




For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 68 Low 38	High 40 Low 30	High 49 Low 30

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Wind chill values between 32 and 42 early. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. East northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Showers likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 40. Northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Wednesday Night: A chance of rain and snow before 1 a.m., then a chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 30. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 49. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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No appeal for Texan Death Row inmate

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court refused Monday to review the case of a former Texas security guard sentenced to death for murdering his ex-wife and four other people nearly 13 years ago.

Coy Wayne Westbrook, 51, was condemned for the November 1997 rampage in Channelview, just east of Houston. Prosecutors said he killed his ex-wife, Gloria Jean Coons, 32; and four others: Antonio Cruz, 35; Anthony Ray Rogers, 41; Diana Ruth Money, 43; and Kelly Hazlip, 28.

Westbrook's attorney, Don Vernay, said he was not surprised by the high court's ruling, considering the number of victims in the case.

"It's somewhat problematic," he said. "This is really a tough one for me, although you look at it on paper and see five victims."

Vernay said it was uncertain what else he could do to head off Westbrook's execution, which has not been scheduled.

"Clemency in Texas is hysterical," he said. "We don't even go there."

Westbrook and Coons were married in 1995 and divorced the following year, but continued seeing each other and began living together again, according to testimony at

Westbrook's 1998 capital murder trial. He moved out in August 1997.

Westbrook testified that he went to Coons' apartment three months later, hoping to reconcile with her, and that the four others were there when he arrived.

Defense attorneys tried to persuade jurors Coons provoked Westbrook by having sex with two of the men. Westbrook said he tried to leave but Cruz took his keys, so he went to his truck, got his hunting rifle and returned to get his keys. He said he was taunted and after someone threw a beer at him, he "lost it," according to his trial testimony.

Neighbors reported hearing five shots within about 40 seconds, then saw Westbrook, rifle in hand, emerge from the apartment, put the weapon inside the cab of his truck and calmly stand by the tailgate to await sheriff's deputies.

Westbrook's trial was interrupted briefly when prosecutors accused him of trying from jail to have five more people killed, including another ex-wife and several witnesses in the case.

The Supreme Court also refused Monday to review the case of another Texas death row inmate, Anthony Barte, who was convicted of robbing and murdering his San Antonio neighbor David Cook in 1996. Barte, 53, was Barte was condemned for the slaying of David Cook, 37.

Barte, 53, contended two gang members killed the 37-year-old Cook and stole Cook's motorcycle. At the time of the killing, Barte was on parole for two aggravated rape convictions.

Cook's body was discovered by his family and police. He owned the 9 mm pistol used to kill him. The gun and Cook's red Harley-Davidson motorcycle were taken in the robbery.

Obituaries

Ruby Frances Royse, 81

Pampa—Ruby Frances Royse, died Friday, March 19, 2010 in Amarillo

Mrs. Royse was born Oct. 6, 1928 in Dustin, Oklahoma. She was a 1946 graduate of Elk City High School in Elk City, Oklahoma. She married Dr. Kenneth Royse on Dec. 22, 1946 in Elk City. He preceded her in death on Dec. 17, 2004. Ruby and her husband owned and operated Royse Animal Hospital in Pampa from 1959 until 2004. She was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church and Pampa Altrusa Club where she held several offices, including president

from 1984-1985 and attended district and international conferences as a delegate. Ruby was a member and past president of Pampa Knife and Fork Club and was a board member of the Pampa Fine Arts Association.

Survivors include a son, Jim Royse and wife Marsha of Pampa; a grandson, John Royse of Fort Worth, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Carrie Bozeman, and by a brother, Henry Gordon Bozeman.

Services will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at the First United

Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Jerry R. Lane, pastor of the United Methodist Church of White Deer, Rob Royse, her cousin of Oklahoma City, and Peck Keeler of Atlanta, Ga., officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

The family will be at 2244 Christine. Memorials may be made to Pampa Meals on Wheels, 302 E. Foster, Pampa, TX 79065 or Tralee Crisis Center, 308 S. Cuyler, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register

Royse

book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

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

Billie Allen, 67

Pampa—Billie Allen died March 21, 2010 in Oklahoma City. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Donny North, 70

Donny North of Weatherford passed away in Abilene on March 20, 2010. Local arrangements by North's Funeral Home, 242 Orange.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PAMPA EMS

The Pampa EMS Department reported the following incidents during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today:

Friday, March 19

7:32 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from PRMC to VA. A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from PRMC from the 1000 block of Sumner.

11:39 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from PMCU to Wellington.

20:54 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from the 1200 block of Mary Ellen to PRMC.

Sunday, March 21

7:06 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from the 800 block of W. 25th to PRMC.

11:23 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from the 500 block of Cyler to PRMC.

13:41 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from the 900 block of S. Findley to PRMC.

14:57 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from 8318 Hwy. 70 to PRMC.

15:06 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from PRMC to VAMC.

20:19 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from PRMC to NWTH.

13:51 A MICU Unit responded to a patient transport from Gillespie & Francis to PRMC.

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents over the weekend.

Officers reported 21 traffic-related incidents and three accidents.

Animal control officers reported 21 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported 14 calls. The Pampa Fire Department reported two medical calls and the Pam-

pa Police Department reported one.

Friday, March 19

Officers has escort duty in the 800 block of South Barnes, the 600 block of North Ward and the 1600 block of North Nelson.

A gasoline drive off was reported in the 1900 block of North Hobart.

An alarm was reported in the 2200 block of North Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Roberts.

A burglary was reported in the 200 block of North Houston.

A burglary was reported in the 500 block of North Carr.

Harassment was reported in the 2500 block of Charles.

Officers assisted another agency in the 800 block of South Barnes.

A theft was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

A theft was reported in the 400 block of Starkweather.

A robbery was reported in the 1100 block of South Neel.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of South Love.

A burglary was reported in the 300 block of North Faulkner.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Saturday, March 20
A theft was reported in the 1800 block of North Dwight.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of South Gray.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

An alarm was reported in the 200 block of West Brown.

Officers delivered a message to the 1400 block of West Somerville.

City officials turned off the water in the 1400 block of North Russell.

Officer provided an escort in the 400 block of South Harlem.

An alarm was reported

in the 400 block of West Brown.

Lost property was reported in the 1400 block of West Somerville.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported to police.

Officers investigated an open door in the 500 Block of North West.

City officials turned on the water in the 1400 block of North Russell.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of North Houston.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Huff.

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

Officers checked a building in the 100 block of East Craven.

Officers checked a building in the 100 block of West Foster and the 600 block of West Foster.

Sunday, March 21

A robbery was reported in the 700 block of North Bradley.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 300 block of East Browning.

An alarm was reported in the 600 block of North Hobart.

City officials shut off the water in the 100 block of East Georgia.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester.

