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# The PAMPA NEWS

**TODAY IN SPORTS**  
 Innovations  
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Tuesday, August 9, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 106 75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## PISD accountability ratings all over the board District officials: Low ratings cause for concern, not panic

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

The recently released 2011 Texas Education Agency (TEA) District Accountability Ratings paint the state of the Pampa Independent School District with a broad brush.

On the TEA's rating scale, released on July 29, Austin and Lamar Elementary Schools earned a "Recognized" designation,



**Haenisch**  
 ratings, according to the TEA,

one below the highest score of "Exemplary." Travis and Wilson Elementaries were deemed "Academically Acceptable."

The ratings are derived with a formula that includes standardized tests, completion rates and dropout rates. In previous years, the ratings took into account a "curve": the Texas Projection Measure (TPM), which tracked how students did on state tests from one year to the next, crediting schools for student improvement over time. The TPM, however, has gone under scrutiny and criticism of late, and TEA Education Commissioner

Robert Scott said in July that he chose not to use it in this year's ratings.

That the city's four primary schools continued to rate above the bar under tougher standards is a testament to the district, PISD Superintendent Barry Haenisch said.

"For our four elementary schools to achieve acceptable ratings or higher, we're very happy

**RATINGS** cont. on page 2

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## A STAR FOR A STAR



staff photo by **Randy Pribble**

**Pampa VFW Post Commander Danny Martin** holds up a blue star banner during the awarding of door prized at the benefit. The recipient of the banner, **Mona Betzen** of Amarillo, had won a door prize and had mentioned in passing to Martin that she had a son, **Mark Worley**, serving in Iraq. "I was asking her if she had a Blue Star Banner and she didn't even know what it was," Martin said. "So we thought it would be a good time to give her one." The banner is designed to be displayed in the windows of families who have children serving in a war zone. **Steve York**, standing behind Martin, served as the auctioneer for the benefit.

## Four indictments in Wheeler

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

**WHEELER** — A Wheeler County Grand Jury returned four indictments against four individuals this month.

**Ignacio Vargas**, 38, was indicted on charges of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Vargas had been convicted in 2001, on an assault charge in Gray County.

Bond for Vargas was set at

\$25,000.

**Courtney Gail Honeycutt**, 19, was indicted on charges of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, in an amount less than one gram.

Bond for Honeycutt was set at \$5,000.

**Ruben Palacio Moon**, 27, was indicted on charges of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Moon had been convicted in

**INDICTMENTS** cont. on page 3

## CRP grazing deadline gets extended (again) to Oct.

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

Emergency grazing use of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program in Gray County has been extended again, said local USDA FSA Executive Director **Matthew Street**.

The new deadline is Oct. 31. "They just told me about it just now," laughed Street. "It's been moved to October." The announcement comes just days after the emergency grazing deadline of CRP-enrolled land was extended into September in 25 Texas counties.

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**PAMPA FORECAST**

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
		
20%	20%	20%
High 98 Low 69	High 96 Low 66	High 94 Low 71

**Today:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 98. East southeast wind around 10 mph.

**Tonight:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 96. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

**Thursday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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**GRAY CO.** Latchkey, Inc. welcomes old & new families to our Early Enrollment on Aug. 19, 3-6pm, at Lovett Mem. Library north entrance.

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**Ratings**

about that," said Haenisch. "That tells us a lot about the quality of our elementary schools here in Pampa."

Haenisch had particular praise for Austin and Lamar, both of which also earned at least a "Recognized" rating last year. Austin was rated "Exemplary" in 2010.

"Those two campuses for several years now have been performing at either the recognized or exemplary level," Haenisch said. "We are very happy that they continue to perform at or above state expectations for their campus enrollment."

"One of the things that's a challenge is it always takes more to pass this year than the year before," Haenisch added. "If you're not improving by a significant amount each year, then your ratings are dropping. With Austin and Lamar, for them to continue to excel at the same level or better, that just means that their students are able to demonstrate learning at higher and higher levels each year."

On the flipside, however, the district's secondary schools took a ratings hit this year, with both Pampa High School and Pampa Junior High School being given "Academically Unacceptable" ratings.

Both schools had "Academically Acceptable" ratings in 2010.

"Any time that a campus is rated 'Academically Unacceptable,' it's an area for concern and there's a reason for concern," Haenisch said. "There's a real urgency to improve that rating and improve in those areas."

Still, Haenisch cautioned that it is important to comprehend what the ratings are based on.

"There's also an urgency, which is as good a word as any, for everyone to understand what leads to that rating. 'Academically unacceptable' sounds like, 'Oh my gosh, what a horrible place for my kids to go.' It has that ring to it."

"But when you break down all of the ratings, you discover that the junior high and the high school had more areas where they met the standards at the recognized level than at any other (level). If you look at the junior high, of the 25 standards that they evaluate, on 24 of them, they were either acceptable, recognized or exemplary. At the high school, it was well over 90 percent of those 25... These are good campuses for children to go to school in."

The "Academically Unacceptable" rating, Haenisch explained, is derived from the lowest rating issued to a school among its core curricular standards. The high school, for example, was rated "Recognized" in English/language arts, "Exemplary" in social studies and "Academically Acceptable" in science, but "Academically Unacceptable" in math. The junior high was given a similarly low rating in some standards in science, bringing its

overall score down.

"We have known for a couple of years that we were not performing at a great level in those two areas (math and science) and we've needed to get better," Haenisch said. "We've been working for at least two years at both campuses for improvement. We saw improvement — at the junior high school especially in the science performance — but the standards went up more than our improvement went up."

"We anticipate that, because we've been aware of it, because we've been focused on it and because our teachers are really becoming well-schooled and very open to meeting the challenge, this will be something that will be quickly corrected."

Deficiencies in such areas aren't limited to Pampa, noted PHS principal Tanya Larkin.

