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The  
**PAMPA NEWS**

**TODAY IN SPORTS**  
 Page 8  
 Page 3

Monday, August 29, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 123 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50



**PHS junior Ryan Smith** (3) gets ready to throw a block as sophomore Freddy Jackson runs into the end zone for the Harvesters' first score.



After the win, the team shows its appreciation to the fans who traveled over 200 miles to see the game.

**Bumper Crop**

More images from Pampa's season opening shutout of Iowa Park Friday night



**PHS senior Reid Miller** tries to run around an Iowa Park defender Friday. Miller ran for a 27-yard touchdown that put Pampa ahead 19-0.

**Reminder: Tax hearing Thursday**

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

The first of two public hearings on the tax increase being considered by the Gray County Commissioner's Court will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday in the County Court Room on the second floor on the Gray County Courthouse.

The proposed tax rate is \$0.529612 per \$100 of taxable value. Last year's tax rate stood at \$0.487134 per \$100 valuation.

The average taxable value of a residential homestead in Gray County last year was \$43,607. The amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$212.42. Under the proposed new rate, that amount would rise to \$240.25.

The Gray County Commissioner's Court voted 4 to 1 to consider the new tax rate at a meeting held on Monday, Aug. 22. Thursday's meeting is the first of two public hearings to be hosted by the county before the commissioners make a final decision; the second meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 6, also at 9 a.m. at the Gray County Courthouse.

The tax rate increase is under consideration in part because of the drop in Gray County's certified value as a whole. Gray County Tax Assessor-Collector Gabe Whitehead said last week.

"By no means do (the commissioners) want to raise taxes in any **HEARING** cont. on page 2

**RICK PERRY WATCH**  
**Perry blasts Obama, notes record on jobs**

**MIKE GLOVER**  
 Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry warned during an appearance in Iowa that President Obama has driven the nation's economy into a ditch, arguing that his own record as governor qualifies him to lead the way out.

"Instead of eliminating our economic crisis, he worsened it," said Perry. "Instead of addressing the debt, he exploded it."

Perry told nearly 400 activists that he's created 1 million jobs while governor of Texas, all during a stretch where the nation was losing 2.5 million jobs. Perry said he'll take his record of cutting taxes and regulation to Washington and he said the Texas rebound proves that those efforts work.

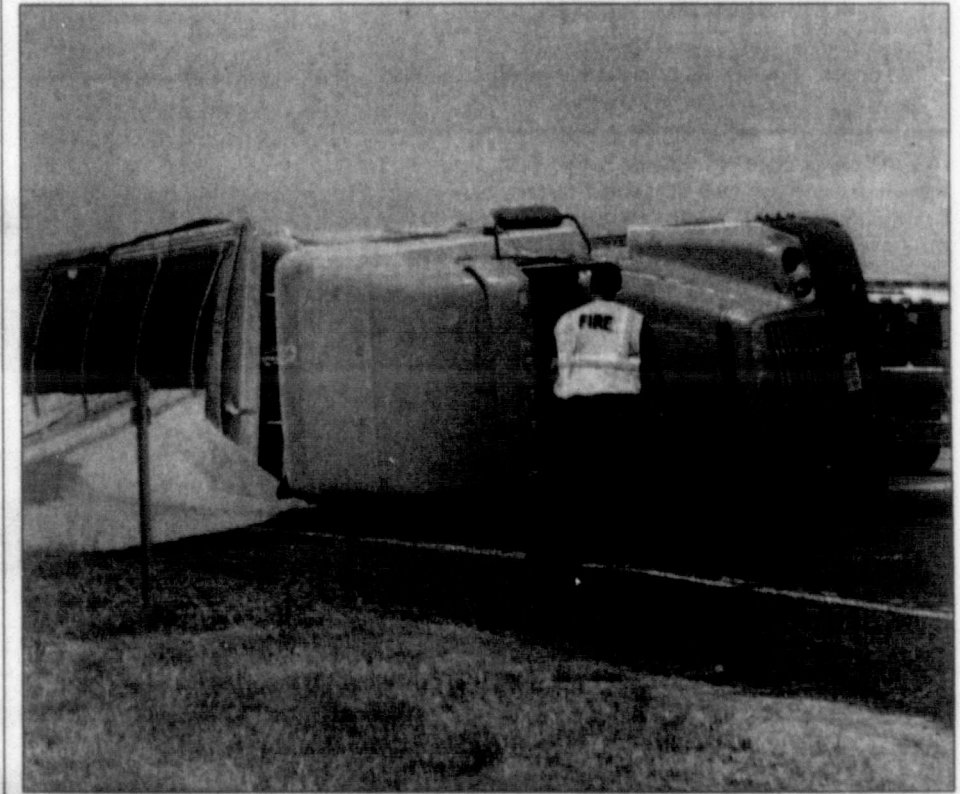
Perry was joined at a county GOP picnic by fellow candidates, Reps. Ron Paul of Texas and Thaddeus McCotter of Michigan, but Perry was getting the bulk of the attention.

Perry singled out recent comments by former Iowa governor and current Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's that food stamps were helping to bolster the economy by getting buying power into people's hands.

"Food stamps are not a solution, they are a symbol of the problem," said Perry. "Today's leaders see it differently."

**PERRY** cont. on page 2

**SATURDAY ACCIDENT**



Authorities tend to an upended semi truck after it rolled onto its side at the intersection of State Hwy. 171 and State Hwy. 70 at about 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. DPS officials were unavailable for comment; more details will be released as they become available.




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### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
 20%		
High 101 Low 71	High 99 Low 67	High 97 Low 67

**Today:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 101. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Tuesday Night:** A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between 10pm and 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

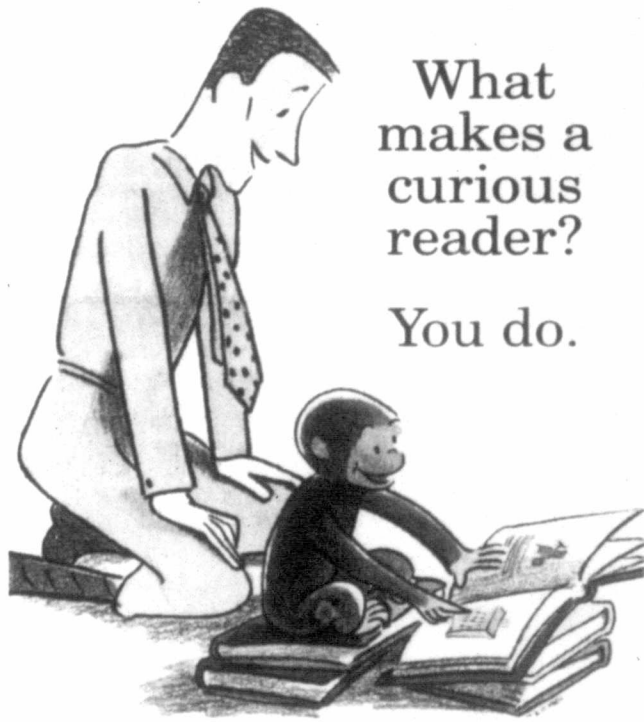
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## Sinaloa cartel makes move into meth

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's most powerful drug cartel appears to be expanding methamphetamine production on a massive scale, filling a gap left by the breakdown of a rival gang that was once the top trafficker of the synthetic drug.