An alarm was reported in the 400 block of South Cuyler.

A burglary was reported in the 300 block of East Tuke.

A theft was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of East Scott.

A gas drive off was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Officers performed a welfare check at Cinderella and Crest.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 1000 block of North Duncan.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 600 block of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of North Somerville.

A burglary was reported in the 800 block of South Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of South Barnes.

A suspicious person was reported at Lincoln and Nelson.

A runaway was reported to police.

Monday, March 22

A suspicious person was reported in the 700 block of North Wilks.

A suspicious person was reported at Gillespie and Francis.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1500 block of North Williston.

SHERIFF'S DEPT.

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests over the weekend

Friday, March 19

Gabriel Chavez, 34, of El Paso, was arrested by deputies for an insufficient bond for possession of controlled substances.

Belinda Vasquez, 42, of Pampa, was arrested by police for a charge of theft of property.

Rhoda Denise Dorton, 42, was arrested on a charge of tampering with government records.

Saturday, March 20

Pedro Zarate, 40, of Pampa, was arrested by police on charges of assault causing bodily injury.

Bo Likes, 18, of Pampa, was arrested by police on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

Isidro Hernandez, 41, of Pampa, was arrested by deputies on a charge of public intoxication.

Allen Bailey Huffman, 22, of Pampa, was arrested by police on charges of driving without a license and failure to appear.

Sunday, March 21

Zachary Lee Mears, 30, of Pampa, was arrested by police on a charge of possession of marijuana.

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Hathcoat

"Mental illness is not the same as competency or incompetency," Oney said.

He pointed out that under the law, a person could have a mental illness but not necessarily be incompetent to stand trial.

Sanity, however, relates to the defendant's mental condition at the time of the crime with which the defendant has been accused.

"We're not here to decide sanity," Oney said.

Oney explained that under the law, the defendant is presumed to be competent unless he is proven to be otherwise. Unlike a criminal trial, the burden of proof lies with the defendant.

If and when the case moves to trial, the burden of proving the defendant's guilt will lie with the prosecutors.

Todd Alvey, Hathcoat's defense attorney, explained to the jury panel that the standard of proof in a competency hearing is less than the guilt or innocence phase of a criminal trial or even in a trial for such things as terminating parental rights of a child.

In a competency hearing, only a preponderance of evidence is needed. In a criminal trial, the charges must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

Testimony in the competency hearing was to begin after lunch.

LAST MINUTE ADS

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Hispanics in Texas less likely to graduate

DALLAS (AP) — Hispanics are less likely to graduate from public and private universities compared with whites in Texas and nationwide, a new study finds.

The nonprofit American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research used data from six-year graduation rates from the National Center for Education Statistics.

The study, entitled *Rising to the Challenge: Raising Hispanic Graduation Rates as a National Priority*, found that 51 percent of Hispanics who started college earned a bachelor's degree within six years, compared with 59 percent of whites.

The Texas figures indicate that 40 percent of Hispanics graduated within six years, compared with 45 percent for whites, according to results released last week.

"When the students aren't graduating it suggests there's something going on there at the institutional level," research fellow Andrew Kelly said.

The study recommends a greater focus on retention and graduation rates, along with better financial information for students and their families. Hispanic students were less likely to be aware of loan and scholarship assistance, the study found.

Southern Methodist University in Dallas graduated 71 percent of Hispanic students and 73 percent of white students. The flagship Austin campus for the University of Texas graduated 69 percent of Hispanic students and 77 percent of whites.

Texas State University in San Marcos expects to become the largest public university in the state designated as a Hispanic-serving institution. The designation, which means at least 25 percent of full-time students are Hispanic, could attract additional federal funding. The school has nearly 31,000 students.

TSU President Denise Trauth expanded the school's admissions office, with more recruiters in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and south Texas targeting Hispanics.

"It wasn't proper to recruit Hispanics and not graduate them," Trauth said. "That was, in a sense, using Hispanic students."

A LAST HURRAH



staff photo by David Bowser

Snow blanketed the Panhandle on Saturday, slowing traffic on major highways and on city streets. The burst of frigid weather was a last blast of sorts from Mother Nature, as the final day of winter soon yielded to temperatures in the 50-degree range on Sunday.

Traffic stop yields \$144K of meth for DPS

THE PAMPA NEWS

WHEELER COUNTY — A routine traffic stop turned into a sizeable drug bust for the Department of Public Safety on Friday, sending two men to the Wheeler County Jail.

At 8:06 a.m. on Friday, DPS troopers stopped a 2002 Toyota Camry on I-40 near Shamrock for a traffic violation. Troopers asked for consent to search after becoming suspicious of the occupants, 43-year-old Louis Perez-

Rodriguez of Del Rey, Calif., and 42-year-old Jose Franco of Palm Springs, Calif. Both granted consent to search.

Subsequently, the troopers found two Ziploc bags of methamphetamine concealed in an ice chest. Perez-Rodriguez and Franco were both arrested on possession of methamphetamine and placed in the Wheeler Co. jail. The methamphetamine is worth an estimated 144,599.00 dollars.

The origin of the drugs was Palm Springs, Calif., and believed to be destined for Arkansas.

Skinner

testing, calling it a request Skinner "has already made and been denied" and noting that state and federal appeals courts have repeatedly refused to halt the punishment.

Prosecutors also argued Skinner "has already been found guilty at a fair trial" and there is no legal entitlement to post-conviction DNA evidence testing.

"There was ample evidence that Skinner was the murderer," the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in one ruling.

The district attorney who prosecuted Skinner, John Mann, has died. The current D.A., Lynn Switzer, declined last week to comment, citing her involvement in litigation of Skinner's case.

Skinner's scheduled punishment in the nation's busiest capital punishment state — 24 Texas inmates were executed last year and four already in 2010 — comes amid contentions from death penalty opponents that Texas already has used shaky evidence to execute at least one innocent man, convicted arson murderer Cameron Todd Willingham in 2004. Prosecutors in that case say the outcome was solid although an arson finding critical to Willingham's conviction is to be reviewed by a state commission.

With Skinner's execution date near, his attorneys went to the U.S. Supreme Court with their request for new DNA testing and formally asked Gov. Rick Perry for a reprieve. Last week, they lost a bid before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to return Skinner's case to the trial court for review.

In 1995, a jury in Fort Worth, where Skinner's trial was moved, took about three hours to decide Skinner was guilty, then deliberated less than two hours before deciding he should die.

"They're trying to kill me for this," Skinner said recently from a tiny visiting cage outside death row at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Polunsky Unit. "It's so frustrating. I tell my lawyers I'm living in a bad rerun of 'The Twilight Zone.'"

