

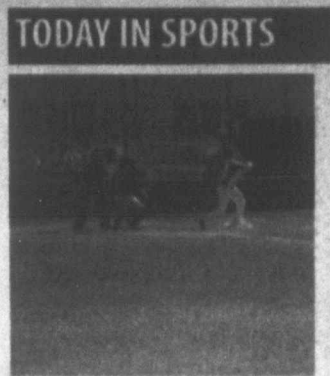
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Friday, March 23, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 290

75¢ Viewpoints: The GOP race The stars align for Romney | p4
\$1.50 weekend Harvesters in Perryton Andrew Glover on what's key for Pampa to win district p8

Police to hold class for handicap parking program

Volunteer program helps reduce city's handicap parking citations

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

A class will be held on April 28 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for people interested in volunteering in the handicap parking program, which hands out citations to people illegally parked in handicapped spots.

"The program definitely helps police officers," said Stormy McCullar, Crime Prevention Office with the Pampa Police Department. "Everyone has seen people, who are more than capable of walking, park in a handicap zone, and the next

thing you see is an elderly person who can't park in the spot."

One of the current volunteers in the program was inspired to get involved after seeing that happen in town.

"Our volunteers have reason, purpose and compassion for what they're doing," said McCullar.

The program has been around since the summer of 2008, when the city commission authorized the program.

"It helps us, so we're not bogged down with traffic complaints," said McCullar.

"It's made a big difference, because people are less likely to park in handicap spots."

People interested in volunteering should first fill out an application on the City of Pampa website under the Citizen Volunteer Service section. From there, they'll have to pass a background check and go through an interview.

"The state mandates volunteers complete a four hour class and ride with a police officer for four hours," said McCullar. "That has to be done before they can be authorized to write handicap parking citations."

Volunteers are required to complete 12 hours of enforcement every quarter, which amounts to about four hours

each month. McCullar encourages people interested in the program to get involved in order to keep it going.

"We've had two volunteers doing the program since it started, and it takes two to ride out each time to patrol," she said. "If something happens to one of them, we can't do the program. The program will be obsolete if we don't get some help."

Man caught with drugs

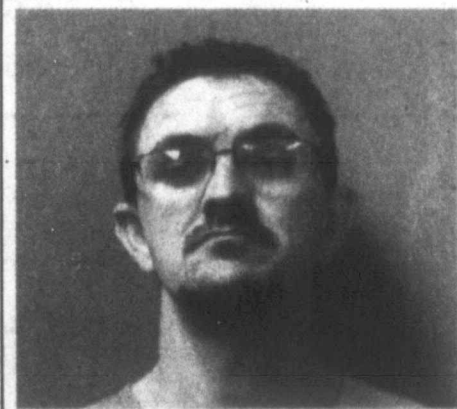
MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Sheriff's Office arrested a man for drug possession on Wednesday night.

Around 10 p.m., deputies stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on the 300 block of South Starkweather. Deputies obtained consent to search the vehicle and driver, Chard Richards, 32, of Pampa. They located a glass pipe and white powder substance, believed to be methamphetamine.

Deputies charged Richards with possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less than one gram, and transported him to Gray County Jail.

He was later released on a \$5,000 bond.



Richards

SPRINGING INTO SPRING



Carole Lesly of Heard and Jones Health-Mart prepares for the Easter season.

'Scouting for Food' arrives

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

This weekend, Cub Scout Pack 423 will be dropping off bags for food donations by Pampa homes as part of the Scouting for Food project.

"Scouting for Food is an annual program in the Texas Panhandle, and most groups, including the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, come together and gather food to donate to food pantries," said Christy Reeves, leader of Pack 423.

The pack will donate their collections to Pampa's Good Samaritan's.

"We will hand out bags on door stops with notes on what we're doing, and we'll collect their donations the following weekend to give people time to get them together," Reeves said.

She said that older boy scouts in the area have a camp out this weekend, so they did some collecting last weekend **SCOUTING** cont. on page 2

Xcel customers to see lower bills on April 1

Lower natural gas prices responsible for decreasing rates

THE PAMPA NEWS

With approval from the Public Utility Commission of Texas, starting April 1, Xcel Energy will lower typical Texas residential bills of 1,000 kilowatt-hours by 3.7 percent, or \$3.53.

By June 1, summer rates will take effect, with a typical residential bill dropping by \$4.81, or almost 5 percent.

In January, Xcel filed for a

new fuel-cost factor, but as natural gas prices continued to fall, the company revised its projected fuel costs downward. The lower bills are a result of cost decreases in natural gas used to fuel area power plants. The efficiency of some natural gas generators is also offsetting an increasing demand for electricity.

"Our customers are benefiting from the lower cost of natural gas and from significant

investments we have made, and are making, throughout our system," said Riley Hill, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company.

"These significant up-front investments are critical to hold down costs over time," Hill said. "Included are environmental controls, efficient power plants, an upgraded distribution system and new high-voltage transmission lines to tap additional supplies of low-cost power outside our area."

About 40 percent of the energy used by Xcel Energy customers in Texas is derived from natural gas-fueled power plants. In 2008, Xcel Energy began purchasing power from the Hobbs Generating Station near Hobbs, N.M., a plant that is 40 percent more efficient than older natural gas-fueled plants. Additionally, the company opened a new, efficient natural gas-fueled generating unit at its Jones Generating Station near Lubbock last year. A fourth unit is planned at Jones for 2013.

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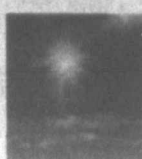


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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 74 Low 44	High 81 Low 52	High 82 Low 54

Today:
Sunny, with a high near 74. West northwest wind around 5 mph.

Tonight:
Clear, with a low around 44. Calm wind becoming south southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday:
Sunny, with a high near 81. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night:
Mostly clear, with a low around 52. South wind around 10 mph.

Sunday:
Sunny, with a high near 82. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night:
Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. South wind around 15 mph.

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LAST MINUTE ADS

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PAMPA OPTIMIST Baseball & Softball Sign-Ups, March 20, 21, 22 & 23rd, 5:30-7:30pm. Ages 4-15 yrs. No late sign-ups!

SOUTHSIDE SENIOR Citizen's Center will be closed the week of Mar. 19 thru Mar. 24, due to the passing of Margrette Cash Nickelberry. Center will reopen on Monday, Mar. 26th.

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MORNINGRUSH

An Etch A Sketch conservative?

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum is still having fun with his Etch A Sketch.

Santorum waved the toy around during a Texas appearance Thursday and claimed it represents rival Mitt Romney's lack of conservative convictions.

On Wednesday, a top Romney aide compared the transition from the primary campaign to the general election to an Etch A Sketch doodle toy, saying "you can kind of shake it up and we start all over again."

Romney's opponents have seized on the remark to challenge his conservative credentials.

Santorum addressed employees of a San Antonio insurance company that serves military personnel and their families. He said Texas' May 29 primary will be key to deciding who wins the Republican presidential nomination.

Network lawsuits dropped

DALLAS (AP) - Harassment lawsuits filed against a Christian media company over a minister's affair have been dropped.

The Dallas Morning News reported Wednesday that civil lawsuits against Bedford-based Daystar Television Network ended with no payments.

The Rev. Marcus Lamb in November 2010 told his worldwide audience that he had an affair and was the target of extortion by three ex-employees. Police investigated and found no criminal conduct by the women.

