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TODAY IN SPORTS


Thursday, April 26, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 18

75¢ \$1.50 weekend
Romney coordinates campaign | **Regional ready**
 GOP bid sealed, focus now on general election | **p8** Pampa track athletes ready for upcoming test | **p12**

SQUARE DANCE



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**
Daniel Lee of The Floor Store lays down square tiles to complete a floor at the soon-to-be Enbridge office in the north-west corner of the Coronado Center on Wednesday afternoon.

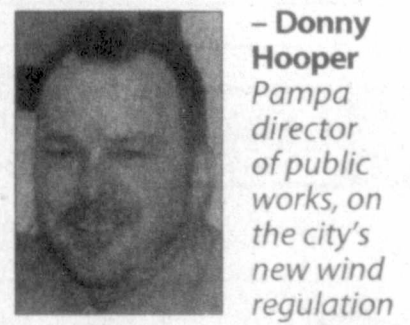
City gives first OK to wind rule

■ *Ordinance would require permit for wind operators*

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

At its meeting Tuesday afternoon at City Hall, the Pampa City Commission approved on first reading an ordinance that would regulate wind energy systems in the city limits. A second favorable vote would cement the ordinance. "A couple years ago, we realized there was probably a need to address wind energy when the wind boom, if you will, was going on," said Donny Hooper, Director of Public Works.

"We feel like it's a good thing to be proactive ahead of time. If (wind development) does start to pick back up, we'll be ready and have an ordinance in place."



- **Donny Hooper**
 Pampa director of public works, on the city's new wind regulation

"We feel like it's a good thing to be proactive ahead of time," he added. "If this does start to pick back up, we'll be ready and have an ordinance in place."

The ordinance requires operators of wind energy operations to submit plans **CITY** cont. on page 7

Accolade expanding scope of support group

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

After hosting a Parkinson's support group for about three years, Accolade Home Care is planning a transition for the group, which is now opening up to geriatric patients with other chronic diseases, including people with Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or stroke patients. The group also welcomes caregivers, both spouses and children of these patients.

The free group meets at 6 p.m. on the

second Thursday of every month at Suite 208A of the Accolade Home Care office. Wheelchairs are available to assist people into the building.

"We asked the group how they would feel about opening it up to other people, and they were excited about doing something like that," said Lindsey Been of Accolade.

"They're open to learning about disease processes and accepting people who are dealing with those situations into the group," she added.

The group provides an outlet for both

education and discussion of chronic disease for seniors and those helping them through their disease. Over some light refreshments, the informal group starts with updates from the members on doctor visits, medication changes or progression of their disease.

"Then we start with our education, whatever we're going to be talking about that night," said Been. "Last month, I did a presentation on emergency preparedness for them. We've had pharmacists come in, Area Agency on Aging come in, and we **SUPPORT** cont. on page 7

Pampa declared 'StormReady' community by weather service

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

If Mother Nature calls the storms upon Pampa this season, the city can at least say it's prepared.

Jose Garcia, National Weather Service meteorologist, was on hand on Tuesday to help recognize Pampa as a StormReady community. Garcia presented a NWS StormReady community sign to a group of city officials, including Brad Pingel, mayor; Fred Courtney, emergency management coordinator; and Richard Morris, city manager.

StormReady, a volunteer program, helps

communities proactively combat severe weather by raising public awareness and improving local hazardous weather initiatives.

For a place to be named a StormReady community, they must meet several predetermined criteria, including maintaining NWS-trained spotter networks, having a 2-hour emergency operations center and placing NOAA weather radios in all locally owned government buildings. There are currently close to 1900 StormReady communities across the country, and now Pampa can count itself among their ranks. "It's definitely an honor," said Krissy

STORMREADY cont. on page 5



photo courtesy of **Charlene Gardner/City of Pampa**

Pampa Mayor Brad Pingel (from left), emergency management coordinator **Fred Courtney** and city manager **Richard Morris** are joined by NWS meteorologist **Jose Garcia** in recognizing the city as "StormReady."

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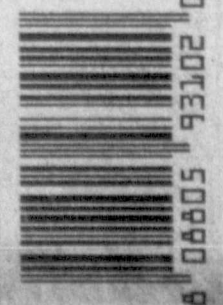
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
		
High 90 Low 57	High 82 Low 55	High 70 Low 44

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. West southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. West wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. East wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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TA MEMBER 2011
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Judge hears BP spill settlement details

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal judge in New Orleans said Wednesday that he is leaning in favor of granting preliminary approval to a proposed class-action settlement that would resolve billions of dollars in claims against BP over the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

After hearing BP and a team of plaintiffs' attorneys outline the proposed deal, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier said he plans to rule within a week. Barbier would hold a "fairness hearing" later this year, possibly in November, before deciding whether to give his final approval.

The proposed agreement is intended to resolve more than 100,000 claims by people and businesses who blame economic losses on the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

"This has been a very impressive effort on the part of counsel ... in terms of getting to where you all are today," Barbier said, noting that litigation over the Exxon Valdez spill took roughly 20 years to resolve. "I did not intend for this case to go on for 20 years, not with me in charge of it."

London-based BP PLC estimates it would pay about \$7.8 billion to resolve these claims, but the settlement wouldn't be capped and likely would be one of the largest class-action settlements ever.

Barbier stressed that his preliminary approval would only mark a "starting point," with objections to the deal to be considered in coming months. The proposal was announced March 2 and is spelled out in hundreds of pages of documents filed last week.

Objections already have begun trickling in. In a court filing earlier Wednesday, a group of commercial fishermen and industry groups said it sees "significant flaws"

in the settlement and claimed it wouldn't protect most fishermen against future risks to fisheries.

BP has agreed to pay \$2.3 billion for seafood-related claims by commercial fishing vessel owners, captains and deckhands. The settlement also would compensate other categories of losses, including lost wages, businesses losses, property damage and damage to vessels that worked on the spill cleanup.

The agreement calls for paying medical claims by cleanup workers and others who say they suffered illnesses from exposure to the oil or chemicals used to disperse it. In addition, BP has agreed to spend \$105 million over five years to set up a Gulf Coast health outreach program and pay for medical examinations.

BP attorney Rick Godfrey said the agreement differs from most other class-action settlements in that claimants will be paid before a judge gives final approval or appeals are exhausted.

"This is full and fair compensation offered now ... not years from now," Godfrey said.

The settlement doesn't resolve separate claims brought by the federal government and Gulf states against BP and its partners on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig over environmental damage from the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

It also doesn't resolve claims against Switzerland-based rig owner Transocean Ltd. and Houston-based **SETTLEMENT** cont. on page 7A

Pampa Ministerial Alliance
 Presents
Fifth Sunday Sing
 Sunday, April 29
First Baptist Church, Pampa
 203 N. West St.
 6:00 pm

Pampa Churches will be presenting an evening of worship through Music, Scripture, and Fellowship.

The public is invited to attend.

Jewell Dean "Judy" Herring, 76

Jewell Dean "Judy" Herring, 76, died April 25, 2012, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Herring was born February 1, 1936, in Wheeler County and had been a resident of Pampa since 1954. She married Robert Herring on July 29, 1950, in Wheeler. He preceded her in death on July 3, 2009. She was a member of CrossPointe Church and was a homemaker.

Survivors include two daughters, Brenda Morris and husband Billy McKeen and Barbara Miller and husband Eddie, all of Pampa; two sisters, Katherine Justice and husband Henry of Hurst, and Linda Jones and husband Randy of Lefors; 15 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Bob Herring in 2007; by a daughter, Sonya Herring; by a sister, Sandra Kiser; and by three brothers, Alfred Ray Ballard, Eddie Ballard and her twin, Harold Dean Ballard.

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










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Herring

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Photos of animals can be viewed online at www.cityofpampa.org.