The globe-spanning Sinaloa cartel is suspected of dealing record tons of drugs and precursor chemicals processed in industrial-sized operations.

The apparent increase in the Sinaloa group's involvement comes as the Mexican government says it has dismantled the La Familia gang with key arrests and killings of its leadership, and as Mexico is once again the primary source of meth to the United States, according to U.S. drug intelligence reports.

Methamphetamine production, gauged by seizures of labs and drugs in Mexico, has increased dramatically since 2008.

Mexican authorities have made two major busts in as many months in the quiet central state of Queretaro. In one case, they seized nearly 500 tons (450 metric tons) of precursor chemicals. Another netted 3.4 tons (3.1 metric tons) of pure meth, which at \$15,000 a pound would have a street value of more than \$100 million.

Authorities said they couldn't put a value on the precursors, which were likely headed for a 300-foot-long (100-meter-long) industrial processing lab found buried 12 feet (4 meters) underground in a farm field in the cartel's home, Sinaloa state.

"We think it was Sinaloa," said a U.S. law enforcement official in Mexico, noting that Sinaloa can piggyback meth onto the network it already has for cocaine, heroin and marijuana. "They may now have this renewed interest in trying to control a bigger portion of the meth market. Although La Familia has distribution points in the U.S. ... they don't have the distribution network that Sinaloa cartel has."

He couldn't be named for security reasons.

Steve Preisler, an industrial chemist who wrote the book "Secrets of Methamphetamine Manufacture" and is sometimes called the father of modern meth-making, said "the quantity is just amazing."

"It is a huge amount of starting material which would allow them to dominate the world market,"

Preisler, who served 3½ years in prison more than two decades ago, emailed The Associated Press in reply to questions. He added that the most efficient production methods would yield about half the weight of the precursors in uncut meth, or between 200 and 250 tons, which could be worth billions of dollars.

Officials of Mexico's federal police, army and attorney general's office refused to comment on who owned the meth lab or precursor warehouses.

Meth availability in the U.S. has rebounded since the drop in 2007 and is directly related to production in Mexico, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

Meth seizures remained roughly level in the U.S. at 8.16 tons (7.4 metric tons) in 2008 and 8.27 (7.5 metric tons) in 2009. But Mexico went from seizing 0.37 tons (0.34 metric tons) in 2008 to 6.72 tons (6.1 metric tons) in 2009, the U.N report said.

Mexican meth seizure figures for 2010 are not yet published, but the U.S. official said they almost certainly rose over 2009.

Authorities seized 200 tons of precursor chemicals at the seaport of Manzanillo last year, a raid that the Attorney General's Office described at the time as the largest in Mexican history. The Queretaro seizure last month was double that.

Seizures of methamphetamine laboratories also have increased dramatically, according to the U.S. State Department's 2011 International Narcotics Control Report. The number of methamphetamine labs seized by Mexican authorities jumped from 57 in 2008 to 217 in 2009, and the number of busts remained almost as high in early 2010. The volume "suggests that it is not solely for U.S. and domestic consumption," the report said.

The Mexican government says its offensive against La Familia, a pseudo-religious gang based in western Michoacan state that was once the country's main meth producer, is one of the key successes in its crackdown on organized crime and drug-trafficking. Founder Nazario Moreno Gonzalez was killed in a two-day shootout with federal police in December. His right-hand man, José de Jesús Mendez Vargas, who allegedly ran the meth operations, was arrested in June.

But the U.S. official said other gangs are now trying to fill the void.

Sinaloa, headed by fugitive drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, ends to think big: in mid-July, Mexican soldiers found a 300-acre (120 hectare) marijuana field in Baja California, the biggest such plantation in the country's history. The army said laborers working for the Sinaloa cartel planted thousands of plants under vast swaths of shade cloth and irrigated and fertilized them.

But nobody was prepared for the size of the meth network officials found in industry-heavy Queretaro, one of Mexico's safest states in terms of drug violence. The two seizures were related, the U.S. official said, and came out of the arrest of a local meth distributor months ago.

When soldiers raided three interconnected warehouses on June 15, they thought they had found 1,462 50-gallon drums filled with various precursors. But when experts examined the stash, they found 3.4 tons (3.1 metric tons) of pure meth.

Last month, soldiers discovered another warehouse at an industrial park piled with 300 metric tons of solid phenylacetamide and the equivalent of about 150 tons of liquid methyl phenylacetate.

Used in an old type of meth production known as "P2P," the ingredients are easier to smuggle, or to make from other substances that aren't specifically banned. Such precursors have become more prevalent since Mexico outlawed meth's main ingredient, pseudoephedrine, in 2007.

Authorities say the P2P method produces a less-potent drug. But the 2011 World Drug Report released in June by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime noted that the sheer quantity of meth the Mexican cartels are producing allows them offer it in purer form.

Soldiers found a sophisticated underground meth lab near the Sinaloa coast city of Mazatlan on June 26. The two-story structure had an elevator and ventilation systems, cooking and sleeping facilities. The house-sized underground complex was reachable only by a 30-meter (yard) long tunnel, the opening disguised under a tractor shed.

The U.S. official said the warehouse in Queretaro raided in July was apparently meant to supply the underground lab in Sinaloa.

### Perry

Perry sought to drive the problem home, noting that Iowa has suffered as well under the Obama administration.

"Today, one in eight Iowans is on food stamps," said Perry. "That is a testament to the widespread misery created by this administration."

Perry has moved near the top of most polls only a couple of weeks after announcing his decision to run for the Republican nomination. He was making his second visit to Iowa, where precinct caucuses traditionally launch the nominating season, and he has made it clear he will compete for those caucuses.

He's begun building the organizational structure essential to delivering backers to those caucuses.

With his solid standing in the polls, he ignored all of his rivals and focused on Obama and Washington.

"It's a statement that the state that feeds the world has so many people dependent on the government for food," said Perry.

"You have lost 12,000 jobs since the current resident of the White House took office," said Perry. He said that is precisely the opposite of his own record in office.

"Since I've become governor, Texas has created more than 1 million jobs, while the rest of the country has lost 2.5 million jobs," said Perry.

His twin themes: making life easier for business, and making life tougher for government.

"We've got to stop spending money we don't have," said Perry. "I promise you this, I will work every day to make Washington, D.C., as inconsequential to you as I can."

While there haven't been any recent polls in Iowa, most activists here put Perry in the first tier of Republican candidates.