Skinner's jury heard evidence he was in the house where Busby and her two sons, Elwin "Scooter" Caler, 22, and Randy Busby, 20, were killed and that he had blood of at least two of the victims on his clothing. There also was testimony that Skinner, a former construction and oilfield worker, walked to a nearby trailer home and told a woman there he might have kicked Twila Busby to death. Busby's body, however, bore no evidence of being kicked and the woman who testified, in an affidavit, has since recanted portions of her trial testimony.

Police were summoned when Caler, suffering multiple stab wounds, appeared on the front porch of a neighbor's home. He would die later. The bodies of his mother and half brother were discovered in their home. Officers followed a blood trail to the trailer home four blocks away and found Skinner three hours later, in a closet. His hand was cut and his clothes were spattered with blood from Caler and Busby.

Skinner explained later the mortally wounded Caler bled on him as he tried to rouse him from his drunken stupor. The couch where he was passed out was just a few feet from where Twila Busby was bludgeoned, he said, accounting for her blood. His hand wound occurred when he fell on broken glass, he said.

Prosecutors, however, contended that Skinner's hand slipped down the knife when he stabbed Randy Busby and struck the man's shoulder blade. A defense blood spatter witness at Skinner's trial acknowledged the stains on his clothing were inconsistent with someone merely

laying on a sofa, according to court documents.

Skinner and his lawyers claimed the actual killer could have been Twila Busby's uncle, Robert Donnell. Donnell, described in court documents as a "hot-tempered ex-con" who became more violent when he drank and kept a knife in his car, attended the same New Year's Eve party with Busby the night of the slayings. Skinner didn't go because he was nearly comatose from drugs and booze. Busby left the party and returned home after Donnell made crude remarks and unwanted passes at her, Skinner's attorneys said.

Donnell later died in a 1997 traffic wreck.

Skinner's lawyers specifically would like DNA testing on vaginal swabs taken from Busby at the time of her autopsy, fingernail clippings, a knife found on the porch of Busby's house and a second knife found in a plastic bag in the house, a towel with the second knife, a jacket next to Busby's body and any hairs found in her hands that were not destroyed in previous testing.

"There are disturbing and unresolved questions about the accuracy of the jury's verdict," Skinner's lawyers told the Supreme Court.

The issue of new DNA testing has surrounded Skinner's case for more than a decade, gaining traction in 1999 after a team of journalism students from the Medill Innocence Project at Northwestern University in Illinois began examining the evidence.

Skinner's trial attorney, Harold Comer, also came under scrutiny. Comer was a former Gray County district attorney who left office amid admissions he improperly borrowed \$10,000 from a drug seizure fund.

Comer previously had prosecuted Skinner for car theft and assault. But as his defense lawyer, Comer couldn't object when prosecutors used those convictions as proof Skinner would be a future danger, one of the questions jurors must decide when deliberating a death sentence.

Comer did object to what he believed was selective DNA testing by prosecutors but said later at an evidentiary hearing he didn't seek testing on the items now in question because the items already tested had damaged his case and he didn't want to risk uncovering even more damaging evidence.

"It would be foolhardy to insist on further testing because we felt it was possible and even probable it would be the same result — incriminating," Comer said last week. "These pundits that go around and fault us for not insisting on testing just don't understand how things work."

"We certainly would have been ineffective and rightfully so if we had insisted on more testing and if it were bad for us when we already knew."

Comer, who now supports the call for additional DNA tests, said the strategic decision at trial wasn't taken lightly and was made after much thought.

"You've got a responsibility for a man's life," he said. "I would make the same decision with the same circumstances again."

Prison records show Skinner received a five-year term for car theft in 1988 in Gray County, was paroled a year and a half later to Harris County, but was returned to prison six months later for violating his parole. He was paroled again in late 1989 and discharged in May 1993, seven months before the triple slaying.

In more recent times, prison officials said Skinner was among numerous Texas death row inmates they found with contraband cell phones. He has denied any wrongdoing.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Roger" — 64 and retired — has a crush on a 25-year-old woman who lives in our small community and who runs a dress shop I frequent. Roger is usually quiet and reserved, but when he sees "Patti," he utters loud cries and runs to her side. He examines every detail of her clothing, makeup, etc., and takes her hand and compliments her on her soft skin, her ring or the color of her nail polish.

From the expression on her face and the looks she exchanges with the other women in the shop, it's clear she considers him a pest.

I have spoken up and said, "Patti must have a grandfather your age," or, "There's no fool like an old fool," but Roger ignores it. My concern is that he's making a fool of himself in public and, by extension, me. I'm so embarrassed, I can no longer walk into my favorite dress shop. Patti is popular. She has many dates and is not interested in Roger. I hate to be pitied by others. What can I do to stop this? — OLD FOOL'S WIFE IN ALABAMA

DEAR WIFE: Roger's "crush" is a reflection on him, not you, so keep your cool and please stop calling him an old fool. It's insulting and belittling, so of course he'll tune you out. Try this instead, "Roger, when you act the way you do when you're around Patti, it's embarrassing to me. That's why I prefer you no longer accompany me when I go there."

Then, when you shop for clothing, go without him. And instruct Patti and the saleswomen that if Roger drops by without you to tell him he's welcome — IF he's buying something for you. That way, instead of a problem, you'll have a windfall, and so will they. You can even leave a "wish list" with Patti in advance.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently married, but we had to postpone our honeymoon for a couple of weeks due to weather and the loss of a sitter for my wife's daughter. The day after our wedding, my

bride, "Brenda," informed me that we had a dinner date the following Monday with another married couple who are friends of hers. I gladly accepted, thinking it would be fun to go out and celebrate since our plans had fallen through.

The day before the dinner I was told that the husband (in the couple) had to work — so Brenda and his wife would go out to dinner and, if it was OK with me, I would stay home and baby-sit my new stepdaughter. I felt I had no say in the matter, and to keep things positive in this brand-new marriage, I agreed.

I have no problem with Brenda going out alone with her friend, but I did feel slighted. Shouldn't the dinner have been postponed until a time when we were all available? Or should I have accepted this "girls' night out" with more grace? — HONEYMOON-DEPRIVED IN KNOXVILLE

DEAR ABBY: I hate to be pitied by others. What can I do to stop this? — OLD FOOL'S WIFE IN ALABAMA

DEAR WIFE: Roger's "crush" is a reflection on him, not you, so keep your cool and please stop calling him an old fool. It's insulting and belittling, so of course he'll tune you out. Try this instead, "Roger, when you act the way you do when you're around Patti, it's embarrassing to me. That's why I prefer you no longer accompany me when I go there."

Then, when you shop for clothing, go without him. And instruct Patti and the saleswomen that if Roger drops by without you to tell him he's welcome — IF he's buying something for you. That way, instead of a problem, you'll have a windfall, and so will they. You can even leave a "wish list" with Patti in advance.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were out to dinner with two other couples who are also good friends. We all enjoyed a couple of bottles of wine during our meal.