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Man owes \$2.7 million for wildfire

Expanded pipeline proposed

BOSTON (AP) — A Houston company is looking into expanding an existing pipeline to bring additional supplies of natural gas to southern New England and lower energy costs.

The proposal by Spectra Energy Corp. is still in its earliest stages, and it is uncertain when or if it would get underway.

Spectra officials tell The Boston Globe (<http://bo.st/ikwv0K>) the pipeline would allow the area to further benefit from the boom in natural gas production in Pennsylvania and New York, and estimate increasing pipeline capacity in New England by about 15 percent would save gas and electric customers up to \$651 million a year.

The project would cost about \$500 million to build and \$150 million a year to operate.

Spokeswomen for the region's two largest utilities say they have made no commitments to Spectra.

LBJ daughter, spouse give to center

AUSTIN (AP) — A daughter of former President Lyndon B. Johnson and her husband have given \$1 million to a wildflower center named for her mother.

The University of Texas on Wednesday announced the donation from Luci Baines Johnson and Ian Turpin. The money for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center will be used to develop a \$3.7 million family garden in the couple's name.

Luci Baines Johnson says her mother's dream was that the center would inspire future generations to care for the environment.

Groundbreaking is expected next year on the family garden designed by landscape architect W. Gary Smith.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is a self-sustaining organized research unit of UT.

LBJ died in 1973. The former first lady died in 2007.

Lawmaker charged with barratry

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area state lawmaker who is also an attorney is facing a felony charge accusing him of illegally soliciting court cases.

State Rep. Ronald Reynolds, a Democrat who represents the Fort Bend County area southwest of Houston, was free Wednesday after posting a \$5,000 bond.

He has been charged with barratry, which bars attorneys from directly soliciting clients who have not contacted them.

Reynolds, who is a former associate municipal judge, said the charges are politicized and he will cooperate with prosecutors to prove his innocence.

In a criminal complaint, Reynolds is accused of having another person try to solicit legal work on the lawmaker's behalf from a car accident victim.

That accident victim is another Houston attorney. She declined to comment when reached at her office.

Court lifts order stopping execution

HOUSTON (AP) — The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday lifted a reprieve given to a Texas death row inmate facing execution this week in Huntsville.

Beunka Adams' scheduled Thursday evening lethal injection for a fatal shooting during an East Texas convenience store robbery 10 years ago was stopped Monday by a federal judge in Texarkana. Attorneys contended he had deficient legal help at his trial and in early stages of his appeals.

The Texas attorney general's office appealed the ruling, contending it was improper and that the lower court had no jurisdiction in the case.

A three-judge panel of the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit agreed, overturned the order stopping the punishment and denied Adams' appeals.

Adams' lawyers had additional appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Adams, 29, was one of two men sent to death row for the 2002 abduction and shooting death of 37-year-old Kenneth Vandever. Vandever and two women were abducted during the robbery of a store in Rusk. One of the women was raped and all were shot. The two women survived.

Woman sentenced for smuggling

McALLEN (AP) — Prosecutors in South Texas say an Illinois woman must serve more than 10 years in prison for smuggling methamphetamine in beer bottles.

A federal judge in McAllen on Tuesday sentenced 20-year-old Carolina Avila. A jury in January convicted Avila of four counts related to importation and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Prosecutors on Wednesday did not immediately release a hometown for Avila, who was sentenced to 121 months in prison.

Avila was with her toddler daughter and a male passenger when they were stopped at a border crossing in Hidalgo while driving from Mexico. Prosecutors say the woman declared a case of beer in the minivan.

Customs agents noticed particles in some beer bottles. Authorities determined that a dozen bottles contained a total of about 16 pounds of methamphetamine.

Alligator removed from Bryan

BRYAN (AP) — An unwelcome visitor in a Central Texas city has been put in its place.

Animal control officers have safely removed a 4-foot-long alligator that turned up on a residential street near downtown Bryan.

Police spokesman Officer Jon Agnew says employees with the city's solid waste department on Tuesday reported finding the creature.

WTAW radio (<http://bit.ly/1aP614>) reports the reptile was captured and released into the Navasota River, about 10 miles east of Bryan. Nobody was hurt.

Police aren't sure if the alligator had been a pet or somehow wandered into the heart of the city. Authorities did not immediately identify whether the big critter was male or female.

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — A Texas man has been ordered to pay \$2.7 million in restitution for burning used toilet paper that sparked a wildfire, scorching nearly 83 square miles of a national forest in New Mexico.

Rodrigo Ulloa-Esquivel of El Paso also was sentenced Tuesday to five years of probation and ordered to complete 200 hours of community service.

Ulloa-Esquivel, 30, in October pleaded guilty under a plea agreement to a misdemeanor charge stemming from the April 2011 wildfire. Two other charges in an indictment were dismissed in the deal.

The fire started when Ulloa-Esquivel was with friends near a campsite, and he lit some used toilet paper on fire to keep from leaving behind litter. High winds sent sparks from the burning paper into nearby brush, and Ulloa-Esquivel

and his friends were unable to control the fire in the area known as the Guadalupe Ranger District.

The blaze eventually charred more than 53,000 acres in the Lincoln National Forest, through the Last Chance Canyon in Eddy County, N.M. It burned for several days and caused damage to four structures in the Sitting Bulls Falls Recreation area, according to U.S. Forest Service reports.

After Ulloa-Esquivel and his friends tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire, they left the area without calling the Forest Service or local authorities to report it, authorities said. Ulloa-Esquivel also admitted initially denying knowledge of the fire or that he caused it. He later admitted to U.S. Forest Service personnel how it started, authorities said.

Officials said the estimated cost to suppress the fire

was around \$2.3 million and the initial estimate to repair the damages to structures in the recreational area was \$67,500.

Robin Poague, special agent in charge with the USDA Forest Service's southwestern region, said the country's national forests are among its most precious resources and every visitor has an obligation to act responsibly.

"As evidenced by this wildfire, careless acts can devastate our landscape, and individuals who com-

mit those acts will be held accountable," she said.

Cinema 4

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Friday, April 20 through
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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
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LockOut (PG-13)
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Fri 7:30 10:00
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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
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The Hunger Games (PG-13)
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 26, the 117th day of 2012. There are 249 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 26, 1937, German and Italian warplanes raided the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War, resulting in widespread destruction; estimates of the number of people killed vary greatly, from the hundreds to the thousands. (The raid inspired Pablo Picasso's famous antiwar painting, "Guernica.")

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Va., on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1785, American naturalist, hunter and artist John James Audubon was born in present-day Haiti.

In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Port Royal, Va., and killed. (As he lay dying, Booth looked at his hands and gasped, "Useless, useless.")

In 1909, Abdul Hamid II was deposed as sultan of the Ottoman Empire.

In 1945, Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, the head of France's Vichy government during World War II, was arrested.

In 1952, the destroyer-minesweeper USS Hobson sank in the central Atlantic after colliding with the aircraft carrier USS Wasp with the loss of 176 crew members.

In 1962, the NASA spacecraft Ranger 4 crashed into the moon as planned after failing to transmit images and data.

In 1968, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called "Boxcar."

In 1972, the first Lockheed L-1011 TriStar went into commercial service with Eastern Airlines.

In 1986, a major nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine (then part of the Soviet Union).

In 1992, Moscow saw its first publicly observed Russian Orthodox Easter in 74 years.

In 2000, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

Ten years ago: Robert Steinhilber, an expelled student, went on a shooting rampage at a school in Erfurt, Germany, killing 16 people, plus himself. David Gunn, who had run transit systems in New York City and Washington, was named president of Amtrak, the troubled national rail passenger service.

