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TODAY IN SPORTS



Thursday, June 21, 2012

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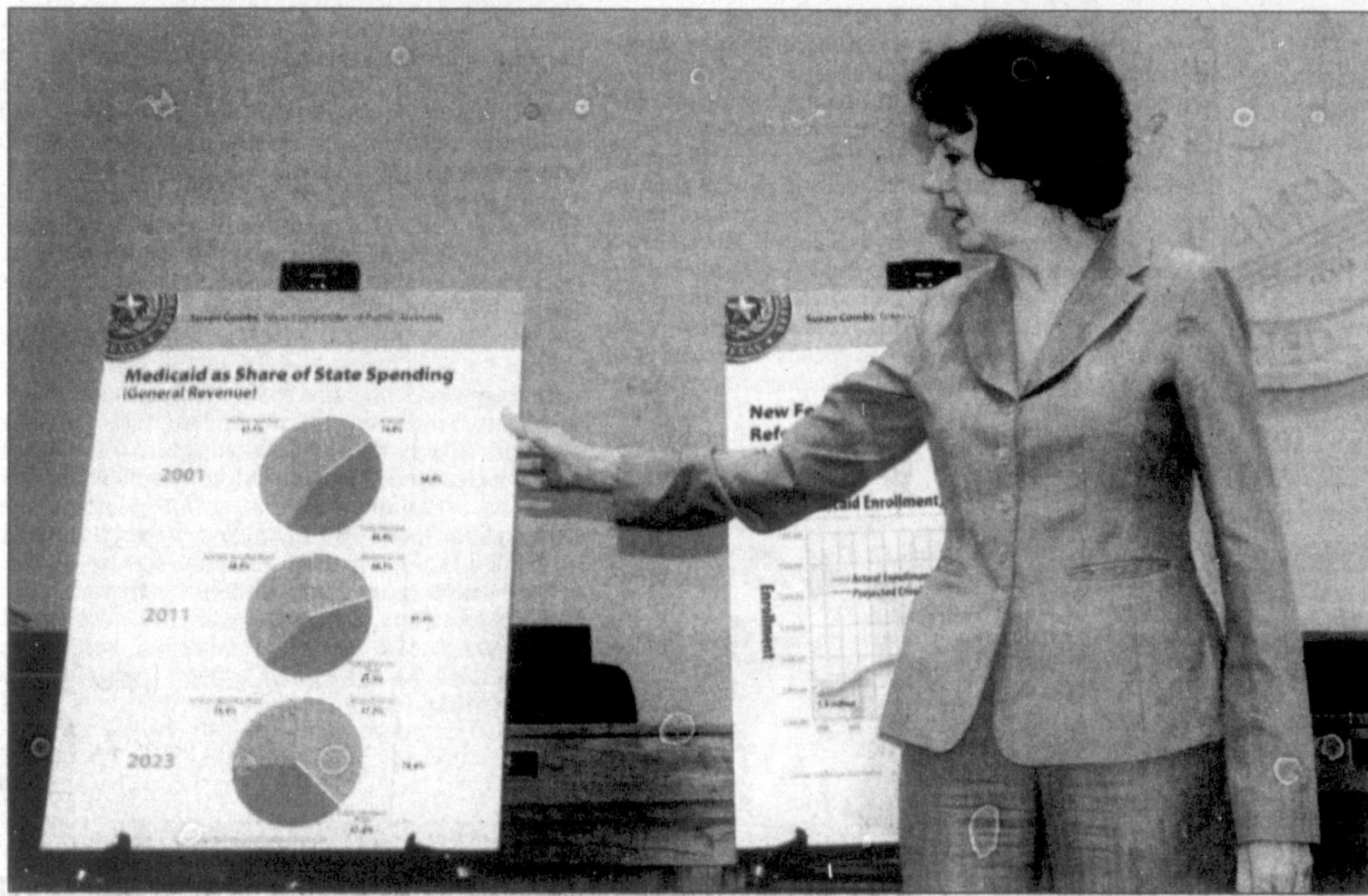
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Immigration suddenly roiling race
 Issue moves from backburner to spotlight | p4A

Under new management
 Returning receivers ready to work with Smith at QB | p1B

COMBS VISITS PAMPA



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Susan Combs, the Texas comptroller of public accounts, refers to a chart during her talk at Pampa's City Hall on Wednesday morning.

Comptroller talks Medicaid at City Hall

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

As part of her ongoing statewide tour of "town hall" style meetings, Susan Combs, Texas comptroller of public accounts, spoke yesterday to leaders from the City of Pampa, Gray County and Pampa ISD on issues of responsible financial policy.

Combs focused on the impact of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, on the state's finances when it comes to Medicaid. Data from the Comptroller, Health and Human Services Commission (HHS) and the Texas Legislative Budget Board projects that Texas' Medicaid spending will almost double from 20 percent of the state's general revenue spending in 2011 to 37 percent in 2023.

This number has risen from 14 percent of Texas' spending in 2001. "If the Affordable Care Act does not get rid of the Medicaid enrollment, then in 2023, Medicaid expenses will consume 37 percent of general revenue," said Combs. "It will be co-equal with public education (spending). Those will add up to 75 percent, and you'll have everything else now shrunk to 25 percent. This is really, really scary."

HHS anticipates that the state enrollment in Medicaid will jump from its current level of 3.5 million to 6.2 million within the next 10 years, in accordance with the Affordable Care Act. "No matter how good we are in Texas, what happens in Washington matters," said Combs. Combs mentioned a "health care compact" bill which would allow the state to run Medicaid and Medicare at their own discretion via block grants. "They passed a bill last session that requires Congressional approval that the state of Texas could design its own Medicaid solution," she said. "This sucker is so huge. If we don't have

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COMBS cont. on page 8A

PD pushes safety, laws for cyclists

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

In light of recent accidents involving cyclists that resulted in fatalities in Amarillo, the Pampa Police Department wants to remind drivers and cyclists alike to be aware of driver and cyclist laws.

"The main thing people have to keep in mind is to follow the rules of the road," said Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar. "Bicyclists have to stop at stop signs and yield to oncoming vehicles."

"If you run across a bicyclist, they have just as much right as you on the streets, but cyclists can't impede traffic, and they can be issued citations," she added.

McCullar reminds cyclists that they may be issued citations for breaking laws regarding protocol on the road, such as keeping to the right side of the road and not impeding traffic.

"In a four lane road, bicyclists can ride two abreast in the closest lane to the curb, but they can't impede traffic," she said. "If they are impeding traffic, they have to ride in single file. If they ride two abreast, they can be issued a citation if they impede traffic."

Cyclists can also receive citations for not signaling stops or turns.

"Give the vehicle behind you time to react, because then they know what you're going to be doing," said McCullar.

While helmets increase safety, they are not required by law, unlike proper illumination on a bicycle when riding at night.

"Bicyclists have to have a white light illuminated out of the front of the bicycle, and a red light or reflector visible on the back if riding at night," said McCullar. "It's hard to see bicyclists at night, and I recommend a light."



McCullar

Texas GOP's Mechler speaks at Republican Women's meeting

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

Speaking at the Top O' Texas Republican Women's meeting at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center on Tuesday, Tom Mechler, treasurer of the Texas Republican Party, opened with a question to the crowd.

"Is there anybody in this room that loves liberty and freedom?" he asked. "Because I think we would all agree that there is an onslaught against those very two principles right now."

Amarillo's Mechler, a former chair of the Gray County Republican Party, spent the meeting appealing to Pampa's conservative base and pushing the public to vote in the pivotal 2012 election.

"I think we would all agree that our nation is as close to socialism now as we have ever been, in my lifetime at least, and it is a disaster," he said. "I was thinking as I was prepar-

ing to speak. Whose fault is that? Where did all that come from? What was the deal?"

"You know whose fault that is? I think it's our fault. It wasn't because Obama was able to so convince people to support him. It's because, if you look at the numbers, so many conservatives stayed home that day. They didn't think that they could support John McCain, so they just didn't vote."

Mechler, though, believes that this year can be different.

"What's a telltale sign and why I believe this president is in a state of panic is because he's having trouble motivating his base," he said. "If you look at some of his actions, you'd think, 'This is insanity.' Why would a sitting president embrace homosexual marriage? Unless he needs them and they're not going to vote and he's trying to find a way to get them to support him."

"Now, one of the problems that I think we

MECHLER cont. on page 8A



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Tom Mechler, treasurer of the Texas Republican Party, speaks with Top O' Texas Republican Women members Kathryn Green (center) and Jana Vinson.

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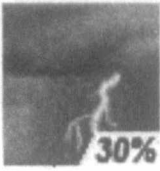


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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
 30%		
High 79 Low 64	High 87 Low 66	High 92 Low 68

Today: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 87. South southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 92. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 68. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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TPA MEMBER 2011
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Obituaries

Kelli Lee Howe, 40

LEFORS—Kelli Lee Howe, 40, died June 20, 2012, in Lefors.

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

Kelli was born March 5, 1972, in Groom. Before illness overtook her, she was in pursuit of her lifelong dream to become a veterinarian, studying at Amarillo College.

When asked by those that knew and loved her... "From your heart, how would you describe Kelli?" Resounding replies were: She's the strongest person I ever knew; Strong Character; Determined, Fun-loving, Giggly, Loves Life, and Clung to it; A Jokester, Always has a smile...even in the darkest days; Always Smiling; Never forgets to say "I Love Ya! Selfless - Willing to lend a helping hand to anyone; True to her Native American culture, a natural warrior, winning life's battles as she approaches them, one by one.

Like most of us, early on in Kelli's short life she was faced with great obstacles. Each hurdle appeared to make her stronger and more determined as she successfully overcame each one. She dedicated her life to the Lord at Faith City Mission where her shining example influenced others to find their way and make their lives better and more meaningful, following her unwavering resolve to be right with the Lord.

