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Water districts battling for territory

AMARILLO - At issue is 390 acres in Hemphill County, but it will be at least another 30 days before a decision is made over who has jurisdiction of the water beneath that property.

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District said it belonged to them. The Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District said it belonged to

The owner of the property, Doyle Smith of Pampa, who also has land in Gray and Roberts Counties, said he wanted to remain in the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District.

Amarillo lawyer Marty Jones, who represents Mesa Water Group, which has 50 percent of Smith's water rights, said Mesa, too, wanted the property to remain in the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District.

In 1994, the Tom Grantham family, which then owned the property, petitioned to join the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District. Since then, the Grantham family, and then Smith after he bought the property, paid taxes to the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District on the acreage in Hemphill County, said C.E. Williams, general manager of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District.

Consequently, Williams said, the property

Water- cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

John R. Spearman, left, president of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, talks with Jim Haley, president of the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, about solving disagreements between the two districts during a Groundwater Management Area meeting in Amarillo Friday.

Community worship service set for March 29

by Rachel Stennett

stennett@thepampanews.com service will be held on together as a community," March 29, to enhance "a Owens said. spirit of unity" in Pampa churches, hosted by the Ministerial Alliance.

According to Barry Owens, minister of music for First Baptist Church, the alliance is hosting the evening of worship, which will include a variety of music genres and talents,

to "create a way to involve churches in Pampa and A community worship have a worship service contemporary praise, and

> At least 10 churches from various denominations will participate in the musical service at First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. "We expect to have all types and variations of

> music," Owens said. Music presented during the service, including tra

ditional, sacred music, hymn, southern gospei, solo and ensemble per-

This is the first music service that the Ministerial Alliance has hosted. The alliance has put on season services in the past, most recently a Thanksgiving community service, which Owens considered a suc-

Gambling rivals try to win over lawmakers

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) Casino gambling at resorts and Indian reservations. Video machines at racetracks. It's all on the table at the

Texas Legislature. Lobbyists for the different gambling factions are working to win support. Opponents want to stop the proposals from gaining momentum. For both sides, the next couple of weeks could be crucial.

Lawmakers aren't desperately looking for new sources of revenue, like taxes on gambling, especially since billions of dollars in federal stimulus money are coming to the state.

"It's been my observation that the Legislature looks more favorably upon the expansion of gaming legislation in years where it looks like the budget is going to be difficult to make without it. This doesn't appear to be one of those years as we're figuring our way through the stimulus package," said Republican House Speaker Joe Straus.

Straus' family ties to the horse racing business have fueled speculation that gambling measures might have a better run than usual. Straus removed himself from decisions on gambling, and in a brief interview with The Associated Press last week declined to comment on which gambling legislation stands the best chance of approval.

Plenty of others are willing to carry on the casino conversation: Indian tribal leaders, representatives of horse and dog race tracks, proponents of "destination" resort casinos and Baptists opposed to

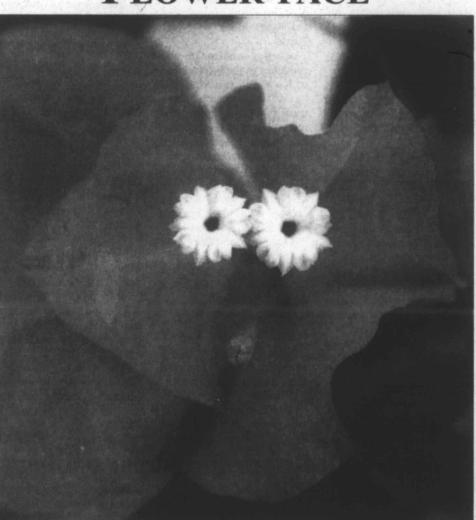
gambling. "There's a lot of votecounting going on right said Suzii Paynter, director of the



Texas Baptist Christian Commission. Paynter argues that casino gambling leads to increases in addiction and bankruptcies and that casinos suck money from local businesses in their communities.

Several new gambling proposals emerged just before the bill-filing deadline arrived Friday. Casino proposals that would require voter approval of a state constitutional amendment would first need a twothirds majority in the Session - cont. on page 3

FLOWER FACE

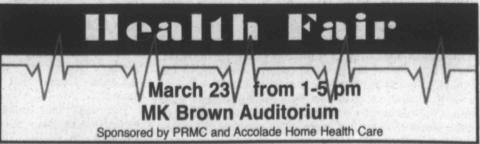


staff photo by David Bowser

With eyes wide open, a Bougainvillea blossom stares out the window at promised snow and rain from the offices of the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District in Canadian.













Low 47

High 67 Low 39

Low 42

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 82. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 47. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 67. Windy, with a north northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. East northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. East southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Winning Lotto Texas numbers

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 35-44-53-31-51-42. Number matching six of six: 1. Prize: \$28 million Winning number purchased in: Houston. Number matching five of six: 28. Prize: \$2,028. Number matching four of six: 1,421. Prize: \$59. Number matching three of six: 28,948. Prize: \$3. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$4

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 10-18-2-37-13. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$26,802 Winning ticket purchased in: Houston Matching four of five: 82. Prize: \$147 Matching three of five: 2,978. Prize: \$10 Matching two of five: 28,913. Prize: \$2

CPS: More caseworkers, but turnovers high

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A new report says legislative efforts in 2007 led to more caseworkers for Child Protective Services but failed to solve high turnover rates and rising overtime costs. The State Auditor's Office report released Monday on

CPS staffing said in 2007 there were 4,104 caseworkers in Texas, 965 more than in 2004. By 2007, workers were also paid more, had fewer cases per investigator and received annual bonuses up to \$5,000.

Emergency Services

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

11:22 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Price Road and Highway 60 on an odor investigation.

4:16 p.m. — One unit personnel and SIX responded to the 300 block of North Dwight on hazardous conditions call.

Saturday 5:30 p.m. one unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Louisianna and Russell on a motor vehicle

accident. Sunday

1:06 a.m. - One unti and six personnel responded to the 1900 block of North Nelson on a med assist.

6:39 a.m. One unit three personnel responded to the 2100 block of North Faulkner on a lift assist.

11:11 a.m. — One unit personnel and three responded to the 900 block of East 23rd on a med

1:34 p.m. — One unit personnel two responded to the 1100 block of East Harvester on an odor investigation.

2:18 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 500 block of South Barnes on a gas

4:38 p.m. — One unit three personnel responded to the 600 block of North Nelson on a med

4:55 p.m. — One unit three personnel responded to the 1800 block of North Hamilton on a med assist.

Deputy pulls gun on officer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Officials say a Bexar County sheriff's deputy pulled a gun on a San Antonio police officer after a traffic mishap.

