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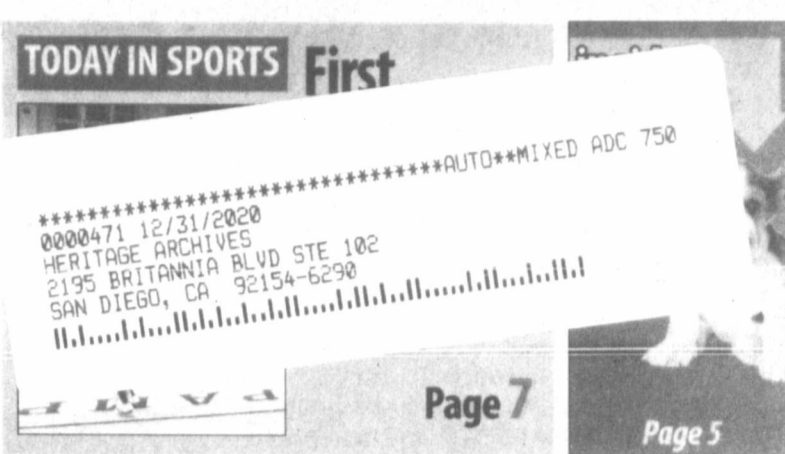
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The PAMPA NEWS

Thursday, November 17, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 187 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50



BE THEIR GUEST



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

The principals of the Pampa High School "Beauty and the Beast" production cast strike a pose before their Wednesday evening rehearsal. Pictured are (from left) Kristen Ladd as Babette, Zane Robles as Lumiere, Braden Russell as Cogsworth, Jacob Frost as the Beast, Brittany Darnell as Belle, Brendon Burrell as Gaston, Logan Turley as Lefou, Jessica Covil as Mrs. Potts, Miranda Patterson as Chip and Will Hieronymus as Maurice.

PHS' 'Beauty and the Beast' opens tonight

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

M.K. Brown Auditorium will take on a distinct fairy tale flavor tonight when the curtain rises on Pampa High School's production of "Beauty and the Beast," set to open at 7:30 p.m. The high school's take on the traditional French fairy tale turned Disney Broadway musical will feature lead turns from junior Brittany Darnell as the beautiful, bookish Belle and senior Jacob Frost as the snarling, surprisingly sensitive Beast. The show is directed by assistant choir director Brianna Bailey, with help from head choir director Fred Mays. Rehearsals for the show have been under way for weeks, and Mays said that he was confident that the show will impress

Pampa audiences when the actors take the stage tonight. "We have an extremely talented cast, especially the leads," said Mays. "They are very, very good. This is a hard show to do. The technical side of it is kind of a beast. We've put so much work into it, and I think we're very close to having it kind of under our belt. ... I think that we'll be ready and everything will really come together on opening night." The show marks a return to the stage for Frost, who also starred in last year's PHS production of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." His counterpart, Darnell, will make her lead acting debut after starring in the background last year. "I was in last year's (show) but I really wasn't," chuckled Darnell. "I was 'Townfolk.'

This is my first real time acting. It's exciting." Most first-time lead actresses might be shaking in their costume heels, but Darnell said that the butterflies have yet to make an appearance. "Actually, I don't have them yet," laughed Darnell. "I should probably be having them. I will probably get them tomorrow." Darnell and Frost agreed that the last few rehearsals in full costume and makeup have really helped them get into the flow of the show. "At first, it was really weird," Frost said. "It didn't feel right at all, all the hair in the way. It really made me feel weird. But now, once I sort of get in the zone, it will help me stay in character." **BEAUTY** cont. on page 8

PISD opts to tax goods in transit

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District opted to tax goods in transit during its meeting Tuesday evening. Recent state legislation created a tax exemption for goods-in-transit unless taxing entities decide to retain their authority to tax them. Earlier this year, both the City of Pampa and Gray County opted to waive this authority, but Barry Haenisch, PISD's superintendent, believes state funding circumstances make taxing goods-in-transit a favorable option for school districts. "One of the things that makes the Pampa Independent School District different from any other **PISD** cont. on page 10

Library now hosting youth book clubs

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Bookworms in junior high and high school have a new opportunity to come together and share their love for reading, as the Lovett Memorial Library hosts monthly book clubs for both age groups. Kids discuss the book of the month with Marsha Rollins, the Children's Librarian, during an hour long meeting. Junior high students meet the last Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and high school students meet the third Tuesday of each month from **CLUBS** cont. on page 8

Platinum recognized for aiding employee

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Panhandle Workforce Solutions honored Platinum Car Care for the business' commitment to assisting an employee with a disability. Workforce Solutions had matched an employee with Platinum Car Care, and after he was hired, his disability began to interfere with his job performance. However, that didn't stop Bill Campbell, owner of Platinum Car Care, from working with the employee. "What Mr. Campbell did was allow the individual some extra time off. (He) gave him a flexible schedule, so he's able to go and take care of what he needed to, and he's able to get back on the job," said Shree Veeramachaneni, Panhandle Workforce Solutions' Disability Navigator, who reports that the employee is still at work with Platinum Car Care. People with disabilities are a special priority for Workforce Solutions. "We hope (anyone who's looking for a job) comes to us and makes use of our facilities, job boards and many of the resources that we have, and the people **AWARD** cont. on page 10

IN AUTHOR WORDS



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Freelance writer **Jerry Heasley** signs one of his books for Pampa's Pat Pierce. Heasley shared stories from his career at Tuesday's Chamber Luncheon.


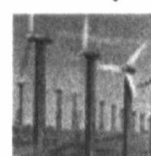

"Country Christmas" Parade
 December 3rd
 Entry forms can be picked up at the Chamber office
 Deadline for entry is Nov. 30

IN THIS ISSUE:

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
		
High 56 Low 34	High 65 Low 41	High 72 Low 30

Today: Sunny, with a high near 56. Wind chill values between 14 and 24 early. Windy, with a south southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. Wind chill values between 25 and 30. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 65. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. North northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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EARLY DEADLINES for Classified & Last Minute Ads. For Mon. Nov 21 deadline is Fri Nov 18 noon. For Tues. Nov 22 deadline is Fri Nov 18 2pm. For Wed. Nov 23 deadline is Mon. Nov 21 10am. Thanks & Happy Thanksgiving!

JIM SCHOONOVER Medical Fund has been set up at the First State Bank of Miami-Pampa Branch, 121 W. Kingsmill, for ongoing medical expenses due to an accident Oct. 11, 2011.

NEED PART-TIME Child-care? First Baptist Church Child Development Center, 669-3529 accepting 6wks-5th grade. Limited space available during school holiday breaks & Summer. Meals Provided.

PAMPA SLOT Car Speedway is not closing! We're on our Winter hours. Booking birthday parties & special events. More info call Rick Dunn 806-570-7508.

TURKEY DINNER, Pampa Sr. Citizen's Center, Tues. Nov. 22nd, 10:45-12:45, \$6 Members & guests welcome. Carry-out orders, call Mon. or Tues. before 9am.

Neb. lawmakers advance pipeline bill

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers backed a plan Wednesday to have the state's Department of Environmental Quality conduct an independent review of possible routes the contested Keystone XL pipeline could take through the state, after developer TransCanada volunteered to reroute the massive project to avoid the environmentally sensitive Sandhills region.

The single-house Legislature voted 45-0 in favor of Speaker Mike Flood's proposal to task Nebraska's environmental protection agency with examining new possible routes. The Legislature would have to back the measure twice more before it could go to Gov. Dave Heineman.

TransCanada volunteered this week divert its proposed route for the Keystone XL pipeline so that it wouldn't pass through the Nebraska Sandhills. The offer followed the U.S. State Department's announcement that it would delay its decision on the transnational pipeline until at least 2013.

The proposed \$7 billion pipeline would carry up to 700,000 barrels of crude a day from Alberta's tar sands to Texas Gulf Coast refineries. The route would cross six states — Montana, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma and Texas — and had stirred fears about a contamination threat to the Ogallala aquifer, a key water source for eight states.