"If you look across the state, most people are unacceptable because of math and science," she said. "We're not happy about (the rating). We're disappointed about it, but we definitely are working to make it better."

Haenisch conceded that there will be significant obstacles to improving the schools' ratings in those specific areas, not the least of which are the recent cuts in the state's education budget.

"While it's easy to say that money doesn't matter, the quick answer is — and I'll just use the high school, for example — one of the places that we've had to reduce staff because of cuts was in mathematics," Haenisch said. "That means that the area where we're not performing so well will now have larger class sizes, and it will put more pressure on the staff that is there to improve performance."

"It will be a challenge. It's not something that's going to automatically happen because we have another school year. They will be asked to do above and beyond what they've had to do in the past... While excellence does not hinge on money, additional resources help low-performing areas perform better. You just have more resources and more access to tools to help you improve."

An added challenge, Haenisch continued, exists within the regulations involved in the TEA's accountability ratings. Because of the low scores, the schools are required to enter into an "improved performance mode" with the TEA. This mode requires the district to hire people from outside the district to improve the unacceptable rating.

"Some of the money that could have gone to more tools will be going to help employ people who don't work here to give us advice on how to improve," Haenisch said.

Still, Haenisch and Larkin said that the district is maximizing its available resources to address the issues, and Larkin said that outside consultants could give the high school valuable insight into how to better

its rating.

"We have partnered with Region 16 (Education Service Center) in math and science," Larkin said. "(The high school's) rating is weak in math, and because the junior high is weak in science, we knew that the incoming students would need help there, too. We have consultants coming in to train our teachers and look at our curriculum to help tailor it to the standards of the new STAAR test. They'll be coming in every three weeks, and they'll help us make sure that we're assessing our students at the same level of rigor that the state will be assessing them."

Larkin also believes that the new "1 to 1" initiative that will supply PHS students with Lenovo Think-Pad laptops will also help reverse the school's math woes.

"One of the key things that we're missing in math and science is that higher level problem solving," Larkin said. "Right now, the curriculum is set up towards rote computation, but with the new initiative, we'll be able to set up some more complex problem-solving scenarios and create work that reflects the state's new standards. The test is moving towards that way, and we'll be able to use these new machines to better educate our students, too."

Haenisch and Larkin also stressed that the TEA accountability ratings are just one measure of how well Texas schools are performing.

"With the ratings, you're judged by the very worst thing you do," Larkin said. "In our case, it's ninth grade math... Now, that doesn't mean that we're not focused on improving that area, but it also doesn't mean that we're not excelling by other measures."

"(For example), we received a gold performance rating in college readiness for our juniors. They evaluate our juniors based on how prepared they are to excel in college, and we were given a high rating in that. Pampa High School, I think, provides a quality education for our kids... Quite frankly, I think we have one of the best schools in the Panhandle."

Haenisch said that proof of the effectiveness of Pampa's school system is easily visible to the community.

"As we think about student performances and how successful campuses are being, these ratings from the state are one example of how well we're doing," he said. "There are many, many things we can use to judge how well we're doing."

"Take the (PISD's annual Academic) Showcase. That demonstrates to the community that they can have complete confidence in the curriculum their children are learning, because here are the skills they have that they might not have had before. They can demonstrate the things they know and can do."

**For the record**

**Police Department**

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending Monday, August 8 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 97 traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents and Pampa PD responded to 29 animal related incidents.

**Friday, August 5**

Police reported criminal mischief at the 1600 block of West Alcock.

An accident occurred at Sumner and Gwendolyn.

An escort was reported at the 800 block of West 23rd.

A theft occurred at the 1800 block of North Banks.

Disorderly conduct was

reported at the 1000 block of North Sumner.

An assault occurred at the 1100 block of Terrace.

A violation of a protective order was reported.

Police reported found property at the 1000 block of East Fisher.

An accident occurred at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A missing person was reported at the 700 block of East Kingsmill.

Disorderly conduct was reported.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 700 block of North Gray.

Disorderly conduct was reported.

Criminal mischief occurred at the 400 block of North Zimmers.

Endangerment of a child or elderly person was re-

ported at the 700 block of East Albert.

An assault occurred at One Medical Plaza.

A domestic disturbance was reported at the 100 block of Village.

Missing persons were reported at the 2100 block of North Lynn.

Police investigated an alarm at the 2100 block of North Duncan.

The Pampa Fire Department responded to a grass fire at Randy Matson and Charles.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 600 block of North Somerville.

A theft occurred at the 300 block of East 17th.

A burglary occurred at the 900 block of East Francis.

An assault occurred at the 100 block of West 30th.

A suspicious person was reported at the 700 block of East Browning.

**Saturday, August 6**

A suspicious person was reported at the 1700 block of Chestnut.

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

A burglary occurred at the 1000 block of Fisher.

A missing person was reported at the 2300 block of North Evergreen.

An offense against family and children was reported.

An escort was reported at the 500 block of North West.

Police investigated a welfare check at the 200 block of West Craven.

Disorderly conduct was reported at the 100 block of East Foster.

A hit and run was reported at the 300 block of South Cuyler.

A theft occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

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# AFTERNOON RUSH *Wreck*

## Board to mull Augustine again

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas-area school board is set to once again discuss the employment of their new superintendent caught in the fallout of a test-cheating scandal in her previous district.

The DeSoto school board was set to discuss the employment of Superintendent Kathy Augustine on Monday evening. The board had the same discussion on the agenda last month, but adjourned without settling the future of the former deputy Atlanta school superintendent.

The district in the suburb south of Dallas hired Augustine in April for \$188,000 a year. However, the board placed her on paid leave last month while it re-examined her Atlanta tenure. She has denied having knowledge of test cheating in Atlanta.

The Monday agenda included an item addressing the superintendent's employment, including a "possible voluntary exit agreement."