A uniformed police sergeant on his way to work in his personal vehicle Friday night became involved in a minor accident involving another vehicle, according to a report by KABB in San Antonio.

The other driver got out with a gun drawn, pointing it at the officer approaching, police Sgt. Gabe Trevino said. The officer pulled his gun and ordered the man to the

ground. The officer placed the man in handcuffs. Officials discovered that the man and a passenger were both off-duty sheriff's deputies. The two, who both work at the Bexar County Jail, were given citations for opencontainer violations.

For the Record

Hobart.

were reported in the 900

block of South Love, and

intersection

A suspicious vehicle call

An assault was reported

Welfare checks were

made in the 800 block of

East Jordan, and the 1100

Phone harassment was

Officers conducted 16

A total of five calls

Suspicious person calls

were received from the

intersection of Sumner and

Gwendolyn streets, the

intersection of Tyng and

Russeel streets, the inter-

section of Foster and

Warren streets, the 300

block of Starkweather, the

500 block of South

North Dwight, and the

1100 block of South Huff.

Burglaries were report-

ed in the 400 block of

South Graham, the 100

block of Russell, and the

1200 block of North Wells.

in the 100 block of West

in the 1100 block of South

were received from the

2500 block of North

Perryton Parkway, and the

2100 block of North

A threat was reported in

Theft was reported in

Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 300 block

of South Tignor, and the

1000 block of South Wells.

reported in the 1300 block

of North Hobart, where

two Texas driver's licenses

Found property was

Suspicious person calls

were received from the 300

block of North Hobart, and

the 1400 block of North

Agency assistance was

Officers conducted three

rendered in the intersection

traffic stops. A stop in the

intersection of Gwendolyn

and Naida streets resulted

Criminal mischief was

reported in the 1600 bloke

of North Coffee, where a

screen door was broken,

One open door was

A missing person was

reported in the 1100 block

SHERIFF

The Gray County

Dalila Hernandez, 18,

was arrested by the Pampa

Sheriff's Office reported

the following arrests.

Friday

in at least one arrest.

value \$250.

investigated.

of West Coronado.

of Kingsmill and Marie.

reported in the 1300 block

Found property was

the 800 block of East

the 2800 block of North

Varnon.

Russell.

Scott.

Charles.

were found.

Banks.

Monday

of North Hobart.

Assaults were reported

A prowler was reported

Suspicious vehicle calls

and/or stops concerning

conducted

reported in the 600 block

was received from the

1000 block of North

Lousianna and Russell.

in the lobby of the PD.

block of East Darby.

of North Faulkner.

seven traffic stops.

animals were made.

Officers

Sunday

traffic stops.

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

Pampa Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

Friday

Officers conducted four traffic stops. A stop in the intersection of Hobart and Alcock resulted in at least one arrest.

A total of six calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

Seven attempts to serve papers were made.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles, and the 100 block of East Craven.

A burglary was reported in the 500 block of West Brown, where tools were stolen with an estimated value of \$200.

Two alarms were inves-

A traffic complaint was reported in the 1100 block of East Darby.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of South Dwight. Suspicious persons

were reported in the intersection of Hobart and Kentucky streets, and the intersection of Gwendolyn and Banks streets.

A civil matter was reported in the 500 block of West Monatgu. A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 500 block of North Hazel. Criminal trespass was reported in the 700 block

of North Frost. A suspicous vehicle call was received from the 900

block of South Llano. Theft was reported in the 1100 block of South Prairie, where a bicycle

was stolen, value \$150. Saturday Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block

of West Wilks, the 600 block of Wynne, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 500 block of North Frost, and the 900 block of East Denver.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1200 block of Garland, the 2100 block of North Coffee, the lobby of the PD, the 2600 block of North Rosewood, the 2200 block of North Nelson, and the 500 block of North Powell.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the block of North Starkweather.

One open door was investigated.

Criminal mischief was reported at One Medical Plaza, where two tires on a vehicle were damaged, value \$200.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1900 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of North Roberta, and the 100 block of South

Starkweather. Three calls and/or stops concerning animals were

Two alarms were investigated.

Civil matters were reported in the lobby of the PD, and the 500 block of North Naida

A traffic complaint was received from the 400

block of East Frederic. Motor vehicle accidents

Police Department on ROSEBUD, Texas (AP) boards last month and Authorities captured a received tips that led them

Man arrested in armored car robbery attempting to flee to

a \$1.9 million armored car robbery in Dallas. The FBI said Donald

Ray Williams was arrested without incident at a residence in Rosebud, about 35 miles south of Waco. Williams was being held Sunday night at the McLennan County Jail in

Waco. The FBI had posted wanted information about Williams on digital bill-

53-year-old man Sunday to San Antonio. News of afternoon who is wanted in the San Antonio focus led to additional tips over the weekend that Williams might be in Rosebud.

Williams is suspected of being one of two men who robbed the armored car while it was being unloaded at a Dallas bank on Sept. 5, 2007. Freddy Lee Foots, 53, was convicted and sentenced to nearly 30 years in prison for his role in the robbery.

Foots arrested was



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warrants.

Derek Paul Kindle, 18, of Pampa was arrested by the GCSO for indecency with a child, sexual contact.

Tasha Nicole Medley, 20, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD on warrants.

Josua Jeremiah Garza, 34, of Pmpa was arrested by the PPD for TBC in Potter County, speeding, no driver's license, no valid driver's license, and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Saturday Daniel James Wariner,

17, of Lefors was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana, and minor in possession- alcohol. Johnathon

Tinney, 24, of Lefors was arrested by the PPD for purchase/furnish alcohol to minor, possession of marijuana, and public intoxication. Russell, the 1000 block of Ashely Bryan Sandlin,

35, of Skellytown was arrested by the GCSO for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Jeremy WAyne Ray, 34, was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana, no driver's license, and no insurance. Sunday

Jesus Manual Satacruz, 24, of Pampa was arrested by the GCSO for warrants for passing in a no passing zone and failure to appear.

Johnny Lee Roe, 29, of PAmpa was arrested by the GCSO for warrants for theft under \$50, and failure to appear/bail jump-

Atziri Arit Murgado, 18, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for criminal trespass, warrants for bond surrenter criminal mischeif over \$50, but under \$500, and theft under \$50.

Eric Daniel Gene Davis, 19, of Pampa was arrested on warrants for disorderly conduct/unreasonable noise, failure to appear, no driver's license, and no liability insurance. Monday

Zachery Wade Skinner, 23, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for warrants on fraud, use of identifying information.