Today, we let her go, knowing she has, with persistence and enduring solitude, gracefully passed over the last of life's hurdles and walked into the arms of Jesus.

Kelli is preceded in death by her dad, Rodney Howe; two sets of grandparents, Buck and Cleo Todd, and Arlin and Audie Howe; and one brother, Mike Howe.

She is survived by one son, Trevor Derrick Howe of Lincoln, Neb.; a daughter, Rebecca Jade Miller of Lefors; one precious granddaughter soon to arrive; her extended family, Rick Mapes, Ashton, Teran, Dusti and Wendi; her mom, Carolyne Howe of Lefors; her natural father, Terry Kirby of Amarillo; grandparents Jack Kirby and Marie Toller of Amarillo; two sisters, Crystal Lynn and husband David Keiser of Nebraska, and Sunni Kirby of Amarillo; three brothers, Kevin Todd and wife Michella Howe of Lefors, Mark Howe of Oklahoma, and Eric Kirby of Abilene.

She is also survived by five aunts, Mary Jones of Hereford, Peggy (Todd) Finney of Lefors, Sue Hawkins of Dallas, Cynthia Wade of Oklahoma, and Linda Brantum



Howe

of Amarillo; eight cousins, Jamey of Baytown, Trae of Lefors, Annette, Brent and Aaron of Oklahoma, Rhonda of Florida, Marcus of California, and Victor of Dallas; nieces and nephews, Todd, Lacey and Amber, all of Nebraska, Devin and Nicollette, both of Hawaii, Jessica, Jeremy, Aaron, Shane, Courtney and Chris, all of Pampa, Christina of Colorado, Logan of Wyoming, and Trinity of Missouri; great-nieces and nephews, Payton, Christian, Caden, Carson and Cenden; and numerous other family members, friends and loved ones who were very dear to her and who will miss her greatly.

The family will receive friends from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, June 22, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in Pampa.

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

Faye Reeder, 81

Faye Reeder, 81, of Decatur, a retired real estate agent, died, Monday, June 18, 2012, in Decatur.

Graveside service is 2 p.m. Thursday, June 21, at Bomar Point Cemetery, Wilson, Okla. Family will receive friends 11-1 p.m. at Alexander Funeral Home prior to the service.

Pallbearers include Kenneth Reeder, Dwane Reeder, Stevens, Dennis Vernon, Dustin Weatherly, Mike Weatherly and Matt Weatherly.

Faye was born April 21, 1931, in Sulphur, Okla., to Joseph and Frances (Campbell) Stevens. She was united in marriage to Alvin William Reeder on June 4, 1949, and was married 49 years at his death in January, 1999. Faye was also preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Artie Pulis and Frankie Montgomery; brother, Carl Stevens; and great-granddaughters, Hannah and Bailey Weatherly.

Survivors include her daughter, Billie Weatherly and husband, Les of Decatur; sons, Jimmy Don Reeder and wife Peggy of Krum and Randy Reeder and wife Ellie of Wichita Falls; seven grandchildren, Dusty Weatherly and wife Stacey of Bixby, Okla., Matt Weatherly and wife Stephanie of Midland, Mike Weatherly and wife Michelle of Pampa, Misty Crow of Denton, Tiffany Kurtz and husband EJ of Midland, Vanessa Young and husband J.D. of Weatherford, Julie Reeder of Wichita Falls; nine great-grandchildren, Catilynne, Mason, Braydon, Addison, Ryleigh, Vivian, Ilene, "D" and Elijah; sisters, Bessie Carroll of California, Edna Thompson and Ruidoso, N.M.; and brother, Pierce Stevens of Duncan, Okla.



Reeder

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, June 20 at 7 a.m.

Animal Control agents and Pampa PD reported nine animal-related incidents.

Pampa PD reported six traffic-related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Lefors Volunteer Fire

Department responded to three medical calls.

Tuesday, June 19
A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1300 block of East Foster.

A hit and run occurred at the 2800 block of Perryton.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 800 block of East Frederic.

Stalking was reported.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 300 block

of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1900 block of North Coffee.

A hit and run occurred at the 300 block of North Dwight.

An accident occurred at Cuyler and Atchison.

Wednesday, June 20
Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1000 block of North Wells.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1100 block of South Wells.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, June 20 at 7 a.m.

Tuesday, June 19
Charmayne Brace, 48, was arrested by deputies on a sentence for possession of marijuana.

Gabriel Jesse Cowan, 33, was arrested by police for theft of property.

Preston Lamb, 67, was arrested by police for assault causing bodily injury.

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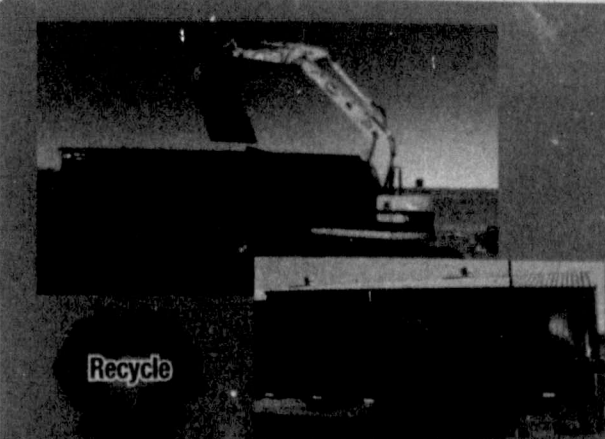
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Ron Paul supporters sue GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supporters of GOP presidential candidate Ron Paul have filed a lawsuit against the Republican National Committee and nearly every state party claiming they improperly helped Mitt Romney during the primaries while using intimidation and threats of violence to thwart them.

Paul's campaign says the Texas congressman doesn't support the lawsuit. An RNC official called it frivolous.

The lawsuit asks a federal court in California to clarify whether delegates attending the national convention in August can vote for any candidate they choose, even if they were won by Romney. Most state parties require delegates to vote for the candidate who won them in primaries or caucuses.

The lawsuit was filed June 11 by more than 100 people who say they are delegates, though some aren't on lists released by state parties.

Man accused in bomb hoax

EL PASO (AP) — Authorities say a 73-year-old man has been arrested for trying to enter the United States with an object designed to look like a bomb.

The incident closed down an El Paso border crossing for four hours.

Customs and Border Protection spokesman Roger Maier says agents spotted a rectangular item with cables sticking from it attached to a cellphone in a pickup truck at the Bridge of the Americas between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Tuesday.

El Paso police say they arrested Juarez resident David Huebner and booked him into the El Paso County Jail on a bomb hoax charge. Jail records show he remained jailed Wednesday with bond set at \$500. No attorney is listed on his online jail record.

Police have released no information on Huebner's nationality.

Battleship Texas continues to leak

LA PORTE (AP) — Inspectors are renewing their search for leaks aboard the Battleship Texas after a temporary patch failed to stop leaks in the 100-year-old battleship's rusted hull that caused flooding.

Ship manager Andy Smith tells the Houston Chronicle that the rubber patch placed over a two-inch hole Tuesday decreased the leak from more than 1,100 gallons per minute to about 250 gallons. However, he says the continued leak means the patch isn't watertight or that there are other holes in the hull.

The battleship, which fought in World Wars I and II and has been berthed permanently beside the Houston Ship Channel since 1948 as a state-owned memorial and museum, will likely remain closed through Friday as inspections continue.

Trucker pleads over drug money

BEAUMONT (AP) — A South Texas trucker has pleaded guilty in a drug money case after nearly \$800,000 was found in his rig.

Prosecutors in Beaumont say 41-year-old Natividad Ovalle Jr. of Alamo pleaded guilty Tuesday to interstate travel in aid of racketeering enterprise. No sentencing date was immediately set for the driver, who faces up to five years in prison.

Investigators say the truck and trailer were stopped April 14 on Interstate 10 near Orange for an inspection.

Ovalle agreed to let officers search the rig. Authorities located a bag with dozens of taped bundles of cash, adding up to nearly \$772,000.

Ovalle says he knew the money was from drug trafficking and that he made other cash-hauling trips, earning at least \$15,000 each time.

Judge: Woman not fired over hair

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston woman who contended she was fired improperly because of her shoulder-length gray hair has lost her federal age discrimination lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Gray Miller has ruled Sandra Rawline was discharged in 2009 for legitimate reasons from her six-year job as an escrow officer and branch manager at Capital Title of Texas.

In a ruling issued June 6, the judge said evidence was overwhelming that she behaved unprofessionally on numerous occasions and admitted the issue about dying her hair was only her opinion of what a supervisor meant.

Capital Title of Texas lawyer David Margulies said Wednesday she didn't do her job and the firm's biggest client didn't want to work with her. Evidence showed clients had complained about her rudeness, tardiness, temper and use of "choice words."

Campfire blamed for N.M. blaze...

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Investigators say an illegal abandoned campfire caused a wildfire this week in northwestern New Mexico that charred more than 350 acres and destroyed five homes and 12 outbuildings.

Officials with the New Mexico State Forestry and San Juan County say the CR 4901 fire near the community of Blanco burned 352 acres of land operated by the state Game and Fish Department.

Investigators found evidence of the abandoned campfire along the San Juan River bosque near tall, dry vegetation.

High winds in the area quickly pushed the fire into taller salt cedar, olive and cottonwood trees and then on to nearby homes.

Authorities have yet to identify any suspects. Forestry officials say those responsible for the fire could face a \$1,000 fine and/or 364 days in jail if convicted.

...while crews fight another fire

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Crews are starting to gain the upper hand on a wildfire burning on both sides of a wooded area along the Rio Grande river on Albuquerque's northern edge.

