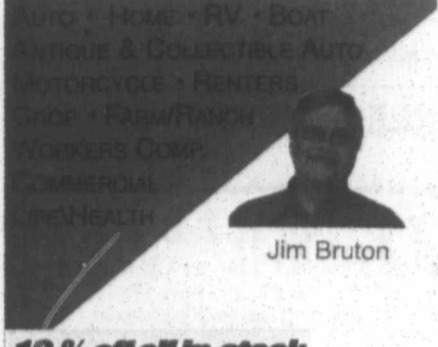


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Friday, March 13, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 285 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

MUSEUM EXPANSION



staff photo by Betsy Phillips

Freedom Museum USA Vice president Larry Stephens explains items in the Vietnam area during the dedication of the new room in the museum Wednesday (March 11). The room is named for Bill Waters and David Holt and contains memorabilia from World War I through Desert Storm, including a Jeep used during WW II. On hand for the dedication were members of the museum board and Waters and Holt family members, including Holt's widow, Linda Holt, sister, Linda Reed and Waters' son, Lee Waters. The board is seeking donations for a building to house their WW II era B-25, which is in almost mint condition. The hope is to preserve the rare plane from deterioration from the elements.

PEDC pledges support for new aquatic facility

by Betsy Phillips
editor@thepampanews.com
The board of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation voted Thursday to give the City of Pampa \$500,000 to build a family aquatic center.

PEDC CEO Clay Rice said the PEDC will also dedicate 20 percent of the sales tax revenue the entity receives toward the project. In return, Rice said the PEDC will have input on the location, size and design of the project. Rice said the PEDC is dedicated to improving quality of life in Pampa as well as business development.

"This is a positive project— we believe it's a good one for the future of our community, which we think will be a bright one," Rice said today.

"We believe oil and natural gas prices will go back up and that our economy will also be enhanced by the development of wind energy. We believe that will happen in the next few years."

Rice said that commissioners Bill Allison and Robert Dixon along with City Manager Richard Morris attended the meeting and made strong arguments for the pool project. There were also two young people from our community, Nathan

Dennis and Tanya Kiper, who brought their views to the public comment portion of the meeting.

The youths had been presenters at the city commission meeting on Tuesday, bringing a petition with over 400 signatures in support of the project. "It gives the town a good look," Kiper said, "and it would give teens jobs and that would support the economy. It would give youth something to do."

Kiper's father, Willard Kiper also spoke in support of the project. The PEDC will hold public comment on the issue again at their March 27 meeting.

Perry rejects money for unemployment

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry plans to turn down \$555 million that would expand state unemployment benefits, saying the money would have required the state to keep funding the expanded benefits after the stimulus money ran out.

Perry, an outspoken critic of President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus bill, accepted most of the roughly \$17 billion slated for Texas in

the plan. But the governor turned down the unemployment benefits because he said they would require the state to increase the tax burden on Texas businesses.

"During these tough times, Texas employers are working harder than ever to move products to market, make payroll and create jobs," Perry said at a news conference at Bering's, an upscale

Houston hardware store. "The last thing they need is government burdening them with higher taxes and expanded obligations."

Perry is the latest Republican governor to turn down federal stimulus money. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said he would not accept nearly \$100 million in stimulus money to expand unemployment benefits. South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford asked for a federal

waiver Thursday to spend \$700 million in stimulus money to pay down state debt and said if the waiver wasn't approved he would not pursue the money.

Perry's announcement was immediately criticized by Democratic lawmakers and advocates for low-income residents.

"Without this federal money, Texas businesses face increased unemployment insurance taxes in bad times, and without the

modest reforms in state law required to get the federal money, about 45,000 Texas workers will go without unemployment insurance," said Don Baylor, a policy analyst for the Center for Public Policy Priorities.

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, said rejecting the money "demonstrates the height of denial about the challenges confronting this state and its people."

Perry— cont. on page 3

Masons to lay cornerstone

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Masonic Lodge will level a cornerstone at the new junior high school. The school board accepted the lodge's offer to level the cornerstone. They will work with the school's architectural firm, Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, to determine where to locate the cornerstone.