AMBULANCE

Guardian EMS ambulance service reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. today.

Friday

9:29 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Fisher and transported a patient to PRMC. 3:43 p.m. — A mobile

ICU responded to the 1200 block of West 21st and transported a patient to PRMC

4:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Red Deer and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:42 p.m. — A mobile

Mexico through El Paso Mercedes AMG that was Friday, March 20th!! later discovered filled with cash.

A \$45,000 reward had been offered for information leading to Williams' arrest.

Both Williams and Foots previously served prison sentences for committing a similar armored car robbery in Dallas. The April 1988 heist netted \$1.1 mil-

ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Nelson and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:39 p.m. — A mopbile ICU responded to the 1900 blockof Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital.

Saturday 5:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton* Road and transported a. patient to PRMC.

6:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Christy and transported a patient to PRMc.

8:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 blockof Christine and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:02 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded tot he 200 block of Kingsmill and transported a pateint to PRMC. Sunday

1:10 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of North Nelson and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:39 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the East High 152 and transported a patient to PRMC. 11:17 a.m. — A

mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of East 23rd and transported a patient to PRMC. 12:14 p.m. -

mobile ICU responded to the 8000 block of FM 749 and transported a patient to PRMC. 2:21 p.m. — A mobile

ICU responded to the 800 block of South Sumner and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North Nelson and transported a patient to PRMc.

4:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of HAmilton and transported a patient to PRMc.

10:24 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital.

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The 19th at Lama held in aging st

COL Session legislat On We Pro Tem of Galve

Straus, with Rep of Houst voters de whether gambling Galvesto and on Ir It also expande existing ers appr would ca back by out the d "I thi spend money

Nevada that all Texans Alvarad ought Texas. I the vote appropr And the come ba what typ have.' That Republi Perry doesn't

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DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

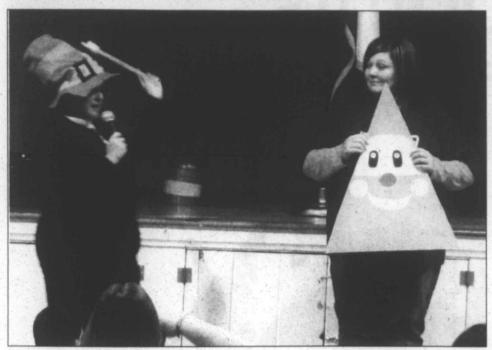


photo by Rachel Stennett

The 19th annual D.E.A.R (drop everything and read) Morning was held at Lamar Elementary on Friday (March 13). A character parade was held in the gym, featuring characters from a variety of books encouraging students to read.

Gambling entities courting legislators

Session - cont. from page 1

legislative chambers.

On Wednesday, Speaker Pro Tempore Craig Eiland of Galveston, an ally of Straus, filed legislation with Rep. Carol Alvarado of Houston that would let voters decide in November whether to allow casino gambling on islands like Galveston, in large cities and on Indian reservations. It also would allow expanded gambling at existing race tracks. If voters approve, the governor would call the Legislature back by June 2010 to work out the details.

"I think that Texans spend way too much money in Louisiana and Nevada and other states that allow gambling. ... Texans like to gamble," Alvarado said. "I think it ought to stay here in Texas. I believe taking it to the voters first is the more appropriate thing to do. And then if it passes we'll come back and determine what type of gaming we'll have.'

That would prevent Republican Gov. Rick Perry — who has said he doesn't want to expand the "footprint" of gambling in the state but at one time supported video slot machines at racetracks from having to decide on legislation or call a special session until after his March 2010 gubernatorial primary against U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Perry needs the support of social conservatives who oppose gambling.

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Perry said in an AP interview earlier this year he's skeptical that a gambling measure will pass this session. He predicted no bill

will reach his desk. (A proposed constitutional amendment would bypass Perry and go straight to the voters.)

Alabama-Coushatta tribal council chairman Carlos Bullock likes the legislative proposals that would allow his East Texas tribe and the Tiguas of El Paso to operate casinos like they did before they were shuttered by the state attorney general a few years ago.

"There's quite a few gambling bills out there right now and we just want to be included," said Bullock, who plans to be at the Capitol this week to meet with lawmakers.

In the 2007 session, an Indian casino proposal by Democratic Rep. Norma Chavez of El Paso came the closest to passage of any gambling bill in recent years. It failed on a rare tie vote in the House. Chavez has filed a similar measure this session that would provide a defense to prosecution for tribes that conduct gambling.

Even if a gambling bill passes the House, it's questionable whether there's support in the

Two prominent senators - Democrat Rodney Ellis of Houston and John Carona of Dallas - have filed wide-ranging casino legislation that would allow for major casinos, gambling on Indian lands and slot machines at race-

One question is whether the major casino interests and the race track operators will unite. Texans for Economic Development, which is pushing to legalize slot machines at race tracks, says it wants to make sure that tracks don't get taxed at a higher rate than casinos or get shortchanged on the casino games they would get to

"The horsemen, the track owners and the tribes, we're at the table together. That's working very well," said Elyse Yates, spokeswoman for Texans for Economic Development. A bill that would allow video slot machines at race tracks and gambling at Indian reservations was filed Thursday by Rep. Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, an Alice Democrat.

Many casino companies are on the sidelines and closely watching the Texas fight while warning that these are tough financial times for the gambling industry.

Revenues have slowed because of the recession, and many construction loans for new casinos have dried up, said David Strow, spokesman for Las Vegas-based Boyd Gaming Corp., which operates casinos in several states that attract Texans.

Strow said Texas lawmakers need to realize that in establishing casinos it could take two years or more for revenue to stream in, if the complex licensing and regulation steps go smoothly.

"Creating a gaming industry from square one is a very lengthy process. doesn't happen overnight," Strow said. "It takes time if you want to do it right."

Districts debate territory

Water - cont. from page 1

was Panhandle district.

In 1995, legislation passed in Austin that created the Hemphill County Underground Conservation District. Hemphill County voters approved the district in

Janet Guthrie, general manager of the Hemphill County Underground Water District, said that the enabling legislation, the law that created the district, set the boundary of the district at the county

Consequently, she said, the 390 acres in Hemphill County were a part of the Hemphill County district.

At a meeting Friday of Groundwater Management Area 1, which consists of four groundwater districts the covering Texas Panhandle including the Panhandle and Hemphill County districts, neither side appeared to be willing to back off their claims.

Groundwater Management Area, GMA, was in the process of setting desired future conditions for the Ogallala Aquifer, the giant aquifer that lies beneath the panhandle, for the next 50 years, although those conditions will be revisited every five years.

