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The PAMPA NEWS

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Skinner asks court to keep lawsuit going

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

AMARILLO — A hearing was held Monday at a federal court in Amarillo, as defense attorneys for convicted killer Hank Skinner attempt to secure DNA testing of materials found at his 1993 crime scene.

Skinner received the death sentence for the murders of his girlfriend, Twila Busby, and her sons, Elwin Caler and Randy Busby.

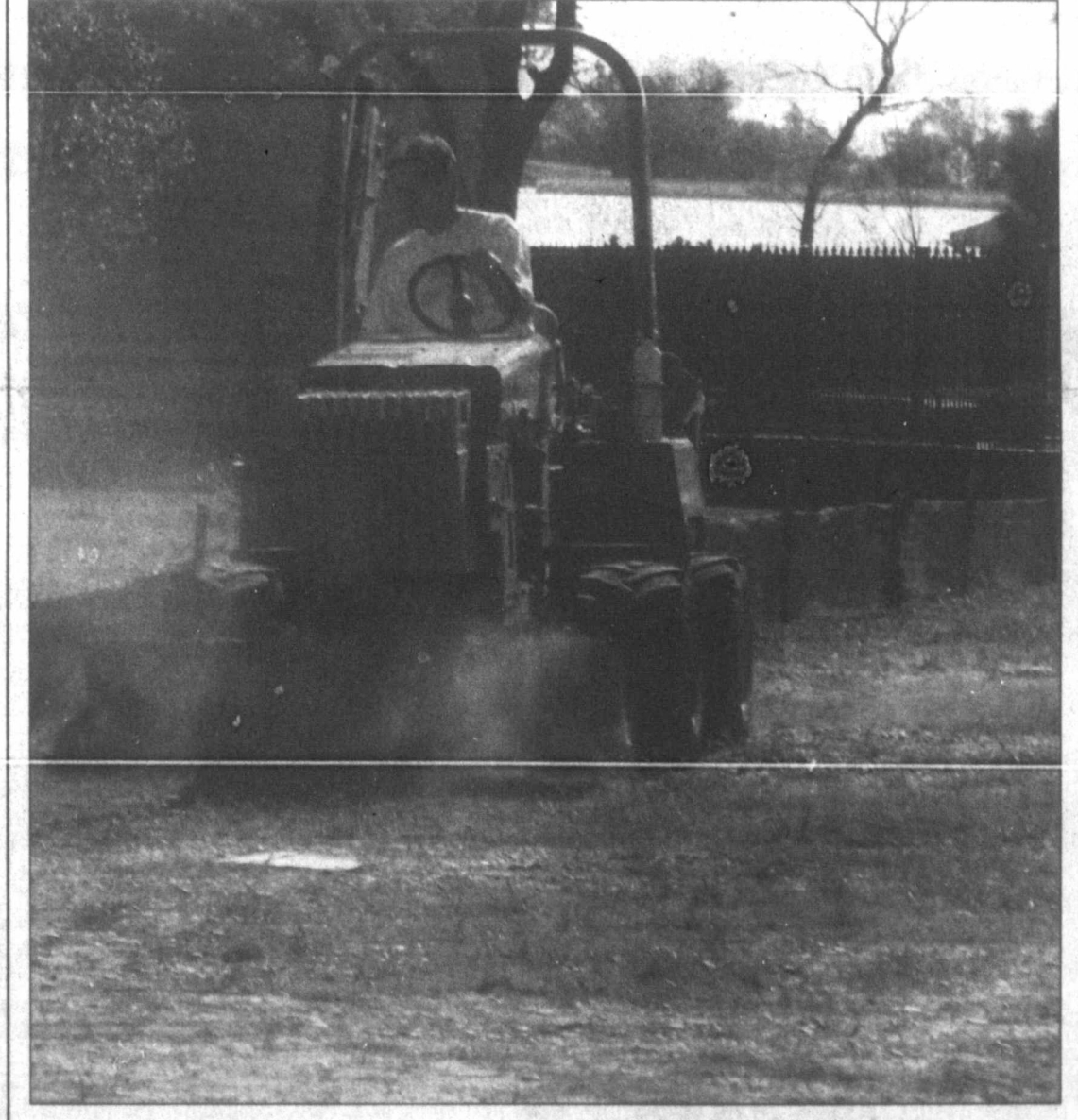


Skinner
 Donnell, Busby's deceased uncle, of committing the crimes.

Skinner, who is set to be put to death on Nov. 9, maintains that he was incapacitated on the evening of the homicides, and suspects Robert Skinner currently has a pending civil rights lawsuit alleging that the state of Texas violated his civil rights by refusing access to evidence he wants tested for DNA, including a jacket, several knives, a vaginal swab and fingernail clippings. In March, the Supreme Court ruled that Skinner was within his rights to ask for the evidence, and now it is up to a state court to determine whether or not the Gray County District Attorney must surrender

evidence for testing. With Skinner's execution date swiftly approaching, Skinner's attorneys asked at Monday's hearing that U.S. Magistrate Judge Clinton Averitte recommend that Skinner's pending lawsuit, which establishes limiting access to the material as a civil rights violation, not be dismissed until the state courts acts. A final ruling on the lawsuit is set to come from U.S. Judge **SKINNER** cont. on page 5

BUILDING A HAPPY PLACE



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**
Aaryon Baucom from C & C Environmental Services digs ditches for Happy State Bank's new building project on the corner of Hobart and Somerville on Monday.

Pampa EMS: Not our stolen ambulance

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

The ambulance stolen from a Pampa repair shop on Friday was not a Pampa EMS vehicle, according to Pampa Emergency Medical Services Director Brant Aaron.

"It was not one of ours," Aaron said. "We have three (ambulances) in the town of Pampa. They're all here and accounted for."

Some confusion had arisen locally after media outlets reported that a Pampa ambulance was stolen and taken to Amarillo over the weekend. Gerardo Javier Gonzalez, 32, was arrested early Friday morning by Potter County deputies after he was caught using the ambulance to evade arrest in the Amarillo area. Gonzalez had refused a traffic stop and ran a red light before being cornered at a dead end street.

As of Monday, Gonzalez was still being held at the Potter County Jail for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in lieu of a \$5,000 bond.

The ambulance in question turned out to belong to Miami Volunteer Emergency Medical Services, which had left the vehicle at Speedy Tire Services Tires Plus in Pampa for a tire alignment. According to Chief Kelly Rushing of the Pampa Police Department, Gonzalez had apparently broken **AMBULANCE** cont. on page 5

Halloween buyback to again ship candy to troops

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

Area kids will again get the chance to give their Halloween spoils to a serviceman overseas when Pampa dentist Jay Johnson hosts his third annual Operation Candy Storm Halloween candy buyback program.

Johnson's office at 2427 N. Hobart will buy back unopened Halloween candy for \$1 a pound — as well as give out glowing electric toothbrushes — from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

The candy collected during the buyback will be sent to Army Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grosso to distribute among his unit stationed in Afghanistan. Grosso also received the buyback candy in 2009 and connected Johnson to a different

serviceman stationed in Afghanistan last year. Johnson said that Grosso is returning for another tour of duty and will once again be the project's point man in the Middle East.

"(Grosso) came by our office (last year)," Johnson said. "He didn't have to. He just came by and told us 'thank you,' so we're pretty impressed with this guy."

BUYBACK cont. on page 5

Pampa dentist Jay Johnson shares a smile with Army Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grosso during Grosso's visit to Johnson's office in 2010. Grosso's unit will be receiving the candy collected by Johnson's office during its upcoming 2011 Halloween candy buyback program. >



photo courtesy of **Laura Allen**

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries	2	The Savage Truth	6
Local Record	2	Comics	7
Weather	2	Puzzles/Dear Abby	8
Afternoon Rush	3	Classifieds	9
Viewpoints	4	Sports	10



PAMPA FORECAST



Today High 84 Low 43
Wednesday High 53 Low 35
Thursday High 53 Low 35

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Breezy, with a northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday: A chance of rain and snow before 7 a.m., then a slight chance of rain between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 35. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

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HALLOWEEN PHOTOS of your children will be in The Pampa News again this year-(free)!! Photos will run in Monday Oct. 31st newspaper. Deadline is Tuesday Oct. 25th, before noon. Bring your photo by the News office 8am-3pm Mon. thru Fri. or email photos & information (names, ages and parents) to classified@thepampanews.com Please check to see that we have received your email. We will not be responsible for taking photos. 669-2525

PUT YOUR Business Name on the Halloween Candy List. Listing is free, ad will be in the Pampa News, in Weekend edition Oct. 29 / 30th. Deadline to be on the list is Wed. Oct. 26 before noon. 669-2525.

WOULD YOU like a career in the Fire Service? There will be an informational meeting Tues., Nov. 8th, 7:00 p.m. at the Pampa Fire Department Station 1, 203 W. Foster. This meeting will be hosted by the Pampa Fire Department to answer all your questions about the recruitment and hiring process to become a firefighter for the Pampa Fire Department. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Capt. Chad Ewing, 669-5800. TCFP certified/certifiable and TDSHS EMT-B preferred.

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Monday, October 24 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 49 traffic related incidents, seven accidents and one medical call.

Animal Control agents responded to 15 animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to 16 medical calls.

The Pampa Fire Department reported one carbon monoxide call, one structure fire, two medical-related calls, two investigations and one prevention call.

Friday, October 21

Follow-up investigations were reported at the following: the 100 block of E. Randy Matson, the 2300 block of N. Fir, the 1000 block of Deer Place, the 1900 block of N. Fir, the 2200 block of N. Evergreen, the 1000 block of N. Quail Pl., the 1900 block of Grape Ln., the 2200 block of N. Evergreen, the 1900 block of N. Holly, the 2300 block of N. Cherokee Dr., the 1900 block of N. Evergreen, the 2300 block of N. Cherokee Dr., the 1900 block of N. Holly Ln., the 2300 block of N. Comanche Trl. the 1900 block of N. Holly Ln., the 1900 block of N. Evergreen, the 1900 block of N. Fir, the 2300 block of Navajo, the 1900 block of N. Evergreen, the 1900 block of N. Fir, the 2200 block of Evergreen, and the 1900 block of Grape.

