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The PAMPA NEWS

Friday, October 28, 2011

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Signature CFO on rumors: PRMC not closing

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

Steven G. Peterson, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Signature Hospital Corporation, the parent company of Pampa Regional Medical Center, paid a visit to the hospital on Thursday to address persisting rumors about the sale of PRMC as well as give an update on the facility's current state of affairs.

Peterson confirmed that Signature is still communicating with prospective buyers and that, as of yet, no sale has been made. "As (Signature) announced back in January, we sold a hospital we owned in West Virginia and undertook the process of selling the other two hospitals we had, one in Wharton, Texas, which is about 50 miles southwest of Houston, and the one here," Peterson said.

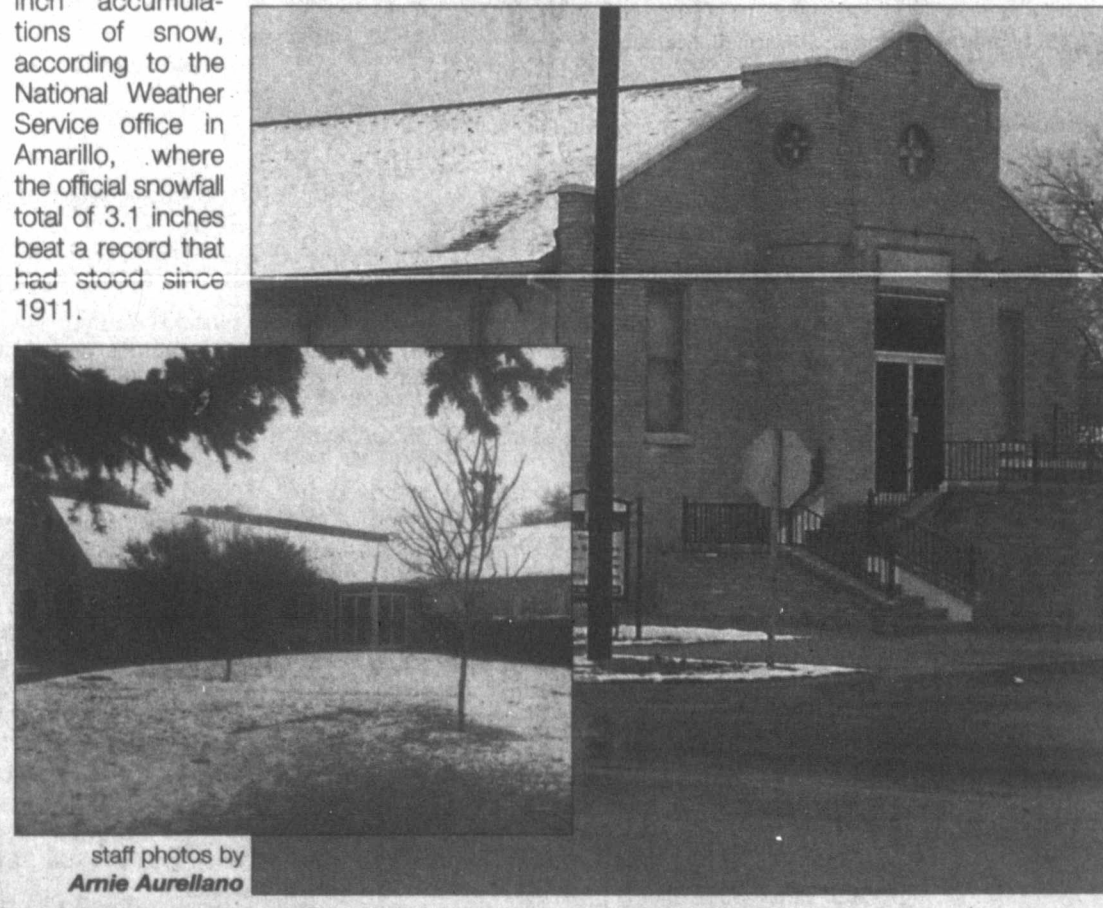
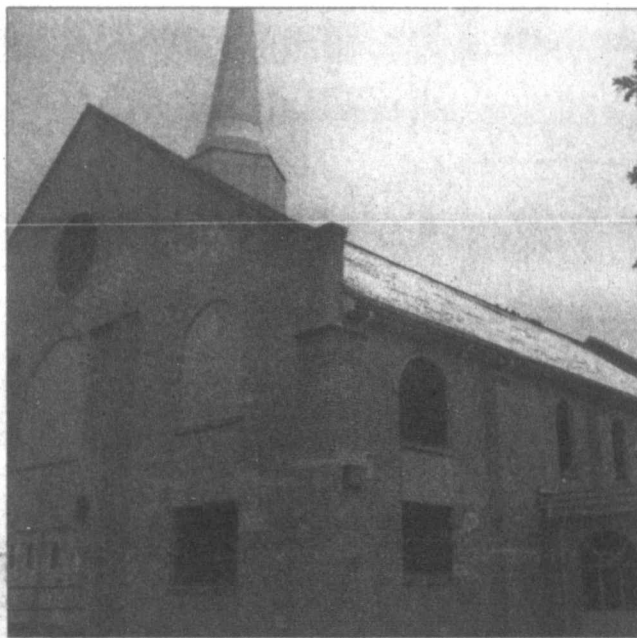
"We are still in the process of working to sell those hospitals. Obviously, the local group (Save the Hospital) is interested and they have made it a proposal. We also have three other groups that are looking at the hospital that are formulating a proposal as well. Our belief is in the next, let's say two to six weeks, we'll have some additional offers, as well as having the local group firm up their offer, in which case we

will make a decision as to which group to sell the hospital to." When Signature first announced that PRMC was on the market, it projected a sale date by the end of 2011. Peterson admitted that such a forecast currently appears "maybe a little optimistic," but was added that he was hopeful that the sale could be finalized by the end of the first quarter of 2012.

HOSPITAL cont. on page 10

Is that... snow?

A thin blanket of snow dusts the rooftops of Pampa's Church of Christ, Church of Christ Somerville and First Presbyterian Church (clockwise from top left) as the Texas Panhandle fell just short of having a white Halloween. An early snowstorm dropped a much as four inches of snow on the northern and western portions of the Panhandle Thursday, with some areas receiving up to four inch accumulations of snow, according to the National Weather Service office in Amarillo, where the official snowfall total of 3.1 inches beat a record that had stood since 1911.



staff photos by Arnie Aurellano

As Skinner waits, officials urge testing

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

As Hank Skinner's November 9 execution date crawls closer by the day, 17 current and former elected officials, prosecutors and judges addressed a letter yesterday to Governor Rick Perry, Attorney General Greg Abbott and Gray County District Attorney Lynn Switzer, urging the state to grant Skinner access to as of yet untested DNA evidence.

"Executing Mr. Skinner without testing all the relevant evidence would suggest official indifference to the possibility of error in this case and needlessly undermine public confidence in Texas's criminal justice system," the letter read.

Signatories to the letter included Rodney Ellis, the Texas State Senator who drafted the recent legislation reforming Texas' post-conviction DNA testing law; former governor Mark White; Morris L. Overstreet, former Judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and former Amarillo Assistant District Attorney; Sam Millsap, former Bexar County District Attorney; Kenneth J. Mighell, former United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas; and former Houston Police Department Lieutenant Earl D. Musick.

While prosecutors believe Skinner's request for DNA are little more than an attempt to push back his execution, 85 percent

SKINNER cont. on page 10

Pampa Police Dept. urges safety during Halloween

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

As Halloween approaches, the Pampa Police Department is emphasizing safety for kids on this holiday.

Visibility on dark streets is very important when walking at night. "Try to wear reflective clothing. Make sure that people in cars can see you," said Chief Kelly Rushing. "Practice good traffic safety. Some children have costumes that don't have visibility, so make sure you have good visibility

from your costumes." Kids also should watch out for stranger dangers, avoiding going into anyone's houses or accepting unwrapped candies and homemade treats.

"Don't go by yourself. We encourage parents to go with children, especially younger children. Let children go to areas where you know the people," said Rushing.

The Pampa Police Department will be giving away treats and reflective Trick-or-Treat bags after 3 p.m. on Monday at the station on 201 West Kingsmill.

Trick-or-Treat Safety Tips

For kids, few holidays are more anticipated than Halloween. The chance to dress up in costume and patrol the neighborhood with friends while collecting treats is the highlight of many a child's autumn.

For parents, anticipation is replaced by anxiety. Because Halloween is so popular among kids, it's hard for parents to forbid trick-or-treating. But parents should instruct kids on the following tips to ensure this Halloween is as safe as it is fun.

• **Don't go inside strangers' homes.** Make sure kids know they should never enter the home of a stranger, no matter how friendly or welcoming that stranger may seem.

TIPS cont. on page 10




"Country Christmas" Parade
 December 3rd
 Entry forms can be picked up at the Chamber office
 Deadline for entry is Nov. 30

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 53 Low 34	High 64 Low 36	High 62 Low 38

Today: Sunny, with a high near 53. Wind chill values between 23 and 33 early. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 64. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. Calm wind becoming northeast between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

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FINNEY RETIREMENT Reception! Friends, family and clients will honor 40 years of service as Bob Finney retires from the practice of law. A reception will be held in the Gray County Courtroom, Second Floor of the Gray County Courthouse, Friday, Oct. 28, 2-4 p.m.

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DOJ: Redistricting maps discriminatory

AUSTIN (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice is arguing that Texas' new voting maps for Congress and for the state House were drawn by the Republican-led Legislature with discriminatory intent against minority voters, and has asked a federal court to reject the plans.

In briefs filed with the court Tuesday, the Justice Department says that both maps are retrogressive, meaning minority voters' ability to elect their candidates of choice is diminished.

The state, represented by Attorney General Greg Abbott, contends that the plans maintain or increase the voting strength of minorities and are in compliance with the law.

A three-judge panel in Washington has scheduled a hearing on the case for Wednesday.

The legal fight in Washington revolves around a requirement in the 1965 Voting Rights Act that certain states, including Texas, be granted "preclearance" before redistricting maps and other changes in voting practices can be enacted. Texas has submitted its plans to judges in Washington seeking approval. The legal standard is whether the new plan has the purpose or the effect of denying or diminishing the right to vote based on race or color.

The Justice Department says Texas has not met that standard. It says "discriminatory intent permeated the congressional redistricting process, based on a broad array of circumstantial evidence."

District boundaries are redrawn every 10 years to reflect changes in census data. This year, Texas received four new congressional seats — increasing the delegation from 32 to 36 — because of a population surge fueled by Hispanics.

The state argues that the proposed plan increases the number of minority districts in the congressional plan from eight to 10. But the Justice Department says the analysis used by the state is inadequate because it only looks at population statistics rather than taking into account historical election data like turnout.

Using a more detailed analysis, the U.S. says the proposed congressional map does not change the number of effective minority districts, maintaining 10.

"Because the proposed plan includes the four new Texas congressional seats, the plan substantially decreases the percentage of minority ability-to-elect districts when compared to the benchmark plan," the Justice Department argues.

Under the proposal, 479,704 fewer Hispanics would reside in districts where they would be able to elect their congressional candidates of choice, attorneys contend. The percentage of minority voters — black and Hispanic — in such districts would fall from 31.3 percent to 27.7 percent under the Texas plan.

In the proposed map for the 150-member Texas House, the Justice Department argues that minority districts are reduced from 50 to 45. The state has asserted the number of minority districts would increase from 41 to 42.