Fire officials say the Romero fire was 70 percent contained on the west side of the river by Wednesday night. Crews are working to contain the flames on the east side and the fire is moving away from homes.

The fire began about 3:30 p.m. and quickly grew to 10 acres and threatened up to 150 structures, but authorities say none have been damaged.

Police: Hotel shooting suspect not talking

EL CAMPO (AP) — A man accused of fatally shooting his 1-year-old son and critically injuring the boy's half-brother in a Texas hotel has so far stymied attempts to determine what triggered the violent spree by refusing to speak with investigators, police said Wednesday.

Demond Bluntson, 36, was charged with capital murder and aggravated assault in Laredo, where police say he shot the two boys. He could face yet more charges in El Campo, some 200 miles away, where police believe he killed his girlfriend — the boys' mother — and dumped her body at a property where his father lives.

"(Bluntson) still hasn't talked to law enforcement," El Campo police Chief Terry Stanphill said. Stanphill said he had sent an investigator to Laredo, but turned him around when police there said Bluntson wasn't talking.

Stanphill said a preliminary autopsy Wednesday determined that Bluntson's 28-year-old girlfriend, Brandy Cerny, likely died of multiple gunshot wounds. He said investigators have spoken to her family.

"The family has mentioned to us that they've had an on and off relationship, their ups and downs and some tough times," the chief said.

Cerny and her sons were last seen in church Sunday in El Campo. Her father reported her missing Monday morning after she did not show up for work. On Tuesday morning, El Campo police called their counterparts in Laredo to check on a lead that the family had checked into a Laredo Holiday Inn.

Laredo police said they later determined that only Bluntson and the boys checked into the hotel.

Officers knocked on their room door about midday Tuesday and immediately heard several gunshots, including one that just missed officers through the door.

Police say when they entered the room, they found Bluntson had shot and killed his 21-month-old son, Davian, and shot and wounded Davian's half-brother, 6-year-old Jaydin. The boys' mother's body was found hours later, in a green shack hidden among trees behind a small house and a mobile home, on an El Campo property where Bluntson's father lives.

Jaydin remained on life support at a San Antonio hospital Wednesday, Laredo police spokesman Joe Baeza said.

Becky Ivy, a legal assistant in the Wharton County district attorney's office, said an investigation into Cerny's death was ongoing and that there would be no immediate comment on possible charges.

Pastor Bonny Hargrove, 47, who lives across the

street from Bluntson's father, said she last saw Bluntson about two weeks ago.

"He had his head on straight. He was staying out of trouble. He seemed to be upbeat. He was a person who was determined, wanted to work and take care of his family. I can't believe this happened," said Hargrove, who added that she's lived in the neighborhood for six years and would see and talk with Bluntson and his father every so often.

Hargrove said she'd heard about the couple's relationship problems and that they were no longer living together, but "to hear him talk about his family and then to hear about this, it's still unbelievable."

"It's a horrible thing," she said.

In addition to capital murder, Bluntson also was charged in Laredo with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon against a public servant and one count of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, Baeza said in a statement. A judge set bond at a combined \$2.5 million for the counts.

Cinema 4

Movies Showing	Showing Friday!
Friday, June 15 through Thursday, June 21	Friday, June 22 through Thursday, June 28
Rock of Ages (PG-13) Fri 7:00 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Weds 7:00 9:30 Thurs 7:00 only	Rock of Ages (PG-13) Fri 7:00 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Weds 7:00 10:00 Thurs 7:30 only
Snow White and the Huntsmen (PG-13) Fri 7:30 10:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Weds 7:30 10:00 Thurs 7:30 only	Brave (PG) Fri 7:00 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Weds 7:00 9:30 Thurs 7:00 only
Prometheus (R) Fri 7:30 10:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Weds 7:30 10:00 Thurs 7:30 only	Prometheus (R) Fri 7:30 10:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Weds 7:00 10:00 Thurs 7:30 only
Madagascar 3 (PG) Fri 7:00 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Weds 7:00 9:30 Thurs 7:00 only	Madagascar 3 in 3-D (PG) Fri 7:00 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Weds 7:00 9:30 Thurs 7:00 only

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 21, the 173rd day of 2012. There are 193 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 21, 1942, German forces led by Generaloberst (Colonel General) Erwin Rommel captured the Libyan city of Tobruk during World War II. (Following his victory, Rommel was promoted to Field Marshal; Tobruk was retaken by the Allies in November 1942.) An Imperial Japanese submarine fired shells at Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, causing little damage.

On this date:

In 1788, the United States Constitution went into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

In 1834, Cyrus Hall McCormick received a patent for his reaping machine.

In 1912, author and critic Mary McCarthy was born in Seattle.

In 1932, heavyweight Max Schmeling lost a title fight rematch in New York by decision to Jack Sharkey, prompting Schmeling's manager, Joe Jacobs, to exclaim, "We was robbed!"

In 1948, the Republican national convention opened in Philadelphia. (The delegates ended up choosing Thomas E. Dewey to be their presidential nominee.)

In 1963, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini was chosen to succeed the late Pope John XXIII; the new pope took the name Paul VI.

In 1964, civil rights workers Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney were murdered in Philadelphia, Miss.; their bodies were found buried in an earthen dam six weeks later.

In 1970, former Indonesian President Sukarno died at 69.

In 1982, a jury in Washington D.C. found John Hinckley Jr. not guilty by reason of insanity in the shootings of President Ronald Reagan and three other men.

In 1989, a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag as a form of political protest was protected by the First Amendment.

In 1997, the WNBA made its debut as the New York Liberty defeated the host Los Angeles Sparks 67-57.

In 2005, 41 years to the day after three civil rights workers were beaten and shot to death, Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman, was found guilty of manslaughter in a Mississippi court. (Killen was sentenced to 60 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: One of the worst wildfires in Arizona history grew to 128,000 acres, forcing thousands of homeowners near the community of Show Low to flee. The United States team was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the World Cup in South Korea, losing 1-0 to Germany.

Five years ago: Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, the chief U.S. nuclear envoy, made a rare trip to North Korea in a surprise bid to accelerate international efforts to press the communist government to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Bob Evans, creator of his namesake restaurant chain, died in Cleveland at age 89.

One year ago: Amid street protests, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou survived a confidence vote. Defending national champion South Carolina tied the record for consecutive NCAA tournament wins with a 7-1 victory over Virginia at the College World Series.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Lalo Schifrin is 80. Actor Bernie Kopell is 79. Actor Monte Markham is 77. Songwriter Don Black is 74. Actress Mariette Hartley is 72. Comedian Joe Flaherty is 71. Rock singer-musician Ray Davies (The Kinks) is 68. Actress Meredith Baxter is 65. Actor Michael Gross is 65. Rock musician Don Molland (Badfinger) is 65. Rock musician Don Airey (Deep Purple) is 64. Country singer Leon Everette is 64. Rock musician Joey Kramer (Aerosmith) is 62. Rock musician Nils Lofgren is 61. Actress Robyn Douglass is 59. Actor Leigh McCloskey is 57. Cartoonist Berke Breathed is 55. Country singer Kathy Mattea is 53. Actor Marc Copage is 50. Actress Sammi Davis is 48. Actor Doug Savant is 48. Country musician Porter Howell is 48. Actor Michael Dolan is 47. Writer-director Larry Wachowski is 47. Actress Paula Irvine is 44. Rapper/producer Pete Rock is 42. Country singer Allison Moorer is 40. Actress Juliette Lewis is 39. Musician Justin Cary is 37. Rock musician Mike Einziger (Incubus) is 36. Actor Chris Pratt is 33. Rock singer Brandon Flowers is 31. Britain's Prince William is 30. Pop singer Kris Allen ("American Idol") is 27. Actor Jascha Washington is 23. Pop singer Rebecca Black is 15.

Thought for Today: "He, who will not reason, is a bigot; he, who cannot, is a fool; and he, who dares not, is a slave." — William Drummond, Scottish writer (1585-1649).



Immigration suddenly roiling election

JIM KUHNHENN AND STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — No longer a backburner issue, immigration is roiling the presidential contest as President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney seek to court the nation's swelling Hispanic population. The outcome could influence political battle lines and shape American politics for generations.

By week's end, both candidates will address the same Latino political convention in Florida, showcasing contrasting political ideologies at a pivotal time. The Supreme Court is about to render judgment on a get-tough Arizona law, and just last week the Democratic president announced plans to ease deportation rules for some children of illegal immigrants.

With Election Day less than five months away, Hispanic voters are energized and paying close attention, said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, which hosts this week's convention.

"There's a lot at stake. We're talking about a significant share of the American electorate that could well decide this election," Vargas said. "It's only now that both candidates are turning their attention to the Latino vote."

Indeed, both sides are crafting aggressive strategies to appeal to a demographic that is by no means monolithic but has supported Democrats in recent elections. Some Republicans fear — and Democrats hope — that Obama could capitalize on this moment to help solidify Hispanic voters as predominantly Democratic this fall and for years to come, much as President Lyndon Johnson hardened the black vote for Democrats as he pushed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The stakes are high not only for states with larger Hispanic populations such as Florida, Nevada and Colorado, but for a growing number of other battlegrounds — Ohio, North Carolina and Virginia, among them — where even a modest shift among Latino voters could be significant. The United States' Latino population surged from about 35 million in 2000 to 50 million in 2010, according to the Census Bureau.

As the presidential candidates head to the Florida convention, Obama is riding a wave of Latino enthusiasm over his decision to allow hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to stay in the country and work. Under the administration plan, illegal immigrants can avoid deportation if they can prove they were brought to the United States before they turned 16 and are younger than 30, have been in the country for at least five con-

tinuous years, have no criminal history, graduated from a U.S. high school or earned a GED or served in the military.

The new policy could help anywhere from 800,000 young immigrants — the administration's estimate — to the Pew Hispanic Center's estimate of 1.4 million.

