

For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High 66 Low 43	High 70 Low 43	High 65 Low 42

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Windy, with a west southwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66. Windy, with a northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Windy, with a northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 70. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming north northeast. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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MOTHERS DAY: GET MOON A DETAIL, WASH JOB, FLOOR LINERS, WINDOW TINT OR FOX GEAR!

LAST MINUTE ADS

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2000 HARLEY Davidson Road King. Exc. cond.! We don't have time to ride it. Burgundy & black, soft bags. 24k mi. Real Nice Ride, \$9300. See at Finish Line, 408 S. Cuyler, Pampa or call owner 806-874-1779, lv. msg.

PERENNIALS, ROSES in Bloom! Potting Shed, 410 E. Foster, 665-0988.

CERAMIC TILE: Countertops, Floors, Tub Surrounds, Back Splashes. Call Keith Taylor, 874-1779 lv. msg.

DRAG RACES, Sat Apr. 24th, set up 5pm., race at 7pm. Pampa Slot Car, Coronado Center.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Thursday, April 22
Ian David Spencer, 25, of Lubbock, was arrested by deputies on a bond surrender on charges out of Ochiltree County in connection with charges of possession of a controlled substance in Ochiltree

County, possession and transportation of certain chemicals and possession of a controlled substance in a correctional facility.

Rafael Vasquez Feliz, 41, was arrested by deputies on charges of not having a valid drivers license, failure to appear and having an expired vehicle registration.

David Gene Tucker, 23, was arrested by deputies

Obituaries

Vivian Weckesser Locke, 93

Pampa — Vivian Weckesser Locke, 93, died April 22, 2010 in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 24, 2010 at Fairview Cemetery, with Pastor Paul Nachtigall of Highland Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Locke was born May 6, 1916 in Miami, to Johnny Christy and Gertrude Douglas Weckesser. She was a 1935 graduate of Miami High School. She married John Thomas Locke on September 23, 1939 in Amarillo. He preceded her in death in 1985. Vivian had been a

resident of Pampa since 1946. She was the secretary for District Attorney Bill Waters in the late 1950's and early 1960's. She later worked as a secretary at Cabot IRI, retiring after a total of 25 years of service. She was a member of Highland Baptist Church. She enjoyed many years of playing bridge with Pampa friends.

Survivors include her three sons, Clarence Thomas Locke and Douglas Reese Locke, both of the home, and John Gregory Locke and wife Jeannette Raef of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Deana Jones and husband Troy of Kemah, K. Stacey Gascon and husband David of Houston,

Fawnsa Burrows and Kenneth Hopson of Pampa, Brian Locke, and John Christopher Locke and wife Heather, all of Amarillo; seven great-grandchildren, Shawnace Joe Tennyson and husband Joshua of Cut and Shoot, Candace Nichole Locke and Gary Teakell, and Chancellor (Chancey) Reece Burrows, all of Pampa; Victoria D'Anne Thomas and Amy Lee Gascon, both of Spring, Zada Marie Gascon of Houston, and Caelan Locke of Amarillo; three great-great-grandchildren, Kayla Joe Yarborough of Houston, Haden Teakell and Gavin Burrows-Baston, both of Pampa. She was preceded in death by a sis-



Locke

ter, Evelyn Chisum, and a great-grandson, Justin Michael Montgomery in 1991.

Memorials may be made to Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Doil Leon Douthit, 77

Doil Leon Douthit was born May 19, 1932 in Cement, Okla. to Esther and Robert Douthit. He passed away April 21, 2010 at Oklahoma City at the age of 77 years, 11 months and 2 days.

Doil grew up in the Cement community and moved to Midland and later Elk City, Okla. where he worked at a gas station and delivered milk. He was married to Von Neita Burt at Elk City, Okla. on January 22, 1950. He went to work in the oilfield as a derrick hand and driller. Doil owned and operated Top of Texas Diamond Coreing. He and Von Neita owned a derrick for a short time. Doil started Top of Texas New and Used Cars in Pampa and continued to operate it till his Grandson, Cody took over the business

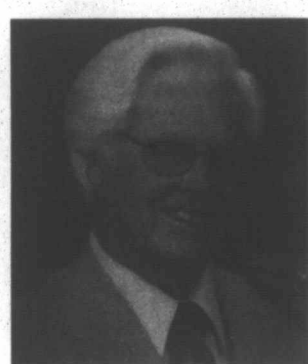
in 2006. He was a member of the Second and Adams Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Raymond, and one son, Danny.

He is survived by his wife, Von Neita, of the home; three daughters, Tami Chopping and husband, James, Elk City, Okla., Rebecca Ann Isbell and husband, Gary, Edmond, Okla., Lani Williams and husband, Brad, Canyon; four sisters, Oleta Young, Thomas, Okla., Pauline Clark, Lawton,

Okla., Velma Jones, San Antonio, Floy Madison, Pauls Valley, Okla.; one brother, Charlie Douthit, Pampa; eight grandchildren, David, Audrey, Cody, Chelsea, Chanel, Skylar, Braxton, Rhet; seven great-grandchildren, Destiny, Austin, Cherub, Jayton, Analiese, Alia, Macki and a host of other relatives and friends.

Services will be held Saturday, April 24, 2010 at 9 a.m. at Second and Adams Church of Christ officiated by Don Stone and Tom Harguess. Burial will be at Fairlawn



Douthit

Cemetery under the direction of Whinery-Savage Funeral Service.

Condolences can be made online at www.whineryfs.com.

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Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers

Most Wanted

(806) 669-2222

Joseph Ryan Gross
21 years old/ White Male/
5'08"/ 145lb/ Blue Eyes/
Blonde Hair

WANTED

Forgery Financial Instrument

Jason Ellis
27 years old/ Black Male/
5'03"/ 145 lb/ Brown Eyes/
Brown Hair

WANTED

Burglary of habitation with intent to commit felony assault

Breindy Jo Price
39 years old/ White Female/5'09"/125lb/
Blue Eyes/Blonde Hair

WANTED

Forgery

LaRay Donnell Wilson
19 years old/ Black Male/
5'09"/ 120lb/ Brown Eyes/
Brown Hair

WANTED

Burglary of habitation with intent to commit felony Assault, evading arrest & Dangerous drugs

Gaspar Antonio Olivas
21 years old/ Hispanic Male/5'08"/ 180lb/ Brown Eyes/Brown Hair/ Tattoo on right calf

WANTED

Injury to a Child Causing Serious Bodily Injury
\$500 reward for the arrest of Olivas

Picture Not Available

Oscar Espinoza
30 years old/Hispanic Male/
5'06"/220lb/Brown Eyes/
Brown Hair

WANTED

Aggravated Sexual Assault/ Indecency with a child
\$500.00 reward for the arrest of Espinoza

If you have seen any of these people, please contact the Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers at (806) 669-2222. Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers is offering up to a \$1000.00 reward for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of persons that commit felony crimes or drug dealing anywhere in the Pampa Gray County area. Remember, you will remain anonymous. The information contained on these fugitives was correct when published, but may no longer be current by the time it is read.