The trio alleged they were pressured to stay quiet about the affair. All later withdrew their lawsuits. A countersuit was dropped. A judge in February ended the lawsuits.

Daystar attorney Michael Anderson says "nobody got a dime."

James Fisher, who represented the women, says they didn't want to drag the case through court and were concerned about Christmas suing each other.

Airline aims at labor contracts

NEW YORK (AP) - American Airlines will ask a federal bankruptcy judge next week to throw out its union contracts if it can't reach cost-cutting deals with labor unions.

One of American's lead lawyers in the bankruptcy case, Harvey Miller, said Thursday that the company and unions have bargained in good faith, but he doesn't expect them to reach compromises.

Union officials disputed the lawyer's comments. They said that American planned all along to ask the court to toss out their collective-bargaining agreements.

American and parent AMR Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection in November.

SCOUTING cont. from page 1

for the project. She added that Scouting for Food is an opportunity for young scouts to help out their community.

"The project helps scouts learn about service to the community, and that there are people around us who are needy," said Reeves. "They become more socially aware, and see how they can make a difference in the community."

For more information on how to donate, people can contact Reeves at 662-8104.

Obituaries

Margrette Ann Nickelberry, 72

Margrette Ann Nickelberry, 72, died March 13, 2012, in Houston.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel, with Mariland Sims, minister of North Heights Church of Christ of Amarillo, officiating.

Entombment will be at Memory Gardens Mausoleum under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Nickelberry was born September 21, 1939, at Sulphur Springs. She came to Pampa at an early age and was a 1957 graduate of Carver High School in Pampa. She married Willie Nickelberry on May 28, 1992, in Pampa. She was a member of Southside Church of Christ in Pampa. She was a special education bus driver for Pampa Independent School District for 28 years. She just recently retired as the director of Southside Senior Citizens of Pampa.

Survivors include her husband, Willie E. Nickelberry of the home; son, James M. (Michael) Hunnicutt of Pampa; two daughters, Tammi R. Hunnicutt and Erika N. Hunnicutt-Stewart, both of Houston; 14 grandchildren, Michelle McDaniel, James Hunnicutt Jr., Dorothy Hunnicutt, Danielle Hunnicutt, Elbert (E.J.) Hunnicutt, Stefan Hunnicutt Jr., and Marissa Hunnicutt-Smith, all of Pasadena, Texas, Jaymar Holman of Huntsville, Chantel Jones, Kambryell Jeffery, Demetri Dickson, Skyler Hunnicutt, Paris Griner, and Taylor Dickson, all of Houston; three brothers, Edward E. Cash and Joe D. Cash, both of Pampa, and Larry L. Cash of Pasadena, Calif.; a sister, Claudette Deason of Pampa. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard E. and Mildred P. Cash; a brother, Darrell J. (Hubba) Cash, a sister, Lena F. Henry; and a son, Stefan L. Hunnicutt.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, TX 79065.



Nickelberry

Melissa Ann "Missy" Wadsworth White, 41

Melissa Ann "Missy" Wadsworth White, 41, died March 20, 2012 in Lubbock.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Cornerstone Baptist Church, with Pastor Micah Meurer, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Melissa was born November 1, 1970, in Pampa, graduating from Pampa High School in 1989. She married Doug White in 1990 and moved to Amarillo. Together they had two beautiful sons, Ryan and Hunter White. She later returned to Pampa to make her home. Melissa had a wonderfully beautiful smile and sense of humor. She loved her family very much and was a wonderful mother. She lived in the 80's, even in the 21st century. To her favorite P.I.C. Ruth: she will always love you.

Survivors include two sons, Ryan White of Pampa and Hunter White of Amarillo; her parents, Lloyd and Roberta Wadsworth of Pampa; a brother, John Wadsworth of Pampa; a sister, Sharon Cook of Pampa; three nieces, Jerah Lesperance, Ciera Cook and Brianna Wadsworth, all of Pampa; a nephew, Justin Lesperance of Perryton; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Melissa was preceded in death by her beloved aunt Pat, Grandma and Grandpa Lemons, and Granny and Grandpa Wadsworth.

Memorials may be made to National Kidney Foundation, Amarillo District, 801 S. Fillmore Street, Amarillo, TX 79101.

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



White

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, March 21 at 7 a.m.

The Pampa PD reported nine traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents and the Pampa PD reported seven animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to four medical calls.

Tuesday, March 20

Harassment occurred at the 300 block of West 30th.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 900 block of East Denver.

A suspicious person was reported at the 500 block of North Dwight.

Endangerment of a child or elderly person was reported at the 100 block of East Foster.

A hit and run occurred at the 100 block of East Francis.

A suspicious person was reported at the 700 block of East 16th.

Power lines were down at the 700 block of East Locust.

A suspicious person was

reported at the 400 block of North Lefors.

An accident occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

A theft occurred at the 300 block of West Foster.

An accident occurred at the 2500 block of North Perryton.

A burglary occurred at the 100 block of West Foster.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 2100 block of North Zimmers.

An offense against family and children was reported.

An offense against family and children occurred at the 1400 block of North Sumner.

Burglaries occurred at the 500 block of East Foster and the 1700 block of North Coffee.

A threat occurred at the 1000 block of South Christy.

Wednesday, March 21

A suspicious person was reported at the 800 block of East Scott.

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, March 22 at 7 a.m.

Pampa EMS responded

to six medical calls.

Animal Control agents reported six animal related incidents.

Pampa PD reported four traffic related incidents.

Wednesday, March 21

Accidents occurred at the 1000 block of West Wilks and the 100 block of West 30th.

A gas drive off occurred at the 200 block of West 28th.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1300 block of Terrace.

A burglary occurred at the 1600 block of North Hamilton.

Suspicious persons were reported at the 1800 block of North Coffee, the 500 block of Worrell and the 1300 block of Rham.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 2100 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1300 block of West Rham.

A burglary occurred at the 1100 block of North Russell.

An accident occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1600 block of West Somerville.

A suspicious person was reported at the 700 block of East Jordan.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 200 block of North Wells.

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

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 700 block of East Murphy.

Thursday, March 22

Suspicious persons were reported at the intersection of West and Brown and at the 1100 block of North Garland.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, March 22 at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, March 21

Patrick Lee Herr, 47, was arrested by deputies on insufficient bond regarding charges of possession of a controlled substance, failure to signal, failure to appear in court and failure to change his address.

Chad Michael Richards, 32, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance.

MORNINGRUSH

Drought effect may linger

HOUSTON (AP) - Farmers, ranchers, credit bureaus and agricultural experts say the economic impacts from a historic drought that has parched Texas will be felt for years, even if the dry spell ends in 2012.

And the ripple effects will be felt nationwide as the drought's unprecedented impact on Texas agriculture forces food prices nationwide to increase more than expected.

The Texas House of Representative's Natural Resources Committee heard testimony Thursday in Austin on the drought's impacts and the state's preparedness.

It is estimated the agriculture industry in Texas suffered a record \$7.62 billion loss in 2011 due to the drought.

State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon says he is encouraged by the current weather trends, but won't promise a wet 2012.

Moonshine operation broken up

NEW CHAPEL HILL (AP) - Investigators say an alleged moonshine operation has been broken up in rural East Texas.

Smith County authorities on Wednesday confiscated two stills at a site near the town of New Chapel Hill and questioned a property owner. Authorities seized about 50 gallons of suspected homemade alcohol, propane tanks and glass containers.