The GMA1 board, made up of one voting member from each of the four groundwater districts in the panhandle groundwater management area, had earlier come up with a resolution agreeing to disagree. Rather than one unified desired future condition, the GMA would have three as they are allowed to

The western four coun- to submit their desired

part of the ties of the panhandle would have a target of 40 percent of their water at the end of 50 years. Hemphill County would have 80 percent of their water at the end of the same time period. The remaining counties would have a target of 50 percent of the water in storage in the aquifer at the end of 50 vears.

It is the differing view of that desired future condition that was the sticking point of the controversy.

The 390 acres, if it were part of the Panhandle district, would have less restriction on pumping. If it were part of the Hemphill County district, it would potentially have a more restrictive pumping limit.

The limits on pumping could affect the value of the water rights, particular for a water marketer like Mesa.

Williams said he wanted an attorney general's opinion concerning in which groundwater district the 390 acres in Hemphill County lies, something with which the Hemphill delegation appeared to agree, but that could take six months or

The question was what happens between now and

The desired future conditions that GMA1 was planning on voting on Friday must be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board by September, 2010, but Kyle Ingham, who coordinates the GMA activities through the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, said the group had wanted

future conditions to state engineers working on the 2011 Texas Water Plan. That deadline was Dec. 31, 2008. Ingum said that the state engineers had agreed to extend the deadline, but only through mid-March.

Now, Ingham said, water planners will rely on the conditions set forth in the previous state water plan.

Earlier Friday, the Panhandle district board of directors, meeting in White Deer, proposed amending a resolution concerning the desired future condition of the aquifer to read that the Hemphill County district's desired future condition would apply to all of Hemphill County except for the area in the county that was a part of the Panhandle district and that the Panhandle district's desired future condition would apply to the part of the district that was in Hemphill County.

But at the GMA meeting afternoon Friday Hemphill Amarillo, County rancher Jim Haley, president of the Hemphill County district, was having none of it.

Haley said that his board was not willing to cede any part of Hemphill County to another groundwater district.

Following a heated debate, Gray County rancher John R. Spearman, president of the Panhandle board, asked that the amended resolution be tabled for 30 days so that Haley could return to his board and the two groundwater districts, Panhandle and Hemphill County, could try to iron out their differences.

Immigrants face detention, few rights

America's detention system for immigrants has mushroomed in the last began in the mid 1990s, records. decade a costly building boom that was supposed to sweep up criminals and ensure that undocumented immigrants were quickly shown the door.

Instead, an Associated Press computer analysis of every person being held on a recent Sunday night shows that most did not have a criminal record and many were not about to leave the country - voluntarily or via deportation.

An official Immigration and Customs Enforcement database, obtained under Freedom Information Act, showed a U.S. detainee population of exactly 32,000 on the evening of Jan. 25.

The data show that 18,690 immigrants had no criminal conviction, not even for illegal entry or low-level crimes like trespassing. More than 400 of those with no criminal record had been incarcerated for at least a year. A dozen had been held for three years or more; one man from China had been locked up for more than five years.

Nearly 10,000 had been in custody longer than 31 days - the average detention stay that ICE cites as evidence of its effective detention management.

Especially tough bail conditions are exacerbated by disregard or bending of the rules regarding how long immigrants can be detained.

Based on a 2001 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, ICE has about six months to deport or release immigrants after their case is decided. But immigration lawyers say that deadline is routinely missed. In tne system snapshot provided to the AP, 950 people The detainee buildup his wife, according to court

long before the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. 2003, though, Congress has doubled to \$1.7 billion the amount dedicated to imprisoning immigrants, as furor over "criminal aliens" intertwined with post-9/11 fears and anti-immigrant political rhetoric.

But the dragnet has come to include not only terrorism suspects and cop killers, but an honors student who was raised in Orlando, Fla.; a convenience store clerk who begged to go back to Canada; and a Pentecostal minister who was forcibly drugged by ICE agents

Immigration note that substantial numbers of detainees, from 177 countries in the data provided, are not illegal immigrants at all. Many of the longest-term non-criminal detainees are asylum seekers fighting to stay here because they fear being killed in their home country. Still other long-term detainees include people who can't be deported because their home country won't accept them or people who seemingly have been forgotten in the behemoth system, where 58 percent have no lawyers or anyone else advocating on their behalf.

More than 230 traumatized animals discovered

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - More than 230 traumatized animals have been awarded to the Humane Society of North Texas in what some volunteers say could be one of the largest recorded livestock rescues due to cruelty in Texas.

The animals, including 168 horses and 67 cattle, were awarded to the Humane Society by a district judge after complaints that they were starving and in medical danger, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Sunday.

Authorities confiscated the animals from a ranch near Blum on March 5. The ranch's owner, Gregory W. Brinkley, has been charged with two counts of aggravated assault on a peace officer and 25 counts of animal cruelty. He was arrested after allegedly pointing a shotgun with a pistol grip at two sheriff's deputies as they were attempting to assess the situation at the ranch, located in Hill County.

Brinkley, 50, remained in the Hill

County Law Enforcement Center Sunday,a jail spokesman told The Associated Press. His bail has been set at \$1 million on the assault charges and \$50,000 on the animal cruelty charges. There was no listing of an attorney in the center's records, according to the jail spokesman.

An estimated 25 to 30 animal carcasses were found on the property along with the injured and emaciated animals.

This is probably the most overwhelming situation I've been in during my 25year career," said Sandy Granbolt, the Humane Society's equine and livestock program coordinator.

The Humane Society spends \$2,000 daily caring for and feeding the animals. Officials said they hope many of the animals can be adopted, according to Tammy Hawley, the group's operations director.

we getting the info?

Sunshine Laws—Are

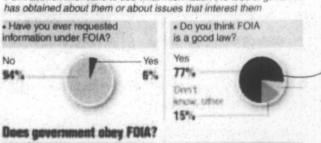
Is the government secretive? How Americans feel about government secrecy, the Freedom of

Information Act (FOIA) and President Obama's efforts at open govern . Is the federal government open or secretive? open or secretive? Somewhat or very Somewhat or very Somewhat secretive secretive or very 73% open

57% Have you heard of FOIA?

Don't know

FOIA allows Americans to see what information the federal government



Does government obey FOIA?

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Dean't keeps other 12%

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Viewpoints

Where are the television listings?

by Randall Pribble Publisher

We get calls.

Boy, do we get calls. I thought for the longest time that Pampa might be a bit insulated from the general economic downturn that has gripped the country

And in general, it looked as though our local retail businesses and industries might weather the storm better than some in other communities.