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805 N. Hobart
(806) 661-3531

2546



submitted photo

Pregnancy Center board members Pat Farmer and Darlene Lewis share a laugh at the 2008 Walk for Life.

Walk

cont. from page 1

Pregnancy Center administrative assistant Paula McGrath said that another good fundraising year would go a long way towards helping the Center continue to grow.

"We've expanded so much recently," said McGrath. "God's been opening doors for our ministries, and we've gotten so many more opportunities lately. God's just blessing us so much that we've got to keep up, and this year's Walk for Life is going to be big for us."

The Walk, Galloway said, has benefited this year from a strong contingent of local sponsors.

"We have 20 sponsors this year — so many businesses that we can't fit all their logos on the shirts," she said.

"The people (in the community) have just been great, too," added McGrath. "We had one lady come in to register one day and she registered four or five family members. Well, she went home and her kids wanted to join, too, so she came back the next day and registered her kids. It's been nice to see things like that."

Galloway praised the people of Pampa for being so supportive to the Pregnancy Center's cause.

"I think it's amazing, and I think that we have a community that does much more than what some bigger communities do," she said. "I'm very proud to be a part of that."

Chasers

cont. from page 1

chassis based on the 2008 Dodge 2500 4x4 with a 1/8th inch welded steel plate body over a steel frame) that has a 92 gallon fuel tank with a range of 750 miles. The turret on top contains a high resolution IMAX camera that can rotate 360 degrees.

The vehicle is also packed with all the equipment needed to gather meteorological data from the storms, such as sophisticated radar.

"That's the goal," Gutierrez said, "to get a shot with the IMAX camera, hopefully without too much debris."

Casey has been chasing tornadoes for the past decade and each year wanted to get closer, so he came up with

the idea of the armored vehicle.

"Sean has been building these for a long time in his garage (in Los Angeles)," Gutierrez said.

As for the people who are going to be inside the vehicle, Gutierrez joked that they're built a little differently themselves.

"Yeah, it takes a special kind of person to really want to do this," said Gutierrez, who is a Navy-trained medic in addition to his storm-spotting background. "We're all a little crazy, I guess."

"You kind of have to be to want to drive into the middle of a tornado. It's definitely a rush."



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been overly neat since I was in middle school. I am now in college and feel I have reached the breaking point because I'm such a neat freak. I love having everything neat and tidy, but I now spend less time being a 22-year-old and more time cleaning, scrubbing and organizing.

I can't sleep if I know there is clutter somewhere in the apartment. I have passed up going out with friends if my apartment isn't perfect. Everything has a place and a label. It's getting tiring because I realize I haven't had any good wholesome fun in a long time. I wish I could relax and be OK with clutter like everyone else, instead of wasting my life cleaning. Any advice? — OVERLY ORGANIZED IN TEXAS

DEAR OVERLY ORGANIZED: Yes, I do. March yourself to the student health center and discuss this with a counselor there. When the compulsion to have your apartment "perfect" trumps your ability to enjoy your life, it's time to accept that you have gone from neat to obsessive. There is treatment for the problem, and once it begins you will be able to relax and let go of your anxiety. So please don't wait to get the help you need.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old female who has been dating my boyfriend, "Will," for three years. Our long-distance relationship was going

along just fine until the topic of his 21st birthday came up recently. Will mentioned in passing that he's planning on going to a strip club with friends to celebrate this momentous birthday.

Will says he just likes to look at women, that all men do and it's completely fine. He didn't seem to care how I felt about it. His mind was already made up. He wants me to be more accepting of who he is, but it turns my stomach to think of him hanging out at a strip club.

Abby, is a young man in a committed relationship going to a strip club to drink and view naked women "normal"? Should I not take this so personally? Or am I right to see this as a lack of commitment to me? — OFFENDED IN FORT COLLINS, COLO.

DEAR OFFENDED: If your boyfriend had attempted to hide his plans from you, or if he was planning on frequenting strip clubs alone and often, I'd say you should feel threatened. But he was open about going out to celebrate his "momentous" birthday with his friends -- and plenty of women have been known to visit clubs with male dancers. So calm down.

This has nothing to do with his "commitment" to you.

DEAR ABBY: I am 42 years old and being married for the first time in October. My parents divorced more than 20 years ago and both remarried. My father will walk me down the aisle.

Dad lost my stepmother two years ago, and is still having a hard time with it emotionally. Because of my age, I don't expect anything from my parents except their emotional support.

If it's all right with my parents, do you think it would be appropriate to put on the invitations, "In lieu of gifts, please make a donation to the American Cancer Society in memory of (my stepmother's name)"? — LOVING DAUGHTER IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR LOVING DAUGHTER: You are a sweetheart to think of it, but doing so would be a huge breach of etiquette. In fact, any mention of gifts on a wedding invitation is a no-no. The way to handle it is, when asked where you are registered for gifts, to verbally inform the questioner what your wishes are.

STAY CONNECTED
Keep up with your hometown news no matter how far away you roam.

Call 669-2525 to subscribe to The Pampa News Online

Calvary Baptist vans will be picking up children each Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. and will be returning them around 12:30 p.m.

Call the church to sign up your child.

900 E. 23rd Street
Pampa, Texas
806-665-0842

CHILDREN
"ROCK" at
Calvary Baptist Church!

CORRECTION

The story about Doug Carmichael winning the Funeral Director of the Year recognition, which was featured in yesterday's newspaper, inadvertently omitted a very important person who was also there for the award.

Sara Carmichael, Doug's wife, was, of course, there to see her husband receive the recognition.

Anyone who is married knows that wives deserve most of the credit for anything their husband attains.

