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# The PAMPA NEWS

**TODAY IN SPORTS Cream**  
 Page 5 Page 3

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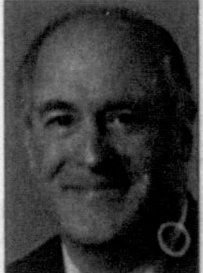
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## Seliger in Pampa for Town Hall meeting

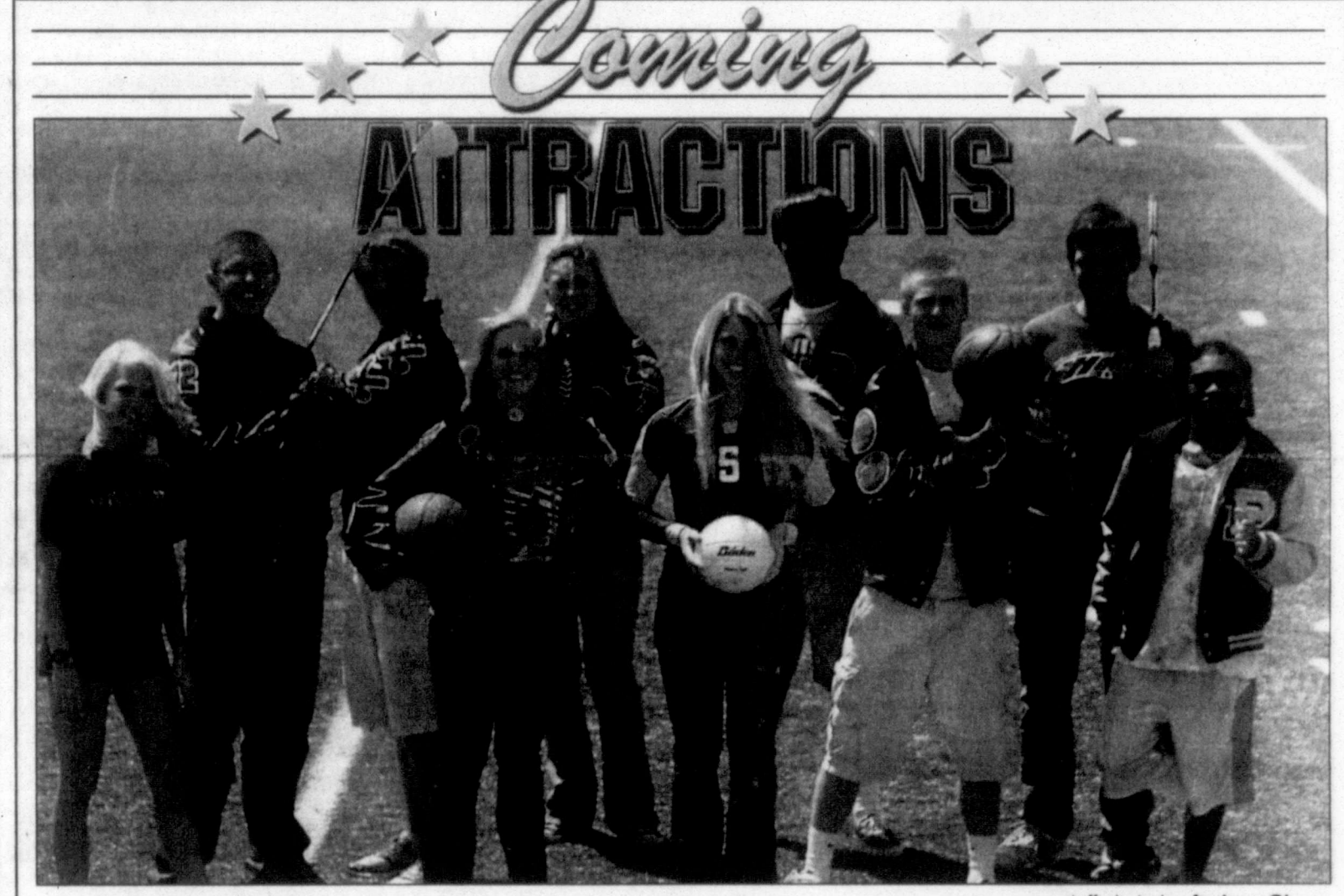
**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com  
 Pampa's State Senator for the 31st District will pay a visit to Pampa as part of a series of Town Hall Meetings for his constituency.  
 At 10 a.m. today, Kel Seliger will host a Town Hall Meeting at the M.K. Brown Room at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. Seliger's tour kicked off last Tuesday, with plans to hold the



**Seliger**  
 that he represents," said Cindy Cochran of Kel Seliger's District

meetings in each of his constituents' 26 counties.  
 "Kel Seliger made a campaign promise to hold Town Hall Meetings in all of the counties Office in Amarillo. "They give constituents an opportunity to see the person they elected and sent to Austin."  
 Cochran said they have been holding the meetings for seven years.  
 Pampa hasn't had an opportunity to meet with a State Senator for a while, so Joe Weaver of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to the opportunity for folks in Pampa to create a discourse with Seliger.

"I'm excited to be in Seliger's district, because I've been in his district before," said Weaver. "He's a Panhandle boy, and he knows how we think and act."  
 Cochran said that the meeting will be a good opportunity for Kel Seliger and his constituents to get to know one another.  
 "He will give an update of the legislative session and major issues in Texas. Then he will open the meeting to questions, so **SELIGER** cont. on page 3



staff photo by Andrew Glover  
 With Pampa High School athletics kicking off this week, The Pampa News takes a look at which Harvesters to watch in all the various sports this year, including (from left) J'Cee Holmes, Collin Killgo, Logan Reagan, Kirsten Kuhn, Alanna Stephens, Ramie Hutto, Reid Miller, Latigo Collins, David Moore and Samuel Smith.

## Car seat check at Fire Dept. today

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com  
 As a mother, Peggie Coleman knows how important it is to properly secure a child in a vehicle. As a paramedic, she's seen the impact firsthand.  
 "I've personally seen babies in the car that have survived accidents that the other people in the car didn't because they were in their car seats properly," said Coleman. "Mom and Dad were smart enough and loved their child enough to ensure that their child was properly in there, and it made a difference."  
 Coleman, director of human resources and public relations for Pampa EMS, is the co-organizer of today's car seat checkup at the Pampa Central Fire Station on 203 W. Foster. The event, which runs from



The Pampa News file photo  
**Peggie Coleman** adjusts a car seat before last year's car seat checkup.  
 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., teach parents the proper is free of charge and will **CHECKUP** cont. on page 3

## Local man nabbed on arson warrant

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com  
 An apparent household disturbance led to an arson arrest for a Pampa man over the weekend.  
 Juan Jose Ortiz Romero, 41, was arrested by Pampa Police on Friday on a warrant for arson.  
 The arrest stems from an incident on Friday, August 12. On that date, the Pampa Police Department responded to a domestic disturbance at a home on the 1100 block of Sierra. Several hours later, the Pampa Fire Department was dispatched to a fire at the same residence.  
 Fire Marshal Michael Ryan said that the fire was started by a resident of the home, but the case is still under investigation.  
 Gray County Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman set Romero's bond at \$10,000. Romero was bonded on Monday afternoon.