School Board President Charles Smith said he wanted it at the front entrance to the school.

Cornerstones, said Lodge Master Andy Epps, date back to antiquity.

"Cornerstones are mentioned in the Bible," he said.

A cornerstone is the foundation of a building, but more importantly, a cornerstone is metaphorically the foundation of a belief, Epps said.

"It must be correct or that which rests on it will be ill-constructed," he said.

Epps said the cornerstone that the Pampa Masonic Lodge wants to lay is obviously symbolic, but it's nonetheless important. It's square and level and should be on a good foundation.

He said American Masons laid the first corner-

Jr High— cont. on page 3

Repair crew will be busy during spring break

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Next week will be a busy one at Pampa High School. While students will be out on spring break, construction crews will take advantage of the empty school and campus for the renovation of the school. Randy Stephenson, director of construction for Pampa Independent School District, told the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees at their meeting Thursday night that crews would concentrate on

repairing the dry rot in the ceiling of the third floor next week and abatement will begin on McNeely Field House.

Stephenson said the high school roofing project is scheduled to begin March 24.

Xcel utility crews will turn the electricity off April 18 and 19 as they replace lines along Randy Matson.

School counselors will move out of temporary buildings the week of May

Repairs— cont. on page 3

Titan lays off 34

by Rachel Stennett
rstennett@thepampanews.com

Titan Specialties LLD has reported 34 layoffs in Pampa, and 50 layoffs company wide as of yesterday (March 12).

The company laid off employees in the manufacturing, instruments, quality control, shipping, and human resources departments. Those effected did not receive a warning prior to the layoffs yesterday.

Layoffs— cont. on page 3

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PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday **Sunday** **Monday**



High 50
Low 32



High 68
Low 44



High 77
Low 45

Saturday: Cloudy, with a high near 50. Wind chill values between 24 and 34 early. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Wind chill values between 25 and 30. South wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. South wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 77. West southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Atterbury Grain of White Deer. Prices quoted are for the close of the last market day.

Wheat.....	\$4.76
Milo.....	\$5.09
Corn.....	\$6.67

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 31-24-37-21-29.
- Number matching five of five: 0.
- Matching four of five: 73. Prize: \$518
- Matching three of five: 2,447. Prize: \$11
- Matching two of five: 25,511. Prize: \$2
- Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Texas Two Step results

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 17-19-28-34. Bonus Ball: 9.
- Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: \$2,150,000
- Winning ticket purchased in: La Marque
- Number matching four of four: 28. Prize: \$1,173.
- Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 90. Prize: \$44.
- Number matching three of four: 2,508. Prize: \$22.
- Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1,806. Prize: \$20.
- Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 11,373. Prize: \$7.
- Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 20,658. Prize: \$2.
- Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$200,000.

Santa Fe to get jet service to Dallas

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Jet airplane flights between Santa Fe and Dallas will begin June 11.

The city and Dallas-based American Eagle announced Thursday that the airline will offer a nonstop daily flight.

Late last month, the Federal Aviation Administration gave the Santa Fe Municipal Airport approval for regional jet service after Democratic U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman expressed concern last year over the FAA's delay in issuing a final environmental assessment for such service.

Santa Fe Mayor David Coss calls American Eagle's decision to start flights "a great day for Santa Fe."

The Dallas flights will be offered on a 60-day test basis using Embraer 44-seat ERJ-140 planes, which fly at an altitude of 40,000 feet and a speed of 500 mph.

Anna Nicole Smith's boyfriend, doctors charged

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer-turned-boyfriend and a doctor surrendered to face charges that they conspired to provide the Texas-born Playboy Playmate with thousands of prescription pills before her 2007 fatal overdose. A second doctor also is accused.

Howard K. Stern and Dr. Sandeep Kapoor were released late Thursday after posting \$20,000 bond. Charges include conspiracy, unlawfully prescribing a controlled substance and prescribing, administering or dispensing a controlled substance to an addict, authorities said.

Dr. Kristine Eroshevich was expected to surrender Monday. Her attorney, Adam Braun, acknowledged Eroshevich wrote some of the prescriptions using fictitious names for Smith, but it wasn't intended to commit fraud.