When the check came, we split it three ways. However, one of the other couples insisted that we should tip only on the food portion of the bill. I said we should tip on the entire bill, including the cost of the wine. Who was correct? — PROPERLY SERVED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR PROPERLY SERVED: You were. The tip should have been computed on the entire tab — and that includes the wine that you "all" enjoyed with your meals.

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, March 22, the 81st day of 2010. There are 284 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 22, 1765, Britain enacted the Stamp Act of 1765 to raise money from the American colonies. (The Act was repealed the following year.)

On this date:

In 1638, religious dissident Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for defying Puritan orthodoxy.

In 1820, U.S. naval hero Stephen Decatur was killed in a duel with Commodore James Barron near Washington, D.C.

In 1882, President Chester Alan Arthur signed a measure outlawing polygamy.

In 1933, during Prohibition, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure to make wine and beer containing up to 3.2 percent alcohol legal.

In 1941, the Grand Coulee hydroelectric dam in Washington state went into operation.

In 1945, the Arab League was formed with the adoption of a charter in Cairo, Egypt.

In 1958, movie producer Mike Todd (husband of actress Elizabeth Taylor) and three other people were killed in the crash of Todd's private plane near Grants, N.M.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson named General William C. Westmoreland to be the Army's new Chief of Staff.

Ten years ago: Journeying to the cradle of Christianity, Pope John Paul II knelt and prayed in Bethlehem at the traditional spot of Jesus' birth.

Five years ago: Terri Schiavo's parents begged a federal appeals court to order the severely brain-damaged woman's feeding tube reinserted after their emergency request was turned down by a federal judge in Tampa, Fla. (The court refused to intervene.) A woman claimed to have found a fingertip while eating Wendy's chili at a restaurant in San Jose, Calif., costing the fast-food chain millions in lost sales before she admitted it was a hoax. (The woman, Anna Ayala, and her husband, Jaime Plascencia, later pleaded guilty to conspiracy to file a false insurance claim and attempted grand theft and were sentenced to prison.)

One year ago: The Mount Redoubt volcano in Alaska began erupting (it took about six months to settle down).

Today's Birthdays: Composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim is 80. Evangelist broadcaster Pat Robertson is 80. Actor William Shatner is 79. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) is 76. Actor M. Emmet Walsh is 75. Singer-guitarist George Benson is 67. Writer James Patterson is 63. CNN newscaster Wolf Blitzer is 62. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 62. Sportscaster Bob Costas is 58. Actress Lena Olin is 55. Actor Matthew Modine is 51. Actress Anne Dudek is 35. Actor Cole Hauser is 35. Actress Kellie Williams is 34. Actress Reese Witherspoon is 34.

Thought for Today:

"Do not the most moving moments of our lives find us without words?" — Marcel Marceau, French mime (1923-2007).



Attorney General's Office committed to helping parents with child support

GREG ABBOTT
Texas Attorney General

Virtually everyone is affected in some way by the nation's economic slump. Each day brings new reports of industry downsizing, factory closures and job losses. Although Texas' unemployment rate is below the national average, many families are having a tough time making ends meet.

The Office of the Attorney General's Child Support Division can help improve the financial picture for parents who need or pay child support. Single parents who have custody of their children may suddenly need the extra help that child support provides, and our office will assist them by establishing a child support order or enforcing an existing order.

Parents who pay child support may be struggling because the amount of their court-ordered payment no longer matches their income. The CSD can help those parents modify, or change, the amount of their court-ordered child support payment.

In Texas, judges follow guidelines in the law when setting the amount of the child support payment. In most cases, noncustodial parents pay a percent of their net income each month, ranging from 20 percent for one child to not less than 40 percent for six or more children. Special rules apply for parents with a net monthly income greater than \$7,500, and in cases of joint placement or multiple children in different households. Each child support order also includes the obligation to provide medical support.

Child support orders can be modified if a material and substantial change in circumstances has occurred since the

last child support order. Many times, this means a parent's income has either decreased or increased. Orders also can be modified if three or more years have passed since the order was established or last modified and the monthly amount of the current payment differs by either 20 percent or \$100 from the amount that would be awarded according to the guidelines.

To obtain information about changing the amount of a child support order, parents are encouraged to visit the child support section of the OAG's Web site www.texasattorneygeneral.gov, where they will find answers to frequently asked questions on the subject. Parents who believe they are due a modification can use the child support calculator to compute the monthly payment amount, based on information they enter about their current earnings and family situation.

Parents whose orders may qualify for a modification can complete an online form to request a review of their case. A review can also be requested by contacting their local child support office.

The local child support office will review each parent's request and, for those who qualify, schedule a modification court hearing or office appointment that includes the other parent.

If a parent is unemployed and has no source of income, the modified child support payment is generally calculated based on past employment, ability to work and earn an income, and the federal minimum wage. Up to 50 percent of a parent's unemployment benefits are withheld through wage withholding and applied to the child support obligation.

Noncustodial parents who lose their

jobs should immediately notify the child support office handling their case. If requesting a modification, it is important to show evidence of seeking work. Notify the office as soon as you get another job so that a wage withholding order or writ can be sent to the new employer.

Remember that only a court can change the amount a parent is ordered to pay. Completing a request for a review does not guarantee that the order will be changed.

After submitting a written request for a review, parents should:

- Continue to make regular child support payments because changes to the court-ordered amount are not retroactive.
- Provide all the information requested for the review. Missing information will slow down the process.
- Show up to any appointments or court hearings that are scheduled. If a parent fails to appear, the court or our office may not be able to complete the modification request.
- Keep in touch with the local child support office until a final decision has been made.

Parents understand the importance of providing for their children through good and bad economic times. The amount of court ordered payments should be within reach, according to a parent's earnings. Our office is committed to helping parents caught up in the financial downturn by helping them align their child support orders to their current circumstances. Parents who do not have cases with our office can apply for services online from the child support section of the Attorney General Web site, or by calling (800) 252-8014 to request an application.

Texan leaders sound off on healthcare

With the landmark health-care reform bill passing the House of Representatives late last night and President Obama reportedly set to sign it tomorrow, many Texan leaders have let their feelings about the bill known. Following are selected statements from some notable Texans on the legislation:

"Unfortunately, the health care vote had more to do with expanding socialism on American soil than it does fixing our health care finance and delivery systems. The Obama health care bill undermines patient choice, personal responsibility, medical innovation and fiscal responsibility in America.

"As passed by the U.S. House, the bill will cost Texas taxpayers billions more, and drive our nation much deeper into debt. Congress's backroom deals and parliamentary maneuvers undermined the public trust and increased cynicism in our political process.