"The United States contends that a purpose of the proposed State House redistricting plan is to eliminate the minority communities' ability to elect their candidate of choice in districts won by candidates not preferred by the minority voters in the watershed 2010 election," they argued. Republicans won an unprecedented majority of the Texas House seats during last year's tea-party fueled elections.

Abbott's office said that what the Justice Department labeled discrimination is just the Legislature's decision to protect incumbents of a certain party.

"Despite their outrageous claims, if one looks behind DOJ's inflammatory rhetoric, they produce no genuine evidence of discrimination," said Abbott's spokeswoman Lauren Bean. "Ironically, DOJ is objecting to districts that the Legislature specifically enacted to protect Hispanic incumbents - who happen to be Republicans - in the same manner that the Legislature worked to protect incumbents of both parties."

The maps were approved by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry this summer. The court has already cleared the new map for the State Board of Education. The Justice Department did not take issue with a map for Texas Senate districts.

A separate case in San Antonio, a combination of several lawsuits filed by minority and Democratic groups, has been stalled while awaiting a resolution from the Washington court. The San Antonio court has scheduled a hearing to begin Monday that could determine what maps will be temporarily put in place so election officials can prepare for next year's primary elections.

Hispanics have accounted for two-thirds of the state's growth since 2000. Yet during the two-week federal trial in San Antonio, opponents argued that GOP map-makers went out of their way to stifle those gains and deny Hispanics greater voting power.

Obituaries

Debra Kay Shouse, 56

A memorial service for Debra Kay Shouse of Lindsay, will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at 2 p.m. at Memory Gardens in Pampa, with Danny Miller officiating.

Debra was born on January 2, 1955, in Pampa, to Howard and Vernice Hulsey Shouse. She died on October 12, 2011 at Denton Regional Medical Center.

She was a graduate of Pampa High School and graduated from NCTC in 1998



Shouse

with a LVN certificate. She was an employee of the Denton State School for ten years. She loved her family very deeply and enjoyed gardening.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Jessi Noble and William Cotton, Kara and Triston Case, and Candice and Lariat Gartman; her brother and sister-in-law, Billy and Cristy Shouse; her step-mother, Sandra Shouse; her grandchildren, Liam, Asher, Rhiannon, Zoey, Bailey, Joshua, and Isabella; many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Michael Shouse.

Memorial contributions may be made to PO Box 126, Gainesville, TX 76241 or may be made at the memorial service.

You may sign the online register at www.geojcarroll.com.

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, October 27 at 7 a.m.

Animal Control agents reported 13 animal related incidents.

Pampa PD reported 10 traffic related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Pampa Fire Department responded to five medical calls.

Wednesday, October 26

An assault was reported.

A violation of city ordinance occurred at the 700 block of East 14th.

An abandoned vehicle was reported at the 700 block of East 14th.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 23rd and Duncan.

A violation of city ordinance was reported at the 2300 block of North Dogwood.

An abandoned vehicle was reported at the 1600 block of Mary Ellen.

A theft occurred at the 800 block of North Nelson.

The Pampa Fire Department responded to a grass fire at the 200 block of West Albert.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 1200 block of North Russell.

An accident occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

Criminal mischief was reported at the 1800 block

of North Hamilton.

A suspicious person was reported at the 2200 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported at the 1000 block of North Duncan.

A burglary was reported at the 600 block of Bradley.

An offense against family and children occurred at the 700 block of North Zimmers.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1500 block of North Wells.

A burglary occurred at the 400 block of Roberta.

A theft occurred at the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Thursday, October 27

A structure fire occurred at the 900 block of East Malone.

An accident occurred at the 1200 block of East Frederic.

Sheriff's Office

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

SVT SHDWAMT KPSV SVT HGS

HGJT PL SVGS TRTO PI XDW

KPO, XDW HT LSPMM G HGS.

— MPMX SDQMPQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HARD WORK

NEVER KILLS ANYBODY WHO SUPERVISES IT.

— HARRY B'ER



FINNEY RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Friends, family and clients will honor 40 years of service as Bob Finney retires from the practice of law. A reception will be held in the Gray County Courtroom, second floor of the Gray County Courthouse, on Friday, October 28, from 2p. to 4pm

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TAMPA NEWS

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MORNINGRUSH

Cash could lead to charges

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Police in Oklahoma City say motorists who stopped to pick up \$20 bills that were blowing around Interstate 40 could face theft charges.

The Oklahoman reports the cash started billowing across the busy highway on Monday, prompting numerous motorists to stop and grab as much as they could.

No legitimate claim on the money has been made yet, though police say they have much of the cash that floated loose on the highway. Some of the money has been turned in to police.

State law requires people who find money or property to make an effort to find the owner. Those who do not could face theft charges. If the find involves more than \$500, a felony charge could result.

Texas gets second border drone

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) - The second unmanned aircraft to patrol the Texas-Mexico border has arrived at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

A spokesman for U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar of Laredo confirms that the Predator drone arrived early Thursday morning.

Officials announced in July that Texas would get a second drone to patrol its 1,254-mile border with Mexico. Along with another planned for Arizona, the drone brings U.S. Customs and Border Protection's total to six on the Southwest border.

The Predator can fly for 20 hours without refueling, extending by many hours the surveillance capability of a helicopter. Flight crews control the planes remotely.

The new aircraft awaits assembly, and it was unclear when it would fly its first mission.

\$750M turbine deal announced

HOUSTON (AP) - BP Wind Energy has reached a \$750 million deal with General Electric Co. to supply and maintain 350 turbines for wind farms in Pennsylvania and Kansas.

The agreement was announced Thursday.

Houston-based BP Wind Energy says GE has agreed to deliver 88 turbines to the Mehoopany Wind Farm, located 20 miles northwest of Scranton, Pa. The other 262 turbines are meant for BP's Flat Ridge 2 Wind Farm, about 60 miles southwest of Wichita, Kan.

Perry may skip some debates

AUSTIN (AP) - Rick Perry may skip some upcoming Republican presidential debates after recent rocky performances that have hurt his standing in polls.

Aides say he has committed to participating in a Nov. 9 debate in Michigan but hasn't committed to any beyond that.

He's seeking to reintroduce himself to the nation on his own terms. And he's returning to the play-it-safe strategy he successfully employed in running for governor of Texas.

Perry has never lost an election. And he debated only when it couldn't be avoided. He has long conceded he's not a strong debater, contending that his personal contact is a key to his success. But it's unclear whether that will work in a national campaign.

Texas adds border cameras

McALLEN (AP) - The Texas Department of Public Safety is ready to ramp up deployment of motion-triggered cameras in what it hopes is another tool to monitor the state's 1,254-mile border with Mexico.

DPS Director Steve McCraw says 20 to 30 of the small mobile cameras have been tested and proven effective for more than a year in rural areas along the border.

The cameras can take series of still photographs when people walk by and then email the images to accounts that DPS selects, including law enforcement fusion centers or even the ranchers on whose land the cameras sit.

McCraw said information from the cameras had already led Border Patrol to apprehend about 150 illegal immigrants this year.

Fewer counties with burn bans

COLLEGE STATION (AP) - The number of drought-stricken Texas counties with outdoor burn bans has slipped following recent rains and cooler fall temperatures.

The Texas Forest Service says 219 counties had burn bans Thursday, a day when a cold front with showers moved through parts of the state. Forecasters say snow fell in Amarillo.

A record 251 of the state's 254 counties in August banned outdoor fires during heat and drought blamed for at least \$5.2 billion in livestock and crop losses since last fall.

The state's previous outdoor burn ban record, prior to this year's drought, happened in January 2006 at 221 counties. That record fell in June.

Officials with the Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, 30 miles north of Amarillo, say drought conditions remain but a fire ban will be lifted Saturday.

US drivers owe Juarez \$10M

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Miguel Angel Rodriguez had just parked his car when a Ciudad Juarez traffic officer wrote him a ticket and then unscrewed one of his license plates.

The truck driver from El Paso, Texas, argued with the officer, but soon gave up. That didn't mean he was going to pay the 165 peso (\$12.50) fine.

He is one of thousands of people with U.S. cars who find it quicker and easier to just replace the plates or driving licenses that Juarez police routinely confiscate to guarantee payment.

U.S.-plated cars are common on Juarez's streets due to cross-border commuters, not to mention locals who buy cars or pickups across the border because they are cheaper.

The city says it is owed about \$10 million in fines on tens of thousands of unpaid traffic citations against U.S. drivers or vehicles.

The proper location of a fireplace

Dear Pat: We are in the initial planning stage of our new house, and we definitely want a fireplace. In order to minimize smoke in the house, does it make any difference where we locate the fireplace? — Deb A.

Dear Deb: A smoky fireplace can completely spoil the ambiance and pleasure of a crackling fire. In many cases, the cause of smoke being drawn back down the chimney into the house is a result of poor fireplace design and construction methods. Today's airtight house designs also exacerbate backdrafting and smoky fireplace problems.

It is wise for you to consider the location of the fireplace in your new home during the planning phase because its location can also affect how well the chimney draws the smoke out of your house. It takes only slight pressure differences between the top of the chimney and the interior of your house to suck the smoke back down into a room.

Since you are still drawing up the plans for your new home, try to locate the fireplace on the side facing the prevailing winter winds. In most areas, this is from the west and northwest. If your home will be located in a low area surrounded by hills, the wind direction may be different. The wind direction during the warmer weather is not a consideration.

The reason to locate the fireplace toward the prevailing wind is for combustion air. With today's airtight homes, you should make provisions for outdoor makeup combustion air. This can be as simple as opening a window just a little or, even better, running an outdoor air duct to a register in front of the fireplace.

With higher air pressure on the side of your house facing the wind, the outdoor combustion air will be slightly pressurized. This air pressure difference will help force the smoke up the chimney. If the combustion air inlet were on the side away from the wind, the lower pressure could actually suck even more smoke down the chimney and into your room.

Try to avoid having tall trees between the wind and your fireplace

HOME HOW-TO

chimney. When the wind hits the trees, it sweeps up and over them and becomes somewhat turbulent. This may create a downward rolling action of the wind as it passes over your chimney. This rolling action may impede the smoke from exiting the chimney.

It is also possible that the action of the wind over the trees can create a lower-pressure area around your chimney and actually help exhaust the smoke. There is no way of knowing for certain which will happen, so to be safe, try to avoid locating the fireplace adjacent to tall

upwind trees.

Locating the fireplace in the center of house is good for several reasons. The chimney will stay warmer, especially when there is no fire burning, than when it is located on an outside wall. This requires less heat initially from the wood to create the natural updraft (hot air is less dense than cold air) in the chimney.

Another advantage of an interior chimney is energy efficiency. Instead of losing all that heat from the hot smoke to the outdoors, the heat from the chimney stays indoors. This reduces the heating load on your furnace or heat pump and lowers your heating bills.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

HOME HOW-TO

Fireplace

A chimney must be designed to accommodate the volume and type of exhaust being emitted by the fireplace it serves. Simply put, fireplaces work mainly because hot air rises.

PROPER FUNCTION

■ When you start a fire, the air inside the chimney becomes warmer and less dense than the air outside the chimney, and the warm air starts to rise.