Kevin McLaughlin, one of the organizers of Saturday's event said Perry's rapid rise comes because he's a governor of a big state, but also because he offers a message that resonates with the Republican base.

"He's the governor of a state that doesn't have an income tax and he's riding the wave," said McLaughlin.

Paul has caused something of a stir in the state, building a deeply committed core of backers that allowed him to post a very close second-place showing in the Republican straw poll.

"Our problem is government is too big," said Paul. "As government gets bigger, your personal liberties are limited. We don't need a federal reserve system, we need a gold standard for our money."

cont. from page 1

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In Loving Remembrance



**Jack Edward Miller**  
11/11/41 - 8/29/09

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### Hearing

cont. from page 1

way," said Whitehead on Tuesday. "When the economy's down and when we're losing value, there's just very little we can do."

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## AFTERNOONRUSH

### Constable killed in fiery wreck

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Investigators are looking into what caused a fiery weekend crash that killed a Bexar County constable in northwest San Antonio.

Sheriff's deputies were alerted an officer was in trouble late Saturday night when an emergency button in the constable's vehicle was activated. Deputy Chief Dale Bennett says the San Antonio Police Department then reported a deputy had been involved in a wreck.

The *San Antonio Express-Times* reported 49-year-old Sgt. Mark Scianna was working his normal overnight traffic supervisor shift Saturday night around 10:30 p.m., when he crashed into a utility pole. The vehicle rolled over, ejected Scianna and then hit a second utility pole before blowing up.

Investigators are trying to figure out whether Scianna was trying to cite someone for speeding when the accident happened.

### Community rebuilds after fires

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin neighborhood devastated by an April wildfire has turned to old-fashioned fundraising methods so they can rebuild their community.

The group has called itself the Oak Hill Wildfire Relief Committee. It has raised about \$20,000 through large garage and bake sales.

The money has been used to buy lumber and building equipment as well as open an account for some uninsured homeowners. In all, 21 homeowners suffered some damage or loss in the springtime fire.

The *Austin American Statesman* reported the group managed to send \$300 checks to 21 families after a June fundraiser. Some \$8,000 has been earmarked to help Lilly Henric, whose uninsured home was destroyed by the fire.

Texas' wildfire season was especially bad this year due to unusually high temperatures and a persistent drought.

### Fatal crash near Shamrock

WHEELER — A Wednesday crash near Shamrock took the life of a Florida woman and sent another person to the hospital.

At 11:10 a.m., 20-year-old Jovana Vasic of Bradenton, Fla. was killed on Interstate 40 near Shamrock when her 2006 BMW collided with the 2006 Freightliner truck tractor semi-trailer driven by Laurentiu Jeler of Chicago.

Jeler was traveling east on I-40 when, for an unknown reason, he veered across the median and traveled into the westbound lanes, striking the BMW head on.

Milan Vasic, 43, of Des Plaines, Ill., was injured and taken to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Vasic was pronounced dead at the scene by Wheeler County Justice of the Peace Rick Waldon. The cause of the crash is still under investigation by DPS troopers.

## Social Security is an "entitlement"

TOM MARGENAU  
Creator's Syndicate

### Social Security and you



Q: In a recent column, you advised a 55-year-old man who had just lost his job and had some back problems to file for Social Security disability benefits. To quote from your column: 'It doesn't hurt to try filing for disability benefits.'

That's what's wrong with our country today. We have an entitlement culture. Everyone thinks they are due something from the government. And you are just perpetuating this entitlement problem by encouraging this guy to file for Social Security benefits!

Q: Your recent column advising a man to file for disability benefits really ticked me off. You [blankety-blank] liberals never met a government program you didn't like. And by trying to get as many people as possible on the taxpayer's gravy train, you're just adding to the problem. No wonder our country is in such a mess. We need to start cutting government programs, not encouraging more people to apply for them!

A: Gosh, sometimes I write what I think is the simplest little column trying to help a guy in a tough situation — and I catch all kinds of grief for it. These two e-mails are just a sampling of the many I received chastising me for suggesting that a man file for Social Security disability benefits. And some of the responses I got were downright mean and nasty! I guess I pushed a few buttons that are indicative of the conservative

"get the government off my back" mood our country seems to be in.

Here was the story. A 55-year old man had worked at the same job for the past 30-plus years and had recently been laid off. He said he was looking for work but wasn't having any success. He mentioned that he had severe back pain and although he was reluctant to do so, his wife wanted him to file for Social Security disability benefits. He e-mailed me asking what chance I thought he had of qualifying for such benefits.

In my column, I essentially told him two things. First, I told him the obvious: he would have no chance if he never filed for disability benefits. And then I did say that it wouldn't hurt to try filing for such benefits, and I told him how to do so. But the second thing I told him is that I thought there was a pretty good chance he would be considered simply unemployed and not disabled.

I explained that to qualify for Social Security disability benefits, you must have an impairment so severe that it is expected to keep you out of work for at least 12 months. Because he himself said he was looking for work, it sounded to me like he wouldn't meet that legal definition of a disabling condition.

But here is the point: He has every right in the world to file for Social Security disability ben-

efits. We all do. And it's my job to tell him so. In this guy's case, he worked and paid Social Security taxes

for more than 30 years. He's out of work. He has a medical condition that is causing him pain. And I have learned in four decades of working with the Social Security program that many people who file for Social Security disability benefits have more medical problems than they initially allege.

For example, in addition to his back problems, this guy might have high blood pressure. He might have a little heart tremor. He might have hearing loss. His back pain alone may not be enough to qualify him for benefits. But a combination of impairments might make him legally disabled.

I don't know anything about the man other than what he wrote in his short e-mail. But I would have been entirely negligent had I answered him by saying something like: "You've got a bad back. Well that's tough! I've got a bad back, too. You are not eligible for Social Security disability benefits, and you have no right to apply for them!"

I guess that's the message all the people who got upset with my answer wanted me to deliver to this guy.

Many people throw around the term "entitlements," as if all government programs are free giveaways. And according to these folks, everyone today feels entitled to something, and that's

why this country is going to you-know-where in a hand basket! They are especially upset with those "[blankety blank] liberals," who just encourage everyone to get on the entitlement train. And if you listen to the anti-government crowd, they'll tell you that Social Security is the lead car on that gravy train.

Well, Social Security truly and literally is an "entitlement" program. Retirement, disability, and survivor's benefits make up what is known as Title II of the Social Security Act. And the law says that if you work and pay taxes for a required amount of time and if you meet all the other eligibility requirements, you are indeed entitled to Social Security benefits.

I must, however, make this important semantic point: there is a difference between being eligible for a government benefit and being entitled to it. On the very first day of my training class, when I joined the Social Security Administration over 40 years ago, I was taught that everyone who works and pays taxes is potentially "eligible" for Social Security benefits, but you don't actually become "entitled" to them until you file and sign a legal application for benefits and your claim is approved.

