



### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High 98 Low 70	High 91 Low 67	High 92 Low 70

**Today:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 98. Breezy, with a west northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southwest.

**Tonight:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.

**Thursday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 91. Breezy, with a northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Breezy, with a east northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Breezy, with a east southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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## Texas pushes to execute Mexican national

HOUSTON (AP) - Lawyers for the state told the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday that appeals to halt this week's scheduled execution of a Mexican national for raping and killing a 16-year-old San Antonio girl in 1994 are without merit.

Humberto Leal, 38, faced lethal injection Thursday in Huntsville.

His execution has raised diplomatic concerns involving the government of Mexico, the State Department and the White House. All of them have agreed with Leal's attorneys that he should be spared because of questions about whether the outcome of his trial would have been different if he had been allowed to obtain legal help from the Mexican consulate when he was arrested in the slaying of Adria Saucedo.

Similar 11th-hour arguments were raised in recent years for at least one other condemned Texas prisoner. In that case, in 2008, Jose Medellin was executed for his participation in the rape and slayings of two Houston teenage girls.

"At this point, it is clear that Leal is attempting to avoid execution by overwhelming the state and the courts with as many meritless lawsuits and motions as humanly possible," Stephen Hoffman, an assistant Texas attorney general, told the court Tuesday in a brief opposing appeals to stop Leal's execution.

Leal's appeals, already rejected by Texas courts and lower federal courts, focused on a bill introduced last month by U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, that would allow the federal courts to review cases like Leal's where violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Rights is an issue.

"If Texas were to proceed with the scheduled execution of Mr. Leal ... there could be no dispute that that execution would be unlawful ΓÇö specifically, in violation of treaty commitments validly made by the United States through constitutionally prescribed processes," Sandra Babcock, a Northwestern University law professor who is one of Leal's attorneys, said last week in her appeal to the court. "Texas, by insisting on executing Mr. Leal before Congress has had a chance to act, seeks to break the United States' promise," Babcock said.

Hoffman said two previous congressional attempts with similar legislation have failed and Leal's claim that it would pass this session "is pure speculation."

He said a bill was not a federal law, most bills introduced never become law and for the high court to issue a reprieve to extend through January and the remainder of the congressional session, as Leal's attorneys were seeking, would be "remarkable under any circumstances."

"At this point, it is painfully clear that Congress will not act to pass legislation to provide Leal with the relief that he seeks," Hoffman said.

## Obituaries

### Bernell Hysmith, 86

Bernell Hysmith, 86, died July 4, 2011, in Watauga.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 7, 2011, at Delhi Cemetery in Delhi, Okla., with Rev. Bob Hudson, pastor of Bible Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Hysmith was born September 11, 1924, in Sayre, Okla. She attended school in Delhi, Okla. She married Melvin F. Hysmith on June 5, 1942, in Sayre. He preceded her in death in July of 1982. Bernell had been a resident of Pampa since 1968. She was a member of Bible Baptist Church of Pampa. She was a local babysitter for many years. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Hysmith

Survivors include her son, Melvin Lee Hysmith of North Richland Hills; two daughters, Sandra Friend and husband Jerry of Fritch and Carol Hollaway of Borger; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Frankie L. Dunican; and a brother, Garland Gurley.

Memorials may be made to Bible Baptist Church, 500 E. Kingsmill, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

### Lewis E. Haymes age 76

Lewis E. Haymes age 76 of Pampa, died June 29, 2011, in Amarillo. There are no services scheduled at this time. Arrangements are by Schooler Funeral Home, 4100 South Georgia

Mr. Haymes was born in Pampa to Paul E and Edna Haymes on November 28, 1934. He served in the United States Army. He held a Doctorate from UT and was an educator.

He is survived by his wife Yoriko, of Japan; a son, Gary Haymes of Wilmington, N.C.; two sisters, Pauline McCollum of Pampa and Evelyn Maple of West Virginia.

Please sign the online guest book at [www.schoolerfuneralhome.com](http://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com).

## For the record

### Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents.

Police reported 78 traffic-related incidents and two accidents.

Animal Control Officers reported 19 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported 26 ambulance calls. The Pampa Fire Department reported two medical calls. The Pampa Police Department reported one medical call. The Lefors Volunteer Ambulance Service reported one medical call.

### Friday, July 1

Alarm was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Found property was reported at Faulkner and Buckler.

A theft was reported in the 1000 block of South Wilcox.

Found property was reported in the 1000 block of South Wilcox.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Rheams and Sumner.

A burglary was reported in the 700 block of East Malone.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A stalking incident was reported in the 900 block of South Barnard.

Phone harassment was reported in the 300 block of North Warren.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 1100 block of North Duncan.

Officials turned off the water in the 700 block of Sloan.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of Perry.

Officers checked a building in the 1400 block of North Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported to police.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 1400 block of North Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1400 block of North Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of South Huff.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of East U.S. Highway 60.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A handicapped parking violation was reported on Foster.

Child endangerment was reported in the 1700 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2200 block of North Williston.

**Saturday, July 2**

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of

### of Prairie Drive.

An open door was reported in the 500 block of West Wilks.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

Assaults were reported to police.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells.

A motor vehicle was reportedly burglarized in the 1000 block of Sumner.

Officers made a welfare check in the 1200 block of East Foster.

Disorderly conduct was reported to police.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Disorderly conduct was reported to police.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of North Zimmers.

Identity theft was reported to police.

Officers checked a building in the 1400 block of North Sumner.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of North Wells.

An assault was reported in the 800 block of South Barnes.

An assault was reported in the 400 block of North Christy.

Public intoxication was reported at Foster and Starkweather.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of East Fisher.

Officers performed a welfare check.

A theft was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of Williston.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of East Craven.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1400 block of North Williston.

Public intoxication was reported at Beryl and Tignor.

Officers were put on special assignment in the 1100 block of West Coronado.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of South Dwight.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of Banks.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of South Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of South Cuyler.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1900 block of North Nelson.

Public intoxication was reported in the 100 block of

### North Sumner.

Officers checked a building in the 100 block of East Craven.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of South Banks.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of West Foster.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of South Sumner.

Officers attempted to serve papers in the 700 block of Magnolia.

Officers assisted another agency in the 12000 block of East Frederic.

An alarm was reported in the 500 block of North Red Deer.

A theft was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson.

Officials turned off the water in the 1700 block of North Duncan.

Officers checked a building in the 1400 block of North Sumner.

The burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2100 block of Montagu.