"It was done for privacy reasons," Braun told The Associated Press. "She did the best she could under difficult circumstances in the best interest of the patient."

Prosecutors see it differently. "These individuals repeatedly and excessively furnished thousands of prescription pills to Anna Nicole Smith, often for no legitimate medical purpose," California Attorney General Jerry Brown said in a statement Thursday.

His office was expected to release more details about the case at a news conference Friday.

Prosecutors said the doctors gave thousands of prescription drugs — including opiates and sedatives — to Stern, who then gave them to Smith.

Messages left with attorneys for Stern and Kapoor were not returned.

For the Record

Obituaries

Mildred Rhoten, 90

White Deer, Texas — Mildred Rhoten, 90 died on March 10, 2009 in Bakersfield, California.

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

Mrs. Rhoten was born October 11, 1918 in Bartlesville, Okla., to Louis and Marie Robinson and was reared in Turley,

Oklahoma. She moved to Pampa where she married Rhuie Rhoten on August 27, 1940 in Pampa. He preceded her in death in 1993. She moved to McLean in 1960 and then to White Deer in 1982. She moved to Bakersfield, California in 2003 to be closer to her daughter. Mildred was a devout Christian. She was a book-

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday
Officers conducted five traffic stops.

A total of three calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

Twelve attempts to serve papers were made.

Welfare checks were made in the 200 block of Miami, the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 1800 block of North Evergreen, and Pampa High School, 111 East Harvester.

Criminal mischief was reported at Wel-Car Auto Wash, 515 West Foster, where the business door was destroyed and tools and a heater were stolen, value \$800.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Pampa High School, the 300 block of East Brown, and the 100 block of East Harvester.

Harassment was reported in the lobby of the PD.

Lost property was reported in the lobby of the PD, where a driver's license and a concealed handgun license were reported lost.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1800 block of North Dwight, where Michael James was arrested for assault causing bodily injury, minor injuries were reported. No medical attention was needed.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 2100 block of North Russell.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 100 block of West Foster.

One alarm was investigated.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 1900 block of North Faulkner, and the 2600 block of North Cherokee.

Phone harassment was reported in the 900 block of Terry.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 300 block of North Hobart, and the 1000 block of South Love.

Thursday
Officers conducted two traffic stops. A stop in the intersection of Browning and Hazel resulted in an arrest. Cristan Whittington was arrested for public intoxication, and Brandon

Mills was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 200 block of North Russell.

Thursday
A narcotics violation was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Officers conducted six traffic stops. Stops in the 1400 block of North Hobart, the intersection of Browning and Hazel resulted in arrests. Cristan Whittington was arrested for public intoxication, and Brandon Mills was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

A total of eight calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

Civil matters were reported in the lobby of the PD.

Theft was reported in the 2100 block of Hamilton, where a UPS package containing an audio mixer was reportedly stolen, value \$500, and the 300 block of South Henry, where a Pitbull dog was stolen, value \$400.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 200 block of West Foster, the 800 block of North Nelson, the intersection of Crawford and Banks, the intersection of Gwendolyn and Nelson, the intersection of Browning and Cuyler, and the 1500 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Pampa High School, 111 East Harvester.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the lobby of the PD, and the 400 block of West Kingsmill.

Criminal mischief was reported at Wal-Mart, 2401 North Charles.

A runaway was reported in the 1300 block of North Coffee.

Fraud was reported at Fiest Foods, 300 East Brown, where a stolen Lone Star card was recovered.

Harassment was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler.

A welfare check was made in the 1500 block of North Christine.

Identity theft was reported in the 700 block of North Zimmers, where a social security number was being used fraudulently.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the intersection of Kentucky and Banks, and the inter-

section of Starkweather and Kingsmill.

One animal complaint was made.

Officers conducted three traffic stops.

Phone harassment was reported in the 1800 block of North Coffee.

FIRE
Thursday
7:41 a.m. — Five units and ten personnel responded to the 200 block of Eshom on a structure fire.

10:10 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1800 block of Williston on a med assist.

4:51 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Faulkner on a med assist.