The move was politically timely, in the heat of the campaign and with Obama needing to energize a key part of his base of supporters — many of whom had grown disenchanted over the past three years. While the direct beneficiaries of the directive can't vote for Obama, his action has widespread support among American Latinos.

In fact, Obama has long enjoyed support among Hispanics — he won 67 percent of the Latino vote in 2008.

But he risked losing their enthusiasm, partly because Hispanics have been among the hardest hit by the economic slowdown. Obama also lost some support because he hasn't fulfilled promises of a comprehensive overhaul of the immigration system and because his administration has been aggressively deporting illegal immigrants. A December poll by the Pew Hispanic Center showed that 59 percent of Latinos disapproved of the president's handling of deportations.

Obama senior adviser David Axelrod predicts that the president could exceed his 2008 performance with Hispanics this year, noting that his opponent then was Sen. John McCain, who had initially pushed for an overhaul of the immigration system.

Axelrod contends that Romney is "hopelessly twisted up on this issue."

Obama had troubles of his own before the administration announced the recent initiative. Supporters of many illegal immigrants — students as well as workers — had been mounting protests at Obama campaign headquarters this month in places such as Denver and Los Angeles.

The Romney campaign has struggled to offer a consistent response to the president's move. Romney has assailed Obama's "broken promises" on immigration in recent days but has focused on the new policy's temporary status as his prime criticism.

"These people deserve to understand what their status will be long term, not just four and a half months," Romney said on Fox News Radio this week. "And that's why I think it's important for me and for Congress to come together to put together a plan that secures the border, that insists that we have an employment verification system and that deals with the children of those who have come here illegally

on a long-term basis, not a stopgap measure."

As is typical, Romney intends to focus on the economy when he faces the Latino convention on Thursday. The former Massachusetts governor argues that his economic credentials would benefit all people who have struggled under Obama's leadership in recent years — women, younger voters and Hispanics among them.

Still, Romney's own immigration policy is unclear as he works to distance himself from harsh conservative rhetoric that was common during the extended GOP primary season earlier in the year.

Facing a Rhode Island audience in April, for example, Romney drew large cheers when he said, "We want people to come here legally. And we like it when they come here speaking English."

He did not support the Obama administration's lawsuit challenging Arizona's hardline immigration law. And he said that he would veto the DREAM Act that would have given legal status to some children of illegal immigrants. Romney has refused so far to say whether he would reverse Obama's new policy that does much the same thing, albeit on a temporary basis.

Even before he announced the new rules, Obama was looking to build his support among Latinos, vastly outspending Romney on Spanish-language television and radio. But Romney has released targeted TV and radio ads in Spanish, including some that feature one of Romney's sons who is a fluent Spanish speaker.

Simon Rosenberg, who follows immigration matters as head of the liberal-leaning group NDN, said the president's move on immigration not only helps him energize Latino voters, it also helps cast him as a president willing to take bold steps.

For a Latino community that worried that neither party was doing enough, "they now have a champion," he said. But, he added, "There will be a resonance beyond the Latino community."

Besides the new immigration initiative, the Obama camp has been using the new health care law to appeal to Hispanic voters, a rare use of the signature Obama measure in the campaign.

An ad campaign this week in Nevada, Colorado and Florida focuses on the benefits of the health care law for Hispanics and features Cristina Saralegui, a popular Spanish-language television personality who endorsed Obama this week. She says in the ad that Obama's health care law guarantees that "the great majority of Hispanics" will have access to doctors and hospitals.

We welcome your letters

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- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.

Canine good citizenship

Dog Talk
with
Uncle Matty



MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS
Creator's Syndicate

What do Jonny Justice, Hector, Audie, Ernie, Uba, Ted, Little Red, Leo, Ray and Oscar have in common? Years ago, they all suffered physical and psychological abuse at the hands of Michael Vick and his Bad Newz dogfighting ring. But more importantly, in the here and now, they are all official Canine Good Citizens.

Sounds pretty impressive — and it is. But what exactly does that mean?

In 1989, the American Kennel Club launched its Canine Good Citizen program as a reward for dogs who demonstrate good manners both in the home and in the community.

The CGC program is two-fold in that it promotes responsible dog ownership, as well as good doggie manners.

How does it work?

Responsible dog ownership is encouraged by requiring dog owners to sign the CGC Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge before their dog is allowed to take the certification test. The pledge requires dog owners to commit to full responsibility for:

- the health of their dog
- the safety of their dog
- the rights of others in not allowing their dog to infringe upon them, which includes picking up after their dog and preventing their dog from becoming a neighborhood nuisance by running loose or barking excessively
- their dog's quality of life, which includes attention, playtime and training.

After the pledge comes the test, which must be administered by an AKC-certified CGC evaluator. This could be a dog trainer, a kennel owner, a veterinarian or vet technician, a therapy dog evaluator, an AKC judge or even a police K-9 or animal control officer. To find a

CGC evaluator local to you, visit: http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/cgc_bystate.cfm.

The CGC evaluation tests your dog in the following 10 areas:

- accepting a friendly stranger
- sitting politely for petting
- appearance and grooming, which tests both the owner's commitment to maintaining a healthy weight and clean coat and teeth and the dog's willingness to be groomed by someone other than his owner
- walking on a loose lead
- walking through a crowd
- sit and down on command and staying in place
- coming when called
- reaction to another dog
- reaction to distraction
- supervised separation, which involves the owner giving the evaluator the leash and moving out of sight for three minutes, during which the dog must maintain his training and not display anything more than mild nervousness.

The CGC program is rewarding in that it prepares both dog and owner to handle real-life situations. It serves as an achievable goal and one that comes with the reward of recognition: You and your dog will receive an official Canine Good Citizen certificate from the AKC once he passes his test!

For dogs like Jonny Justice, Hector, Audie, Ernie, Uba, Ted, Little Red, Leo, Ray and Oscar, those certificates made national news and meant a second chance for a life in a safe and loving home.

For the rest of us, the stakes might not be as high, but the peace of mind and the shared experience of total commitment and successful training are every bit as rewarding.

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!"

Governor's Mansion almost restored after four-year fix

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The \$25 million project to restore the historic Texas Governor's Mansion is almost complete, four years after the building was nearly destroyed in a fire started by an unknown arsonist.

Gov. Rick Perry's office said Wednesday that pieces of the mansion's historic furniture collection are being moved back into the building. Perry and his family are expected to return in late July.

Located a block from the state Capitol grounds in downtown Austin, the two-story Greek-revival mansion has been the home of every Texas governor, including Sam Houston and George W. Bush, since it was completed in 1856.

Perry moved in when he took office in late 2000, and he and his family moved out in 2007 for a \$10 million renovation project to upgrade mechanical systems, including fire alarms, sprinkler systems, plumbing and wiring. The mansion was severely damaged in June 2008 when police say a person threw a Molotov cocktail that landed near the front door and ignited the building. Parts of the roof collapsed, and the majestic columns at the front of the mansion were charred. No one was injured.

Most of the original interior was damaged by smoke. But the historic furniture collection, including the bed used by Houston and Stephen F. Austin's writing desk, were not damaged because they had already been removed.

The collection is owned by the non-profit Friends of the Governor's Mansion. Historic chandeliers were installed on the first floor last week, Perry's office said.

Authorities have made no arrests in the case despite a \$50,000 reward offered by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Investigators have released surveillance video and a sketch of the person they believe started the blaze.

Part of the restoration project focused on enhancing security, including installing a new surveillance system, reinforced perimeter walls and new gates and guardhouses.

Perry and his wife Anita have been living in a \$10,000-a-month leased home away from the downtown area during the restoration project. Anita Perry has been leading the effort to raise nearly \$3.5 million in private money for the restoration project.

The mansion "has been a symbol of Texas pride and resilience for decades," Anita Perry said.

Before the Civil War, Houston paced the hallways as he worried about seceding from the union. Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, the first woman to be governor of Texas, built a chicken coop in the backyard. And Gov. Wilbert Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel served barbecue on the grounds to 20,000 of his supporters in 1941 to celebrate his re-election.

Gov. John Connally recuperated at the mansion from a gunshot wound suffered in the attack on President John F. Kennedy's motorcade in Dallas. Gov. Ann Richards hosted England's Queen Elizabeth II there in the early 1990s.

Judge rules against Pickens, Okla. State

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A Payne County judge ruled against Oklahoma State University's athletic fundraising arm and its top booster, T. Boone Pickens, in their attempt to recover money spent on life insurance premiums in the school's "Gift of a Lifetime" fundraising plan.

Associate District Judge Stephen Kistler issued a ruling Tuesday in favor of Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. and several co-defendants over the fundraiser that involved taking out \$10 million life insurance policies on 27 school supporters with the university as the beneficiary.

A hearing in the case had been scheduled for Friday, but that hearing was scrapped after Kistler issued his order sustaining motions for summary judgment filed by each of the seven defendants.

In his two-page ruling, Kistler noted identical claims filed by the plaintiffs in federal court in Texas were dismissed in March.

OSU's athletic fundraising foundation, Cowboys Athletics Inc., and Pickens already have appealed the federal ruling and also plan to appeal Kistler's order, OSU spokesman Gary Shutt said in a statement. Briefs in the federal appeal are expected to be filed next month.