**Romero**

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 Submit entries to The Chamber of Commerce  
 Deadline for entries is September 30.  
**EMAIL: [info@pampachamber.com](mailto:info@pampachamber.com)**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Obituaries.....	2	Viewpoints.....	4
Local Record.....	2	Puzzles/Dear Abby...	5
Weather.....	2	Comics.....	6
Afternoon Rush.....	3	Classifieds.....	7
The Savage Truth....	3	Sports.....	5,8





# MORNINGRUSH

## Houston breaks weather record

HOUSTON (AP) - It's hotter than ever in Houston this year.

At least that's as of Monday, when the city broke a 31-year-old record for triple digit heat.

The National Weather Service says the city has had 33 days at or above 100 degrees this year. That is one more than in record-setting 1980.

The intense heat combined with a lack of rain has most of Texas battling one of the most severe droughts on record.

In Houston, it has been so hot, the high temperature has hit at least 100 degrees every day since Aug. 1.

Several other cities in Texas have also broken heat records this year, as the state sweats under a high pressure bubble that has kept the heat trapped and the rain out.

## Okl. town also record-breaker

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - From the lowest temperature ever recorded in Oklahoma to the country's highest monthly average temperature ever, Oklahoma has experienced extreme swings in 2011 and on Monday the southwest Oklahoma town of Grandfield broke another state record, with 87 days at 100 degrees or more.

The Oklahoma Mesonet shows Grandfield reached 100 degrees for the 87th day just after noon Monday, breaking the 86-day record set in Hollis in 1956.

The National Weather Service forecast calls for temperatures in Grandfield to hit 100 or higher through the remainder of the week.

"Unfortunately, there's not any lasting relief in sight, in terms of the weather pattern," said Patrick Burke, a weather service meteorologist in Norman.

"I think right now everyone is just looking forward to fall."

## New Braunfels considers ban

NEW BRAUNFELS, (AP) - Tubers on two Central Texas rivers could have to float along without containers of their favorite beverages.

The New Braunfels City Council on Monday night is scheduled to consider an anti-littering ordinance that would ban aluminum cans and plastic bottles on the Comal River and the Guadalupe River.

Mayor Gale Pospisil says tons of cans and bottles are removed from the rivers each week.

State and federal laws require New Braunfels, located 25 miles northeast of San Antonio, to protect the rivers. Both provide drinking water and habitat for endangered species.

Under the plan, which won preliminary approval earlier this month, tubers carrying or possessing food or beverages in a disposable container would face misdemeanor citations. Fines would range up to \$500.

## Texas students back to school

AUSTIN (AP) - Summer vacation is over for millions of children in Texas.

Classes have resumed Monday at public schools as districts deal with tighter budgets.

The 2011 Texas Legislature, facing a \$27 billion budget shortfall, cut \$4 billion over the next two years in funding for school districts.

The Houston Independent School District, the state's largest with about 204,000 students, saved money by eliminating 400 positions out of a teaching staff of about 13,000.

The Texas Education Agency says the state has more than 1,200 districts, with about 4.8 million students enrolled last school year.

## Black bears wander in N.M.

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - The state Department of Game and Fish says drought, fire and hunger has driven a lot of bears from their natural habitat into neighborhoods around Santa Fe looking for something to eat.

Department spokesman Dan Williams tells the Santa Fe New Mexican some died because they had lost their fear of humans.

Williams says wardens will consider killing a bear if it returns three times to an area populated with people, depending on the circumstances.

The state reports 158 bears have been euthanized in New Mexico since April.

Game and Fish biologists estimate there are between 5,300 and 7,000 black bears in the state.

## Dallas 'deck park' ready for trees

DALLAS (AP) - Crews are planning to start work soon on a 5-acre public park in downtown Dallas that will tower above the traffic.

The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday that most of the structural beams above Woodall Rodgers Freeway are installed for the deck area to be known as The Park. Crews are putting lighting, fireproofing and ventilation in the highway tunnel.

Willis Winters with the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department expects park construction to begin no later than September. The park should be done in about a year.

Kristin Gray, with the foundation co-developing the \$110 million private and public effort, says a lot of people don't understand that the work is about building a park.

The funding includes \$57 million in city, state and federal money.

## July 4 'reset' for Dec. 31

WICHITA FALLS (AP) - The Fourth of July celebration in one bone-day North Texas city will happen nearly six months late.

Wichita Falls authorities on Monday blamed the extreme dry weather and high fire danger for rescheduling the "4th In The Falls" event to Dec. 31.

The original Independence Day celebration, complete with fireworks, was pushed back until Labor Day weekend due to extreme dry conditions.

But a statement from the city says Wichita Falls leaders rescheduled the event again, abandoning the Sept. 3 plans, after reviewing long-range weather forecasts, fireworks restrictions and considering public safety concerns.

The Texas Forest Service says Wichita County on Monday was one of 250 Texas counties with outdoor burn bans.

# More debt; are you in a 'sinkhole' state?

TERRY SAVAGE  
Creator's Syndicate



U.S. debt has been downgraded, and a budget deal is left to a "supercommittee." The world holds its breath to see if Greece, Italy, Spain or Portugal will default and destroy the Euro. China is letting its currency rise, making exports more expensive. Americans have lost confidence in the economy amidst bankruptcies and foreclosures.

What else could there be to worry about in the world of money and finance? Well, there's one more catastrophe waiting to happen.

The disaster revolves around the overwhelming, and mostly hidden, financial woes of many states.

Since states don't have the option of "printing money" — an option that gives some breathing room to the United States and the European community — state budgets are coming to grips with huge shortfalls. This, despite the fact that 49 of the 50 states have balanced budget amendments.

According to a new report just released at TruthinAccounting.org, the states have used accounting trickery to conceal a total of \$1 trillion of outstanding bills. The report identifies five "Sinkhole" states and five "Sunshine" states. Truth in Accounting is a national, non-profit advocacy group dedicated to "promoting honest, accurate and transparent accounting."

### Truth in accounting

This new report charges: "State officials permit themselves the use of antiquated accounting principles — and almost no rules with regard to budgets. The institute's study found balanced state budgets are largely a myth. This fantasy accounting, along with the political math necessary to claim state budgets have been 'balanced,' is why states with balanced budget requirements are accumulating very large debts and deferred liabilities."

Sheila Weinberg, founder and CEO of the institute, says, "State officials say their budgets are balanced but do not include employee pension and health care obligations in their calculations."

Eventually, these obligations will fall on taxpayers. So instead of comparing states by overall debt, or just comparing the amount of unfunded

pension liability, this report compares states by the "taxpayer burden."