## Heat takes toll on power demand

HOUSTON (AP) — The battle to avoid rolling blackouts in Texas' unrelenting hot weather as power demand reaches record levels has become a daily drama that can turn on a few degrees or the unexpected shutdown of one of the state's power-generating units.

Officials are hopeful the system will hold up without significant power outages for Texans.

But they acknowledge that with temperatures reaching nearly 110 in some places, the system will continue to dangerously ride on the cusp of capacity this week, and perhaps beyond.

Last Wednesday, ERCOT saw a record peak demand of 68,295 megawatts. It escaped having to resort to rotating residential power outages by shedding large industrial and commercial users through prior arrangements.

The demand on Monday was 66,581 megawatts.

## Ft. Hood first responders gone

FORT HOOD (AP) — The two Fort Hood police officers who responded first to the 2009 shooting rampage are no longer working on the Texas Army post.

Sgt. Mark Todd, lauded for stopping the gunman, left the police force to work as an overseas contractor. Fort Hood officials say Kimberly Munley requested to be on unpaid leave.

They were civilian officers on Fort Hood's police force. The Austin American-Statesman reports Monday (<http://bit.ly/o3A1yn>) that Fort Hood's civilian officers hired year-to-year will not have their jobs renewed as part of broader military budget cuts.

Army officials say more soldiers returning from overseas will work as military police officers. They say Fort Hood's security won't be reduced.

Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Hasan faces the death penalty if convicted in the shootings that killed 13.

## Man guilty in phone porn case

BEAUMONT (AP) — A 63-year-old southeast Texas man accused of storing hundreds of images of child pornography on his cellphone has been sentenced to nine years in federal prison.

U.S. Attorney John M. Bales said Monday that Edward Lee Caldwell Sr. of Nederland was sentenced Aug. 2. He pleaded guilty in April to distributing child pornography.

Court records show that law enforcement officers received information from someone in Ohio that they had received a text message photo from Caldwell showing a child engaged in sexual conduct.

Federal authorities searched Caldwell's apartment and seized his cellphone. Prosecutors say 486 images and 32 videos of child porn were found on the phone.

## Suspect shot after standoff

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Authorities say they shot and killed a man who barricaded himself inside his San Antonio-area home after they stormed the house thinking the suspect had committed suicide.

Bexar County sheriff's Det. Louis Antu said SWAT team members had surrounded the home Saturday when they heard a gunshot and went in. Antu said they found the man in a bedroom, and he shot at the officers before they returned fire, killing him. Antu says no officers were shot.

The *San Antonio Express-News* reported that deputies were called after a report that a man inside the house was suicidal and armed. Antu says responding officers were met with gunfire, leading to the standoff.

Authorities didn't identify the suspect. Antu says officers involved in the shooting were placed on administrative leave.

## Texarkana girl dies in fire

TEXARKANA (AP) — A house fire in Texarkana, Texas, has claimed the life of a 3-year-old girl.

Fire Capt. Russell Jones told the *Texarkana Gazette* that the body of Alicia Spencer was found inside the home after the fire was put out Sunday. Jones said the girl did not live at the home — but her residence was not immediately released.

Jones said several people who escaped the burning home had tried to go back inside to get the girl — but the fire was too intense.

Jones says one resident told firefighters that the blaze started in an air conditioner window unit and foul play is not suspected.

## Town turns off water

KEMP (AP) — Water conservation has been turned up a notch in one North Texas community: The water has been cut off.

Kemp Mayor Donald Kile says water was turned off to residents Sunday for 48 hours.

KDFW-TV in Dallas-Fort Worth reports that two weeks ago, excessive heat caused the soil to shift, and the aging underground water pipes burst. About 2 million gallons of water leaked out. The city never caught up with the demand during the oppressive Texas heat wave and shut off the water to residents for two days to replenish its two water towers.

Meanwhile, the city is handing out bottled water, providing non-potable water to residents to flush toilets and conduct other chores.

south onto Gray County Road 3, where, at 11:48 p.m., he lost control of his vehicle and veered into the east barrow ditch, where his vehicle rolled three times. Mayberry, who was not wearing a safety belt, was ejected from the vehicle, which came to rest upside-down on top of him.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman pronounced Mayberry dead on the scene. An autopsy was set for Monday morning.

## Indictments

2005 of possession of a controlled substance, and in 2010 was convicted of an offense against a family member.

Bond for Moon was set at \$25,000. Dwayne Edward Watson, 48, was indicted on charges of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, in an amount less than one gram.

Watson was convicted in 1991 of the felony offense of burglary of a habitation.

Bond for Watson was set at \$15,000.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 9, the 221st day of 2007. There are 144 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

### On this date:

- In 1483, the Sistine Chapel was opened.
- In 1842, the U.S. and Canada resolved a border dispute by signing the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.
- In 1848, the Free-Soil Party convened in Buffalo, N.Y., where it nominated Martin Van Buren for president.
- In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described his experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.
- In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of England following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.
- In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the U.S. took first place in the 400-meter relay.
- In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally murdered in Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.
- In 1974, President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect. Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive.
- In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who had been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