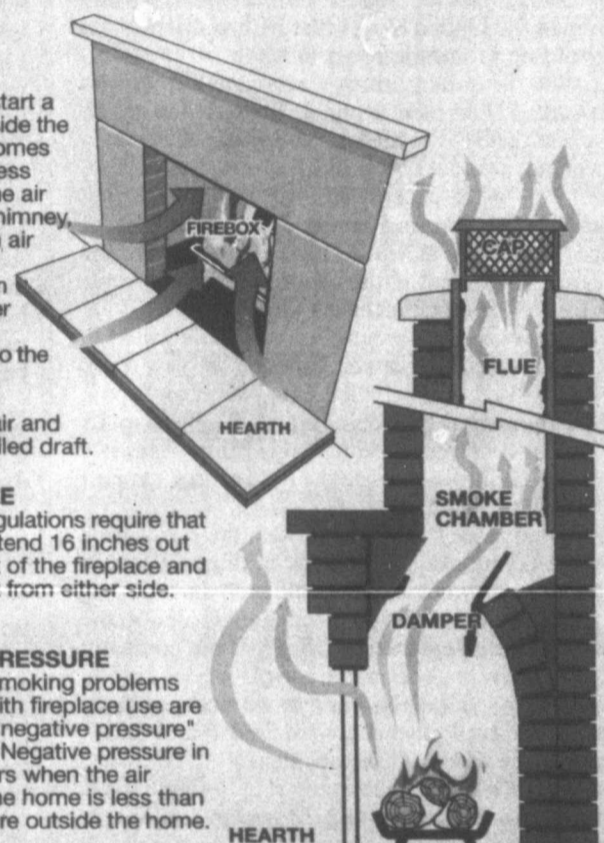
■ As the warm air rises, cooler air from the room flows into the firebox. This movement of combustion air and exhaust is called draft.

HEARTH SIZE

Most code regulations require that the hearth extend 16 inches out from the front of the fireplace and 10 inches out from either side.

NEGATIVE PRESSURE

Most of the smoking problems associated with fireplace use are the result of "negative pressure" occurrences. Negative pressure in a home occurs when the air pressure in the home is less than the air pressure outside the home.



Source: www.hearth.com

Creators.com/Bob Kast

Feds call for safer storage tanks after explosions

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Explosions from oil and natural gas tanks tucked away in isolated areas killed 44 people in the last three decades, federal regulators said Thursday as they called on companies and officials to make the storage sites safer.

Thousands of tanks are in places where young people hang out. Those killed were all 25 or younger, often at unsecured sites that did not have warning signs or fences, according to a report released by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. Several of the explosions have been sparked by cigarette smoking.

Three accidents in the last two years have highlighted the problems. An explosion in south Mississippi in 2009 killed two teenagers in a clearing in the woods near the small town of Carnes. Six months later, another per-

son died while exploring a similar storage site in Oklahoma. Two weeks after that, a 24-year-old woman died when a tank exploded in New London, Texas, near the Louisiana state line.

"All three incidents

involved rural unmanned oil and gas storage sites that lacked fencing and signs warning of the hazards, which might have otherwise deterred members of the public from using them as places to gather," the report said.

Board Chair Rafael Moure-Eraso said during a conference call with reporters that federal, state and local authorities should learn from these tragedies and enact stronger regulations.

TANKS cont. on page 5

YOU KNOW THE WAR...

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12



MEET ONE OF ITS WARRIORS.

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Thursday, November 3

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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thu 7:30

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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thu 7:00

Paranormal Activity 3 (R)
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Mon/Thu 7:30

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 28, the 301st day of 2011. There are 64 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

On this date:

In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1776, the Battle of White Plains was fought during the Revolutionary War, resulting in a limited British victory.

In 1919, Congress enacted the Volstead Act, which provided for enforcement of Prohibition, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary.

In 1940, Italy invaded Greece during World War II.

In 1958, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Venice, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, was elected pope; he took the name John XXIII.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan faced off in a nationally broadcast, 90-minute debate in Cleveland.

In 1991, what became known as "The Perfect Storm" began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea during the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a sword-fishing boat from Gloucester, Mass.

Ten years ago: The families of people killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack gathered in New York for a memorial service filled with prayer and song.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush spoke by video conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as he sought to reaffirm support for the Iraqi leader.

One year ago: Investigators with the president's oil spill commission said tests performed before the deadly blowout of BP's oil well in the Gulf of Mexico should have raised doubts about the cement used to seal the well, but that the company and its cementing contractor used it anyway. (The cement mix's failure to prevent oil and gas from entering the well has been cited by BP and others as one of the causes of the accident.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 84. Actress Joan Plowright is 82. Musician-songwriter Charlie Daniels is 75. Actress Jane Alexander is 72. Singer Curtis Lee is 70. Actor Dennis Franz is 67. Pop singer Wayne Fontana is 66. Actress Telma Hopkins is 63. Actress Annie Potts is 59. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 56. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 54. Actor Mark Derwin is 51. Actress Daphne Zuniga is 49. Actress Lauren Holly is 48. Actress Jami Gertz is 46. Actor Chris Bauer is 45. Actor-comedian Andy Richter is 45. Actress Julia Roberts is 44. Actor Jeremy Davies is 42. Singer Ben Harper is 42. Country singer Brad Paisley is 39. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 37. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 32. Rock musician Dave Tiro (Plain White T's) is 32. Actress Troian Bellisario is 26.

Thought for Today: "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." —George Orwell (Eric Blair), *English author (1903-1950)*.

I went to Pantex and all I got was this column

If you live in the Panhandle, you don't have to watch "Dr. Strangelove" to know that nuclear bombs are a real part of U.S. history even today, and that it's vitally important to protect your precious bodily fluids. Growing up within a short drive of the country's only facility that assembles and disassembles nuclear weapons seemed normal to me. Maybe because in Amarillo, my hometown, you can't throw a rock without hitting someone who works at the plant.

You may ask a Pantex employee the king of small talk questions: "What do you do?"

"Well," they'll say, with a knowing wink and smile. "I could tell you, but I'd have to kill you."

Up until Tuesday, I'd never been to Pantex. I met one of their Security Police Officers (SPOs) once, an ex-marine who told me gleefully about killing pirates off the coast of Somalia. And once, an FBI agent asked me questions about a neighbor I hadn't seen for 10 years because he was up for a job at Pantex and needed to clear a thorough security check.

So when the opportunity came to visit the facility to join in its celebration marking the dismantlement of the final B53 nuclear bomb, I jumped on it. The media was going to be allowed into places they hadn't been in years, the story had received national attention, and I was going to be a part of it.

After my initial security check, I was ushered into a room filled with a handful of other reporters. The room was decorated like a nuclear weapon museum exhibit, with a timeline stretching across the walls that told the story of the bomb's history. I kept staring at a drawing of a 40s pin up girl pasted over a photo of several bombs, thinking about how most of the workers at Pantex during World War II were actually women.

A SPO came in and read the list of unapproved items. It includes crossbows, drugs and incendiary devices.

"I have a lighter," I said, reaching into my pocket and starting for the door. "I'll just run this to my car."

Someone from the National Nuclear Security Administration insisted on taking it instead.

"Well, I guess it's good we went over the list then after all," said the SPO, eyeing me suspiciously.

Gregory Cunningham, Pantex' Public Affairs Specialist, explained to us how this field trip would go. Of course, there would be no photographing anything without expressed permission. Each member of the media would be assigned a "minder," essentially a handler who keeps you from taking soil samples or scrambling over barbed wire into secured areas. We would travel by bus to each location on our tour.

Our first stop was to check out what the bomb actually looked like. They showed us what Cunningham called an "inert non-nuclear weapon." Just as the model airplanes you made when you were a kid would never really see the friendly sky, the worst thing you could accuse the dummy bomb of is probably its inability to add to the decor of the equipment bay while sitting like a dud under a banner that said "Getting the Job Done."

After everyone had gotten their photos, we got back on the bus and traveled to Pantex' firing site to enjoy some pyrotechnics. Pantex workers and suits from the National Security Agency and the National Nuclear Security Administration were on hand to witness the detonation of some explosives, supposedly from the B53.

A lone phone booth sat near the side of the road, labeled simply, "phone booth." In case something goes awry during routine detonations, Pantexers can use the phone there to call an operations center and the FAA.

Everyone got earplugs and was warned about aftershocks that we would feel after the explosives went off. I kept thinking about the cannons that always get fired during the 1812 Overture, fiddling with my earplugs and bracing myself for the aftershock. After a countdown, there was a small explosion, and a rising puff of smoke, about the size of a celery stick on the horizon.

All the suits applauded. We boarded the bus for the last time to return to the nuke museum we started out in. During the ride, I thought about a lot of things. I wondered if my lighter was thinking about me, because after a three hour tour of a bomb factory without a cigarette, I sure was thinking about it. I wondered why out of three bus rides, I always wound up sitting next to one of the SPO's, and by the last ride, somehow was actually sitting in between them both. I wondered if there was a tiny fountain or Japanese garden next to the model of Hiroshima, because it was really hard to see from the bus.

Back in the nuke museum, I stood behind the majority of the mediatypes in attendance, all men, while the other two women reporters sat at the head of a conference table, nearest to the podium where the Deputy Secretary of Energy was to speak shortly. I made small talk and held my notebook at the ready, even though at



MOLLIE BRYANT

this point I was disenchanted and had learned a valuable lesson that has something to do with PR sponsored events, reporting and apathy.

A suit tapped me on the shoulder, and pulled out a chair from the back of the conference table.

"Would you like to take a seat?" he asked.

It's a little hard to explain, when seven other reporters, all men, are standing, why it's a sexist gesture to invite only me to sit when multiple seats are available. And my reaction was harder to explain. I wanted to appear professional, as though I didn't think this whole event was the figurative equivalent of the media shaking hands with a nuclear death machine.

"Thank you," I said with a scowl.

Now, not only could I not see the podium, I couldn't hear very well. And even worse, I didn't care either way. I abjectly scribbled down quotes. My notes are an illegible skirmish of Cold War history and words like "mission space," "nuclear Armageddon," and "the United States' legacy." While all the other reporters were asking questions, like, how does it feel to dismantle the last B53, I was combing through my brain for any question at all.

"What brand of barbed wire do you all use? It looks like it really gets the job done."

"Why gray? I would paint my nuclear bomb to reflect my own unique personality. After all, I am a special snowflake, and gray is drab, drab, drab."

"So, what shoes are in season this year in non-proliferation? I assume open-toed heels are out."

The question and answer period ended, and I hadn't asked a single question. I left, headed over to the administration desk, and asked for my lighter. I waited while someone went to recover it. One of the SPO's came over and asked me when my article would come out.

"I'm going to read it, because you wrote it," he said.

"Neat," I said, realizing why I couldn't find a seat on the bus without a SPO next to it. "Well, I'm just going to run off. Don't really need the lighter. Take care."

I sat in my car a moment, feeling a little glum. I saw a SPO walking towards the car, and worried for a moment they had seen the crossbow I keep in my passenger's seat.

"Here's your lighter, ma'am," he said.

"Look at that Pantex hospitality!" I said with a smile, starting my engine happily.

Mollie Bryant is a reporter for The Pampa News. She may be reached at mbryant@thepampanews.com.

What Romney's religion reveals about his politics

Recent expressions of political and religious prejudice against Mormons and the Church of Latter-Day Saints have offered Mitt Romney a chance to play the bullied underdog -- and to explain, as he did with clarity and dignity during the Vegas debate, the meaning of the constitutional prohibition against any religious test for public office.

That won't discourage Baptist conservatives or atheist entertainers like Bill Maher from making fun of Mormons and their faith, whose history and tenets certainly sound strange to outsiders.

But is there any real reason to be troubled by Romney's religion? What does the career of the former Massachusetts governor tell us about the ideology of the LDS church -- and what his personal beliefs may portend if he becomes the first Mormon in the Oval Office?