On Wednesday, Flood told his fellow lawmakers that he wants to allay Nebraskans' concerns about the State Department review of the project. Critics have questioned an earlier federal review because it was conducted by Cardno ENTRIX, a Houston-based environmental contractor that has identified

TransCanada as a major client for other projects. Cardno ENTRIX has denied any conflict of interest.

"You can remove a lot of the concerns of citizens by having the state pay for it, to assure them that this is a straightforward fair process," Flood said. "That report only belongs to the taxpayers of Nebraska."

Environmentalists and some Nebraska landowners said the pipeline would have disrupted the Sandhills' loose soil for decades, harmed wildlife, and contaminated the groundwater. Business and labor groups who support the project have said the environmental criticism is overblown and based more on opposition to oil than the project itself. They maintain the project would create thousands of construction jobs, although the exact number is disputed.

TransCanada has said the pipeline would use new technology that would make it among the safest pipelines in the world. Alex Pourbaix, TransCanada's president for energy and oil pipelines, has said the state study could be finished in six to nine months with cooperation from state and federal agencies.

Any new proposed route would go to Heineman, who would send his response to the U.S. State Department within 30 days. The Republican governor has said he backs the project but not a route through the Sandhills, which sit on top of the aquifer. The State Department still has to approve or deny the entire project, because it crosses an international border.

Some lawmakers asked Wednesday why the state, and not TransCanada, should pay for the environmental review. Lawmakers said the review could cost \$2 million.

Obituaries

Clyde T. "Plunky" Durham Jr., 78

BORGER—Clyde T. "Plunky" Durham Jr., 78, died November 13, 2011, in Amarillo.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Durham was born April 29, 1933, in Pampa where he attended Pampa schools. He was employed by Hardin & Roth Service Station. He was a mechanic for Waukesha-Pearce, and later worked for Phillips Petroleum Refinery as a heavy equipment operator. He worked for the City of Pampa, retiring in 2002. He was a member of St. Mark CME



Durham

Church in Pampa. Clyde enjoyed hunting rabbits and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan.

Survivors include seven sons, Clyde Durham and Marvin Oliver, both of Oklahoma City, Jerry Norman and wife Vickie of Borger, Joe Graves of Pampa, Virgil Hunter and Ronnie Hunter, both of Denver, Colo., and Quinton Young of Fort Worth; five daughters, Kaylo Harrison and husband Clifford of Fort Worth, Regina "Reggie" Smith of Jacksonville, Ark., Janice Pitts and Evelyn Ridley, both of Oklahoma City, and Deloris Crawford of Arlington; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and a sister, Juanda Newell and husband Kenneth of San Antonio. He was preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers, Eddie L. Durham, James "Sonny Boy" Wilson, and Bobby J. Durham.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark CME Church, 406 Elm, Pampa, Texas 70965.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, November 16 at 7 a.m.

Animal Control agents reported 14 animal related incidents.

Pampa PD reported 11 traffic related incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to three medical calls.

Tuesday, November 15

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 100 block of North Houston.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1400 block of North Williston.

Police investigated an

alarm at the 1200 block of Price.

A violation of city ordinance occurred at the 900 block of West Crane.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 100 block of West 30th.

The Pampa Fire Department responded to a grass fire on Highway 70.

A hit and run was reported.

A theft occurred at the 2600 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported at 15th and Dogwood.

An accident occurred at the 1600 block of West Somerville.

A grass fire occurred at

Darby and Magnolia.

An accident occurred at the 1300 block of North Hobart.

A prowler was reported at Lynn and 22nd.

A theft occurred at the 600 block of North Wells.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1200 block of North Wells.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1000 block of Neel.

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

Suspicious persons were reported at the 400 block of North Ballard.

A prowler was reported at the 700 block of

East Browning.

Police investigated an alarm at the 1700 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported at the 400 block of North Hazel.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, November 16 at 7 a.m.

Tuesday, November 15

Miguel Angel Garcia, 18, was arrested by police for possession of marijuana in a drug free zone.

The **PAMPA NEWS**

TODAY IN SPORTS Out-duced Lady Pirates fall to Lady Warriors in season opener Page 6

inside: The Savage Truth on money by Terry Savage Page 6

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 180 75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Election Day today; polls open from 7 to 7

Gray County voters participated in early voting. "It's a pretty disappointing turnout considering the critical issues on that ballot," Lewis said. "Usually, what we see in election day has been pretty competitive to our early voting numbers so (turnout) this year will probably be lower." **ELECTION** cont. on page 3

A CRAFTY A-FAIR

Carllyn Dyer (left) and Donna Winkblack peruse the offerings at the Little Field School House Craft Fair on Saturday.

Court grants Skinner stay of execution

Death row inmate Hank Skinner's appeals were answered on Monday, when the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas granted the convicted murderer a stay of execution. At issue for Skinner has been the testing of DNA evidence from his case, which was denied most recently by the 31st District Court in Gray County. "Because the DNA statute has changed, and because some of those changes were because of this case, we find that it would be prudent for this Court to take time to fully review the changes in the statute as they pertain to this case," said the Court of Criminal Appeals in its ruling. The Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that the Gray County court has 15 days to enter its legal determinations, which should be forwarded to the criminal court within 30 days. "The Court of Criminal Appeals with its decision (yesterday), has ensured that Mr. Skinner's request for DNA testing will receive the thorough and serious consideration it deserves," said Rob Owen, lead appeals attorney for Hank SKINNER cont. on page 2

READ IT Online

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Pampa EDC mulls **FOR ART'S SAKE** TIPS strategic plan

MORNINGRUSH

Probe of Mexican Zetas leads to arrests

Enbridge buys half of pipeline

TORONTO (AP) — Enbridge Inc. says it will provide early access to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries after agreeing to pay \$1.15 billion to buy half ownership in the Seaway crude pipeline system between Texas and Oklahoma from ConocoPhillips.

Calgary, Alberta-based Enbridge said Wednesday they have agreed to reverse the direction of crude oil flows on the Seaway pipeline to enable it to transport oil from Cushing, Oklahoma, to the Gulf Coast.

The move comes after the U.S. government delayed a decision on a federal permit for rival TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline that would take oil to the refineries on the Gulf Coast.

The capacity of the reversed Seaway pipeline will be up to 400,000 barrels a day. Modifications are expected to be completed in 2013.

Rice farmers face water cut

AUSTIN (AP) — A state official says Texas regulators will approve emergency measures that could curtail water to rice farmers next year.

The Lower Colorado River Authority board approved a plan in September that would cut off water to downstream farmers if reservoir levels fall below a certain level on March 1.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that the head of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality notified Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday that he intends to authorize the plan. The three-member panel, which meets Dec. 7, can affirm, change or reject the decision.

Under the plan, no water would be released if levels fall below 850,000 acre-feet. If levels exceed 920,000 acre-feet, a limited amount of water would be released.

The lakes currently hold 743,000 acre-feet.

US holds three firearm suspects

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's attorney general says she has asked the United States to extradite six people suspected of providing guns to drug cartels.

Marisela Morales tells Congress that three people are being held in Texas and three in California.

She says two U.S. citizens were being held in Mexico on similar charges. She provided no details in Wednesday's statement and did not mention Operation Fast and Furious, in which U.S. officials followed suspected "straw" buyers of guns heading to Mexico instead of immediately arresting them.

She said one of the cases originated in Madera, California. US officials said this month that two men were being held on suspicion of smuggling .22-caliber rifles into Mexico in a case unrelated to drug cartels.

Occupy Dallas keeps campsite

DALLAS (AP) — An attorney for Occupy Dallas says protesters can stay at a campsite near City Hall four more weeks as long as they obey the law.

Jonathan Winocour said the agreement was reached with the city during a meeting Wednesday.

Protesters are trying to raise awareness about corporate greed and economic inequality. They say they will keep their campsite clean so they don't get kicked out.