Sara, we apologize for leaving you out of the story. Doug didn't leave you out — we did.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

HOMETOWN HEROES

Do you have a story...

Have you had an uplifting experience with our local Hometown Heroes?

The Pampa News is a special publication featuring our local heroes: policemen, medical professionals, and animal rescuers.

Share your story with us. We'll share it with the community.

Call 669-2525 for more information.

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, April 23, the 113th day of 2010. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 23, 1910, former President Theodore Roosevelt delivered his famous "Man in the Arena" speech at the Sorbonne in Paris. In it, Roosevelt declared, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena."

On this date:
In 1616, English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare, 52, died on what has been traditionally regarded as the anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In 1789, President-elect George Washington moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his record 755 major-league home runs, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In 1985, the Coca-Cola Co. announced it was changing the secret flavor formula for Coke (negative public reaction forced the company to resume selling the original version).

In 1998, James Earl Ray, who'd confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville hospital at age 70.

Ten years ago: Elian Gonzalez spent a secluded Easter with his father at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, a day after the 6-year-old was removed from his Miami relatives' home in a pre-dawn raid by immigration agents.

Five years ago: Recently created Web site YouTube uploaded its first video, consisting of 19 seconds of co-founder Jawed Karim in front of an elephant pen at the San Diego Zoo.

One year ago: President Barack Obama met privately with leading executives of credit-card issuing companies; afterward, the president said he was determined to get a credit-card law passed that eliminated the tricky fine print, sudden rate increases and late fees.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-turned-diplomat Shirley Temple Black is 82. Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 80. Actor David Birney is 71. Actor Lee Majors is 71. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 63. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 61. Actress Joyce DeWitt is 61. Actor James Russo is 57. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 56. Actress Judy Davis is 55. Actress Jan Hooks is 53. Actress Valerie Bertinelli is 50. Actor Craig Sheffer is 50. Actor George Lopez is 49. Rock musician Gen is 46. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 45. Actress Melina Kanakaredes is 43. Actor Barry Watson is 36. Actor Kal Penn is 33. MLB player Andruw Jones is 33. Actress Jaime King is 31. Actress Rachel Skarsten is 25. Actor Dev Patel is 20.

Thought for Today: "Don't pay any attention to the critics — don't even ignore them." — Samuel Goldwyn, American movie producer (1879-1974).



Government needs to do its homework before taking on immigration reform

Right now President Obama and Congressional Democrats are in the midst of pressing forward on financial reform legislation. Fresh from victory on health care reform, they are not shying away from tough issues in this Congressional election year.

Instead, they are bulldozing on through — an unusual and brave strategy. Most politicians up for reelection (as is the whole US House and a third of the US Senate) famously put off controversial legislation until the election is over.

Financial reform is something we desperately need. As long the legislation keeps banks from making risky investments such as those that led to the 2008 financial meltdown, and doesn't end up subsidizing bad behavior by banking executives, I'm all for it.

But immigration reform, that's another story. Financial reform is on the front burner, but immigration reform may be up next. Everyone in Washington is trying to guess whether Democrats will cave into the Hispanic lobby and press through "amnesty" or the so-called "pathway to citizenship" for individuals here illegally for quite some time.

Official government estimates are that immigration reform would legalize 12 million illegal immigrants. The path to citizenship would require them to get in line, pay fines and follow the normal bureaucratic route, green card and all. Some think tank experts who follow the issue closely say there are really more like 20 million illegal aliens who would qualify for citizenship under Obama's plan for reform, not the 12 million government figures refer to.



BONNIE ERBE

Allow me to say as I always do when I write on this most touchy of issues that it is not individual immigrants I oppose. Most immigrants are good people and hard workers, desperate to escape the lack of economic opportunity in their countries of birth. But massive illegal immigration is devastating the U.S. environment and forcing overdevelopment of land and placing massive strains on our natural resources.

Before approving any kind of change to our immigration policy, we need to sit down and take a calm, logical look at the costs and benefits of reform. Society at large benefits when we let in fewer, more highly educated immigrants. We need more doctors, businesspersons, entrepreneurs and hi-tech engineers.

Yet some 80 percent of immigrants to the U.S. do not even have a high school diploma or equivalent. They provide business with cheap labor — so that's of great benefit to one part of society. But they add billions to the cost of public education and health care, which is an unfair burden on middle-income taxpayers.

If you're wondering why air and water pollution are worse now than they were a couple of decades ago, why commutes are longer and why suburban sprawl now surrounds most of our big cities, look at immigration. Ever since the 1950s, the bulk of

population increases in this country have been driven by immigrants and their children.

Our immigration policy should take this country's financial and environmental needs into account first and foremost, but currently it does nothing of the kind.

Pardon me, too, if I'm a bit skeptical that immigration reform will suddenly halt the flow of one million illegal immigrants into this country annually. I covered Congress in the mid-1980s and watched the now-infamous Simpson-Mazzoli bill make its way through both chambers. It was signed by President Reagan in 1986 and is now known as the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.

That law made it illegal for employers to knowingly hire or recruit illegal immigrants and granted amnesty to certain illegal immigrants who entered the United States before 1982 and stayed here continuously.

Guess what else? It granted a "path toward legalization" for seasonal workers who had been in the country for four years. It was supposed to end illegal immigration. Now 24 years later, illegal immigration has increased and we're having the same arguments we had before IRCA. But we're acting like we've never tried to resolve this issue before.

So pardon me if I'm a bit cynical of the immigration reform front. We've been there and done that and there's no need to do it badly once more.

Bonnie Erbe created and hosts "To The Contrary" on PBS, the first national news analysis series featuring all women panelists.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:
I'm still wondering about our city commission considering implementation of a new ordinance banning citizens from parking autos on their front lawns. And yes, I still have an itch to be Pampa's slumlord by owning as many derelict homes/buildings that I can. Once the itch is scratched, the plan is still to park as many equally derelict vehicles on their front lawns and premises... Why not? What if there is already an existing ordinance against such usual Pampa practice? Why, of course, I would not be the least concerned, for give me sufficient reason to expect any apoplexy coming from City Hall!

My latest bedtime prayer is for the Lord our God to descend a tornado Pampa's direction — a user-friendly tornado, that is. In my

prayer, God uses his index finger to direct the tornado to every derelict home and building throughout our entire little burg. Of course, God would not let any harm befall nary a single human being or domestic animal — however, squirrels are another matter all together — and in His directing the tornado, God would do an urban renewal job of the first degree on little Pampa,

and rid this once beautiful Panhandle town of its blight, something that City Hall evidently cannot/will not accomplish in any citizen's lifetime.