The complaint from the religious right -- which has promiscuously allied itself with Mormon leaders to oppose reproductive and gay rights (and civil rights in an earlier era) -- is that the LDS church does not conform to the tenets of Christianity as they see it. Pastor Robert Jeffress, the man whose anti-Mormon crusading has now taken him onto late-night television and the opinion pages of The Washington Post, says he prefers a "committed Christian," but doesn't say why or what that precisely means.

Mormons may not share all of the tenets of Baptist or Methodist Christianity, but neither do Catholics or Episcopalians, yet fundamentalist evangelicals like Jeffress don't seem to worry much about their role

in public life. On issues that implicate morality, sexuality and family, the Mormons are equally "conservative" and consider themselves to be Christians, too. They officially abandoned polygamy many years ago -- and they seem to succeed more consistently in adhering to what they preach than many of their more orthodox brethren, if surveys of divorce, addiction and teen pregnancy are accurate.

Those conservative principles, along with a history of extremist positions adopted by the Mormon hierarchy, have encouraged the perception of the LDS church as an ideological bulwark of the far right. Mormon leaders long encouraged associations with fringe elements in American politics, such as the John Birch Society, which still wields influence in the tea party movement today. And the ultra-craziness of Glenn Beck, himself a Mormon and a promoter of wacky LDS political theorists, has not improved the church's political profile.

In practice, however, the Mormons welcome or at least permit a much broader spectrum of political and ideological affiliations within their ranks, even among the elected officials who share their faith. The highest-ranking Mormon in public office today, for instance, is Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, a liberal Democrat demonized by the

tea party and the Republicans, who spent millions trying to defeat him last year.

The best example of Mormonism's political flexibility, of course, is Romney's own career (and that of his father, the late Michigan governor who was hardly a hardliner), which veered from the most liberal Republicanism to the harsh conservatism he currently espouses.

As an LDS bishop in Boston two decades ago, he staunchly opposed abortion; then a few years later, Romney became pro-choice when he ran for the Senate against Democrat Ted Kennedy; and then shifted again when he began to aspire to his party's presidential nomination. Along the way, he designed and legislated a health care program that ensures coverage to almost every citizen of Massachusetts, and now repudiates that program (more or less) as an invention of Bay State Democrats.

The Romney family traces its lineage to the roots of the LDS movement, and today Mitt Romney stands at the pinnacle of wealth and influence in his church. His shape-shifting politics prove that however conservative most Mormons may be, they resemble every other American religious group in tolerating a wide assortment of political views within their ranks -- especially among politicians who succeed in achieving power. There are many reasons for concern about Romney's character -- including his hollow dissembling -- but religion is not among them.

Joe Conason is a nationally syndicated columnist.

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MEMBER 2011

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Tanks

"The team determined that there is a lack of consistent state or municipally mandated regulations for perimeter fencing, locks, and signage. These safeguards would warn of potential hazards and deter access," Moure-Eraso said. "Public safety is rarely considered in municipal or state rules for constructing or maintaining tanks on oil and gas well sites, even for new construction."

Moure-Eraso also said CSB "could not identify any specific federal standards or industry guidance" on securing the sites.

Some of the sites have little more than a few tanks connected by catwalks in the woods near residential areas. Many don't have

locks on hatches and can leak highly flammable vapors. Young people party at the sites while others ride all-terrain vehicles. Hunters use catwalks as elevated platforms to fire from. Investigators working the New London explosion found gang graffiti and a child's pink bike at the site.

The agency identified 26 incidents between 1983 and 2010 that resulted in the deaths and 25 injuries.

Some of the other accidents include a 2007 explosion that killed two teenagers in Rio Blanco County, Colo.; four teens killed in an explosion in Long Lake, Texas in 2003; and one teen killed in Heflin, La. in 2001.

A cigarette lighter was found at the scene in

Mississippi two years ago, but the board said in its report that "there was no evidence that it was the ignition source." About a year later, county officials adopted rules that would require companies to install perimeter fencing around sites, post appropriate signs and provide 24-hour telephone numbers in case of emergencies. Authorities said the oil company that owned the site has challenged the rules in court.

In the Oklahoma accident, a 21-year-old man and another friend were on the catwalk of an unsecured storage facility near Weleetka on April 14, 2010, when a 210-barrel capacity tank exploded.

Witness told authorities the victim was on the

catwalk connecting the tanks when he looked into a hatch, possibly while smoking. His friend was "walking behind him in the dark and struck his lighter to see. Vapors from the tank ignited and an explosion ensued."

In New London, Texas, on April 26, 2010, an oil tank explosion killed a 24-year-old woman and seriously injured a 25-year-old man.

"The CSB learned that two individuals were climbing the stairway of the catwalk when one victim asked the other to light a cigarette. Witness testimony revealed that when the second victim lit the cigarette, an explosion ensued," the report said.

Feinberg: Shrimpers' pain continues

The administrator of the \$20 billion fund set up by BP to compensate individuals and businesses hurt by last year's Gulf of Mexico oil spill said Thursday new rules are being formulated to make payouts more generous for hard-hit shrimpers.

Washington attorney Kenneth Feinberg told a House Committee on Natural Resources hearing he hopes to announce the rules within two weeks.

He agreed with concerns from shrimpers that the length and extent of damage they have suffered because of the April 2010 disaster has been more significant than first thought.

"I think we've got to do better for the shrimpers," Feinberg said.

Feinberg remains under fire for the slow pace of payments and for denying many claims. Eighteen months after the spill, the fund has paid \$5.5 billion to 213,408 claimants. More than 300,000 other claimants have been denied compensation. Feinberg agreed in July to a Justice Department audit. He said at the hearing the audit hasn't started. A Justice spokesman said in a statement the agency is receiving input from officials along the Gulf and the audit is expected to start before the end of the year.

The committee chairman, Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., said that despite assurances from the White House following the oil spill that BP would be held fully accountable "that does not appear to be the case." He said the number of people paid to date, considering how many have applied for money, is "simply unacceptable."

Rep. Edward Markey of Massachusetts, the ranking Democrat on the committee and a frequent critic of BP, offered support for BP's efforts with regard to compensating victims through the fund.

"Here I believe the company did the right thing," Markey said. He said "the fund kept families and businesses afloat."

An Associated Press review published in February that included interviews with legal experts, government officials and more than 300 Gulf residents found a process beset by red tape and delay, and at the center of it all a fund administrator whose ties to BP have raised questions about his independence.

Critics say little has improved since then, and in some cases has gotten worse.

Many observers worry a big chunk of the \$20 billion will be returned to BP when the Gulf Coast

Claims Facility ceases making payouts, which is currently scheduled for August 2013. At one point, Feinberg told reporters that he expected half of the fund to be sufficient to compensate all victims. He took considerable heat for making that prediction, and he has declined to speculate on the issue in the months since then.

"The \$20 billion was supposed to be the floor, not the ceiling," Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., told Feinberg at Thursday's hearing.

Eleven rig workers were killed when the Deepwater Horizon exploded roughly 50 miles off Louisiana while the crew was working to temporarily abandon an undersea well drilled by oil giant BP PLC. According to government estimates, some 206 million gallons of oil spewed from BP's Macondo well, making it the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history. BP owned the well and was leasing the rig from Transocean Ltd.

BP is preparing to drill a new well in 6,000 feet of water in the Gulf — deeper than at Macondo — some 246 miles south of Lafayette, La., after receiving the go-ahead from the U.S. government on Wednesday.

Plan pushes solar projects in West

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has identified 17 areas in six western states as prime candidates for solar energy projects on public lands.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar says the plan refines and improves on a draft released in December that identified two dozen areas in those six states: California, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

Salazar says the sites, which comprise 285,000 acres in all, are ones that have the highest potential for solar development with the least environmental impact.

BANANAGRAMS!

For each of the three words below, change one letter to an **I** and then rearrange the letters to spell a word of Italian origin.

ALARMS

NARCOMAS

CANOES

Yesterday's Answer: Common B: ABDUCT, ABSORB, BEHAVE, BYPASS

10/28

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Made kitten cries
 - 1 Buc-caneers' base
 - 6 Perhaps
 - 11 Buc-caneers' place
 - 12 Skirt
 - 13 Intended
 - 14 Inexperienced
 - 15 Bird's home
 - 17 Bird's home
 - 18 Garden areas
 - 20 Yemen neighbor
 - 22 Farm father
 - 23 Wrap tightly
 - 26 To date
 - 28 Inferior
 - 29 In the face of
 - 31 That girl
 - 32 Take on
 - 33 Head honcho
 - 34 Health clubs
 - 36 Farm chunk
 - 38 Henry VIII's house
 - 40 Dagger parts
 - 43 Wear away
 - 44 Detail map
- DOWN**
- 1 Jerry's pursuer
 - 2 Court feat
 - 3 Al Jolson song
 - 4 Window sections
 - 5 Colony members
 - 6 Spring month
 - 7 Green hue
 - 8 Reply to a threat
 - 9 Bob's frequent co-star
 - 10 Keeness
 - 16 Road rescue
 - 18 Small nail
 - 19 Comfort
 - 21 Like bucks
 - 23 Agitate
 - 24 Sediment
 - 25 Screws up
 - 27 Series unit
 - 30 Drink from a bag
 - 33 Salty water
 - 34 Flower part
 - 35 Undiluted
 - 37 IOU
 - 39 Warning color
 - 41 Kayo count
 - 42 Sow site

RACK	SALOON
IRON	PUERTO
TINE	ARAGON
ZACEFRON	
ELI	RECAP
TWIST	AROMA
RAT	NOD
ADEPT	LOCKS
PEDRO	ODE
ANSWERTO	
CERISE	STOW
AGESIX	SEAL
LOVELY	ADDS

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13						14			
		15			16		17		
18	19				20	21			
22				23				24	25
26				27			28		
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34	35				36	37			
38					39			40	41
42									43
44									45
									46

10-28

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: My 87-year-old mother recently discovered that the mausoleum site she had reserved for herself next to my father's grave — and paid for when he died — was occupied by my uncle's ashes and headstone. Mom had moved away 20 years ago and had not visited the cemetery in all that time.

My cousin's explanation, when confronted by my tearful mom, was that it was a "temporary solution" as the mausoleum was full at the time of my uncle's death. They were planning to move him. Apparently, it has taken 14 years for them to get around to it.

Mom had to send a notarized letter to the cemetery asking that my uncle's remains be removed. My cousins, who are wealthy and successful people, saved \$800 by using my mother's prepaid site. Should Mom charge them rent? — BEWILDERED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BEWILDERED: I don't think your mother should ask your cousin for "rent," but I do think your mother should contact the owners of the cemetery and ask what they plan to do to compensate her for her distress. Frankly, I don't understand how they could have allowed your uncle's ashes to be placed in her

reserved site. The ball will then be in their court — and if they are ethical and responsible, they may offer free opening and closing costs at the time of her death.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter "Joy" is 19. She attended a small school with about 40 other students in her grade. She never had a boyfriend — or even a date — until the first week of college a year ago. The boy was a high school classmate of hers. They became engaged before he went off to boot camp.

My husband and I are extremely concerned because of Joy's age and inexperience. Her fiancé is OK, but we feel they are not for each other. We're positive she could find someone more compatible, but who's going to approach her with that ring on her finger? I feel my daughter has low self-esteem and is afraid she won't find anyone else. How do we make Joy see that she's too young and inexperienced to make such an important decision? — MAMA KNOWS BETTER IN OHIO

DEAR MAMA KNOWS BETTER: You can't. As well-meaning and caring a mother as you are, if you try to tell your daughter what you have in mind you will only make her defensive. Instead, encourage

her to wait until her fiancé returns home and she either has her college degree or is close to it before they tie the knot. It will go a long way to making her more employable when she starts a career of her own. And if her fiancé decides to make a career of the military, it will make her more employable as they are transferred from place to place.