That hope has been dashed in the last couple of

Low crude oil prices spell hard times for our local oil-based economy, as we have seen in local layoffs and downsizings.

In turn, that means fewer sales for local retail businesses as families lose jobs and others tighten up family budgets with their uncertainty about the future

Certainly, Pampans have seen the oil industry's ups and down before.

Or as one friend put it: "This is not our first

We can debate until the cows come home the merits of our federal government's approach to this

Put me in the camp of the reservedly optimistic. And I do believe that optimism is called for in this

People with a sense of futility can't make progress

I still believe that this community has more potential than any of the places I've had the opportunity to live and work.

I'm certain about two things: Oil prices will rise again and the wind energy industry is about to take

However, until that time we all will rein in our spending and hope for the

best. A community newspaper like the Pampa News is just a small business like

any other. When the companies

that advertise with us and the folks who subscribe to us feel the pinch, we do,



Randy Pribble

And, like any small business, we need to do what we can to weather the

Our core responsibility is to bring you local news advertising. Consequently, our biggest expense is our people. They are also our biggest

If you look at our paper, you will see fewer ads than you have seen in the recent past

That's a fact and it is a result of the general economic downturn. We don't "blame" our

advertisers. We understand and we are on their side and yours.

We made the decision to eliminate the television section because primarily it costs a lot of money to purchase and produce and it is something that folks can obtain on the Internet. Newspaper television sections in general aren't supported by local advertisers because of that reason.

By eliminating our television section, it will help us weather the storm while still bringing your what is most important: Local

Things will get better, but not quickly. In fact, a significant improvement in the economy is unlikely for the rest of this year. At least that is what the economists seem to think

We don't really know. All we do know is that we will weather the storm and we will continue to produce the best local newspaper we can with the resources we have.

Randy Pribble can be reached at rpribble@thepampanews.com

Rachel Stennett

Reporter

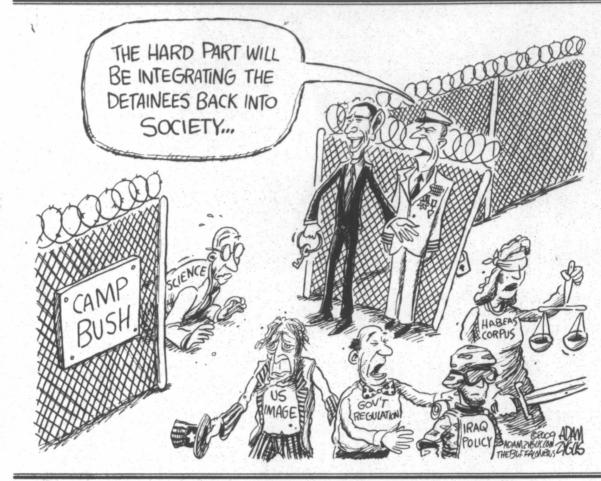
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St. Patrick's Day

By Martha Randolph Carr

Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone. Tomorrow all of America gets to be an honorary Irishman, wear green and attempt lame brogues. It's a wonderful, quirky little holiday that inspires city officials to turn the Chicago River that runs through the metropolitan's business section a lovely emerald green.

Parades will be held in cities and towns as people march down their main streets with the only requirement being that everyone is decked out in green.

School children will attempt to pinch anyone they catch not wearing the prescribed color and insist people prove it if they attempt that old one about wearing green underwear.

To me, this holiday is a giant celebration of my late dad's birthday. Dabney Carr was a very typical Irishman born on St. Patrick's Day. The Irish in America believe that's a good sign.

It really means he was very good at inserting humor into any situation but would suddenly surprise with a moving story about a long-dead relative. It didn't matter if the crowd didn't know who he was talking about, they were still moved to tears as Dad stood there resolutely finishing the

Everyone else thought it meant they had to come up with endless green gifts and green food on his birthday. Dad ate a lot of spumoni ice cream, which he didn't care for and is actually an Italian dish. Most of his birthday cards had leprechauns and clover on them as well.

Perhaps it was his little gesture of revenge that he thought it was funny to give his family the same cards year after year, which he surreptitiously took back and saved. I was not amused and tried writing about it in my card to shame him into buying a new one. He just wrote me a funny note back, which I didn't see until the following birthday.

It wasn't uncommon for me to have my nose buried in a book as a teenager and occasionally my father was known to turn off the electricity at the breaker box to try and get me to go outside. I could hear the cackle through the house and was smiling even as I yelled, "Cut it out!"

I inadvertently got him back the year I was turning 16 and he decided to save a few dollars by taking it upon himself to teach me how to drive. He wasn't very good at it and I was already nervous as we came down the short road in front of our house. He started shouting instructions and I panicked and hit the gas, while jerking the wheel.

I left long skid marks in the grassy field where the car stayed parked all night. Neither one of us wanted anything to do with it for a little while. Dad stumbled back into the house and downed a shot of bourbon before announcing he was paying for driving lessons with a professional. He said he felt he owed it to the commu-

In the last years of his life I was there to take care of him and he and my son, Louie, became best friends. Louie, who was a young teenager at the time, would sit with Dad at the breakfast table as they told each other stupid jokes while I ignored them. They would laugh and tell me to go find something else to do. This was 'men time'.

Dad would have been 85 years old this St. Patrick's Day, wearing a little green, pinned to his Irish cable sweater as he tolerated everyone making some kind of fuss.

So, this year raise a toast to the Irishman born on St. Patrick's Day who did a pretty good job of living and is probably telling a long and funny story to a captivated crowd somewhere in an Irish heaven. Erin go Bragh, everyone.

If you'd like to get involved in the 2009 America Challenge to raise funds for community-based charities me

Martha@CagleCartoons.com for more information. Together we're going to build stronger communities and empower ourselves.

Martha Randolph Carr's latest book, A Place to Call Home, a memoir about the reemergence of U.S. orphanages is available wherever books are sold.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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reasons to buy local

By David Lillard

There are two hardware stores near my house. One is a big name-brand store that has everything I need at lower prices, open seven days a week. The other has inconvenient hours -- they close at noon on Saturdays -- and prices are a little higher. They don't have nearly the same selection either. So you'd think I'd shop at the superconvenient big box store on the new highway. Nope. I've decided it's in my economic self-interest to shop at the local mom and pop

Like many Americans, I face similar decisions several times each week, weighing the advantages of local vs. national chain stores. With the global economy in freefall, it's tempting to vote for the quick savings promised by a national chain, which can make you think you're doing the right thing for your family. But a closer look shows that the savings gained at big box stores might cost more dearly, especially in these hard economic times.

Here are ten reasons to think local, buy local, and be local, as listed by the American Independent Business Alliance, a nonprofit group that promotes sustainable communities strong through local economies.