On that basis, the report identifies Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois, Hawaii, and Kentucky as top debtors — each with more than \$23,000 in debt per taxpayer. On the positive side, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Utah and South Dakota are considered "sunshine states" — because they have either a surplus or minimal taxpayer burden.

### Among the worst

The report explains that Illinois, for instance, has \$55 billion worth of assets (defined as both financial assets and also state parks, for example), but less than \$19.6 billion is available to pay \$130.2 billion of bills as they come due. Each taxpayer's financial burden is \$26,800.

How do they get away with it? In addition to not including pension obligations tied to current compensation in the annual budget, the report condemns Illinois because, according to the report: "Illinois habitually delays issuing its year-end financial report until after the next fiscal year's budget process has been completed. That prevents citizens and public officials from having important information, leading to less-than-optimal public policy decisions."

How will those gaps be filled? States have already tried raising income taxes, sales taxes, corporate taxes, property taxes, lotteries and, more recently, even legalizing gambling. But one way or another, it will come out of the pockets of workers and employers.

### Accounting legerdemain

States are getting away with this financial legerdemain, despite their balanced budget amendments. Here's how the report explains it:

"To put an end to budget shenanigans, the institute has developed a budgeting system called 'Full Accrual Calculations and Techniques.' FACT-based budgeting would require governors and legislatures to recognize

expenses when incurred, regardless of when they are paid. We believe that if FACT-based budgeting had been used by state governments over the past 50 years, the states would not be in the financially high-risk conditions they are now in."

Or to put it in non-accounting language we can all understand: A debt is a debt. Whether it is required to be paid now or in the future, you still owe the money. And you must acknowledge that.

To do otherwise is to think that your \$5,000 Visa bill is not your debt, because your current required payment is only \$37. It all depends on what you count!

### Making the move

This report is certain to be picked at by doubters. For example, the burden of public aid in states like Wyoming and North and South Dakota is certainly lower than in states with major metropolitan areas like Illinois and New Jersey. Where do you want to live?

Ironically, many of the states with the largest debt burden already have relatively high tax structures, meaning it will be even more difficult to fill the gap. But they will try. And eventually, you could find the most productive people moving out of high-tax states to those with lower rates.

Most famously, economist Arthur Laffer (of the Laffer curve, which explained why higher tax rates eventually bring in lower revenues) actually moved his family and business from high-tax California to no-state-tax Tennessee! That's actual proof that higher taxes do have consequences — for those individuals and businesses flexible enough to move.

This report pulls back the covers on state debt burdens. Hiding state budget deficits will only make the problem worse. We're going to pay — one way or another, and one day or another. 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](http://www.terrysavage.com). She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?"

## Seliger

cont. from page 1

anything they want to ask," she said.

Originally from Borger, Seliger first joined the Texas Senate in 2004, and was reelected in 2008. He served as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting, the Senate Education Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on International Relations and Trade.

## Checkup

cont. from page 1

ways to secure their children in their car seats.

"Child safety seats are 71 percent effective in preventing fatalities and 67 percent effective in preventing serious injuries, but only if they're used properly," Coleman said.

Coleman, who holds a certificate for child safety seat inspection, said that every parent who attends the checkup will leave with the knowledge and the right equipment they need to keep their kids safe on the road.

"What we do is we look at the existing car seat," Coleman said. "We look at a current list of car seats that have been recalled and make sure that the car seat has not been recalled. If it has been recalled, we replace it. If the car seat is damaged, we replace it. If we have a parent that comes in and they bought a booster seat for their two- or three-year-old who still needs to be in a five-point harness or a better booster seat, then we'll make sure that they leave with a properly fitting car seat and that they understand how to use them. We just want to make sure everybody has the right seat for their child. The safer we can keep our kids, the better."

# NEED SOME EXTRA

# \$\$ CASH \$\$

Lifetime Recovery Centers of America is searching for qualified call center employees to staff an addiction treatment helpline.

This position would include answering telephone calls from individuals seeking help to resolve their drug and/or alcohol addiction issues.

LRCA works with multiple treatment centers across America in an effort to place individuals in the best facility suited for their addiction issues.

If you are interested in finding out more about this job opportunity, please email David at

[david@ltrecovery.com](mailto:david@ltrecovery.com)

# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 23, the 235th day of 2011. There are 130 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 23, 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

### On this date:

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1754, France's King Louis XVI was born at Versailles.

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1926, silent film star Rudolph Valentino died in New York at age 31.

In 1927, amid protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery.

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in Moscow.

In 1960, Broadway librettist Oscar Hammerstein II, 65, died in Doylestown, Pa.

In 1973, a bank robbery-turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm Syndrome."

In 1989, in a case that inflamed racial tensions in New York, Yusuf Hawkins, a 16-year-old black youth, was shot dead after he and his friends were confronted by a group of white youths in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn.

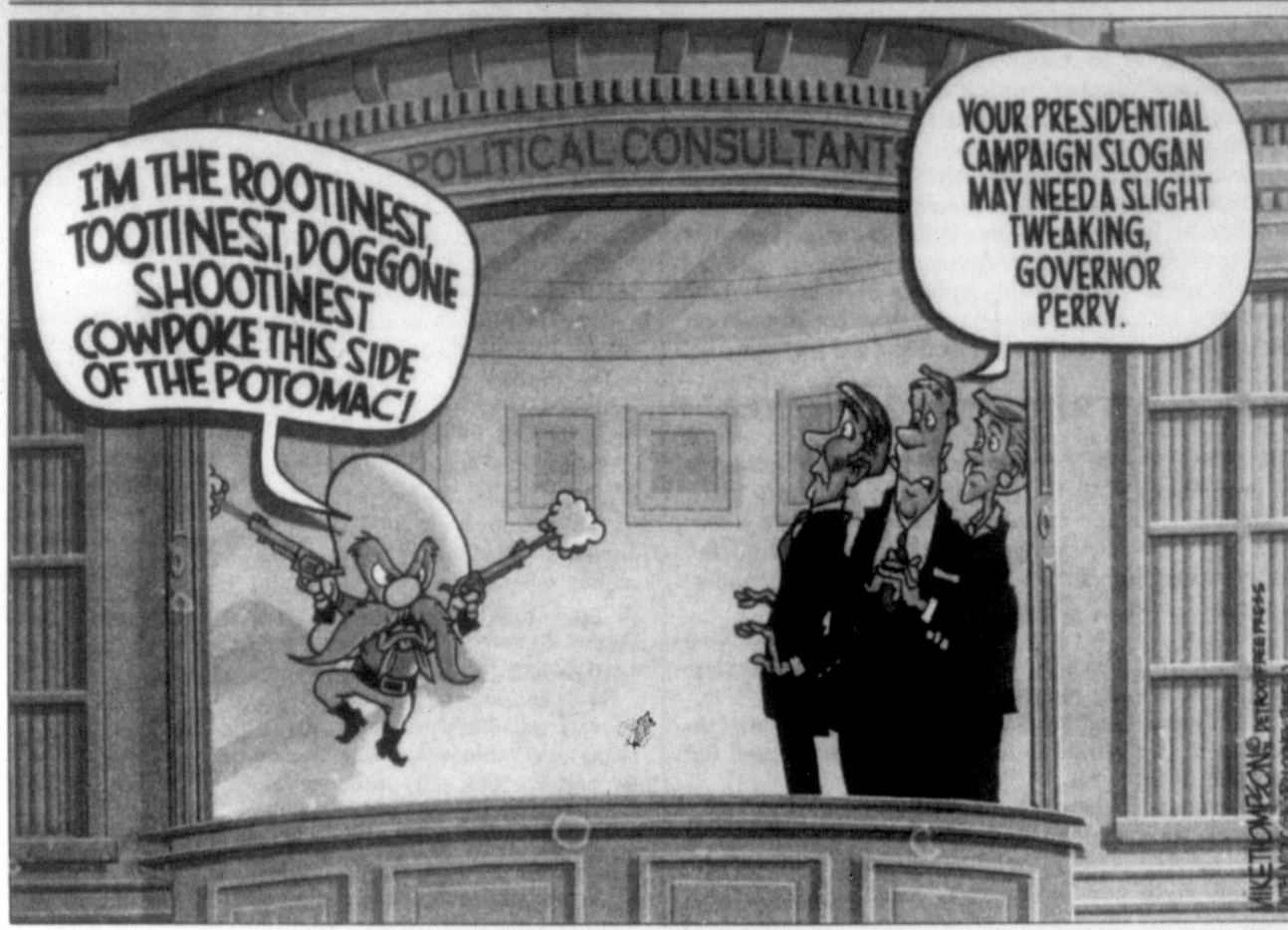
**Ten years ago:** Rep. Gary Condit, D-Calif., interviewed by Connie Chung on ABC, denied any involvement in the disappearance of Washington intern Chandra Levy. (Ingmar Guandique, an illegal immigrant from El Salvador, was convicted in Nov. 2010 of murdering Levy, and was sentenced to 60 years in prison.)