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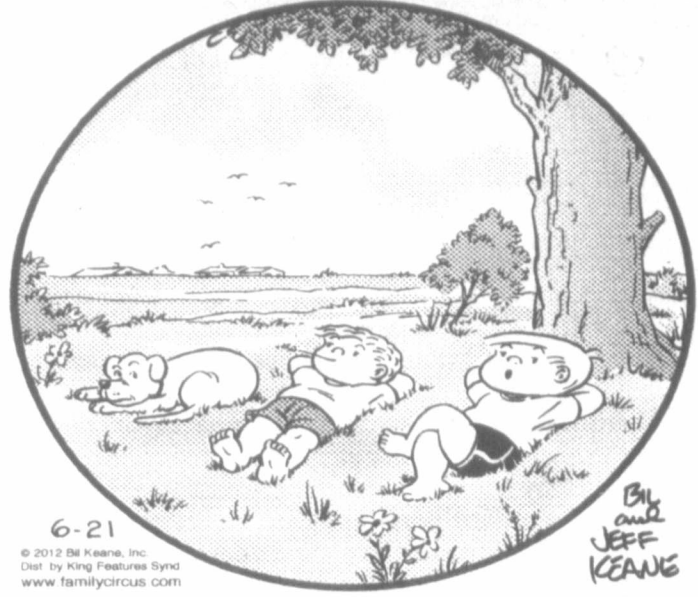
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By and with JEFF KEANE

"The only thing that would make this a better day would be building a snowman."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, June 22, 2012:

This year good will seems to surround you. You also maintain a very positive attitude and gain socially and financially. A few surprises keep your days lively. Your instincts guide you well, so trust your gut when you have questions. If you are single, you will have many opportunities to change your status. Stay open. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy more special time together, which improves your bond. LEO knows how to have fun.

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)
 ★★★★★ Your playfulness is noted. Others might not be in the same mood and therefore don't respond as you might like. The good news is that they will come around in time. Your instincts are right on with a child or loved one. Could this person's thinking be distorted? Tonight: Add more fun and mirth.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ You might want to stay close to home, but a friend or meeting lures you to a different place. Your strong yet gentle manner draws someone in closer. Do you really know what you want from this person? Think and determine that. Tonight: Close to home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You are a great communicator, and once more you get to express that quality to your immediate circle. You add clarity while others add confusion. Take the lead, because you have the strongest vision and the greatest field of possibilities. Tonight: All smiles. It is Friday night.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Your possessive side emerges in a conversation where you think you know more -- and you actually might. Play it cool, and do not reveal your true connection to a person involved here. Others will see it soon enough. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You are ready for whatever life tosses your way. You'll have a wonderful conversation with someone who is pivotal in your life. You also will see a positive outcome from a meeting. Make plans with a favorite person later today. Tonight: Ask, and you shall receive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Others seem to have a sense about whatever you are choosing not to reveal. Perhaps your look is like "I can't tell, but I want to!" Stay mum. It will be worth it in the long run. Even a boss or other type of authority figure tries to coax you to open up. Tonight: Vanish.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Meetings might be many, but they bring strong results. Your mind could be on a dear friend or someone at a distance. Make sure you have plans soon to get together with this person. Clear out as much as you can. Tonight: Think "weekend."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Clearly the spotlight is on you. How you handle the situation could be up for scrutiny. Just do what you would normally do, and don't worry about others' judgments. Listen to a dear friend or associate. Tonight: A late dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information and other people. You might have difficulty deciding what is doable, but you will figure it out. Getting feedback might be the most effective way to proceed. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Someone close to you has a way of absorbing the limelight no matter what you do. Continue as you have been; you cannot stop this trend. This person also has a lot to offer, so consider becoming a team player. What is stopping you? Tonight: Opt for a one-on-one conversation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ With as many suggestions as are heading your way, you could be overwhelmed by what is happening. On the same hand, realize that you cannot deny building popularity. You see suddenly how many invitations you have. Now what? Tonight: So much to sort through: who, where and when?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Your even pace allows you to absorb much more of what is going on. You could be taken back by the generosity of a loved one or roommate. Be willing to work with this person. Share an idea without fear of being judged. Tonight: Do not push.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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Business

BUSINESS AROUND TEXAS

American Airlines pilots reject contract offer

DALLAS (AP) — The pilots' union on Wednesday rejected the latest contract offer from American Airlines, which is awaiting a judge's ruling on whether it can impose its own terms for cutting costs that include eliminating thousands of jobs.

The union's board voted 11-5 to reject the company's offer. American said it was disappointed that the union didn't let members vote on the contract.

A federal bankruptcy judge is scheduled to rule Friday on whether American can break its current contracts with pilots and other union workers. The pilots' union wants in that ruling delayed.

American and parent AMR Corp., filed for bankruptcy protection in November. American is the nation's third-biggest airline behind United and Delta.

Its attempt to fix itself has been complicated by US Airways, which has taken steps toward a potential takeover of AMR — something that AMR executives don't want to talk about yet. US Airways won the support of American's unions by promising fewer layoffs and even some wage increases if it buys AMR.

American wants to emerge from bankruptcy as an independent company. To do that, it says it must cut labor costs by \$1.25 billion per year — mostly by eliminating nearly 12,000 union jobs. American has about 75,000 employees including nearly 55,000 union members.

While pilots would bear only 400 of the immediate job losses, they have complained bitterly about other changes sought by American. A key ingredient to the turnaround plan is boosting revenue by selling seats on other U.S. airlines as if they were American flights.

American can't do that under the current contract with pilots, who fear that so-called code-sharing would mean fewer pilot jobs at American. But federal law lets companies in bankruptcy scuttle their union contracts if it's essential to their survival.

After several days of last-ditch negotiations, American made a new contract proposal to the pilots' union last week. The union said there were "clear improvements" over American's original plan but that some areas, such as scheduling, which affects a pilot's pay, were too vague.

"This is still a concessionary contract," said union spokesman Tom Hoban.

Still, Hoban said the two sides were "very close in many areas." He said that union President David Bates asked AMR CEO Thomas Horton to seek the judge's approval for more time to negotiate by pushing back

Friday's deadline.

American Airlines spokesman Bruce Hicks said the company offered pay increases, profit sharing, stock in the company that emerges from bankruptcy, and freezing the pilots' pension plan instead of terminating it.

Hicks said American was disappointed that the union didn't let rank-and-file pilots vote on the offer. The Transport Workers Union, which represents American ground workers, let its members vote and five of the union's seven groups ratified company offers.

Report ranks Odessa tops in job creation

ODESSA (AP) — The local oil and gas boom has taken Odessa to the top — the top of a monthly statewide economic review, that is.

A report by the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University ranked Odessa first in job creation for Texas metro areas between May 2011 and May 2012, adding 8.5 percent more jobs during that time.

Odessa went from 65,700 non-farming jobs in May 2011 to 71,300 jobs in May 2012 according to data from the Texas Workforce Commission.

"These are exciting times," Odessa Chamber of Commerce president Mike George said.

Overall, the Texas economy gained more than 220,550 nonagricultural jobs from May 2011 to May 2012 and an annual growth rate of 2.2 percent compared with 1.4 percent for the United States, according to the report.

The unemployment rate in Texas, and in Odessa, decreased in the past year. Texas as a whole decreased its unemployment from 7.8 percent in May 2011 to 6.9 percent in May 2012. In Odessa, unemployment dropped from 5.8 percent in May 2011 to 4.3 percent in May 2012. Only Midland had lower unemployment among Texas metro areas at 3.8 percent; Midland also ranked 10th in job growth rate at 2.7 percent, growing from 74,000 jobs to 76,000 during the year.

Much of the growth in Odessa is heavily weighted toward the oil and gas industry, although the oilfield activity has opened up opportunities in the service industry, George said.

In addition to new restaurants, George said the Chamber was aware of seven potential hotels to be built this year in Odessa.

Boom times are also an opportunity for people in positions of leadership to address various issues, like housing shortages, George said.

Permian Basin Workforce Development CEO Willie


Taylor said that initially the job growth in the Permian Basin was good but unexpected and uncontrolled, and going forward the area needs to have planned growth.

As the job market continues to grow, Odessans should encourage young people to take advantage of technical training opportunities at community colleges, Taylor said.

It would actually be easier for them to take advantage of Permian Basin job opportunities, Taylor said.