A burglary was reported in the 1200 block of N. Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of S. Banks.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of N. Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of S. Cuyler.

Follow-up investigations were reported in the 300 block of Oak Dr. and the 1500 block of N. Banks.

Fraud was reported.

Follow-up investigations were reported in the 4000 block of N. Bad Cattle Company and the 100 block of N. Somerville.

Fraud was reported in the 400 block of W. Kingsmill.

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of N. Garland.

An assault was reported in the 2200 block of N. Dogwood Ln.

A 911 hang-up was reported in the 1300 block of W. Wilks.

A follow-up investigation was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hobart.

Warrant service was reported in the 700 block of

E. Francis.

Endangering a child or the elderly was reported at Cook and Somerville.

A welfare check was reported in the 2500 block of N. Perryton Pkwy.

A domestic disturbance was reported at 17th and Beech.

A follow-up investigation was reported in the 400 block of N. Powell.

A burglary was reported in the 100 block of S. Gillespie.

A follow-up investigation was reported in the 200 block of N. Russell.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of S. Reid.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1800 block of N. Banks.

A welfare check was reported in the 700 block of S. Russell.

Pursuit was reported in the 800 block of N. West.

Follow-up investigations were reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill and the 1100 block of Seneca Ln.

An abandoned vehicle was reported at Gwendolyn and Banks.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of N. Pitts.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of S. Wells.

A suspicious person was reported in the 900 block of Denver Ave.

A special assignment was reported in the 100 block of E. Harvester.

Found property was reported in the 600 block of Talley.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Neel Rd.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of N. Nelson.

A prowler was reported in the 1700 block of N. Chestnut.

A runaway was reported in the 1300 block of N. Coffee.

Criminal mischief was reported at Atchison and Ballard.

A suspicious person was reported at Twiford and Rose.

Harassment was reported in the 900 block of S. Faulkner.

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

Endangering a child or the elderly was reported in the 1200 block of N. Hobart.

An assault was reported in the 900 block of S. Faulkner.

Criminal mischief was reported at Canadian and Beryl.

Saturday, October 22

An assault was reported in the 900 block of S. Nelson.

A follow-up investigation was reported in the 400 block of Yeager.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Pitts.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 600 block of N. Red Deer.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1300 block of N. Coffee.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of Crane Rd.

A burglary was reported in the 1900 block of N. Faulkner.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1500 block of N. Williston.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of N. Hobart.

Found property was reported in the 1300 block of N. Hobart.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported twice in the 700 block of E. Francis.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of S. Henry.

A follow-up investigation was reported in the 1800 block of N. Christy.

An alarm was reported in the 2400 block of N. Cherokee.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Crane Rd.

An agency assist was reported in the 200 block of S. Tignor.

A welfare check was reported in the 1300 block of N. Coffee.

Fraud was reported in the 1200 block of N. Wells.

A sewer choke was reported in the 1100 block of S. Christy.

An alarm was reported in the 100 block of N. Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of S. Wells.

An alarm was reported in the 100 block of N. Cuyler.

A welfare check was reported in the 500 block of E. Kingsmill.

A welfare check was reported in the 1300 block of N. Coffee.

A good intent call was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

A criminal mischief call was reported in the 400 block of N. Wells.

A special assignment was reported in the 1600 block of E. Hwy. 60.

A special assignment was reported in the 1100 block of W. Coronado Dr.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 300 block of N. Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of N. Wells.

A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of N. Zimmers.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of S. Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of N. Nelson.

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of N. Christy.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1700 block of N. Chestnut.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of N. Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of Village Dr.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1700 block of E. Harvester.

A violation of city ordinance was reported in the 100 block of Village Dr.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of N. Hobart.

Sunday, October 23

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of N. Hazel.

An alarm was reported in the 1200 block of N. wells.

A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of N. Davis.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1400 block of W. Buckler.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of N. Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of N. Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of N. Powell.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of S. Anne.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Starkweather and Francis.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 700 block of E. Francis.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of S. Starkweather.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1200 block of E. Francis.

A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of N. Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Hobart and Foster.

A suspicious person was reported at Frost and Foster.

A suspicious person was reported at Foster and Osage.

An agency assist was reported in the 100 block of W. 30th.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of N. Christy.

An assault was reported in the 500 block of N. Frost.

A suspicious person was reported at 23rd and Navajo.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2800 block of N. Perryton Pkwy.

A burglary was reported in the 400 block of N. Ballard.

Endangering a child or the elderly was reported in the 2600 block of N. Hobart.

A burglary was reported in the 500 block of N. Nelson.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 2800 block of N. Perryton Pkwy.

An alarm was reported in the 400 block of S. Cuyler.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 600 block of N. Wells.

A good intent call was reported in the 800 block of S. Hobart.

An assault was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of Deane Dr.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Anne St.

A follow-up investigation was reported in the 100 block of W. 30th.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of N. Doyle.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 100 block of W. 30th.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2100 block of N. Nelson.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of S. Sumner.

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10-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

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S Y V N U W D P U H R A C

R C Q U P C V D Q Y A A X N H C .

— N C Y W M . P . V W T C

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Barnett Shale drilling wanes, booms elsewhere

Cattle rustler released from prison

GALVESTON (AP) - A cattle rustler who admitted to numerous heists and then testified against his own gang has been released from prison.

Roddy Dean Pippin, 27, has insisted he's been wrongly kept in prison beyond his sentence. He was released from a state prison medical facility in Galveston County on Friday, according to a report in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

An appeals court agreed that Pippin had served his time and should be released.

The appeals court gave him credit for time served before sentencing, shaving 300 days off his eight-year sentence.

The charismatic thief gained attention when he rallied a group of supporters who campaigned for his release on medical grounds. He has an aggressive form of diabetes. He acknowledged rustling 130 heads of cattle worth as much as \$65,000.

Mosquitoes swarm Houston

HOUSTON (AP) - A mosquito surge is a trending topic in Houston lately.

Bug spray is flying off the shelves, counties are working overtime to spray neighborhoods and families are retreating indoors during otherwise prime fall weather. Mosquitoes have even become one of Houston's hottest topics on Twitter.

The pests hatched about a week after the Oct. 9 rains.

Floodwater mosquitoes, which can lay eggs that won't hatch for years until sated by water, are to blame for the recent surge in bites across the city, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Michael Merchant, an entomologist at Texas AgriLife Extension Service, says floodwater mosquitoes tend to be larger, have a more noticeable bite, and may bite through light clothing.

Officials say a coming cool front could bring relief later this week.

Whooping cranes numbers up

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) - A record-breaking flock of whooping cranes could soon arrive in Texas.

About 300 cranes are expected to arrive at their wintering grounds along the Texas coast over the next few weeks, according to a report in Monday's Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

One crane has been confirmed near Sinton, but none of the 22 radio-tagged birds in the flock had arrived late last week, said Dan Alonso, manager of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

A flock of 300 would break the 2010 population record of about 280.

Alonso says recent rainfall has replenished water, but the whoopers will need more to get through the coming months.

The population has risen from 16 birds in the 1940s. The cranes stand up to 5 feet tall with a wingspan of more than 7 feet.

Fines for illegals benefit police

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - Federal officials have presented New York State Police with more than \$2 million forfeited by a pallet recycling company that employed illegal immigrants in 26 states.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Albany says a check for \$2.16 million was presented to state police Superintendent Joseph D'Amico at a Sunday night ceremony in connection with the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Chicago.

Last week, a total of \$240,000 in funds forfeited by IFCO Systems North America was distributed to the Schenectady and Guelderland police departments and the Albany County District Attorney's Office.

It was the second of three installments of the more than \$20 million IFCO agreed to pay as part of a 2008 settlement with federal prosecutors.

The Houston-based company is a subsidiary of the Netherlands-based IFCO Systems.

NM seeks unemployment cheats

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - The state is strengthening efforts to catch those who cheat the state's unemployment benefits system.

While the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions hasn't prosecuted anyone for fraud in the past five years, it has reported that it detected fraud of nearly \$16 million last year alone.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports that in September, the agency received a \$2.5 million grant to connect with a national computer system that tracks people who are returning to work and no longer qualify for benefits. The money also will help the department audit 50 claimants a week to be sure they are actually looking for a new job.

In addition to looking at prosecutions, the department wants to look at imposing penalties for people who wrongly obtain benefits, instead of just asking them to repay the state what they owe.

Perry beefs up campaign staff

WASHINGTON (AP) - Texas Gov. Rick Perry is beefing up his presidential campaign staff.

Perry, whose campaign has struggled in recent weeks, is adding senior advisers who've worked on presidential campaigns before. The initial round of hires, including former Bob Dole strategist Tony Fabrizio, are focused on paid TV advertising. Perry hasn't aired TV ads, but he has \$15 million available for such an effort.

Campaign spokesman Ray Sullivan says the new hires are boosting the campaign's media team but will also help with other aspects of the campaign. He says the team is still being finalized.

Perry's top strategist, David Carney, will continue in his role. With about three months until voting begins, Perry's campaign has limited time to catch up to Romney, who's been running for president for months.

FORT WORTH (AP) - Drilling is at a seven-year low in the North Texas natural gas fields. But even as drilling pace slackens in the Barnett Shale, it's booming in other oil and gas fields of Texas such as the Permian Basin of West Texas and the Eagle Ford Shale of South Texas.

The number of active Barnett Shale drilling rigs has fallen to 53, their lowest since June 11, 2004. That's barely more than one-fourth of the peak count of 203 active Barnett rigs on Sept. 5, 2008, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported in Sunday's edition (<http://bit.ly/p22kJe>).

