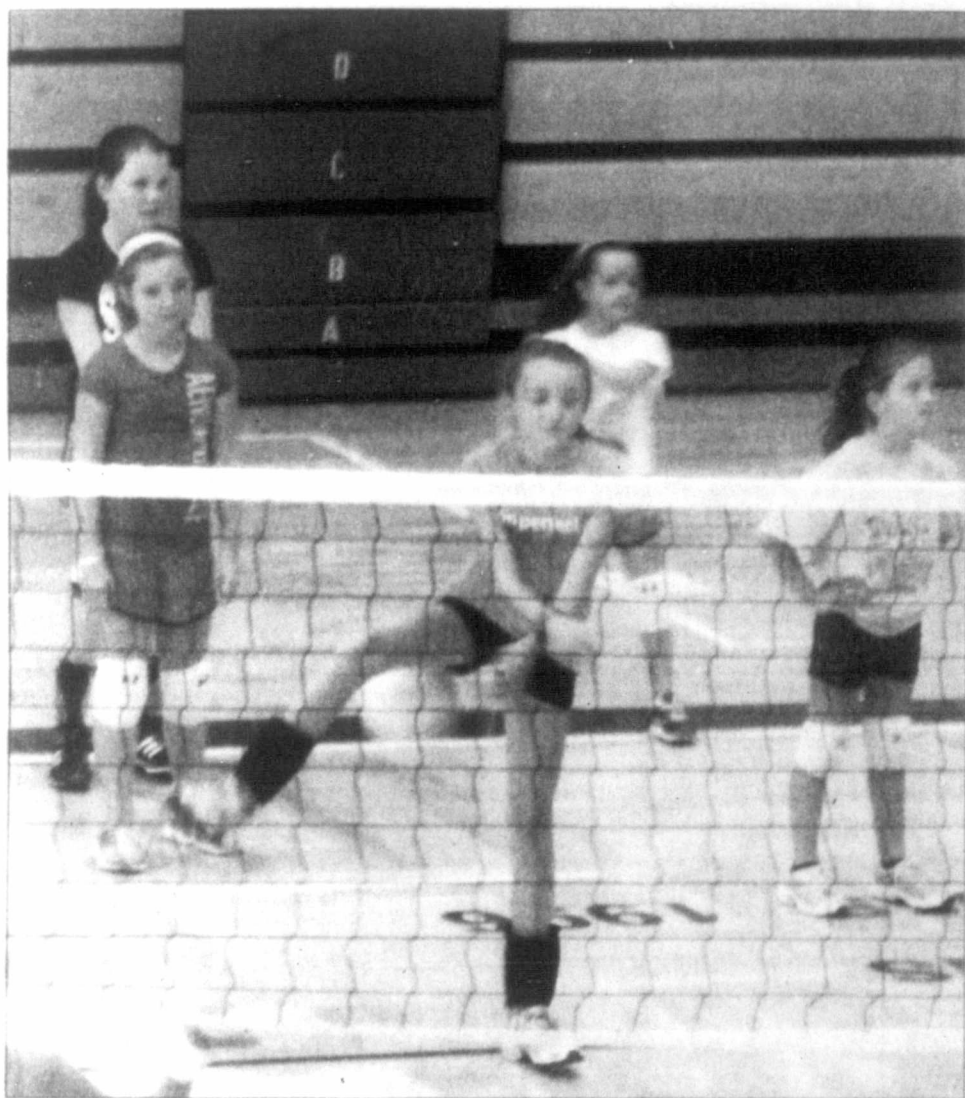
"It's been amazing," Garza said.

"She's such a great asset to have coaching next to me."

Eubank will continue her career at Hardin College in Searcy, Arkansas. The returning varsity players will have camp June 20 and 21 with Garza's college coach Tony Graystone.



staff photo by Andrew Glover  
Hallie Sieck, 8, successfully returns a ball over the net during the Lady Harvester volleyball camp Tuesday at McNeely Fieldhouse.



staff photo by Andrew Glover  
Kaylia Gilles, 11, attempts to master the art of returning during the Lady Harvester volleyball camp Tuesday at McNeely Fieldhouse.



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Retired U.S. Army Brigadier General & First Female West Point Graduate to be promoted to that position  
Becky Halstead

Becky Halstead shares with the public her positive experiences with chiropractic care. Halstead served 27 years with the United States Army, is the first female in U.S. history to command in combat at the strategic level, and is a recipient of the 2007 national Women's History Project Generations of Women Moving History Forward. She is the first female graduate of West Point to be promoted to Brigadier General.

"The year I was deployed to Iraq I missed my friends and family — and my chiropractor!" asserts Halstead, noting that chiropractic care is available through the U.S. armed forces healthcare delivery system at 25 percent of U.S. military treatment facilities and just a little more that half of active duty troops actually have access to a chiropractor. "Personally, I hope someday chiropractic care becomes a standard component of our military's healthcare program, so that all those serving, and their dependents can have the opportunity to benefit from the care that only a Doctor of Chiropractic can provide."

Halstead says that "the hands-on active care of doctors of chiropractic and their advice on a healthy lifestyle are essential to our military men and women."

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