DEAR ABBY: It's almost Halloween and parents need to teach their children that if a house does not have its porch light on, it means the resident will not be handing out candy or other treats.

There are many reasons people don't participate. Some people run out of treats early, while others simply can't afford to buy candy in the first place. These homes should not be targeted with "tricks" or vandalism. Simply skip the house with the lights off and move on to the next one that has its lights on. — LIGHTS ON IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LIGHTS ON: Your letter is a timely one, and I'm glad you brought the subject up because what you have written is correct. Some people do not participate in Halloween for religious and other reasons, and their beliefs should be respected.

The Pampa News Classifieds

1 Public Notice

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

Pampa ISD is currently accepting bids for the sale of property described as the 18'4" x 12'4" wooden building located in the Northwest corner of the Pampa High football field, which said property is detached from the underlying real property (the "Property"), located at 115 Randy Matson, Pampa, Texas. Bidders will be purchasing the Property only without real property. The land is NOT being offered for sale. **Any bid / offer must account for all costs associated with the bidder's timely removal of the Property from the underlying land.** The awarded bidder's failure to remove the Property from the lot in a time frame agreed upon by the bidder and District, shall be grounds to void the sale to that buyer, and permit the District to offer the Property to the next highest bidder who can remove the Property within an agreed time frame. **THE PROPERTY MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS AND / OR ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS, PCBs, LEAD PAINT OR OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ASSUME BY CONTRACT ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES, COSTS, ABATEMENTS, AND LIABILITIES OF ALL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND RULES REGARDING HAZARDOUS**

1 Public Notice

MATERIALS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE TEXAS ASBESTOS HEALTH PROTECTION ACT.

Interested bidders may obtain a bid packet from Purchasing Director Betty Meadows, at the Pampa ISD Business Office located at 321 W. Albert St, Pampa, TX 79065-7801. The bid packet contains: Bid Instructions, a Bidders Response Form and the District's "Contract for Sale." Bidders shall return a completed contract of sale with their Bid Response Form and the required earnest money in a sealed envelope marked "18'4" x 12'4" Wooden Building Bid," Pampa ISD c/o Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director, 321 W. Albert St, Pampa, TX 79065-7801, by 2:00 p.m. on November 10, 2011. At such time all sealed bids received will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after such time will not be opened or considered. The apparent best bid or bids will be presented to the Board of Trustees for review and possible approval at its next Board meeting thereafter, November 15, 2011, at 6:00p.m. Bids must be based on a lump sum cash payment, payable not more than three (3) days following approval of the sale by the District's Board of Trustees, and be accompanied by an earnest money payment in the amount of not less than ten (10%) percent of the bid price. Any bid which specifies other payment terms will be deemed non-responsive and may not be considered by the District. Pampa ISD reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive any formalities. B-9 Oct 28, 20, 2011

1 Public Notice

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

Pampa ISD is currently accepting bids for the sale of property described as the 97'x54' Modular Building, 5,238 square feet, located on West side of the former Pampa Junior High School Building, which said property is detached from the underlying real property (the "Property"), located at 2401 Charles, Pampa, Texas. Bidders will be purchasing the Property only without real property. The land is NOT being offered for sale. **Any bid / offer must account for all costs associated with the bidder's timely removal of the Property from the underlying land.** The awarded bidder's failure to remove the Property from the lot in a time frame agreed upon by the bidder and District, shall be grounds to void the sale to that buyer, and permit the District to offer the Property to the next highest bidder who can remove the Property within an agreed time frame. **THE PROPERTY MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS AND / OR ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS, PCBs, LEAD PAINT OR OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ASSUME BY CONTRACT ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES, COSTS, ABATEMENTS, AND LIABILITIES OF ALL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND RULES REGARDING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE TEXAS ASBESTOS HEALTH PROTECTION ACT.** Interested bidders may obtain a bid packet from Purchasing Director Betty Meadows, at the Pampa ISD Business Office located at 321 W. Albert St, Pampa, TX 79065-7801. The bid packet contains: Bid Instructions, a Bidders Response Form and the District's "Contract for Sale." Bidders shall return a completed contract of sale with their Bid Response Form and the required earnest money in a sealed envelope marked "Modular Building Bid," Pampa ISD c/o Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director, 321 W. Albert St, Pampa, TX 79065-7801, by 2:00 p.m. on November 10, 2011. At such time all sealed bids received will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after such time will not be opened or considered. The apparent best bid or bids will be presented to the Board of Trustees for review and possible approval at its next Board meeting thereafter, November 15, 2011, at 6:00p.m. Bids must be based on a lump sum cash payment, payable not more than three (3) days following approval of the sale by the District's Board of Trustees, and be accompanied by an earnest money payment in the amount of not less than ten (10%) percent of the bid price. Any bid which specifies other payment terms will be deemed non-responsive and may not be considered by the District. Pampa ISD reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive any formalities. B-10 Oct 28, 20, 2011

1 Public Notice

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

such time all sealed bids received will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after such time will not be opened or considered. The apparent best bid or bids will be presented to the Board of Trustees for review and possible approval at its next Board meeting thereafter, November 15, 2011, at 6:00p.m. Bids must be based on a lump sum cash payment, payable not more than three (3) days following approval of the sale by the District's Board of Trustees, and be accompanied by an earnest money payment in the amount of not less than ten (10%) percent of the bid price. Any bid which specifies other payment terms will be deemed non-responsive and may not be considered by the District. Pampa ISD reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive any formalities. B-10 Oct 28, 20, 2011

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work, stucco, cement. Remodeling, floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

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14w Air Cond/Heat BROWNING'S Heating & Air and Refrigeration Specialists since 1964! 665-1212.

21 Help Wanted

APT Manager Position Must Live On Premises Above Average Salary & Bonuses E-mail Resume To nlamarillo@yahoo.com 806-383-1985

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

TEXAS Rose Steak house is hiring Cooks, servers & hosts. Apply in person. No phone calls!

R. Chester Trucking is searching for good responsible and dependable HOT SHOT DRIVERS (CDL required) who are not drug addicts or drunks. We are a Family Based Company looking for the right people to join our family. If interested come and apply at 1800 W. McCullough, Pampa, TX 7am-5pm. or call 806-665-0379

LVN's and CNA's, come check out our benefits! We have openings for Full-Time & PRN's. Apply today at St. Ann's Nursing Home, in Panhandle, 537-3194.

WEEKEND RN NEEDED! Competitive Wages! St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle, 537-3194.

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BOOKKEEPER needed! Experience necessary, accounts payable, general ledger, oil & gas. Salary based on experience. Send resume to Box 11 c/o The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

MAINTENANCE MAN NEEDED. Must Have Own Tools. Call 665-1875. Apply at 800 N. Nelson or email nlamarillo@yahoo.com

DME Delivery Tech. Will Train. Heavy Lifting, On Call. Drug & Background Check. 401K & Benefits. National Home Health Care, 1521 N. Hobart.

Vibra-Whirl Sports Leading sports surfacing company seeking individuals to work in our sales department. Overnight travel req. Competitive pay & benefits. Send resume to Po Box 966, Panhandle, TX 79068, 806-537-3526

Vibra-Whirl Sports, Ltd seeking Full-Time Accounts Payable Clerk, Mon-Fri 8-5pm. Please apply in person, 94 Main Street, Panhandle, TX 79068

EXP. Backhoe Operator with current CDL & clean driving record needed. Must pass drug test. Hourly plus benefits. Apply in person, 100 N. Cuyler, Ste. 200.

Maintenance Tech Needed for a 150 unit Apt. Community. Salary DOE. Apply at 1601 W. Somerville or call 665-7149

ARE YOU SERIOUS? Are you willing to work 6-hour days? Are you willing to work evenings and Saturdays? Are you a positive minded person? Do you want to earn \$500-\$1,000 weekly? If you are, we will train you. If you're serious call 806-669-7605.

CLASS A CDL driver needed. 1 yr exp. DOT physical drug screen required. 806-665-2451

4 Winds Construction is hiring a mechanic or equivalent to apply in person @ 11730 Hwy 152 from 7:30-4pm.

GREEN Country Equipment "John Deere Dealer" in Pampa is accepting applications for a service technician

Good wage, benefits. Apply at 12098 E. Frederic in Pampa.

MEMORY Gardens Cemetery is accepting applications for Cemetery Grounds Maintenance. Applicant must have exp. in Backhoe Operation, Lawn Care and Knowledge of Equipment Repair. Must be able to lift. Apply directly at the Cemetery office located at 23rd and Price Rd. No phone calls, please.

VERONA Italian Bistrò is now hiring. Please apply in person at 220 N. Hobart.

21 Help Wanted

FT MA/CNA Needed in Pampa for busy Medical Practice. Must have great medical skills. Competitive salary/benefits. Please mail resume to: 2931 Perryton Pkwy, Pampa, TX 79065 or e-mail to ritmon@centramedia.net.

69 Misc.

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

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

SOLID Oak Wood Pellets to heat your home! Hurry-\$275 per ton. Chief Plastics, 1237 S. Barnes, 806-665-6716.

QUALITY used furniture, dressers, chests, dinettes, pictures, books, cookwater, etc. Prices you can afford! Red Barn open Sat. 1424 S. Barnes, 665-2767

FOR Sale used T.V. and full size bed, Best Offer. Call 665-1669.

69a Garage Sales

SAT. 10am-4pm, 1924 N. Christy. Lots of kid's items. Prices reduced after 2pm.

HUGE Sale, Sewing mach., furn., Beanie Babies, Classic Model cars, linens, T.V., Kitchen appl., 1434 N. Zimmers Thurs. thru Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

ESTATE SALE Sat. Only 7am-2pm 1314 Mary Ellen

TWO Family Garage Sale, furn., new & used tupperware, gift items, etc. Fri. & Sat. 9am-4pm 832 Deane Dr.

HUGE SALE 9am-5pm. Sat. Only! Rain, snow or shine!! 1821 Lynn

11950 McCullough, Fri. & Sat. 9-? Canaopy baby bed, cradle, lots of baby clothes, 18 ft. insulated garage door. Everything Reduced!

GARAGE Sale 1624 N. Nelson Sat. 9-?

GARAGE Sale: Chair, desk, lots of new items. Sat. 9am-? 2200 N. Russell

MOVING SALE GRADY MILTON Household, Yard, Antiques, Misc., Bdr. Suite, Living, Suit, Computer Desk. All items except furniture 1/2 price! Sat. 9am, 505 Popham White Deer.

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FREE 6 mo. old Schnauzer. Needs a good home. Call 806-663-0065.

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OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

OFFICE Space available at 2100 Perryton Parkway. Exc. location. Call 662-4010.

103 Homes For Sale 1901 Grape, 2000 sq ft. 3/2/2. 2 liv areas. Newley remodeled-granite. \$165,000. 662-8615

2417 NAVAJO, 3 bdr, 2 ba, Living rm, Lg Den w/firepl, Bar area, Lg Dining Rm, Attached workshop, New roof, New Fence. \$152,000 AS IS. Sorry, no owner financing. CALL 806-663-1322 FOR APPT.

OWNER Will Finance. 425 Pitts. 2 bdr., 1 ba. Call Trustar RE for details, 665-4595.

Rod Donatison Agent 663-2800 Quentin Williams Realtors

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3 Personal

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10 Lost/Found

LOST female Boxer puppy Fri. off McCullough, (sandy blonde). Ans. to Princess & has pink collar. Reward! 663-3986 or 664-2691

14d Carpentry

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14e Carpet Serv.