That fall-off comes even as drilling booms in the long-drilled Permian Basin of West Texas and the newly exploited Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas. Those fields offer

more liquids such as oil and liquefied gas, drawing higher prices than the drier Barnett Shale natural gas fields.

The number of rigs working in the 55-county Permian Basin has nearly tripled in less than two years to 395, with 195 rigs drilling in the Eagle Ford Shale. Across Texas and the nation, oil production is up. That has diverted attention away from the Barnett Shale, which is a drier field with plenty of low-price natural gas but not as much oil, condensate and other petroleum liquids.

"If you look at the drilling rig count for crude oil, compared to natural gas, it gives you a strong visual of what's happening in the industry," Alex Mills, president of the Texas Alliance of Energy

Producers, told the Star-Telegram. "There's just an oversupply of natural gas right now, and that has kept gas prices soft. That has made the industry divert the rigs from looking for natural gas to crude oil."

Fort Worth-based drilling contractor Union Drilling Co. has moved most of its Texas rigs from the Barnett Shale to the Permian Basin, chief executive Christopher Strong told the newspaper.

"We had only one rig out of our Texas fleet that was running in West Texas back in early 2010," he said. "Now we have 16 over there and only four running in the Barnett. It's been a huge shift."

Also, restrictive local regulations has discouraged further drilling in the North Texas field, said

Julie Wilson, vice president for urban development for Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy, the Barnett's drilling leader. As a result, Chesapeake has let some of its mineral leases expire in northeast Tarrant County.

Barnett Shale activity peaked when natural gas sold for \$13 per million British thermal units. The price has weakened to \$3.50 to \$4 per million BTUs, and a sustained price of \$4.50 to \$5 was needed to support Barnett Shale drilling, Watson said.

Should natural gas prices increase again, though, the Barnett rigs could be back, Strong said.

"You just need some higher commodity prices," he said.

Rustling costs ranchers millions in poor economy

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Even with cattle theft rampant in much of the nation's mid-section, Oklahoma rancher Ryan Payne wasn't worried about anyone messing with his cows and calves. By his estimation, his pasture is so far off the beaten path "you need a helicopter to see it."

That changed last month when Payne, 37, checked on his livestock and found a ghoulish scene: Piles of entrails from two Black Angus calves he says thieves gutted "like they were deer." They made off with the meat and another 400-pound calf in a heist he estimated cost him \$1,800.

"Gosh, times are tough, and maybe people are truly starving and just need the meat," he said. "But it's shocking. I can't believe people can stoop that low."

While the brazenness may be unusual, the theft isn't. High beef prices have made cattle attractive as a quick score for people struggling in the sluggish economy, and other livestock are being taken too. Six thousand lambs were stolen from a feedlot in Texas, and nearly 1,000 hogs have been stolen in recent weeks from farms in Iowa and Minnesota. The thefts add up to millions of dollars in losses for U.S. ranches.

Authorities say today's thieves are sophisticated compared to the horseback bandits of the rugged Old West. They pull up livestock trailers in the middle of the night and know how to coax the animals inside. Investigators suspect it's then a quick trip across state lines to sell the animals at auction barns.

"It almost has to be

someone who knows about the business, including just knowing where to take the cattle," said Carmen Fenton, a spokeswoman for the 15,000-member Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, formed in the 1870s specifically to combat cattle rustlers. "It's crazy to think we're still in business."

There's no clearinghouse that tracks thefts nationally, but statistics among certain states are staggering. In Texas - the nation's biggest cattle producer - and to a lesser extent Oklahoma, some 4,500 cattle have been reported missing or stolen this year, according to Fenton's group. The association's special rangers managed to recover or account for \$4.8 million in stolen ranch property each of the previous two years,

most of it steers, bulls, cows and calves.

Such thefts also are happening in places once spared. In southwestern Missouri's Jasper County, not far from a regional stockyard, about 100 of the nearly 180 head of cattle stolen this year were snatched during a recent six-week stretch, sheriff's Lt. Ron Thomas said.

"Occasionally one or two have gotten stolen (over the years), but not this many in such a short time. They've gotten us big time," he said, figuring the stolen livestock have been whisked off to another state. "These guys are not your typical fly-by-night, let's-steal-a-cow kinda people. They know exactly what they're doing. They're pretty

slick, and they're bold."

Investigators have found clues to be elusive, partly because thieves often artfully conceal their crimes by replacing pasture fences they've cut to get to the animals, Thomas said. Ranchers unaccustomed to counting their cattle each day may not realize any are missing for a week or more, and by then, any tire tracks or other evidence - perhaps even DNA or fingerprints from a soda or beer can discarded by the bandit - may be gone.

The other problem is that while brands are widely used in the West, three states hard hit by livestock thefts - Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas - don't require them. That's hampered investigators'

RUSTLING cont. on page 6

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 25, the 298th day of 2011. There are 67 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 25, 1854, the "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place during the Crimean War as an English brigade of more than 600 men charged the Russian army despite hopeless odds and suffered heavy losses.

On this date:

In 1760, Britain's King George III succeeded his late grandfather, George II.

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown went on trial in Charles Town, Va., for his failed raid at Harpers Ferry. (Brown was convicted and hanged.)

In 1910, "America the Beautiful," with words by Katharine Lee Bates and music by Samuel A. Ward, was first published.

In 1929, former Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall was convicted in Washington, D.C., of accepting a \$100,000 bribe from oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny. (Fall was sentenced to a year in prison and fined \$100,000; he ended up serving nine months.)

In 1951, peace talks aimed at ending the Korean War resumed in Panmunjom after 63 days.

In 1962, U.S. ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson presented photographic evidence of Soviet-built missile bases in Cuba to the U.N. Security Council.

In 1971, the U.N. General Assembly voted to admit mainland China and expel Taiwan.

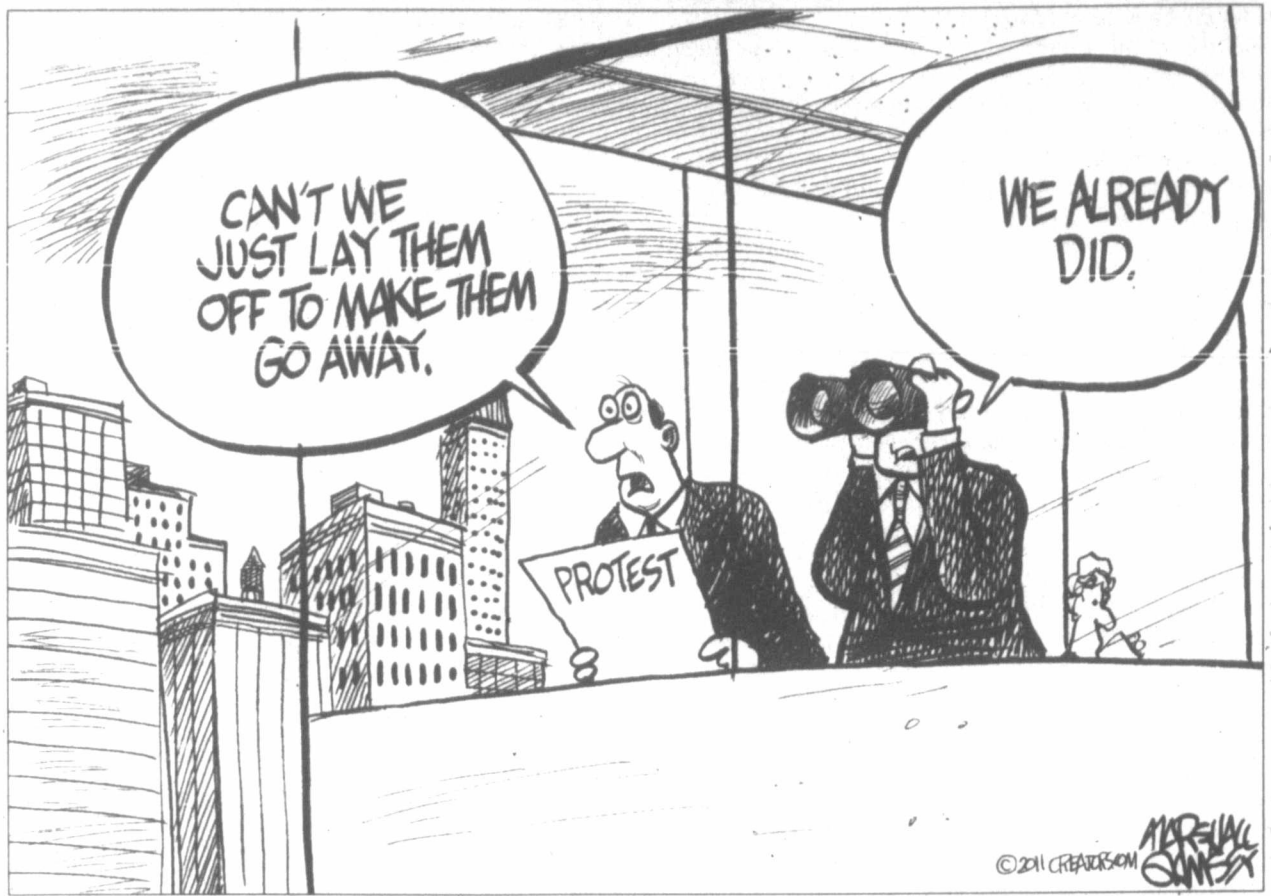
Ten years ago: A day after the House signed on, the Senate sent President George W. Bush the USA PATRIOT (Uniting and Strengthening America By Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) Act, a package of measures giving police sweeping new powers to search people's homes and business records secretly and to eavesdrop on telephone and computer conversations.

Five years ago: Acknowledging painful losses in Iraq, President George W. Bush told a news conference he was not satisfied with the progress of the long and unpopular war, but he still insisted the United States was winning and should not think about withdrawing.