Five years ago: The Senate joined the House, 51-46, in clearing legislation calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq to begin by Oct. 1, 2007, with a goal of a complete pullout six months later (President George W. Bush later vetoed the measure). Eight Democratic presidential hopefuls gathered in Orangeburg, S.C., for their first debate of the 2008 campaign, during which they heaped criticism on President Bush's Iraq policy. Former White House aide and movie industry lobbyist Jack Valenti died in Washington, D.C., at age 85.

One year ago: An 84-year-old naturalized American from Burundi accused of participating in the 1994 Rwandan genocide went on trial in Wichita, Kan. (While Lazare Kobagaya was convicted of making false statements on immigration forms, the jury deadlocked on whether he'd played a role in the genocide. Federal prosecutors later moved to dismiss all the charges because they'd failed to disclose information about a witness who could have benefited the defense.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress-comedian Carol Burnett is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maurice Williams is 74. Songwriter-musician Duane Eddy is 74. Singer Bobby Rydell is 70. Rock musician Gary Wright is 69. Actress Nancy Lenehan is 59. Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 54. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 52. Actress Joan Chen is 51. Rock musician Chris Mars is 51. Actor-singer Michael Damian is 50. Actor Jet Li (lee) is 49. Rock musician Jimmy Stafford (Train) is 48. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 47. Actress Marianne Jean-Baptiste is 45. Country musician Joe Caverlee (Yankee Grey) is 44. Rapper T-Boz (TLC) is 42. Country musician Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts) is 41. Country musician Michael Jeffers (Pinmonkey) is 40. Rock musician Jose Pasillas (Incubus) is 36. Actor Jason Earles is 35. Actor Leonard Earl Howze is 35. Actor Tom Welling is 35. Actor Nyambi Nyambi is 33. Actress Jordana Brewster is 32. Actress Stana Katic ("Castle") is 32. Actress Marnette Patterson is 32. Actor Channing Tatum is 32. Actor Aaron Weeks is 26.

Thought for Today: "A good scapegoat is nearly as welcome as a solution to the problem." — Author unknown.

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A Frank misdiagnosis on ObamaCare

Representative Barney Frank, who is not seeking re-election, gave a memorable exit interview this week to New York magazine suggesting that President Barack Obama "underestimated, as did Clinton, the sensitivity of people to what they see as an effort to make them share the health care with poor people."

The Democratic Party "paid a terrible price for health care," Frank said. "I would not have pushed it as hard."

Frank's take is self-serving. He argued that Obama should have proposed financial reform first, which is convenient considering that he was chairman of the House Financial Services Committee at the time and would have loved all eyes on his bill.

But the question remains: Is Frank right? We know what Republicans unanimously think. What's surprising is how many Democrats, with the benefit of hindsight and speaking sotto voce, agree with Frank. Although they support the substance of the law, they are appalled by its political fallout and wish they had a do-over. Their thinking was summarized this week in the National Journal by Michael Hirsh, who wrote that by embracing health care reform amid the economic crisis, Obama confused his priorities and took his eye off the ball, much as President George W. Bush did when he invaded Iraq instead of worrying more about al-Qaida.

This analysis has new resonance because of the recent Supreme Court oral arguments over Obamacare (a term, by the way, that the Obama campaign now embraces). Democrats are wondering if it was worth it to lose the House in 2010 and perhaps the White House in 2012 over a bill that may be declared unconstitutional anyway.

The answer is yes. To understand why, we need to be clear about the purpose of politics.

It's not to win elections — hard as that may be to believe in the middle of a campaign. Public approval as expressed in elections is the means to change the country, not the end in itself.

Insuring 30 million Americans and ending the shameful era when an illness in the family meant selling the house or declaring personal bank-



JOE
CONASON

ruptcy? Nothing to sneeze at, whatever the cost to one's political career. Frank is mistaken that the White House underestimated the political price. At various points, Vice President Joe Biden, senior advisor David Axelrod and Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel advised the president to focus entirely on the economy and leave comprehensive health care for another day. "I begged him not to do this," Emanuel told me when I was researching my book about Obama's first year in office.

I asked the president in late 2009 why he overruled his team. He answered: "I remember telling Nancy Pelosi that moving forward on this could end up being so costly for me politically that it would affect my chances" in 2012. But he and Pelosi agreed that if they didn't move at the outset of the Obama presidency, "it was not going to get done."

Obama was right that his political capital would diminish over time. Even if the Democrats had delayed health care and held the House in 2010, their numbers would almost certainly have been reduced. Can you imagine trying to bring it up now or in a second term?

Hirsh argues that Obama should have stayed focused on the economy not for appearances' sake but because it was worse off than he and his closest advisers recognized. This wrongly assumes that he could have done substantively more to spur a rebound or keep the benefits of recovery from skewing toward the top 1 percent.

Liberal critics rightly say that Obama should have had a broader circle that included liberal economists. But their remedy — restructuring of the banks — turned out to be unnecessary for reviving the economy and would have cost, by some estimates, several hundred billion dollars on top of the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

It's important to remember that Obama began his presidency with economic recovery, not health care. In his first month in office, he pushed through a mammoth stimulus package that, contrary to the analysis of Drew Westen and others, was as big as Congress would allow. There was no political appetite for a second stimulus before the first had even kicked in — the period when health care was on the table. In other words, the opportunity costs of health care reform were zero.

As for other priorities, passing the Dodd-Frank financial reform in 2009 would have accomplished nothing except to further slow momentum for health care. In the New York magazine interview, Frank says his bill, which passed in July of 2010, ended up with almost all he wanted anyway.

The other possible legislative achievement — pushing a cap-and-trade energy bill before health care — was a nonstarter. Even after that bill cleared the House in mid-2009, Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, made clear that it would never become law.

The "eye off the ball" critics have a point, but it relates to the second year of Obama's presidency, not the first.

Just as Richard Nixon had his "18.5-minute gap" on the Watergate tapes, so Obama had his 18-month gap, from the signing of the Affordable Care Act in March 2010 until the introduction of his jobs bill in September 2011.

If the president had pivoted more quickly from health care to a jobs agenda and signed a bill before the midterms, he would be better off politically and might even have helped the economy a bit.

But let's not pretend health care reform was a fatal Iraq-style distraction from the main event. Instead of costing thousands of lives, it will potentially save many more with its incentives for preventive care, among other historic provisions.

The public might not appreciate it yet, but Obamacare took leadership and guts from the president whose name it bears.

Joe Conason is the editor in chief of NationalMemo.com.

Exiting presidential race can be painful

TOM RAUM
Associated Press

Dropping out is hard to do. It's been especially hard for Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul.

Mitt Romney is claiming victory after his Tuesday sweep of five more GOP primaries. Few disagree. He has an insurmountable lead. He's expected to clinch the nomination next month. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus on Wednesday anointed him "our party's presumptive nominee."

After remaining in the race against all odds, Gingrich will formally end his campaign next Tuesday and likely endorse Romney, advisers to the former House speaker told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Earlier, Gingrich acknowledged

Romney would win but quizzically suggested he'd keep campaigning as a "citizen."

Paul, a congressman from Texas, says he'll stay until all delegates are counted, suggesting it isn't over until it's over.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., who exited two weeks ago, said Tuesday night the former Massachusetts governor "is going to be the nominee" and that he would "support the nominee." That wasn't quite a formal endorsement, but the closest he's come.

Santorum said he'll sit down with Romney representatives soon.

All the other former GOP rivals have endorsed Romney.

It's never easy for presidential candidates to throw in the towel. They've invested so much time and

energy into the pursuit.

That was certainly true last time, when then-Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton remained in the Democratic primary long after she had any hope of winning.

Obama mathematically clinched the nomination on June 3, 2008, and Clinton endorsed him five days later. But their first joint appearance was not until June 27 at a carefully choreographed rally in Unity, N.H.

Only one loser has publicly voiced what many failed presidential contenders have probably thought. After finishing second to Jimmy Carter in seven 1976 primaries, Rep. Morris K. Udall of Arizona famously declared, "The people have spoken, the bastards."