**Five years ago:** A previously unknown militant group released the first video of two Fox News journalists who'd been kidnapped in Gaza. (Reporter Steve Centanni and cameraman Olaf Wiig were later freed.)

**One year ago:** A dismissed policeman armed with an automatic rifle seized a bus in the Philippine capital with 25 people on board, mostly Hong Kong tourists; the gunman released nine of the hostages and demanded his job back to free the rest. (The hijacking lasted 11 hours before the gunman opened fire on his hostages; a Manila SWAT team then killed the hostage-taker, but not before eight tourists also died.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Vera Miles is 81. Political satirist Mark Russell is 79. Actress Barbara Eden is 77. Actor Richard Sanders is 71. Ballet dancer Patricia McBride is 69. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 64. Singer Linda Thompson is 64. Actress Shelley Long is 62. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 62. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 62. Queen Noor of Jordan is 60. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 60. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 50. Actor Jay Mohr is 41. Actor Ray Park is 37. Actor Scott Caan is 35. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 33. NBA player Kobe Bryant is 33.

**Thought for Today:** "All life is a concatenation of ephemerality." — Alfred E. Kahn, *American economist* (1917-2010)



## Perry says no to "Obamacare," but what's his plan?

RICHARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the highest percentage of uninsured residents, Texas would be one of the biggest beneficiaries of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

But Gov. Rick Perry blocked moves to lay the groundwork for expanded coverage. And among the alternatives he's supported is an untested regional solution that could put states in charge of Medicare, an approach potentially as controversial as Obama's.

With Perry running for the Republican presidential nomination, health care in Texas and his own ideas as governor will get fly-speck scrutiny on the national stage.

His state is a study in contrasts, boasting world-renowned facilities like the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, along with 6.8 million uninsured residents, or 26 percent of the population.

As a national candidate, Perry has made total repeal of "Obamacare" central to his fledgling campaign. Less clear is what he would put in its place. But if the Supreme Court ultimately upholds all or parts of the law, Perry has signaled he would help carry out key provisions to avoid defaulting to the federal bureaucracy.

Texas has already received various grants under Obama's law for planning, insurance regulation and consumer education. The state employee benefits system says it expects to draw \$60 million in federal subsidies this year to help cover its early retirees, cashing in on a provision of the law.

But when Republican state Rep. John Zerwas tried to move legislation to set up an insurance purchasing pool required by the national overhaul, he ran into a veto threat from Perry.

The purchasing pools — called exchanges — are one of the key features of Obama's law. Close to 4 million Texans stand to gain coverage under the law, nearly half of them through exchanges.

Run by the states, exchanges would

let consumers buy coverage from a choice of private plans. Most individuals and families participating would be eligible for federal tax credits to lower their premiums.

Exchanges are supposed to open in 2014. If a state doesn't act in advance, the law authorizes the federal government to set up and run its exchange. And since the Texas legislature meets only every other year, this past session was seen as perhaps the state's only opportunity.

But Zerwas said Perry told him he was concerned that moving ahead with the exchange legislation would undermine a multistate lawsuit against the federal overhaul that Texas is part of, not to mention creating other political problems. The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of the law's requirement that Americans obtain health insurance — the so-called individual mandate — an issue on which lower courts have split.

"Unfortunately, whether we like it or not, health insurance exchanges have become synonymous with Obamacare," said Zerwas. An anesthesiologist from the Houston suburbs, Zerwas said he believes it's worth taking the flak to guarantee that Texas will retain control of its insurance market. The governor disagreed.

"The position (Perry) was taking veers into some political considerations," said Zerwas. "He felt it would not ring well with some of the constituents and grassroots out there, and frankly, he was concerned it could potentially weaken the arguments in the lawsuit."

In the end, Zerwas said Perry reassured him that as governor he could put the exchange legislation into place through an executive order, should that become necessary. A spokeswoman for the federal Health and Human Services department agreed that would be possible.

A spokeswoman for the governor, Lucy Nashed, said Perry believes there are too many unknowns about the federal law to move ahead. "It's premature to be setting up anything that has to do with the federal health

care bill because so much of it is still up to the courts with regard to its constitutionality," she said.

That still leaves Texas with the nation's lowest rate of insurance coverage, even when compared to other states that have high immigrant populations. Experts say one of the key problems is a relatively low level of employer-sponsored private coverage.

Nashed said Perry has advocated a range of health care fixes, including national caps on malpractice lawsuits, conversion to electronic medical records and efforts to keep patients healthy and out of hospitals. He also signed legislation this year that would clear the way for Texas to explore a health care overhaul in conjunction with other states.

What sounds like an innocuous experiment in federalism could turn out to be more difficult than Obama's overhaul.

The idea behind so-called state compacts is for the federal government to turn over Medicare and Medicaid funds to a group of states to use as they deem best for their citizens' needs. The biggest re-engineering since the giant health care programs were created in the 1960s would have to overcome AARP's disapproval.