Pampa is at a crossroads, especially now that Celanese is no more and in the past tense of the oil and gas industry. And what a coin toss wind energy has become, eh? With its blight and always impressive litter prob-

lem creating an apathy of immense proportion Pampa can only dream of any new industry coming to town. If I were the owner or frontman of a business seeking a relocation to a more business-friendly environment and wanted to take a look-see around Pampa, I would look-see for the quickest way out of town.

Dennis Palmitier
Pampa

We welcome your letters

- To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:
- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
 - All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
 - Defamatory comments will not be published.
 - E-mail submissions are welcome.

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TPA MEMBER 2010
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Texas uninsured rate to plummet under new law

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - Texas' uninsured population will drop from 6.5 million this year to 2.3 million once the federal health care overhaul is fully implemented, and about a third of the remaining uninsured will likely be illegal immigrants, a state official said Thursday.

A panel of House lawmakers charged with sorting through the 10-year, \$938-billion federal plan met for the first time Thursday, with state agencies presenting estimates of how the

new law could affect them. Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Tom Suehs said that in addition to illegal immigrants, the bill also won't bring health insurance coverage to people who are eligible but won't seek subsidies. Others won't qualify for subsidies.

Suehs said the Medicaid expansion outlined in the federal plan will cost Texas about \$27 billion between 2014, when many of the law's major provisions go into effect, and 2023.

The Congressional Budget Office has projected the law will cost Texas only \$1.4 billion from 2014 to 2019.

Childless adults will be the "single biggest new population to be covered by Medicaid under the expansion," Suehs said.

"It is a wide ranging piece of legislation with a lot of details to get our arms around," said Rep. Garnet Coleman, vice-chair of the House Select Committee on Federal Legislation, at the opening of the panel's first meeting. "Pieces of it

are moving very fast ... it's important that we understand what our options are."

Some Democrats on the House committee also warned officials not to ignore potential boons from the bill, including a reduction of annual costs to the state from uninsured and billions of federal dollars that will be flowing into the state's economy.

The federal legislation didn't include provisions to deal with health care for illegal immigrants, said Joy Johnson Wilson,

health policy director for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

But some Democrats on the committee warned officials not to ignore potential boons from the new law, including a reduction of annual costs that the state currently absorbs because of uninsured residents. Billions of federal dollars spent on health care in the plan also will be flowing into the state's economy.

"That's money that will be spent in Texas and, because we had the highest num-

ber of uninsured people ... we actually get more money than any other state from the federal government," said Coleman, a Houston Democrat. "It's a cost to our budget, but that money is coming in and it's going to be going out all across the state into people's communities."

Community health centers and prevention and wellness centers also will get more money under the bill.

Iceland volcano eruption strands foreign students in El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso has become an academic lifeboat for almost 60 international graduate students and faculty who were marooned in El Paso because of air travel restrictions brought on by the April 14 eruption of the Iceland volcano.

Professors and students from Imperial College, a science-based institution in London known for its teaching and research, will use UTEP's resources to prepare for final exams until their scheduled departure to the United Kingdom, April 29 and 30.

UTEP is the only university in the country with a predominately Mexican-American student population (more than 80 percent).

The research university in Far West Texas also is renowned for its Bhutanese architecture (http://www.bhutan.gov.bt/government/index_new.php).

Imperial College's leaders reached out to UTEP officials this past Monday after they were told that flights to England were cancelled as a result of the dangerous ash-laden skies over much of Europe.

Many of the students were concerned because they have projects due and final exams scheduled the week of May 3. For some, doing well on these final exams is crucial for their future job prospects.

UTEP has given the visiting students computer access at the Geology Building and

UTEP Library. It also made its recreation facilities available to the visitors, including Memorial Gym and the Swimming and Fitness Center.

"We are very grateful to the University," said Cedric John, assistant professor of carbonate sedimentology at Imperial College and one of the group's leaders. "Everyone has been so nice to us. Things are quite exceptional."

The students came to the UTEP campus Wednesday after spending most of the past few days in their Holiday Inn hotel rooms near the El Paso airport. The students broke into groups and were given tours Wednesday by UTEP geology graduate students of the

places they could utilize on campus, such as the library, the Undergraduate Learning Center, the Geology Building, as well as the University Bookstore. The delegation includes students from England, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Russia, Thailand and Venezuela.

"We are pleased to be able to share UTEP's campus resources with our British colleagues and their students," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "If this unfortunate situation were reversed, we're confident that the university community in the UK would likewise extend a helping hand to stranded UTEP Miners. We wish our guests safe travels home and hope that

they will carry with them good memories of UTEP and the Paso del Norte."

The Department of Geological Sciences, one of the University's oldest departments, trains the next generation of educators and geoscience professionals in the backdrop of the El Paso region's rich and unique geologic setting.

Peter Alison, Ph.D., professor of earth sciences at Imperial College, gave a special Tuesday seminar for UTEP's geology graduate students on ancient seas.

UTEP professors Terry Pavlis and Laura Serpa opened their West Side El Paso home to the visitors for a cookout because the couple knows what it's like to be stranded. They lived in New Orleans in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina displaced them.

"Lot's of people helped us out," Pavlis said. "Now these students and faculty are stuck and we're just trying to make a stressful situation easier."