1. Buying local supports you and your family. When you buy from an

independent locally owned business, significantly more of your buying dollar stays in the community and is used to make purchases from other local businesses, like local service providers and local advertisers (such as this newspaper!), which helps strengthen the economic base of your hometown.

2. When you buy from local businesses, you're supporting local nonprofits. Studies show that small business owners give an average of 250 percent more dollars in donations to local nonprofits than do large businesses. This should be especially important to any soccer mom with a son or daughter on a team or in Scouts, or someone who enjoys local theater and the arts.

3. Buying local keeps your community unique. Where we shop, where we eat and have fun -- all of it makes our community home. Our one-of-a-kind local businesses give a distinctive character to a place, and add to quality of life; they also bring in more tourist dollars. 4. Reduce your environmental impact. Locally owned businesses make more local purchases, which means less wasted fossil fuel for deliveries from afar. Also, when you shop in town or city centers, your purchases contribute less to sprawl, congestion,

habitat loss, and pollution.

You save money too,

whenever you can walk instead of driving to buy.

5. Local business creates more good jobs. Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally, and the jobs they offer create stronger links to our communities. After all, where would you rather see a son or daughter work: at a local store where they might get valuable personal employer referrals, or at an impersonal national chain store checkout counter?

6. When you buy local, you invest in community. Local businesses are owned by your neighbors, people who live in your town, who are less likely to leave, and who -- like you -- are more invested in the community's future. Local businesses provide very important community allies in tough economic times

7. You get better service locally. Local businesses often hire people with a better understanding of the products they sell, and take more time to get to know customers. If a product causes problems, the local business is more likely to respond to your concerns in a personal way.

8. Buying local puts your taxes to good use. Local businesses, particularly those in town centers, require little public infrastructure investment, as compared to nationally owned chains built at the edge of town with taxpayer

money for improved roads,

water and sewer service. 9. You can buy what you want, not what someone wants you to buy. A multitude of small businesses, each selecting products based not on a national sales plan but on the needs and requests of local customers, assures a buyer-friendly range of product choices.

10. Buying local encourages local prosperity. A growing body of economic research shows that in an increasingly homogenized world, entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve their one-of-akind businesses and distinctive hometown charac-

So, whenever possible, I buy local. Yeah, I may pay a little more for that new bathroom fixture at the local hardware, and deal with the occasional frustration of inconvenient hours. But I enjoy running into neighbors there. And nothing beats knowing the owner by name, and getting her tips on how to get a good seal on my pipe fittings. To me, it's worth it.

© 2009 Blue Ridge

David Lillard is coowner of a small town newspaper in West Virginia, and co-editor of Blue Ridge Press.

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Music festival big draw despite economic woes

Associated WriterAUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Even in the worst economy since the Great Depression, people will stand in line for good

entertainment, particularly in this so-called "Live Music Capital of the World."

Fans are snapping up four-day passes to the famed South by Southwest (SXSW) music festival that starts this week, when thousands are expected to hit the town's storied nightclubs to catch the hottest new acts. It's too soon to say how the 23rd annual SXSW will compare to last year, but hotel room bookings are up, jazz 27-time legend and Grammy Award winner Quincy Jones is opening the show and nearly 2,000 bands from 52 countries

"There is really nothing bigger," said Rose Reyes, music marketing director for the city convention bureau. "It is Christmas for cab drivers, restaurant owners, for hotels, for businesses all around the

will be playing, promoters

While Austin has been hit by the same economic woes that are spreading across the globe, the hip college town remains an incubator for sizzling new bands and a thriving music scene that brought SXSW here nearly a quarter century ago. Back then, about 700 attended; last year there were nearly 13,000 paid registrants at the music festival and thousands more who showed

up to absorb unofficial sideshows.

Event organizers face the inevitable tension of promoting an international festival with fresh new acts without ignoring the dizzying array of local bands to pick from. Nor can they overlook the growing popularity of all the free, unofficial events.

Austin produces about 13 percent of all the musical performances at the festival and remains the largest single source of bands at SXSW - about 220 of the 1850 expected to show.

Among them are Drew Smith, whose original new album, Drew Smith's Lonely Choir, was named the No. 1 CD last year by Austin.com, an entertainment and local news Web site. Smith has also gotten rave reviews from critics who find strains of Van Morrison, the Kinks and even The Beatles in his music. He's playing at his old haunt Momo's on Saturday night, which is about as close to top billing as a band can get at SXSW.

"In the midst of everything going on financially around the world it's pretty nice to go play shows and still have people showing up and there's few cities that could still be happening in," said Smith, an Austin transplant who from Colorado Springs. "It's still a pretty great town to be an artist

For some artists, the festival can be a career launchpad, and Austin jazz singer Kat Edmonson is hoping that's what will happen with her first SXSW showcase. Her new CD, "Take to the Sky" has become an iTunes sensation and her single "Lucky," has been picked as the theme song of the new Steven Spielberg-produced "United States of Tara" series on Showtime.

Edmonson, who grew up in Houston, is physically diminutive - tiny, really. But everyone knows what kind of packages dynamite comes in: the Austin American-Statesman recently called "Austin's Great Jazz Hope." She plays on Saturday at the Elephant Room, an underground jazz bar a few blocks from

the state capitol. "There's a lot of hype around SXSW. The underlying idea among all the bands is an opportunity to possibly get discovered," she said. "Most of all it's an opportunity to really be heard by people that would never hear you otherwise."

Though Smith Edmonson landed prime official showcases this year, they and many other Austin musicians have also found themselves on the outside looking in at past festivals. But one artist's struggle is another fan's

There are hundreds of unofficial gigs, staged by artists who didn't make the cut, that some say are just as good as the real thing. There are also hundreds of free, sponsored parties and concerts, Indie rock band Cold War Kids and Joe McDermott, a favorite for wholesome family entertainment are among the groups playing free along the banks of Lady Bird Lake during the festival.

"It's become a big free for all," said Jimmy Stewart, who DO512.com, an entertainment Web site that breaks down SXSW events by category and time, both official and unofficial. "You can drink beer for free and see live bands from all over the world for nothing.'

That's not music to the ears of the SXSW promoters, who, after all, have a for-profit business to run.

It costs \$165 for a wristband that's good for all the music shows. Others are all-access badges for about \$700, which include panel discussions and exclusive parties. SXSW is actually a three-genre event, with components on interactive media and a film festival crammed into a weeklong music and creative arts frenzy that pumps an estimated \$100 million into the local economy.