A domestic dispute was reported in the 700 block of North Gray.

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

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Starkweather.

An alarm was reported in the 1100 block of West Cinderella.

An alarm was reported in the 1900 block of North Nelson.

Harassment was reported in the 300 block of North Warren.

A grass fire was reported at U.S. Highway 60 and Loop 171.

A structure fire was reported at Kentucky and Price.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of North Wells.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 500 block of North Somerville.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 500 block of North Somerville.

An alarm was reported in the 2500 block of North Perryton Parkway.

A burglary was reported in the 1100 block of South Wells.

### Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

### Friday, July 1

Kamah Jahi Williams, 32, of Tulsa, Okla., was arrested by deputies on charges of insufficient bond in connection with a possession of a controlled substance charge.

Steven Jajuan Taylor, 24, of Tulsa, was arrested by deputies on charges insufficient bond in connection with a possession of a controlled substance charge.

Zachary Lee Mears, 31, was arrested by police on charges of theft our of Carson County and a capias pro fine warrant charging him with driving without a valid driver's license.

### Saturday, July 2

Johnny Diaz, 34, was arrested by police on charges of evading arrest with a vehicle and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Mathew James Burgess, 24, of Fountain, Colo., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on charges of an accident involving injury in Hidalgo County and driving while intoxicated in Hidalgo County.

Curt Wade McCustion, 35, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated.

William Raymond Shaw, 49, of Amarillo, was arrested by police on charges out of Potter County of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

### Sunday, July 3

Daniel Flores III, 35, was arrested by police on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Monica Marie Rodriguez, 19, was arrested by police on charges of driving without a valid driver's license, failure to appear and failure to yield.

Christopher Katara Jackson, 20, of Wellington, was arrested by police on capias pro fine warrants.

William Kenneth Dempsey, 24, of Center Ridge, Ark., was arrested by deputies on charges of assaulting a family member.

## BANANAGRAMS!

Each set of letters below is arranged alphabetically, and the ? is in the correct alphabetical position. Figure out what letter the ? represents and rearrange the letters to spell a six-letter word. For example, in A?ENTV the ? could be an A, B, C, D or E. Here it represents a D, which can be combined with the other letters to spell ADVENT. The last letter is placed to get you started.

B ? E I O X	D ? O R U V
_____ X	_____ R
D F I ? O R	E F F G ? Y
_____ D	_____ Y
D G I I ? O	E E ? I L N
_____ O	_____ E

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# AFTERNOONRUSH

## \$10,000 timer for city council

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) - A Texas city is paying nearly \$10,000 to fix a buzzer and light system that lets speakers know when their time is up before the city council.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported Monday that the total is about 10 times the cost paid by cities of similar size. Amarillo spent \$817 on its timing system. El Paso spent \$895.

Corpus Christi general services director Jim Davis says the system broke in late winter. The department decided it needed to be replaced in time for the next council meeting and Moffett Controls was hired. The company rebuilt the timer for \$9,550.

A memo from Davis, to council members, said staffers did not check prices before placing the order. Davis declined to disclose the name of an employee who's been disciplined.

## Arrival of new textbooks delayed

FORT WORTH (AP) - Texas public schools will likely have to start classes in August without new textbooks.

The Texas Education Agency has confirmed that reconfiguring an online ordering system combined with a delay in state funding for textbooks will probably postpone the arrival of new books into September. School starts the week of Aug. 24.

State officials say the new system will eventually ease book buying, but many local school leaders are not happy.

Arlington school board member Jamie Sullins says students "need instructional materials on the first day of school."

The new ordering system and other changes required by

## 3 TX firefighters hurt in blaze

AUSTIN (AP) - Three Texas firefighters have been slightly hurt battling a blaze at a restaurant in the Lake Travis area.

The Austin Fire Department says the fire broke out around 3 a.m. Tuesday in the attic of Los Pinos, at a time when the Mexican restaurant was closed.

Battalion Chief Thayer Smith says two Lake Travis firefighters were hurt when part of the ceiling collapsed. Smith told The Associated Press that both made it out of the building on their own with non-life threatening injuries. They were transported to a hospital to be checked.

Smith says another Lake Travis firefighter suffered a minor hand injury later and was treated at the scene.

The cause of the blaze is sought. Smith did not immediately have details on how the fire had been reported.

## 1 body found after plane crash

PORT O'CONNOR (AP) - One body has been recovered and a second is sought after the crash of a small plane along the Texas Gulf coast.

The Coast Guard says the search continues Tuesday for the pilot of the single-engine plane that crashed Sunday morning into Matagorda Bay after takeoff from Pierce Field in Port O'Connor.

The Texas Department of Public Safety says two men were on board.

DPS says the body of the passenger was located Monday in the cockpit of the Lancair. Trooper Gerald Bryant identified the victim as 42-year-old David Eddington of Austin. Still sought is the owner of the plane, 67-year-old Lyle Koen of Austin.

The cause of the crash is sought. Witnesses say they heard the engine sputtering before the accident.

## Los Alamos fire burns 193 sq. mi.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) - The Los Alamos wildfire is reported 27 percent contained after burning 123,563 acres or 193 square miles. Around Los Alamos, high temperatures and strong winds resulted in active fire to the west and produced significant smoke Monday.

Fire managers say easterly winds prevented the fire from spreading to the east.

Meanwhile, the Sandoval County Fire Department was escorting land owners to Cochiti Mesa yesterday. The burn area was described as hazardous and only property owners were being allowed in.

And the Los Alamos National Laboratory was set to reopen today after the wildfire forced it to close.

## Storms threaten last launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - NASA's last space shuttle launch this week may have to contend with lousy weather.

Shuttle weather officer Kathy Winters said Tuesday there's a 60 percent chance that rain or thunderstorms will delay Friday's planned liftoff of Atlantis. The weather improves with each passing day, as the launch time gets slightly earlier.

Friday's launch time is 11:26 a.m.

The countdown clocks will start ticking Tuesday afternoon. The four astronauts assigned to the 12-day flight arrived at Kennedy Space Center on Monday.

Atlantis will make one final supply run to the International Space Station before retiring. As many as 1 million spectators are expected to jam the Cape Canaveral area for the historic send-off.

## Hit in throat by firework, dies

SKIATOOK, Okla. (AP) - Fire officials say a 20-year-old man in Skiatook was killed when he was struck in the throat by a firework.

Skiatook Fire Lt. Smokey Perigo said Monday that the man was examining a rocket-type firework that didn't go off when it suddenly ignited Sunday night.