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, April 24, 2010:

This year, you develop a new talent. Not only will you find it rewarding, but it also might become an excellent second source of revenue. Often, you hold yourself back and don't risk, but this is not a risk. You are developing a gift. Your creativity swells when you are out of your environment. If you are single, go exotic, and you could be delighted by the type of relationship you form. If you are attached, plan on that special trip you have always talked about. VIRGO understands you much better than you think.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ You have your hands full. If you can visit and chat with someone while clearing out a project or two, it would be much nicer. If asked, be frank about how you feel. The other party wants to know. Tonight: Do your own thing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Where others are stymied by situations, you aren't. In fact, your imagination seems to take off in many unanticipated directions. Let go of old grievances. Open up to new thoughts and styles. Tonight: If you are a charming Bull, it might be very hard to say "no" to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Though you might not want to dignify the role of couch potato with your presence, you run around so much that some heavy downtime fits the bill. A partner is changing, and you are adjusting. Venus enters your sign today, adding

to your allure. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Keep talking about what is on your mind. If someone doesn't get it with one set of words and expressions, try another style. Eventually, you will get through. In the next few weeks, walk away from being overly sensitive. Tonight: Hang out with favorite people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Be aware of the hidden costs of a purchase or an agreement. Discuss feelings later in the day, when you see that another person's attitude was a passage rather than a reality. Tonight: Treat others to dinner or a scrumptious dessert.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You beam, and others might wonder why. You might not know exactly, but you feel together. A child or budding relationship plays a strong role in upcoming events. You cannot run away from this one! Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★ Just say "no" or cancel plans if you would like to. It is wonderful to be reliable, but sometimes even you need to be flaky. A partner comes through with more understanding than anticipated. Tonight: Screen your calls.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Where people are is where the happy Scorp can be found. As you meet people, you also sense the many possibilities that you have yet to entertain. If you are attached, your mate looks at you through new eyes. If you are single, someone clearly admires you. Tonight: Where the party is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Many might look to you as an

authority figure. Just don't step up to the plate unless you really know what you are doing. Use care with your funds, as you might suddenly notice that your accounts are lower. Tonight: Out at a concert or ballgame.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Sometimes you hold yourself back too much. Don't today. Let your mind take off like a magic carpet. Whether you decide to plan a vacation or just plan a wild party is your call. Let go of constraints, certainly self-imposed ones. Tonight: Be free as a bird. You can do it. Try it once!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You are such an independent, free spirit that once in a while you can accommodate a partner or loved one and do exactly what he or she wants to do for a day. Both of you could be delighted by the outcome and the strength of the feelings. Tonight: Bend and go with someone else's plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ March to the beat of another person's drum. You might trip, but you feel enlightened to live another's life from his or her perspective. A family member or roommate shares his or her respect for the way you continue to open up. Tonight: Out and about.

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Actress Courtnee Draper (1985), fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier (1952), singer, actress Barbra Streisand (1942)

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important to those of us." Tickets for the barn party will be available at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, contact Downs at 669-7892

or Debbie Davis at 665-0123.

cont. from page 1

No leak in La. oil rig explosion

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — No oil appeared to be leaking after a drilling rig exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard said Friday, though officials were trying to contain what spilled from the blast and prevent any threat to the coast's fragile ecosystem.

The search continued for 11 workers missing after the explosion late Tuesday on the Deepwater Horizon. Family members have said they had been told they probably did not survive.

The rig burned for nearly two days until it sank Thursday morning. The fire was out, but officials initially feared as much as 336,000 gallons of crude oil a day could be rising from the sea floor nearly 5,000 feet below.

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said no oil appeared to be leaking from a well head at the ocean floor, nor was any leaking at the water's surface. But she said crews were closely monitoring the rig for any more crude that might spill out.

The crew was finishing the well about 50 miles off the Louisiana coast when the rig exploded. Officials have not said what caused the blast, and the oil they are dealing with now is left over from the explosion and sinking.

"If it gets landward, it could be a disaster in the making," said Cynthia Sarthou, executive director for the environmental group Gulf Restoration Network.

BP PLC, which leased the rig and took the lead in the cleanup, said Friday it has activated an extensive oil spill response, including using remotely operated vehicles to assess the well and 32 vessels to mop up the spill.

BP Chief Executive Tony Hayward said the company will do "everything in our power to contain this oil spill and resolve the situation as rapidly, safely and effectively as possible."

Ed Overton, a Louisiana State University environmental sciences professor, said he expects some of the light crude oil to evaporate while much of it turns into a pasty mess that ultimately breaks apart into small chunks of oily residue that can wash ashore.

"It's going to be a god-awful mess for a while," he said. "I'm not crying doomsday or saying the sky is falling, but that is the potential."

Weather forecasts indicate the spill was likely to stay well away from shore at least through the weekend, but if winds change it could come ashore faster, said Doug Helton of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's office of response and restoration.

Meanwhile, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson called for a congressional investigation of safety practices at offshore oil rigs. Nelson, a Democrat who has led opposition to offshore drilling, said he asked the U.S. Interior Department to investigate and provide a comprehensive report on all U.S. drilling accidents over at least the last decade.

"The tragedy off the coast of Louisiana shows we need to be asking a lot more tough questions of big oil," Nelson said. "I think we need to look back over 10 years or so to see if the record denies the industry's claims about safety and technology."

The Coast Guard, which was leading the investigation, had not given up the search early Friday for those missing from the rig.

Lt. Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Iesau said a Coast Guard cutter would remain on the scene Friday after searching overnight, and a helicopter would take advantage of clear weather to make three more search flights.

"We use a scientific program to make a best-guess estimate on survivability," Ben-Iesau said. "And then the Coast Guard searches a little longer than that. Because there's always the unknown."

Carolyn Kemp of Monterey, La., said her grandson, Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, would have been on the drilling platform when it exploded.

"They're assuming all those men who were on the platform are dead," Kemp said. "That's the last we've heard."

Most of the crew — 111 members — were ashore, including 17 taken to hospitals. Four were in critical condition. Four others made it off safely were still on a boat because of several underwater valves being used to shut off the flow of oil could be shut off at a control valve on the sea floor, said Guy Cantwell, spokesman for rig owner Transocean Ltd.

Miscommunication leads to brief 'missing girl' panic

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

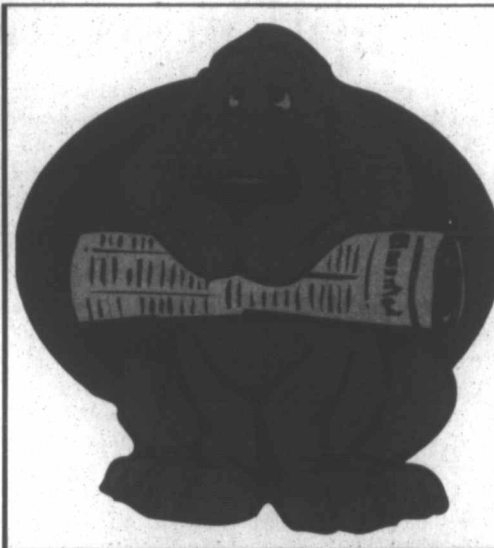
The missing person wasn't missing. A lack of communications led to a brief panic at a Pampa school Thursday.