The film and interactive pieces began Friday, but Austin's reputation as a live music hub makes the music festival, which begins Wednesday, the heart and soul of SXSW. With the economy lagging elsewhere, promoters say the chamber of commerce types are crossing their fin-

"I think this year a lot of businesses are counting on us to deliver," said Roland Swenson, managing director of SXSW. "We certainly take that responsibility very seriously."

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Burkburnett tourney rained out Saturday

Pampa Harvesters were chomping at the bit to finish their tournament, but mother nature had other plans.

Friday night rains forced the cancellation of all Saturday games at Burkburnett. Pampa was the only team sitting at 3-0 when the tournament was cancelled.

They defeated perenni-3A powerhouse Abilene Wylie 5-0, a strong 4A team from Wichita Falls Rider 2-1 and then came back with 4 runs in the last inning to defeat Sequoyah, OK by a score of 7-6.

Pampa ends it's nondistrict schedule with a record of 13-3, including a first place trophy at the

Sitting at 3-0, the Cavalier Classic, a 2nd place plaque from Snyder and being in the drivers seat for a first place trophy at Burkburnett. Pampa also had non-district wins against Bushland and Perryton.

Pampa kicks off district action against the Randall Raiders at 5:00 on Tuesday.



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Man dies after being struck by lightning Texas (AP) — A 63-Gulf Coast area Sunday

year-old man is dead after being struck by lightning on Mustang Island Beach in Port Aransas.

Police identified the victim of Sunday's lightning strike as Stan Grassel of Ransom Canyon, near

The death occurred as storms rolled through the

Harris County deputies find 13 alleged hostages

CLOVERLEAF, Texas (AP) - Harris County deputies investigating a hostage report found 13 people they believe were held against their will.

Thomas Deputy Gilliland said Sunday that it appeared a human trafficking ring was operating out of the Cloverleaf-area

Six people were arrested as they fled from the home after deputies surrounded it Sunday afternoon.

Authorities went to the house after a man said his father had been kidnapped by three men who were holding him for ransom.

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afternoon, the Corpus Caller-Times reported in its online edition. Emergency crews

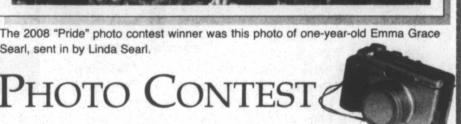
responding to a 911 call found Grassel unconscious on the beach in Port Aransas.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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Searl, sent in by Linda Searl. PHOTO CONTEST



The Pampa News' annual amateur photo contest will feature two categories this year - "Family and Friends" and "Gray County Scenes."

Family and Friends

Photos should be non-posed snapshots of people doing things together. They can also be individual shots, but the key is to make them candid photos that show a slice of life in Gray County. The photos that "tell a story" will also be given a higher rating.

Gray County Scenes

Send us your best shots of local scenery. Photos may be sunsets, storms, old buildings, cityscapes, wildlife or domestic animals.

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Friday, March 20.

Winners in each category will be selected by our editorial staff. The top photographers in each category will receive \$100 and their photos will be published in the newspaper's annual "Pride" issue to be published in March. Second place winners in each category will receive \$50. Third Place winners in each category will receive \$25.

Any photos submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting them and must have been taken in Gray County since Jan. 1, 2008. The photos cannot have appeared previously in any other publication or contest.

You can submit as many photos to the contest categories as you like. The best way to submit your photo is to send them via E-mail, as an attachment, to editor@thep-

ampanews.com. The photos should be in a .jpg format, preferably shot on the "fine" setting on a digital camera or higher. Do not edit the photo. We need to make changes in resolution to run photos in the newspaper.

If you are entering more than one photo, please send them individually as an E-mail attachment. Include your name, address, telephone number for verification and a description of the photograph. Identify the people in the photo if possible. Any photo without this information included will be disqualified. If you would rather submit your entries as prints, send them with the information to:

Photography Contest, The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison Avenue, Pampa, TX. If you wish the

prints returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your entry. The Pampa News will publish the winners and many of the other submissions in a special section of our annual Pride issue in March.

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Comics

Marmaduke



"See what happens when you jump out of a chair too fast?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"I'm glad we don't get too old for hugs."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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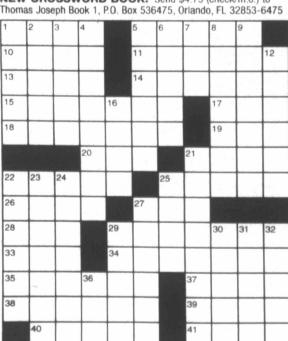
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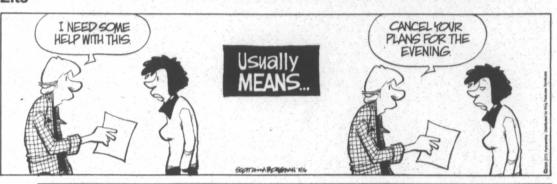
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For Better Or Worse



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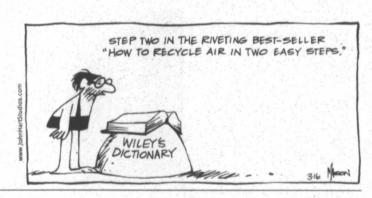
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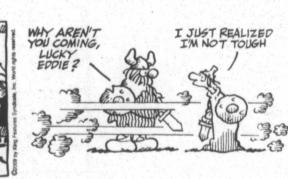
B.C.





Haggar The Horrible





Peanuts









Blondie



Flo & Friends





Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a new mom who works in a high-tech start-up company that does not provide a mother's room. I'm the first employee here to have a baby. The corporate plaza in which my office is located also doesn't provide one. Therefore, I must resort to using the restroom to pump my breast milk, which must be done every few hours.

Some of the women using the restroom have wondered aloud about the "weird noise" they hear, while others walk back and forth searching for the source of the "sound."

How should I respond to them? Using the restroom is not my choice, but it is the only option I have because I plan to breast-feed my baby for as long as I can. -- PRI-VACY PLEASE IN CLARA, SANTA CALIF.

PRIVACY DEAR PLEASE: You're reacting as if pumping breast milk something to be ashamed of. It isn't. While you may be the first woman at the company to have given birth, I guarantee you won't be the last. So start communicating with the other female co-workers. It might be in

all of your best interests to bring this to the attention of your supervisor or your boss.

And as to the "pacers" and "wonderers" in the restroom -- try to understand that they are merely curious. Consider printing a sign you can tape to the door of the stall you occupy that reads: "Breast Pumping Station." It will stop the questions and save you from yelling out, "It's my breast pump!"