Rubio elevating profile amidst vice presidential speculation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Marco Rubio outlined his vision Wednesday of a more muscular American foreign policy, the latest salvo in his effort to elevate his profile as Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney begins his search for a running mate.

The Florida Republican's half-hour speech at the centrist Brookings Institution came four weeks after he endorsed Romney and two days after campaigning with him. He also recently has spoken of a new immigration proposal that breaks ranks with some in his own party.

Both in Washington and around the country, the 40-year-old Cuban-American is pushing himself forward as a fresh conservative. He has remained coy about whether he would join Romney's ticket this November, but his careful criticism of President Barack Obama's leadership as well as the isolationist tendencies among some Republicans reinforced the image he has projected of himself as a tough conservative but one moderate enough for national election.

"Global problems do require international coalitions. On that point this administration is correct," Rubio told a crowd of almost 200 academics, policymakers and diplomats. "But effective international coalitions don't form themselves. They need to be instigated and led, and more often than not, they can only be instigated and led by us. And that is what this administration doesn't understand."

Introduced by Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential candidate in 2000, Rubio didn't address whether he's seeking the same office. The freshman lawmaker has frequently been mentioned as a potential choice for Romney and a Republican Party struggling to improve its standing with Hispanic voters. A recent Pew Research Center survey showed Obama with a commanding 67 percent to 27 percent advantage over Romney with Hispanics.

Rubio provided a hawkish yet sober prescription for American leadership in conflicts from the Middle East and Asia to Latin America. He went beyond general Republican opposition to many of Obama's policies and avoided the outlandish claims that peppered Republican presidential primary debates last year.

He lamented "liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans" who championed U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and opposed involvement in Libya, and said

Obama should have done even more to advance the cause of the rebels who toppled Moammar Gadhafi.

Yet he voiced support for Obama's statements against a nuclear-armed Iran and praised President George W. Bush's aid efforts in Africa and President Bill Clinton's decision to intervene in Kosovo without a U.N. mandate. And he recounted cooperating with Democratic senators to raise pressure on human rights abusers and backsliding democracies from Syria to Nicaragua, standing up to the isolationist camps in both parties.

"Today, in the U.S. Senate, on foreign policy, if you go far enough to the right, you wind up on the left," Rubio said, positioning himself in the moderate center.

It's a message that could strengthen his vice presidential appeal. After a bruising primary campaign that saw Romney forced into addressing divisive social policy questions and stress his emerging conservative views over his record as a moderate Massachusetts governor, he must now pivot back to the center for the general election.

A married father of four who defeated a popular ex-governor to become senator, Rubio's good looks, Latino heritage and conservatism give him obvious star power in the Republican Party. After a first year spent mainly hunkering down on senatorial work and avoiding the limelight, like Hillary Rodham Clinton a dozen years ago, he now appears to be positioning himself as a party leader.

Even if he stays out of this presidential race and Romney loses, Rubio would presumably be among the GOP front-runners for 2016. He'd be 45 and a six-year veteran of the Senate by then, with ample time to shape his public persona. And the Hispanic share of the vote will only increase in the meantime.

Rubio's immigrant family story received scrutiny with his claim that his parents, like hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans in Florida, left the island after Castro's 1959 revolution. But unlike many exiles, Rubio's parents had returned to Cuba briefly in the early 1960s but came back to the U.S. to stay. A new issue emerged this week: Federal records show an immigration judge ordered Rubio's grandfather deported to Cuba in 1962. Pedro Victor Garcia eventually was allowed to stay in the U.S. when the Cuban Adjustment Act was passed in 1966. His status during the four intervening years remains unclear.

Rubio's efforts to find compromise on immigration leg-

islation may bolster his — if not the party's — image with Hispanic voters. Rubio's bill would allow young illegal immigrants to remain in the United States but stops short of citizenship, carving out a middle ground between the Obama-supported "DREAM Act" and Republican lawmakers who've advocated increased deportation.

The measure would permit young illegal immigrants who came to the U.S. with their parents to apply for non-immigrant visas. They would be allowed to stay to study or work and obtain a driver's license but would not be able to vote. They later could apply for residency, but they would not have a special path to citizenship.

Rubio on Wednesday didn't connect his immigration proposal with his larger foreign policy vision. But he stressed greater American engagement globally and a clear rejection of the argument that "it is time to focus less on the world and more on ourselves."

"What happens all over the world is our business," Rubio said. "There is no one else to hand off the baton to, even if it were wise to do so. On the most difficult transnational challenges of our time, who will lead if we do not? The answer, at least today, is that no other nation or organization is willing or able to do so."

A reported threat against Rubio is under investigation by the U.S. Capitol Police force. Capitol Police Lt. Kimberly Schneider said Wednesday she could not provide details of the investigation. Rubio's office and the FBI declined to comment.

StormReady

Scotten, NWS warning coordination meteorologist. "It's great to recognize the proactive nature that Pampa has taken to help protect its citizens."

Pampa was recognized for its work in getting ahead of the storm activity that often plagues the Texas Panhandle in the spring and summer months.

"Obviously, tornadoes and severe

thunderstorms are the primary focus of the NWS Amarillo StormReady program," said Scotten. "We hope many other Panhandle communities will apply and work towards gaining StormReady recognition just like Pampa."

Pampa is the 12th community in the Panhandle to earn the StormReady label.

"I think the motto here in the

Texas Panhandle is not if we're going to get (severe weather), it's more like when," Scotten said. "I think most emergency management coordinators realize that and want to be proactive and make sure that their community and county prepares for the disaster. We saw what happened in Woodward, Okla., and that wasn't too far from home. That's for sure."

cont. from page 1



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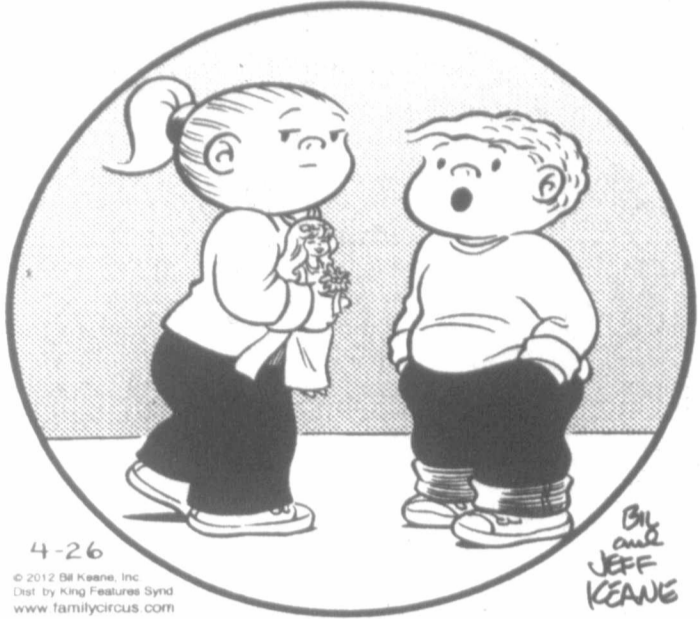
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



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"Mommy! Dolly says when I get married I HAFTA kiss the bride!"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 27, 2012:

This year you'll skip over confusion through a desire to really see the facts. Misunderstandings will become less common if you are willing to confirm the conversation, interaction or plans. You'll empower yourself through this clarification, and others will respond in a most enthusiastic manner. If you are single, you could meet someone significant at any given moment. In fact, you might have two opportunities to encounter a potential sweetie. If you are attached, your relationship benefits from your clarity and optimism. Let the warmth evolve between you. **CANCER** accepts you as you are.