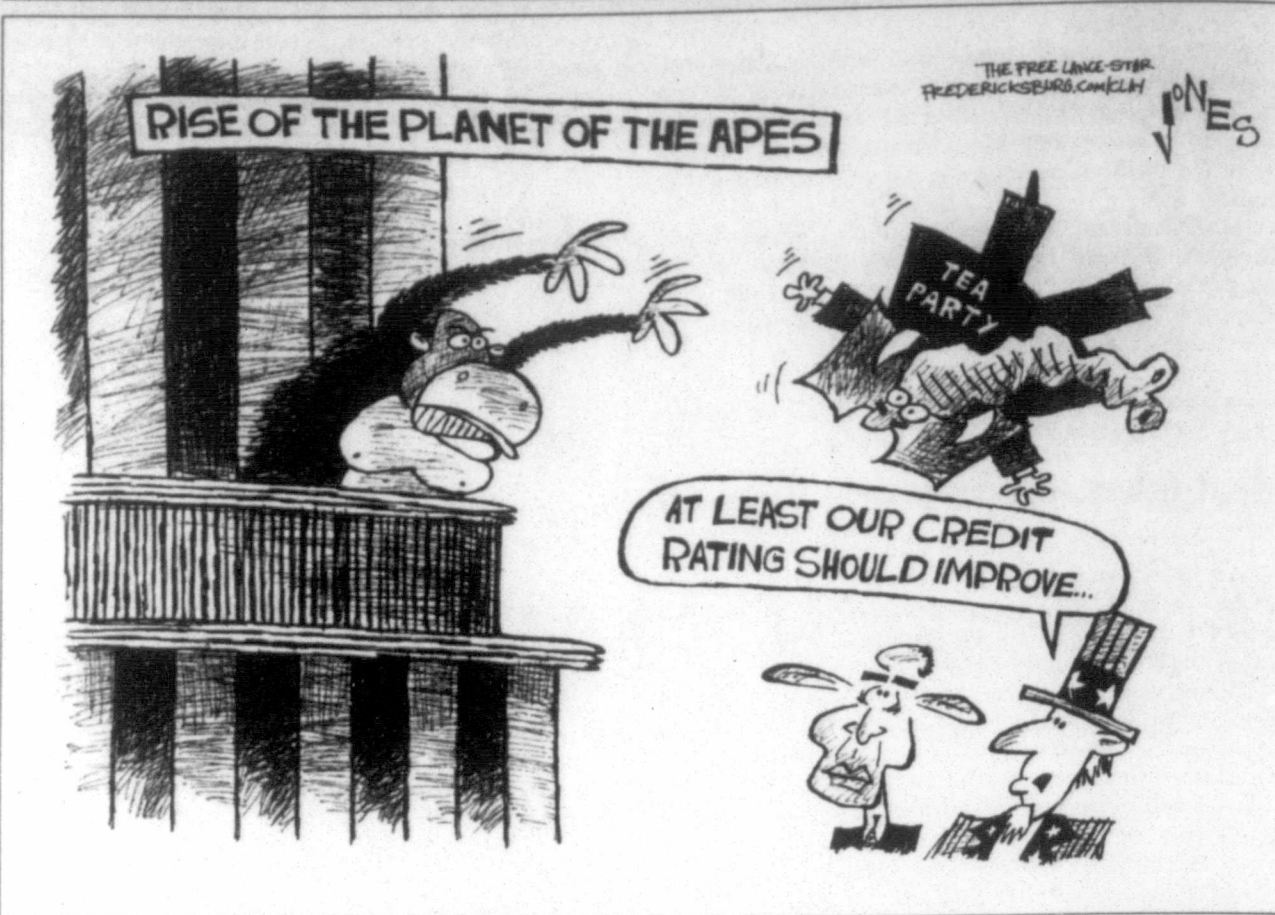
**Ten years ago:** Haitian immigrant Abner Louima was arrested in a street brawl in Brooklyn, N.Y.; he was brutalized in a stationhouse bathroom by Officer Justin Volpe, who sodomized him with a broken broomstick.

**Five years ago:** Oscar-winning actor and National Rifle Association president Charlton Heston, 78, revealed that doctors had told him he had symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease.

**One year ago:** The White House said neither Israel nor Hezbollah should escalate their month-old war, as Israel decided to widen its ground invasion in southern Lebanon.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former baseball manager Ralph Houk is 88. Jazz musician Jack DeJohnette is 65. Comedian-director David Steinberg is 65. Boxing Hall-of-Famer Ken Norton is 64. Actor Sam Elliott is 63. Singer Barbara Mason is 60. Actress Melanie Griffith is 50. Actress Amanda Bearse is 49. Rapper Kurtis Blow is 48. Singer Whitney Houston is 44. Actor Pat Petersen is 41. Football player Deion Sanders is 40. Actress Gillian Anderson is 39. Actor Eric Bana is 39. Rock musician Arion Salazar (Third Eye Blind) is 37. Rapper Mack 10 is 36. Latin rock singer Juanes is 35. Actress Liz Vassey is 35. Actress Rhona Mitra is 32. Actress Jessica Capshaw is 31. Actress Anna Kendrick is 26. Atlanta Braves outfielder Jason Heyward is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "The human heart dares not stay away too long from that which hurt it most. There is a return journey to anguish that few of us are released from making." — Lillian Smith, American writer-social critic (1897-1966).



## Drought will harm habitat for years

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI  
Associated Press

CANADIAN(AP) — In a muddy pile of sand where a pond once flowed in the Texas Panhandle, dead fish, their flesh already decayed and feasted on by maggots, lie with their mouths open. Nearby, deer munch on the equivalent of vegetative junk food and wild turkeys nibble on red harvester ants — certainly not their first choice for lunch.

As the state struggles with the worst one-year drought in its history, entire ecosystems, from the smallest insects to the largest predators, are struggling for survival. The foundations of their habitats — rivers, springs, creeks, streams and lakes — have turned into dry sand, wet mud, trickling springs or, in the best case, large puddles.

"It has a compound effect on a multitude of species and organisms and habitat types because of the way that it's chained and linked together," said Jeff Bonner, a wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Since January, Texas has only gotten about 6 inches of rain, compared to a norm of about 13 inches, making it the most severe one-year drought on record. Last week, the U.S. Climate Prediction Center said the La Nina weather pattern blamed for the lack of rain might be back soon, and if that happens, the dry spell would almost certainly extend into 2012.

The extreme dry conditions, which have extended into parts of the Plains including Oklahoma and Kansas, have been made worse by week after week of triple-digit temperatures that have caused reservoirs to evaporate, crops to wither and animals and fish to die.