One year ago: Afghan President Hamid Karzai acknowledged receiving millions of dollars in cash from Iran, adding that Washington gave him "bags of money" as well because his office lacked funds.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Jeanne Cooper is 83. Actress Marion Ross is 83. Author Anne Tyler is 70. Rock singer Jon Anderson (Yes) is 67. Political strategist James Carville is 67. Actor Brian Kerwin is 62. Actor Mark L. Taylor is 61. Actress Nancy Cartwright ("The Simpsons") is 54. Country singer Mark Miller (Sawyer Brown) is 53. Rock musician Chad Smith (Red Hot Chili Peppers; Chickenfoot) is 50. Actress Tracy Nelson is 48. Actor Michael Boatman is 47. Actor Kevin Michael Richardson is 47. Actor Adam Goldberg is 41. Rock musician Ed Robertson (Barenaked Ladies) is 41. Actress Persia White is 41. Actor Craig Robinson is 40. Actor Michael Weston is 38. Actor Zachary Knighton is 33. Actor Ben Gould is 31. Pop singer Katy Perry is 27. Rock singer Austin Winkler (Hinder) is 27. Singer Ciara is 26. Actress Conchita Campbell ("The 4400") is 16.

Thought for Today: "Is it really so difficult to tell a good action from a bad one? I think one usually knows right away or a moment afterward, in a horrid flash of regret." - Mary McCarthy, American author and critic (born in 1912, died this day in 1989).



Congress softens stance on high-skilled immigrants

We've been hearing a lot about immigration on the campaign trail, most of it based on outdated assumptions and echoing the arguments made when Congress was considering so-called comprehensive immigration reform bills in 2006 and 2007.

But up on Capitol Hill, there appears to be progress -- bipartisan progress, even -- toward changing our immigration laws to reflect current and emerging realities.

From Barack Obama, in campaign rather than governing mode these days, we hear denunciations of Republicans for killing proposals for legalizing illegal immigrants.

This ignores the fact that Democrats didn't move immigration bills when they had control of the House and a supermajority in the Senate. Speaker Nancy Pelosi thought global warming and health care were more important.

As for the Republican presidential candidates, most are calling for construction of an ever-higher border fence and opposing anything with a whiff of amnesty. They're attacking Rick Perry because he opposes the fence in Texas -- it's hard to build one along a river -- and backs in-state tuition for children of illegals in state colleges and universities.

Behind this rhetoric is the assumption that the tide of immigration, legal and illegal, is continuing at a record pace and that illegals are here to stay. But the evidence is that migration from Mexico has slowed to a trickle, and the Census Bureau tells us the number of illegals has declined.

Those trends are likely to continue. As former Mexico Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda explains in his recent book "Manana Forever?," most Mexicans are now in the Walmart middle class or above.

Mexican birth rates plummeted 20 years ago, which means fewer young

people will be needing jobs -- and with the U.S. economy struggling, they're not likely to look for them here. Nor are legal immigrants as likely to bring extended family members to the United States.

Tough state laws have induced some illegals to return home, and in Idaho immigrant farm labor is so scarce that the state is hiring out prisoners to harvest crops.

At the same time, it's apparent that the United States needs more high-skill immigrants -- job creators rather than job seekers. The death of Steve Jobs (whose birth father, it turns out, was an immigrant) reminds us that highly talented individuals can be huge national assets.

The response in the House of Representatives has been a bipartisan push for more green card slots for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) graduates of American universities.

One sponsor is Silicon Valley's Zoe Lofgren, ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee's immigration subcommittee. Another, who apparently copied much of Lofgren's bill, is Idaho freshman Republican Raul Labrador.

And it appears that the chairman of the full Judiciary Committee, Lamar Smith of Texas, is interested. This is noteworthy because Smith has been an implacable opponent of any bill containing legalization or amnesty provisions.

But Smith agrees that it is a travesty not to admit STEM graduates educated at American universities who want to apply their talents in this country.



MICHAEL BARONE

He does have some concerns. He points out that graduates with doctorates are far more productive than those with just master's degrees. And he cautions that diploma mills could make profits grinding out degrees to foreigners intent on gaming the system.

Lofgren says those concerns are reasonable and that her bill addresses them by limiting it to graduates of research universities designated by the National Science Foundation.

Reaching agreement on such provisions does not seem impossible. "With tweaks to our immigration system," Smith said earlier this month, "we can accommodate those graduates whom American universities and businesses most desire and who are most able to contribute to our economy."

It's not clear whether the Judiciary Committee will act on this or whether a bill will come to the floor of the House, much less the Senate.

But it does appear that serious legislators of both parties are moving toward the kind of reform proposed last year by a bipartisan panel assembled by the Brookings Institution and Duke University's Kenan Institute.

The central thrust is to shift legal immigration slots from family reunification bringing in low-skill workers to high-skill immigrants, as Canada and Australia did years ago.

That's an approach in line with current demographic realities and current national needs. The president and the presidential candidates may not have not caught up with that, but apparently some influential members of Congress have.

Michael Barone, senior political analyst for The Washington Examiner (www.washingtonexaminer.com), is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a Fox News Channel contributor and a co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.

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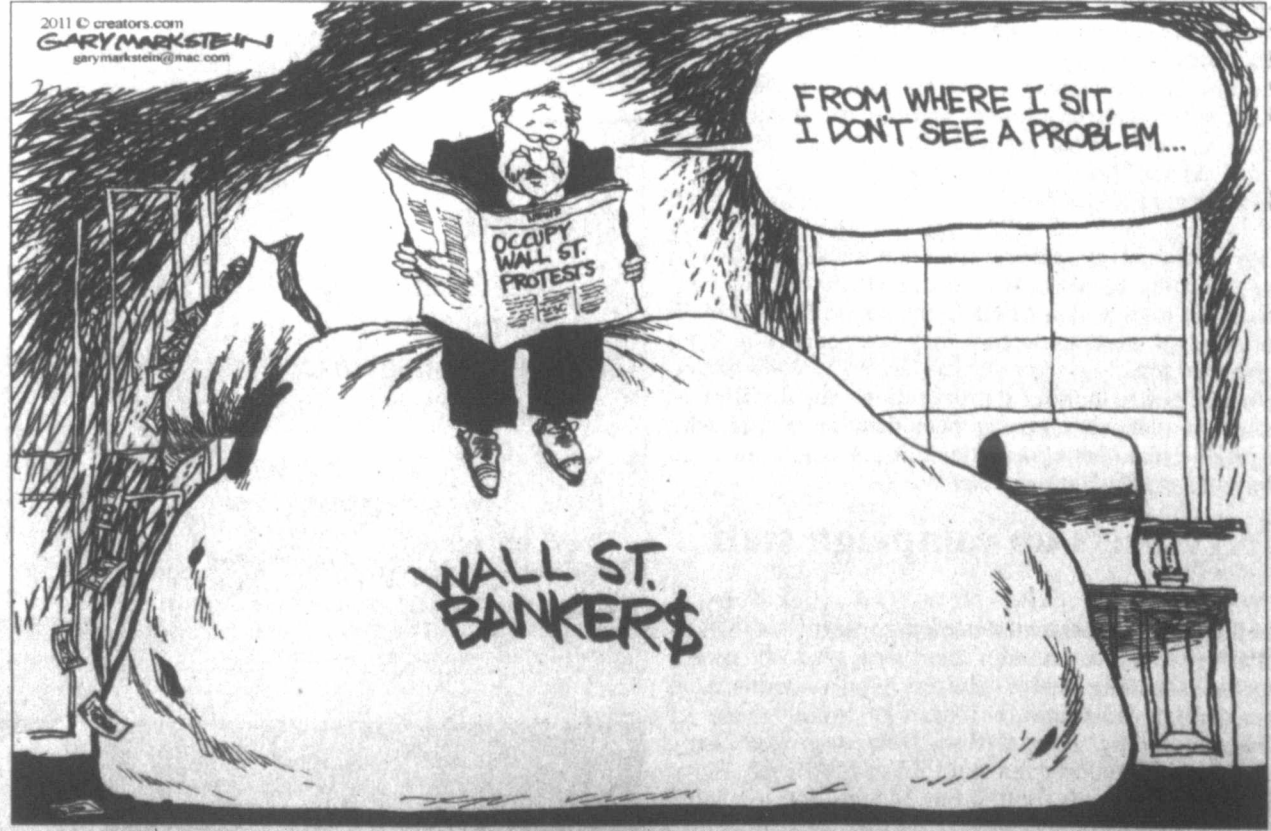
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Nebraska lawmakers could challenge XL pipeline route

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman said Monday he will call a special legislative session that could allow lawmakers to challenge the route of a massive transnational oil pipeline, despite uncertainty about whether such an effort will succeed or stand up in court.

The Republican governor said he wants lawmakers to find a "legal and constitutional" solution to allow for state oversight of oil pipelines, including the hotly contested Keystone XL project. The U.S. State Department has authority to approve or scuttle the \$7 billion Keystone project because it would cross the national border.

Heineman said he will call lawmakers into session Nov. 1, which means they'll have little time to act before the end of the year, when federal authorities are scheduled to decide the project's fate.

The 1,700-mile pipeline, which would travel through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, ending up on Texas's Gulf Coast, would carry an estimated 700,000 barrels of oil a day, doubling the capacity of an existing pipeline from Canada.

Heineman has said he supports the pipeline but opposes the route, which would cut through part of the Ogallala aquifer, a massive water supply in Nebraska and seven other states.

The governor acknowledged lawmakers will face steep challenges with any proposal that might affect the project, which has been in the planning and review stage for years. Any state law that tries to derail the proposal will face an all-but-certain legal challenge.

"At the end of the day I want to be very, very clear: I

believe we need to make the effort. I think Nebraskans will appreciate that," Heineman said. "But it's entirely possible at the end of the day we'll have this conversation, and the Legislature may reach the conclusion that we don't have any legal or constitutional option."