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)
★★★★ Confusion earmarks a personal matter. You are able to sort fact from fiction with relative ease. An investment involving your home and/or your finances might be necessary. Check out your options carefully. Tonight: Home is where the heart is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Keep asking, if you do not get your question answered. You'll need to choose different words or a different entry point. Your ability to solve problems emerges. Positive thinking emanates from you and will draw strong results. Tonight: Visit with friends over munchies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your instincts guide you with your finances. Your ability to move past issues earmarks your interactions. When someone is as confident as you are, flubbing up becomes less likely. Listen to an offer, but you might not want to commit just yet. Tonight: Count your change. Be careful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You can overcome nearly any obstacle. Your instincts will point you to the correct action or decision. Sort through mixed messages with a little skepticism, and you will know what to do. Tonight: You are the lead actor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Observe everything you want. Make judgments if you like, but still be discreet at this point. Follow your instincts with regard to a respected figure in your life. This person will be more than pleased

by your actions. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Friends surround you. Even people you consider to be acquaintances will demonstrate unusual understanding and support. Seek out an expert or someone who knows more than you when trying to make a decision. Tonight: Only where people are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Everyone asks for your support or opinion. Opportunities emerge from out of the blue, but you might not want to jump on the bandwagon just yet. Discuss an important financial matter or someone's involvement in an important matter. Tonight: A force to behold.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep seeking out more information. You actually might have to visit a loved one to gain the perspective you seek. Someone close to you demonstrates a great deal of caring. You do not need to say or do anything. Tonight: An odd invitation or idea works.

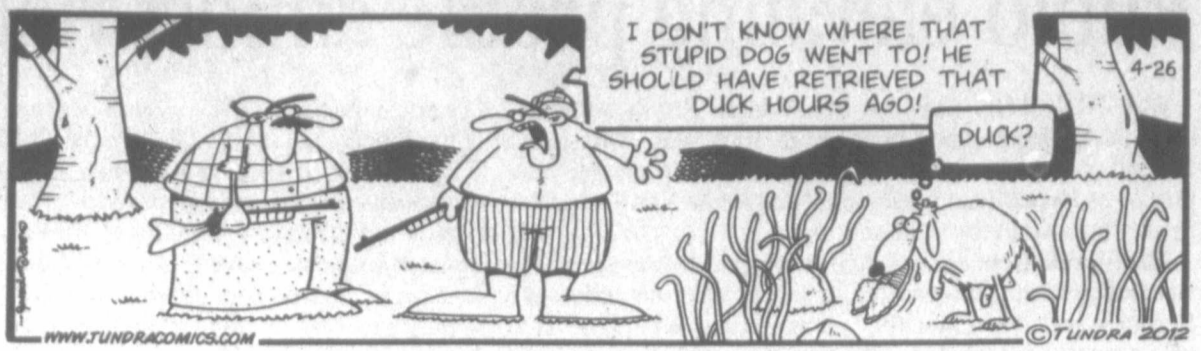
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Someone you associate with clearly knows what he or she wants. Figure out a way that you both can have what you want. Your ability to move past complications is enhanced. Use some of your excess energy or stress to start exercising more. Tonight: With someone special.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Defer to others, and recognize that everyone needs his or her time in the limelight. You can afford not to be on center stage all the time. Free up your schedule for an inspiring brainstorming session or other creative venture. Tonight: Let the weekend start in style.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might be hard-pressed to stick to routine, which is not your strong suit anyway. Others seem to tap into your knowledge or seek out your opinion. Screen your calls if you want to follow your schedule. Tonight: Do what you must.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You are able to move past a problem quickly, as long as you use your imagination as a resource. You are easily able to draw out others, especially one person who could be unusually tense. You might want to continue this conversation later. Tonight: Add some spice to your life.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Support

cont. from page 1

always try to either provide a speaker or an education topic for them. After that, we just visit."

With an open discussion format, group members are welcome to share experiences or ask any questions they may have.

"The fact that they're with their peers, they're with other patients and other caregivers that are struggling with the same diseases they have, or just the same problems you

have when you're dealing with disease, (is huge)," said Been. "They can just talk it out, just share the issues they have, the problems they're having. There's no answer to it a lot of times. It's just a matter of being able to get it off your chest and know that someone has been there, and I think that is key for that group."

For more information on the support group, people may contact Been at 806-665-9700.

City

cont. from page 1

to obtain a permit and to provide notice to Xcel Energy of their plans, while placing height and sound level limitations on turbines.

Hooper said that the city has already had inquiries regarding its wind energy policy, and he expects that to increase in the near future.

"Once the transmission lines come and the grid opens up a bit and there's transmission to get the power moving, I think it will pick back up," he said.

The commission also gave the final go-ahead to a curfew for minors under 17. Lasting from midnight to 6 a.m., the ordinance extends a curfew that was set to expire in May.

In other business, commissioners:

- declared surplus property;
- approved the List of Disbursements;
- approved 18 bids on tax delinquent property.

Settlement

cont. from page 1

cement contractor Halliburton. Barbier has scheduled a May 3 conference to discuss plans for a possible trial on the other claims.

The April 20, 2010, blowout of BP's Macondo well triggered an explosion that killed 11 rig workers and unleashed a gusher that spewed more than 200 million gallons of oil.

In the aftermath, BP created a \$20 billion fund to compensate commercial fishermen, property owners, hotels and other tourism-driven businesses that claimed they suffered economic damages.

The Gulf Coast Claims Facility processed more than 221,000 claims and paid out more than \$6 billion from the fund before a court-supervised administrator took over March 8. The administrator, Patrick Juneau, says claimants have received more than \$134 million during the transition period as of April 6.

The settlement excludes certain types of businesses, including financial institutions, casinos and racetracks, as well as losses allegedly caused by the federal government's temporary moratorium on deepwater drilling.

Staying out of the wrong hands

Dog Talk with Uncle Matty



MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS
Creator's Syndicate

Every once in a while, I get a message from a reader that reminds me to remind you of one very important thing: Dog training is an unlicensed industry.

Anyone can hang a shingle and call themselves a dog trainer, a dog behaviorist or a dog psychologist. Your best defense is some solid 411. It's up to you to ensure your dog doesn't end up in the wrong hands — hands like these:

We adopted a puppy last year, and ever since we brought him home, he has been nipping and biting. We met with a woman who trains dogs, and she said it could be an issue. She advised us to pinch his lips against his teeth as soon as he nips to show that it hurts. It doesn't faze him at all. He jumps up on us, lunges at us and bites. He is a good dog otherwise.

This is just one example of the bad training advice that's out there. You might hear it from your neighbor, your groomer or your own mother. But the most sinister version of bad advice is that which comes from a "professional trainer" who professes to "care about animals" and then suggests or performs any of the following "techniques":

— the rolled-up newspaper as a swatting device for any part of

- your dog's anatomy
- rubbing his nose in his own mess
- yelling
- pointing
- hitting
- spanking
- stepping on his paws to prevent jumping

- holding his mouth closed to prevent barking
- biting him back to show him what it feels like
- humping him to show him I have no idea what
- pulling his tail
- forcing him onto his back and pinning him to the ground
- isolating him
- depriving him of food or water
- and, clearly, pinching his lips against his teeth.

Everything on this list is animal abuse dressed up as dog training. Dogs don't learn this way. Well, they don't learn what you want them to learn. Instead, they learn to fear you, to be suspicious of you, to guard against you, to brace themselves when they see you coming or even go on the offensive.

No reputable trainer would employ or advocate the use of any of these tactics with the goal of educating a dog.

Next time you're shopping for a dog trainer, first do a little research and think about how you'd like your dog to be treated during the training process. Consider your dog's personality — shy, effusive, aloof, dominant — and think twice about a trainer who doesn't consider it, as well. You don't teach a shy dog the same way you would a dominant dog.

The tone of voice, the physicality and the actual tools a trainer uses will vary from dog to dog based largely on temperament and personality.