Already, some rivers and lakes are at lows not seen since the 1950s — the decade when Texas suffered its worst drought in recorded history. And in some

cases, bodies of water are at their lowest points ever, said Joseph Capesius, chief of the Austin field unit for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Of the state's 3,700 streams, 15 major rivers and more than 200 reservoirs at least seven reservoirs are effectively empty and more than half of the streams and rivers are at below normal flow rates.

The drought will most immediately cause fish to die and such kills have already happened in parts of the state, including not far from the Canadian River, a normally flowing river in the Panhandle that in some places is barely a puddle fed by a drought-taxed spring. In West Texas, O.C. Fisher Lake has been so depleted that fish have died from a lack of oxygen and bacteria has turned the remaining water red.

Without water, animals struggle with thirst. Few plants grow.

Without plants, there are fewer insects. No insects result in low seed production. The animals that rely on seeds and plants for nutrition — from birds to deer and antelope — have low reproduction. Predators that rely on those animals as a food source remain hungry as well, and they reproduce less.

"So there's a domino effect that goes out in however many more branches than you can actually ever keep count of," Bonner said.

The long-term impact from the drought will cross state lines and country borders because Texas is so large and its ecosystems diverse.

For example, birds that migrate south in the winter will find little food and water this year in Texas so they will have to fly even farther south and expend more energy. As a result, they could reproduce less. Some of those birds, such as the colorful painted bunting, often fly to Central America for part of the year where there has been a lot of rain and more insects than usual. But because of the drought

in Texas and the Plains, there may not be enough birds to consume the insects, Bonner said.

"Now, what happens?" Bonner said. "Continually speaking, this big of an area not getting enough water can impact places far and wide."

The impact on species also could last for years after the drought officially ends. For example, quail normally nest in grass grown a year earlier, but because of the drought, there has been almost no grass growth this year. That means many quail won't be able to nest next year and the impact of the drought on the birds won't be seen until 2012, Bonner said.

With deer, the true impact may not be revealed for six years when the low reproduction rates caused by the drought will leave an age gap between older bucks and younger deer.

Prairie chickens will also reproduce less due to the drought — something that could spell more trouble for the species. In the past decade, the chickens' numbers have dropped so significantly that the federal government may place them on an endangered species list, a move that would make it illegal to hunt and force conservation of prairie chicken habitats.

John Baccus, a wildlife biologist at Texas State University in San Marcos, said he is most immediately concerned with bats and song birds, both of which rely on insects for food. Baccus believes that some females will not have any offspring this year due to a poor diet. Whatever babies are born will likely have a low survival rate because they are entering a world with a scarce food supply.

Already, Baccus said, he has noticed white-tailed deer looking skinnier than usual, their ribs jutting out. As a result, the mothers are producing less milk and the newest crop of fawns will be weaned at sub-par weight.

"It's an ecosystem-wide problem," Baccus said.

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## SELLING APPLES





# What we've learned from the debt mess

TERRY SAVAGE  
Creator's Syndicate



As lawmakers came down to the wire on a deal to avoid default, the real question is what, if anything, we have learned from all this hysteria. And what is likely to happen in the economy that will impact our personal finances?

Let's hope that the one lesson we didn't learn was the lesson of brinkmanship -- of waiting until the last minute to solve our problems. Because this problem will arrive again, despite efforts to push the next confrontation past the next election. Here are some of the lessons we should carry away from this crisis.

- America cares. There is a bipartisan disgust with the actions of Congress in delaying and playing politics with the most basic issue confronting our economy.

- America is respectful. It may not have come across in the media coverage, but a significant part of America was silently cheering the tea party at least part of the way, hoping it would provoke a realistic debate about spending and taxes. Americans will respect differences -- as long as they do not jeopardize the future of our country.

- America is smart. It took longer for the president to figure out that America wasn't going broke on Aug. 2 than it did for the public to realize that government would not come to a halt. Sensible folks came to understand that the government would prioritize -- paying interest on its debt, sending out checks to Social Security recipients and the military -- even if the debt ceiling deal was not passed. There is, after all, still a lot of money coming into the Treasury every month.

- America faces reality (Congress doesn't). Seniors were willing to give a bit on benefits, soldiers willing to forego pay raises (though not needed equip-

ment), and some corporations were resigned to giving up some tax loopholes.

The only ones not willing to face that reality were members of Congress, who never, ever, not once announced they were willing to give up some of their perks -- ranging from superior health care benefits to free travel at home and abroad to their private gymnasiums. Did you ever hear anyone in Congress volunteering to give up his or her perks? It would have been symbolic -- but this whole debate is symbolic.

- America's government is unique -- and better than the alternatives. Yes, passing legislation is messy -- but it's exactly the genius of our founding fathers that we have discussion, dispute and disagreement -- without violent power struggles. We should be prouder of the lessons we've taught the world than we are embarrassed about the contentious way in which we settle disagreements.

Beyond the generalities about what makes America special, we must also recognize the lessons that the markets will take away from this experience. And those might be painful, unless you are prepared. The world is watching. In some ways, we are very different from the European experience with debt. And in some ways, we are very much alike.

Europe has "papered over" its debt -- hoping to push the reality further down the road -- stretching out terms of the loans, creating new agencies to "guarantee" payment (even though it has no resources to do so) and generally closing its eyes to the reality it

faces. America, it appears, is making a deal that could force us to at least change direction -- to reduce our spending, to slow the increase in our debt and to give our economy a chance to grow again, based on more certainty about future rules and taxes. But so far, that is all talk.

If the commission that is proposed, and the triggers that are set up, are merely ignored, then we will face the same challenges as Europe -- challenges of survival. That remains to be seen in the coming months. And the American people are not going to forget this lesson just because the next day of reckoning is pushed past the 2012 election.

How will we know how well we're doing? We only have to watch the global financial markets. They're all hoping the dollar will be saved from the certainty of future money creation to pay our debts. Throughout this crisis, the dollar remained stronger than it might have otherwise, because the alternatives -- such as the euro, the Japanese yen, the Chinese renminbi -- are so much less appealing than even a dollar weakened by inflation.