Nebraska Speaker of the Legislature Mike Flood welcomed the plan to hold a special session, despite saying last week that a bill to reroute the pipeline would not likely survive a legal challenge.

"This issue has never been about whether the state has a legitimate role in protecting our groundwater and natural resources," Flood said. "The question, for me, has been how to exercise that role within the parameters of the law."

Pipeline opponents in the Legislature are now looking at ways to amend the bill to focus on other concerns where the state would have authority, such as protecting Nebraska's cultural identity or economic interests.

"If we don't succeed, at least we will have tried," said state Sen. Bill Avery of Lincoln. "The voters will respect at least that."

Supporters say the pipeline could reduce U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil, while environmental groups say it would bring "dirty oil" that requires huge amounts of energy to extract and could cause an ecological disaster in case of a spill.

Pipeline operator TransCanada last week offered new safeguards it said would limit the effect of a potential spill, but company executives maintained they cannot move the proposed route at this point in the federal permitting process.

Supporters of the project derided Heineman's decision to call the special session, noting a three-year State Department analysis found no major environmental threat from the project and arguing the project will create of jobs during the two-year construction phase.

"It's unfortunate that the governor chose to ignore these facts and instead put taxpayers on the hook for an exercise that will either yield no legislation or put the state in the middle of a costly litigation cycle," said Michael Whatley, executive vice president of the Houston-based Consumer Energy Alliance.

Pipeline opponents maintained the state already has so-called siting authority to control where the pipeline will run.

JESSICA WHITELY PHOTOGRAPHY
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Precious Memories make Precious Gifts

Skinner

cont. from page 1

Mary Lou Robinson of Amarillo.

"It will now be up to the state courts to decide if Mr. Skinner gets access to the DNA testing that we have been pursuing for more than 10 years in his case," said Skinner's attorney, Rob Owen, in a statement issued yesterday. "The Texas legislature changed the law this year to eliminate disputes over assigning fault for why DNA testing was not previously performed. The State conceded in federal court today that the legislature intended that change in the law to reach Mr. Skinner."

Prosecutors, meanwhile, believe the case should be dismissed and contend that the issue has been resolved in previous cases.

As of yesterday, a decision from the Judge Averitte had yet to be announced.

Buyback

cont. from page 1

Johnson added that getting to meet Grosso personally has made the project even more rewarding for his office.

"We never anticipated we'd have any contact with who we sent it to," Johnson said. "We just thought it'd be a fun thing to do, but it really has made it better to know somebody in the field. He was very appreciative when he came by, and he shocked us to death when he showed up at the office."

"It's a lot better for us than it is for (the soldiers)," he continued. "We get a lot more out of it than they do. It makes us feel good to help them."

The program also encourages kids to stay smart about consuming sweets over the Halloween season, Johnson added.

"We're encouraging kids to ditch the candy," Johnson said. "Visiting your dentist twice a year and brushing daily are great preventive measures, but doing away with excess sweets altogether would really give your teeth a healthy boost. Kids can still have all of the fun of trick-or-treating, and now their piggy banks will benefit as well."

The buyback collected 150 pounds in 2009 and 130 in 2010, Johnson said, adding that he is anticipating another good year for the program.

"I think it's going to be very successful," he said. "We have quite a few people participate. Both years we've done this in the past, we've had some adults come to us with bags of candy and say they've had it left over and they didn't want it any money for it. They're just happy to send it to the soldiers... Most of the kids are pretty excited about getting to do that. We have a big poster that all the kids sign that we put into the box with all the candy. I think kids are pretty tuned in to this kind of thing. They think it's nice to be participating."

Ambulance

cont. from page 1

broken into the building to steal the vehicle before taking it to Amarillo.

The ambulance is now back in Miami, said Miami EMS Assistant Service Director Charmaine Miller.

"My husband Dana is the sheriff here," Miller said, "and our phone rang about 3:15 in the morning from Potter County. They said, 'We believe we have one of your ambulances here after a chase.'"

The vehicle was returned to Miami by about 5 a.m., Miller said, and re-inspected at another auto service center. The ambulance received a clean bill of health with no damage; Miller added that there were no narcotics or medications in the ambulance when it was taken.

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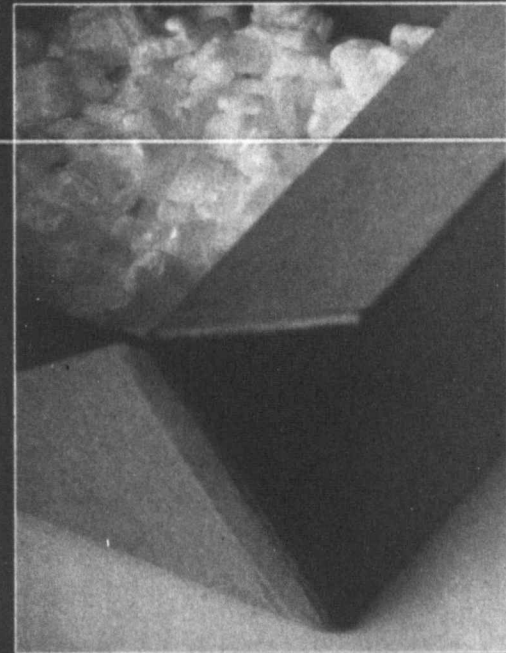
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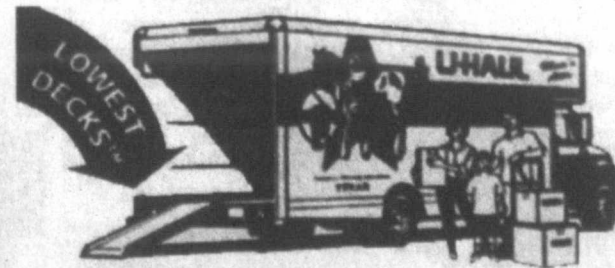
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Rustling

efforts to match recovered cattle to owners or to relay to stockyards markings to watch for when strangers haul in livestock to be sold.

Without brands, "ranchers could tell me their missing cow is brown and white, but goodness gracious, go down the road and you'll see thousands," Thomas said.

While a voluntary national livestock identification system exists, few ranchers and farmers participate in it.

"Unfortunately, cattle don't have a serial number that goes with them or some type of permanent ID" short of branding, said Jim Fraley, an Illinois Farm Bureau livestock specialist. "Thieves look at it as an opportunity and can market the cattle under their name. It's a fairly easy thing to do."

Owners' vigilance has paid off in some cases. A Colorado rancher who was hunting prairie dogs spotted one of his branded, missing cows on another man's property. Deputies swooped in and found 36 cows and 31 calves worth \$68,000 and belonging to

nine different people.

An Alabama rancher reported a couple of his cattle missing, and then two more were stolen the next night, Chilton County Sheriff Kevin Davis said. Sheriff's investigators installed cameras on the property but got nothing before pulling them days later.

Not long after, the farmer called because he spotted two men with a pickup truck and what turned out to be a stolen trailer on his land. Deputies arrested the men and found five of the six missing cows - half of them pregnant - at various locations. The sixth animal already had been slaughtered.

Davis credited luck and the rancher's "heightened alert" for snaring the two suspects.

"The boldness is the thing - for them to come back three different times to the same pasture," he said. "Obviously, they didn't feel very threatened about being caught. But I've never given criminals credit for having high intelligence."

And they're not finicky. An Ohio woman has

been charged with taking \$110,000 worth of frozen bull semen - which can be valuable to breeders in even small amounts - from a liquid-nitrogen tank at a Moorefield Township

genetics company where she once worked.

Nor are all the thefts big. Someone recently made off with two horses - ages 16 and 7 - from a home near Hanover in northeast-

ern Illinois' Jo Daviess County.

Back in Oklahoma, Payne replaced old wire gates on his ranch near Chelsea, with "big, old heavy-duty steel ones,"

hoping to safeguard his other cows.

"That's about all I can do," he said. "Like everyone says, it never happens to me. I guess that's wrong."

cont. from page 3

Confidence vital to recovery

TERRY SAVAGE
Creator's Syndicate

The Savage
Truth
on money

Can America have an economic recovery without strong increases in consumer spending? Can consumer spending rebound given the jobless situation? And will consumers ever be willing to go deeply into debt again to finance their spending?

Those are just some of the issues raised by the latest Heartland Monitor poll sponsored by Allstate and the National Journal. As a panelist at last week's unveiling of the poll data in Washington D.C., I was asked to comment on those issues along with the ongoing implications of the housing crisis and political gridlock. The moderator of the event was Ron Brownstein, political director of the Atlantic.

This is the 10th in a series of polls that track overall consumer sentiment. Each poll also focuses on a specific headline topic - the current topic being consumer debt. Here are some of the headlines about consumer sentiment:

- Americans' pessimism is at its highest point since the first Heartland Monitor poll in April 2009, at which time the Dow Jones industrial average had just fallen to under 7,000 and the economy was in the depths of recession.

- Americans express little confidence that Washington will come to an agreement to reduce the federal budget deficit. But Americans are overwhelmingly in agreement that such a deal would have a positive impact on the economy. That sentiment cuts across all lines of income, race and education.

So far, no big surprises. But what is truly interesting about the poll, which can be found online at Allstate.com/heartland-monitor,

is the extent to which the political impasse has impacted consumer behaviors.

In a word, what is lacking in the American economy is confidence.

- The economic downturn has caused more Americans to pay off debt rather than to incur debt. That can be seen in the consumer savings rate, which early in 2005 had actually gone into negative territory as consumers borrowed on their home equity to finance their lifestyle.

- When questioned about whether personal debt helps them reach the "American dream" or hinders them in that quest, the vast majority sees debt as an obstacle to reaching their goals. Notably, more of those in higher income brackets tend to see borrowing against future earnings for worthwhile investments such as a home mortgage, an education or a business as a worthwhile endeavor.