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14g Elec. Contr.

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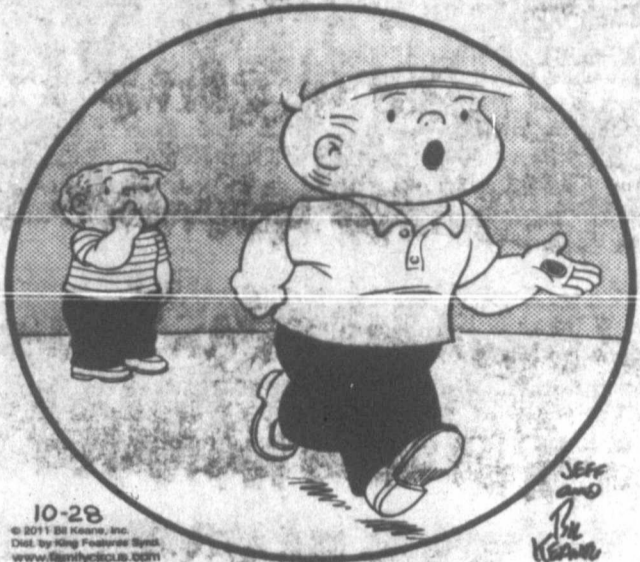
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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

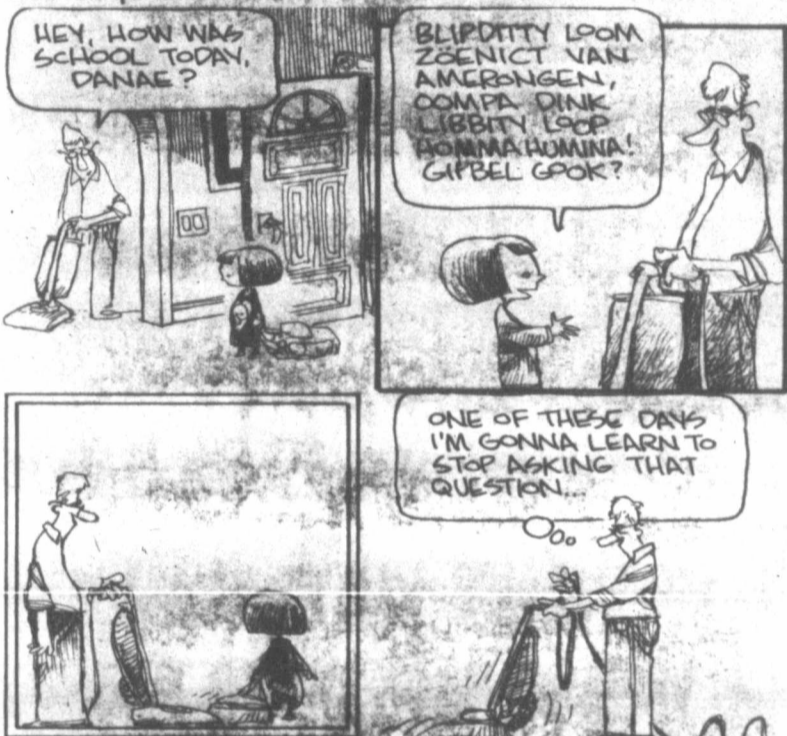


10-28

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"Did George Washington use a quarter as his ID?"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Oct. 28, 2011.

This year your ability to relate and communicate proves to be positive financially. Adapt your style even more depending on different people and situations. Many opportunities will head in your direction. Your profound ability to transform a situation emerges. Your willingness to adapt and grow marks your behavior. If you are single, you will have to push suitors away. You might enjoy dating even more. If you are attached, you will see a change in your sweetie that you view positively. SAGITTARIUS has great money ideas.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Reach out for new possibilities.

If one answer doesn't work, trust that you will find the solution. You see structure and power very differently, allowing for an unusual perspective. Swap ideas without being vested. Tonight: Take off if you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You achieve powerful results without trying too hard. Your ability to relate to individuals directly emerges. Others start seeing many more new opportunities that up until the present moment they had never considered. Tonight: Be willing to revise your plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You see situations in a very different way because of what is happening and how people are reacting. Be willing to discuss an issue in a new light. Re-frame different ideas, knowing what works in your mind. Tonight: You gain a deeper understanding of others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Focus on getting out the door. If you are wondering why another approach works for someone else, look at his or her mental outlook. Be willing to revise your thinking in a positive way. Tonight: Out with friends and relatives are important to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your creativity comes into play early on. You wonder how, when and why concerning certain issues. You feel like you need to solve what is ailing not only you but also a family member. Put less stress on yourself. Handle issues in a logical manner. Tonight: When you find a solution, it's yours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your instincts guide you in a

new direction. Verbalize what you are seeing, and understand what might be going on out a deeper level with you. Willingly greet change and creativity. Excess is the name of the game with a partner. Your issue might be how much to join in. Tonight: Close to home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving, and explore alternatives. A revamping of your finances might be just what the doctor ordered. You might want to approach this situation differently. Understanding evolves, and you create greater stability. See what is going on behind the scenes. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to understand more than someone is willing to share. You make an enormous effort toward others. Don't worry about the responses. You need to see what happens. Handle your finances with wisdom, but not in a stingy manner. Tonight: Say 'yes' to an offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Stay on a steady course despite what might be going on. Listen well to others who are experiencing a whole different set of concerns. The unexpected opens a pathway that could provide greater energy and fun. Walk through the door. Tonight: As you like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Much is going on behind the scenes. Passion runs high, especially concerning a partnership. Deal with others directly if you want to get past an obstacle. You might not be able to express exactly what is on your mind. Tonight: Togetherness works.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be hard-pressed to get past an immediate issue or problem. Your way of looking at a situation could set the tone for others. They see the you in two.

As you approach and long-term results. You know what is going on with a boss or supervisor. Tonight: Find your friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Recognize that others look to you to take the lead. Understand the push and pull of a boss's or others' demands. Listen to what is happening behind the scenes. Be willing to break the mold and do what you want. Tonight: A late meeting could become a happening!

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Sports

PHS graduate Eubank earns GAC Setter of the Week

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

2011 Pampa High School graduate Taryn Eubank was recognized as one of the best setters in the state, as she won District 1-3A MVP and was selected to the Golden Spread first team. Her success has continued in her freshman season at Harding University in Arkansas as she was named Great American Conference Setter of the Week Tuesday.

"To receive as much playing time as I have and to be recognized by my conference is just awesome," Eubank said.

Eubank recorded 63 sets in Harding's two conference victories last week. She recorded 26 against Arkansas-Monticello on October 18 and 37 in a five-game victory against Southern Arkansas Thursday.

As of press time, Eubank has recorded 545 assists and 37 kills in 78 sets. Eubank, who was a four-year starter at Pampa, said it's cool that she has received so much playing time as a freshman.

"I didn't expect that," Eubank said. "It's been great. I came in with the mindset that I'm going to work really hard. All the time and I work I've put in has paid off."

Pampa volleyball coach Libby Garza said she couldn't be happier for her former player.

"I knew she would be successful as a freshman," Garza said. "She's an incredible young athlete who knows what it takes. She deserves every bit of success."

catching up with

PHS grad Taryn Eubank



ble young athlete who knows what it takes. She deserves every bit of success."

Eubank said college volleyball is definitely more time demanding than high school was.

"We practice Sunday night and Monday afternoon," Eubank said. "We have a game on Tuesday. We practice Wednesday and have a game on Thursday. We are constantly busy. There are no breaks. It's like a job basically."

Eubank said she has had to get used to the traveling.

"We've been to Missouri, Alabama, and Oklahoma," Eubank said. "We travel to a ton of games."

Eubank said she has enjoyed getting to know her teammates.

"It's fun playing with these girls that love the sport," Eubank said.

In her high school's senior season, Eubank helped the Lady Harvesters to the regional quarterfinals and a Top 15 state ranking.

As of press time, Harding is 20-6 and 11-2 in conference play.

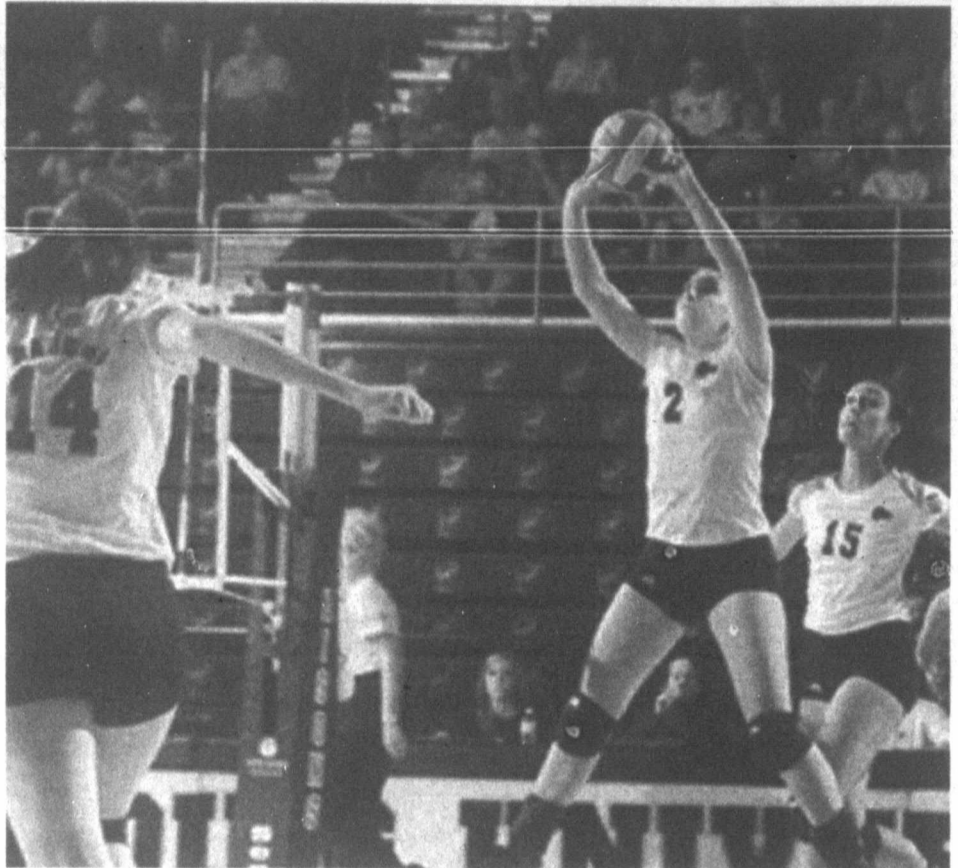
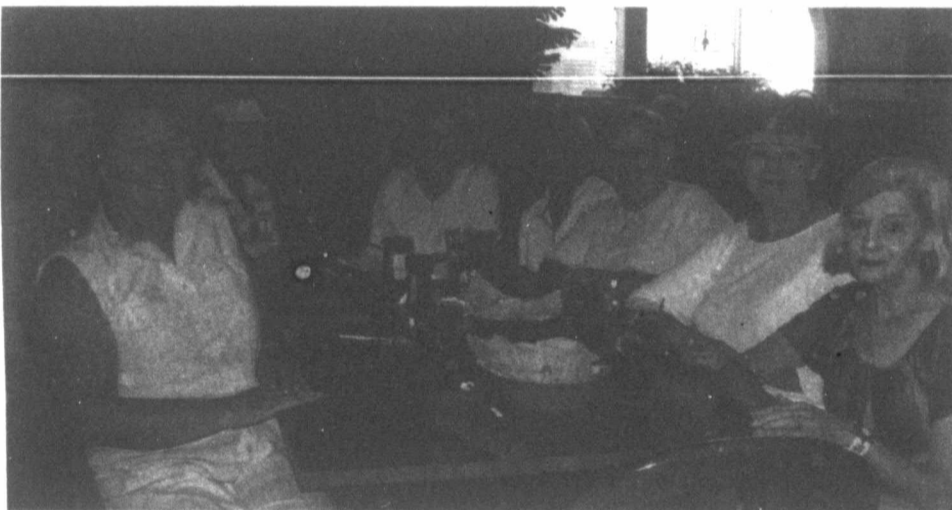


photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons/Harding University

Taryn Eubank (2) sets for her teammate Alyssa Short. Eubank is a 2011 Pampa graduate and recently was named GAC Setter of the Week.