"Texas leaders will continue to do everything in our power to fight this federal excess and find ways to protect our families, taxpayers and medical providers from this gross federal

overreach."
— Gov. Rick Perry

"The federal health care legislation passed tonight violates the United States Constitution and unconstitutionally infringes upon Texans' individual liberties. To protect all Texans' constitutional rights, preserve the constitutional framework intended by our nation's founders, and defend our state from further infringement by the federal government, the State of Texas and other states will legally challenge the federal health care legislation."
— Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

"Our families deserved more," he said, "like the choice of a Medicare-type

option, yet they will get so much more than what they have today. To this valuable reform foundation we must — we will — do more."
— U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin

"It's just wrong policy, bad economic policy, bad moral policy, bad constitutional law," he said. "... Medical care will get worse and this country will go into bankruptcy."
— U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Lake Jackson

"(Sunday's) accomplishments take the advantage away from the insurance companies and put it back in the hands of Texans and the American people. No longer will Americans be driven into debt by health care costs, be denied cov-

erage based on a preexisting condition, and be indiscriminately dropped from their policy when they're sick and need it most.

"Because of our dismal health standings, Texas stands to gain the most from this legislation... This legislation moves Texas and America forward. Our country is back on the right path."
— State Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston

"(Sunday's) action by Congress is a slap in the face to the clear majority of Texans, and Americans, who demand real health care reform resulting from an open and transparent process and that truly fixes a broken system."
— Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

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TPA MEMBER 2010
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

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

Mexico's drug war takes growing toll on Americans

MEXICO CITY (AP)—More Americans in Mexico are falling victim to a wave of drug violence sweeping the country, a change driven home by the recent killing of a U.S. Consulate employee and her husband who were gunned down after leaving a children's birthday party.

The number of U.S. citizens killed in Mexico has more than doubled to 78 in 2009 from 37 in 2007, according to the U.S. State Department's annual count. No figures were available for the first two months of 2010.

While only some of the killings are specifically listed as "executions" or "drug-related," the increase in homicides appears to be related to drug battles. In Ciudad Juarez, the northern border city hardest hit by drug violence and where the consulate employee was killed, homicides of Americans rose to 23 in 2009 from two in 2007.

The annual murder rate for the estimated 500,000 American citizens in Mexico at any one time has risen, but still remains lower than in some U.S. cities: about 15

per 100,000. Baltimore's 2009 homicide rate was 37 per 100,000 residents.

American deaths make up only a tiny fraction of Mexico's 17,900 drug-related killings since December 2006, when President Felipe Calderon launched a military-led drug war.

On Saturday, a clash among armed men left eight people dead in the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa. The bodies of seven men were found inside two cars along a highway connecting the cities of Culiacan and Mazatlan, said Sinaloa prosecutors' spokesman Martin Gastelum. An eighth victim, dressed in a fake federal police uniform and holding a grenade, was found near the cars, Gastelum said.

The government says the majority of those killed were involved in the drug trade. But an increasing number of bystanders are dying in the crossfire, and Americans are among them.

Tania Lozoya, 15, of El Paso, Texas, was killed by a stray bullet at her aunt's house across the border in Ciudad Juarez in May 2009, after gunfire broke out when two

men chased another man into the backyard of the residence.

In December, a California assistant school principal, Augustin Salcedo, was killed after he was abducted from a restaurant along with five other men while he and his wife were visiting her hometown of Gomez Palacio, in the northern state of Durango. The motive for the mass abduction remains unclear.

Other Americans appear to have been specifically targeted.

U.S. anti-kidnapping expert Felix Batista was abducted by gunmen in December 2008 in the northern city of Saltillo, where he had gone to advise local businessmen on how to avoid becoming victims of the country's wave of kidnappings. He has not been found.

"I see it as, my brother was interfering with their profit margin," said Batista's sister, Jackie Batista. "That's their line of business. Other than drugs, it's kidnapping, so people want to know how to keep themselves safe, and that intrudes into their profit margin."

More than a year after his disappearance, nobody knows for sure who took Batista.

The prosecutors' office in the state of Coahuila, where Saltillo is located, confirmed that no trace of Batista has been found, and they now consider it an inactive case.

"I think that's my biggest fear," Batista said. "That this case will never be resolved. ... Excuse the phrase, and I hate to use it, that it has gone to the grave with those people who were involved."

Ciudad Juarez Mayor Jose Reyes does not think victims are targeted because of their U.S. ties. "I do not think this was a message to the consulate," Reyes said.

But Vicky Torres, cousin of Lesley A. Enriquez, a U.S. consular employee who was gunned down with her family on March 13 as they were returning from a birthday party, doesn't see it that way.

"It's a message for the United States, like a challenge: 'Don't you mess around, you Americans, because this will happen,'" she said.

Perry gives copy of pardon to Cole family

FORT WORTH (AP) — The family of a Texas man who died while imprisoned for a rape he didn't commit cried and hugged at his graveside Friday with a framed copy of the state's first posthumous pardon — a document that finally proves his innocence.

Gov. Rick Perry granted Timothy Cole's pardon nearly three weeks ago. He gave Cole's relatives the pardon document earlier Friday at a Fort Worth hotel, completing their long-fought ordeal.

"This is a solemn occasion but it's also a joyful occasion," Perry said. "It's solemn because we're very mindful of the loss that was suffered by the Cole family, and we're joyful because we've restored Timothy's good name."

Cole was cleared by DNA testing in 2008, nine years after he died in prison at age 39 of asthma complications. He had spent more than 13 years behind bars, steadfastly maintaining his innocence of the rape of a Texas Tech University student in Lubbock.

Despite urgings for the pardon from Cole's family, Perry had said he lacked the authority to grant a posthumous pardon. But he granted it earlier this month after the state attorney general clarified the law in January. The Innocence Project of Texas then submitted a formal pardon request to the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

"Our family would like to thank those who worked so diligently to make this day come to pass," said Cole's mother, Ruby Session. She thanked her son, Timothy, too, "for his contributions, even though he's not here, towards affecting change and improvement in the criminal justice system."

Texas leads the nation in inmate exonerations. More than 40 Texas inmates have been released after being cleared.

House boosts aid for college students

WASHINGTON (AP) — Riding the coattails of a historic health care vote, the House on Sunday also passed a broad reorganization of college aid that affects millions of students and moves President Barack Obama closer to winning yet another of his top domestic policies.

The bill rewrites a four-decades-old student loan program, eliminating its reliance on private lenders and uses the savings to direct \$36 billion in new spending to Pell Grants for students in financial need.

In the biggest piece of education legislation since No Child Left Behind nine years ago, the bill would also provide more than \$4 billion to historically black colleges and community colleges.

The bill was paired with the expedited health care bill, a marriage of convenience that helped the prospects of each measure. That combined measure passed 220-211.

"We are pairing this historic health reform with another opportunity that cannot be missed. It's the chance to make the single largest investment in college affordability ever at

no cost to the taxpayers," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif.