Smokin' Joe's
GRILL

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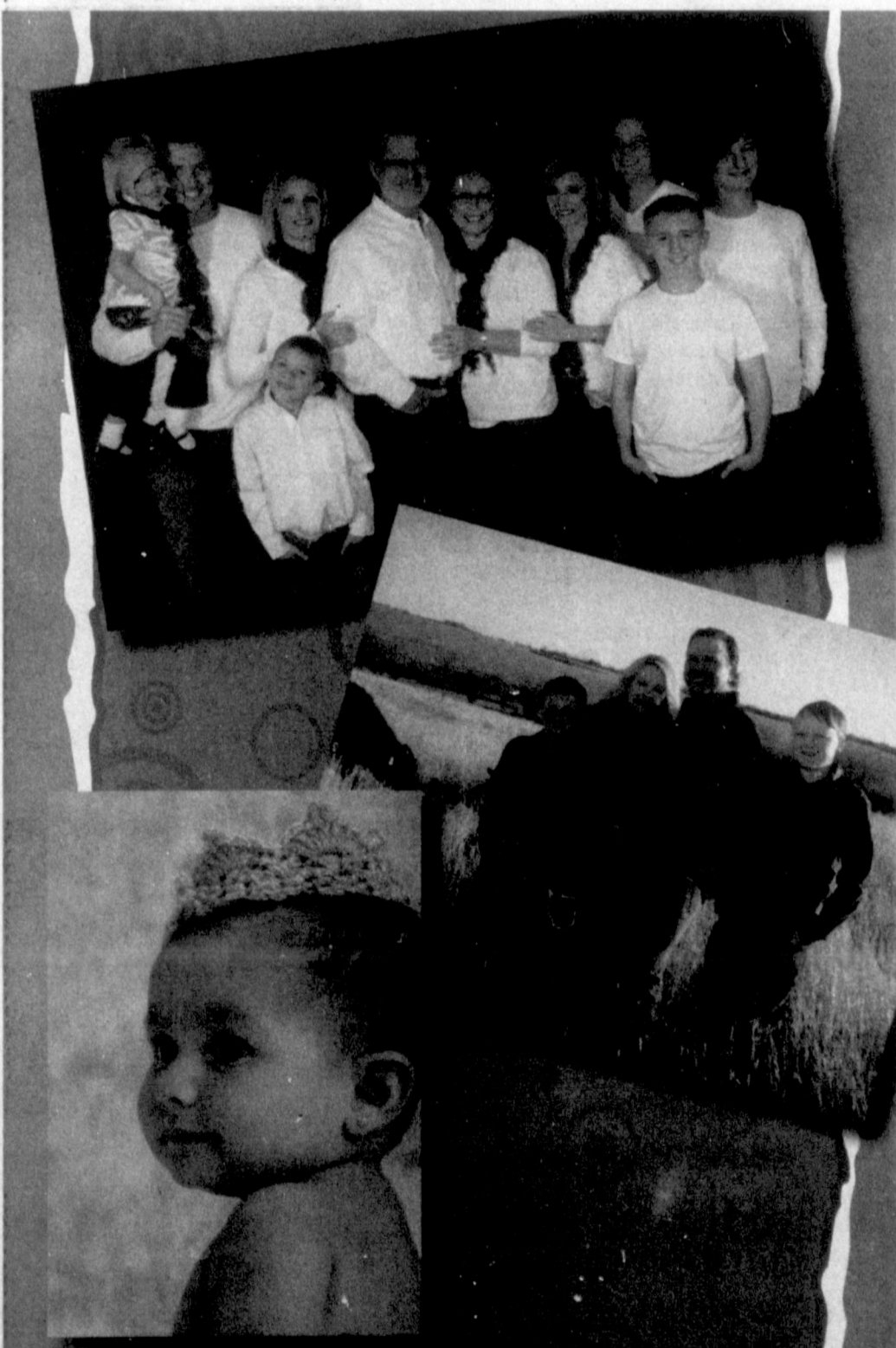


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Saudi man accused in Texas of bomb plot set for trial

LUBBOCK (AP) — Twice in the days leading up to Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari's arrest federal agents secretly searched the Saudi man's West Texas apartment, where they say they found bomb-making chemicals as well as beakers, flasks, wiring, a hazmat suit and clocks.

They also discovered Aldawsari's journal, handwritten in Arabic, in which he wrote that he had been planning a terror attack in the U.S. for years and that it was "time for jihad," or holy war, court documents show.

Aldawsari wrote that he was planning an attack in the U.S. for years, even before coming to America on a scholarship. He bemoaned the plight of Muslims and said he was influenced by Osama bin Laden's speeches.

Jury selection in the 22-year-old's trial was set to begin Thursday in Amarillo. If convicted, Aldawsari faces up to life in prison.

The results of the two searches at Aldawsari's apartment in Lubbock in February 2011 led authorities to suspect he had nearly everything he needed to build a bomb, having purchased chemicals and other materials online in previous months. He had also researched targets — including dams, nuclear plants or the Dallas home of former President George W. Bush — and how to place bomb material inside dolls and baby carriages, court records show.

Authorities arrested the former Texas Tech University chemical engineering student on Feb. 23, 2011, and charged him with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. He has pleaded not guilty, and attorneys plan to use an insanity defense, court records show.

A judge assigned to the case earlier this year, U.S. District Judge Donald E. Walter from Louisiana, moved the trial from Lubbock but did not indicate why. Dick Baker, an assistant U.S. attorney in the case, declined to comment, as did one of Aldawsari's attorneys, Paul Doyle.

The previous judge, who recused himself in April for reasons not disclosed publicly, placed a gag order on the case shortly after Aldawsari's arrest.

Prosecutors have shown some of the evidence they could present through rulings made by Walter following objections to video exhibits from Aldawsari's attorneys, according to court documents.

Last week, Walter ruled prosecutors can use footage of videos found on Aldawsari's computer, including one in which Ayman al-Zawahri, al-Qaida's current leader, praises as martyrs the deaths of two unspecified individuals killed by "American Crusaders," and two other videos that taught how to prepare picric acid and how to use a cellphone as a remote detonator.

However, the judge excluded a video containing an image of Osama bin Laden and audio believed to be a speech given by the slain former leader of al-Qaida and another file on that video that has graphic images of war that seem to focus on Palestinian-Israeli conflict, according to court documents. But Walter wrote that prosecutors could present it at trial and explain its relevance to him while jurors are out of the courtroom, documents show.

Aldawsari's attorneys said in court documents that the video "rolls everything that is unfairly prejudicial about the other videos into one."

They also said in the document that Aldawsari had

no contact with any terrorists.

TNP, the chemical explosive that Aldawsari was suspected of trying to make, has about the same destructive power as TNT. FBI bomb experts said the amounts in the Aldawsari case would have yielded almost 15 pounds of explosive — about the same amount used per bomb in the London subway attacks that killed scores of people in July 2005.

Authorities say they were tipped to Aldawsari's online purchases by chemical company Carolina Biological Supply of Burlington, N.C., and shipping company Con-way Freight on Feb. 1, 2011. The chemical company reported a \$435 suspicious purchase to the FBI, while the shipping company notified Lubbock police and the FBI because it appeared the order wasn't intended for commercial use.

Within weeks, federal agents had traced Aldawsari's other online purchases, discovered extremist posts he made on the Internet and secretly searched his off-campus apartment, computer and email accounts and read his diary, according to court records.

Aldawsari came to the U.S. in October 2008 from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to study chemical engineering at Texas Tech. He transferred in early 2011 to nearby South Plains College, where he was studying business. A Saudi industrial company, which was not identified in court documents, was paying his tuition and living expenses.

Combs

cont. from page 1

some way to get federal authorization to shrink this, we're going to be in big trouble. A compact allows you to do it yourself. The problem is, you do have to have Congressional approval. The Senate and the House have to vote for this."

"If we don't get a U.S. Senate willing to even take this up, we're going to be stuck for years," she added.

The Comptroller also highlighted the importance of being aware of

local debt, which she described as being made up of cities and school districts, as well as counties, community colleges and water districts.

"Local debt is something I pay a lot of attention to..." said Combs. "We are second (in debt outstanding) only to New York per capita."

"If we're going to have a bunch of money coming from the feds, where we already owe \$16 trillion in national debt, at some point, the feds are going to say, 'You've got

to pay it.' Well, debt matters."

Combs encourages responsibility when it comes to local debt.

"I'm going to advocate that every single organization that is in debt obligation, that people know what it is if you want to borrow more money for a school district, city or county, that you know what you already owe," she said. "You can find out with a lot of work, but it ought to be so easy for you to find out that."

Mechler

cont. from page 1

were concerned about for a long time with Mitt Romney is whether or not he can rally the troops. Well, folks, that's the gift of this president, because he gave us the issue to rally around Mitt Romney, who is extremely pro-life. He is very much pro-family. He believes that marriage is one man and one woman. I don't think there's any question. He went to the most conservative university in the country, Liberty University, and spoke and that's where he delivered that message."

Mechler also shared his thoughts on the Democratic Party dynamic between vice president Joe Biden and secretary of state (and 2008 Obama presidential rival) Hillary Clinton.

"Many of the Democrats are very fearful that Obama's going to lose the race and they want to dump Biden," Mechler said. "What they want to do is put Hillary Clinton in his place. ... I think the only chance Obama would have is if he gets Hillary as a running mate. The other dynamic to

watch, which I think is quite humorous, is that Bill Clinton — who's probably the most influential Democrat in the country — what does he want to see happen in the future? He wants his wife to be president. ... That's why, you watch and you see these bubble up, recently Bill Clinton made a comment about Mitt Romney's business experience, and it was in direct contrast to what the Obama campaign was trying to push."

Mechler pointed to financial numbers as another positive sign for the GOP.

"Look back in 2008," he said. "Obama raised somewhere north of \$750 million. Our candidate was struggling to get to \$250 million, so he's out-raised by a factor of three. That was a telltale sign that our candidate was in serious trouble. That's not the case this time. Mitt Romney is going head to head, and I would predict to you that Mitt Romney will raise more money than Obama will raise."

Using the decline of the Democratic Party in Gray

County as a comparison, Mechler projected the same phenomenon in Texas as a whole, even with the surge of minority voters. Hispanics may lean Democratic now, Mechler said, but an exploration of their voting values would eventually move them right.

"I don't know if you all remember '93 to '94," Mechler said. "The way that the local Republican party flipped the rest of the county to vote Republican — do you all remember platform comparison ads? I used to run those. It would have five or six issues on the left column and have Republican, Democrat, for, against, for, against. At the bottom, it said, 'If you're a conservative, you're a Republican, because the Republican party is the only conservative party.' Do you all remember those ads?"

"People came up to me as I was walking into the post office, and they'd say, 'Gosh, I didn't know I was a Republican until I read that ad, and now I know I'm a Republican. That was the end of the

Democratic Party in Gray County, once people begin to realize that they hold the values that I believe. Well, I told the chairman (of the Texas GOP) we need to do that all over the state. ... The same thing is going to be true about Hispanics. They are very conservative, very family oriented, very pro-life. They believe the exact same. We all believe the same, but somehow, the Democrats have convinced them that they're Democrats. That day is coming. Our party will make that adjustment."