Here are some things to discuss with potential dog trainers before you even schedule an in-person consultation:

— Do you have any recent references I can contact?

— What is your philosophy on dog training? You're looking for a value statement here.

— How do you motivate dogs to learn new behaviors? Food? Fear? Intimidation? Positive reinforcement? Personally, I believe in motivating dogs with lots of love, praise and affection.

— Ask whether they have experience either developing or discouraging any particular behaviors that apply to your situation.

— Ask about their history as a dog trainer — education, experience, failures, proudest moments — and listen with an ear for whether this person is a professional trainer or someone who "grew up with dogs."

— Finally, ask them how they work with dog owners. A lot of dog training boils down to human training.

The problem with a bad dog trainer is that they could do so much more than simply fail to deliver. They could make it worse. Much worse.

Woof!

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



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Nomination sealed, Romney moves to coordinate campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day after claiming the title of Republican presidential nominee, Mitt Romney moved aggressively Wednesday to coordinate with the Republican National Committee to intensify his fight against President Barack Obama. One-time bitter GOP rivals looked to be coalescing behind the former Massachusetts governor.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus marked the transition Wednesday by proclaiming Romney the party's "presumptive nominee." Romney's campaign also appointed several senior staff members to work on an informal takeover of the committee's national infrastructure.

"We will ensure that our finance, political and communications teams are fully synchronized," Priebus said. "I am excited that these two top-notch operations will start to integrate and present a unified team to defeat Barack Obama."

At the same time, fading Republican contender Newt Gingrich signaled that he would likely follow Rick Santorum out of the race and called on the GOP to unite behind Romney.

Aides confirmed that Gingrich will leave the race next week and said he was likely to endorse his one-time rival.

The dramatically shifting landscape comes as Romney refocuses his efforts on challenging Obama, raising money for the battle ahead and reconciling with a divided Republican Party.

"Tonight is the start of a new campaign," Romney said Tuesday night as he celebrated a sweep of five primaries. He blasted Obama as a man whose tenure has been marked by "false promises and weak leadership" in a time of economic struggle.

The contests were the first since Santorum conceded the race, and the former Pennsylvania senator said he intended to sit down with Romney's representatives on Wednesday and with Romney himself in the next week or two.

"Mitt Romney is going to be the nominee," Santorum told CNN, "and I'm going to support the nominee."

Romney was attending fundraisers Wednesday and Thursday to prepare for what may be the most expensive presidential contest in the history of American politics. He exuded confidence

Tuesday night, but faces a 10-to-1 cash disadvantage in a general election matchup against the Democratic president.

Romney has at least six closed-door fundraisers in two days in New York and New Jersey. They may be among his final private meetings with donors, according to campaign officials who confirmed that Romney would begin opening some finance events to reporters as early as next week. The officials requested anonymity to discuss internal decisions.

The move would follow an embarrassing episode in which reporters outside a closed fundraiser in Palm Beach, Fla., overheard Romney sharing previously undisclosed details about his tax plan. Romney has faced growing calls for transparency in his role as the GOP's likely candidate.

One campaign official said Romney would probably begin inviting a small group of reporters into larger fundraisers, particularly those in which he makes remarks. That's largely the policy Obama follows.

While Romney essentially declared the beginning of the general election Tuesday night, he has been free to focus on Obama

since Santorum suspended his campaign two weeks ago. That ended a nasty primary battle that took a heavy financial toll and prevented Romney from stockpiling cash to use against his Democratic opponent.

The process of formally integrating his campaign with the RNC had already been under way.

Three Romney advisers spent two days at an annual state party gathering in Arizona last week to start laying the groundwork for the effort. Longtime Romney confidante Ron Kaufman, also an RNC member, organized that effort and will continue to serve in such a role.

Republican operative Brian Jones, a veteran of John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign, will take the lead on coordinating between the two entities. Kevin Madden, who was Romney's spokesman in 2008, will advise the communications team.

Despite Gingrich and Santorum's apparent shifts, it remained unclear whether grassroots conservatives are ready to embrace Romney.

Gingrich and Santorum aggressively questioned his conserva-

tive credentials during the primaries with Santorum at one point declaring Romney the worst candidate to face Obama. But asked Tuesday night on CNN if Romney was "the right guy" to represent the Republican Party, Santorum said he was.

Romney's success will depend, at least in part, on his ability to compete financially with Obama.

The Republican's campaign had about \$10 million in the bank at the end of March, according to federal filings. Obama reported having more than \$104 million in his account; he'd already spent \$90 million on the general election.

Romney was eager to turn the political page after Tuesday's primary wins in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware.

"After 43 primaries and caucuses, many long days and not a few long nights, I can say with confidence — and gratitude — that you have given me a great honor and solemn responsibility," he told supporters gathered in New Hampshire. He urged all who are struggling in a shaky economy to "hold on a little longer — a better America begins tonight."

Gingrich to terminate debt-laden presidential bid next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newt Gingrich began taking steps Wednesday to shut down his debt-laden White House bid, setting the stage to endorse one-time rival Mitt Romney next week and rally Republicans behind their apparent nominee.

Gingrich had a friendly telephone conversation Wednesday with Romney and had started planning an event where he would throw his support behind the likely nominee, Gingrich spokesman R.C. Hammond said. The pair agreed to work together to unite conservatives against President Barack Obama.

"It's clear Romney is the nominee and the focus should be on defeating Obama. We should not focus on defeating ourselves," Gingrich told disappointed supporters in Kings Mountain, N.C., the morning after Romney tightened his grip on the nomination by sweeping primary contests in five states.

Gingrich also telephoned Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus and supporters, such as Texas Gov. Rick Perry, in states with upcoming primaries to inform them of the decision he had been hinting at for days.

Gingrich had been under pressure for some time to leave the race and clear a path for Romney.

"You have to at some point be honest about what's happening in the real world as opposed to what you would like to have happened," he told supporters at a suburban Charlotte, N.C., restaurant.

Gingrich declined to comment when

asked about his plans multiple times during the Kings Mountain stop.

"There are times when the mountain gets bigger than your ability to climb it," he said.

The White House acknowledged that the contest had come down to Obama and Romney.

"There seems to be a general acknowledgment that the process has moved to that stage," press secretary Jay Carney told reporters traveling with the president.

As the White House ratchets up its focus on Romney, Gingrich will shift to helping Republican candidates across the country, paying off more than \$4.3 million in campaign debt and rebuilding his reputation among conservatives.

Gingrich's campaign tested conventional wisdom from the beginning. Could the 68-year-old grandfather — a politically divisive figure shamed by an ethics probe and subsequent reprimand, pushed out of congressional leadership and saddled with marital scandal — find acceptance among cultural conservatives?

His campaign was full of contradictions. He pointed to his 20 years as a congressman from Georgia, including four as House speaker, and claimed a political kinship with President Ronald Reagan. Yet he also contended to be an outsider and anti-establishment candidate.

While arguing for a less-intrusive federal government and dramatically lower spending and taxes, he promoted pro-

grams and initiatives with murky price tags, including establishing a colony on the moon and allowing younger workers to have private retirement accounts backed by the government.

He sought support from cultural conservatives even though he had married three times and committed adultery.

Gingrich's campaign lacked money and organization as it got under way, a problem that contributed to his failure to get on the ballot in Virginia, where he lives. Observers questioned whether the famously bombastic ex-congressman could maintain the message discipline needed for a successful national campaign. Within days of his formal announcement on May 11, 2011, he provided ample reason to think he could not.

First, Gingrich criticized a conservative-backed plan for revamping Medicare as promoting "radical change" and "right-wing social engineering," drawing an intense backlash from Republicans. He then grudgingly acknowledged that he and his wife, Callista, had a \$500,000 credit account at the jeweler Tiffany and Co. but proclaimed "we are very frugal." Within weeks, the couple embarked on a cruise in Greece, which led to a mass exodus of campaign staff amid grumbling that he wasn't serious enough about his campaign.