The victim's name wasn't released. Perigo says the firework impact damaged the man's ability to breathe, and the victim also inhaled hot gasses, which badly burned his airway.

Skiatook is about 20 miles north of Tulsa.

# Fourth of July is no picnic for pets

## Dog Talk with Uncle Matty



MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS  
Creator's Syndicate

The parties, the parades, the fireworks... Who doesn't love the Fourth of July?

Your dog. That's who. Every snap, crackle and pop, every snare drum and piccolo solo, the average dog hears it five times more intensely than the average human. And if your dog is the shy or timid type, that degree of intensity could induce all-out panic.

Panic is no friend to your canine. It can make a pooch do some crazy and dangerous things. Panic is what sends a dog through a glass window. It's what compels him to dart out of an open door and into the nearest street. It's what motivates him to keep chewing through a wall, even when his mouth and gums are already torn and bleeding.

Yes, indeed, the best view of the rocket's red glare for your dog is no view at all.

Can he attend that Independence Day barbecue with you?

Sure — if he'll be in a secure environment where he can't run off; if he's well-socialized and friendly with all people, big and small; if there will be no amped live music or excessive noise, including fireworks; and if he was invited by the hosts.

But even if you answered in the affirmative to all those conditions, ask yourself whether your dog might still be better off at home. Just because you are technically qualified to go somewhere doesn't mean you want to be there.

On behalf of timid and shy dogs everywhere, I feel confident serving as their collective voice and saying, "Thanks, but no, thanks. I'll stay home."

Another thing I'd like to suggest for the benefit of the timid types is a little desensitization exercise that's good for everything from fireworks and thunderstorms to that scary air compressor in the garage.

Buy a CD or collection of CDs that represents the kinds of sounds and noises that freak your dog out. Nature CDs are good for different storm patterns and include varying degrees of thunder. Music that features percussion instruments and drums is great for mellowing a dog to the everyday thumps and knocks of home life. And Michael Jackson's "Thriller" might perform miracles in desensitizing your dog to creaking floorboards, slamming doors and the shrieks of children.

Whatever you use, the trick is to sit beside your dog, with him on a leash, and start at a very low volume. Praise him gently whenever he is truly calm, being careful not to nurture an anxious state of mind. Once he grows comfortable with the current level of volume and demonstrates this by remaining consistently calm as the music plays, gradually increase the volume.

Take your time with this exercise, and do not expect

instant results. Desensitization requires time and patience. But it's worth every bit of effort to see your formerly skittish dog utterly bored by the very things that used to frighten him. Talk about freedom!

Happy Independence Day!  
Woof!

Dog trainer Matthew "Uncle Matty" Margolis is co-author of 18 books about dogs, a behaviorist, a popular radio and television guest, and host of the PBS series "WOOF! It's a Dog's Life!"

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# PET OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by The Pampa News

Your local animal shelter needs donations of the following items:

## Dog Food and Bleach

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Animal #10933

**"Fergie"**  
Female DSH

Animal #10934

**"Adrian"**  
Male DSH

Animal #10948

**"Ichabod"**  
Kitten

For more info about these pets or any other questions, call 806-669-5775 or visit us at the Hobart 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 9:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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To read The Pampa News online from the comfort of your own home, simply call Kera Kent at (806) 669-2525 to subscribe or e-mail [circulation@thepampanews.com](mailto:circulation@thepampanews.com) today!

# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 6, the 187th day of 2011. There are 178 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 6, 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order establishing the Medal of Freedom.

### On this date:

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Mifflin.

In 1809, French troops arrested Pope Pius VII, who had excommunicated Emperor Napoleon I; the pope was confined for about five years.

In 1885, French scientist Louis Pasteur tested an anti-rabies vaccine on 9-year-old Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by an infected dog; the boy did not develop rabies.

In 1917, during World War I, Arab forces led by T.E. Lawrence and Auda Abu Tayi captured the port of Aqaba from the Turks.

In 1928, the first all-talking feature, "Lights of New York," had its gala premiere in New York.

In 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Conn.

In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title as she defeated fellow American Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when a series of explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform.

In 1989, the U.S. Army destroyed its last Pershing 1A missiles at an ammunition plant in Karnack, Texas, under terms of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

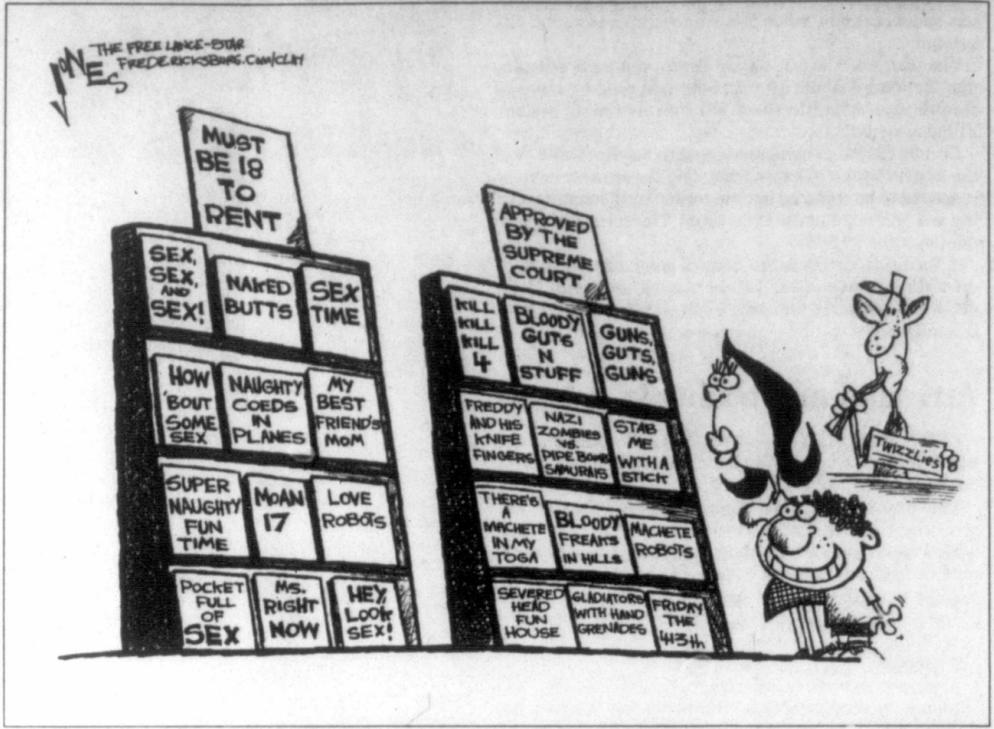
**Ten years ago:** Former FBI agent Robert Hanssen pleaded guilty to 15 criminal counts and agreed to give a full accounting of his spying activities for Moscow.