Like it or not, Social Security is an entitlement program. And as taxpayers, each one of us has every right to apply for such benefits.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at [thomas.margenau@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.margenau@comcast.net).

**Cinema 4**

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 29, the 241st day of 2011. There are 124 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, La., bringing floods that devastated New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

### On this date:

In 1533, the last Incan King of Peru, Atahualpa, was executed on orders of Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro.

In 1877, the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Brigham Young, died in Salt Lake City, Utah, at age 76.

In 1910, Korean Emperor Sunjong abdicated as the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty went into effect.

In 1943, responding to a clampdown by Nazi occupiers, Denmark managed to scuttle most of its naval ships.

In 1944, 15,000 American troops marched down the Champs Elysees in Paris as the French capital continued to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.

In 1957, the Senate gave final congressional approval to a Civil Rights Act after South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond (then a Democrat) ended a filibuster that had lasted 24 hours.

In 1958, pop superstar Michael Jackson was born in Gary, Ind.

In 1966, the Beatles concluded their fourth American tour with their last public concert, at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

In 1975, Irish statesman Eamon de Valera died near Dublin at age 92.

In 1981, broadcaster and world traveler Lowell Thomas died in Pawling, N.Y., at age 89.

**Ten years ago:** George Rivas, ringleader of the Texas 7 prison breakout, was sentenced to death for killing an Irving policeman, Aubrey Hawkins, while on the run. (The state of Texas has yet to set an execution date for Rivas, whose case is under appeal.)

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush visited New Orleans one year after Hurricane Katrina devastated the region to offer comfort and hope to residents.

**One year ago:** Five years after Hurricane Katrina's wrath, President Barack Obama sought to reassure disaster-weary Gulf Coast residents during a speech at Xavier University that he would not abandon their cause.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor-director Lord Richard Attenborough is 88. Movie director William Friedkin is 76. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is 75. Actor Elliott Gould is 73. Movie director Joel Schumacher is 72. TV personality Robin Leach is 70. Actor G.W. Bailey is 67. Actor Ray Wise is 64. Actress Deborah Van Valkenburgh is 59. Dancer-choreographer Mark Morris is 55. Country musician Dan Trueman (Diamond Rio) is 55. Actress Rebecca DeMornay is 52. Singer Me'Shell NdegeOcello is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Carl Martin (Shai) is 41. Actress Carla Gugino is 40. Rock musician Kyle Cook (Matchbox Twenty) is 36. Actor John Hensley is 34. Rock musician David Desrosiers (Simple Plan) is 31. Rapper A+ is 29. Actress Jennifer Landon is 28. Actor Jeffrey Licon is 26. Actress-singer Lea Michele is 25.

**Thought for Today:** "The man who can speak acceptably is usually given credit for an ability out of all proportion to what he really possesses." - Lowell Thomas (1892-1981)



## Why Perry hates regulators: They're bad for (his) business

Like so many Republican officials of the tea party persuasion, Rick Perry despises the Environmental Protection Agency -- a feeling he has expressed repeatedly in speeches, lawsuits, legislation and even a book titled "Fed Up!" Perhaps that is only natural for the governor of Texas, a "dirty energy" state where the protection of air, water and human health rank well below the defense of oil company profits for most politicians.

But Perry has at least one other reason for smacking down those bureaucrats so eagerly. When environmental regulators do their job properly, that can mean serious trouble for Perry's largest political donors.

The outstanding example is Harold Simmons, a Dallas mega-billionaire industrialist who has donated well over a million dollars to Perry's campaign committees recently. With Perry's eager assistance -- and despite warnings from Texas environmental officials -- Simmons has gotten approval to build an enormous radioactive waste dump over a crucial underground water supply.

"We first had to change the law to where a private company can own a license, and we did that," Simmons boasted in 2006, after the Texas legislature and the governor rubber-stamped initial legislation and approvals for the project. "Then we got another law passed that said (the state) can only issue one license. Of course, we were the only ones that applied."

Most Americans have never heard of Simmons, despite his fantastic wealth, because he wisely keeps his head low, generally refusing press interviews and avoiding media coverage. Last year, a local monthly in his hometown published the headline "Dallas' Evil Genius" over a scathing and fascinating investigative profile that examined not only the peculiar history of litigation between Simmons and his children (who no longer speak to him), but his political

machinations, corporate raiding and continuing corporate penchant for pollution.

In D magazine, reporter Laray Polk explained how Simmons and a company he owns -- innocuously named Waste Control Systems -- manipulated state and federal law to allow him to build a nuclear-waste disposal site in West Texas. But construction has been delayed for years in part because the site appears to overlap the Oglalla Aquifer, an underground water supply that serves 1.9 million people in nine states, raising obvious concerns over radioactive contamination. In the Simmons profile and subsequent posts on the Investigative Fund website last year, Polk explored the controversy over the proposed WCS facility, including strong objections by staff analysts at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality who found evidence that atomic waste might indeed leach into a huge pool of drinking water.

Now reporters for the Los Angeles Times have revived, advanced and updated the WCS story with much additional detail, including interviews with the Texas environmental officials who oversaw the approval process for the facility. For a period last summer, that process appeared to have been slowed down to allow serious consideration of the scientific data collected by the commission's staff.

In other words, the regulators were trying to do their job, which meant expensive delays and perhaps an eventual ruling against the nuclear waste site. That would have protected the Oglalla Aquifer and cost Simmons hundreds of millions in lost investment and profit. But then Perry's appointees on the commission voted by two to one to issue licenses for the WCS site.

This year, officials on another Texas commission appointed by Perry -- who oversee low-level



JOE CONASON

radioactive waste in the state -- voted to allow the WCS site to accept nuclear waste from 34 other states in a highly controversial decision later ratified by the state legislature and signed by Perry himself. Not long after that, according to the Los Angeles Times report, Simmons gave \$100,000 to Americans for Rick Perry,

an "independent" committee supporting his presidential candidacy. (Back in 2004, Simmons was a major contributor to another "independent" political committee, the notorious Swift Boat Veterans group that distorted Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry's war record in a series of TV ads.)

According to a spokesman for WCS, the Texas governor's happy and lucrative relationship with Simmons did nothing to help the company except to turn the billionaire into "an easy target. ... It made the state redouble its efforts to be thorough." But the Texas officials who opposed the approval on principle have since quit their jobs with the state. As one of them told the Times reporters, "This is a stunningly horrible public policy to grant a license to this company for that site. ... Something had to happen to overcome the quite blatant shortcoming of that application. ... The only thing I know in Texas that has the potential to do that is money in politics."

As for the Texas official (and Perry appointee) who overruled his own scientists and approved the deal, he left state government, too -- to work as a lobbyist for Simmons. He says that no undue influence led to the favorable outcome for his new employer.

Texas must be the only place on earth where anyone would believe that.

Joe Conason is a nationally syndicated columnist.