Constable Dennis Taylor says a pint jar of moonshine sells for about \$100.

The Smith County Sheriff's Office did not immediately provide further information Thursday on any charges against the property owner.

The investigation began four months ago when a teenager was found passed out on the side of a road after allegedly drinking moonshine. Authorities say a tip led to some property where the stills were discovered.

New Chapel is located 100 miles southeast of Dallas.

Suspect studied serial killers

HEMPSTEAD (AP) - Authorities say a 22-year-old man charged with the fatal shootings of his parents and brother in their Southeast Texas home had been studying serial killers and mass shootings like the Columbine attack and had hoped to carry out some other act of public violence.

Trey Sesler was arrested Tuesday after police found the bodies of his family members at their home in Waller, about 40 miles northwest of Houston. Police said Thursday they've also recovered ammunition and about six weapons, including long rifles.

Waller County Sheriff Glenn Smith describes Sesler as exhibiting a classic case of escalating criminal behavior, beginning with killing pets, then setting fires and shooting at buildings. Sesler, also charged with murder, was arraigned Thursday on a capital murder charge.

Sesler does not yet have an attorney.

Keller city manager lays self off

KELLER (AP) - The administrator of a North Texas city believes he's not needed and has laid himself off.

Keller City Manager Dan O'Leary on Wednesday announced he is leaving, effective April 20.

O'Leary says the Fort Worth-area city of nearly 40,000 has two assistant managers and really does not need three administrators. He earned about \$176,000 annually as city manager.

The 57-year-old O'Leary, who was hired in 2007, says he has no plans to retire.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports O'Leary on Tuesday informed city council members of his decision during a closed session. Elected officials did not immediately make an announcement on whether he will be replaced.

Man accused of recruiting smugglers

McALLEN (AP) - Prosecutors say a Mexican man has been accused of using Craigslist to recruit drivers to transport illegal immigrants in Texas.

Border Patrol officers on March 14 arrested 29-year-old Jose Gustavo Diaz-Velasquez in Rio Grande City. A judge in McAllen on Wednesday ordered him held without bond on immigrant smuggling charges.

Investigators believe Diaz-Velasquez has been living illegally in the U.S. Further details on where he's from in Mexico were not immediately released.

The investigation began last August when federal agents identified at least 10 online postings believed connected to the human smuggling ring.

Officials traced the Craigslist postings to a McAllen apartment associated with the suspect's wife.

Ex-deputy sentenced to 11 years

McALLEN (AP) - A former sheriff's deputy in South Texas has been sentenced to 11 years in prison for trying to acquire and sell marijuana.

A federal judge in McAllen on Wednesday sentenced 41-year-old Heriberto Diaz of San Juan.

Jurors in October convicted the former Hidalgo County sheriff's investigator of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana.

Authorities say Diaz lied on numerous offense reports to hide his drug activity. Prosecutors say he also stole more than 350 pounds of marijuana from an alleged dealer by threatening to expose the operation.

Navy helps investigate retiree

HOUSTON (AP) - A Navy retiree in Texas has been sentenced to more than 13 years in prison in a child pornography investigation.

Prosecutors say 42-year-old Dieter David Palmer was sentenced Thursday in Houston. The retired chief petty officer in December pleaded guilty to receipt of child pornography.

The investigation began as a Justice Department operation targeting commercial child pornography websites.

Military investigators helped federal prosecutors track current or former Navy and Marine personnel identified as buying membership in child porn sites.

Palmer was interviewed last March. Records show weeks earlier he received more than 230 sexually explicit images of minors.

Palmer had been free on bond but was taken into custody following Thursday's sentencing.

Selecting the roof style for a new home

Dear Pat: I am in the preliminary design stages for my new house, and I am trying to decide on the best type of roof style for it. What is the best roof design for a long life with few leaks?
— Ann G.

Dear Ann: There really is not one "best" roof design. The quality of the roof depends on the quality of the materials used and the workmanship of the roofers. Metal roofs are becoming much more popular on homes, and many of them will literally last a lifetime. They are also often made from recycled materials, so they are good for the environment.

Different areas of the country seem to have different preferences in the roof style used. If you want your home to fit in with others in your area, drive around your neighborhood and take a count of the different styles of roofs you find. This will also help you if you like to be a bit unique and want something different than most others.

If you are using an architect to design your home, ask for his/her opinion on what roof style would look best for the style of home you are building. A high roof does offer the future possibility of converting the attic into an additional room. Your personal family situation will determine if this is a valuable option or not.

The two primary types of roof styles are gabled and hipped, with many variation and combinations of the two. A gabled roof is the typical pitched roof with the peak ridge of the roof along the center of the shorter side of the house.

A cross-gabled roof is used on an L-shaped house, which results in a sloped transition between the two roof planes.

The pitch (slope) of a gabled roof impacts its appearance and its cost. A highly pitched is very attractive, but it required more lumber to build the roof and more roof area to cover. Shingles, tile, metal, etc. roofing is usually priced based on the square footage area to be covered.

HOME HOW-TO

A roof with a pitch of 30 degrees or less is considered to be a low slope. A pitch of 30 to 45 degrees is more common and more than 45 degrees is considered steep. If you live in an area with heavy snow loads during the winter, a steeply pitched is stronger and may be required by code.

A variation on a gabled roof is a saltbox style that is common in the Northeast. The peak ridge of the roof is offset to one side, usually the front creating a taller vertical house front than the back.

Another variation is a gambrel roof, sometimes called a barn-style

roof, which has two different pitch angles. The pitch on each side of the peak ridge is low. Midway along the roof, the pitch becomes more steep. This provides more attic headroom should you plan to use it for storage or for a future extra bedroom.

A hipped roof is similar to a gabled roof, except the sides are also sloped making the peak ridge length shorter. This is very attractive, but it creates more roofing area than a gabled roof for the same square footage home. A mansard roof is a variation, similar to a gambrel, of a hipped roof with two sloped angles on each surface.

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

HOME HOW-TO

Roof Design

If you are researching roof types for your dream home, you will probably be surprised at how many designs there are available. Below are some common roof designs that are used for a house.

HIP ROOF This design slopes downward to the walls, usually fairly gently. Hip roofs are more difficult to construct, requiring somewhat more complex systems of trusses.

CROSS HIPPED ROOF This complicated design crosses two hip, or hipped, roofs. Cross hipped roofs can be more challenging and expensive to build than other types of roofs. They are great for hurricane regions that get heavy winds.

GABLE ROOF A gable is generally a pitched roof with two slopes. A very triangular design, it allows rain and snow to run off easily.

CROSS GABLE ROOF Simply two or more gable rooflines that are typically perpendicular to each other. Often used for tudor and Cape Cod style houses.

GAMBREL This roof looks more bell-like than triangular when viewed from the side. This design provides the advantages of a sloped roof while maximizing headroom on the building's upper level.

Creators.com/Bob Kast

Amarillo on list of federal courthouses that may close

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - The federal government is considering closing up to 60 court sites across the country, many located in small, rural communities, as part of an effort to cut costs.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show federal court facilities in 29 states could be on the chopping block. Many of the sites are in remote areas and critics say closing them could make it more difficult for people to get to court proceedings.

Six of the 60 court sites that could be closed are located in Arkansas. Texas and Georgia each have five courts on the list of possible closures. Officials are even considering shuttering the location where judges hold federal court in Alaska's capital city, Juneau.