A Pampa Police Department spokesman said today that a Woodrow Wilson Elementary School first grader left after school Thursday afternoon with someone other than the person who was supposed to pick her up. That led to

a report to police about 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

The person who picked up the girl, however, was another family member, and the situation was soon straightened out, Officer Stormy McCullar reported today, but not before 15 emergency units responded to the call at Wilson school at 801 East Browning.

Five fire units, a Pampa EMS ambulance and nine police units descended upon the school.



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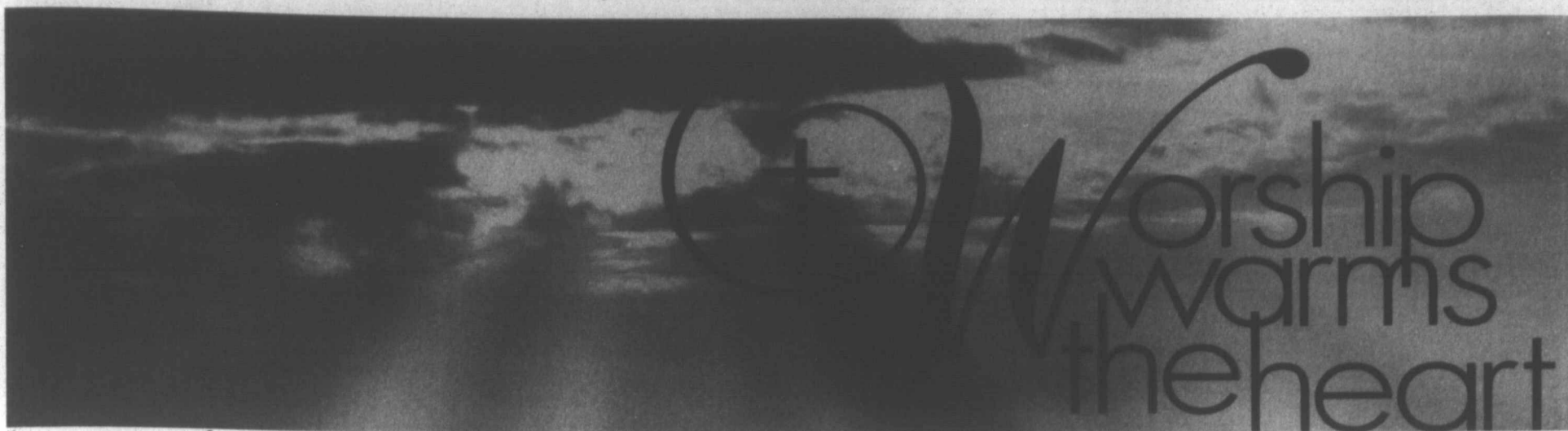
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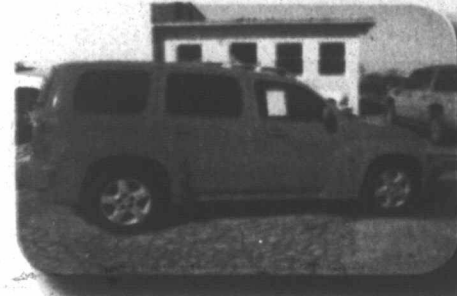
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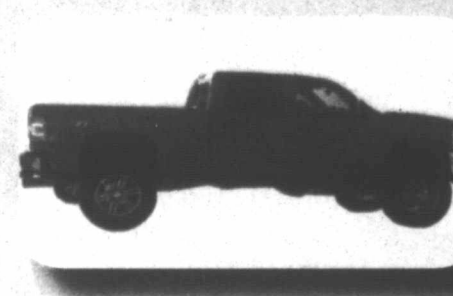
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Sports

Pampa's Facio signs with OPSU

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The weather may have been dreary on Thursday evening, but it was all smiles inside the Pampa High School Commons as senior Ashley Facio signed a letter of intent to continue her softball career at Oklahoma Panhandle State next spring.

Facio said she choose the university after talking with their coach, Rachel Burleson, and a visit to the campus.

"As soon as I met her (Burleson), I knew I wanted to play for her," Facio said. "I visited the campus and she wanted me also. So everything worked out great."

Facio said she will be playing first and pitching at OPSU, the same positions she played with Pampa. She said head softball coach Bobbi Gill helped prepare her for the next level.

"She (Gill) always let me have a level head," Facio said. "She's prepared me to be stronger both physically and mentally and I just want to thank her for everything she's done."

Gill said that she is excited for Facio,

who has a great opportunity with OPSU.

"She's going somewhere she should get some playing time," Gill said.

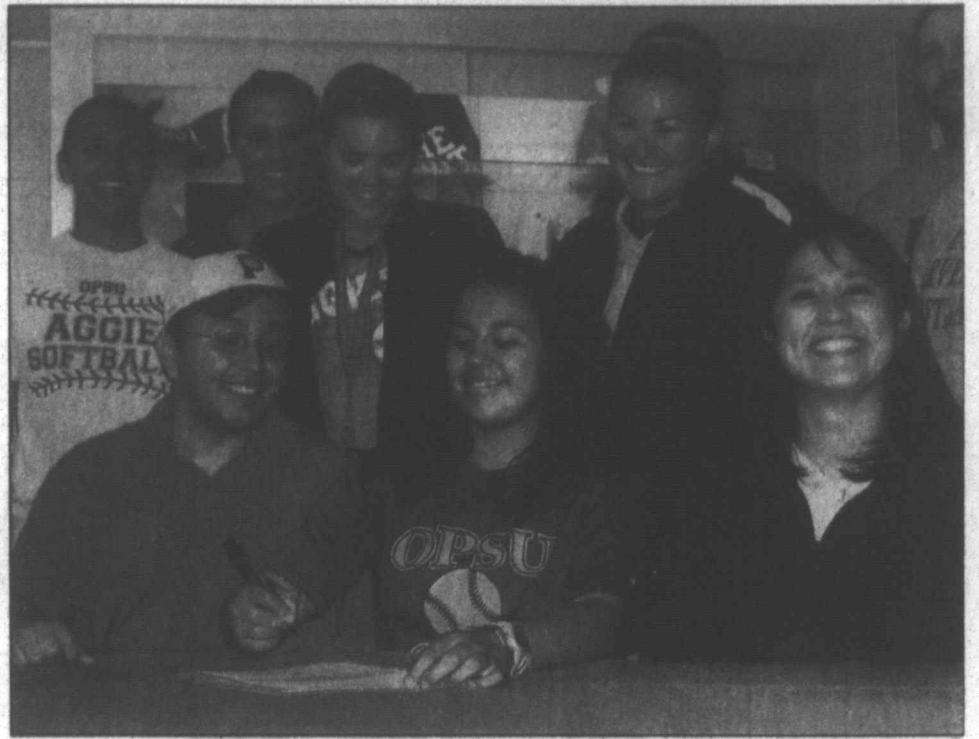
Burleson said that she was thrilled to be able to add a player of Facio's caliber to her squad.