## The PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager  
woods@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative  
spribble@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising  
classified@thepampanews.com

Marijane Kent

Composing  
composing@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting  
bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Arnie Aurellano

Editor  
editor@thepampanews.com

Mollie Bryant

Reporter  
mbryant@thepampanews.com

Andrew Glover

Reporter  
aglover@thepampanews.com

Ryan Frazier

Composing  
composing2@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor  
press@thepampanews.com

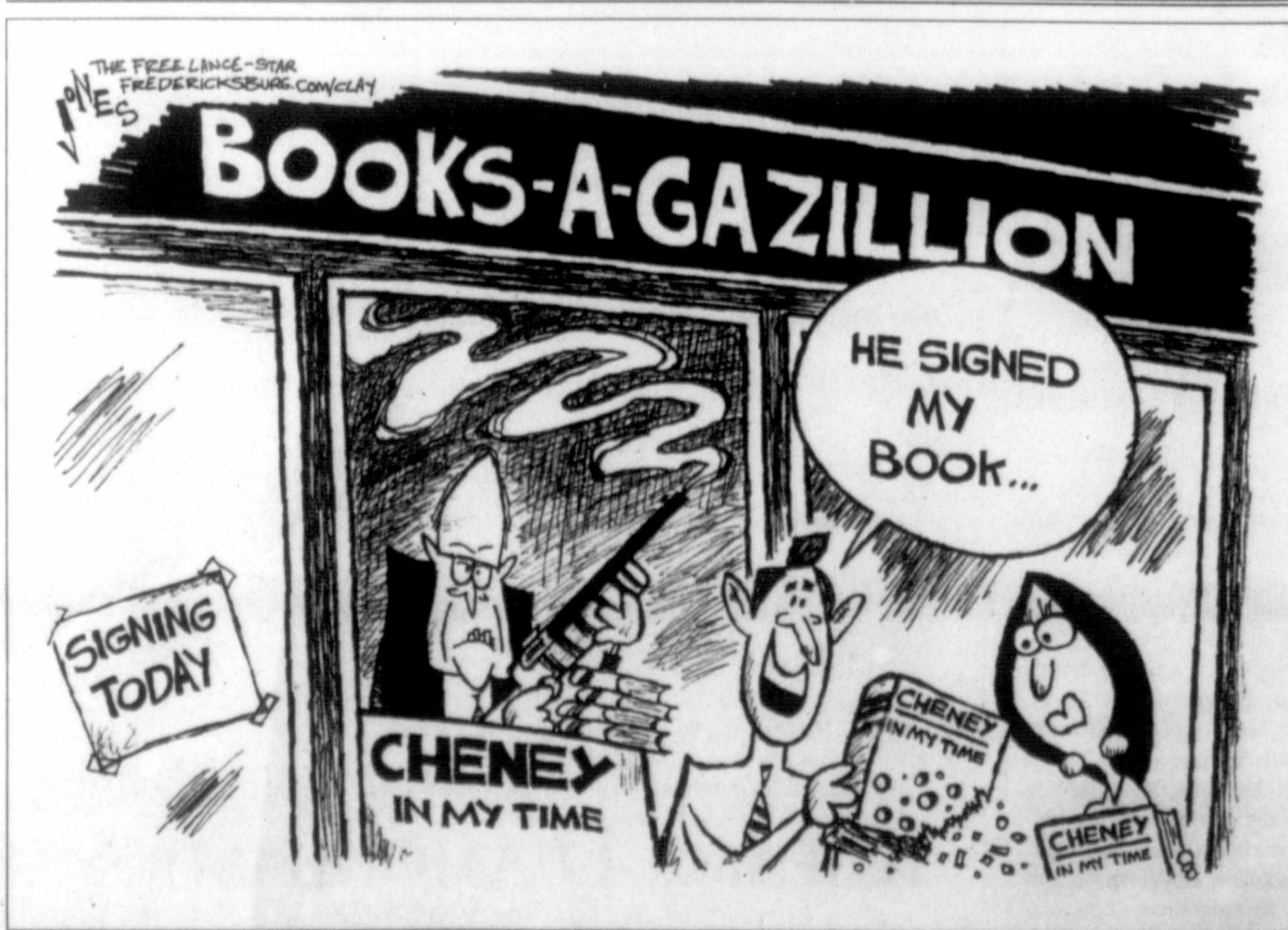
Chico Ramirez

Circulation Manager  
Circulation2@thepampanews.com

The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

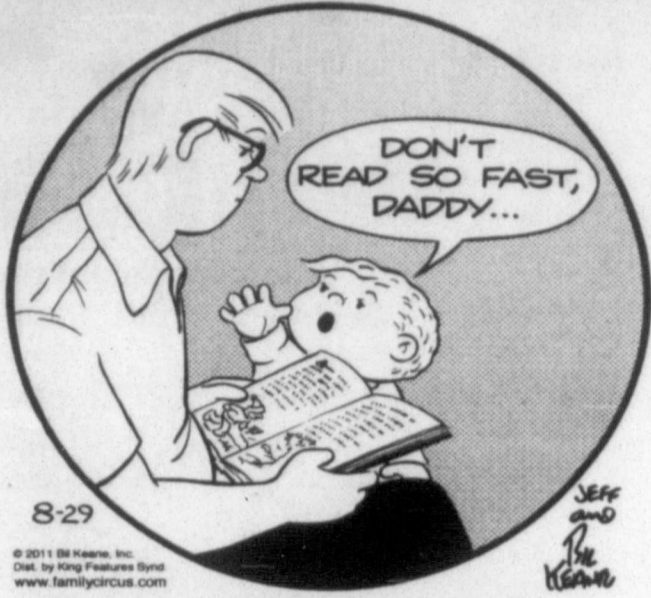
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# comics PAGE

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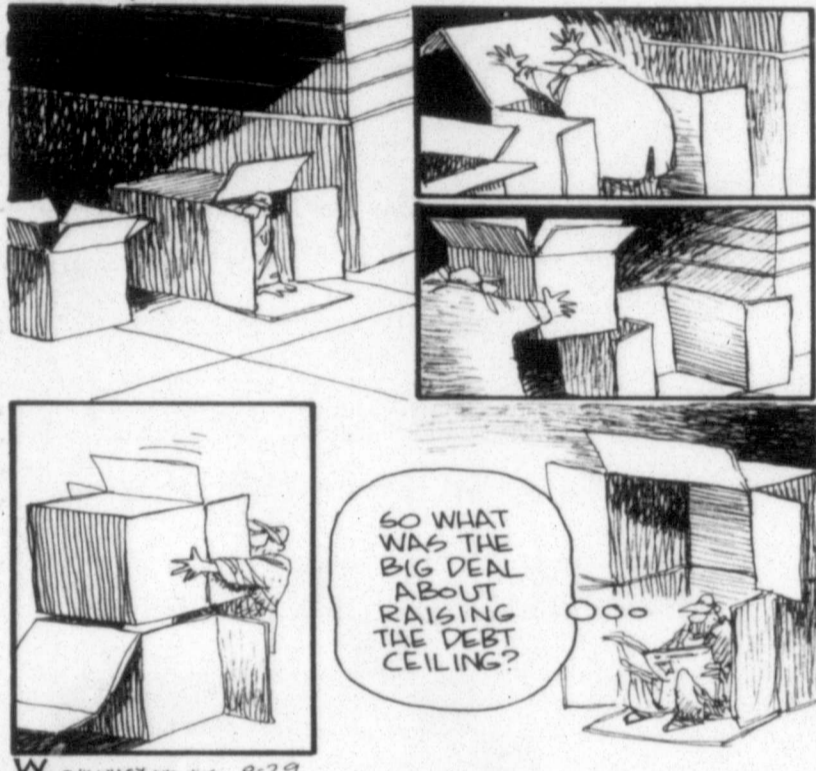