There are 674 federal courthouses and facilities around the country, according to David Sellers, a federal courts spokes-

man. The 60 sites being considered for closure do not have a resident judge. Instead, judges based in larger cities travel to these smaller locations as needed.

In the documents obtained by the AP, the courthouse facilities that could close were ranked based on a variety of categories including cost, usage and location. Of the 10 facilities that seem most likely to be eyed for closure, two are in Arkansas, two are in South Carolina, and the rest are spread out between West Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Virginia, Georgia and Maryland. A facility in Beaufort, S.C., tops the list, followed by the federal court site in Parkersburg, W.V. and one in Harrison, Ark.

"The federal judiciary is going through an aggressive cost containment effort because the money Congress has provided for the operating expenses for the

COURTHOUSES cont. on page 5A

Cinema 4

Movies Showing Friday, March 23 through Thursday, March 29.

The Vow (PG-13)
Fri 7:30 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 7:30

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)
Fri 7:00 9:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

The Hunger Games (PG-13)
Fri 7:00 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

Disney's John Carter (PG-13)
Fri 7:30 10:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, March 23, the 83rd day of 2012. There are 283 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 23, 2011, Academy Award-winning actress Elizabeth Taylor, the violet-eyed film goddess whose sultry screen persona, stormy personal life and enduring fame and glamour made her one of the last of the classic movie stars, died in Los Angeles of congestive heart failure at age 79.

On this date:

In 1775, Patrick Henry delivered an address to the Virginia Provincial Convention in which he is said to have declared, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

In 1792, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G Major (the "Surprise" symphony) had its first public performance in London.

In 1806, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east.

In 1912, Wernher von Braun, the scientist who helped develop the V-2 combat rocket for the Nazis and the Saturn V booster rocket for NASA, was born in Wirsitz, Germany.

In 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy.

In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers.

In 1942, the first Japanese-Americans evacuated by the U.S. Army during World War II arrived at the internment camp in Manzanar, Calif.

In 1956, Pakistan became an Islamic republic.

In 1965, America's first two-person space flight began as Gemini 3 blasted off with astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John W. Young aboard for a nearly five-hour flight.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan first proposed developing technology to intercept incoming enemy missiles. An idea that came to be known as the Strategic Defense Initiative. Dr. Barney Clark, recipient of a Jarvik permanent artificial heart, died at the University of Utah Medical Center after 112 days with the device.

In 1994, Luis Donaldo Colosio, Mexico's leading presidential candidate, was assassinated in Tijuana. Wayne Gretzky broke Gordie Howe's National Hockey League career record with his 802nd goal.

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed a \$938 billion health care overhaul, declaring "a new season in America."

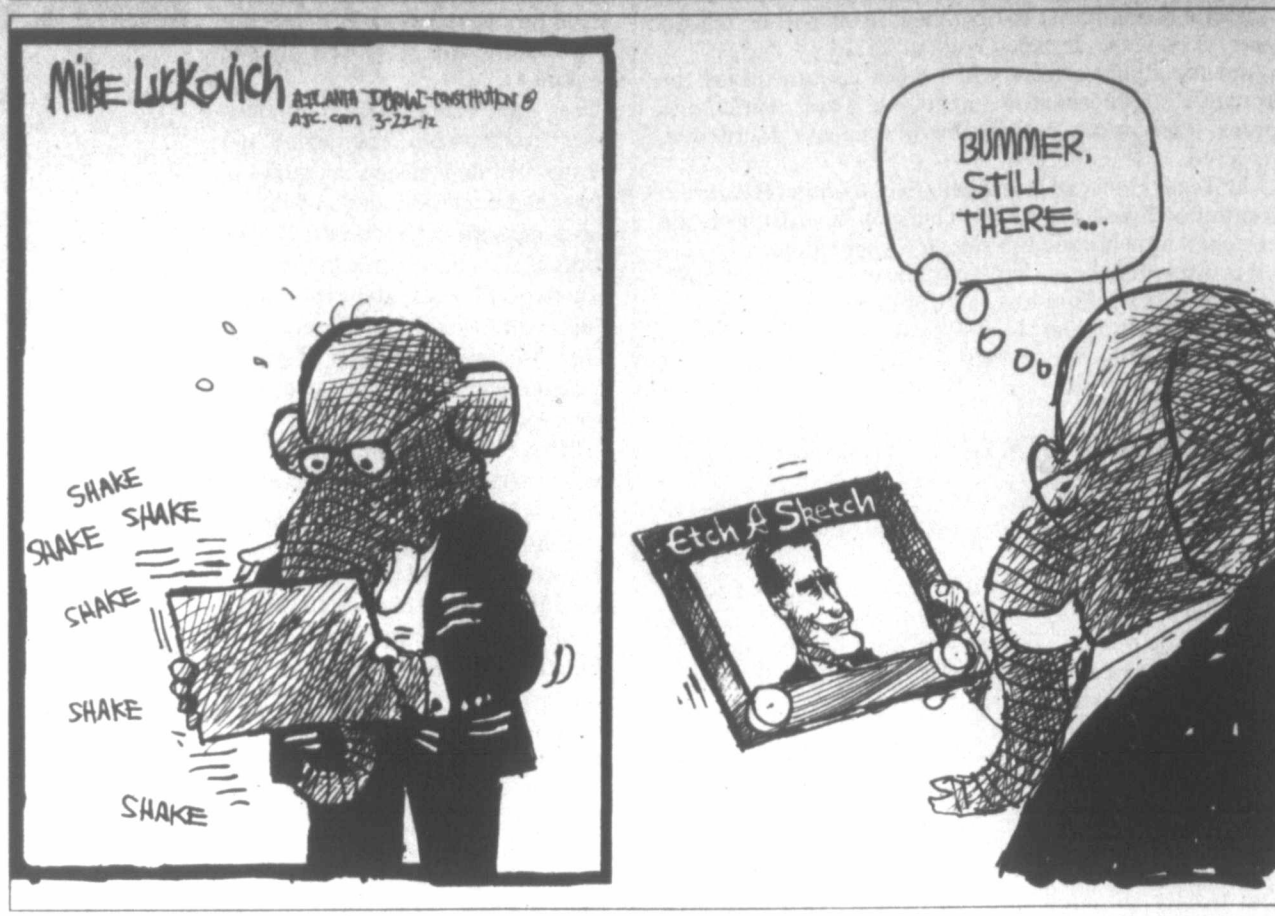
Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, during a visit to South America, pledged cooperation with Peru in the fight against terrorism. Girls in Afghanistan celebrated their return to school for the first time in years. Irina Slutskaya captured her first world title, defeating four-time champion Michelle Kwan at the World Figure Skating Championships in Nagano, Japan. Opera and pop singer Eileen Farrell died in Park Ridge, N.J. at age 82.

Five years ago: The House voted for the first time to clamp a cutoff deadline on the Iraq war, agreeing by a thin margin to pull combat troops out by late 2008. Iranian forces captured 15 British sailors and marines who were searching a merchant ship in the disputed Shatt Al-Arab waterway Persian Gulf; they were held for 13 days. Miss Tennessee Rachel Smith was crowned Miss USA at the pageant in Los Angeles.

One year ago: NATO ships began patrolling off Libya's coast as airstrikes, missiles and energized rebels forced Moammar Gadhafi's tanks to roll back from two key western cities. A blast blamed on Palestinian militants ripped through a bus stop in Jerusalem, killing Mary Jean Gardner, a 59-year-old British tourist and wounding two dozen other people, including five Americans. Army Spc. Jeremy Morlock pleaded guilty at his court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state to the murders of three unarmed Afghan civilians (he was sentenced to 24 years in prison).