"Any time you can bring a player like Ashley in, it's great for your team," she said. "She's a girl that can come in that we can plug in right away and expect to contribute. The girls really like her already and she looks like she's going to be a great fit."

Facio is the third Lady Harvester this season to sign a letter of intent. Shelbie Watson signed with Clarendon College and Carlyn Teichmann signed with Howard Junior College. Gill said the PHS program has had two or three girls that sign letter of intents every season.

"These three (Watson, Teichmann and Facio) decided they wanted to play in college," Gill said. "They all found places where they seem to fit."

As of press time, Facio has a 9-4 record on the mound and is 5-0 in district play. On March 18, Facio tossed a six inning no-hitter against Palo Duro.



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Ashley Facio (center) signs her letter of intent for Oklahoma Panhandle State as coaches, future teammates and parents Bino and Melissa Facio (both seated) look on.

Three McLean girls play in All-Star tourney



submitted photos

TOP: Lady Tiger Alexis Menefield goes high for a shot April 15 in the Golden Spread All-Star Basketball Tournament in Canyon. **BOTTOM:** McLean teammates Nancy Castillo (left) and Sheri Haynes showcase their skills against each other at the All-Star tournament.

McLean pair named to All-Region I team

Two McLean Lady Tigers have received another honor for the 2009-2010 basketball season.

Seniors Sheri Haynes and Alexis Menefield were named last week to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-Region I team.

Joining Haynes and Menefield on the Class 1A Division II team are Amber Huseman, Nazareth; Ashlyn Knoll and Meagan Bell, Happy; Veronica Gutierrez and Callie Ferguson, Texline; Kaylee Shields, Hedley; Maddi Stuart, Follett; Mackenzie McLain, Channing; and Cailey Crist, Vega.



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Comics

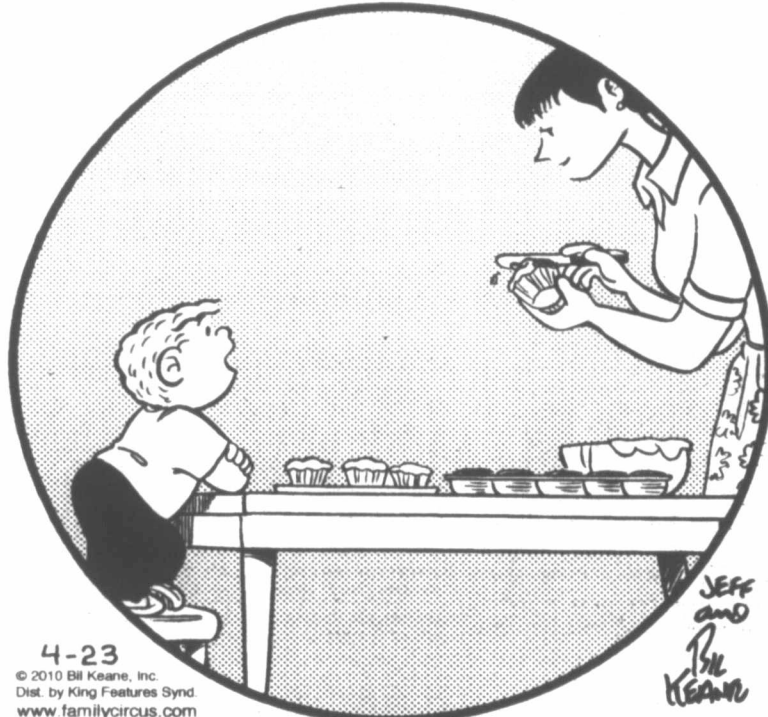
Marmaduke



"So this is where all those socks missing from the dryer have gone!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Do you happen to need a taste tester?"

For Better Or Worse



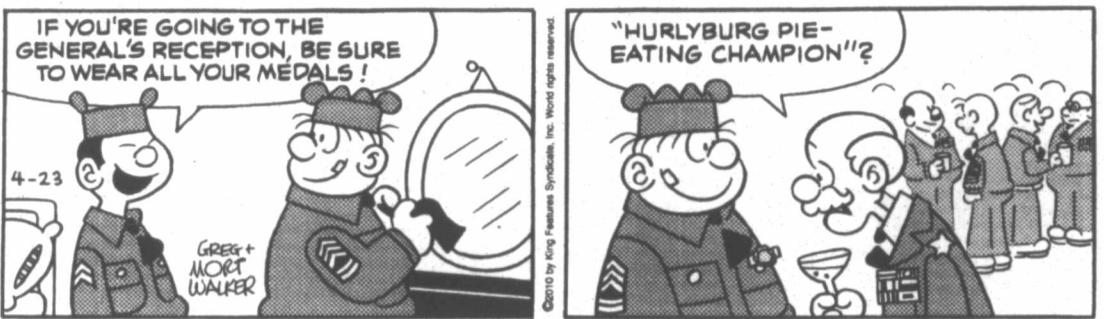
Zits



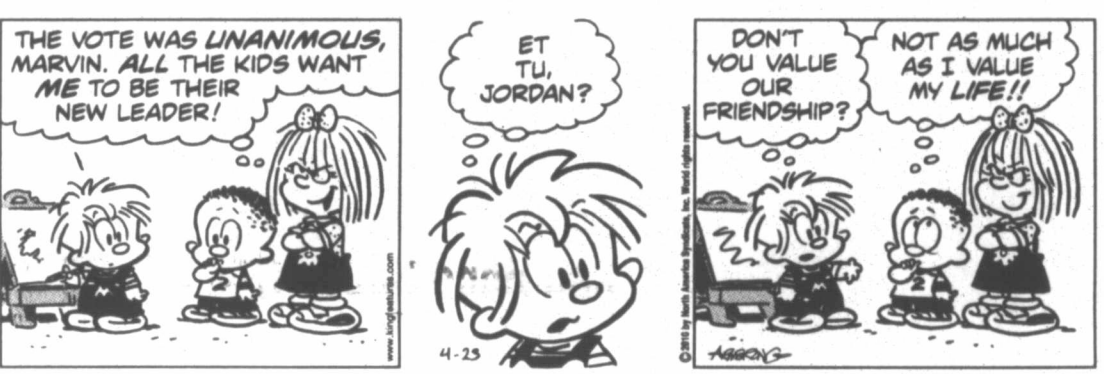
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