**Five years ago:** The space shuttle Discovery docked with the international space station, bringing with it European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter, who began a 6-month stay aboard the station.

**One year ago:** Queen Elizabeth II addressed the United Nations for the first time since 1957 during her first New York visit in over 30 years; she then laid a wreath at ground zero.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former first lady Nancy Reagan is 90. Actor William Schallert is 89. Singer-actress Della Reese is 80. Actor Ned Beatty is 74. Singer Gene Chandler is 71. Country singer Jeannie Seely is 71. Actor Burt Ward is 66. Former President George W. Bush is 65. Actor-director Sylvester Stallone is 65. Actor Fred Dryer is 65. Actress Shelley Hack is 64. Actress Nathalie Baye is 63. Actress Allyce Beasley is 60. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 60. Actor Grant Goodeve is 59. Country singer Nanci Griffith is 58. Country musician John Jorgenson is 55. Actor Brian Posehn is 45. Actress Tia Mowry is 33. Actress Tamera Mowry is 33. Actress Eva Green is 31. Actor Gregory Smith is 28. Rock singer Kate Nash is 24. Actor Jeremy Suarez is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently." - Rosa Luxemburg, Polish-German revolutionary (1871-1919)



## Video-game industry wins again in court

The video-game industry has won again in court, insisting on their right to make the most debased gaming experience imaginable and market it to children with little commercial restraint. On June 27, the Supreme Court ruled 7 to 2 against California's law mandating that children are not allowed to purchase "Mature" video games without a parent.

The political elites are celebrating the ruling as a victory for a vibrant First Amendment, rejecting the very notion of social responsibility on the part of the video-game makers and their often-twisted concept of what constitutes "fun" for children.

Justice Stephen Breyer's dissent asked what should be the definitive question at issue.

"What sense does it make to forbid selling to a 13-year-old boy a magazine with an image of a nude woman," Breyer asked, "while protecting the sale to that 13-year-old of an interactive video game in which he actively, but virtually, binds and gags the woman, then tortures and kills her?"

In an opinion concurring with the "free expression" majority, Justice Samuel Alito at least seemed troubled regarding the content of some of the "M" games in question, that "victims are dismembered, decapitated, disemboweled, set on fire, and chopped into little pieces."

Alito also could have considered the promotional videos for "God of War 3," for the PlayStation 3, where the protagonist, Kratos (the main interactive character manipulated by gamers), graphically, slowly, realistically tears the head off Helios, the sun god. And still he'd suggest the "right" to sell this to children? Which sick CEO sits in a boardroom and says "yes" to ultraviolent scenes like this, knowing children will play these games?

Justice Scalia thought it irrelevant. He replied that Alito "recounts all these disgusting video games to dis-

gust us -- but disgust is not a valid basis for restricting expression." Yes, freedom of speech means allowing the freedom of repulsive ideas. But that doesn't have to extend to shopping your repulsive ideas to grade schoolers. Why is freedom grievously curtailed when parents have the right to "restrict expression" to their children by having the video-game retailers only sell the "adult" games with parental approval?

If that's an untenable violation of the First Amendment, would Scalia rule that it's unconstitutional for movie theater owners to prevent minors from walking into movies rated R? An "R" rating requires that an adult accompany the child -- the very principle behind California's law, just a small parental hurdle in children's access to disturbing content.

If it's OK to allow them into R-rated movies, why not NC-17? Why not X?

In his dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas rightly argued, "The freedom of speech as originally understood does not include a right to speak to minors (or a right to minors to access speech) without going through the minors' parents or guardians." When the Founding Fathers wrote the Bill of Rights, they were not advocating that parents shouldn't have authority in the upbringing of their children. That parental-discretion principle ought to be more revered by judges and politicians alike.

In other cases, where the First Amendment isn't being extended to grant children's rights, parents are still in control. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a law in 2004 making it illegal for anyone under 14 years old to tan indoors under any circumstances. No one sued to stop him. (Children from 14

to 18 can tan -- with parental consent.) Some 32 states are inhibiting the freedom of minors to tan, and no one objects. In his dissent, Thomas mentioned that minors cannot unilaterally consent to most medical procedures. "Free speech" -- or the freedom of entertainment conglomerates -- isn't the principle, so there is no court case.

Conservatives and libertarians who would easily line up with Scalia on this decision should at least ponder whether they want the federal government to decide how and when individual states have the 10th Amendment power to make their own decisions about how to protect minors from harm.

Advocates for parents in this case certainly don't expect that every parent is a vigilant watchdog over video-game content. In fact, some are enthusiastic purchasers of whatever the hot game of the moment is. Parent advocates aren't arguing that little Johnny will be inevitably turned into a vicious assassin by playing violent video games. Most 20-something and 30-something gamers, introduced to this gaming genre in their teens, are nonviolent, responsible adults.

But to think the idea that merchants ought to respect parents in restricting access to M-rated games is rejected because of some lofty First Amendment principle is absurd. All that matters are sales and profits, and free speech is a most convenient argument for them. This country needs more social pressure on the entertainment merchants to have decency in their boardroom decisions rather than falling back on courtroom decisions.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center.



BRENT BOZELL

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## Shuttle cost: More than AIG bailout, less than war

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - At \$196 billion, the amount of money taxpayers spent during the lifetime of the space shuttle program seems astronomical.

But the entire federal government spends that much in just three weeks. In big bucks Washington, even \$196 billion is relative.

The space shuttle is a bargain compared to wars, health care, tax cuts and budget deficits. But compared to the Apollo program and even some of the banking, auto and insurance industry bailouts, the price for going into orbit seems a tad high.

For that \$196 billion, America got five space shuttles and what will be 135 flights, when the last launch scheduled for July 8 is included. That figure includes design and construction spending dating back 40 years to when the program was first conceived. When all of that's included, the cost per launch is about \$1.5 billion. If you exclude those early expenses and costs for upgrades and so forth, the average operating cost of a shuttle flight is \$847 million.

So even at the cheaper calculation, each shuttle launch on average costs more than the \$800 million that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration spends in an entire year on food safety.