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Marty Allen is 90. Sir Roger Bannister, the runner who broke the 4-minute mile in 1954, is 83. Movie director Mark Rydell is 78. Motorsports Hall of Famer Craig Breedlove is 75. Singer-producer Ric Ocasek is 63. Singer Chaka Khan is 59. Actress Amanda Plummer is 55. Actress Catherine Keener is 53. Actress Hope Davis is 48. Comedian John Pinette is 48. Actor Richard Grieco is 47. Country musician Kevin Griffin (Yankee Grey) is 47. Actress Marin Hinkle is 46. Rock singer-musician Damon Albarn (Blur) is 44. Actress-singer Melissa Errico is 42. Rock musician John Humphrey (The Dixons) is 42. Actress Michelle Monaghan is 36. Actress Keri Russell is 36. Gossip columnist-blogger Perez Hilton is 34. Actress Nicholle Tom is 34. Country singer Paul Martin (Marshall Dyllon) is 34.

Thought for Today: "When people say, 'She's got everything,' I've got one answer - I haven't had tomorrow." - Elizabeth Taylor (1932-2011).



The GOP race is now lining up for Romney

DAVID ESPO
Analysis - AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) - It hasn't been pretty, but the Republican establishment, the delegate math, the money and more are increasingly lining up in Mitt Romney's favor in the long and grinding race for the party's presidential nomination.

The race will go on. Romney's most dogged rival, Rick Santorum, is all but certain to claim more victories before the primary season ends.

And an astonishing admission Wednesday by one of Romney's top aides - that primary-season policy positions may be no more lasting than squiggles on a child's Etch A Sketch drawing toy - will hardly reassure Republicans skeptical about his commitment to the cause of conservatism.

"Everything changes" for the fall campaign, said Eric Fehrnstrom, prompting Romney himself to try and limit the political damage. "The policies and the positions are the same," he said.

Still, Romney's Illinois primary victory provided fresh evidence of electoral strength, produced a big delegate haul and paid an overnight dividend in the form of an endorsement from Jeb Bush.

"Now is the time for Republicans to unite behind Governor Romney and take our message of fiscal conservatism and job creation to all voters this fall," said the former Florida governor, the man most often mentioned as a last-minute savior for the party, who could swoop into a deadlocked convention and emerge with the nomination.

Former Sen. Bob Dole, a Romney supporter, summarized Santorum's position from the point of view of a man who lost his first try for the nomination before winning on the second.

"In every race, Romney is going to pick up delegates. Looking back at my race in 1988 ... I should have gotten out, but I just kept going out

there," Dole said. "When you're out of money and you don't have the organization to buy TV, you have to take a hard look at it. As much as you don't want to do that, sometimes you have to face reality."

Much has changed since Dole last ran for the White House in 1996, including the emergence of super PACs that are allowed to raise money in unlimited amounts. That, too, is working to Romney's advantage.

So far, he has benefitted from more than \$32 million in television ads from Restore Our Future, the entity that played the major role in wiping out Newt Gingrich with attack ads in the days before the Iowa caucuses and again in the Florida primary. More recently it has turned its attention to Santorum.

For comparison purposes, the \$32 million is more money than Santorum, Gingrich and Ron Paul plus super PACs supporting them have spent combined on television, and may be the reason Romney has been able to avoid dipping into his own personal fortune so far in the campaign.

Additionally, campaign finance reports released Tuesday showed that big donors to a GOP organization founded by political strategist Karl Rove have boosted their financial support for the Romney-aligned super PAC in recent months.

It's taken months, far longer than anticipated, for Romney to begin to take charge of a race that he began with overwhelming financial and organizational advantages. His record as a Massachusetts governor, particularly his embrace of a requirement for state residents to purchase health insurance, has made it hard for him to win over doubting conservatives in the South and elsewhere.

"Ann drives a couple of Cadillacs," he blurted out in one appearance, one of several utterances that suggest he doesn't quite understand the financial woes facing millions of Americans in the wake of the worst

recession in decades. Yet in Illinois, he won more votes than Santorum and Gingrich put together, a far better showing than the grudging victories he eked out in Michigan and Ohio over the previous few weeks.

Romney's delegate haul was even more impressive. He picked up 41 to 10 for his chief rival. That was hours after an aide to Santorum went on television to predict that the former Pennsylvania senator would win between 24 and 30.

There were more embarrassing moments for the former senator's campaign. The candidate himself backpedaled after saying on Monday that the economy wasn't the main issue of the campaign. "Occasionally you say some things where you wish you had a do-over," he said later.

The calendar, too, is a problem for Santorum, his objections aside.

In a memo released March 11, his campaign said Romney's claims of delegate superiority were based on "fuzzy math. ... Simply put, time is on our side."

In the days since, Romney has won 109 delegates, Santorum 44.

In The Associated Press count, Romney has 563 of the 1,144 delegates needed to clinch the nomination at the convention in Tampa, Fla., next summer. Santorum has 263, Gingrich 135 and Paul 50. That gives the front-runner more than half a pace that will let him seal his victory by the time the primaries end on June 26.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results, and Santorum has every reason to anticipate victory on Saturday in Louisiana and elsewhere.

Yet the mid-range forecast is less than sunny for him.

He is not on the ballot in Washington D.C., effectively conceding 16 delegates in one of three primaries on April 3. Restore Our Future is already advertising on tele-

RACE cont. on page 5A

Q: What's the difference between a squall line and a supercell?

A: A squall line is an organized line of severe thunderstorms, while a supercell is usually just one isolated storm, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Squall lines form where there is unstable air, and often they occur before a cold front is approaching," he explains. "A squall line can be fairly large - from 10 to 30 miles wide and as long as 500 miles or more. They can produce large hail, lightning, heavy rain, strong winds and even tornadoes. Supercells are the largest and most severe class

Weather Whys

Squall Lines and Supercells

of single-cell thunderstorms. They can also produce torrential rainfall, strong winds and one or more tornadoes."

Q: Where are they most likely to occur?

A: Supercells can occur anywhere in the world under the right conditions, McRoberts adds. "But in the U.S., they are most often found in the Great Plains area and from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River," he notes. "Supercells can occur as far north as Canada. Squall lines can also occur almost anywhere, and both squall lines and supercells are frequently found in Europe, especially in Great Britain, where they are called a 'blunk.'"

Weather Whys is a service of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.

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

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- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
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Race

cont. from page 3A

vision in Maryland, the second of that night's three contests.

Wisconsin, the third, is likely to be the next big showdown. Restore Our Future has already sunk \$2.3 million into TV advertising in the state, getting the sort of head start that helped Romney come from behind in Michigan and Ohio, and prevail in Illinois. Santorum has so far spent about \$50,000.

Then comes a three-week break, followed by primaries in Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island and Santorum's home state of Pennsylvania. If Romney and Restore Our Future challenge him there in Pennsylvania, he will be stretched to mount much of a campaign in the other states.

"Saddle up," Santorum exhorted his supporters on Tuesday night after losing Illinois. He spoke not far from the historic battlefield at Gettysburg, Pa., where the tide turned decisively toward the better-equipped and financed Union in the Civil War.

"We're almost there," said Romney.