DEAR ABBY: I was a stay-at-home mom for many years and enrolled in college when my youngest entered kindergarten. I held various part-time (and later fulltime) dead-end jobs to supplement my husband's income. It took 15 years, but I finally graduated with a B.A. in history, although I have since discovered there isn't much I can do with my degree.

After almost 30 years of marriage, my husband decided he wanted a divorce. I am now on my own and struggling to survive. I have no marketable skills, can't afford to attend school full-time because I must work in order to have benefits, and don't have the money to pay for more training without going into further debt. I don't know how I'll ever be self-supporting.

My current job pays \$10 an hour, the benefits are good, but I don't really like my job or see

myself ever earning a higher hourly wage. If it wasn't for alimony, I'd be even worse off, but that won't last forever. (I have three years left.)

I'm thankful that my kids are on their own and don't need my support, but they can't help me either. What options are there for someone in my situation? -- FRUSTRAT-ED IN NORTH CAR-**OLINA**

DEAR FRUSTRAT-ED: You are an educated, literate, mature college graduate. You could make some executive an excellent, competent personal assistant. Depending upon what the requirements are in your state, you might also be able to be a teacher's assistant in one of the schools.



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AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters,

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

CRYPTOQUOTE

ERABUC UM JVLVDVOFAVUG

VK ABR VGMDYRGJR UM HUUC

Saturday's Cryptoquote: HAVE A PLACE FOR

AND KEEP

SOMEWHERE ELSE; THIS IS NOT ADVICE, IT IS

RERZKUG

THE THING

- Z.N.

MERELY CUSTOM. - MARK TWAIN

hints. Each day the code letters are different.

KYMMVJVRGA FGC

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used

opportunity basis.

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103 Homes For Sale

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886-5754

March 17, 2009:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR Tuesday,

You cannot be too precise or direct this

year. Keep talking and asking questions

if you're uncomfortable with a specific

situation. If you cannot resolve it, then

you might want to move on. This year,

clear out what is ineffective or dysfunc-

tional. You are preparing for a new life

and luck cycle. If you are single, check

out a new member on the scene with

care, especially if you want to become

involved. If you are attached, plan sever-

al retreats together. These weekends

prove to be instrumental for the relation-

ship. SAGITTARIUS encourages you to

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll

*** Have an out when making plans

You could feel tired or burdened.

Nevertheless, friends or a meeting

inspires you to do otherwise. Give your-

self space. Be willing to look at a prob-

lem differently. Drop the rose-colored

glasses. Tonight: Welcome a different

*** You cannot call all the shots, as

you discover. Rather than have an uproar,

willingly defer to a key associate or co-

worker. Express your feelings more often

rather than pent-up emotions. The end

results could make a difference. Tonight:

**** Others dominate wherever

you are - at home, work, eating dinner,

celebrating, etc. In that spirit, allow oth-

ers to run the show. Give yourself more

4-Positive;

5-Dynamic;

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Re Irish with a friend

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

invitation.

103 Homes For Sale HIGHEST

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.2/1/1 - 888 SF/GCAD TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT West and North West 2120 Lynn .3/1.75/2 - 1872 SF/GCAD 3/2/2 - 1520 SF/GCD 2112 Lynn \$105,000 3/1.75/1 - 1475 SF/GCAD 2137 N Faulkne 1101 Seneca \$80,000 3/1.75/1 - 1192 SE/GCAD .3/1.5/1 - 1196 SF/GCAD 1820 N Wells . \$77,000 .4/1/0 - 1368 SF/GCAD 2900 Rosewood Ln \$64,500 .3/1.5/0 - 1537 SF/GCAD 3/1/0 - 1369 SF/ GCAD 3/1.75/1 - 1096 SF/ GCAD 1145 Seneca Lane 1921 N Christy . . 3/2/0 - 1248 SF/ GCAD

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freedom to move around and do what you want. Make your plans ultimately your choice. Tonight: Where people are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** While others celebrate and become Irish, you easily could be left holding the bag. Your ability to get past a problem marks your attitude. At the same time, that same competency works against you in situations like today. Tonight: Head home when you want to. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** You cannot help it - you love a good time. Keeping you in the office or at work could be close to impossible, especially when a loved one or friends eggs you on. Once you get started, it could be close to impossible to stop you. A relationship flourishes. Tonight: Paint the town green.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Head home and maybe throw a spontaneous get-together there. A neighbor could come by when you least expect it. A brisk walk or some exercise renews your energy. Stay centered when talking to a family member. Tonight: Close to your pad.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Conversations perk you up; however, if you have any work or errands to do, perhaps you need to close your door and screen your calls. Fatigue could hit early, unless you take a power nap. Listen to a friend's suggestion. Tonight: Only what you want

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ** Be careful with how much money you spend. You could be overwhelmed by an offer that might seem generous, but you wonder if there is another side you have yet to see. Play it close to the chest and conservatively. Tonight: Don't spend what you don't have.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Your smile is a sure-bet winner

Others naturally respond, no matter what setting you find yourself in. Keep communication flowing, and know that you can handle a lot of information. Remain upbeat. Tonight: You know what to do, though you have to handle a responsibility first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ** For whatever reason, you might want/need to duck out or call in sick. Needing time to yourself might be unusual for you, but not for others. Be willing to do for yourself. Deal with your finances directly and make an educated decision. Tonight: Retreat mode.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Meetings, friends and a gettogether all prove positive. Rethink a decision that revolves around a partner who might rain on your parade. Also take a hard look at your finances. What might not be acceptable for you is for someone else. Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Take a stand and get ready to handle pressure. Your way of seeing a situation could be tested by a partner. You might feel that you need to do something a certain way. A boss or a community project takes a lot of your attention. Tonight: Could be late.

BORN TODAY

Actor Kurt Russell (1951), musician, singer Nat King Cole (1919), musician, songwriter Billy Corgan (1967)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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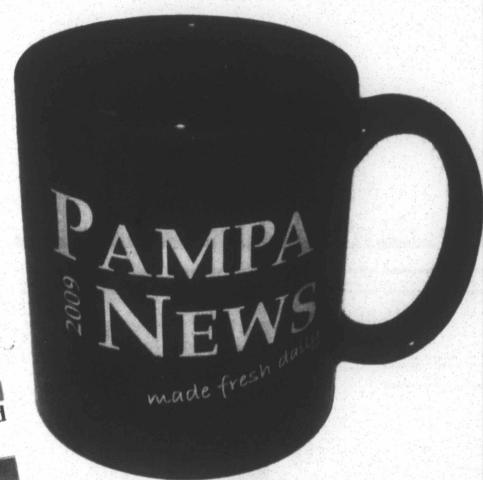


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