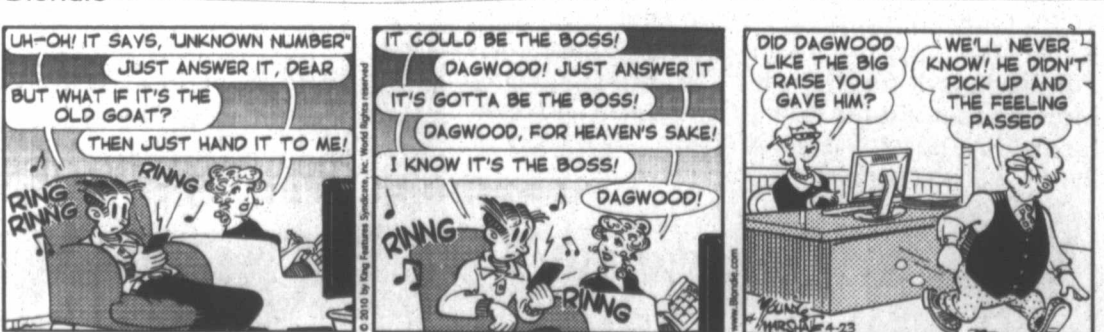
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Cheer up

1 Philatelist's find

6 "Halt!" from a salt

11 Candle

12 Pollster Elmo

13 Dark wood

14 Exact copy

15 Completely

16 Hamlet's love

18 Crooner Tormé

19 Coarse

20 Fate

21 Put away

23 Repair-bill line

25 Campaign pro

27 So far

28 Scout group

30 Liquefy

33 Twosome

34 Farm grazer

36 Hurler's stat

37 Software buy

39 Perform

40 Danger

41 Turning tool

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

Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Prepares

2 Pad

3 It aimed

4 Chess

5 Comic

6 Majestic

7 Field

8 Harlem

9 Grad-to-

10 Goodie

11 Crony

12 Court

13 Casino

14 Spots

15 Elvis'

16 Birthplace

17 Okra

18 Tell, for

19 one

20 Diluted

21 Hood-

22 winked

23 Like Tom

24 Jones

25 Solemn

26 act

27 "That's it!"

28

29

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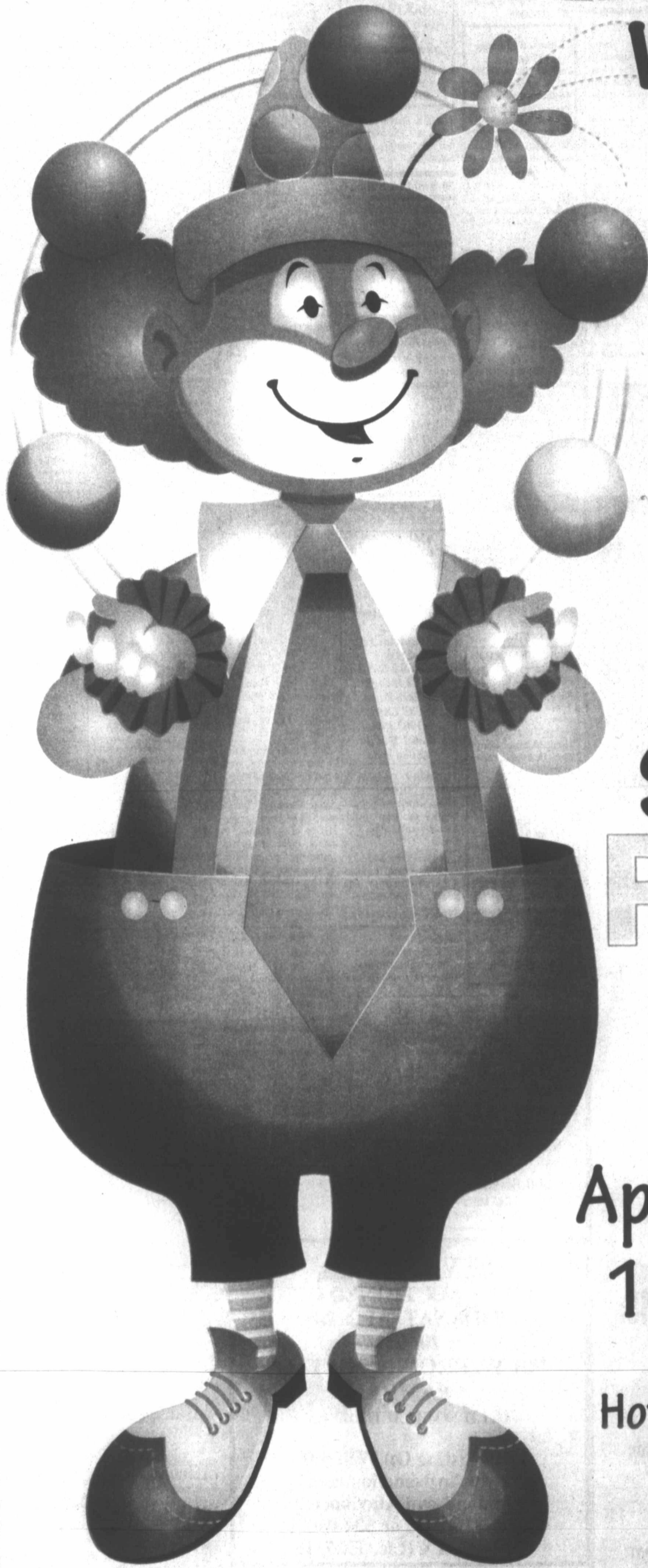
45

46

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11							12			
13							14			
15					16	17				
18					19			20		
21					22		23		24	
					25		26		27	
28					29		30		31	32
33					34		35		36	
37					38				39	
40							41		42	
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