Observers counted Gingrich out and considered him the victim of a self-inflicted implosion. At times during the summer and fall his campaign appeared to be more about selling his books and

DVDs than running for the White House. His confrontational responses during debates — he often criticized the news media as well as Obama — played to conservatives who were eager to see Gingrich on stage with Obama.

Gingrich placed a distant fourth in the leadoff Iowa caucuses and repeated that showing in New Hampshire. Other candidates — Tim Pawlenty, Herman Cain, Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry, Jon Huntsman — dropped out before South Carolina voters went to the polls in January. Gingrich stayed in with the hope of becoming the leading alternative to Mitt Romney.

Gingrich found the reversal his campaign needed in South Carolina, site of the South's first primary. Defeating Romney there energized his campaign, but it invigorated Romney, too. He quickly turned his unmatched financial resources toward a negative TV campaign against Gingrich in Florida.

Romney won Florida's primary and Gingrich declared he would stay in the race through to the national convention in Tampa, Fla., in August — a declaration he continued to make as he racked up loss after loss in Nevada, Colorado, Minnesota, Maine, Arizona and Michigan. He wasn't on the ballot for Missouri's nonbinding primary.

Gingrich's strategy was to focus on Southern states, particularly Georgia. Gingrich did win Georgia, but it was one of only two victories he would achieve.

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Supreme Court hints at OK in Arizona immigration case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bucking the Obama administration, Supreme Court justices seemed to find little trouble Wednesday with major parts of Arizona's tough immigration law that require police to check the legal status of people they stop for other reasons.

But the fate of other provisions that make Arizona state crimes out of immigration violations was unclear in the court's final argument of the term.

The latest clash between states and the administration turns on the extent of individual states' roles in dealing with the nation's 11 million illegal immigrants. Immigration policy is essentially under the federal government's control, but a half-dozen Republican-dominated states have passed their own restrictions out of frustration with what they call Washington's inaction to combat an illegal flood.

Parts of laws adopted by Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah also are on hold pending the high court's decision.

Civil rights groups say the Arizona law and those in some other states encourage racial profiling and ethnic stereotyping, and debate over such laws could have an impact on this fall's elections. More than 200 protesters gathered outside the court, most of them opposed to the Arizona law.

However, in an unusual comment, Chief Justice John Roberts made clear at the outset of the administration's argument Wednesday that the court was looking only at state-versus-federal power, not the civil rights concerns that already are the subject of other lawsuits. "So this is not a case about ethnic profiling," Roberts said.

That matter dealt with, both liberal and conservative justices reacted skeptically to the administration's argument that the state exceeded its authority when it made the records check, and another provision allowing suspected illegal immigrants to be arrested without warrants, part of the Arizona law aimed at driving illegal immigrants elsewhere.

"You can see it's not selling very well," Justice Sonia Sotomayor told Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr.

Verrilli tried to convince the justices that they should view the law in its entirety, and as inconsistent with federal immigration policy. He said the records check would allow the state to "engage effectively in mass incarceration" of immigrants lacking documentation.

He said the law embodying Arizona's approach of maximum enforcement conflicts with a more nuanced federal immigration policy that seeks to balance national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, human rights and the rights of law-abiding citizens and immigrants.

But Roberts was among those on the court who took issue with Verrilli's characterization of the check of immigration status, saying the state merely wants to notify federal authorities it has someone in custody who may be in the U.S. illegally. "It seems to me that the federal government just doesn't want to know who's here illegally and who's not," Roberts said.

Verrilli did not mention Wednesday that the administration has deported nearly 400,000 people a year, far more than previous administrations, although the information was included in written submissions to the court.

The other provisions that have been put on hold by lower federal courts make it a state crime for immigrants not to have registration papers and for illegal immigrants to seek work or hold jobs. Arizona's Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, who signed the law two years ago, was at the court Wednesday.

Arguing for Arizona, Paul Clement said the state law mirrored federal immigration law and that the state it took action because, with its 370-mile border with Mexico, Arizona "bears a disproportionate share of the costs of illegal immigration."

But Roberts expressed unease with the state's focus on illegal workers. "The State of Arizona, in this case, is imposing some significantly greater sanctions," he said.

Alone among the justices, Antonin Scalia appeared ready to uphold the entire law, which he described as an effort by Arizona to police its borders.

When Verrilli said that Arizona's immigration law could raise foreign policy concerns, especially with Mexico, Scalia said, "So we have to enforce our laws in a manner that will please Mexico. Is that what you're saying?"

Outside the courthouse, more than 200 protesters gathered. The law's opponents made up a clear majority of the crowd, chanting and carrying signs such as "Do I Look Illegal To You?" Some shouted "shame" at Brewer when she emerged from the building after the argument.

Brewer told reporters she was "very, very encouraged" by the justices' questions.

Republicans have far outpaced Democrats in pushing tough anti-immigration laws, posing potential political problems in some states for GOP candidates including Mitt Romney. The Republicans' aggressive stand has alienated many Hispanic voters, one of the electorate's fastest-growing segments.

President Barack Obama won two-thirds of the Hispanic vote in 2008, and hopes to do better this fall. In the GOP primary contests, Romney took the harshest anti-illegal immigration stance among the top contenders, but he has had little to say lately on the issue. Romney has not taken on stand on legislation proposed by Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., that would allow some undocumented immigrants a chance at visas to remain in the United States.

More than a decade ago, Republicans were making inroads among Hispanic voters. President George W. Bush, a former Texas governor, favored comprehensive immigration reform that could have established pathways to legal status for millions of illegal immigrants. But staunchly anti-illegal immigration forces gained influence in the GOP, and the reform plans were dropped.

Hispanic voters are especially important in a few battleground states that will help determine the Nov. 6 presidential election. They include Florida, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado. Romney's problems with Hispanics also might tempt Obama's campaign to make a push in Arizona, usually a reliably Republican state.

A recent poll of Hispanic voters by the Pew Research Center found that 67 percent supported Obama, and 27 percent Romney.

A decision in the high-profile immigration case is expected in late June.

California, New York and nine other states with significant immigrant populations support the Obama administration.

Florida, Michigan and 14 other states, many of which also are challenging Obama's health care overhaul, argue that Arizona's law does not conflict with federal law.

Justice Elena Kagan, who was Obama's first solicitor general, is not taking part in the case, presumably because she worked on it while in the Justice Department.

The case is Arizona v. U.S., 11-182.



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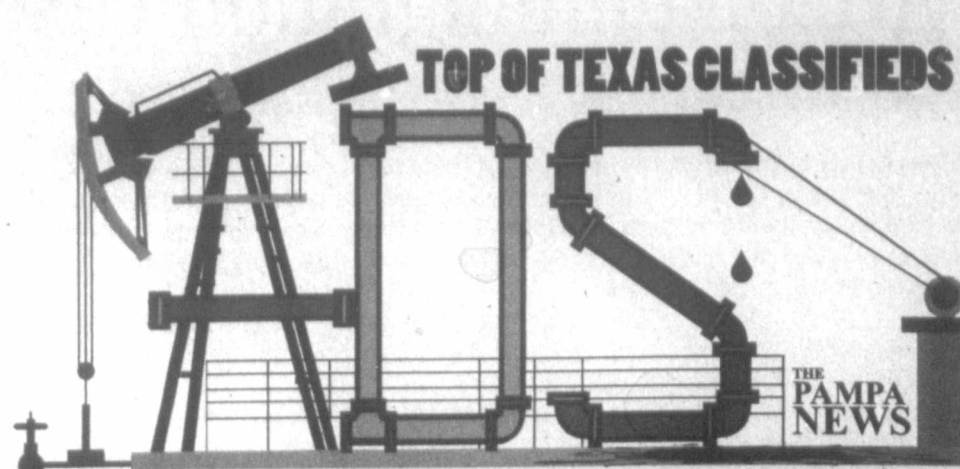


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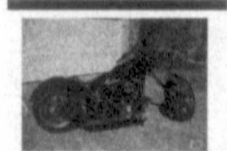
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9	5	1	2	6	3	8	4	7
8	4	2	5	1	7	6	3	9
1	2	7	9	5	8	3	6	4
6	9	3	1	7	4	2	8	5
4	8	5	3	2	6	9	7	1
5	1	8	7	3	2	4	9	6
2	6	4	8	9	1	7	5	3
3	7	9	6	4	5	1	2	8

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

Level: Intermediate

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U I A A U

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Modern Dad in Roswell, Ga." (Feb. 26) was put off that invitations to his young daughters are sent to his ex-wife's home rather than to both his and the ex-wife's. He assumes the sender is "sexist" and suggests the solution for children with two households is to be sent two invitations.