"We oppose interstate health care compacts because they could result in the loss of guaranteed benefits, similar to turning Medicare and Medicaid into block grant programs," said David Certner, legislative policy director for the seniors lobby, which sees "especially grave concerns for Medicare."

Industry consultant Bob Laszewski says even if Congress were to approve of the idea, it's unlikely that groups of states could agree on how it would actually work.

"How could any one state control its costs?" asked Laszewski. It's like the Euro zone, he added, referring to Europe's troubled economies. "It's not states' rights anymore. These states would have to cede a lot of authority to a new entity."

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MEMBER 2011

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# Sports

## PHS tennis wraps up Green & Gold Week with tourney

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa High School tennis team's Green and Gold Week came down to a battle of regional qualifiers as Gold team members junior Nick Nelson and partner Dan Fowler needed to beat Green team members senior David Moore and partner Calvary Baptist music pastor Gary Jameson to force a tie.

Nelson and Fowler did just that, defeating the defending champ 8-6. Nelson defeated Moore in a tiebreaker to clinch the week for the Gold team Saturday at the Green and Gold Tournament.

Nelson said it was fun to go against Moore.

"When I went into the semifinals, I was the only Gold player," Nelson said. "I got a little discouraged. We played Logan (Karbo) and Garrett (Couts) and it was good match and it got my hopes up. Then we played David and Gary and it was a good match."

Moore agreed, adding Nelson played well.

"I thought I did really good when I went out there," Moore said. (Nelson) did really good and hit some great shots."

Varsity tennis members had to pick someone from the community to partner with.

Jameson said he enjoyed playing with Moore and said he looks forward to what he will accomplish.

"He's a great player," Jameson said. "He's going to have a good season. He's number one in singles, so he should do well."

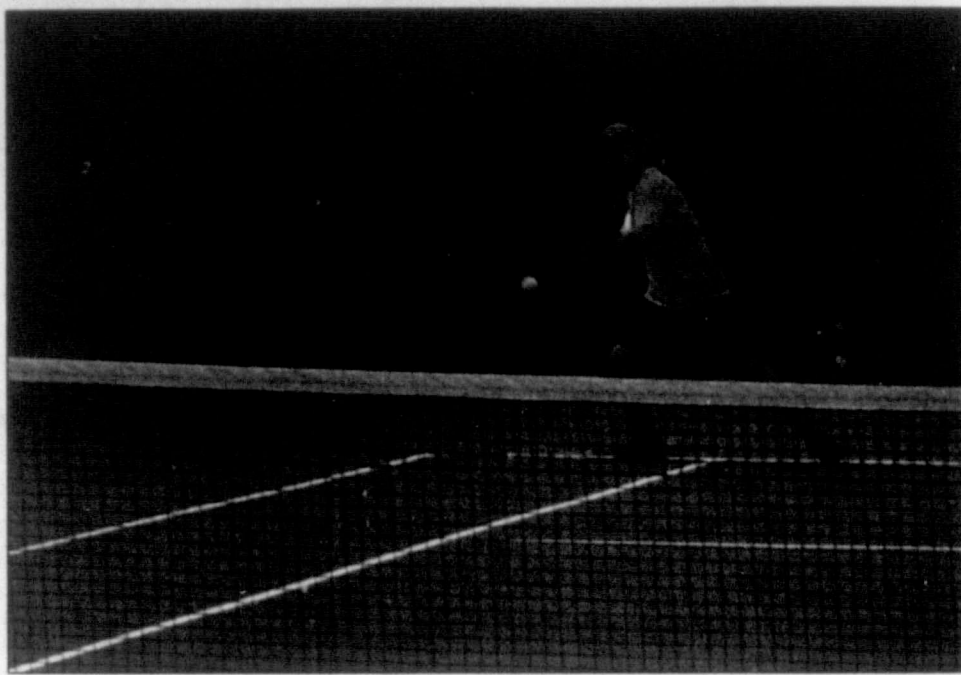
Sophomore Brandon Gage played with Highland Baptist pastor Paul Nachtigall. Nachtigall said it was fun playing even though one team targeted him.

"It was a lot of fun," Nachtigall said. "We played against the Rodriguez brothers. They kept firing at me and I wasn't able to return them."

2010 Pampa graduate Garrett Coutts returned to his home court as junior Logan Karbo's partner. Coutts said it was fun getting to play again.

"It was kind of a flashback," Coutts said. "I'm pretty rusty. It was fun and I had fun time."

The Green and Gold teams played games at the end of practice all of last week. The Green team won in volleyball and dodgeball. The Gold team won in kickball. The Green team won a bulletin board for winning the after practice games.



staff photo by Andrew Glover  
Dan Fowler swings to forehand in the Green & Gold Tournament Saturday. Fowler and his partner Nick Nelson (not pictured) won the tournament.



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Tracy" and I have been best friends since junior high. (We're both 31.) A couple of months ago she and her two sons (my "nephews," ages 9 and 5) moved out of her parents' home and into their own apartment. Tracy has never lived on her own before. As a result, she's constantly asking me to come over, spend the night, keep her company, etc. I'm happy to visit for a couple of hours once a week or so, but feel uncomfortable and pressured doing it to the extent she's asking. She didn't act this way when she lived with her parents.

I am single, childless, have my own place and a full-time job. My home is my sanctuary and I value my peace and quiet. The last thing I want at the end of a hectic workday is to go to her apartment and hang out for hours on end with her and her sweet (but loud and rambunctious) boys. Tracy is also single. She works full-time and is a devoted mom, but there's an obvious deficiency in her life. I try to encourage her that she'll grow accustomed to her new life, but it doesn't stick. How can I make her understand that while I love her dearly, I can't be her lifelong security blanket? — SMOTHERED IN THE EAST

DEAR SMOTHERED: Do it by explaining to your friend what you CAN give her, rather than what you can't. If it's one afternoon or evening a week, arrange your get-together for when you're available.

Let her know you need time to yourself to unwind after a hectic day at work, that you also need to run errands and do housework. You can be her good friend without coming running every time she snaps her fingers. And remember, she can't "smother" you any more than you allow.

DEAR ABBY: My niece is getting married in two months, and our invitations just arrived. My daughter, who was divorced last month, was invited with no "and guest" after her name. Who knows? In the next two months she might meet someone she'd like to take to the wedding.

Would it be tacky to respond "two" and see what happens? Or should she take her wounded heart and not go at all? The family knows about her divorce but still addressed her that way. — KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN

DEAR KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN: While it would have been thoughtful to have invited your daughter and an escort, your relatives may have been more preoccupied with financial considerations than the fact that your daughter wouldn't have a date sitting with her. And yes, it WOULD be tacky to write "two" on the RSVP and "see what happens."

Consider this: For

your daughter to bring a date might invite suspicions that she was involved with the person before her divorce. And to ask a man you don't know well and have been seeing only a very short time could be construed as rushing things, and might be a turn-off for the man she had her eye on.