- Nearly half of poll respondents said they were paying down their debt levels and not taking on new debt - even if that meant cutting back on spending.

Overall, the poll shows that Americans remain optimistic about the possibilities for reaching their American dream - if only their government could get its act together!

There was a small ray of optimism on that possibility when Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md. - a member of the deficit reduction super committee - spoke about the progress being made to come to agreement

before Dec. 23, when lack of agreement will trigger automatic spending cuts in the 2013 budget.

He stresses that the committee is not practicing brinkmanship and said he is "absolutely convinced that all 12 members of the group are working hard to reach agreement." But he refused to handicap the odds of success, noting only that the committee would have to come to some agreement early in November to give the Congressional Budget Office time to "score" the proposed savings.

Finally, the real issue surfaced again: What should consumers do, and what will they do if Congress cannot come up with an agreement to deal with the budget deficit?

It is absolutely clear to me from this extensive Heartland Monitor poll that consumers who could spend have learned a life-changing lesson about the dangers of debt. And consumers who might be inclined to get the housing market moving again are buried under the weight of underwater mortgages.

Unless our political process can create confidence in the future while dealing with our current serious economic problems, the outlook for economic growth remains dim. And it is only through growth that we can ultimately deal with our mountain of debt. That's the Savage Truth!

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

CARENET CONFERENCE



Monica Galloway, director of Pampa Pregnancy Center, and Darlene Lewis, president of the Board of Directors, have just returned from the annual CareNet Conference in Orlando, Florida. At this conference, there were many workshops presenting new information on making the center more productive and how the board can be more involved in the ministry of the center. The Pampa Pregnancy Center, located at 210 North Ward Street, center offers free sonograms, parenting classes and various training materials.

New Mexico lawmakers look to capital projects for answers

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - With New Mexico's economy continuing to sputter, the Legislature and Republican Gov. Susana Martinez face tough decisions next year on whether to spend every dime of available bond financing for capital projects to help create construction jobs but potentially risk a backlash from voters who could be hit with property tax increases.

Despite a slide in revenues for state government operations, there's a large pool of money that can be used for construction projects next year to possibly stimulate the economy.

Nearly \$430 million in bond capacity is available for capital projects - twice as much as the revenues expected next year for possible budget increases for government programs and services.

About \$300 million of the capital financing could come from general obligation bonds, which are backed by property tax levies but require the approval of voters.

Sen. John Arthur Smith, a Deming Democrat and chairman of the Legislative Finance Committee, said lawmakers may want to consider limiting the general obligation bond issue next year to try to minimize a property tax increase.

"It is going to be easier to pass a skinny budget than it is to ... get that GO bond past the public," said Smith, who also is chairman of a

Senate committee responsible for preparing the state's operating budget.

He said it's possible the state could issue \$150 million to \$180 million in general obligation bonds without a change in property tax rates. That's because new bonds would replace older ones being paid off with current tax revenues.

In 2010, voters narrowly rejected a \$155 million bond question that would have financed building projects for universities, the state School for the Deaf and the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Had the higher education bond issue been approved, yearly taxes would have increased an estimated \$10 on property valued at \$100,000. That unused bond capacity is carried forward and is part of the \$300 million available in 2012.



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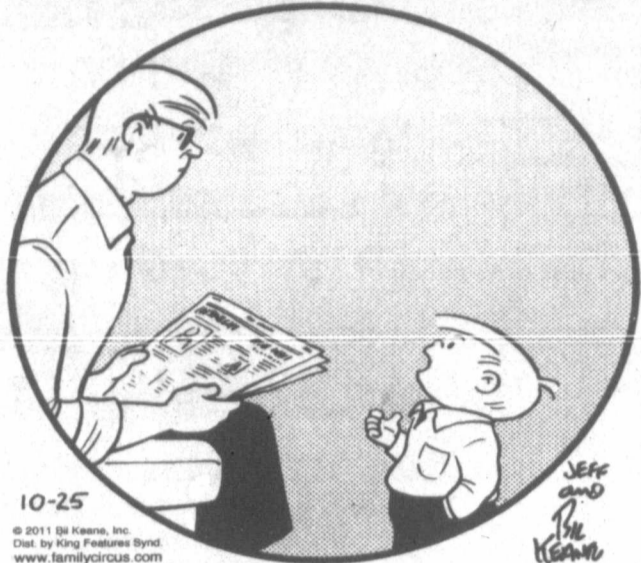


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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



10-25

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"Daddy, how many more years till I'm a bachelor?"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011:

This year you discover the importance of maintaining a low profile. You often feel overwhelmed. Know when to say "no" to requests. You will be developing a stronger style of relating than in the past. You often go within. If you are single, first encounters can be very intense. Be careful — you will run into a lot of needy people. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from weekends alone. You will bond more closely. LIBRA makes a great healer.

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)

★★★★ You are goal-oriented, with the energy to hit a home run. Someone who comes toward you is very serious and needs to open up. This person has to do it on his or her own. Leading questions probably will make this person uptight. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You could push a family member over the line. You might feel a bit uncomfortable with what is going on. A serious demeanor makes others know that you mean business. Still, you might need someone to pitch in. Tonight: Get some exercise and reduce stress.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your words often are a little harsher than you realize. Try to soften them before they come out. Dealing with hurt feelings could be a lot harder than you think. A child or new friend could be upset. Don't take it personally. Tonight: Launch into action.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ If you can handle a family matter, do. Otherwise, it could be stuck in your craw all day long. Be careful where you invest your money. A property could be an endless money pit. If you feel glum, make no decisions. Tonight: Read home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your spunk marks a decision. You might be overwhelming to others. If this type of reaction is what you want, fine, but odds are you would prefer to get a different response. Open up talks; take the initiative. But keep some information to yourself. Tonight: Head home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Keep communication moving. Refuse to get stuck in a quagmire. You won't be able to resolve this issue. How you verbalize what you want and your interactions change. Be careful with money and a risk. This could be a fast way to empty your savings. Tonight: Stop and visit with some friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want to understand more of what is going on. Be smart — stall until you really know what is going on financially. A risk might be very appealing, but it could cause a huge problem. Your sense of humor comes out when dealing with a friend. Tonight: Home in on what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your ability to understand what is happening behind the scenes carries you through a problem, but keep certain insights to yourself. Get feedback from a friend, relative or neighbor. Look for someone who knows you but perhaps doesn't judge you too much. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You cannot deny a natural interest in a certain group that you often meet with — whether it is a common cause or perhaps you admire the way they handle their issues. Keep finances separate from friendship. You could be uncomfortable otherwise. Tonight: Join friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might not realize how frequently you change your tune. You could gain a very different perspective if you simply detach from what you do and what others do in response. Stay open with a respected teacher or friend. Take a walk if you are grumpy. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your ability to walk in another's shoes emerges. Sometimes a friend could push hard, making you reconsider your relationship. Others could be overly assertive. Decide which drummer you want to follow. Know when enough is enough. Tonight: Be adventurous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might want to spend some time with an associate discussing some bottom lines. As you might be involved in the same projects, this conversation could be important. A friend changes plans at the last minute. Tonight: Dinner for two.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Critics say new wild horse panel is pro-livestock

RENO, Nev. (AP) - A panel of experts chosen to spend two years generating the definitive study on wild horse management in the West is kicking up controversy before it even gets out of the chute.

Mustang protection advocates contend the committee charged with solving a conundrum that has eluded consensus for decades is stacked with allies of the livestock industry who won't give the horses a fair shake.

The panel's 14 members were picked by the National Academy of Sciences, an independent organization chartered by Congress to advise the government on science. Their first meeting is set for Thursday in Reno.

The American Wild Horse Protection Campaign, Cloud Foundation and others say several of the appointees are outspoken defenders of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's current management strategy that relies on "mass wild horse roundups and removals at the expense of on-the-range management strategies."

"The heart of the controversy surrounding the wild horse issue is the conflict between private livestock and wild horses on the 11 percent of BLM land that is designated as wild horse habitat," said Suzanne Roy, director of the American Wild Horse Protection Campaign, a coalition of environmental, public interest and animal rights organizations.

The public's need for an accurate, objective review of the government's controversial wild-horse management program will not be served unless the National Academy of Sciences corrects the

panel's "imbalances," Roy said.

Academy spokesman Bill Kearney said the organization's staff and legal counsel will investigate any concerns about conflicts and consider disqualifying members or adding new ones to provide additional expertise.

The BLM asked the academy earlier this year to assemble the panel of wildlife biologists, rangeland ecologists and others to review the program at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million, after prodding from members of Congress critical of the roundups. The agency, which plans to round up another 6,000 horses in the coming months, argues the gathers are necessary to ease ecological damage on the range.

Opponents maintain the horse numbers are much lower than historical highs and that the roundups are intended to appease ranchers who don't want the mustangs competing with their cattle and sheep for limited forage on arid rangeland.

The committee is tasked with producing a comprehensive study that addresses, among other things, total herd populations, genetic diversity, appropriate management levels, and population control options including immunocontraception and "managing a portion of a population as non-reproducing," according to the academy's website.

Committee members under fire include Dr. David Thain, former Nevada state veterinarian who is an assistant professor in the Department of Agriculture, Nutrition and Veterinary Sciences at the University of Nevada Reno.

Thain is a member of the Nevada Livestock Association - a "clear conflict of interest," said Ginger Kathrens, executive director of the Colorado-based Cloud Foundation.

Thain also has published research on two drugs used to control horse fertility that some horse advocates dislike for fear of side effects, Roy said. He has a "vested academic interest in promoting specific fertility control agents" and therefore is not an objective committee member, she said.

Thain told The Associated Press he was familiar with the criticisms but felt it was best not to respond.

Other panel members targeted by critics include Erik Beaver, a research landscape ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Bozeman, Mont., and Paul Krausman, a wildlife biologist in the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation in Missoula.