The overall \$196 billion is also slightly more than the \$182 billion bailout of failed insurance giant AIG and much more than the \$45 billion apiece that went to Bank of America and Citigroup to shore them up in 2008 when the nation's financial system was teetering on the brink. It dwarfs the \$49.5 billion rescue of General Motors and the \$12.5 billion bailout of Chrysler.

Compared to other big engineering concepts, even when adjusted for inflation, the space shuttle program may have gotten less bang for more bucks. The Apollo program to the moon cost \$156 billion, the Manhattan project that created the first nuclear bomb cost about \$29 billion, and digging the Panama Canal cost \$8 billion, according to the Smithsonian Institution. America got the moon, the bomb, and the

canal for a total of \$193 billion - \$3 billion less than the space shuttle.

But compared to other federal spending, the space shuttle barely gets off the ground in terms of big money.

In 2010, Medicare spent \$196 billion in about five months. The 40-year lifetime price tag of the space shuttle program is less than one-sixth the government's \$1.2 trillion estimate for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars so far. The current federal budget deficit is heading for about \$1.4 trillion G8 seven times the shuttle program's overall cost. Experts put the cost to federal coffers of the 2001 tax cut at somewhere between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion.

For a more down-to-Earth comparison, the space shuttle doesn't quite measure up to the family car. It costs about 59 cents a mile to drive a car on average, according to AAA. The cost of the 535 million miles flown by the space shuttle is about \$361 per mile.

# Campaign to save Texas fossilized dinosaur tracks

**JUAN CASTILLO**  
Austin American-Statesman

**AUSTIN(AP)** - Let's face it: Dinosaurs are old news. So millions of years ago. And therein lies the fascination.

Consider that along an ancient sea near present-day Fort Worth, two behemoth beasts, tipping the scales at a combined 26 tons or so, tramped through coastal mud, leaving enormous tracks - now celebrated around the world - and a dinosaur mystery that endures 112 million years later.

Housed in a small building outside the Texas Memorial Museum on the University of Texas campus, the fossilized tracks tell us that one dinosaur, a three-toed meat-eater, stepped inside the footprints of the other, a much larger plant-eater. From the impressions, scientists know they made the prints roughly around the same time.

Was the meat-eater stalking the other? Were they doing a prehistoric Texas two-step?

"We've got just enough of the story to spark a lot of questions," said Ed Theriot, director of the Texas Natural Science Center, which encompasses the museum and research

labs and collections at the Pickle Research Campus.

The tracks are gems because they are considered among the best-preserved ever found and because they include the first sauropod (plant-eater) tracks to be documented. But they are deteriorating. A new \$1 million science center fundraising campaign aims to save them and move them inside the museum.

Known as the Glen Rose Dinosaur Tracks - for the present-day location about 40 miles southwest of Fort Worth where they were discovered in 1940 - the imprints aren't so much showing their age as they are showing the effects of the conditions in which they have been housed for 70 years.

Because the building that contains the tracks isn't air-conditioned, nor suited for their preservation, moisture equivalent to seven gallons of water a day percolates through the trackway rocks, Theriot said. The moisture and fluctuating humidity are weakening the stone, causing flaking and crumbling.

In 2009, experts determined that the tracks lay on a cracked slab of cement that wasn't reinforced and lacked a moisture barrier between the trackway stone

and the ground.

"We want to keep it from becoming a catastrophe," Theriot said. "There's obviously problems."

The science center wants "to go Cadillac on this," Theriot said, not just solve short-term problems. If the campaign raises \$1 million, the center intends to remove the rocks - actually, there are some 400 pieces that make up the trackway - clean the plaster that holds them together and chemically treat, reassemble and move them into a climate-controlled exhibit space inside the museum. There they can be preserved, better seen and used for education, Theriot said.

According to the science center, more than 85,000 people visit the museum's exhibit hall each year, including 40,000 school-children.

In its current location - a stone building with a small sign - the roughly 12-by-36-foot trackway can be seen through a glass front wall at about a 30-degree angle for most people, worse for children. Were it not for the sign inside, which briefly tells the dinosaurs' saga, the tracks could appear to be merely dirt holes.

But "you can read that (sign) a hundred times"

and not fully appreciate the story the tracks tell - of the dinosaurs' behavior, their paths, the length of their strides and the size of their tracks, Theriot said. "Between the glare, the diffuse lighting, the angle and the (window) thumbprints and palm prints, you just don't get the impact."

The science center wants to display the tracks at a strongly tilted angle, affording everyone, including children, a better view.

Theriot said he could find no documentation explaining why the current site was chosen but noted that these were among the first sets of tracks of their kind ever found, and there likely was no real practical experience on which to base a decision.

"It would not be unreasonable to assume that foot-

prints safe in the ground for 100 million years would be OK for a long, long time placed on top of the ground and in a covered building," he said.

Debra Warren, who with her sons Brandon, 10, and Logan, 7, traveled recently from Spring Branch to visit the museum, said she didn't know of the Glen Rose exhibit and only stumbled upon it, nor did she know that the tracks were deteriorating. She agreed that having the exhibit inside the museum would allow more people to appreciate the tracks.

"Unless the glass is kept in immaculate condition, you wouldn't get as great a view as you would" in the museum, Warren said.

Still, she and her sons thought the prints were

phenomenal.

"It was a pleasant surprise," Warren said.

The prints befit what one would imagine from a sauropod dinosaur that scientists think was about 60 feet long and a theropod that was probably 30 feet long. Their strides were 9 to 10 feet long.

So, was the meat-eater stalking prey?

"The theropod is the predator in this ecosystem, so perhaps it was," said Pamela Owen, a paleontologist with the science center. "You do have that potential interaction because of that small amount of time (when the theropod and the sauropod left the tracks). That's the closest we're really going to get in getting some behavioral information."

## Junior Rodeo

cont. from page 1

All entries must be received in the rodeo office by 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 27. No exceptions will be allowed.

Entry forms are available at the rodeo office, 200 North Ballard. For more information call 806-669-0434.

## Water

cont. from page 1

above the five million gallon mark three times during June.

"Our total pumping capacity for the distribution system is 5.2 million gallons," he said.

If the city's water supply is completely depleted, it would take a day and a half for it to recover, he said.

## Heasley

do a book," Heasley said, who has authored a number of books on automobiles, "but I just put it off."

Finally, this year, Heasley's book on his Rare Finds has been published.

The book is a compilation of Heasley's best finds.

"There are some incredible cars in here," he said of the book, his 19th automotive book.

The book is filled with photos of cars that sat idle in garages for years or in junkyards and the stories of their discovery.