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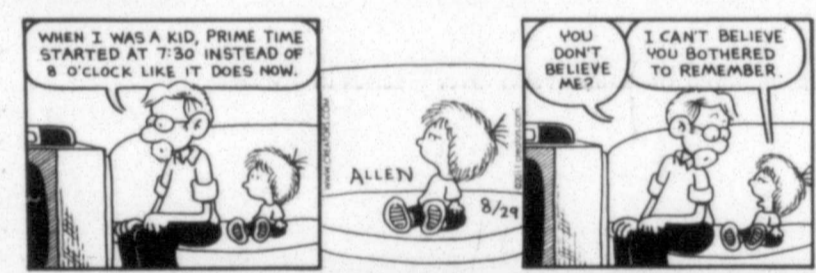
"...my ears are slow listeners."

## Non Sequitur



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## Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Aug. 29, 2011:

You are in your element this year. Your creativity and charisma weave to produce many ideas. This same combo helps convince others of the positive nature of these concepts. Much effort surrounds the manifestation of a heart-felt goal. If you are attached, don't forget that two people are in this arrangement. Be more attentive to your sweetie. If you are single, you could meet someone very special this year. This person could be a friend at first, or you might meet him or her through a friend. Another VIRGO doesn't get you. You are unique.

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)**  
 ★★ Emphasize the positive in a situation rather than the negative. You could be confused by someone's effort. Be aware of the end results of merging with this party in a professional and financial matter. Trust your judgments. Tonight: A family member or roommate might be touchy.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 ★★ Your creativity emerges in nearly every discussion or event right now. A new relationship might be budding. A child could delight in your time and company. Stay focused, even if someone around you could be critical or feisty. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 ★★ Stay close to home. You feel good there and become much more centered. Honor what is happening within. Take some time to center on your feelings and intuition. Your finances need to be watched, or your self-discipline could be called upon. Tonight: Happy at home.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 ★★ Be sensitive to what others communicate to you. You might be delighted by what you hear from a new friend or loved one. Be willing to respond accordingly. Your words help many smile and feel much better. Trust yourself. Tonight: Buy a card or token of affection on the way home.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 ★★ Make a point of stopping and thanking a key person in your life for his or her efforts. Indulge and schedule a meeting at a favorite spot. Sometimes mixing work and pleasure lightens the moment. Use caution expressing any dissatisfaction. Tonight: Your

stare.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 ★★ Your sensitivity comes out when handling a child or a special person in your life. Your detachment encourages unusual understanding and empathy. A friend could be slightly too assertive for your taste. Understanding evolves. Tonight: Let off some steam.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 ★★ Even if a boss, parent or higher-up pushes you, slow down and focus on your long-term direction. Don't allow frustration or anger to push you beyond your normal self-composure. Walk away from a volatile situation if need be. Tonight: Take some much-needed quiet time.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 ★★ You cannot push much harder, yet your drive nearly forces you to. Investigate different perspectives; get more information. You will know what to do. A meeting could be significant to your decision-making process. Tonight: Where the fun is.

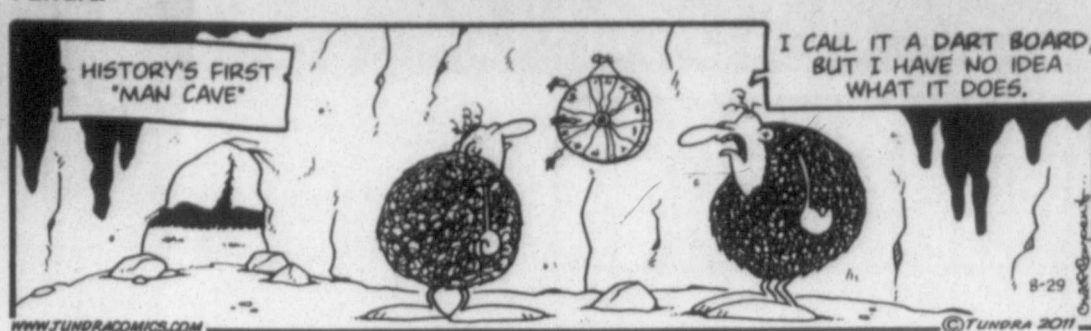
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 ★★ Take a stand if need be. Be assertive when dealing with a professional or community matter. You could be overwhelmed by an authority figure. Note that this person cares very much, though you might not like his or her assertive style right now. Tonight: A must appearance.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 ★★ Take an overview and come to a new understanding. Detachment allows you to think about how it must feel to be the other person. Do lighten up and worry less about a current dilemma. A partner will come up with an unusual solution. Tonight: Dinner, but not alone!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 ★★ A partner has a strong insight and the ability to understand far more than you realize. Open up to new possibilities. Remain open to sharing and bottoming-out a problem. You can choose whether to act on someone's idea or feel angered by his or her suggestions. Tonight: It is your call.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 ★★ Your innate creativity comes out when challenged. Nevertheless, others seem to run with the ball. You might wonder which is the best action. Listen to new ideas more openly. Laugh and relax with another person. Enjoy his or her company. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

## Tundra



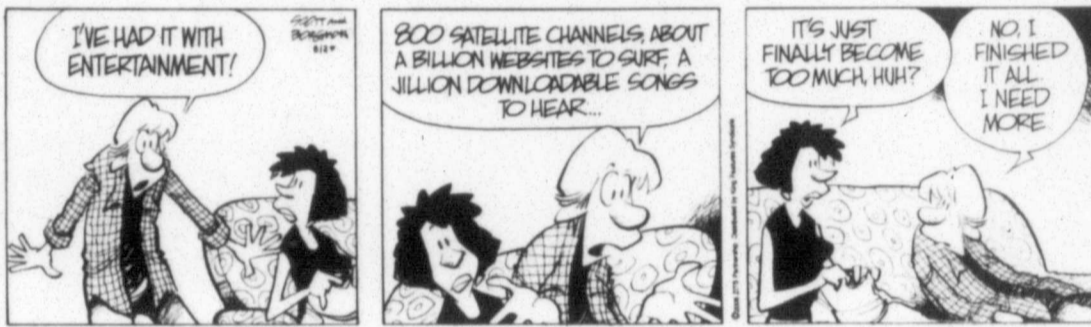
## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grim