Global smart money is searching for alternatives -- in gold, commodities, oil and other natural resources. But the world really wants the dollar to remain the center of all trade, all measurement of wealth. Let's not disappoint them by thinking we've solved our problems. We've just made a very good start. And that's the Savage Truth.

*Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at www.terrysavage.com. She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?"*

## BANANAGRAMS!

For each bunch below, rearrange the letters to form two intersecting words that fit into the corresponding grid.

LEVEL

A H L O L  
O W O Y

C E F K  
K L O U

Yesterday's Answer: RAINED, BRUTAL, RAISIN, POINTY

## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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			4		8			5
5		7			2			4

Level: Beginner

## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I'm an only child by default. My parents have been married 30 years and had two children. When I was 9 and my sister was 6, we were in a car accident with my mother that resulted in my sister's death. Her death changed my life in ways I can never explain.

My father began abusing drugs and beating me. My mother started stealing and was always unemployed. She became severely depressed and also abused prescription drugs. I was left to raise myself, and now, as an adult, I don't want a relationship with either of them.

How can I get my mother to accept that despite her wishes, I do not want to live my life watching her waste hers? It leaves me feeling depressed, angry and hopeless. I have been diagnosed as bipolar. Almost all my life I have known only death, drugs, abuse and pain. I just want peace from these people. Please help. — FRUSTRATED SON IN GEORGIA

DEAR FRUSTRATED SON: You have my deepest sympathy for the tragedy that destroyed your family. Had your parents received the professional help they needed at the time of the accident, much of it might have been prevented. Tell

your parents that unless they seek help NOW for their problems, they will have lost not one, but two, children.

However, if they choose to continue as they have been -- which is likely -- then you must go on with your life. The answer to a toxic situation such as what you have experienced is to divorce yourself. Because you can't fix them, you must save yourself. You have been damaged enough.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Kate," is 27 and has a 3-year-old son. She and the father are not married. He is self-centered, controlling and keeps her stranded. She has no car and no money. They currently live with his family -- a far from ideal situation.

I am struggling because I'm unable to help her financially, and she feels lost and alone. My husband (her stepfather) won't allow them to live with us, which I understand. We're scrimping to get by. I have located several online sites for single moms regarding assistance, but I feel it is up to Kate to pursue them.

What else can I offer her regarding steering her in the right direction? If she could contact others in her situation, perhaps they might point her in

directions I cannot. Your advice would be welcomed. — GRANDMA IN PRESCOTT, ARIZ.

DEAR GRANDMA: Because of your financial situation there is a limit to what you can do. Give your daughter the websites and explain that she may find support and suggestions there from other single mothers -- the rest is up to her. But please, realize that until your daughter is willing to take charge of her life, nothing will change. Continue to be caring and supportive, and let your daughter know you love her.

DEAR ABBY: When someone elopes, is a bridal shower after the fact appropriate? There will be a reception later this summer where a wedding gift seems expected. I think having a bridal shower is not proper etiquette. What do you say? — ASKANCE IN VERMONT

DEAR ASKANCE: The intent of a wedding shower is to extend good wishes to the bride -- and with increasing frequency, the groom. Having one after a hastily planned wedding or an elopement is not a breach of etiquette. However, if you disapprove, no law says you must attend.

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Houston team
- 7 Clock part
- 11 Refrain from mischief
- 12 Cain's brother
- 13 "Crazy, Stupid, Love" actor
- 15 Prologue
- 16 Bowling targets
- 18 Auto body worry
- 21 Apple center
- 22 Spa feature
- 24 D.C. setting
- 25 Carpenter's tool
- 26 Logger's tool
- 27 Potpourri bits
- 29 Victim
- 30 Convoy truck
- 31 Night fliers
- 32 Door sign
- 34 "Crazy, Stupid, Love" actor
- 40 Set of cards
- 41 Illinois city
- 42 Makes a choice
- 43 Bra parts

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Yesterday's answer

- 19 Kick off
- 20 Prom rentals
- 21 Recipe amount
- 22 Possesses
- 23 Ottoman ruler
- 25 David's weapon
- 28 Reparations
- 29 Sitting room
- 31 Plague
- 33 First-rate
- 34 Letter after pi
- 35 Puppy cry
- 36 Tiny worker
- 37 Writer Levin
- 38 Tiny taste
- 39 Ozone, for one

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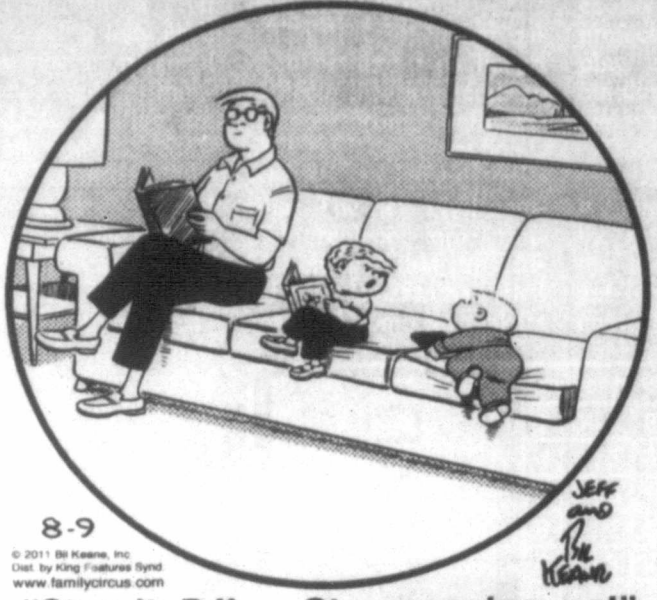
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# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



8-9

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"Stop it, PJ! ... Stop copying me!"