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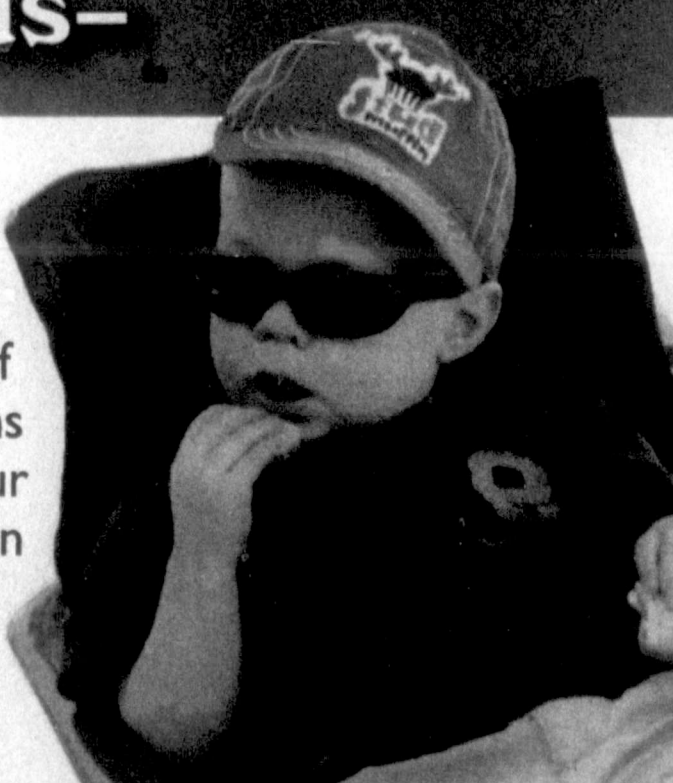
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Returning receivers ready to work with Smith at QB

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

For the last two seasons, Pampa's passing game was mostly Reid Miller connecting with Latigo Collins. Now that both of them have graduated, the 2012 receivers are looking forward to working with new senior quarterback Ryan Smith.

"Our passing game is going to be better than people expect," Woods said. "Ryan has gotten a lot better."

Last season, Miller completed 110 passes for 1,429 yards. Collins caught 59 passes (54 percent) for 937 yards (65 percent) Seniors Taylor Woods and Samuel Smith are the only returning receivers that caught passes last season, combining for 12 receptions and 103 yards. None of the returning wide receivers caught touchdown passes. Woods said he's looking forward to having a bigger role.

"It's exciting," Woods said. Senior Scott Kelly, primarily a blocking fullback last season, said he looks forward to having a bigger impact in the passing game.

"It's a lot more easier," Kelly said. "Confidence is higher than last year. It's more relaxing and fun."

The last weeks, Pampa has played 7-on-7 against White Deer. Kelly said he's pleased with how Ryan has progressed.

"He's doing pretty good," Kelly said. "It's kind of hard since he didn't play

quarterback last year."

"He's really good on the short routes," Woods said. "A couple of catches of four yards will get you a first down. That's all we need. You keep getting first down after first down, you'll eventually get a touchdown."

On Monday, Smith completed 31 of 47 passes for 261 yards and five touchdowns in a 33-12 victory. Woods said the biggest difference between Miller and Smith is their arms.

"Ryan can hit the short routes really good," Woods said. "Reid could throw the ball deep and was good at that. It's really just a matter of who you are quarterback."

Woods said the wide receivers will be on more equal footing next season.

"We will throw balls everywhere," Woods said. "Wide receivers and running backs, a lot of people are going to catch the ball."

Senior Tyler Powell, who missed last season with a broken collarbone and senior Chris Howard, who played in the secondary should also contribute to the passing game.

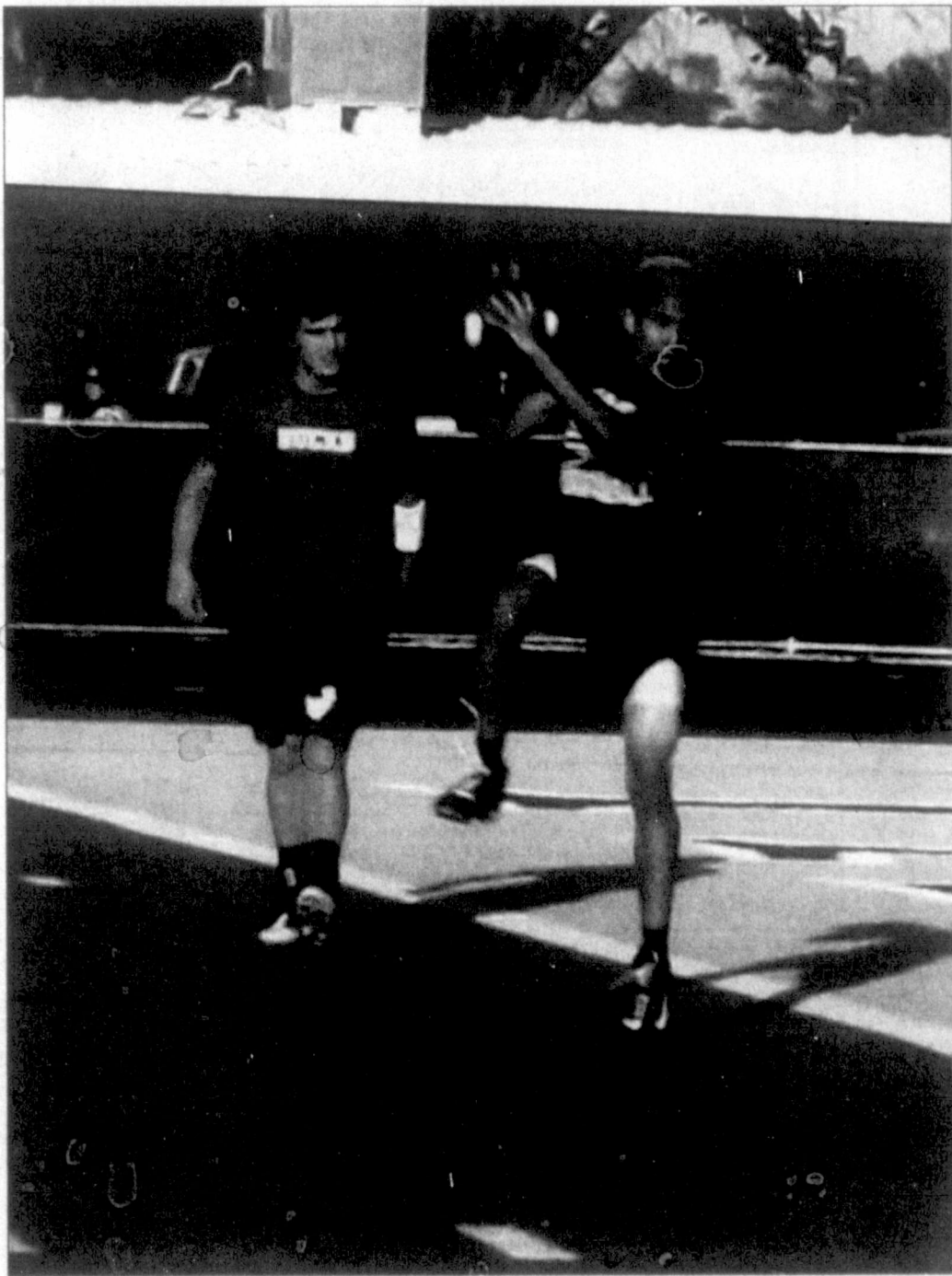


Kelly



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Taylor Woods stiff arms a White Deer defender during 7-on-7 Monday. Woods looks to catch more passes with Ryan Smith at quarterback.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Junior Josh Hernandez catches a touchdown against White Deer Monday at Harvester Field. Hernandez is one of the new receivers for 2012.

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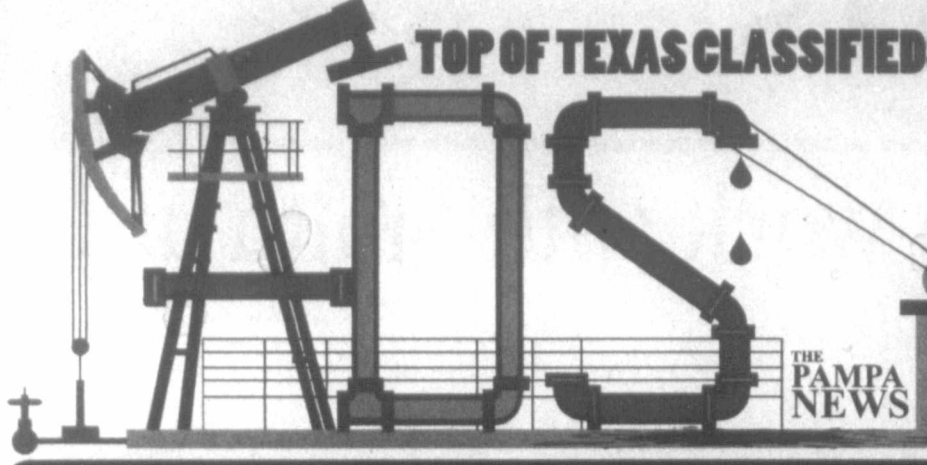
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2 Happy Ads

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10 Lost/Found

LOST Little Red Weenie Dog. My name is Freeda. My mom is on Hospice, she needs me! Please call 665-6396 to get me home to her. She misses me and I miss her too. Reward!

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BABYSITTING in my home / listed daycare with State of Texas. Very dependable. Call 806-486-7096

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21 Help Wanted

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

W ZOWJ CZQTJ ZTRYOG QMG W YGOWC VEOV VP CZO KOWTCD WRE KJOPPOEROPP MQ JVQO.