END OF YEAR



submitted photo

The Hidden Hills senior ladies have their end of the season lunch at the Plaza. From left: Jamie Warnica, Andrea Walling, Joyce Epperson, Brenda Kelly, Jimmie Thompson, Jackie Harper, Carolyn Allison, Monica Leonard.

McLean H.S. sends two to cross country regionals

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

McLean High School will send two cross country runners to the 1A Regional Meet after a Top-Ten finish at the Top-Ten Meet in Canyon Monday.

Freshman Destiny Justice finished second with a time of 14:04, which was 17 seconds behind Groom's Megan Ruthardt. Justice said she is excited about advancing.

"It feels good," Justice said.



Justice

Head coach Mike Prescott said Justice and Ruthardt have traded meet victories throughout the season.

"(Ruthardt) has won two and Destiny has won two when they've faced each other in other meets," Prescott said. "(Destiny) beat her a week ago. This girl came back and beat her in district."

Freshman Mason Reynolds finished seventh in the boys race with a time of 19:50. Prescott said both runners have run hard.

"We have put a lot of mileage in those kids," Prescott said. "They kept growing and gaining confidence in what they were doing. It's really been a successful year for both of them."

The regional meet is November 5 at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock.

Cowboys' DC Ryan backs up talk on D

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Within a few days of working for Rob Ryan, the defensive players on the Dallas Cowboys were thrilled with their new boss.

They fed off the energy and excitement he showed in meetings and on the practice field. They were certain his exotic schemes were exactly what was needed to turn the worst defense in franchise history into one of the NFL's best.

Then Ryan did what members of his family do. He shared some of his confidence with reporters.

Tired of hearing about the juggernaut the Philadelphia Eagles were putting together, Ryan said: "I don't know if we win the all-hype team. I think that might have gone to somebody else, but we're going to beat their (rear) when we play them."

While some of his players may have felt that way, too, they weren't about to say it.

"We were like, 'Rob, what the (heck) are you doing?' We don't know you, man. You can't come in here and do that,'" linebacker Bradie James said.

At the time, it seemed as if Ryan was just keeping up the family tradition of talking big, like his twin brother Rex and his dad, Buddy.

Now, with the teams preparing to meet Sunday night, that bulletin-board material looks awfully clever.

Ryan's play-calling and personality has transformed Dallas into the top-ranked defense in the NFC. The Eagles, meanwhile, are 2-4 and looking up at the Cowboys (3-3) and everyone else in the NFC East.

Ryan's early August braggadocio hasn't been forgotten by either team, and is certain to be played up during the national, prime-time broadcast. It adds another layer to a rivalry once fueled by Rob's dad, and to a matchup filled with ramifications for both teams.

"We've got your back," James told Ryan this week, before challenging his boss to make sure the unit is ready for big-play threats Michael Vick, LeSean McCoy and DeSean Jackson.

Ryan's response?

"Shoot yeah! You know I'm up! I'm drinking Red Bulls all night!" James said in a Ryan-esque voice.

Through six games, the Cowboys have adopted the personality of their sideline leader, save for the long, stringy hair and oversized belly.

Using exotic formations and an aggressive mindset, Dallas is allowing the fewest yards rushing in the NFL.

Only five teams allow fewer yards per play. Nobody has scored a touchdown in the first quarter against the Cowboys; they've given up just nine points in the opening period.

TEXAS
2x2

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

ON THE TUBE

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Nationwide Series
O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge,
12:55 p.m., Nov. 5

Truck Series
Kroger 200,
2 p.m., Saturday

BURNING ISSUES

► NASCAR officials attempted to break up the tag-team drafting by revising the pressure-relief (pop-off) valves in radiators. It had little effect.

► Expect stiff penalties in the wake of technical irregularities discovered in the windshields of three Michael Waltrip-affiliated Toyotas prior to the Good Sam Club 500. Though those windshields will be termed "unapproved," a more appropriate word is "illegal." NASCAR requires standardization where windshields are concerned.

► Jeff Gordon was angry at Trevor Bayne for double-crossing him in the final two laps at Talladega. Ford driver Bayne reneged on an agreement to draft with Gordon, and Gordon's Chevy plummeted to 27th place.

► Gordon's experience was just one of several examples that lead one to conclude that manufacturer loyalty is growing more prevalent in the tag-team racing of Talladega and Daytona.

► JTG Daugherty Racing announced it will continue to field a Toyota for 2000 champion Bobby Labonte next year. Todd Berrier will take over as crew chief, while Frankie Kerr moves to shop foreman.

► Talladega had its expected effect on the Chase. Jimmie Johnson's hopes for a sixth straight championship are on the wane. Though he actually picked up a position — eighth to seventh — he is now 50 points behind Carl Edwards' pace. Only three drivers — Matt Kenseth, Brad Keselowski and Tony Stewart — are within 20 points of Edwards.

► The listed Talladega crowd estimate, 105,000, was the lowest since NASCAR began listing attendance figures on its race reports in 2003.

2011 STANDINGS

Sprint Cup Series	Pts.
1. Carl Edwards	2,237
2. Matt Kenseth	-14
3. Brad Keselowski	-18
4. Tony Stewart	-19
5. Kevin Harvick	-26
6. Kyle Busch	-40
7. Jimmie Johnson	-50
8. Kurt Busch	-52
9. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	-74
10. Jeff Gordon	-82
11. Denny Hamlin	-84
12. Ryan Newman	-88

Nationwide Series	Pts.
1. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	1,100
2. Elliott Sadler	-15
3. Eric Almirola	-87
4. Justin Allgaier	-91
5. Reed Sorenson	-94
6. Jason Leffler	-151
7. Kenny Wallace	-206
8. Brian Scott	-223
9. Steve Wallace	-230
10. Michael Annett	-241

Camping World Truck Series	Pts.
1. Austin Dillon	769
2. James Buescher	-3
3. Johnny Sauter	-14
4. Ron Hornaday Jr.	-16
5. Timothy Peters	-42
6. Todd Bodine	-59
7. Cole Whitt	-67
8. Matt Crafton	-82
9. Joey Coulter	-89
10. Parker Kligerman	-110



WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT



► **Who's hot:** Clint Bowyer, leaving Richard Childress Racing at season's end, gave his owner his 100th victory. ... On a day in which only three Chase contenders finished in the top 10, 11th place enabled Carl Edwards to boost his Sprint Cup points lead from five to 14. ► **Who's not:** Kevin Harvick took a huge hit in the points race, falling from second to fifth. He lost 21 points to leader Edwards. ... Ryan Newman, who placed 36th, fell to the bottom of the 12-driver Chase field.



If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to mduiton@gastongazette.com. You can also send your NASCAR questions to Monte on Facebook at Facebook.com/monte-dutton and at Twitter.com/MonteDutton. Please specify you are submitting them for the NASCAR This Week page.

WHAT'S UP NEXT

SPRINT CUP

Race: Tums Fast Relief 500
Where: Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (.526 mi.), 500 laps/263 miles.
When: Sunday, Oct. 30.
Last year's winner: Denny Hamlin, Toyota.
Qualifying record: Tony Stewart, Chevy, 98.083 mph, Oct. 21, 2005.
Race record: Jeff Gordon, Chevy, 82.223 mph, Sept. 22, 1996.
Last week: Clint Bowyer, in a Chevy, edged teammate Jeff Burton by .018 of a second in Talladega Superspeedway's latest side-by-side finish. Dave Blaney finished third in a race in which only three Chase contenders finished in the top 10.

NATIONWIDE

Race: O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge
Where: Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth (1.5 mi.), 200 laps/300 miles.
When: Saturday, Nov. 5.
Last year's winner: Carl Edwards, Ford.
Qualifying record: Jeff Green, Chevy, 193.493 mph, April 5, 2002.
Race record: Kyle Busch, Toyota, 151.707 mph, April 5, 2008.
Last week: Carl Edwards, whose Ford was damaged earlier in the race, roared back to win at Charlotte Motor Speedway over Kyle Busch's Toyota. It was Edwards' eighth victory of the season and 37th of his career.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Race: Kroger 200
Where: Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (.526 mi.), 200 laps/105.2 miles.
When: Saturday, Oct. 29.
Last year's winner: Ron Hornaday Jr., Chevy.
Qualifying record: Jack Sprague, Chevy, 96.327 mph, March 29, 2008.
Race record: Jon Wood, Ford, 72.019 mph, Oct. 18, 2003.
Last week: Mike Wallace, substituting for Elliott Sadler, won Talladega's Coca-Cola 250, using drafting help from Kevin Harvick Inc. teammate Ron Hornaday, who finished second. James Buescher finished third and Ricky Carmichael fourth, also in Chevys.

MARTINSVILLE DATA

FOX April 3 **Oct. 30** **ESPN**

Distance: 0.526-mile oval
Length of frontstretch: 800 ft.
Length of backstretch: 800 ft.
Miles/Laps: .263 mi. = 500 laps

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DAVE BLANEY

SPRINT CUP SERIES

No. 36 GOLDEN CORRAL CHEVROLET



Dave Blaney came away with a strong third-place finish at Talladega on Sunday. While Childress drivers Clint Bowyer and Jeff Burton roared to a 1-2 finish, the Tommy Baldwin Racing driver credited Brad Keselowski with helping him get front in the final laps of the race.

An Early Present For Blaney, Baldwin

Baldwin Racing gets a lift from underfunded Golden Corral car

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

TALLADEGA, Ala. — The finish of the Good Sam Club 500 was side-by-side, but third place was "Cinderella." Dave Blaney, driving the underfunded Golden Corral Chevy for owner Tommy Baldwin, took the checkered flag third, matching a career best.

Blaney, who turned 49 on Monday, was understandably ecstatic.

"We have to thank (fourth-place) Brad Keselowski, who stayed with us all day long, every lap," Blaney said. "When you get somebody committed to you, no matter what, it makes it a lot easier. Then it's just timing at the end."

"We were in the right place at the right time, squeezed through a couple holes, there you are."

The finish was worth \$160,833, a tidy sum for Baldwin's struggling team.

"It's huge for a race team," Blaney added. "It's a tiny little team. This race car we've got, it was a Bill Davis (owned) car in 2007 and 2008. It's not a killer. It's a big,

big accomplishment for us to come out.

"This is a track you can do this. You can hang in all day. With Brad Keselowski's help, we could hang in all day and take advantage of getting a big push at the right time. That's what it comes down to here, having a car that will roll the last couple laps to do that. It all just worked out."

The autumn Talladega Superspeedway race was the 33rd of Blaney's career but only his fourth top-five finish. He has two career poles. His best previous finish in the current season was 13th at Richmond, Va., on April 30.

While Bowyer, who won, and Burton were breaking away from the pack, Blaney and Keselowski were advancing from 14th and 15th in the race's decisive, two-lap finish.