"There's even a 1960 model Corvette that a guy was driving in St. Louis as a street car," Heasley said. "He didn't know that it had won its class at LeMans."

The Corvette had been part of Briggs Cunningham's assault on the international endurance race in France that year.

"In 1960, a race car was

not worth as much as a street car," Heasley said. "So after the race, they put it back to a street configuration and sold it."

It was repainted and no one initially recognized the car's origins.

"There's a really neat story about how it was found," Heasley said.

The book also contains stories about a Hurst Olds drag car found in a barn in Michigan, a 1955 Ferrari found in a Texas pasture (the car was raced by Phil Hill, an international World Champion race driver), and "Big Daddy" Ed Roth's futuristic Orbitron show car, found outside a shop in Mexico.

The owner of the Orbitron had planned to make it into a hot tub.

"A guy in Oklahoma tried to buy it years ago," Heasley said, "to make it into a salad bar."

The Orbitron, however, has been restored and is now worth millions of dollars.

"There's also a story in the book about a wild goose chase," Heasley smiled. "So many of my leads end up as nothing."

Heasley also has a story in his book about the General Lee, the Dodge Charger that opened every episode of the television show "The Dukes of Hazzard."

"A guy found that in a junkyard," Heasley said.

He said his "Rare Finds" stories are fun to do and are about the people who find the cars as well as the cars. Barnes and Noble Bookstores have marked Heasley's book for a special feature.

The book has only been out two weeks, but the publisher has already contracted with Heasley to write another one.



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** How can I forget and forgive my husband for his actions? It has been only a few months since I found out about his affairs - which lasted over four months with three different women. One was more intense than the others. He says he has broken off all contact with them and is only with me now.

When I learned about the affairs, I had no information other than he was having one. Someone I didn't know told me, so I did not have much to go on. I have asked my husband some questions, but he refuses to answer them. He says I should let it go and move on, that my questions will lead to no good, and if I don't stop I'm going to push him away.

I think about what he has done and different scenarios daily and try to ignore the hurt, but it's hard. Should I ask questions, should he answer them, and will this pain ever go away? We are "trying," and I'm running mostly on love and the hope that our relationship will survive. — **IN PAIN IN PITTSBURGH**

**DEAR IN PAIN:** Of course you should be asking questions because you have the right to know the answers. And if your husband is truly repentant,

he should answer them. Your pain will persist unless you both have counseling to understand what triggered his four-month "fling." If he refuses to go, without him.

Frankly, I am troubled by your statement that your husband is threatening you'll push him away if you pursue the answers you deserve. That doesn't appear to me to be the behavior of a contrite spouse.

If you haven't already done so, see your physician and be tested for STDs. All of the emotions you're experiencing are normal, but whether your relationship will survive under the present circumstances is debatable.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a married woman in my 40s, raising a family. I work full-time doing a physical job outdoors and after work I'm often worn out.

My hobby is art. I have drawn and painted since I was very young. My problem is, I'm afraid to say no when relatives ask me to do arts and crafts for them. They even volunteer me to do projects for their friends. If money is offered, I usually turn it down.

The issue is the time involved. I'm stressed out. I drop everything when

I get these requests, and I'm starting to feel overwhelmed and annoyed. I have to do these projects before and after my regular job and on weekends. My house and family get neglected. And because I can't devote the necessary time to the projects, I'm unhappy with the result.

I have dropped hints about how I'm tired after working a full-time job, but no one seems to care. How can I tell them I need a break without upsetting them? — **BURNED-OUT PICASSO**

**DEAR BURNED-OUT:** You need to learn to say no. For a people-pleaser this can present a challenge, but in your case it should be followed with, "I'm too busy to take that on right now." You should also rethink your refusal to accept the offer of money. If you do, it will probably result in your being asked to do projects less often -- trust me on that.

Also consider this: If you turn your hobby into a little side business and charge for your talent, it may enable you to fund projects that will give you some of the psychic gratification you're missing.

**Sudoku**

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**      **DOWN**

- 1 Living-room fixture
- 5 Ghosts
- 11 Touch on
- 12 C.S. Lewis land
- 13 Movie
- 14 Climb
- 15 Sargasso Sea
- 16 Liberal study
- 17 Elevator lifter
- 19 Gift-tag word
- 22 Handy-man's collection
- 24 Diver's gear
- 26 Major work
- 27 Bunches
- 28 Columbus' home
- 30 Annoys
- 31 Busy worker
- 32 Currency replaced by the euro
- 34 Metric mass
- 35 Bumbler
- 38 Succeeded
- 41 Sea flier
- 42 Right away
- 43 Met song
- 44 Sweet drink
- 45 Footprint

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

Yesterday's answer

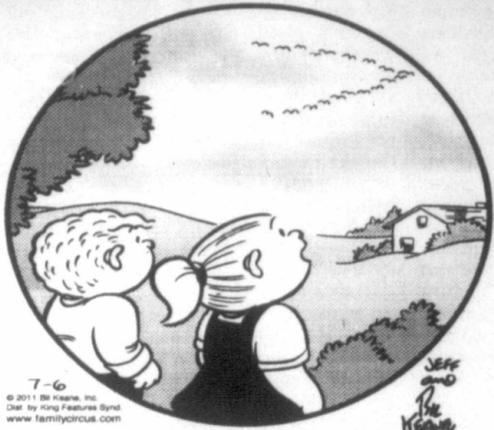
- 21 "Dog-gone!"
- 22 Forum wear
- 23 Start the bidding
- 25 Abel's brother
- 29 Benin setting
- 30 Farm father
- 33 Insurance worker
- 34 Nice fellow
- 36 "I cannot tell —"
- 37 Commotion
- 38 Fellow
- 39 Finished off
- 40 Bashful buddy?
- 41 Motoring need

**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		
42								43		
44								45		

# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"The bird in front must have the map."

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, July 6, 2011:

This year, you could be more fussy than in the past yet still communicative. Your ability to befriend others is high, but people start to expect that friendliness every time they see you. Resentment could be the end result if you don't follow through. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Take your time dating; don't rush. If you are attached, the two of you might benefit from making a point of spending several nights a month alone as a couple. More warmth will be the end result. Relating to LIBRA could produce tension.