DEAR ABBY: The young lady I have fallen for (and am probably in

love with) is half my age. Is it wrong to like someone who is almost young enough to be my daughter? — YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME

DEAR YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME: No, it's not wrong — it happens frequently. A more pertinent question is could SHE be seriously interested in someone who is almost old enough to be her father? Only she can answer that.

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 "— Pretty"

- 1 Dilutes
- 6 Mixes
- 11 Accumulated, as debt
- 12 Venice sight
- 13 George Harrison hit
- 15 Had lunch
- 16 Lion's home
- 17 Toe count
- 18 Adjective for Alaska
- 20 Rink material
- 21 Museum contents
- 22 Lukas of "Witness"
- 23 Bangkok natives
- 26 Swallows
- 27 Sunset setting
- 28 Shiverer's sound
- 29 Tolkien baddie
- 30 Colorful seashells
- 34 "The Raven" writer
- 35 Wave's flying counterpart
- 36 Humor
- 37 Jennifer Lopez hit
- 40 Almanac section

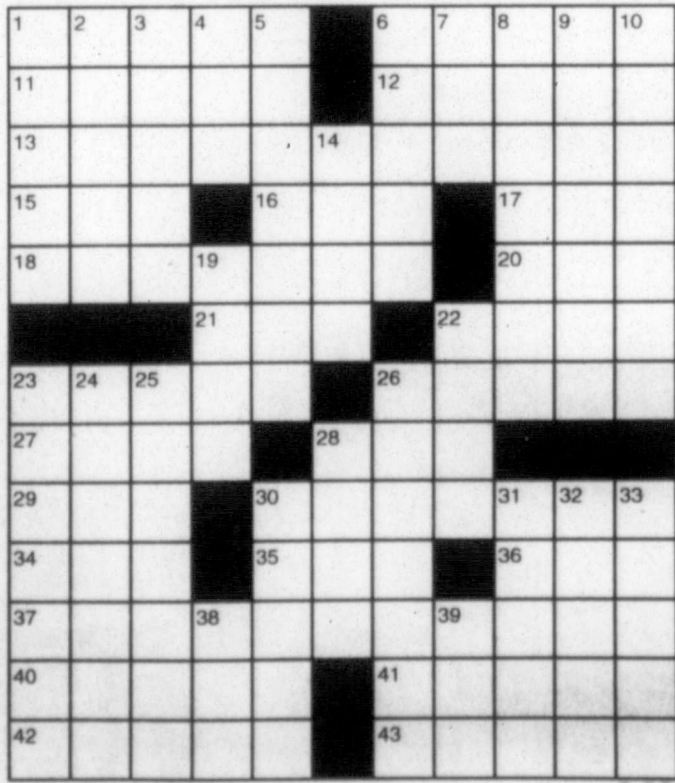
DOWN

- 1 Court event
- 2 "— la vista!"
- 3 Central
- 4 Squirrel snack
- 5 Web spinners
- 6 Meager of a kind
- 7 Spigot beats it
- 8 Monogram part
- 9 Mortgage limit
- 10 Guile lion of myth
- 14 Try out
- 19 Trot or gallop
- 22 Impair
- 23 Three
- 24 Sheena or Xena
- 25 Climbs
- 26 Winged
- 28 Rotten kid
- 30 Between
- 31 Deed holder
- 32 Low cards in
- 33 Fashion pinochle
- 38 Golf peg
- 39 Sky sighting



Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



8-23

## BANANAGRAMS!

Add an O to each of the words below and then rearrange the letters in each word to form a new six-letter word.

LEVEL

ENACT  
A I R E D  
T R I A D  
B R I A R

Yesterday's Answer: PHOTO DRAMATO

8-23

### Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Beginner

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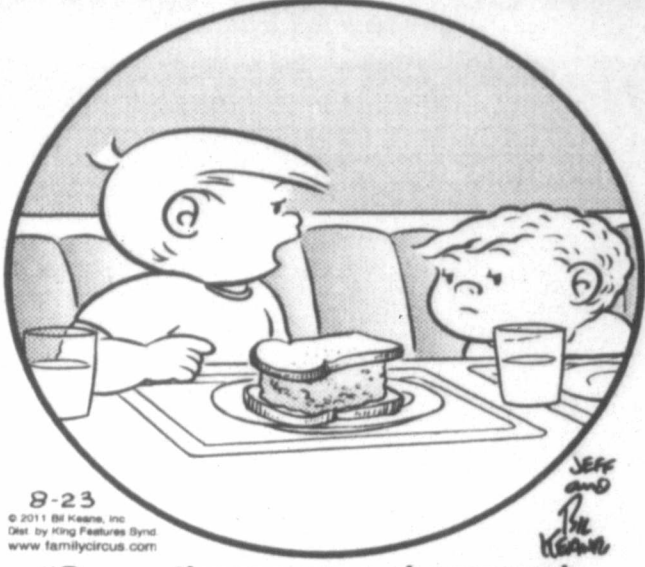
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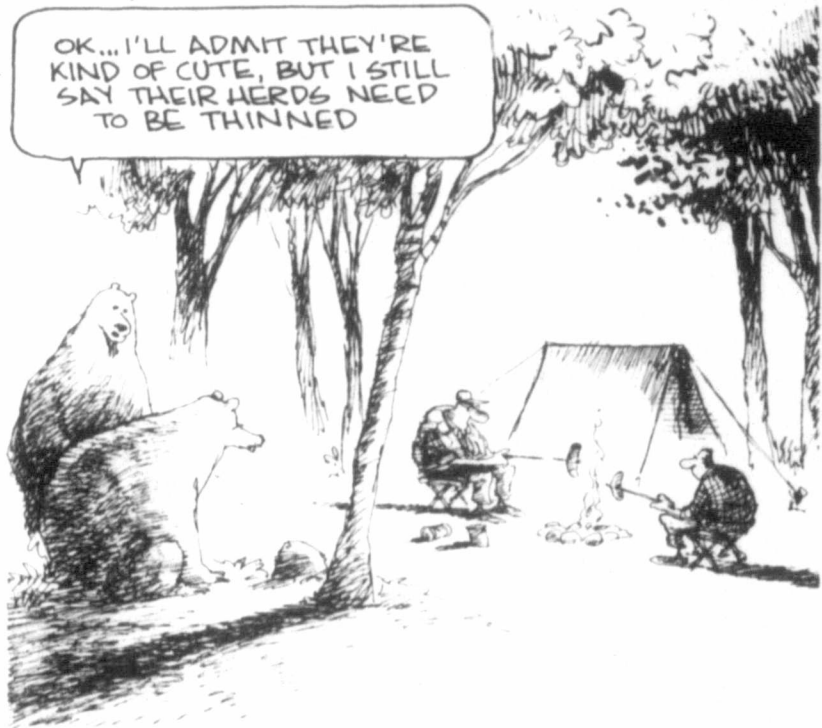
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



8-23  
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"Sorry, there was only enough peanut butter for one sandwich."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2011:

This year, you have high visibility. Others observe you more than you realize. Keep your focus on your job and commitments involving your community and your parents. If you are single, someone you meet late spring onward could knock your socks off! If you are attached, the two of you need to be more visible. GEMINI puts you on a pedestal.