## Zits



## Garfield



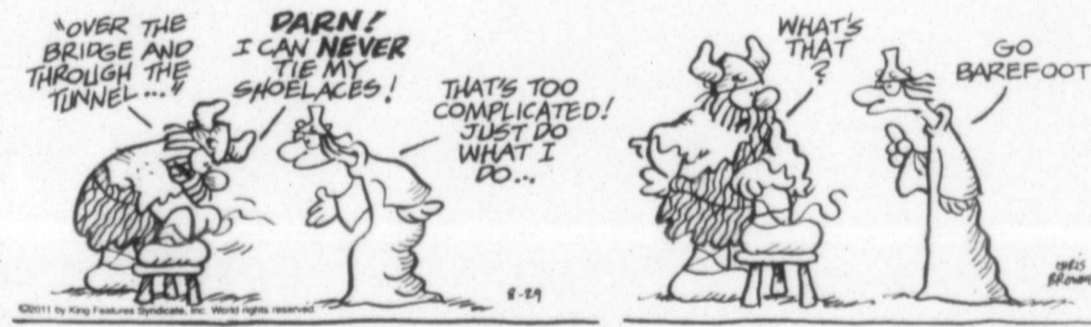
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was at a party where guests were exposed to salmonella that was on one of the vegetables served as an appetizer. At least 11 people were affected by it. The hosts talked to only one or two of the people who were affected. Some of us were concerned that the hosts didn't contact everyone and warn them of what had happened.

Don't you think they had a responsibility to contact all their guests and advise them of the problem, and even express concern and apologies? — SICK IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SICK: Yes, I do. A responsible host would not only call to advise the guests and apologize to anyone who was affected, but also contact the manager of the store at which the vegetables were purchased. If the store isn't put on notice, it can't prevent other customers from buying contaminated produce.

Now that you know how little consideration your hosts had for the welfare of their guests, reconsider accepting another of their dinner invitations.

DEAR ABBY: "Amy" and I have been married seven years. I used to enjoy family gatherings with my

parents and brothers, but I am finding them stressful. Amy always seems to have an issue with "time." My family is easygoing and sometimes late for various reasons. Amy doesn't understand why this happens. She believes the timelines are being amended to suit one of my brothers and his family. Their tardiness bothers Amy, and she asked me to talk to my family members about it.

I did, and they don't see a problem. This is the way our family has always been. Amy stresses me out (high blood pressure runs on the male side of my family) when I should be enjoying these gatherings. By the way, my wife is an only child and has no extended family. She has never experienced what larger families go through. Should she ease off, or should I ask my loved ones to change their ways? — PRESSURED IN TORONTO

DEAR PRESSURED: You said you have already talked to your family about this. Because this is the way your family has always functioned, it is highly unlikely that they're going to change now. Sometimes you have to accept family warts and all, and this appears to be one of

them. If Amy's complaining is truly causing your blood pressure to spike, your physician should be telling her to lower the "pressure" she's putting on you.

DEAR ABBY: I recently got out of a two-year relationship. He broke up with me without explanation. I'm not over him and it still hurts, but at the same time I am starting to have feelings for someone else. The problem is I'm afraid he's just the "rebound" guy. What should I do? — READY TO MOVE ON IN OHIO

DEAR READY TO MOVE ON: You're still healing — and being attracted to someone other than the man who dumped you shows you are progressing. That's a good sign. Rather than worry about whether this relationship will be "for keeps," take it a step at a time. Enjoy his company, let him enjoy yours, and be thankful the romance that didn't work out didn't take up more of your time. A person — male or female — who would end a two-year relationship the way your ex-boyfriend did wasn't worth much in the first place.

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scorch
  - 5 Some statues
  - 10 Emmy winner Alan
  - 11 Portugal's peninsula
  - 13 Praise
  - 14 Cheer from the sidelines
  - 15 Georgia city
  - 17 French friend
  - 18 Michigan city
  - 19 Capitol Bldg. VIP
  - 20 Janitor's tool
  - 21 Mediocre
  - 22 Squad car sound
  - 25 Skeleton makeup
  - 26 Prayer ender
  - 27 Mineo of movies
  - 28 Scottish river
  - 29 Missouri city
  - 33 Quarterback Marino
  - 34 Florida city
  - 35 Whole
  - 37 Tobacco wad
- DOWN**
- 1 Light lunch
  - 2 Gladden
  - 3 Grownup
  - 4 Control tower workers
  - 5 Waiting reward
  - 6 German sub
  - 7 Harden
  - 8 Crime against the state
  - 9 Elegant cat
  - 12 Some acids
  - 16 Lunch hour
  - 21 Stand-up routines, typically
  - 22 Make blue
  - 23 Parent's warning
  - 24 Type in again
  - 25 Formal dance
  - 27 Emphasize
  - 29 Tender spots
  - 30 Nerdy
  - 31 "Come on, — you!"
  - 32 Planted
  - 36 Glacier makeup

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

Saturday's answer

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# Sports

## No. 9 Lady Harvesters take fifth in Frenship Tourney

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The No. 9 Pampa Lady Harvesters gained some confidence against stiff competition as they finished fifth in the Frenship Tournament Friday and Saturday.

Pampa beat Caprock, Sweetwater and Andrews, the team that it beat last year in the area round. In the fifth place game, Pampa knocked off Bushland (25-20, 25-21). The Randall Lady Raiders (19-25, 20-25), who are ranked third in class 4A, and the Frenship Lady Tigers defeated Pampa.

Head coach Libby Garza said she was pleased with how her girls played.

"We beat some pretty good competition," Garza said. "We could have played better against Frenship, but very pleased overall."

Senior Caitlin Sieck said they came together as a team.

"I think we really stepped up to the competition," Sieck said. "It was good to see what we could face in the playoffs."

Senior Kirsten Kuhn said the team watched other teams play.

"It was definitely good to go see what Abilene Wylie looked like," Kuhn said. "I went to the regional tour-

namment last year to watch them play... They are still good but definitely beatable. We also got to see Lubbock Cooper again, but we played them in the Randall Tournament and beat them."

Sieck said how well they played as a team was key to whether they won or lost.

"If we are trusting everyone on the court and knowing they will get the job done we play well," Sieck said. "We have to play for the team and not ourselves."

Kuhn said the team needs to grab momentum early in the match.

"Our key problem was that we waited too long to get the momentum going on our side of the court," Kuhn said. "Frenship was the hardest loss of the weekend. We were up six points in the first game and let them come back and beat us."

Kuhn added that errors at the wrong times affected them.

"We made multiple errors at key points in the game," Kuhn said.

The Lady Harvesters (11-5) visit the 4A sixth ranked Dumas Demonettes 6 p.m. Tuesday. Dumas swept Pampa last Tuesday. Garza said she thinks her team is ready.