On Tuesday, a federal judge cleared the way for the city to close the campsite.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings has said public safety and health conditions are a "paramount concern."

The city last week alleged protesters violated an agreement allowing the campsite.

The city noted reports of an alleged sexual assault of a child, the removal of a baby over possible endangerment and trespassing arrests.

Law oversight removes fine

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas lawmakers passing a flurry of bills on the final day of the Legislative session in May accidentally removed a \$200 fine for driving without license plates from the transportation code.

That oversight means that fine and enforcement of penalties for falsifying or obscuring plates could disappear when the law takes effect Jan. 1.

Rep. Joe Pickett sponsored the law and has written to Attorney General Greg Abbott asking for an opinion clarifying enforcement. He argued that penalties are implicit.

The El Paso Democrat also said interpreting the law any other way could have absurd and dangerous consequences.

Abbott's office received the letter Oct. 24 and has 180 days to respond. No one asked for an expedited decision — even though the law takes effect in less than two months.

Arlington to buy drones

ARLINGTON (AP) — A North Texas city that tested helicopter drones will buy two of the small aircraft to record video and take photos.

The Arlington City Council on Tuesday approved spending \$202,000 for the battery-powered drones to be used by police.

Police earlier this year tested several of the remote-controlled helicopters, which weigh about 11 pounds and stretch nearly 4 feet.

Arlington has been working with federal agencies on the testing program.

Man convicted for assault

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man has been convicted of aggravated assault of a family member for torturing his estranged girlfriend for more than 15 hours during an incident in which he tied her up and burned her breasts and genitals.

A jury found 40-year-old Gregory Longoria Jr. guilty after deliberating for nearly three hours on Wednesday.

Longoria's attorneys had claimed the February incident was a result of consensual kinky sex between the couple. His estranged girlfriend had testified in his defense, saying she consented to everything that happened.

Jurors were set to hear testimony in the trial's punishment phase before deliberating Longoria's sentence. He faces up to life in prison.

CHICAGO (AP) — Federal agents have arrested 13 people as part of a probe into the alleged multimillion-dollar shipments of drug money between the Chicago area and Mexico's brutal Zetas cartel, authorities said Wednesday.

The FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration arrested 12 people Tuesday in Chicago and another during a simultaneous raid in Laredo, Texas, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office. Five people of the 20 total indicted in the probe remain at large, another was already in custody and one is hospitalized.

Authorities said they seized more than \$12.4 million in cash and approximately 250 kilograms of cocaine last year from Chicago-area safe houses. An additional \$480,000 and two kilograms were seized during Tuesday's raids, they said.

Ex-prosecutor talks wrongful conviction

AUSTIN (AP) — Former District Attorney Ken Anderson apologized Wednesday for the "system's failure" in the wrongful conviction of a man who spent 25 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

Attorneys for Michael Morton allege Anderson concealed key evidence from the defense that could have changed the outcome of the 1987 trial. But Anderson said he believes there was no misconduct in prosecuting Morton for his wife's murder.

"As woefully inadequate as I realize it is, I want to formally apologize for the system's failure to Mr. Morton and every other person who was affected by the verdict," Anderson said, speaking publicly about the case for the first time.

Morton was freed from prison last month based on new DNA evidence and his conviction has been overturned by the courts.

Anderson says he hopes and prays that Morton "will be able to move forward with his life after these incredibly tragic events."

Authorities have arrested another man, Mark Alan Norwood, in the 1986 murder of Christine Morton.

Norwood is suspected of beating Christine Morton to death in her bed in August 1986. He's also linked to the slaying of another woman under chillingly similar circumstances while Morton was imprisoned. At the 1988 beating death of Debra Masters Baker. The Austin Police Department said he is a suspect in the ongoing investigation of Baker's death.

Caitlin Baker, Debra Master Baker's daughter, watched as Anderson spoke on the steps of the Williamson County Courthouse.

"It's harder for me to hear him not holding himself accountable. He's not taking responsibility," Baker said in the Austin American-Statesman. Caitlin Baker said she held Anderson partially responsible for her mother's death because he and investigators focused so intently on Morton.

"My mother could be alive right now," she said. "If he feels bad,

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said the charges are part of the first federal prosecution in Chicago of defendants with ties to the Zetas cartel, which is believed to be one of Mexico's two dominant drug traffickers. Three people with ties to the Zetas were arrested and two others remain at large, authorities said.

The Zetas, formed by former members of an elite Mexican army unit, are believed to have been behind some of the most ruthless violence in a drug war that's claimed an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 lives.

Among the men who remain at large is Eduardo Trevino, who is accused of directing a network that shipped drug money from Chicago and other American cities to Laredo, where the money could then be moved across the border into Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Another defendant still at large,

Salvador Estrada, is accused in an indictment of packaging millions of dollars in cash to be driven south by truck drivers.

Two alleged truck drivers, Miguel Arredondo and Vicente Casares, and another defendant linked to the Zetas, Juan Aguirre, are now in custody. Attorney information for the three men was not immediately available.

Jack Riley, Chicago special agent in charge for the DEA, said in a statement that the "influence of Mexican criminal organizations in the wholesale Chicago drug market is apparent."

One expert on the cartel said the Zetas have expanded their reach along the corridors of several interstate highways, including Interstate 35, which runs north from Laredo into the Midwest. Authorities in several other cities

have made arrests of people with alleged Zeta ties.

Their influence stretches to thousands of drug dealers and peripheral supporters, said Sam Logan, founder of Southern Pulse, a Latin America intelligence service.

"The word 'Zetas' as a criminal brand is in a lot of ways much more powerful than the 500 or so men who actually are Zetas," Logan said. "Of that number, very close to zero are actually active inside the United States."

The odds are slim that federal agents will ever be able to prosecute cartel members such as Trevino believed to be running drug operations, Logan said. Authorities say they believe Trevino to be living in Nuevo Laredo.

"I think it's more likely he'll be killed," Logan said.

Cinema 4

<p>Friday, November 11 through Thursday, November 17.</p> <p>Immortals 2-D (R) Fri 7:15 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15 Mon/Thur 7:15</p> <p>Tower Heist (PG-13) Fri 7:30 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Thur 7:30</p> <p>Puss in Boots 3-D (PG) Fri 7:00 9:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thur 7:00</p> <p>Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7:00 9:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thur 7:00</p>	<p>Showing Tomorrow! Friday, November 18 through Thursday, November 24.</p> <p>Happy Feet 2 (PG, 3-D) Fri 7:15 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15 Mon/Thur 7:15 only</p> <p>Breaking Dawn (PG-13) Fri 7:00 10:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 10:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thur 7:00 only</p> <p>Immortals (R) Fri 7:30 10:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Thur 7:30 only</p> <p>Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7:30 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Thur 7:30 only</p>
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"I didn't know how I would manage on my own."

Speaking from the heart

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2011. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 17, 1911, the African-American fraternity Omega Psi Phi was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

On this date:

In 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of Queen Mary.

In 1800, Congress held its first session in Washington in the partially completed Capitol building.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1934, Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as Lady Bird.

In 1969, the first round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union opened in Helsinki, Finland.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Fla., "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two neo-Nazis and acquitted two others of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg.

In 1991, the first national TV commercial for condoms (Trojan) aired during an episode of the Fox situation comedy "Herman's Head."