The Senate will take up the bill next week under the same expedited rules used for health care legislation. That means the Senate can pass the education measure by a simple majority, virtually guaranteeing its success despite qualms from some Democrats and opposition from Republicans.

House lawmakers passed the bill last year, but in the Senate it did not have 60 votes to overcome a near certain filibuster. By riding shotgun on the fast-track health care bill, the legislation now can avoid that obstacle.

Still, Obama won't get the Pell Grant expansion he initially sought. Congressional Democrats had to trim their original spending plans when the 10-year savings realized by switching to direct government loans dropped from \$87 billion to \$61 billion.

Private lenders have conducted an all-out lobbying effort against the bill, arguing it would cost thousands of jobs and unnecessarily put the program in the hands of the government.

Insurers; doctor-owned hospitals get late help

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tucked into President Barack Obama's health care bill are several 11th-hour changes that help major insurance companies and doctor-owned hospitals.

Among the beneficiaries, according to lobbyists and congressional aides, are Kaiser Permanente, the giant California-based insurance company; Geisinger Health Plan based in Pennsylvania; and doctor-owned health facilities in about a dozen states, including Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

House leaders hoped to approve the revisions Sunday when lawmakers vote on the health care legislation. They were included in a 153-page bill revising the giant Senate-passed overhaul package, and in separate language that Democrats plan to add.

Some of the special deals in the health care bill have been widely derided by Republicans and Democrats, and a few have been dropped.

Last year, to help win the vote of Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., the massive Senate measure had included \$100 million that only Nebraska would get in added federal Medicaid assistance. Dubbed the Cornhusker Kickback, it was eliminated in the revisions bill.

The latest changes to the bill include:

- Tax-exempt insurers would have to pay a new fee levied on insurers on only half their premiums. Kaiser Permanente and Geisinger are both tax-exempt.
- An Aug. 1, 2010, deadline on new doctor-owned hospitals to apply to the government for eligibility to serve — and get paid for — Medicare patients would be extended to Dec. 31.
- A new 2.9 percent excise tax on medical devices would be lowered to 2.3 percent. But it will be broadened to apply to some lower-cost devices it hadn't initially covered, though hearing aids, contact lenses and other items consumers buy retail would be excluded.

Healthcare

many. Republicans say the bill will ultimately increase taxes and damage the quality of health care and has little public support.

Widely viewed as dead two months ago, the Senate-passed bill cleared the House on Sunday night on a 219-212 vote, with Republicans unanimous in opposition.

A second, smaller measure — making changes in the first — cleared the House shortly before midnight and was sent to the Senate, where Democratic leaders said they had the votes necessary to pass it quickly.

Congressional officials said they expect Obama to sign the main bill as early as Tuesday.

Obama will travel outside Washington on Thursday as he now turns to seeing the companion bill through the Senate and selling the health care overhaul's benefits on behalf of House lawmakers who cast risky votes.

The president watched the House vote Sunday from the White House with Vice President Joe Biden and about 40 staff aides. When the long sought 216th vote came in — the magic number needed for passage — the room burst into applause and hugs. An exultant president

exchanged a high-five with his chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel.

Republican Senator John McCain said Monday morning that Democrats have not heard the last of the health care debate, and said he was repulsed by "all this euphoria going on."

McCain, who was Obama's rival in the 2008 presidential election, told ABC television that "outside the (Washington) Beltway, the American people are very angry. They don't like it, and we're going to repeal this."

While national health care has been a goal of presidents stretching back decades, it has proved elusive, in part because self-reliance and suspicion of a strong central government remain strong in America.

After more than a year of political combat, debate on the House floor fell along predictable lines. Not one Republican voted for the bill. Some moderate Democrats also voted against it.

Most Americans receive private health insurance through their jobs as part of their benefits, but employers are not required to offer coverage. The government covers the elderly and indigent.

The health reform measure extends coverage to

32 million of the nearly 50 people in the U.S. who lack it and bans insurers from denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. It would also usher in a significant expansion of Medicaid, the program for the poor.

Parents would be able to keep children on their coverage up to age 26. A new high-risk pool would offer coverage to uninsured people with medical problems until 2014, when the coverage expansion goes into high gear.

Under the legislation, most Americans would be required to purchase insurance, and face penalties if they refused. Once enacted,

the measure would create a series of so-called "insurance exchanges" beginning in 2014 where self-employed people and small businesses could pool together to shop for health care coverage.

Republicans readily agreed the bill would affect everyone in America — it will have an impact on one-sixth of the U.S. economy — but warned repeatedly of that it will result in higher taxes and other financial burdens.

"We have failed to listen to America," said House Republican leader Rep. John Boehner.

As the House met Sunday, a shouting band

of protesters outside the Capitol dramatized their opposition, and one man stood up in the House visitor's gallery shouting, "Kill the bill" before he was ushered out — evidence of the passions the yearlong debate over health care has stirred.

Obama's quest to overhaul health care seemed at a dead end two months ago, when Republicans won a special election to fill the late Edward Kennedy's Massachusetts Senate seat, and with it, enough votes to prevent a final vote.

But the White House, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid soon

came up with a rescue plan that required the House to approve the Senate-passed measure despite opposition to many of its provisions, then have both chambers pass a fix-it measure incorporating numerous changes.

cont. from page 1

CLUB NEWS

Gray County Genealogical Society will hold their March 2010 meeting at 7:00 p.m. today at the North door of the Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N Houston Street. Our speaker will be Kelly Sanders with the Amarillo Genealogical Society. Her subject will be "The Higgins, TX Tornado of 1947." The public is invited.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Beginner

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

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP
4-28-10
Amarillo, Texas
The Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG), a Regional Water Planning Group formed pursuant to the requirements of Senate Bill 1 (75th Legislative Session), will hold a Public Hearing on April 28, 2010 at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Amarillo, 6500 Amarillo Boulevard West, Amarillo, Texas beginning at 6:00 PM, CST. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to present to the public the results of the initially prepared 2011 Regional Water Plan (RWP) for Region A, Panhandle Water Planning Area, and to solicit input and comments from the general public and interested parties and entities. Region A comprises all of Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore, Hutchison, Roberts, Hemphill, Oldham, Potter, Carson, Gray, Wheeler, Randall, Armstrong, Donley, Collingsworth, Hall, and Childress Counties. The Public Hearing will consist of a presentation on the RWP, receipt of written and oral comments from the public, and comments from the PWPG. The RWP is currently available for public review and inspection at www.panhandlewater.org and in the County Clerk's office in each of the Region A Counties listed above. The RWP is also available in the following public libraries or alternate locations: Dallam County (Dallam); Sherman County