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)**

★★★★ Suddenly you become even more serious about work. Perhaps the cooler nights are having an impact on you. You feel better because you are more in the mood to deal with details. A partner respects your approach; he or she knows you are mentally prepared to tackle an issue. Tonight: Working late.

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

★★★★ Know how much you can spend. Focus on your budget, and turn a situation around once and for all. In some way, you might feel grumpy or touchy because of this financial awareness. Let it go and just do. Tonight: Pay bills first.

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

★★★★ Your spirit soars. You know exactly what you want. Rather than over-analyze, go off and get just that. Others are highly responsive, except perhaps for a child or new friend. What is ailing this person has nothing to do with you. Tonight: Beam in exactly what you want.

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

★★★★ Back off for a while, especially if you are reviewing a situation over and over in your mind. Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with a vulnerability. Could you be making a big deal out of nothing? Know what you desire. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

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

★★★★ Zero in on what is important. Don't over-intellectualize. You naturally say the right words to whomever you speak to. A meeting could point to a new friendship. Worry less about what is happening. Tonight: Hang with friends.

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

★★★★ Be willing to take a stand with a boss or someone you care about.

You need not be so worried about your first impression. Say "no" to a financial commitment that makes you uptight. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: A must show.

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

★★★★ You are unusually serious once more. Detach and look past the immediate. Then and only then can you see the big picture. Understand what someone is looking for. Take your time rethinking a situation. Know what you want. Tonight: Do a vanishing act.

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

★★★★ Take your time making a decision. Zero in on a friendship that means a lot to you. A meeting could be very important, playing a role in creating what you want. Remain supportive of key friends, even if they want to head down a different path. Tonight: Where the action is.

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

★★★★ Understand the dynamics between you and key people. Right now, you might feel as if you are playing sidekick, but this is only a phase. Try letting go of a need to control, and just go along for the ride. Excitement hops in the back seat. Tonight: Let someone entice you to join him or her.

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

★★★★ You might want to revise your plans with an eye to settling a situation that a boss or you are highly concerned about. Be careful with an overly serious person. He or she easily could misunderstand a comment. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

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

★★★★ Let someone know just how much you care. Indulge those you love. Though you might not think you have time for so much attention, you will feel better as a result. Reach out to someone at a distance who you care about. Tonight: Let your hair down.

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

★★★★ You might want to stay close to home right now. If you can, get to the bottom of a problem through a discussion. Do help someone who feels uptight or who has a difficult time verbalizing him- or herself. A discussion could help both of you feel better. Tonight: Enjoy company and dinner.

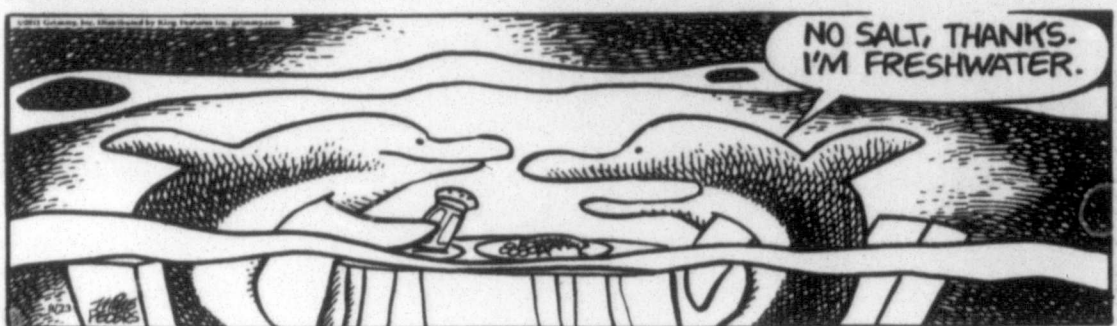
Tundra



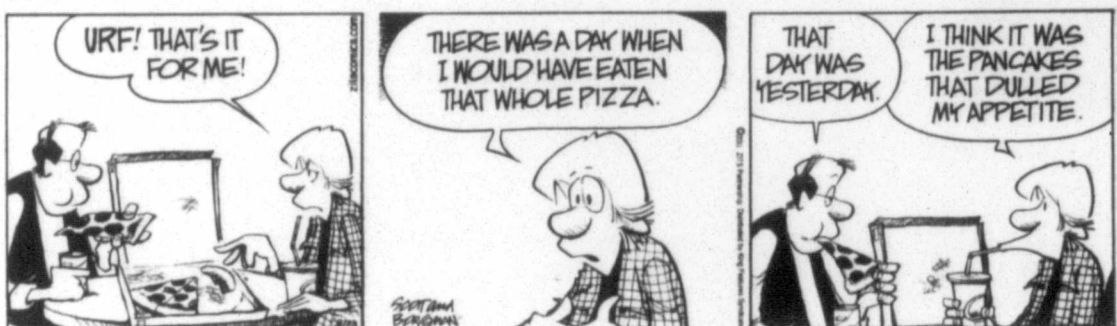
Shoe



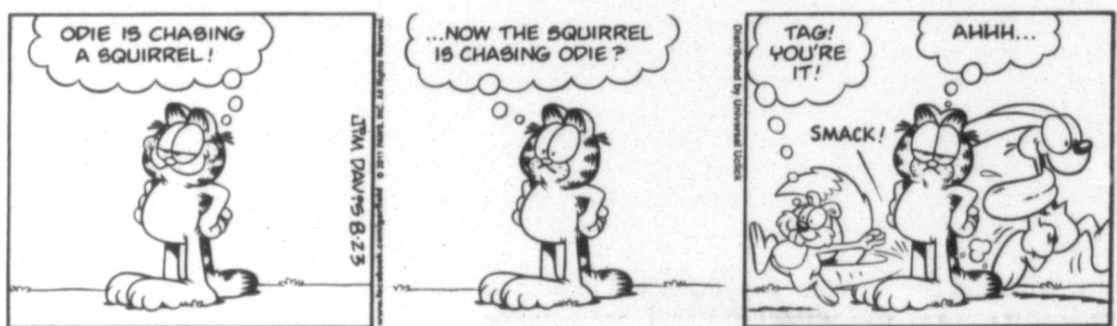
Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





# Sports

## The Top Ten Pampa HS athletes to look forward to

With the volleyball season under way, football starting this week and the high school students back in the classroom today, there's a lot to look forward to in Harvester athletics.



**ANDREW GLOVER**

With that in mind, I'd like to share my list of Top Ten athletes to look forward to for the 2011-12 athletic season. This year, there was a number of talented athletes on the radar, making it very difficult to narrow it down to 10. There's certainly no shortage of great young sportsmen and sportswomen walking the halls at PHS who didn't make the list, but here are ten who I'm particularly excited about.