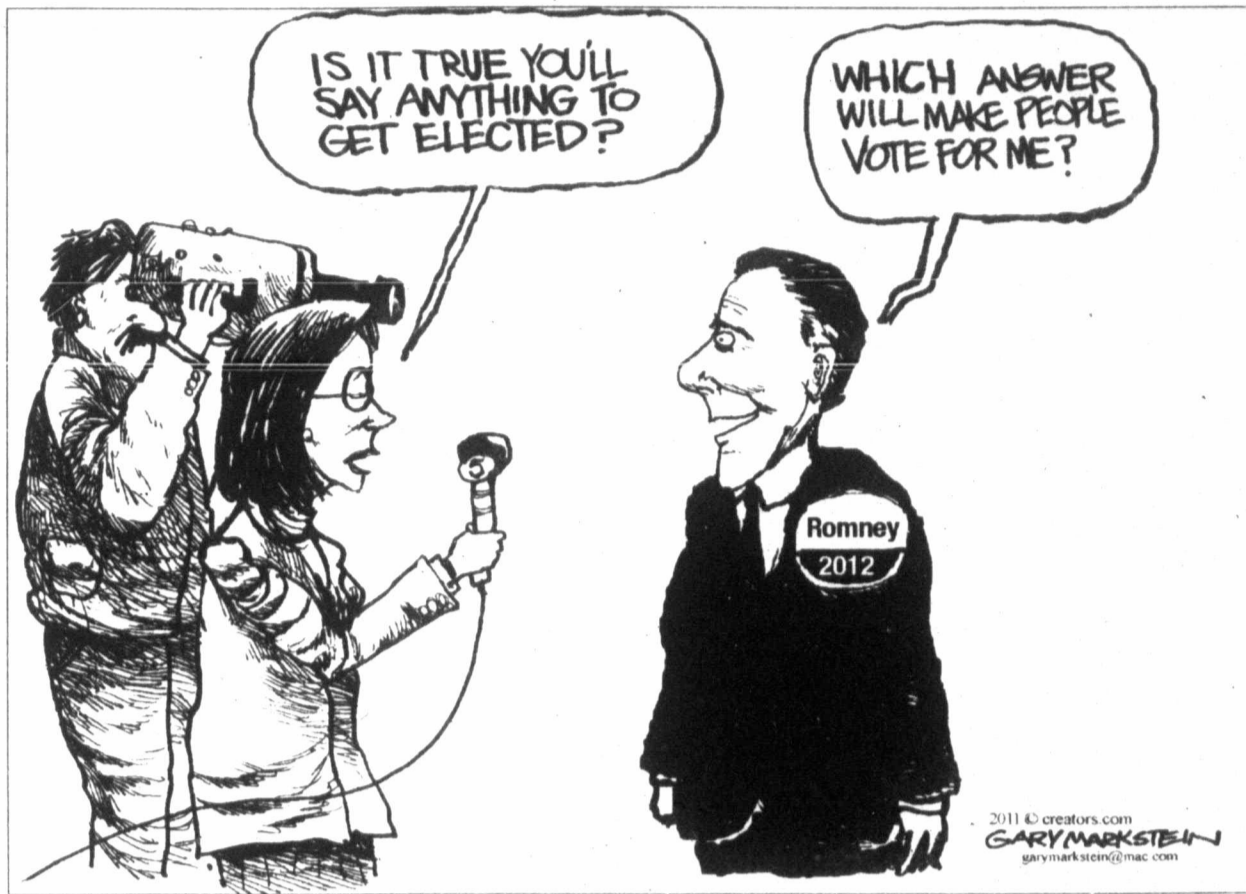
Ten years ago: The Taliban confirmed the death of Osama bin Laden's military chief Mohammed Atef in an airstrike three days earlier.

Five years ago: Cast into the minority in midterm elections, House Republicans chose John Boehner of Ohio to lead them. Ivan J. Hill was convicted in Los Angeles of being the "60 Freeway Slayer" of six women (Hill was later sentenced to death).

One year ago: House Democrats elected Nancy Pelosi to remain as their leader despite massive party losses in midterm elections. A hand-count of votes affirmed the re-election of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, the first Senate candidate in over 50 years to win a write-in campaign.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is 77. Rock musician Gerry McGee (The Ventures) is 74. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 73. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio is 70. Movie director Martin Scorsese is 69. Actress Lauren Hutton is 68. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 67. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 67. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Tom Seaver is 67. Movie director Roland Joffe is 66. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 63. House Speaker John Boehner is 62. Actor Stephen Root is 60. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 54. Actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 53. Actor William Moses is 52. Entertainer RuPaul is 51. Actor Dylan Walsh is 48. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice is 47. Actress Sophie Marceau is 45. Actress-model Daisy Fuentes is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 44. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveler) is 44. Actor Leonard Roberts is 39. Actress Leslie Bibb is 38. Actor Brandon Call is 35. Actress Rachel McAdams is 33. Rock musician Isaac Hanson (Hanson) is 31. Actor Justin Cooper is 23. Musician Reid Perry (The Band Perry) is 23. Actress Raquel Castro is 17.

Thought for Today: "Since others have to tolerate my weaknesses, it is only fair that I should tolerate theirs." — William Allen White, American journalist (1868-1944).



Are we seeing the return of the War Party?

Is a vote for the Republican Party in 2012 a vote for war?

Is a vote for Mitt Romney or Newt Gingrich a vote for yet another unfunded war of choice, this time with a nation, Iran, three times as large and populous as Iraq?

Mitt says that if elected he will move carriers into the Persian Gulf and "prepare for war." Newt is even more hawkish. America should continue "taking out" Iran's nuclear scientists -- i.e., assassinating them -- but military action will probably be needed.

Newt is talking up uber-hawk John Bolton for secretary of state.

Rick Santorum has already called for U.S.-Israeli strikes: "Either we're going to stop them ... or take the long term consequences of having a nuclear Iran trying to wipe out the state of Israel."

But if Iran represents, as Bibi Netanyahu is forever reminding us, an "existential threat," why does not Israel itself, with hundreds of nuclear weapons, deal with it?

Bibi's inaction speaks louder than Bibi's words.

He wants the Americans to do it. For the retired head of Mossad, Meir Dagan, calls attacking Iran "the stupidest thing I have ever heard of." He means stupid for Israel.

Why? Because an Israeli attack would be costly in planes and pilots, and only set back Iran's nuclear program. And such a pre-emptive strike would unify Iranians behind the regime.

Moreover, Israel would be inviting Tehran's ally Hezbollah to rain down rockets on Israel, igniting another of the bloody Lebanon wars that Israel was desperate to end the last time.

As for the United States, the only way we could eliminate Iran's nuclear program would be days of air and missile strikes.

Iran could retaliate by cutting off oil exports and mining the Strait of Hormuz, tripling the world price of



PAT BUCHANAN

oil, and hurling the European Union and United States into recession.

Iran could also turn Hezbollah loose on Americans in Lebanon and urge Shias to attack U.S. troops, diplomats and civil-

ians in Bahrain, Iraq and Afghanistan, and here in the United States.

No one knows how this would end. A U.S.-Iran war could force us to march to Tehran to remove the Islamic regime and scour that huge country to ensure that it was shorn of weapons of mass destruction -- for an Islamic regime that survived a U.S. war would be hellbent on acquiring the bomb to pay us back. Yet, we lack a large enough army to occupy Iran.

And why should thousands more Americans have to die or come home to be fitted for metal limbs so Israel can remain sole proprietor of a nuclear weapon from Morocco to Afghanistan?

And where is the hard evidence Iran is acquiring nukes?

The U.S. intelligence community declared in December 2007, with "high confidence," that Iran was no longer seeking nuclear weapons. It has never rescinded that declaration.

And there is no conclusive evidence in that media-hyped report last week from the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran is for certain building nuclear weapons. Indeed, that report was exposed as the work of incompetents within hours.

Relying on intelligence agencies, the IAEA said a top Russian nuclear weapons scientist had been instructing Iranians for years. The scientist turns out to be V.I. Danilenko, who has no expertise in nuclear weapons,

but is a specialist in using conventional explosives to produce nano-diamonds for the manufacture of lubricants and rubber.

Are we being lied and stamped into yet another war by the same propagandists who gave us the yellow-cake-from-Niger forgeries?

Bibi calls Mahmoud Ahmadinejad another Hitler and says we are all in 1939 again. But is this credible?

True, Ahmadinejad hosted a Holocaust conference featuring David Duke and said Israel should be wiped off the map, but he does not control Iran's military, has lost favor with the ayatollah, and has been threatened with impeachment. Ahmadinejad is a lame duck with less than two years left in his term. Is mighty Israel afraid of this man?