1 Public Notice

(Stratford); Hansford County (Spearman); Perry Memorial (Perryton); Kilgore Memorial (Dumas); Hutchison County (Borger); Roberson County (Miami); Hemphill (Canadian); Oldham County (Vega); Potter County (Amarillo); Downtown Library; Carson County (Pampano); Lovett Memorial (Pampa); Wheeler; Canyon; Claude; Clarendon; Wellington; Childress; and the offices of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, 415 W. 8th, Amarillo, TX. For more information please contact: Kyle G. Ingham, Local Government Services Director, PO Box 9257, Amarillo, TX 79105; ph: (806)372-3381; kingham@theprpc.org. The PWPG will receive written and oral comments at the hearing and will also receive written comments

1 Public Notice

separate from the hearing. Individuals wishing to submit written comments separate from the hearing may address their comments to the PWPG, Attn: Kyle G. Ingham at the above address. All written comments submitted separate from the hearing must be received no later than 5:00 PM, Monday June 28, 2010. All comments received will be considered prior to final adoption of the 2011 Panhandle Regional Water Plan. E-45 Mar. 18, 22, 2010

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YDUO BEAD AGO IDJXZ
POYWTNO DM POIBXZOJUEA
WEZ AGBEFN XOMA TENWBZ.
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1810 Beech Ln	\$134,900	3/2/2	2254 SF/GCAD
2720 Seminole	\$133,599	3/2/2	1416 SF/GCAD
2541 Christine	\$129,500	3/1.75/2	2050 SF/GCAD
2207 Chestnut	\$125,000	3/1.75/1	1950 SF/Measured
1301 Charles	\$119,900	4/2/2	1732 SF/GCAD
2020 Christine	\$117,500	3/1/3	1607 SF/GCAD
2139 Dogwood	\$89,000	3/2/2	1680 SF/GCAD
2236 Dogwood	\$79,900	3/1.5/1	1264 SF/GCAD
1445 N Russell	\$65,000	3/1.75/2	1504 SF/GCAD
700 Somerville	\$65,000	3/1.5/2	1323 SF/GCAD
704 E. 16th Ave.	\$59,900	3/1/1	1634 SF/GCAD
1715 Winston	\$58,000	2/1/1	762 SF/GCAD
1325 Garland	\$49,900	2/1/cpt	762 SF/GCAD
Chaumont	\$35,000		Lots 1 & 2 Block 2

WICHITA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1048 Neel	\$40,000	3/1.75/1	1277 SF/GCAD
411 Ward	\$25,000	2/1/0	723 SF/GCAD
601 N Nelson	\$17,900	3/1/1	1548 SF/GCAD

WEST AND NORTHEAST

2132 Lynn	\$149,000	3/1.75/2	2484 SF/GCAD
2143 Sumner	\$115,000	4/3/2	1925 SF/GCAD
2120 Lynn	\$110,900	3/1.75/2	1872 SF/GCAD
1801 N Zimmers	\$92,500	3/1.75/2	1426 SF/GCAD
1916 Lynn	\$88,000	4/2/2	2258 SF/GCAD
2101 N Wells	\$69,900	3/1.75/2	1435 SF/GCAD
801 N Dwight	\$60,000	3/2/2	1464 SF/GCAD
1100 Cinderella	\$59,000	3/1.75/1	1411 SF/GCAD
1129 Seneca	\$45,000	3/1/1	864 SF/GCAD

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4 Lines - \$5 (plus a free garage sale kit)
Must run before March 31. In case of snow, same ad will run free of charge - (must be within the next 30 days.)
All ads paid in advance! Call for deadlines 669-2525

Daily Horoscope
HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, March 23, 2010:
This year, misunderstandings come from out of nowhere. It is important to stay centered, aboveboard and not to take others' actions personally. You could find developing this attitude challenging, but most worthwhile. Remain positive and direct. You know what is needed to make your life work. Often you will opt to head out alone or take the lead. If you are single, relating could be challenging, as often you feel pressured by situations — outside and within the relationship. If you are attached, learn to defuse tension and stress with your sweetie. Someone born under the sign CANCER can be difficult to deal with.
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)
*** Tension builds. You might wish you could be at home. Some of you might be fortunate enough to be able to do just that, while others consider closing their door! Challenges blow in from left field, and you wonder what to do and which way to go. Tonight: Stay close to the heart.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Others have a lot to say, whether you want to hear it or not. Remain upbeat and positive, despite pressure. Refuse to react to someone's words or voice. Detach and take the high road. You'll gain depth and understanding. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** Slow down and take a hard look at your finances. Your style and manner of communicating draws many people, especially in a meeting. Don't commit unless you are sure of yourself. Know what you want. Stay upbeat. Tonight: Gather your bills. Take a hard look at your budget.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** You wake up gung-ho and ready. Though you hit a hassle or two, you will come out on top. Your energy and magnetism mark your decisions. Visualize rather than cause yourself a problem. Tonight: Do whatever makes you happy.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** Know when you cannot win and need to step back. How you handle a personal matter could change radically as pressure builds. What might be wise is to remain unreactive. Think about personal issues rather than act on them. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** You make the right decisions, even under stress. You know which way to go. Stay on top of your work, and be aware of a building conflict. Ingenuity and sensitivity could save the day. Nurture a key person. Tonight: Where people are.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** If you're wondering what is the wisest approach to a conflicted situation, toss the issue out to those who might be impacted by it. You would be well advised to keep your own counsel about opinions. Your personal life continues to challenge you. Tonight: Happy at home.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Take an overview, understanding you cannot change what someone feels. If you can, find some way that two different attitudes could merge or at least coexist. Avoid black-and-white and either-or situations. Tonight: Feed your mind some candy!
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
*** You might want to rethink an association, especially if you keep encountering conflicts. Work with someone directly, understanding what is going on with him or her. Allow only so much personal talk if you want to accomplish a lot. Tonight: Togetherness works.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Others simply have Lady Luck on their side. The wise Goat will back off and allow key people to have their way. You might feel resistant, but that attitude will only cause a problem. Stay light and easy with others. Tonight: Go along with someone else's choice.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
*** Emphasize what you can get done as opposed to what you would like to accomplish. Maintaining a realistic perspective might be more important than you realize. You could be making mountains out of molehills. Stop. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** Your ingenuity could prevent a conflict between two major interests. Many people are vested in your choices. Detach with care, knowing what you want and desire. A smile goes a long way in healing a rift. Tonight: Let go of work and stress.
BORN TODAY
Actress Joan Crawford (1905), R&B vocalist Chaka Khan (1953), actress Keri Russell (1976) ***
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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Sports

My bracket busted after tournament's first two rounds

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

All right, yes, I know my predictions didn't pan out. My so called "Cinderella" San Diego State was edged in the first round. My "champ," Villanova, nearly lost in the first round and then fell to St. Mary's. My other finalist, Kansas, was knocked out by Northern Iowa of the Missouri Valley.