As a parent who invites children to my home or to a party, I don't feel I should be responsible for their parents' communication difficulty. Often I am not even aware that a child has two households. The invitation simply goes home with the child to wherever he or she is that day.

Personally, I think "Modern Dad" is overly sensitive. He needs to realize that no one is deliberately snubbing him or making assumptions about parental roles. They are just inviting his kids to things, for which he should be grateful. Did he share his address with the inviter? Does he make his preference clear to parents when meeting them?

I believe it's presumptuous to expect someone to send two invitations to the same child. And I agree with you, Abby, that "Dad" needs to improve communication with his ex-wife so he no longer feels he is being prevented from being an "active parent." — **REGULAR MOM IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR REGULAR MOM: A majority of readers agreed that more sharing of information between the girls' mother and "Dad" will solve his problem. Other parents' comments:

DEAR ABBY: Friends, acquaintances and professionals should not have to go out of their way to cover all the bases. Given the number of divorced, remarried and otherwise situated families, more than a single contact point becomes burdensome for those trying to complete business or issue simple invitations.

My guess is, even though the girls stay with Dad, he doesn't have relationships with most of their friends' parents. Unless he cultivates these connections (with the mothers, most likely), it is improbable that he will be added to the contact list. — **CHALLENGED, TOO, IN SEVERNA PARK, MD.**

DEAR ABBY: I know from organizing school activities that often only one parent supplies an email address to the school, and it's usually the mom. If "Modern Dad's" ex-wife would cooperate by sending him a list of email addresses of those most likely to issue invites, he could send out a

polite message sharing his contact information with those other parents. Also, if he reaches out to help arrange carpools or organize social outings — which is usually a "mom" job — he'll become an added member of "the group." — **NON-SEXIST MOM IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR ABBY: Our solution to this problem was to use an online computer calendar for the kids' events. That way, regardless of which parent gets the invite, it can be posted on the calendar with the appropriate details. (Privacy settings can be set so the calendar is not viewable to the general pub-

lic.) — **FLORIDA FATHER**
DEAR ABBY: My son's school sends out a parent directory that includes both my and my ex-husband's email addresses. I receive a lot of information, including invitations by email, and always see my ex's address included on everything as well. Not having to remind him about parties and school events has taken a huge load off my shoulders. Maybe "Dad" can suggest his daughters' school start a parental email list and make sure his information stays updated. — **INVOLVED TEXAS MAMA**

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Sports

PHS boys and girls track athletes ready for regionals



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Rikki Earnest throws the shot put at the district meet April 13. Earnest is contending for state in the discus and shot put.

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

On Friday, the Pampa Harvester and Lady Harvester regional qualifiers will compete under the lights of Texas Tech's R.P. Fuller Track in Lubbock at the 3A Region 1 track meet.

Wednesday in their final practice, the athletes expressed their excitement for the upcoming competition.

"I'm getting ready for the race," senior Trent McAnear said. "It might be my last one and I need to try my hardest on it."

McAnear will compete in the 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs. The senior said he will look to improve his time in both.

"In the mile (1600), I need to drop significant time to go (to state)," McAnear said. "I think I can pull it off. For the two-mile (3200), I'm going for the school record."

The Harvesters' school record is 10:17. According to the Athletic.net track rankings, McAnear's best time of 4:52 in the 1600 ranks third in the region, eight seconds behind second. The top two advance to state. McAnear ran in the same events at regionals last year and feels that prepared him for this year.

"I feel like I'm better prepared," McAnear said. "Last year was nerve-racking for me. I've never been to that big of a meet before and at that stadium."

Senior Rikki Earnest is making her only trip to regionals in the shot put and discus. The senior said she is just trying to focus.

"I'm trying to get some finesse done," Earnest said. "I'm making sure my head is on straight and I'm not too cocky. I'm just working hard and not letting anything slack."

Earnest's best throw in the shot put at 35'2," is first in the region. Her personal best in the discus at 106'6" ranks fourth in the region. The senior thrower said she is not paying much attention to the rankings.

"It's pretty exciting, being up so high," Earnest said. "Anything can happen on any given day. Anyone can come out here and PR (personal record) and throw 20 feet farther than me."

Earnest said she hopes she make the most of her trip.

"My goal was to get to regionals," Earnest said. "Win or loss, state or not, I'll be happy with my performance."

Junior J'Cee Holmes made her third trip to the regionals in the 3200-meter and 1600-meter runs. Currently, Holmes ranks second in both. The junior said she feels better about this year.

"I'm a lot more prepared," Holmes said.

Sophomore Kody Maddox is making his first trip to regionals and currently holds the best time in the 100-meter dash with his personal best of 10.89. Maddox said he is both excited and nervous about competing.

"I'm getting really excited about it," Maddox said. "The competition is going to be really tough. My times get faster with more competition. I think I'm going to have butterflies when I first go up to the line and get ready for everything."

On Friday, the girls will have finals in the discus and long jump. The boys will have finals in the high jump, shot put, triple jump and pole vault. Both boys and girls will run in preliminaries on Friday. The top seven in each event qualify for finals. On Saturday, the boy and girls will compete in the opposite field events.

Harvester and Lady Harvester regional qualifiers

Boys

100-meter dash: Kody Maddox; Samuel Smith
200-meter dash: Brenden Ponce, Smith
1600-meter run: Trent McAnear
3200-meter run: McAnear
110-meter hurdles: Reid Miller
300-meter hurdles: Daniel Hulsey
4x100-meter relay: Latigo Collins, Maddox, Miller,

Smith
4x200-meter relay: Josph Vizcaino, Zane Robles, Collins, Smith
High jump: Robert Radke; Johnathan Cox
Triple jump: Miller
Long jump: Ponce
Pole vault: Brett Troxell

Holmes
3200-meter run: Holmes; Truitt
100-meter hurdles: Savanna Hulsey
300-meter hurdles: Taylor Giles
High jump: Kailyn Troxell
Triple jump: Tyranda Johnson
Long jump: Woodruff
Discus: Rikki Earnest; Cheyenne Williams
Shot put: Earnest; Williams

Girls

100-meter dash: Samantha Woodruff
800-meter run: Terra Truitt
1600-meter run: J'Cee

PAMPA NEWS

athletes

of the week

Tiffany Britton
Pampa High School

Pampa High School junior softball player Tiffany Britton is The Pampa News Female Athlete of the Week. Britton hit two doubles and a three-run home run, drove in six runs against Perryton on April 17. Britton moved into the three-hole in the batting order.

Jared Lusk
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior baseball player Jared Lusk is The Pampa News Male Athlete of the Week. Lusk tied the game Saturday against Dalhart by drawing a throw on a dropped strikeout. Lusk reached on error to lead off the ninth inning. The senior scored the winning run.

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