Told that the IAEA said Iran was actively pursuing nuclear weapons, Ahmadinejad laughed: "The Iranian nation is wise. It won't build two bombs against 20,000 (nuclear) bombs you (Americans) have."

Does he not have a point? How would an Iranian bomb secure Iran, when Israel's nuclear arsenal would be put on a hair trigger, and Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt would then rush to get their own bombs?

In that South Carolina debate, Ron Paul, the one person there proven right on Iraq, was given less than 90 seconds to speak.

Under the Constitution, said Paul, no president has the right to launch an unprovoked attack on Iran without congressional authorization.

Before America goes to war with Iran, let Congress, whose members are forever expressing their love for the Constitution, follow it, and vote on war with Iran. And before we go to the polls in 2012, let's find out if the GOP is becoming again the same old War Party that bankrupted the nation.

Pat Buchanan is a conservative political commentator, author, syndicated columnist, politician and broadcaster.

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Decoding canine behaviors



MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS
Creator's Syndicate



We have a 7-month-old baby who is learning to crawl. When she starts moving, our 10-year-old kidgeback/Pit bull mix gets anxious and starts circling her. Every once in a while when she is moving, he will charge at her and nudge her with his nose. Sometimes he will growl when he does that. Mind you, we do not let her crawl around without us there, and we push him away when we see him charging at her.

He was OK with her until she started crawling. He follows us with her everywhere. Even when she is sleeping in her crib, he has to be in the room with her. He won't leave her side. We feel that he is protecting her. When she is crawling, it is a different story.

"Barnie" has had a tough life. We rescued him at 2 years old, and we were told at the shelter that he was beaten as a puppy.

As for the baby, it seems like he is protecting her until she gets on the ground. Should we be worried about him charging her? What does that mean? Is he scared or threatened by her? Any suggestions would be appreciated.

If you were on a boat in the middle of the ocean and you noticed a shark circling your boat, would you jump in the water? No. Would you feel scared or threatened? You bet.

An animal circling something is in predator mode, and whatever he is circling is potential prey. It is no different when the parties involved are a dog and a baby.

Charging can be an aggressive action. Growling is a clear and certain warning of escalating aggression. This couple has a tough decision to make. Their choices are:

- Find a new home for the dog.
- Find a new home for the baby.
- Find a way to keep the two away from each other 100 percent of the time.

They were hoping to train the dog and eliminate the behaviors through training. But timing is everything.

Baby is already crawling, and Barnie is 10 years old and circling. Barnie is fine as long as baby was lying still and quiet in her own crib. Crawling around all over his territory? Baby is a foreign body, an unknown entity, a strange and mobile creature on his turf. Barnie's response? Circling, charging, nudging, growling. Translation: He doesn't like it, and if you're not going to do anything about it, he will.

In this case, a complete and secure separation is their best hope if they want to keep Barnie in the family. Dog runs, crates, baby gates and other baby-proofing and dog-proofing equipment are designed to help us steer clear of danger. Otherwise, it's their responsibility to find Barnie a good home without small children.

Woof!

Dog trainer Matthew "Uncle Matty" Margolis is co-author of 18 books about dogs, a behaviorist, a popular radio and television guest, and host of the PBS series "WOOF! It's a Dog's Life!"

Error omits license plate fines

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers scrambling to pass a flurry of bills on the final day of the Legislative session approved a measure that accidentally failed to specify the fines for driving without license plates from the transportation code, meaning drivers cited for such violations may not face punishment after the law takes effect Jan. 1.

Rep. Joe Pickett, the El Paso Democrat who sponsored the bill, sent Attorney General Greg Abbott a written request last month seeking an opinion on whether the fines of up to \$200 could still be enforced. He acknowledges in his letter that the penalty language "was inadvertently left out of the bill," but contends that the penalties are implicit in the legislation and that interpreting the law otherwise could have dangerous consequences.

"There would be far reaching results for law enforcement and the general public if law enforcement had no way to identify vehicles transporting victims, drugs, and criminal suspects," Pickett wrote. Word of the omission was first reported by the Austin American Statesman.

Pickett said Wednesday that in such large pieces of legislation that go through

many rewrites, "these kinds of things happen."

"It's kind of silly, if you take it in context, that there shouldn't be or wouldn't be a fine for not having a license plate," he said by phone. "I don't think people are going to deliberately drive without one because they would be calling attention to themselves."

Abbott's office received Pickett's letter Oct. 24 and has 180 days to respond. Spokesman Tom Kelley said that an opinion would be issued April 21, meeting the deadline, and that no one had asked for an expedited decision even though the law takes effect in less than two months.

Failing to display two license plates has been a misdemeanor punishable by up to \$200 in fines in Texas since 1934, although drivers who correct the problem in a timely manner can pay as little as \$10. The language of the original statute had not been modified until Pickett's law.

Attorneys for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles helped Pickett draft his letter to the attorney general, agency spokeswoman Kim Sue Lia Perkes said. She said that even after Jan. 1, it

would still be a violation to drive without license plates, but that punishment for such citations is a matter for law enforcement or the attorney general's office.

Pickett wrote that he believes the ambiguity in enforcing license plate fines could affect the enforcement of other license plate-related offenses, including those pertaining to the use of incorrect plates, antique plates, and obstructed or falsified plates.

"When I was 16 years old, I might want to take off my plates and dare them to stop me," he joked of police. "But I don't think it will be a big deal."

The Legislature doesn't reconvene until January 2013, and should the language of the bill need to be changed before then, the governor would have to call a special session.

Gov. Rick Perry has been traveling the country campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination. A governor's office spokesman, Josh Havens, said the matter is in the attorney general's hands and there are no plans to call a special session.

Perry town hall asks guests for citizenship

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — People attending a Rick Perry presidential campaign event Wednesday were asked to prove they are American citizens.

The town hall-style meeting at Granite State Manufacturing, the first of two events Perry was holding in New Hampshire, was open to the public.

But campaign officials said federal regulations required proof of citizenship because the company handles defense contracts. A Granite State employee sat beside a Perry campaign staffer at the door and asked attendees whether they were citizens.

The employee, who refused to give her name, said non-citizens wouldn't be admitted.

While Perry's rivals

have faced similar restrictions when they held events on the premises of federal defense contractors, the issue Wednesday brought unwanted attention to Perry's complicated immigration record at a critical point in his quest for the Republican presidential nomination.

Some of his rivals privately seized on his decision to hold an event with such restrictions. The leader of a regional immigration advocacy group was more vocal.

"It's disturbing, especially given his record on immigration," said Eva Millona, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.

Perry, the governor of Texas, has faced sustained criticism over a Texas policy that allows

in-state college tuition for illegal immigrants. He also has struggled to win over some conservatives for being against putting up a fence along the border with Mexico.

John Stephen, a prominent Perry supporter in New Hampshire and recent Republican gubernatorial candidate, defended Perry.

"This is a manufacturing business where the governor wanted to meet with workers," Stephen said. "There is no one that's done more through action to oppose illegal immigration than Rick Perry."

A Granite State employee, assembly manager Shawn

O'Hagan, later said immigrants should not have been blocked from attending the event. But he said those without proof of citizenship would need to be escorted inside.

It was unclear whether any immigrants attended.

Face time and think time make a difference.