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)**  
 ★★★★★ A steady effort draws strong results. You might not see the end results until later. Trust yourself and your choices. You might need to redo a discussion or revisit a decision. Make a point of scheduling a dentist's or doctor's appointment. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Your creativity often astounds others. With your sure and steady approach and unrelenting endurance, you are a sure winner when you focus. Stop if you're bored with or tired of a project. Ask yourself what you need to do to make yourself feel better. Tonight: Slow down. Take care of yourself.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 ★★★★★ If you hit conflict, you might wonder whether your chosen path is best. Discussions don't result in any great ideas. It appears you are on your own. Know when you need to ask for help. Tonight: Complete what you must, then be spontaneous.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 ★★★★★ How you deal with a difficult communication and someone who can be pushy really depends on your mind-set. Refuse to get cornered or do something the way someone else wants it done. Do only what you feel will work. Tonight: Head home.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Be aware of the cost of staying with "group thinking." It might be worth it, but only you can judge. A male friend

could be problematic. Keep communication flowing, even if you want to close down. Tonight: Out and about.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ You are more aware of the consequences than many. A boss can be cantankerous, and you really cannot impact his or her behavior. You might want to rethink a close association. Honor your feelings. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 ★★ Kick back and relax during the day. If a situation arises that doesn't make you happy, know that you will have time to change it. A discussion with someone in the know at a distance makes a difference. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Zero in on what you deem important. Honor what others are feeling. With this approach, they will feel supported. Push in the daylight hours, when you are the most energetic. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Take charge early on today. You can get a lot done, and quite quickly at that. Consider or revisit a decision later in the week. Someone could be pressuring you beyond what you can or will tolerate. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 ★★★★★ Note what is going on with a key friendship. Before this person verbalizes what he or she is thinking, you see from his or her expressions a lot more than this person realizes. Do as much research as possible. Tonight: In demand.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 ★★★★★ You and a partner or associate need to clear the air. Being angry or too strong with a loved one is likely to get you nowhere fast. Discussions need to remain on a one-on-one level. Postpone calling someone important until later. Tonight: Use your creativity.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Defer to others and get their feedback. If you make those around you feel that they are part of the decision-making process, you will get better results. Schedule one-on-one meetings for tomorrow, if possible. Tonight: Go with another person's suggestion.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



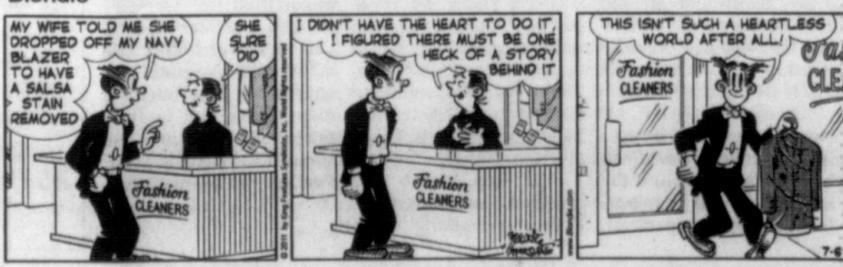
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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Available only online

**Public Notice**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1552**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PAMPA, TEXAS, PROVIDING THAT ITS CODE OF ORDINANCES BE AMENDED BY RE-REVISING ARTICLE 4.06, PEDDLERS SOLICITORS AND VENDORS, TO INCLUDE IN THE APPLICATION FOR LICENSE EACH PERSON WHO WILL ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITY OF SOLICITING OR VENDING WITH THE APPLICANT, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF BOND TO \$10,000.00 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL PERMIT OR \$25,000.00 FOR A MASTER PERMIT, AND TO SHORTEN THE DURATION OF LICENSE FROM ONE (1) YEAR TO (30) DAYS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
A-38 June 29, July 6, 2011

**5 Special Notices**

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

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ESCONDITO perro negra grande "Princess". Docile, tiene cancer. Reward. Call 662-4520, 664-0539.

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will care for your loved ones day or night. 20 yrs exp. 669-7732 or 595-0219

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SIVALLS Inc. is looking for Welder-Fabricators. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa, Tx.

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Must have at least 5 yrs. of dirt work exp. CDL & clean driving record. We have the work & hours you are looking for. Apply in person at Curtis Well Service 1050 N. Price Rd or send Resume to PO Box 1800 Pampa, TX 79066 Join A Company With 50+ Yrs in the Oil & Gas Business!!!

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Must be Reliable. Call For Interview April 440-1083

**69 Misc.**

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(does not incl. Last Minute Ads on pg. 2)

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C R Y H D G O V E C A P F D Z

D N D F O S E D F D . J M R R E D O

Y A S Y O X W C Z P R E D C F S Y O

J Y V H E T G D . — F T J D F R T F J D Z

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# Sports

## PHS athletes active with teams and traveling leagues

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

Pampa High School athletes spend their summers staying active in their sports. The way they stay active varies as some play on traveling teams and some play with their current teams in leagues.

Senior Latigo Collins plays on a traveling basketball team with some of the top players in the Amarillo and Canyon area. Collins said he plays to continue working on his game.

"The only way to get better is to play," Collins said. "It's a lot of fun. I love my teammates, some of the best friends that I have. It keeps me on the basketball court playing and having fun."

Collins said playing with and against some of the top competition really helps.

"It puts me in different situations as a player," Collins said. "I do different things for that team than I might do for Pampa."

Collins said the basketball team didn't talk about playing in a league together but played in small tournaments.

"I've gotten us together to go to some small tournaments like in Panhandle and things like that," Collins said. "It takes a lot of time and some kids aren't as dedicated or are too busy."

Head basketball coach Dustin Miller said he encourages his players to stay active in the summer.

"Basketball is too hard of a sport to only play during the season," Miller said. "Only the great ones play year-round. We encourage all of our kids to play all summer either competitive and or open gyms."

Senior catcher Alanna Stephens played on a traveling softball team but not neces-

sarily to play with the best players.

"The traveling team I played on didn't have colleges that I wanted to play for looking at us," Stephens said. "I wanted to help Tiffany (Britton) and Alexa (O'Brien)."

Sophomore Alexa O'Brien and junior Tiffany Britton are pitchers. Stephens said playing with them in the summer helped develop their relationship.

"It helped to get to know them better and improve our chemistry," Stephens said.

Senior first baseman Collin Killgo said he played on a traveling team in Woodward, Okla. but said it didn't benefit him because he wasn't getting to play.

"It was fun," Killgo said. "I wasn't getting more experience. I figured I might as well come back and play here."

Killgo and several of his teammates played in the 16-18 Babe Ruth League. The senior first baseman said it helped the team's chemistry.

"It helped our friendships get better together," Killgo said.