A OWR VRYOJMS Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LIFE IS LIKE AN ONION. YOU PEEL IT OFF ONE LAYER AT A TIME, AND SOMETIMES YOU WEEP. — CARL SANDBURG

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Garage Sale, Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-2, 2019 Hamilton. Lots of misc

FRI & Sat 8am. 2524 Dogwood. Furni & bly by furni, toys, clothes, kitchen, garden items

ESTATE Sale, Too many items to mention. Wed. 7pm, Thurs. & Fri. 5pm 1245 S Hobart

Garage Sale, Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-2, 2019 Hamilton. Lots of misc

FRI & Sat 8am. 2524 Dogwood. Furni & bly by furni, toys, clothes, kitchen, garden items

2905 Rosewood Furniture Household Women's Plus Size Clothes Handicap Items Toys Fri & Sat 8-2pm

2616 FIR. Fri & Sat. TVs, TV stands, camping, clothes, household, desks, etc.

Garage Sale 1618 E Harvester, Fri 8-3, Sat 8-5. Toys, Clothes, Appliances

Contents of 2 Storage Units!! Appliances, Furniture, Jewelry, Crafts, Lots of Misc. Thurs & Fri 4-8pm 9am-? 728 Reid

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69a Garage Sales

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2616 FIR. Fri & Sat. TVs, TV stands, camping, clothes, household, desks, etc.

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FOR rent, 2 Bedroom, Bathroom, fence, double carport. 206 S Sumner. Call 806-663-1998

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532 Lefors St., Pampa New 2 bd \$575 mo., \$75 dep. References. 806-418-2484 lv msg

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102 Bus. Rental

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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Over the years you have published letters about the hard work done by wives who stayed at home and advised that husbands should share some of the load.

I am a male. When I was married I got up with the kids, made breakfast, cleaned the kitchen and left for work. I did 90 percent of the grocery shopping and prepared dinner four or five nights a week. On weekends, I cut the grass, trimmed shrubs and repaired whatever needed fixing. I took care of the cars and found time to have fun with the kids.

My wife liked late-night TV and was too tired to get up in the morning. She also loved the morning talk shows and shopping. She did laundry, but I paid for a cleaning lady because vacuuming hurt her back.

When I resisted her controlling ways, she would become violent. She was jealous, dependent, possessive and angry. After 29 years, I finally decided to get a life. She got the house, the money, the anger and the dog. And me? I got the happiness! — **FREE MAN IN FLORIDA**

DEAR FREE MAN: It is no longer shocking to hear about long marriages being dissolved. In your case, while the financial penalty may be sizable, it appears to have been worth it. When a relationship becomes one-sided and counseling can't resolve the conflicts, divorce is the answer.

Because of the years of domestic abuse you endured, I hope you will consider counseling so your future relationships will not be adversely affected by your long, unhappy marriage.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Tammi," is attending college in a neighboring state. When I text or call her, she doesn't respond. I have asked her to please just text me back saying she's OK. She says my texting her once a day is "overkill" and I should stop doing it so often — once a week is often enough. I feel it is disrespectful of Tammi not to respond to my texts, even with a simple "OK" or "fine." She texts her friends all the time, so I don't think five seconds is too much to ask of her.

I'm willing to compromise and text Tammi every other day or every three days. She is my only child and I want to know that she is well. Am I being unrealistic or asking too much? — **TAMMI'S MOM IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR MOM: Tammi may be your only child, but she's a young woman now, and she needs room to grow up and establish some emotional independence. What you're demanding is an example of helicopter parenting. If you are worried for your daughter's safety, ask her to carry a card in her wallet identifying you as the person to be notified in case of an emergency.

DEAR ABBY: Would you settle a small disagreement? When we are being seated in a restaurant, my husband thanks the maitre d', the server when he is handed the menu and again when his order is taken.

He also thanks the server when his meal arrives at the table, when his iced tea is served, when it is refilled and when the bill is handed to him. As we are on our way out, he again thanks the maitre d' or hostess. Isn't this overdoing a good thing? — **SUFFERING IN SILENCE**

DEAR SUFFERING: I don't think so. Your husband was taught to verbally express his appreciation when something is done for him. He takes nothing for granted. And that is an admirable trait, not something to complain about.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 — Hari attractions
- 5 Ear parts
- 10 Morning sound
- 12 Tickle
- 13 Greedy demand
- 14 Island south of Sicily
- 15 Rink material
- 16 Red shade
- 18 Red shade
- 20 — de la Cité
- 21 Mosaic piece
- 23 Hoary
- 24 "Apollo 13" org.
- 26 Painter
- 28 Pos- sessed
- 29 Mother of Ares
- 31 Objective
- 32 Red shade
- 36 Red shade
- 39 Hotel amenity
- 40 "M*A*S*H" setting
- 41 Gave medicine to
- 43 Reviewer Roger
- 44 Chapel topper

DOWN

- 1 Potter's field
- 2 Wonder- land guest
- 3 Circus star
- 4 Sleeve filler
- 5 Tibetan monk
- 6 Poet Khayyám
- 7 Fort Knox fill
- 8 Parsons of film
- 9 Did- usher's work
- 11 Handel work
- 17 Animation frame
- 19 "— been real!"
- 22 Gofer's work
- 24 Kenyan capital
- 25 Esteemed
- 27 Corn unit
- 28 Compu- ting whiz
- 30 Punk-rock offshoot
- 33 Davis of "Do the Right Thing"
- 34 Met work
- 35 Candi- date of 2004
- 37 Simple
- 38 Pre- college exams
- 42 Be decisive

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10			11		12			
13					14			
15			16	17				
18		19				20		
			21		22		23	
	24	25			26	27		
28			29	30				
31				32		33	34	35
36		37	38			39		
40				41	42			
43				44				
45						46		

6-21

BANANAGRAMS!

In each puzzle, use four of the tiles from the bunch to fill in the blanks and make a seven-letter word that connects the grid.

LEVEL

E H UNDER
 E I N D A R K
 R T A C T O R

C O L D A E
 G L O R Y C L O
 O G R E R Y

Yesterday's Answer: COALBIN, CAPTAIN, PLACATE, DETRACT

6-21

Sports

2012 NBA FINALS

Game 4 loss puts Thunder's NBA title hopes on the brink

MIAMI (AP) — Oklahoma City was more than OK at the start. At the end, not so much.

The Thunder got an epic performance from Russell Westbrook. They ran out to a huge early lead. They watched LeBron James get carried off the court in the fourth quarter, and took the lead shortly after he departed.

Somehow, it still wasn't enough in Game 4 of the NBA Finals.

Even after getting 43 points from Westbrook, 28 more from Kevin Durant and staking itself to a 17-point lead by the time the first quarter was over, Oklahoma City is now officially on the brink. James finished with 26 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds, Dwyane Wade and Mario Chalmers each scored 25 points and the Miami Heat beat the Thunder 104-98 in Game 4 to take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven title series.

"I can guarantee this," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "We have fight in us."

Game 5 is in Miami on Thursday night, where James and the Heat can capture the NBA title that they were assembled to get two years ago.

History says the Thunder are now in deep, deep trouble. No team in NBA history has rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the finals. No team has even forced a Game 7 in the title series when faced with that scenario.

Westbrook took 32 shots, as many as James and Chris Bosh tried combined. He made 20 — half of Oklahoma City's field goals on the night — and finished with seven rebounds and five assists as well. For a guard who struggled many times against Miami, it was a breakout night that the Thunder desperately needed.

"I thought Russell was terrific tonight," Brooks said. "The guy played relentless. He was aggressive. He kept us in this game and he gave us a chance to win."

Said Heat forward Shane Battier: "The kid brought it. He's taken a lot of heat in this series, but he's not the reason why the game turned out the way it did tonight."

There was one huge blip in Westbrook's night, and it was a play that helped the Heat seal the outcome. After a jump ball with 17.3 seconds remaining, Westbrook fouled Chalmers even though the Thunder would have gotten the ball back because there were less than 5 seconds on the shot clock. Chalmers made both free throws, the lead was five, and Heat fans in the sold-out building knew their team was moments from a 3-1 series lead.

After hearing the whistle, Westbrook took a look at the scoreboard and held out his hand, a look of disbelief across

his face.

"Just a miscommunication on my part," Westbrook said. "Nothing I can do about it now."

Durant's mother grabbed her son by both arms as he walked off the floor, hugging him and then using her right hand to turn his face back toward her, trying her best to console the scoring champion. It was a night when the Thunder ran out to a 33-16 lead to buck a trend of slow starts, where Durant and Westbrook were scoring at will, and where Durant threw the Heat an early curve ball by opening the game guarding Chalmers, the Heat point guard.

Perhaps he should have stayed on Chalmers, given how good he was in the second half.

For the final 16-plus minutes, the Thunder were reduced to playing 2-on-5 basketball. Serge Ibaka made a jumper with 4:46 left in the third quarter, cutting Miami's lead to 68-66.

After that, it was either all Westbrook or all Durant, all the time.

"We just have to stay together," center Kendrick Perkins said. "It's not over."

Sure, the stars were superb, again, just not superb enough to take down Miami. After that Ibaka jumper, no other Thunder player besides the team's two superstars scored a point.

"It's not disappointing. It's just, it happens that way," Brooks said. "Russell had a great game. We were going. We were going with him. He was making terrific plays at the basket. He was attacking, he was getting into the teeth of their defense and made basketball plays."

Sixth Man of the Year James Harden struggled yet again, shooting 2 for 10 for the second straight game, though he did finish with 10 rebounds. Nick Collison scored six points, but the other three Oklahoma City starters — Ibaka, Perkins and Thabo Sefolosha — combined for a mere 13 on 6-for-16 shooting.

"We're going to stay aggressive, keep trying to find guys," Westbrook said. "Guys are going to stay confident."

Westbrook was amazing. Durant was great. Everyone else was nearly nonexistent, at least offensively.

And if the Thunder don't figure out a way to do something no NBA team has ever done throughout the rest of this series, James will finally get that ring he's spent nine seasons chasing.

"We're going to keep fighting," Durant said. "Frustrating to lose like that. But we're going to keep fighting, man. That's how we've been since I got here."

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