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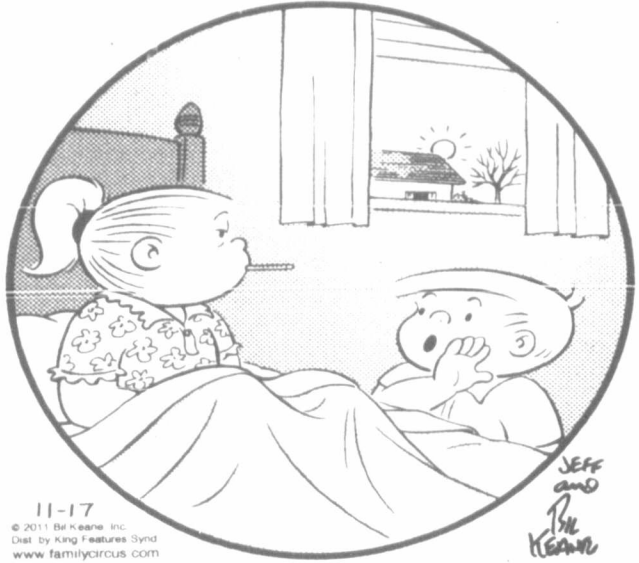
Animal #12366 "Jelly" Female Rat Terrier	Animal #13282 "Fiona" Female Calico Cat	Animal #13299 "Peter Pan" Male Dachshund
Animal #13310 "Suze" Female Heeler	Animal #13314 "Wrangler" Male Australian Shepherd	Animal #13334 "Boots" DSH Kitten

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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



11-17
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“FYI, if you're too sick to go to school, you're too sick to watch TV, too.”

Non Sequitur



GO TO DICTIONARY.COM FOR THE ANSWER

Nest Heads

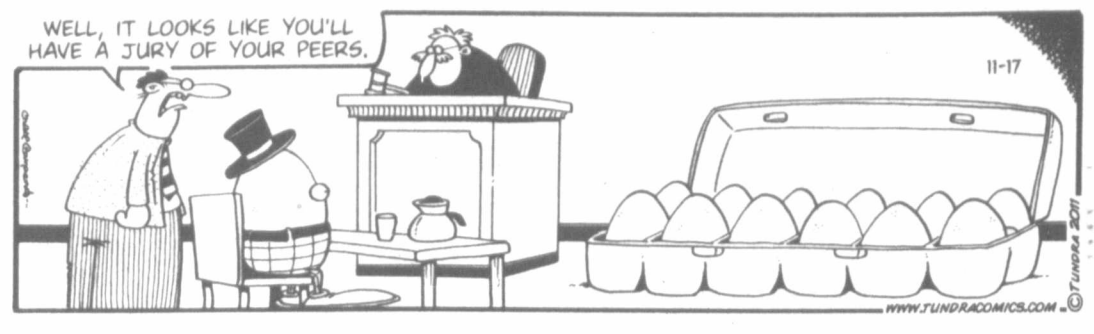


daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011:
People experience you at your most dynamic. You attract many people, and often the unexpected occurs. You cannot always predict a new personality. If you are single, a friend could become more, or you could meet someone through your associations. If you are attached, the two of you need to be as conscious about your friendship as you are about your love connection. LEO always adds drama to the moment.
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Communication and caring merge. Nearly everyone gets it. Just don't make more of a bond than exists. If you're looking for a solution, it simply comes out of the blue. If you are single, you could be quite the flirt. Tonight: Only where the fun is.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your home, family and security continue to be high priorities. You cannot minimize the importance of a child or loved one in your daily life. The kinder you are with an associate, the better off you will be. Visualize a desire. Tonight: Happily heading home.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have a very unique communication style. You cannot minimize the impact of your words and choices. Return calls; initiate meetings. You accomplish a lot with very little effort. Tonight: Hang out with friends.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Be aware of what you have to offer. Don't underestimate yourself, which you tend to do frequently. Use an innate ability to draw others to your way of thinking. Let them find a secure you. A gesture toward a friend or loved one is much appreciated. Tonight: Treat yourself, too!
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You have impact! Your plate is full, too. Your ability to home in on the goal and the greater good helps direct a meeting and its different supporters. You have a special way of expressing your words so that others can hear them. Tonight: Make sure plans suit you.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Much is going on that isn't apparent. You might sense it, or you just might plain know. Don't worry about playing a less obvious role right now. What you need

to follow through on is instrumental in the long run. Do you really need the limelight? You will have it soon enough! Tonight: Much-needed time.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Where you are is certainly where others want to be. You need to understand exactly what is happening with a key friend or loved one. Until you are at that point, a discussion might not be possible. Don't eliminate a far-out idea just because it is unusual. Tonight: Where your friends are.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Sometimes you might want to check out what it feels like to be someone else. Whether identifying with a boss or taking advantage of an opportunity to play his or her role, you gain a new perspective. Now you can use more effective ways of relating to this person. Tonight: Could go to the wee hours.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for others and gaining different ideas. As many people as you know is as many ideas that can come forward. Be open to the process. Think outside the box. Look at where you have restricted your thinking. Only then will you soar to success. Tonight: Discuss weekend plans.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Deal directly with a key associate or a series of important people in your life. Though you might be able to do nearly the same in a meeting, you energize and connect with each person. Look at what happens when others feel valued. Tonight: Dinner for two.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Listen to others. Know that saying a simple "no" might not be as effective as letting another person try out his or her idea. You have a way of understanding the dynamics that others don't. Reach out for a loved one at a distance. Express your caring in a more ethereal manner. Tonight: Say "yes."
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Toss yourself into work and see how much you accomplish. Don't settle for less than what you are capable of. Remain upbeat with a partner who can be cranky, as well as a loved one. A gentle approach makes a big difference. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

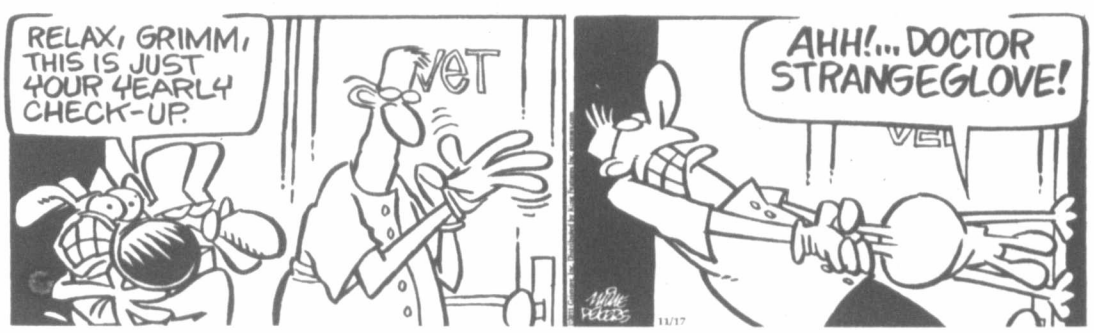
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



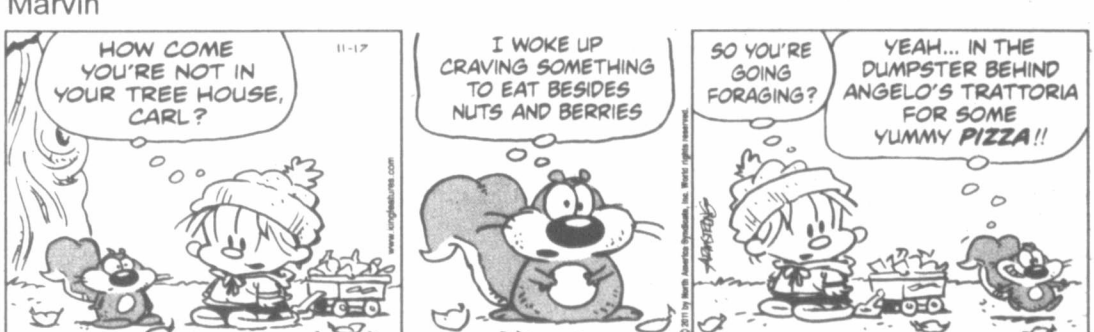
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Sports

Harvesters hope to start season strong against Dumas

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The last time the Pampa Harvesters took the court it was in the regional finals at Texas Tech University last March. On Friday, Pampa hopes to start its journey on the right foot as it hosts the Dumas Demons 7:30 p.m. at McNeely Fieldhouse.

"It's great to get back out on the court again," senior Reid Miller said. "There is the pressure of living up to the hype, so it should be fun."