Feds sue AT&T over Internet calls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department sued Thursday to recover millions of dollars from AT&T Corp., alleging the company improperly billed the government for services that are designed for use by the deaf and hard-of-hearing who place calls by typing messages over the Internet.

The system has been abused by callers overseas who use it to defraud U.S. merchants by ordering goods with stolen credit cards and counterfeit checks. In response, the federal government ordered telecom companies to register their users.

The Justice Department lawsuit said Dallas-based AT&T failed to adopt procedures to detect or prevent fraudulent users from registering. The government said the company feared its call volumes would drop once fraudulent users were prevented from calling on the system. The government reimbursed AT&T \$1.30 per minute for every call on this system.

AT&T has allowed thousands of calls by fraudulent users who registered with fake names or addresses and then billed the government for making the calls, the Justice Department said in court papers filed Wednesday. The department alleged that up to 95 percent of such calls handled by AT&T since November 2009 have been

made by fraudulent users. The department's action came as an intervention to take over a "private whistleblower" lawsuit that was filed in 2010 in federal court in Pittsburgh by Constance Lyttle, a former AT&T communications assistant in one of the company's call centers who made the original allegations about the improper billings. If the government is able to recover money as a result of the lawsuit, Lyttle would receive a portion of it.

The system is intended to help users who are hearing- and speech-impaired. "We will pursue those who seek to gain by knowingly allowing others to abuse this program," said Stuart Delery, the acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's civil division.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the government must ensure the availability of telecom relay services allowing the hearing- or speech-impaired in the U.S. to place phone calls. One such service is Internet Protocol Relay.

The United States has paid millions of dollars for calls by international fraudsters, the Justice Department's complaint says. Many of the calls are made by Nigerian users.

Courthouses

courts has been essentially frozen the last three years," Sellers said in an email.

He said a significant portion of those funds are used to pay rent for federal court facilities and pointed out that the court system is at the beginning of the process of reviewing which courthouse facilities could close.

A committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body for the federal courts, in February asked the 13 circuit judicial councils to review the list and recommend whether to keep the courts without resident judges, Sellers said. They're supposed to get back to the committee by mid-April. The committee will then review the recommendations and forward its report to the Judicial Conference, which could decide whether to close any of the court sites at its September meeting, Sellers said.

He said it's too early to speculate how much could be saved or how many jobs could be lost by the possible closures.

"It would depend on what, if any, facilities are closed, when the closure would occur, the rent on the particular facility, staff located at the facility, other needs in the circuit, as well as many other factors that vary from facility to facility," Sellers said.

The effort to close the sites drew pushback from Judge J. Leon Holmes, the chief federal judge of the Eastern District of Arkansas, who argued that closing court facilities wouldn't make a significant reduction in the federal budget.

"If the federal courts

List of federal court sites targeted for closure

Here is a list of the court sites the federal government is considering closing in 29 states. The government ranked the 60 federal court facilities that could close based on categories including cost, usage and location.

- City - Rank**
 Gadsden, Ala. - 22
 Florence, Ala. - 27
 Selma, Ala. - 44
 Opelika, Ala. - 48
 Fairbanks, Alaska - 15
 Ketchikan, Alaska - 25
 Juneau, Alaska - 37
 Harrison, Ark. - 3
 Batesville, Ark. - 7
 Jonesboro, Ark. - 13
 Pine Bluff, Ark. - 17
 Hot Springs, Ark. - 21
 Helena, Ark. - 34
 Salinas, Calif. - 58
 Grand Junction, Colo. - 43
 Durango, Colo. - 57
 Key West, Fla. - 12
 Dublin, Ga. - 9
 Athens, Ga. - 28
 Waycross, Ga. - 29
 Valdosta, Ga. - 41
 Statesboro, Ga. - 56
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - 11
 Moscow, Idaho - 52

- Joliet, Ill. - 51
 Terre Haute, Ind. - 19
 Council Bluffs, Iowa - 35
 Pikeville, Ky. - 26
 Bowling Green, Ky. - 47
 Salisbury, Md. - 10
 Traverse City, Mich. - 55
 Fergus Falls, Minn. - 23
 Meridian, Miss. - 5
 Hannibal, Mo. - 32
 Bryson City, N.C. - 4
 Wilkesboro, N.C. - 24
 Fayetteville, N.C. - 60
 Minot, N.D. - 38
 Grand Forks, N.D. - 40
 North Platte, Neb. - 53
 McAlester, Okla. - 50
 Lawton, Okla. - 54
 Pendleton, Ore. - 46
 Beaufort, S.C. - 1
 Aiken, S.C. - 8
 Jackson, Tenn. - 16
 Winchester, Tenn. - 20
 Cookeville, Tenn. - 36
 Columbia, Tenn. - 39
 Amarillo, Texas - 30
 San Angelo, Texas - 33
 Lufkin, Texas - 45
 Pecos, Texas - 59
 Wichita Falls, Texas - 14
 Big Stone Gap, Va. - 6
 Newport News, Va. - 18
 Parkersburg, W.Va. - 2
 Clarksburg, W.Va. - 31
 Vancouver, Wash. - 42
 Jackson, Wyo. - 49

close their facilities in these places, the money will quit going from one pocket of the federal government to another pocket of the federal government, but little or no savings to the taxpayers will be seen," Holmes wrote in a letter dated Feb. 23 and sent to local bar associations. "Instead, the taxpayers will be forced to travel longer distances to appear in court as parties, witnesses, or jurors."

Holmes, who is based in Little Rock, specifically spoke against closing the Batesville, Ark. court facility, which ranked seventh on the possible closure list. He said he wouldn't argue for building a new court facility there if the court was starting from scratch. "(B)ut we are not starting from scratch," he wrote in another letter dated March 14. "The building is there, and it is already paid for."

Holmes also pointed to the potential hardships that closing a court facility could mean to Batesville, a city of 10,000 located in a remote part of the state.

"Travel through the mountains in this region of Arkansas is exclusively on two-lane highways," he wrote. "Consequently, the actual driving time from one point to another is much greater than may appear in looking on a map or in calculating distances."

Batesville is about 70 miles from the nearest federal court site in Jonesboro, but that court site is also on the list. It's about 100 miles from Batesville to Little Rock, which has the only federal court site in the Eastern District of Arkansas that isn't on the chopping block.

Holmes also said he was concerned that the possible closures would affect a relatively poor region.

"Many of the persons in the poorer and more remote areas of our state cannot easily travel to Little Rock to attend bankruptcy court or any other proceeding," Holmes wrote.

The push to close small federal court offices is not new. Sellers said the practice of reviewing court facilities that don't have a resident judge goes back to 1997.

Still, some judges have expressed concerns about the renewed effort due to budget concerns this year.

"Although we fought this issue successfully a few years ago, the budget pressures are greater now and the drive within the judiciary to contain costs is much stronger," Holmes wrote in the February letter.

Unemployment benefits weeks decreased from 20 to 13

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has announced that because the state's improving unemployment rate has fallen below the federal law standard for eligibility for a High Unemployment Period (HUP), TWC will begin paying extended benefits at a new maximum rate of 13 weeks beginning April 8, 2012.

This change is the result of Texas' total unemployment rate decreasing to a three-month average below 8 percent, the federal law standard for HUP eligibility. TWC previously provided 20 weeks of extended benefits. After April 8, 2012, individuals who have already received at least 13 weeks of EB will not qualify to receive the remaining balance. Letters will be sent to approximately 35,000 claimants affected by the April 8, 2012 deadline.