"That was odd to see them get that far away that quick," Blaney, from Hartford, Ohio, said. "That is obviously what made it a different kind of race. ... It's exciting racing, whether it's tandem or packs, stressful on the drivers, exciting for the fans."

Johnson amends his remarks on Indy cars

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Jimmie Johnson had to clarify his position after saying that Indy cars should not race on ovals. Johnson's comment was made, obviously, in the aftermath of the tragic Las Vegas Motor Speedway crash that claimed the life of Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon.

What perhaps Johnson didn't consider was that the Indy 500 is run on an oval. That event is held at a track that is open-wheel racing's shrine. Johnson immediately came under fire from legends, as in AJ. Foyt and Mario Andretti.

The five-time Cup champion hastily amended his remark, noting that he meant high-banked ovals such as the one at which the Wheldon tragedy occurred. Johnson is opposed to neither the Indy 500 nor baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet, the latter of which he drives.

Let 'em go — Speeds at Talladega were higher, topping the 200 mph

NUTS AND BOLTS



Hamlin

Denny Hamlin thinks the ruling body should go even further.

"We need to go a long way," he said. "I just feel like if you opened it up a little bit to where we could run 185 (mph) by ourselves or somewhere in that range, you're not going to be able to use the two-car draft. Then the peak speed won't be as high because we won't be in a pack."

"I'm in favor of opening them up (more). Make handling be more of a factor and get away from the two-car draft."

Perhaps they miscalculated — NASCAR officials adjusted the allowable pressure in the radiator release valves, thus forcing the tag teams to switch places from time to time.

NASCAR may have underestimated the progress of its teams. The rule

change had little apparent effect.

"Honestly, I don't think it's going to be a whole lot different," said Martin Truex Jr. beforehand. "We could push just as long (Friday) as we could in the spring. I think NASCAR changed the rules to keep us from pushing as long, but we've worked on our cars since then, so it kind of equalized out, and I don't think it will be a whole lot different."

Slippery is good — NASCAR's decision to prohibit the application of lubricants on the bumper is widely viewed as counterproductive, at least in terms of safety. Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Brad Keselowski both said teams started greasing up the bumpers to reduce the incidence of one "bump drafter" inadvertently spinning out the other.

"You can take away the grease on the bumpers, and that's not going to stop you from tandem drafting," said Keselowski. "It's going to make the likelihood of wrecking go up."

That rarity these days — Kyle Busch announced that his own team will compete full-time in the Nationwide Series, as well as the Camping World Trucks, next year. Busch's previous efforts in the second-string series

FEUD OF THE WEEK



RYAN NEWMAN VS. TONY STEWART

The teammates tried to work together, and did so until the 79th lap at Talladega, at which point Stewart's No. 14 inadvertently spun Newman's No. 39 out. Stewart apologized profusely. "I screwed up and got out of sync with Ryan (Newman) and crashed him, and after that, I just had to pick up whoever I could pick up (in the draft)," said Stewart, who wound up finishing seventh. "I had good partners to push with, Paul (Menard) and Joey (Logano) both did a great job, and Ryan did a great job. I let Ryan down today."

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "Bump drafting is perilous. Stewart and Newman weren't alone. Several teammates tangled during the race."

YOUR TURN LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

'Dega Doubles Not His Fate

This Week welcomes letters to the editor, but please be aware that we have room for only a few each week. We'll do our best to select the best, but individual replies are impossible due to the bulk of mail received. Please do not send stamped and self-addressed envelopes with your letters, which should be addressed to: NASCAR This Week, The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, N.C. 28053. Questions can also be sent by email, Facebook and Twitter (see directions at the top of this page).

Dear NASCAR This Week,
I am a NASCAR fan and watch all the Sprint Cup races on TV. However, when it comes to Talladega, I turn my TV to a different channel. Who wants to watch two cars going around and around the track pushing each other? Not me and a lot of other people I know.

George Eckhart
Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Your reaction is not uncommon. Recent polling has reportedly confirmed that many fans dislike the tag-team drafting. NASCAR officials were hoping rules changes would at least lessen the phenomenon at Talladega, but the changes were largely ineffectual. Much research will likely be devoted to the matter during the offseason.

FAN TIPS

Helping Out The Fans

Citing the interests of fan comfort, Talladega Superspeedway is continuing a process in which it widens the track's seats to 22 inches. "Size matters" is the track's slogan. The next time the Sprint Cup Series visits the 2.66-mile track, most of the seats on the front straight will have been widened. The track hasn't yet announced how much the project will lessen seating capacity, currently listed as 130,169. The attendance estimate of the Good Sam Club 500 was 105,000.

LEGENDS AND LORE

When The King Ruled

The matter of Richard Petty winning a race after once trailing by seven laps has generated some attention from readers. One wrote that it occurred in Kingsport, Tenn., on June 26, 1973. There was, however, no such race. A race was run at Michigan International Speedway on June 24 of that year. Petty did, however, win on June 26, 1970. Other fans believe it occurred at the Richmond (Va.) Fairgrounds, where Petty won seven consecutive races in a period from 1970 through 1973. Petty won a race by seven laps at Orange County Speedway in Hillsborough, N.C., on Sept. 15, 1968. It's a difficult matter to pin down since race reports include no mention of how far a driver was behind at various points in a race.

have been with Hendrick Motorsports and Joe Gibbs Racing.

He said he doesn't know yet whether or not he will be the driver. Or, for that matter, how often.

The trend in the sport has been contraction, not expansion, recently.

"Obviously, it's all about funding, and I couldn't do this without a (sponsorship) partner," said Busch, though he declined to name that partner...yet.

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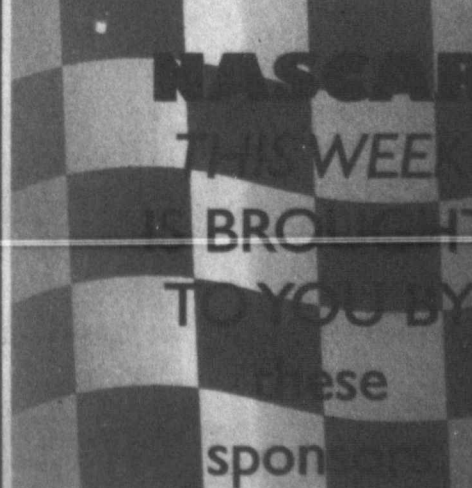
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Skinner

of Texans approve of access to genetic testing if it could prove an inmate's innocence.

"There is simply no justifiable reason why Texas continues to waste taxpayer dollars in its decade-long fight to prevent scientific testing in Mr. Skinner's case. We implore you to take the lead in the search for

truth in this case," said the letter.

Skinner currently awaits two decisions in court that could possibly force Switzer to release the evidence, which includes a jacket, two knives, a towel, fingernail scrapings and rape-kit swabs.

cont. from page 1

Hospital

As for rumors that the hospital will be shut down if a buyer isn't found, Peterson said that they have no basis.

"Obviously," Peterson said, "the alternative is that none of these deals pan out, in which case Signature will continue to operate the hospital. The rumors floating that the hospital are going to close are absolutely something that would come out of the south end of a northbound horse. It's just not true.

"We've operated the hospital, we are committed to the hospital, we will continue to operate the hospital and the rumors that are floating that the hospital is going to close just aren't true."

Financially, PRMC is healthy and continuing to serve Pampa and Panhandle area to the best of its capacity, Peterson said.

"The hospital is making money," he said. "The hospital continues to make money. The hospital continues to provide excellent service and quality of care to the patients, and our commitment as a company, the commitment of the management team here and the commitment of the staff here is that that continues."

Peterson declined to divulge specifics about the hospital's financials, nor did he confirm or deny that Baptist St. Anthony, which had previously held meetings to gauge interest in acquiring PRMC, had dropped out of the running, citing confidentiality agreements. Still, Peterson said that Pampa can be confident that the group of potential buyers have the hospital and community's future in mind.

"The firms that are looking at it are firms that all have hos-

pital experience," Peterson said. "They have run hospitals before. They have hospitals now. One of the things that we're looking for, obviously, is a new owner that will come in and continue to support the hospital, support the community, and that is interested in the best interests of this hospital. It doesn't make sense for a group to come in and spend the kind of money that you have to spend to buy a hospital without looking to grow it, improve it, expand it, maintain it. We're not going to sell the hospital to a fly-by-night, not credible buyer."

The still-flagging economy, Peterson said, is a large reason for the delay in the hospital changing hands, although he went on to cite the local rumor mill as another big hurdle in making a sale.

"I think the biggest challenge that we've faced is just the rumors," Peterson said. "There's a lot of uncertainty in the hospital because we made the choice of making the announcement that the hospital was for sale. Those rumors affect, obviously, employees, and you have employees who are not comfortable with the uncertainty, so our employee turnover has been higher than historically it has been.

"I think a buyer coming in and looking at the hospital and sensing and seeing that uncertainty, it makes it a little more risky for them to acquire the hospital.

"Shame on Signature to a certain extent (for the uncertainty) we created by making the announcement," Peterson continued. "Our belief when we made the announcement was that we had to announce we're selling the West Virginia hospital. It was

half of our company. The obvious question that people were going to ask was, 'What are you going to do with the other two?' We didn't want to lie to the communities and to our employees and to our physicians... We made the decision to sell them, so we felt like the best course of action that we had was to make that announcement.

Peterson said that, even with the sale taking longer than expected, Pampans looking for a healthcare provider can still count on PRMC to provide a high caliber of treatment and service.

"I think a patient walking into this hospital should be confident that they will get quality care, they will get compassionate care, and they will get all the services here that we can provide. Obviously, in a town like Pampa, we can't provide some of the services that some people may need, so they go to places like Amarillo or Lubbock or Dallas. But I think that we are very objective about the services we can provide well here, and we provide those services well, we provide them with a high quality of care and our commitment is that's not going to change," Peterson said.

cont. from page 1

Tips

cont. from page 1

• **There's no going it alone.** Kids should not be permitted to go out alone. When trick-or-treating, kids should always be accompanied not only by their friends, but there must be at least one adult chaperone present at all times. Parents should get together several weeks before Halloween to determine who will chaperone, where kids will be trick-or-treating and during what hours.

• **Stay close to home.** Kids should stay in their own neighborhood and only visit homes of neighbors they know. Advise kids to steer clear of homes whose doors are hidden from street view. Chaperones should accompany kids to the front door if visibility from the street is poor.

• **Choose safe costumes.** Kids should wear costumes made of light colored material. If a child insists on a favorite costume that uses largely dark material, attach reflective tape to the costume so your favorite reveler is easily visible to motorists during twilight and nighttime hours when it's not always easy for drivers to see.

• **No toy guns.** Toy guns are just asking for trouble, as many of today's replicas are easily confused with the real thing. Play it safe and choose costumes that aren't accessorized with toy guns.

• **Bring a flashlight along.** Night falls quickly in late October, so kids and chaperones alike should carry a flashlight to improve their visibility and make them more visible to passing motorists.

• **Stick to the sidewalks.** Trick-or-treaters should stick to the sidewalks and always cross the street at corners. Don't walk in the street, and never walk between parked cars when crossing the street, as it's especially difficult for motorists to anticipate pedestrians walking or running from behind parked cars into the street.

• **Be wary of masks.** Many masks restrict a child's vision, so look for one that provides sufficient visibility. If a child's favorite mask is low on visibility, make children agree to remove their mask when crossing the street.

Parents understandably worry when kids go trick-or-treating. But a few simple safety lessons shared with children can ensure everyone gets home safe.

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