Non Sequitur

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Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011:

This year, much occurs in your day-to-day life. You naturally will have a good time and enjoy yourself. Romance will be dominant for many of you. If you are attached, you might see the embers of love flash into flames once more. Stoke these fires. Work on not suppressing your difficult feelings so much. If you are able to move through them, you will be freer and more present in the moment. CAPRICORN understands you well.

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)**

★★★★ Handle all necessary research by midday. You will want to execute a plan by then. Take the lead, trusting that others will follow. Give up trying to coerce those in your daily life. Your temper could build late today as you encounter frustration. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

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

★★★★ Deal directly with a loved one in the morning. At a certain point, you will need to let go and trust. Detach from the immediate situation, knowing full well what is going on. Listen to others but refuse to trigger. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

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

★★★★ Others want to run with the ball. You do have a choice, but the smart decision is to let them have their way. Experience is a wonderful teacher. Relate directly to a partner or loved one in order to reduce frustration. Tonight: Catch up on news over dinner.

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

★★★★ Dive into work, and get as much done as humanly possible. Midday, a change in interest points to a new direction. Take time to catch up with others. A little networking goes quite far. Your follow-through counts. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

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

★★★★ You might have difficulty settling down this morning, but by mid-afternoon, you could have a total personality change. You ask powerful questions. Be ready to confront your own anger. It could be coloring a situation. Tonight: Get some

exercise.

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

★★★★ Getting started could be challenging this morning. Your creativity surges this afternoon, allowing for more options. Your ability to transform so quickly could stun many people. Refuse to get irritated with a friend. Tonight: So what if it is a weekday?

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

★★★★ Make calls early on. Ultimately, meetings will be better for you this morning than in the afternoon. You have your hands full and a lot to consider and evaluate. Use late p.m. to evaluate what you have heard and what you need to ask about. Tonight: Happy at home.

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

★★★★ You have a tendency to splurge and go overboard, especially in the morning. In a fashion, you say "yes" to these tendencies rather than confront the main issue. By the afternoon, you will be more willing to talk. Curb your temper. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

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

★★★★ You have spark in the morning and are close to unstoppable. By the evening, your fuse is dying, if not dead. Try to keep more stationary or easy tasks for late today. If you can, get out of work as early as possible. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.

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

★★★★ You perk up midday and feel like a different person. How you feel is indicative of what you can do. Drop the words "can't" and "no" from your mind, just for the evening. See if that doesn't make a difference. Tonight: Grinning the night away.

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

★★★★ Use the morning to home in on a long-term objective. Don't allow someone to trip you up. Try to avoid postponements. You are at your best before noon. Quit swallowing anger, and try to verbalize your frustration and hurt. Tonight: Close to home.

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

★★★★ Demands are heavy. Take a stand. The afternoon is well spent networking, promoting an idea and encouraging supporters. Your imagination might be accelerated by an either/or situation. Tonight: Where the action is.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



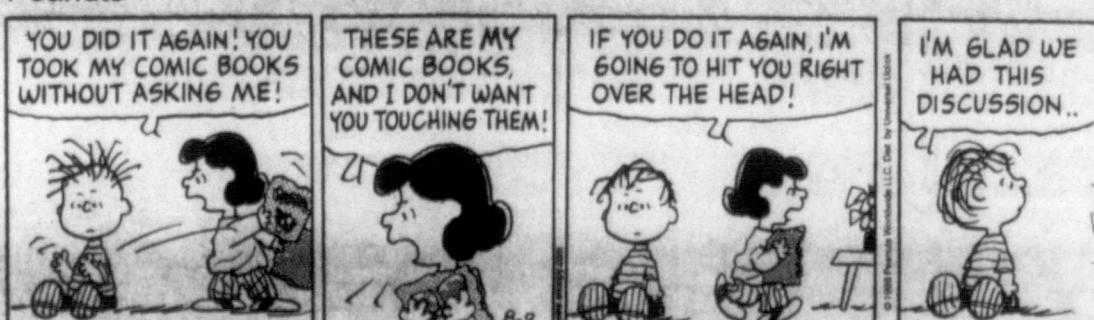
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Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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**21 Help Wanted**

**WELDERS NEEDED**  
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needed. Exp. preferred but not necessary. Good driving record and drug test required. Competitive pay & benefits.

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\*Email to [arios@logistics.com](mailto:arios@logistics.com)

\*Mail to Po Box 501 Pampa, TX 79066

\*Call 806-669-7499 or an application

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Call 662-4421

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**21 Help Wanted**

**NATIONAL BEEF** is Hiring Production Employees-Liberal KS. Visit Workforce Solutions Panhandle Aug. 9 and Aug. 10, 8am-5pm; and Aug. 11 10am-5pm. 1206 W. 7th Street, Amarillo, TX 79101. Relocation packages available for qualified candidates.

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

NEW Queen Matt. Sets, Sale Price \$266. Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes. Call anytime 665-2767

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FREE to good home 10 wk old blue heeler mix puppies. 806-661-9302

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**103 Homes For Sale**

\$500 down 2 bdr fixer-upper, \$900 down 4 bdr. fixer-upper, both in Pampa. 1205 N. Russell for rent \$575. 374-4360

1219 Williston, 4 bdr/m 2 bath, basement, sunroom, approx. 2100 sq. ft. \$80,000 OBO. 665-0251

1520 N. Wells, 3/2/2, 1485 sq. ft. Utility room. Vaulted ceiling, fpl, c h/a. Stor. bldg. Cov porches. No rent to own. \$110,000. 806-662-1492, 662-2172

1601 Grape Ln. 4 bdr. 3 ba. 2777 sq. ft. Corner lot. Buyer Agents Welcome. For info [r\\_roben25@hotmail.com](mailto:r_roben25@hotmail.com)

**96 Unfurn. Apts.**

2 bdr., \$450 mo., water & trash paid \$200 dep. Call between 6pm-8pm. 479-220-7558.

**APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties.**

Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386

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1, 2 and 3 bedrooms with rent starting as low as \$395 / mo. Pool and on-site laundry. W/D hookups in all 2 & 3 bdrms. 665-7149

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2 bd with garage, some appliances, fenced backyard, very clean, 516 N. Nelson, \$495 mo. 662-0620

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**98 Unfurn. Houses**

PICK up rental list



# Sports

## Optimist's Babe Ruth Park to be renovated for 2012 season

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

Over the last two years, renovations have been done to the baseball fields at Optimist Park.

"Two years ago, we spent \$10,000 to replace the lights at the 9- and 10-year-old park," Optimist Club President Chris Porter said. "Last year we spent \$10,000 updating the lights at the 11- and 12-year-old ballpark."

With buffalo grass growing in the infield at the Babe Ruth ballpark and the outfield being larger than those of three Major League stadiums, the ballpark will undergo renovations before the 2012 Optimist season.

Porter said the grass was making it hard for players to field balls.

"It was hard to judge the ball," Porter said. "It was hard to get to the ball."

The field is getting Bermuda grass and the fence is going to be brought in. Porter said work began on July 30.

"We got the infield torn down to dirt," Porter said.

The fence will be brought in from right and left field from about 325 feet to 275 and from 340 to 295 in center. Porter said this should make it a more hitter-friendly park.

"I remember when I played on this field when I was 13 and 14 and not very many kids hit the ball out,"

Porter said.

Porter said the project will cost between \$15 and \$20 thousand, adding that the numbers show that the club is being good stewards with its money.

"It's hard to tell people that the fees they are paying are just going to uniforms," Porter said. "We want facilities that people can be proud of. We put new lights in the 9- and 10-year-old park and the 11- and 12-year old park."

Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes said safety is a major reason why they update facilities.

"We put safety at the forefront," Stokes said. "We want to give our players a playing surface and stadium they can feel safe in."

## Playing sports in extreme heat OK with correct precautions

CHICAGO (AP) — Playing sports in hot, steamy weather is safe for healthy children and teen athletes, so long as precautions are taken and the drive to win doesn't trump common sense, the nation's largest pediatricians group says.

New guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics arrive just as school sports ramp up in sultry August temperatures. The advice, released Monday, comes a week after two Georgia high school football players died following practices in 90-plus degree heat. Authorities were investigating if the weather contributed.

The guidelines replace a more restrictive policy based on old thinking that kids were more vulnerable to heat stress than adults. New research shows that's not true, the academy says. With adequate training, water intake, time-outs and emergency treatment available on the sidelines, healthy young athletes can play

even in high heat and humidity — within reason, the guidelines say.

"The more educated parents, athletes and staff are about risks associated with heat illness, the more likely they will think twice before allowing a competitive culture to overtake sound sensibilities," said Dr. Cynthia Devore, co-author of the policy and a physician for schools in the Rochester, NY area.

Government data released last week showed that more than 3,000 U.S. children and teens younger than 20 received emergency-room treatment for nonfatal heat illness from sports or exercise between 2001 and 2009.

A few young athletes die annually from heat-related illness. Over a 13 year period, 29 high school football players died from heat stroke, data from the American Football Coaches Association and others show. Football is a special concern, because players often begin intense prac-

tice during late-summer heat, wearing uniforms and padding that can be stifling.

Dr. Michael Bergeron, a University of South Dakota sports medicine specialist, said the academy's old policy was often ignored because it recommended limiting or avoiding sports even in common hot weather conditions. The new policy is more detailed and nuanced, recommending that athletes be evaluated individually for play in hot weather.

Still, Bergeron warned that overzealousness can be dangerous even for healthy kids, and even in relatively tame summer weather.

"You can take somebody in 80-degree heat and you can kill them if you work them hard enough," he said.

The guidelines don't list temperature or humidity cutoffs, but say safety should be the top priority.

Other academy advice includes:

—Teams should have emergency plans

with trained personnel and treatment available and policies for avoiding heat illness.

—Give kids about two weeks to adapt to preseason sessions, gradually increasing intensity and duration. Closely monitor more vulnerable kids, including those who are overweight or have diabetes.

—Make sure athletes are well-hydrated before practice or games. During activity, kids aged 9-12 should drink about half a cup to a cup of water every 20 minutes; for teens, 5 or 6 cups an hour. Sports drinks containing electrolytes and sodium should be offered during extra strenuous activity.

—Educate everyone about signs of heat stress, including dizziness, muscle cramps, headaches and nausea. Kids with symptoms should be sidelined and treated immediately; athletes should be encouraged to report if teammates seem to be struggling.

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**The PAMPA NEWS**  
Volume 107 • No. 109  
Monday, August 8, 2011  
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**JUST BEING NEIGHBORLY**  
Steve York with the auctioneer at a benefit held Saturday by Pampa's VFW Post 1657 for a post in Childress that was damaged by a storm.

**CRP grazing deadline extended**  
In response to ongoing drought conditions — possibly the worst in state history — the Texas Farm Service Agency State Committee has extended the deadline for emergency grazing use on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for Gray County, according to local USDA FSA Executive Director Matthew Street.

**VFW chips in for Childress comrades**  
Lily Harwell... Since then, the 46-member post has held meetings at places like the local senior citizens center and the electronics company's meeting room.

**DPS car chase near Pampa turns fatal**  
The Department of Public Safety's pursuit of a Levellville man turned deadly on Friday night when the man's vehicle left the roadway, ejecting him and coming to a rest on top of him.

**Perry to evangelicals at prayer rally: I'm one of you**  
HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry sent a strong message to the nation's evangelists Saturday that he is a member of the political constituency for Republicans that he soon may call upon to help him secure the GOP presidential nomination.

**WIN \$20 in Pampa Bucks**  
Name the Christmas Events Theme Contest Submits entries to The Chamber of Commerce. Deadline for submissions is September 30.

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