In my bracket, I went 18-14 in the first round and 6-10 in the second, for an overall record of 24-24. Six of my Sweet 16 are still alive, three teams in my Elite 8 are still in and two teams in my Final Four are still playing.

First, simulation web sites like Whatifsports.com and Nationalsportsranking.com, you're fired. 50 percent accuracy is just not acceptable. Secondly, whose bracket isn't messed up? Understandable, others may not have picked San Diego State as a cinderella or Villanova to lose it all. I don't think too many people had enough guts to pick Kansas to lose in the second round, much less to Northern Iowa. Additionally, I seriously doubt many people had Cornell, an Ivy League School in their Sweet 16. Like I said when I first made predictions, there was a better chance of winning the lottery than for me to guess all 63 games

of the NCAA Tournament correctly.

So, now that my bracket is pretty much busted, I'm giving new predictions for the rest of the tournament. I'm judging these teams on five criteria: most wins, fewest losses, better Ratings Percentage Index "RPI" or stronger schedule, which conference does better in the round and all-time NCAA tournament wins. Remember, there is a better chance of me getting all 15 games right, but still highly unlikely. In fact, stay inside if there's a thunderstorm, because there's a better chance of getting struck by lightning than all of these picks being right. I don't write these columns to show that I'm going to be right, I simply do it for your entertainment.

#5 Michigan State Spartans (Big Ten) vs. #9 Northern Iowa Panthers (Missouri Valley)

The Spartans enter this game defeating twelfth seed New Mexico State and fourth seed Maryland. Northern Iowa enters the game with wins over eighth seed UNLV and number one overall seed Kansas. The Panthers have more wins than Michigan State and fewer losses. The Missouri Valley Conference has never advanced to the Elite Eight in the last five years while the Big Ten has Michigan



Andrew Glover

State has 49 tournament wins to Northern Iowa's three. The Panthers are ranked higher in the RPI rankings and the Spartans don't have Kalin Lucas. So, welcome to the Elite Eight, Missouri Valley Conference and Northern Iowa.

#2 Ohio State Buckeyes (Big Ten) vs. #6 Tennessee Volunteers (SEC)

The Buckeyes defeated 15th seed UC Santa Barbara and 10th seed Georgia Tech. Tennessee defeated 11th seed San Diego State and 14th seed Ohio. The Buckeyes won more games and lost fewer games than the Volunteers. Tennessee is ranked 14th in RPI while the Buckeyes are ranked 22nd. The Big Ten has done better than the SEC in the Sweet 16 and Ohio State has 45 tournament wins to 15 for Tennessee. The Buckeyes advance.

#1 Syracuse Orangemen (Big East) vs. #5 Butler

Bulldogs (Horizon)

Syracuse beat 16th seed Vermont and eighth seed Gonzaga. Butler beat 12th seed UTEP and 13th seed Murray State. The Orangemen and Bulldogs both enter the game with identical 30-4 records. Syracuse has a stronger RPI and more wins in the tournament all-time compared to Butler. Just like the Missouri Valley Conference the Horizon league hasn't had an elite eight team in the last five years. This year won't be the first either, the Cuse advance.

#2 Kansas State Wildcats (Big 12) vs. #6 Xavier Musketeers (Atlantic 10)

Kansas State enters with wins over 15th seed North Texas and seventh seed BYU. Xavier knocked off 11th seed Minnesota and third seed Pittsburgh. The Wildcats had more wins and fewer losses than the Musketeers. Kansas State was sixth in RPI and has more wins all-time in the tournament. The Big 12 conference has sent six teams to the Elite Eight in the last five years and the Atlantic 10 hasn't. The winner clearly is Kansas State.

#1 Kentucky Wildcats (SEC) vs. #12 Cornell Big Red (Ivy)

The Wildcats enter this game dismantling 16th seed East Tennessee State

and ninth seed Wake Forest. Cornell pulled upsets on fifth seed Temple and fourth seed Wisconsin. The Big Red will come to the end of their road. The Wildcats have a better record, better RPI, and more all-time tournament wins. The SEC has made it to the Elite 8, whereas this is the Ivy League's first Sweet 16 since 1979. Kentucky easily advances.

#2 West Virginia Mountaineers (Big East) vs. #11 Washington Huskies (Pac-10)

The Mountaineers had wins over Morgan State and Missouri. The Huskies pulled upsets on sixth seed Marquette and third seed New Mexico. West Virginia will be ready as they have a stronger record, RPI and more tournament wins all-time. The Big East has performed better than the Pac-10 in the Sweet 16. So the Mountaineers will be one step away from the Final Four.

#1 Duke Blue Devils (ACC) vs. #4 Purdue Boilermakers (Big Ten)

Duke beat 16th seed Arkansas Pine-Bluff and eighth seed California. The Boilermakers even without Robbie Hummel, defeated 13th seed Siena and fifth seed Texas A&M. Hummel's absence will definitely affect them against top seeded Duke. The Blue Devils have a better record, stronger RPI,

and more wins all-time in the tournament. Now, the Big Ten has done better than the ACC in the Sweet 16, but Duke for sure will advance to the regional final.

#3 Baylor Bears (Big 12) vs. #10 St. Mary's Gaels (WCC)

The Bears outlasted 14th seed Sam Houston State and 11th seed Old Dominion. The Gaels upset seventh seed Richmond and second seed Villanova. This will be a competitive matchup. St. Mary's has a better record than Baylor. However, the Bears are ranked in the top 10 in RPI, the Big 12 has sent six teams to the Elite Eight in the last five years and the West Coast Conference has sent none. Baylor has more tournament wins all time than the Gaels. The Bears advance to the Elite Eight.

Regional Finals

- Midwest: #9 Northern Iowa 66 #2 Ohio State 62
- West: #1 Syracuse 82 #2 Kansas State 70
- East: #1 Kentucky 78 #2 West Virginia 73
- South: #1 Duke 90 #3 Baylor 70
- Final Four
- #1 Syracuse 57 #9 Northern Iowa 56
- #1 Kentucky 82 #1 Duke 75
- Championship
- #1 Kentucky 63 #1 Syracuse 59

Hidden Hills Senior 4-Man Senior Scramble Results

March 17, 2010

First

- R. Parnell
- H. Wells
- R. Covalt
- J. McGuire

J.C. Furgason

Second

- E. Maxwell
- O.K. Lee
- C. Byrum
- J. Haynes

Third

- R.D. Stephens
- G. McCabe
- W. Nickelberry
- W. Chisum
- Fourth

B. Hammer

- J. Bridges
- C. Ritthaler
- B. Brown
- Fifth
- R. Baker

J. Ashford

- J. Hervey
- S. Cox
- Closest to Pin #6: R.D. Stephens
- Closest to Pin #15: B.

Hammer

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