### 10 Kirsten Kuhn Sr., Girls Basketball

Kuhn was one of the team's leading scorers last season as the starting point guard. She received first team All-District honors despite missing half of district with an ankle injury. Look for Kuhn to be one of six senior leaders this year and hopefully help the Lady Harvesters to the playoffs.

### 9 Collin Killgo Senior, Baseball

Killgo was the Harvester strongest power hitter, earning first team All-District honors and helping Pampa reach the post-season for the first time since 2007. The then-junior was also an asset on the mound, as he came in to help close out games. Look for that to continue in 2012 as he hopes to help the Harvesters have a longer playoff run.

### 8 Alanna Stephens Senior, Softball

Stephens became a power hitter for the Lady Harvesters in her first season as starting catcher. She hit four home runs in district, including a grand slam against Perryton. Stephens' strong bat

helped lead the Lady Harvesters to the district title and earned her district MVP honors. Look for Stephens to be a strong senior leader and help the Lady Harvesters to go deep in the playoffs.

### 7 J'Cee Holmes Jr., Cross Country

Holmes was the leading girls runner last season, helping the Lady Harvesters to a second place finish in district and a regional berth. This fall, Holmes will be the veteran and will try to help Pampa to the district title and hopefully qualify for state.

### 6 David Moore Senior, Tennis

Moore qualified for regionals last spring in singles, making it to the quarterfinals. This year, Moore is one of five seniors for the boys and holds the coveted No. 1 spot on the team for boys singles. Look for Moore to continue his strong play in singles and hopefully advance further this year.

### 5 Samuel Smith Junior, Track

Smith finished seventh at regionals in the 100-meter dash as a sophomore. He also was on the 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams and ran the 200-meter dash. This year, Smith hopes to return to regionals and possibly qualify for state.

### 4 Ramie Hutto Senior, Volleyball

Hutto was one of the leaders in kills last season as the Lady Harvesters advanced to the regional quarterfinals. Her performance last year earned a first-team All-District selection. Hutto should again be one of the kill leaders and hopefully help lead the Lady Harvesters

on a state title run.

### 3 Reid Miller Senior, Football

Miller returns as the starting quarterback of the Harvesters. Last season, Miller earned a first team All-District selection and led the Harvesters to back-to-back home wins for the first time since 2008. Miller has worked out at NCAA FBS school's camps and could play for a school next year. With a year of experience under his belt, look for Miller to be improved this year as he tries to lead the Harvesters to new heights.

### 2 Logan Reagan Senior, Golf

Reagan finished fourth in district and 21st in regionals as a junior. Last season, Reagan won the Pampa Invitational. During the summer, Reagan won two National Junior Pro Golf Association Tournaments. This year, Reagan hopes to improve his ranking and hopefully qualify for state.

### 1 Latigo Collins Sr., Boys Basketball

Collins helped lead the Harvesters to their first district title and regional run since their last state title in 1996. The then-junior made a buzzer beating layup against Midland Greenwood in the area round. Every night, Collins was one of the leading scorers. Collins earned District 1-3A MVP. Over the summer, Collins has drawn some NCAA Division I interest. Look for Collins to hopefully help lead a younger team back to regionals or further.

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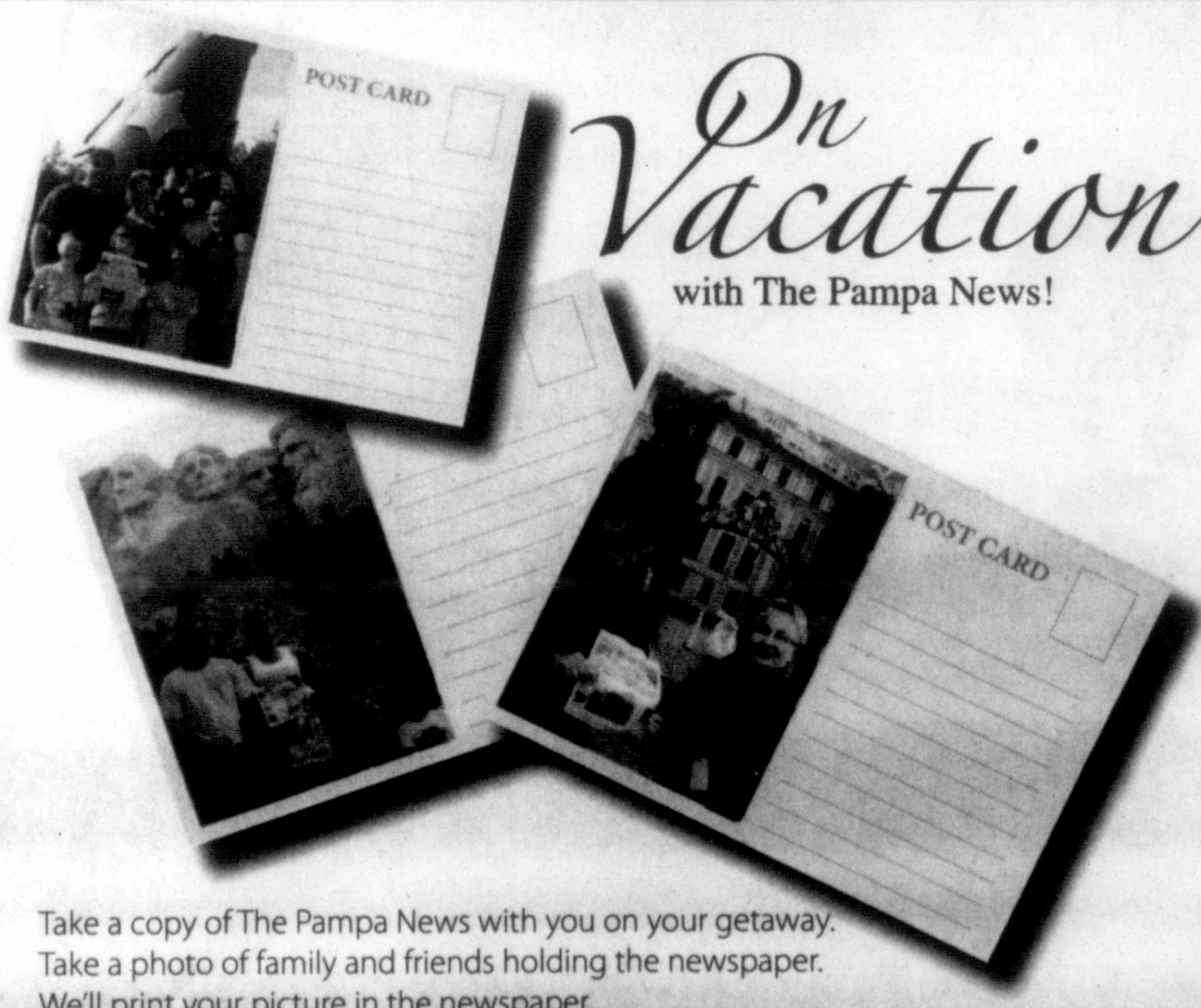
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