Additionally, due to the state's lower unemployment rate, on March 10, 2012, Texas no longer qualified for Tier IV of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC), which paid up to six-weeks of UI benefits.

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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



3-23

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"It starts with 'Once upon a time' 'cause nobody was wearing a watch."

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 24, 2012:

Many of you will have more energy, ideas and direction than you have experienced in many years. If you have a goal or project you have put on the back burner, look at completing it this year. You will learn what is necessary to live your life well and strip away what is frivolous. Money flows for the next few months, but use caution with wild risks. If you are single, don't worry about a lack of suitors. The unexpected nature of your life this year could make a relationship exciting but unstable. If you are attached, the two of you could enjoy a major change in your lives — perhaps a move, new addition or new goal. **TAURUS** could be very possessive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★ You know what negativity can do. You see a clear-cut example of this attitude and its consequences in someone. You might want to help, but only this person can change his or her mood. A little indulgence and good times naturally occur in the afternoon. Tonight: May the party go on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ How you feel in the morning has nothing to do with your soaring spirit and energy by late afternoon. Handle what you must in the morning, and you will be able to make up for lost time. A new insight comes in from out of the blue. Tonight: All smiles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ You might want to approach a personal matter differently than you have in the past. Meet up with a friend for a late brunch, and remain spontaneous. The unexpected seems to happen more often when hanging with friends. Seize the moment. Tonight: Go for something quiet.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ You are in the limelight. Others seem to notice you, no matter where you are. The problem lies in the fact that you have certain responsibilities to attend to. Complete them ASAP. When you are relaxed, you cannot help but have a good time. Tonight: Let the party go on.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★ Make calls in the morning. If you have some traveling or errands to do, use the morning as well. An obligation demands your attention in the afternoon.

You will want to handle this yourself. Everything happens as it should. Tonight: As you wish.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ Keep reaching for something new. You'll discover the power of your imagination, especially when you are teamed up with someone. You just might decide to explore a place you have been wondering about. Tonight: Try new vistas, please.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★ Understand what is going on with a key person in your life. You could be surprised by what this person reveals. Make plans that you both would like. Everything else will fall into place. Tonight: An interesting dinner together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★ If you need to do something specifically for you, do it early. By mid-afternoon, you might not have time. A friend seeks you out with incredibly fun plans. Enjoy what is happening, and stop worrying. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★ A child, loved one and/or new friend asks for your time. How well can you juggle? Plan on a relaxing activity with at least one of them in the late afternoon. You will need and enjoy that downtime after sorting through all your errands and invitations. Tonight: Make it easy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ You will want to slow down the pace a bit in the morning. Remember, this is your weekend, too. When you relax, you will be better prepared to get together with friends. Do not forget a loved one or child when making plans. Tonight: Go somewhere you can enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★ You need to evaluate alternatives more closely. Encourage different approaches to a conversation. Don't hesitate to try out someone's idea. You might find that it works better than you thought. Tonight: Entertain at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Balance your budget, and decide how much energy you have before walking out the door. By midafternoon, because of the care you have taken, you'll have a wonderful time. Join friends or invite a loved one on a special mission involving a surprise. Tonight: Just be yourself.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Marsh bird
 - 1 Disables
 - 6 Crime outing
 - 11 Seething
 - 12 Up there
 - 13 Water softener
 - 14 Pretend
 - 15 Wheel track
 - 16 Formal letter
 - 18 Tough wood
 - 19 Blubber
 - 20 Planning time
 - 21 Plane fixture
 - 23 Plow pioneer
 - 25 Determined
 - 27 Apt. units
 - 28 Corset parts
 - 30 Organ part
 - 33 Finished off
 - 34 Agent, for short
 - 36 Historic time
 - 37 Deliberately underestimate
 - 39 Used to be
 - 40 Unembellished
 - 41 — garde
- DOWN**
- 1 Some babies
 - 2 Kindle
 - 3 Home-making expert
 - 4 LAX guess
 - 5 Genders
 - 6 Gun measure
 - 7 Beame and Burrows
 - 8 Former Supreme Court justice
 - 9 Change over time
 - 10 "Walk Away ___"
 - 17 Okra unit
 - 22 Pot fill
 - 24 Print units
 - 26 Oppres-sion
 - 28 Hot
 - 29 Poivre's partner
 - 31 Marigold color
 - 32 Flock leader
 - 33 Dominant
 - 35 Come in second
 - 38 Life stories
 - 42 Big truck

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Yesterday's answer

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3-23

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

8	4	2	7	5	6	3	9	1
3	7	1	4	8	9	5	6	2
9	5	6	1	3	2	4	7	8
2	8	3	6	7	4	1	5	9
5	1	7	8	9	3	6	2	4
6	9	4	2	1	5	7	8	3
7	3	9	5	2	1	8	4	6
4	2	8	3	6	7	9	1	5
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Level: Advanced

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: Years ago I lost my beautiful wife. We had been married for more than 30 years. I bought a plot at the cemetery for both of us, and she's buried there now.

I have since remarried and have been blessed with another wonderful wife. There are no spaces left next to the existing plot, although I would like to be placed between both my wives when the time comes. Any recommendations? — MR. IN-BETWEEN

DEAR MR. IN-BETWEEN: You have a couple of options. One would be to ask if your cemetery permits "double-depth" burials, in which one vault is placed on top of another. Or, if you wish, upon your demise you could choose cremation for yourself and have your ashes divided and placed with both wives.

I discussed your question with a wonderful lady, Lisa Carlson, executive director of the Funeral Ethics Organization. She's a mine of commonsense information on the subject of death and funerals — a subject many people find difficult to discuss.

Lisa reminded me that years ago, funerals were handled at home and by the community, and children grew up understanding what would happen when

a death occurred. However, as we turned death over to funeral directors, much of that common knowledge has been lost. The average adult plans only one funeral in a lifetime, and few schools teach us what our choices and rights are — or how to save money on funerals.

Readers, the Funeral Ethics Organization publishes free, state-specific pamphlets on the subject of funeral consumer rights. To download one for your state, visit its website, funeralethics.org, or send a business-size SASE to Funeral Ethics Organization, 87 Upper Access Road, Hinesburg, VT 05461, for a print version.

DEAR ABBY: I recently married my boyfriend of five years. Our marriage is only a few months old, and we're not happy. My husband is sweet, but he is absolutely the world's worst communicator. He's an introvert and has a "whatever" attitude about everything. He tells me he can't put his feelings into words. So how can we fix any of our problems?

We also constantly fight about our sex life. I'd appreciate it at least weekly. He doesn't care if we do "it" or not. I have voiced my concern about our sex life, but it doesn't seem to help. I feel

rejected and hurt, and I crave this attention from my husband. I'm an affectionate and attractive young woman — so what gives? — NEEDS ATTENTION IN DALLAS

DEAR NEEDS ATTENTION: Was your husband this way during the five years you were together before the wedding? If he was, you shouldn't have gone through with it because people don't magically change after a trip to the altar.

If he was passionate, attentive and verbal but now has withdrawn, ask him a simple question: "Do you still want to be married to me?" If he can't answer that one, it's time to ask yourself an important question: "Am I better off with him or not?" If the answer is no, accept the fact that it's time to end the marriage.

BANANAGRAMS!

Rearrange the letters of each word below and place them in the blanks so that, together with the two letters that have already been placed, they form a new word.