"I feel really good about the match," Garza said. "Better than last time."

Kuhn said the team is welcoming a rematch with the Demonettes.

"We did not like how we played them at all last Tuesday," Kuhn said. "So we are ready for another shot."



Kuhn



Garza



Sieck

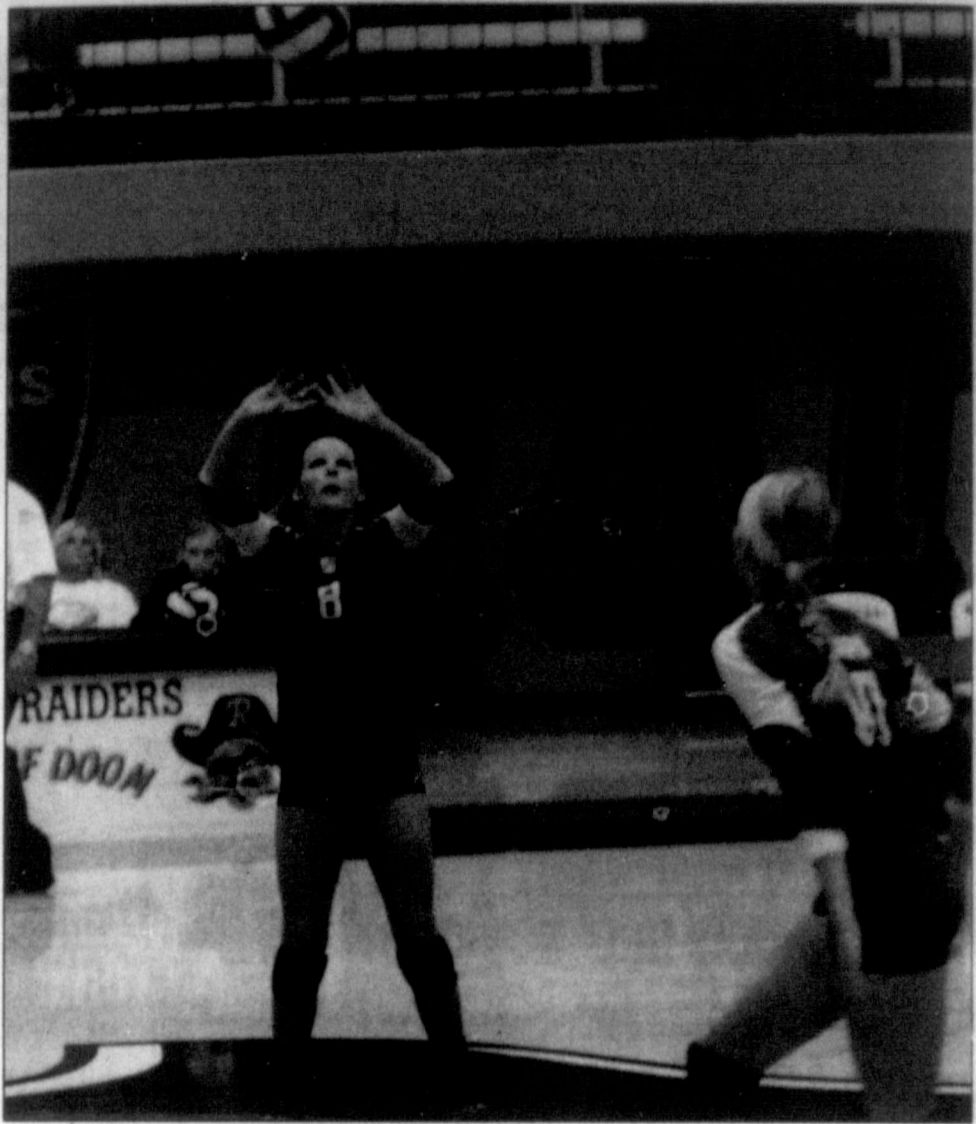


photo courtesy of Larry Petty

Junior Maddie Fatheree sets the ball for Kailyn Troxell in the Randall Tournament August 12. The Lady Harvesters competed in Frenship last week and won fifth.

## PHS tennis team splits opening matches at Plainview



photo courtesy of Cody Moore

Senior Elizabeth Terry serves in a doubles match against Plainview Saturday. Terry won all three of her matches as Pampa went 1-1.

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters tennis team split its first two matches of the season in Plainview Saturday.

Pampa beat Plainview 10-3 and lost to Randall 11-8. Head coach Sarah Corse said she was pleased with both matches.

"Against Plainview my boys played strong," Corse said. "The girls came up big. Emily (Terry), Elizabeth (Terry), Delaney (Clendening) and Makayla (Hampton) stepped up. We played so close with Randall and three or four matches that could have gone the other way."

Pampa trailed Randall 6-3 before it won the next four matches to lead 7-6. Randall won five of the next six to clinch the



Corse

Terry went 3-0. The Harvesters play their first match at home 4 p.m. Tuesday against Randall. Corse said her team is ready for the rematch.

"I think they felt good," Corse said. "They played close," Corse said. "They are ready to play them again. Hopefully with our legs under us a little more we

match. Corse said she was pleased with how her team handled the match with Randall.

"It was really hot," Corse said. "They gave their all."

Junior Makayla Hampton and senior Landon Karbo went 4-0 in their matches. Senior Elizabeth

## Cross country opens in Canyon

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa High School cross country Teams opened the season Friday with the Canyon six-mile relay. One of the girls teams finished 14th out of 22 recording a time of 43:16.77. The team was made up of J'Cee Holmes, Michelle Rivera, Kendle Ramey, and Elizabeth Gill. The second team finished 18th with a time of 46:06.69. This team consisted of Mariela Resendiz, Jesse Dixon, Vanessa Ontiveros, and Marlee Youree.

The varsity boys finished 9th out of 21 teams with a time of 34:45:30. Making up the team were Trent McNear, Jose

Hernandez, Robert Radke, and Alex Marrufo.

Head coach Mark Elms said he was pleased with how his teams ran.

"It was the first time out," Elms said. "It was a practice meet and was shorter than either team usually runs. I was proud of their effort. I was pleased the boys finished ninth and that the girls finished 14."

The Harvesters race next in Borger on Saturday. Elms said it will be a good test.

"This will be a true cross country meet and not a relay," Elms said. "It will be good to see where our runners stand individually. They better be ready to run."

**Makayla Hampton**  
Pampa High School

Pampa High School junior tennis player Makayla Hampton is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Hampton went 4-0 in her matches against Plainview and Randall Saturday in Plainview. Hampton's victories helped Pampa beat Plainview and play competitively with Randall.

**athletes**

**of the week**

**Sam Cain**  
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior football player Sam Cain is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Cain made several plays in the backfield including three sacks. The senior defensive end was key in limiting Iowa Park's offense in Pampa's 20-0 victory Friday.

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