Beever is a member and Krausman the president-elect of the Wildlife Society, a national professional scientific group that Roy said has taken an advocacy role in defending BLM roundups.

Beever declined to comment directly on the groups' criticism. He said he didn't know the majority of the panel members but felt the ones he did know would be impartial. He said he got the impression that concern about the possible appearance of a conflict was the reason the BLM asked the academy to do the review as an "independent, impartial, scientific institution."

"In inquiries to me, it

seemed that they were seeking to achieve as much balance in terms of the disciplinary expertise as they possibly could," he said Friday in an email to AP.

Krausman referred questions to academy staff.

Nevada has roughly half of the 33,000 wild horses that freely roam 10 Western states. Another 40,000 horses are being housed in short- and long-term holding facilities in the West and Midwest. It's a costly practice that has helped force the new search for solutions.

Over the 2010 fiscal year, holding costs accounted for \$36.9 million, or 57 percent, of the BLM wild horse and burro program's \$63.9 million budget.

BLM spokesman Tom Gory said the agency has taken a "hands-off" approach to the committee's review.

"We don't have any control over any selections," he said.

At the panel's first meeting Thursday, members will listen to presentations from a number of experts then take public comment.

On Friday, the committee will hold an executive-session meeting, which will be closed to the public. The session will include a discussion about "conflict of interest and bias" and whether the committee is appropriately balanced from a scientific perspective, said Kearney, the academy spokesman.

"It's not unusual after the first meeting to add a member or two for balance, or find additional expertise in an area where committee members may be lacking," Kearney said.

BANANAGRAMS!

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

LEVEL

E E
F I L O
O R W

G I I
O O P T
R R T

Yesterday's Answer: PUSHUP, VANISH, JERSEY, WALLOP, DRAFTY, PEANUT

10.25

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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3								
		5	7			2		
					5		7	8

Level: Beginner

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I read with interest your excellent advice to "Nowhere and Everywhere" (Aug. 17), who asked about letting family members know about her polyamorous relationship. As a counselor, nurse and consulting hypnotist in private practice, I counsel people every day in developing healthy, happy, open relationships. Polyamory and other forms of non-monomorous relationships are becoming more widely practiced and accepted, as many individuals and couples find the limits of traditional marriage do not meet their needs.

It is not realistic to expect family members to immediately accept this lifestyle if they were raised with different beliefs about sexual exclusivity in marriage. I advise couples to "test the waters" first with the most open-minded family member by bringing up the subject of a "friend" who is in an open relationship. If the relative reacts in a neutral or positive way, it may be safe to disclose the truth. Ask this person how the rest of the family might respond to the news. Couples should carefully assess whether their relationship is strong enough to withstand potential rejection.

There is a price to pay for being open, and one for staying secretive. The latter requires lying to family members and excluding one partner from family events, causing pain for everyone. (The cornerstone of polyamorous relationships is HONESTY.) Families do become more

accepting over time if they see that the couple's marriage is not threatened by the polyamory and that everyone seems happy. I advise couples to expect drama and disapproval at first, but to be patient and keep reaching out to family members to give them time to get used to this new situation. — KATHY IN BERKELEY

DEAR KATHY: Thank you for writing. Responses to that controversial letter were passionate and numerous. My newspaper readers comment:

DEAR ABBY: In response to "N and E's" request for a tip on how to let her boyfriend's conservative family know about their illicit, immoral polyamorous relationship, my advice is to say nothing.

If she's asked directly, only then should she defer to the boyfriend to explain their unorthodox lifestyle to his parents. Why does she feel the need to flaunt her private sexual relations?

If she loves the two men, her actions will speak for themselves without having to offend the family's ingrained sensibilities. — ON HIGHER GROUND IN SALEM, MASS.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been non-monomorously married for many years. My lover joined the household four years ago. Some members of my family welcome all three of us, some don't. One, who doesn't otherwise identify as conservative, has cut me off.

I'm sad that my happy family life offends them, but my household is my primary family unit, and I don't lie or cover it up. Different family styles work for different people. Why is this hard to grasp? — JEAN IN PROVIDENCE

DEAR ABBY: Human sexuality expresses itself across a vast spectrum. Consenting adults can and do choose this lifestyle, but it's a no-brainer that it strikes a negative chord within our culture.

Why is it necessary to remove the last shred of illusion and comfort from those parents? They may lack the psychological flexibility to accept polyamory. They already know on some inner level what is happening. My closest friends know about my lifestyle, but I am content to not "stir the pot" by forcing it into open conversation.

We don't live in an especially tolerant society. People are slow to embrace anything different from the "norm." If that triad is happy and enjoying life, that should be all that matters. — E.L. IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: Where will she be if she becomes pregnant? A baby would complicate a triad situation. There can be only one biological dad.

Who will play Daddy, and who the uncle? Will each of them really be OK with this then? How confused might the child be? As a mom, I feel for the parents of all involved. — NOT SURE IF I'D WANT TO KNOW

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Hand over

- 1 Goals
- 5 Previously
- 10 Fancy wrap
- 12 Comfort-food source
- 13 "Stormy Weather" composer
- 15 Overhead trains
- 16 Underlit
- 17 "— had it!"
- 18 Brother's daughters
- 20 Till bills
- 21 Wide awake
- 22 Egg setting
- 23 Stage comment
- 25 Traveler's aids
- 28 Bank offerings
- 31 Lotion additive
- 32 Nabokov book
- 34 Enjoy Aspen
- 35 Massive ref. bk.
- 36 Soup buy
- 37 "Safety Lasi" star
- 40 Wed hastily
- 41 Swiss geometer
- 42 "The same"

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D	E	C	A	D	E	E	V	E	S
R	A	D	A	R	D	E	M	S	

Yesterday's answer

- 14 Made moonshine
- 19 Halt
- 20 Basketball's Shaquille
- 24 Casual drawing
- 25 Prepared potatoes
- 26 Acid's opposite
- 27 Christie sleuth
- 29 Kidman of "The Others"
- 30 Remained
- 33 Tennis star Agassi
- 35 Toast topper
- 38 Make a choice
- 39 Jean — Godard

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13					14				
15				16				17	
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	21						22		
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37			38					39	
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42								43	

10-25

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The Pampa News Classifieds

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All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Vanessa G. Buzzard Attorney at Law 208 N. Russell St. Pampa, TX 79065 DATED the 20th day of October, 2011.
Vanessa G. Buzzard Attorney for Donald R. McMinn State Bar No.: 03547900 208 N. Russell St. Pampa, TX 79065 Telephone:

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14w Air Cond/Heat

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 - (Requires Convenience Package)
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 - (Requires Leather Package)
- (Requires 8-way power-adjustable driver's seat)**
 - Convenience Package includes
 - Backup camera
 - Auto-dimming rearview mirror with compass
 - HomeLink® universal transceiver
 - Anti-theft system with alarm
 - (Requires power tilt/slide moonroof)
 - Leather Package
 - (Requires Convenience Package)
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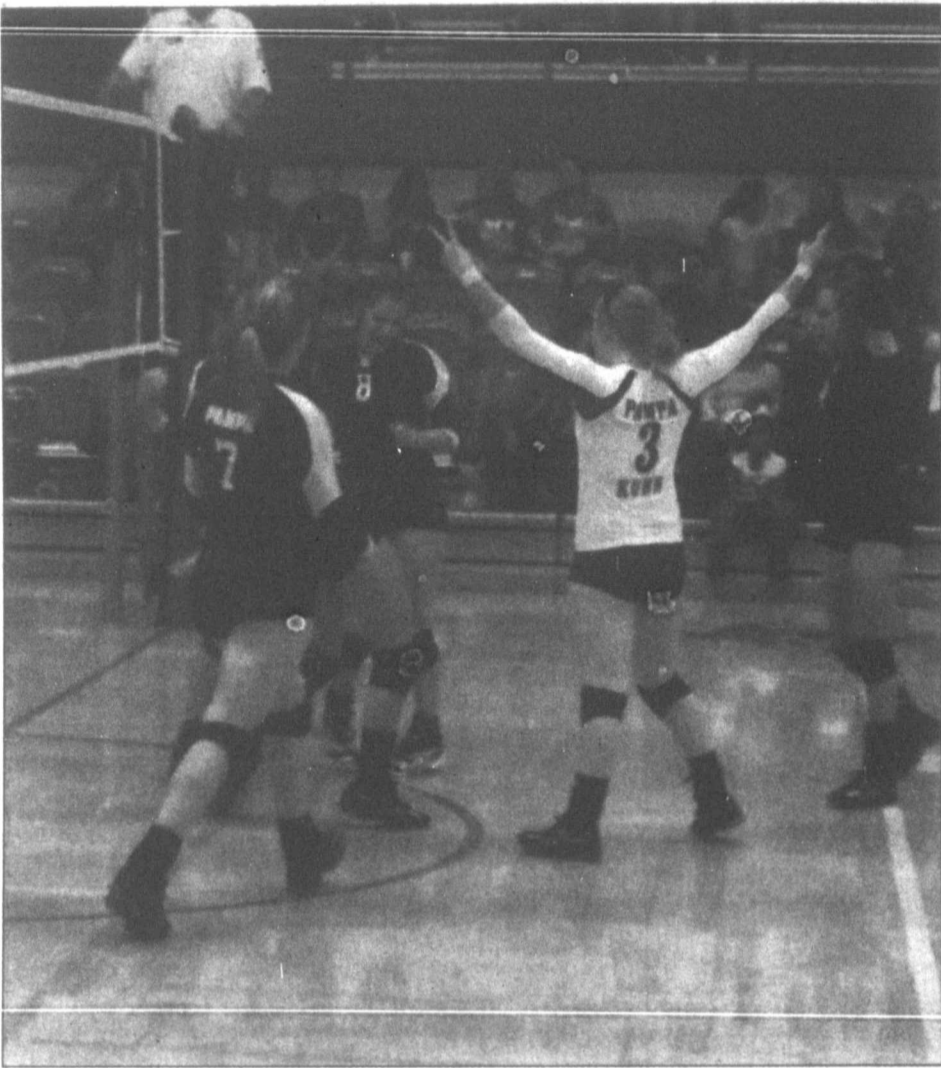
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Sports

VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

No. 13 Lady Harvesters finish season against Wolves



staff photo by Andrew Glover

The Lady Harvesters celebrate a point against Perryton Saturday. Pampa hopes to celebrate the completion of a 9-0 district season when it hosts Dalhart today.