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Sports

Execution necessary for Harvesters' success in district

Saturday the Pampa Harvesters start their most important stretch of the season, when they visit Perryton. Now, the season may not have started the way Pampa wanted it to, but district gives Pampa a chance to have a stronger finish. For the Harvesters to be successful, they have to execute.



ANDREW GLOVER

In the last four games, the Harvesters are hitting the ball well. I think that can be credited to them changing their focus to putting the ball in play instead of

swinging for home runs. Several players saw their batting average increase in the second half of non-district. Hopefully that trend will continue in district. If Pampa is able to get people on base, its going to put pressure on opposing defenses. With multiple runners on base, it forces the defense to make choices which could lead to mistakes.

For the most part, Pampa's pitchers have done well hitting the strike zone as most of them have a strike percentage of at least 55 percent. Still the Harvesters have some issues, they need to iron out. For starters, Pampa has had an issue hitting opposing batters. This has caused innings to last longer and runners to advance without the swing of the bat.

At times the pitchers have struggled getting the ball to the catcher allowing the opponent to advance on the basepaths without the batter making contact. Pampa is improving on the mound and need to continue that in district. In district-play, the Harvesters are only playing twice a week meaning they will mostly rely on their top two pitchers.

Finally, the Harvesters have to avoid the big inning defensively. In four of the last five, Pampa has had one inning where their opponent has scored four or more runs. This is detrimental because it negates anything positive the offense achieved. In those games, Pampa scored seven, six, seven and eight runs, totals that are high enough to win games. The

key thing Pampa can do is make routine plays. It doesn't matter if the pitcher hits is spot, it matters how the fielder fields the ball. Pampa has greatly decreased its errors and it should help them succeed in district.

The great thing the Harvesters have is a team bond. Every time, I've talked with our players they don't sound like they are playing for a struggling team. It shows they are focused on the bigger picture. Hopefully that bond will help in district if the game gets rough. Pampa can do great things in district. They just have to execute.

Andrew Glover is The Pampa News sports reporter. He can be reached online at aglover@thepampanews.com

Astros seek improvement in final National League season

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Astros lost a franchise-worst 106 games in 2011, so it isn't a surprise that things were shaken up in the offseason.

If Chris Johnson doesn't win the starting job at third base over Jimmy Paredes, the Astros won't have a single player starting on opening day in the position they started at last year.

"We'll see how the position changes come out, how guys play together," Houston manager Brad Mills said. "We're going to have a whole different lineup than we had a year ago on day one, and these guys need to feel comfortable playing next to each other."

New general manager Jeff Luhnow joined the team in the offseason after Ed Wade was fired and vowed that each player would have to earn his starting spot this spring.

The first major move of spring training was moving former staff ace Brett Myers into the closer role. Myers closed for the Phillies in 2007, but has spent most of his career as a starter and was Houston's opening day starter a year ago. He went 7-14 last season.

The Astros needed a new closer after trading Mark Melancon to the Red Sox.

"We had a bunch of starters in '07 and we have

a bunch of starters here," Myers said. "I've always considered myself a team player and I'll do anything to help the team win. If I can help us win ball games every night, we're going to have a lot of fun around here."

Expectations for the Astros are pretty low after the team didn't make any big moves to improve on last year's squad. Luhnow, who came to Houston from St. Louis, isn't deterred.

"Most people are going to say we're not going to compete this year, but I don't believe it," he said. "I think we've got the players and the staff to come out of the gate strong and come out this year, and if we stay healthy I know we've got the talent to do some damage."

New owner Jim Crane bought the team for \$680 million after unsuccessful attempts to buy the Texas Rangers, Chicago Cubs and an earlier attempt to buy the Astros. He, too, is looking for more from Houston in 2012.

"We certainly want to be better than last year," he said. "Jeff won't go out on a limb, but I think if everything clicks, the pitching hangs in there and you stay away from injuries, I think we'll give some teams some very competitive games. We're shooting to improve considerably over last year, 10 to 20 games could make a

big difference."

The sale of the team from Drayton McLane, who had owned it since 1992, was approved in November, months after it was announced. The deal requires that the Astros move from the National League to the American League next season.

Reliever Brandon Lyon, who is trying to bounce back from an injury-filled season, is happy everything with the ownership change is finally over.

"We started talking about the sale of the team two years ago ... I think we finally have a resolution where we can move in some direction," he said. "There was no direction before."

The Astros are excited about the return of catcher Jason Castro, a first-round pick in 2008, who was supposed to move into the starting role last season before suffering a season-ending knee injury in spring training.

He's finally healthy after an injury to his left foot required surgery in December.

"Jason is critical to the future of this team, and all indications are that he's coming along well, recuperating from his injuries," Luhnow said. "He's somebody who can be a leader and who can produce offensively and defensively, and set the right tone for the entire

team."

Veteran Carlos Lee, who is in the last season of a \$100 million contract, will move full-time from left field to first base this season. J.D. Martinez will take over in left field and Jordan Schafer and Brian Bogusevic will take the places of Michael Bourn and Hunter Pence, who were traded near last year's deadline.

Schafer, who has been Houston's leadoff hitter since Bourn was traded, has had a great spring, hitting .391.

Jose Altuve, who did well last season after being promoted from Double-A, will play second base and Jed Lowrie, acquired in the deal for Melancon, is Houston's new shortstop.

"I thought it was a great opportunity for me — new ownership, a new general manager," Lowrie said.

"Obviously, they're going in a new direction and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Veteran lefty Wandy Rodriguez will lead Houston's rotation and Bud Norris and J.A. Happ look to have secured two of the other starting positions. Former World Series MVP Liván Hernández, Zach Duke, Kyle Weiland and Jordan Lyles are vying for the last two spots in the rotation.

Hernández, who was signed to a minor league

contract, believes he still has something left that could help the Astros.

"I still love the game," he said. "I still want to pitch. I'm 37 years old. I know I can still pitch and I don't want to retire. I feel good."

He likes Houston's youth.

"I played in Arizona with a young team," he said. "Washington, too, is a young team. It's fun and I enjoy every moment of it."

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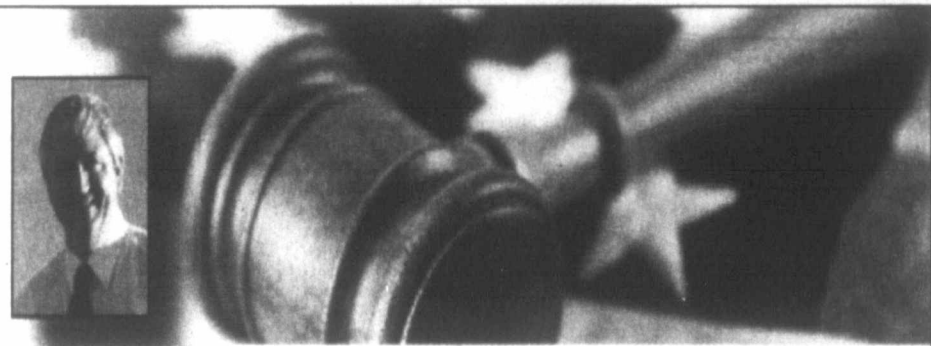
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Parents or students have the right to obtain these records rather than have them destroyed. These records may be needed to assist in obtaining social security benefits, exemptions for college test or other purposes.

We will not destroy these records until April 2nd, 2012. If you wish to have these records, please contact the Special Education Department at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert St., Pampa, TX 79065 or call (806) 669-4607