R. Miller

Last season, the Harvesters went 20-13 and reached the regional finals. Head coach Dustin Miller said he is anxious about the opener, but in a different way than last season.

"Last year I was more nervous for the opener than the regional finals," Dustin said. "We had worked so hard and wanted the kids to completely buy in that our work and new defensive scheme paid off. There are nerves coming off such a big year and lots of expectations."



D. Miller

Junior Derrek Pollard said the team is different this year and will have to develop the chemistry.

"Last year we had a good point guard (Zach Murray), a good shooter (Garrett Ericson) and a good team," Pollard said. "Now we have to make the best of what we have this year. I'm pretty sure we can still do what we did last year and make it to the state tournament."

Pampa graduated six, including three

starters. Senior Jesus Cabrales said the team is coming all well.

"We definitely lost big pieces," Cabrales said. "I feel like we can plug in newcomers and get it going last year."

Reid said every team will want to play its best game.

"This year we are going to have a target on our back," Reid said. "So there is pressure but it's what we want."

Dustin said he has a better idea of his rotation.

"I think our one through ten is as good as I've had in a while," Dustin said.

Last year, Pampa beat Dumas decisively twice (62-32 and 77-37). Cabrales said it's a new year but Pampa should do fine.

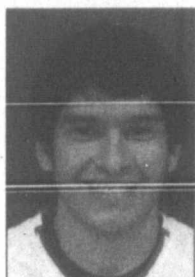
"We can't look at last year," Cabrales said. "If we play our game, we should do good."

The Demons (1-0) won their opener 64-50 over Amarillo San Jacinto. Dustin said the Demons should be better than last season.

"Dumas has everyone back from last year," Dustin said. "They are in the second year under a new system. So they will be much improved I'm guessing."

Dustin said the key will be shooting the ball well.

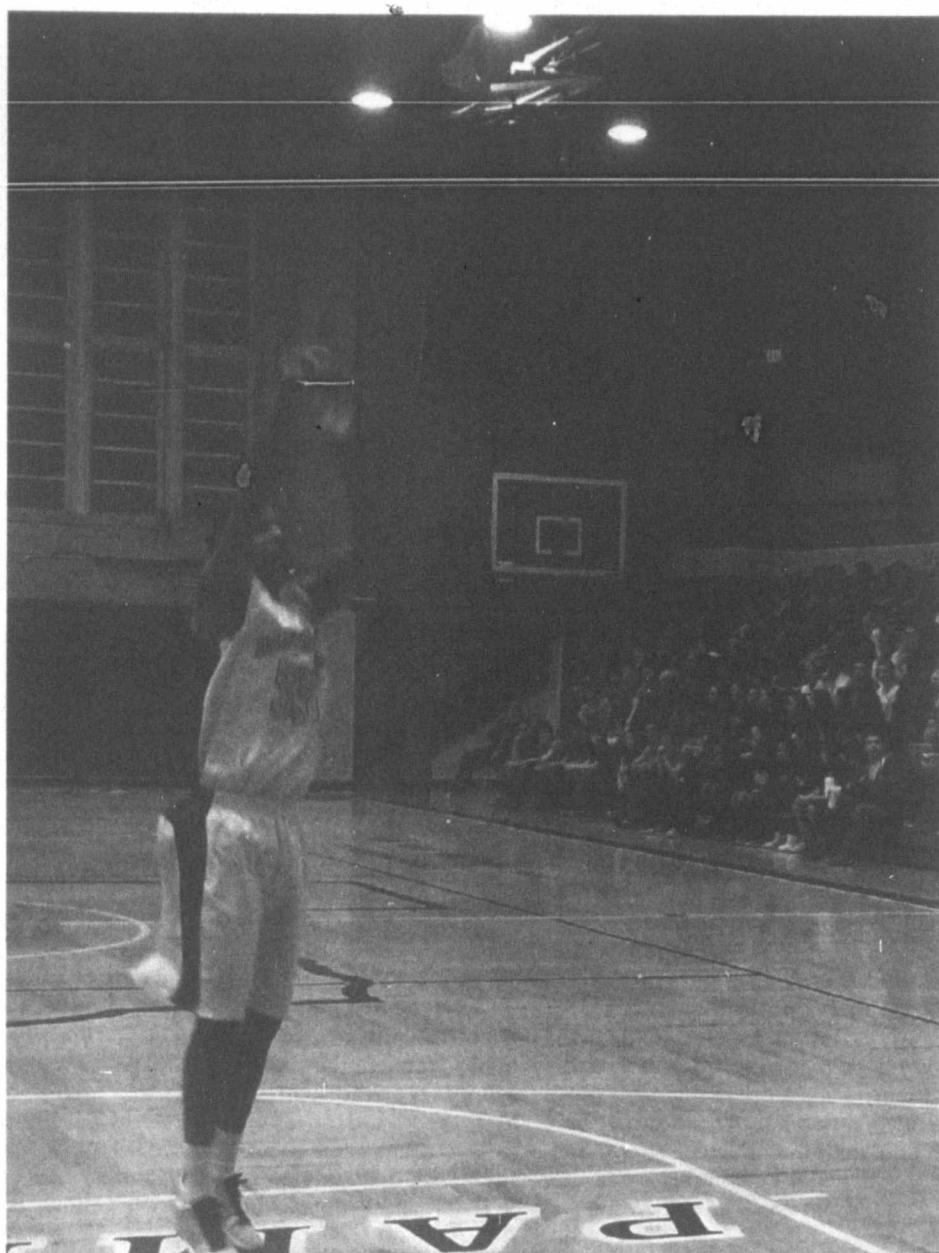
"(Dumas) will make you shoot the ball well," Dustin said. "They tend to pack it in defensively and make you beat them from the perimeter."



Cabrales



Pollard



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Junior Derrek Pollard shoots a jumper during Meet the Harvesters on Monday at McNeely Fieldhouse. Pampa opens the season Friday against Dumas.

Lady Harvesters making improvements early in 2011-12

Last season, the Pampa Lady Harvesters were 0-5 and losing by an average of 43 points. This year, Pampa is much improved with a 3-2 record and is proving that they are a different team than last season.

First, the Lady Harvesters started the season with a full team, thanks to the volleyball team's early exit from the playoffs. This helped develop chemistry earlier. Seniors Kailyn Troxell, Kirsten Kuhn and Caitlin Sieck were able to get into basketball condition quicker and contribute more. Last year, those three were getting back to basketball during the Frenship tournament and weren't quite in condition. In Tuesday's game against Bushland, you could tell that they are getting back in the groove.

This year the team knew who was coming back and didn't suffer surprises. Last year the team lost seven players when they were expecting to return seven. Understanding your role is key to a team's success. When you know who is on your team it's easier to make plays because you can anticipate your teammates' actions.

The last two seasons, the Lady



ANDREW GLOVER

Harvesters opened with 4A powerhouse Plainview and played last season's 4A champion Canyon, even though they didn't have to. This season, Pampa is playing teams that are closer to its level. That's helpful because it can give the girls confidence and they can learn from the game. The only thing gained in the games against Plainview and Canyon was how far our team was behind them. In the season opener with Canadian, which is ranked 14th in 1A Division I, Pampa played within seven for three quarters. Against Frenship, which is ranked 10th in 4A, the Lady Harvesters had a chance to win in the final minute. Playing teams that aren't too far above us will help us compete in district.

The most improved thing about this season's Lady Harvesters is their attitude. Last season, this team was ham-

pered by team chemistry issues. A couple times during the season, it had to have "Come to Jesus" meetings which helped for a short stretch. Pampa is more unified this year. Just like the boys last year, this team wants to prove it's a different and better team than the previous season.

Though, this success is great, it has to be put in perspective. The 2011-12 season has just started and the most important part is still ahead. Great starts are good, but great finishes are memorable. I think we've sort of forgot that the football team was sitting at a winning record halfway through the season after it lost four of the last five.