The team played from May 21 to June 3 finishing 5-1-1.

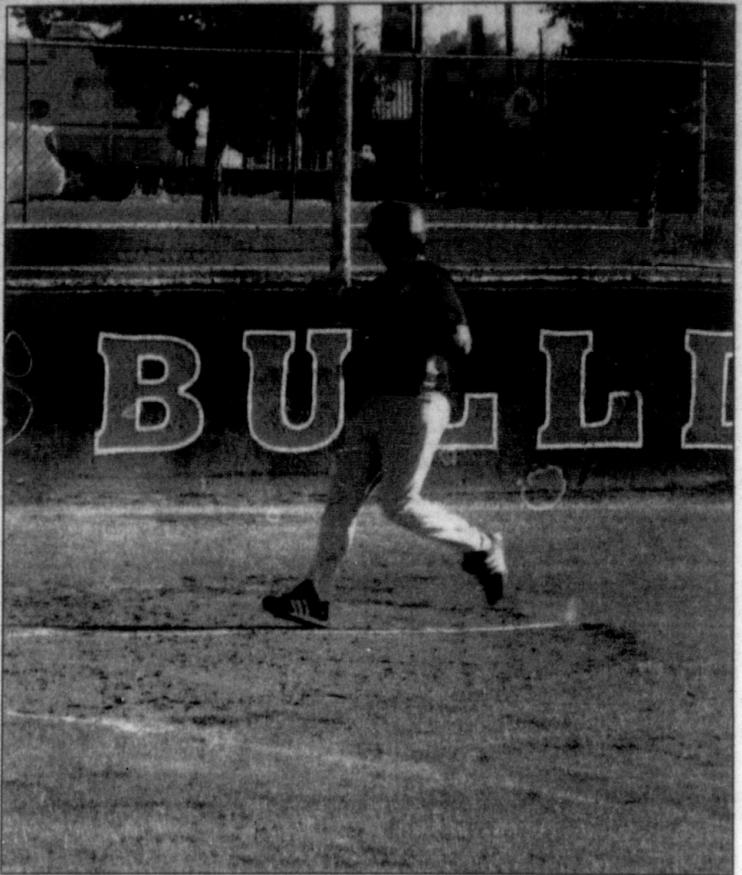
Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said playing together always helps develop a chemistry.

"It gives me and my assistants a head start and feel for our team," Snelgrooves said. "We know what each of these kids can do and how they fit on our team."

The volleyball and girls basketball team went to team camps.

Stephens, who also plays volleyball said it helped them improve as a team.

"It helped us play better," Stephens said. "It helped getting to know each other better."



Riley Douglas scores a run in a June 23 game against Borger. Members of the Pampa high school baseball team played together in Babe Ruth league. staff photo by Andrew Glover

## Texans must declare independence from Zebra Mussels

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is urging boaters to declare their independence from zebra mussels this holiday by keeping their watercraft free of the small but insidious invaders.

"The British may not be coming, but the zebra mussels unfortunately are," said Brian Van Zee, a TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director whose area is ground zero of the zebra mussel war in Texas. "Zebra mussels were first documented in Lake Texoma in 2009 and we've got to try to keep them from spreading any farther in this state. If we don't, the impact on everything from fishing to our water supply could be devastating."

Native to the former Soviet Union, zebra mussels found their way to the United States via the exchange of ballast water from ocean-going vessels passing through the St. Lawrence Seaway to ports on the Great Lakes. Since then, the rapidly propagating bivalves have been spreading south and east and are currently found in 29 states.

In addition to this holiday reminder for Texas boaters about the importance of cleaning their vessels, TPWD will be implementing a public awareness campaign, "Hello Zebra Mussels, Goodbye Texas Lakes: Clean, Drain and Dry" to better educate boaters on the dangers zebra mussels pose to the state's aquatic ecosystems, private property and water-related infrastructure such as water supply systems. This campaign will be funded by a coalition of partners, including North Texas Municipal Water District; Tarrant Regional Water District; Trinity River Authority; City of Dallas Water Utilities Department; Sabine River Authority; Canadian River Municipal Water Authority; San Jacinto River Authority; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the Angelina and Neches River Authority.

"Our message is simple,"

Van Zee said. "If you keep or use your boat or personal watercraft on Lake Texoma, or have operated in out-of-state waterways already infested with zebra mussels, Clean, Drain and Dry your vessel before heading to any other body of water in Texas."

Of immediate concern in North Texas, he said, are lakes such as Lavon, Ray Hubbard, Lewisville, Grapevine, Possum Kingdom, Granbury and others. These lakes are on the Trinity and Brazos River systems and they are heavily used by recreational boaters.

"In their larval form, zebra mussels are impossible to see with the naked eye," Van Zee said. "This is why it's particularly important to Clean, Drain,

and Dry boats, even when the boat appears to be clean."

TPWD recommends this simple, three-step procedure for anyone transporting a watercraft that has been used on Lake Texoma to another water body:

Clean all vegetation, mud, algae and other debris from the boat and trailer before leaving the lake.

Drain all water from the motor as well as the livewell, bilge, bait buckets and any other compartments or systems that hold water before leaving the lake.

Dry the vessel and associated equipment for a minimum of 7 to 10 days during the months of May through October or for 15 to 20 days from November

through April. These drying times are approximations, and conditions such as cooler air temperatures, higher humidity and whether or not the vessel is kept in dry storage should be considered.

While these are the easiest preventive measures boat owners can take to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels, boats and other vessels that have been kept on Lake Texoma for an extended period of time and are infested with zebra mussels may require additional cleaning procedures.

Power-washing with water at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit and flushing the motor, bilges, live-wells and other water intake systems with 140-degree water will kill zebra mus-

sels. To be effective the water coming out of the flushed systems needs to reach 140 degrees to ensure the entire system was exposed to water hot enough to kill the mussels.

If it is not possible to clean the internal systems or compartments using 140-degree water, the use of either straight vinegar or a chlorine bleach and water solution (one-half ounce bleach to one gallon water) can be effective at killing zebra mussels as long as the mixture is kept in contact with the mussels for 20 to 30 minutes. Clean water should be used to

flush the chemicals and dead mussels from the boat following treatment. Boat owners should check with their manufacturer to be sure using these chemicals will not void their warranty.

Large vessels with complex water intake systems such as those used for cooling the engine, air conditioning or personal sanitation may require decontamination by a boat mechanic or marina.

For more information on zebra mussels and other invasive species see the [texasinvasives.org](http://texasinvasives.org) website.

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