ANDREW GLOVER
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In last season's regular season finale, the Dalhart Lady Wolves pushed the Lady Harvesters to the brink as Pampa won in five. This season, the No. 13 Pampa Lady Harvesters hope they look ready for the playoffs when it closes the season 6 p.m. today.

"Dalhart is tough and is very well coached," Garza said. "I think it's a good game. Our girls get really fired up when they play them."

Pampa beat Dalhart October 14 in three games, but the last two victories took extra points ending 26-24. In the second game, Dalhart was one point away from tying the match. Today's game is Senior Day, Pink Out and "Pack the Pit." Senior Ramie Hutto said that should fire the Lady Harvesters up.

"We will bring it harder than ever," Hutto said. "It will be an intense match and fun to watch."

Along with Hutto, seniors Caitlin Sieck, Kailyn Troxell, Alanna Stephens, Stephanie Allen, Kirsten Kuhn and manager Miranda Patterson will be honored

in a pre-game ceremony. Garza said she is very excited for her seniors, especially since they are her first class.

"I'm excited to see these seniors perform on their night," Garza said. "They are very special to me. They are my first group to have me from their freshman year to their senior year. It's been so awesome and exciting to see them grow as volleyball players and young women."

Both Pampa and Dalhart have their playoff spots wrapped up. The Lady Wolves (11-22, 6-2) will be the second seed out of District 1-3A and will play on either October 31 or November 1 in the bi-district round. The Lady Harvesters (28-8, 8-0) have clinched district and has earned a bye and will play in the area round on November 3 to 5.

Garza said her team is focused on cutting down on unforced errors.

"We focus on keeping the momentum," Garza said. "One ball can change the entire match. Once we do get into play-offs and the teams get better and better as we go, a missed serve could be the factor of the match."

DISTRICT 1-3A VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

School	DW	DL	D%	W	L	%
x Pampa	8	0	1.000	28	8	.778
y Dalhart	6	2	.750	11	22	.333
Borger	1	7	.125	19	19	.500
Perryton	1	7	.125	10	22	.313

x= clinched district y=clinched playoff spot

PHS boys swimming finishes fifth, girls eighth at Abilene

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The Pampa High School boys swimming team finished fifth and the girls finished eighth at the Abilene Invitational Saturday.

The Harvesters scored 95 points and were seven points behind fourth place Odessa. Senior Karl Pfitzner finished 10th in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:14.42. Senior Nate Towry finished 5th in the 200-yard individual medley (2:31.27). Freshman Dalton Hudson finished sixth (2:32.62). Senior Spencer Estes finished second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.47. Towry finished sixth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:52.15. Estes finished third in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:03.94. Junior J.T. Brown finished eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:17.72.

In the relays, the boys finished ninth in the 200-yard medley (1:59.47), fourth in the 200-yard freestyle (1:42.48) and 11th

in the 400-yard freestyle (4:15.81).

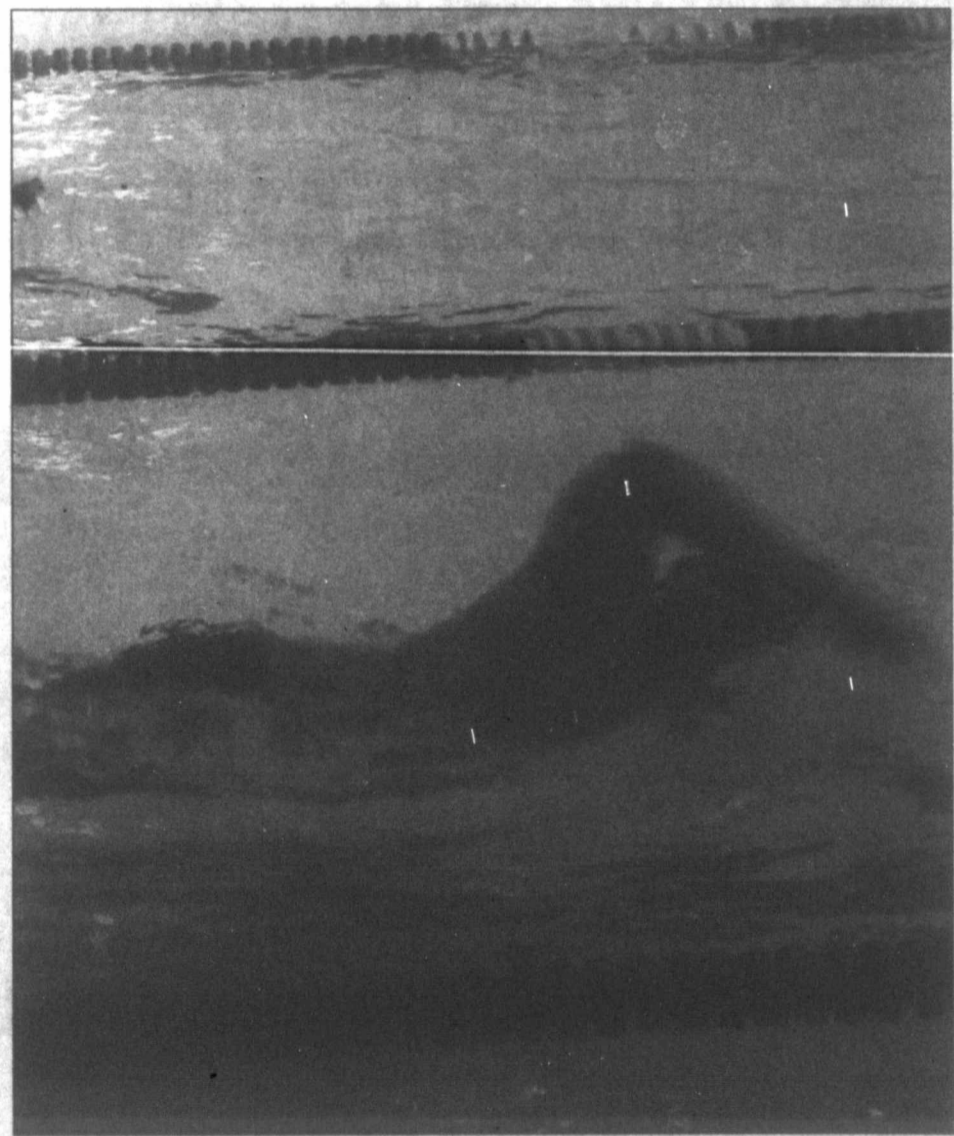
The Lady Harvesters scored 46 points and were 42 points behind seventh place Andrews. Senior Kendle Ramey finished third in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 6:15.88 and sixth in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:12.14. Sophomore Morgan Graef finished fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:20.92.

In the relays, the girls finished 16th in the 200-yard medley (2:35.75). The other team didn't qualify. Pampa A finished ninth in the 200-yard freestyle (2:06.52). The B team finished 15th with a time of 2:13.03.

Head coach Edward Garvin said he scheduled the Lubbock Duals and the Abilene Invitational to teach his swimmers perseverance.

"It was a tough schedule, but many of our swimmers stepped up and swam their best times," Garvin said. "I was proud of the way they handled it."

Full results will be in the weekly scoreboard in the weekend edition.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Nate Towry takes a breath during the 500-yard freestyle relay in the Green and Gold Meet August 24. Towry finished sixth at the Abilene Invitational Saturday.

2011 WORLD SERIES

Napoli big game in victory

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Mike Napoli took a mighty swing, tossed his bat aside and trotted around the bases. Fireworks exploded in the air, and Texas Rangers fans cheered wildly.

No wild throws, close plays or missed calls for Napoli in Game 4 of the World Series.

Back behind the plate, Napoli was a calming influence for Derek Holland, the young left-hander who allowed two hits and pitched into the ninth inning of the Rangers' 4-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday night. The Texas victory evened the World Series at two games each.

"The catcher's huge in a performance like that," Ian Kinsler said. "He kept the rhythm of the game, talked to him a couple of times. He went to the mound to visit a couple of times, kept him on track, got him right back on track."

Napoli also had that big hit. Although Josh Hamilton put Texas ahead to stay with an RBI double in the first inning, Napoli delivered in the sixth with his three-run homer on the first pitch thrown by reliever Mitchell Boggs.

"I know Boggs has a good sinker. In that situation he's probably trying to get a double-play ball," Napoli said. "I just got a pitch up that I could handle."

The Rangers have Game 5 at home

Monday night before returning to St. Louis. They lost last year's World Series in Game 5 without getting to go back to San Francisco.

After a weird Game 3, in which Napoli was in the middle of so much that went wrong for Texas in a 16-7 loss, he promised the Rangers would do what they've always done after losses — regroup and expect to win the next one.

That they did, with Napoli deserving a lot of the credit.

"It was behind me when I left the field," Napoli said of Game 3. "I didn't really think about it anymore. I knew we had to come here and get a win, so I mean, came back today and went through my routine and let it go."

Cardinals starter Edwin Jackson was pulled after walking Nelson Cruz and David Murphy with one out in the sixth. With Napoli coming up, and fans already breaking into their chants of "Nap-o-hi, Nap-o-hi," St. Louis stalled for some time. Jackson even turned to make a pick-off throw toward second base without throwing a pitch to Napoli before Tony La Russa changed pitchers.

Boggs' first pitch was high in the strike zone. Napoli crushed it, sending it 392 feet down the left-field line to put the Rangers up 4-0.

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