For the Lady Harvesters' success to continue and grow it has to be more patient on offense. In the first quarter, Pampa seems to be rushing on offense to get out in front. I can't blame them for that because I think it's great they have so much energy to start the game. It has to be controlled. The game isn't going to be won in the first three minutes, just like a 5K race isn't going to be decided in the first 50 feet. What Pampa needs to do is run the offense well and let the lead develop then use its energy to put the

game away in the second half. The Lady Harvesters need to continue to improve on the glass. Pampa doesn't have much size, so good technique is going to be key. Against Bushland, it did a fairly good job.

Finally, Pampa has got to win at home consistently. As I've learned at Tech, at sports other than football, win percentage and attendance go hand in hand. In 2009, I remember getting a second row seat before tip-off at a men's basketball game against A&M that I would have had to arrive an hour before to get two years prior. If Pampa can establish a home court advantage it could make McNeely a tough place for opponents to play. Over the last two seasons, the volleyball team gained more people and a stronger student presence.

The Lady Harvesters have potential to do great things. Hopefully, they will have the chance to make a run when February rolls around.

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NBA players file antitrust suits against NBA as lockout continues

NEW YORK (AP) — Locked-out NBA players including Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Durant filed class-action antitrust lawsuits against the league on Tuesday in at least two states, saying David Stern's ultimatums left them no other choice.

Attorney David Boies, who represented the NFL during that sport's work stoppage and now has been brought aboard by basketball's players, said the NBA lockout violates antitrust laws by refusing to allow players to work.

Boies added that Stern's ultimatum to the now-disbanded union to accept the owners' last economic model or face a harsher proposal "turned out to be a mistake" that strengthens the players' case because it proves that the collective bargaining process had ended.

"If you're in a poker game, and you run a bluff, and the bluff works, you're a hero. If someone calls your bluff, you lose. I think the owners overplayed their hand," Boies said at the players' association headquarters. "They did a terrific job of taking a very hard line and pushing the players to make concession after concession after concession, but greed is not only a terrible thing — it's a dangerous thing."

Dangerous enough to cost the league billions of dollars in damages if players win.

The players are seeking "triple damages" — meaning triple the amount of

the more than \$2 billion they would have made under a full 2011-12 season — for what they argue is irreparable harm by preventing them from playing in their "very short" NBA careers.

"We haven't seen Mr. Boies' complaint yet, but it's a shame that the players have chosen to litigate instead of negotiate," NBA spokesman Tim Frank said in a statement. "They warned us from the early days of these negotiations that they would sue us if we didn't satisfy them at the bargaining table, and they appear to have followed through on their threats."

Boies acknowledged that the case could take months, but hoped there would be a settlement before too long.

"Nobody can tell you how long it's going to take. We all know it's possible to delay lawsuits for a while, but I think it is in everybody's interest to try to resolve this promptly," said Boies, speaking on behalf of the California filing. "The longer it goes on, the greater the damages that the teams will face, the greater the damages that the players will suffer, and perhaps most important of all, the longer basketball fans will be deprived of basketball. So we hope that this will move quickly."

He insisted the players have shown their willingness to negotiate throughout.

"You can't negotiate by yourself," he said. "You can only negotiate if you've got somebody who's willing to sit down and negotiate with you."

The two suits — one filed in conjunction with the players' association in the Northern District of California and another filed in Minnesota — likely were filed with a favorable venue in mind.

The Minnesota district court has been favorable to the NFLPA during litigation dating to the 1980s. The federal court in San Francisco is under the jurisdiction of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, considered the most liberal of the 13 circuit courts.

The NBA already has filed a pre-emptive lawsuit in New York seeking to prove the lockout is legal and likely would push for cases to be moved there to gain the legal home court.

Though Stern has ridiculed the players' "losing" strategy, Boies said he believes NBA players have a stronger case than NFL players did. Their decertification, he said, could have been argued as a sham because they walked out on the bargaining process before it was technically over and brought litigation. He said Stern's actions left NBA players without options beyond seeking legal relief.

"Here you had an ultimatum from the owners that made absolutely clear that the collective bargaining process was over," he said, adding that Stern's threat is quoted in the lawsuit. "That's not collective bargaining, and so you have a very distinct set of facts here."

The California filing says that in 2007,

Stern met with union negotiators and demanded the players reduce their revenue share from 57 percent to no more than 50 percent and "insisted on a much more restrictive salary cap, which would restrict the market for player services."

Stern threatened at that meeting, according to the lawsuit, that the league was "prepared to lock out the players for two years to get everything" that the NBA owners sought and that "the deal would only get worse after the lockout."

The league locked out its players on July 1. Tuesday marked the 138th day of the lockout and the players' first missed paycheck. The season was scheduled to start Nov. 1, but already games through Dec. 15 have been canceled — a total of 324 or 26 percent of the season.

The league's latest proposal, which was rejected by the players on Monday, called for a reduced 72-game season to start Dec. 15.

Although the NFL was able to get its recent labor dispute resolved quickly enough to lose only one preseason game, the NHL lost the entire 2004-05 season, and the NBA's last work stoppage led to a 50-game season in 1998-99.

Boies said players will not seek a preliminary injunction to lift the lockout. Because the lockout "arguably grew out of prior collective bargaining discussions."

Award

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with disabilities are part of the public," said Veeramachaneni. "Usually, it's one in five of us has a disability, so sometimes it's apparent, and sometimes it's not."

She helps both job seekers with disabilities and employees gain access to the resources they need to work successfully together.

"A lot of those resources are free, and it's just a matter of knowing where to go, and how to go about accessing them, so if the employer has a situation where they have an employee with a disability, and they think it's interfering with their job, they can give a call at Workforce Solutions, and we can direct them to the right resources or give them accommodation ideas or sources to get assistant technology if that's what's needed for the employee to be able to do his job," said Veeramachaneni.

Pampa's Workforce Solutions office closed in September due to funding cuts, but the group maintains that they are present to help people in the area.

"Even though we don't have an office here any more, and the seven rural offices have closed, we're still in the rural areas," said Anna Lewis, Business Services Representative with Panhandle Workforce Solutions. "We still help individuals in the rural areas. I'm here at least once a week visiting employers in Pampa."



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Shree Veeramachaneni (left) and Anna Lewis of Panhandle Workforce Solutions award Pampa's Platinum Car Care with a certificate for its commitment to assisting an employee with a disability.

PISD

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governmental entity is our funding from the state is determined by the maximization of our local taxation, so if we ever pass on an opportunity to collect local taxes, the state will lower our state contribution by an equal amount," said Haenisch. "So, in effect, by not taxing goods-in-transit, we'd be losing that local tax revenue, and losing an equal amount of state funding, so we would be hit by a double whammy. The board didn't feel like, at this particular time, that we could afford that."

The school board, along with the city and Gray County, can revisit this issue each year if they would like to reexamine their taxing options when it comes to goods-in-transit.

The board made slight adjustments to the district's policy regarding academic achievement and grading to reflect a transition from TAKS standardized testing to the STAAR exam system. Board members opted to count the new tests towards students' class ranking.

"The standardized test has to count for 15 percent of the final grade in a high school class," said Haenisch. "(For example,) the Algebra End of Course Exam would count for 15 percent of their final grade in Algebra One."

The school board expanded its compensation and benefits policy regarding sick leave pool. Previously, employees could qualify for the pool if they or a child under 25 was undergoing a catastrophic illness. Employees are now also eligible for sick leave pool if their spouses face a critical illness.

As the district waits for local investors to close on a deal for the Albertson's building, PISD has begun preparations to occupy the facility, starting with remodeling. Right now, they are looking for an architect to redesign the building to become a central office. The board authorized Haenisch to negotiate a contract with Dekker, Perich, and Sabatini, an architectural firm based in Amarillo.

In other business, the school board:

- accepted a \$25 bid for the portable building on the northwest corner of the PHS football field, to make space for another building that will house the soccer team's dressing room.

- cast their votes for the Gray County Appraisal District Board of Directors. They awarded 455 votes to Mike Ruff, and 454 votes to each of the four other candidates.

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