5:20 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of Farley on a med assist.

SHERIFF
Thursday
Zana Lanee Loden, 36, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD on warrants.

Julio Cesar Silva, 27, of Dimmitt was arrested by GCSO for fictitious/cournerfeit inspection/insurance document for display.

Kym Ann Turner, 30, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD on warrants.

Eric Smithberg, 25, of Greenwood, Ind. was arrested by the Department for Public Safety for possession of marijuana, greater than four ounces, but less than five pounds.

Karolyn Mae Butler, 24, of Panhandle was arrested by the GCSO for expired motor vehicle insurance, no insurance, failure to appear.

AMBULANCE
Guardian EMS ambulance service reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday
2:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of Dwight. No

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keeper and a homemaker. Survivors include two daughters, Joyce Killough and husband H. M. of White Deer, and Judie Canard and husband Greg of Bakersfield, California, 14 grandchildren, numerous great and great-great grandchildren. Mildred

was preceded in death by a daughter: Sherry Kay Hancock; and 2 sons: Leo Dean Rhoten and Tommy Rhoten.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

patients were transported.

3:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

6:05 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of East Foster and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:41 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of East Brown and transported a patient to PRMC.

Thursday
4:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:45 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Eshom. No patients were transported.

7:52 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

8:36 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Lowry and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Chestnut and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of Farley. No patients were transported.

Friday
3:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

ATTENTION
Insurance Agents. Smith Paramedical Serv. is now avail. in Pampa. Lisa at 663-0539. www.exams-by-lisa.com

LIFE
PHOTO CONTEST at the Pampa News-Deadline has been extended thru 5pm., Friday, March 20th!!

CORRECTION:
NATURAL Light 6pk cans \$6.99 at Fiesta Foods instead of 30pk.

RICHARD SMITH
Student & Contemporary at the Woody Guthrie Center, Mar. 21, 5pm.

SHAR-PEI PUPPIES 1 male, 1 female. AKC Registered, \$500 each. 898-6900.

KELLY SCHAFFER at Tammy's Cut-Ups recently trained in new techniques, incl. Back to Back, Triangle & Slicing, to create radiant personalized color that comes alive with healthy, high reflective shine. Spring Break Special, \$10 off! 665-6558

"FRIENDS" COME help us celebrate J.D. Paris's 87th Birthday, Sun., Mar. 15, 2009, Miami, Tx. Community Center, 2-4pm.

"WE'RE MOVING" and we can't take it All! So we're having a Sale! Sat. 12 noon til-? Items from household, decorative to kitchen & collectibles. 1406 Lynn

PHS workers busy

repairs — cont. from page 1

11 and into their new offices at the high school.

The kitchen and cafeteria will be moved from the basement of the high school to its new location on the first floor as abatement begins in the basement May 15.

The temporary building housing the tennis program is tentatively scheduled to be moved to the east side of Valhalla, the athletic building, on May 18. Two other temporary buildings will be moved to Lamar and two to Wilson on June 3.

Board member Lee Porter stressed to the board that moving the tennis building would provide the tennis program only a temporary home. He said the move was designed to buy time so the district could study the longer-range needs of the athletic department's dressing room facilities. Those proposals include remodeling Valhalla, building a new building or expanding McNeely Field House.

Stephenson said roof drain work will also be done at Pampa Junior High School next week during Spring Break.

The school board agreed to have the Pampa Masonic Lodge set a cornerstone for the new junior high school (see related story).

He told the school board that the softball concession stand was still in the design phase, but the final design and costs should be ready for their review soon.

"It's nice to see a project come together and begin to look like the drawings," said Mike Baker with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper architectural firm as he reviewed the

progress of the high school renovation with the school board.

He went over a proposed sewer line that would serve the athletic building, tennis building and future construction on the north side of Randy Matson, dumpster locations and the location of a flag pole on the new north entrance to the high school.

Baker said there were two concepts for the home economics spaces in the vocational building that are now under consideration by the school district staff. He reviewed the plan for roof parapet ladder replacement at the high school, removal of the old elevator, and adding storage shelving in the basement.

He said the first floor computer lab would need a separate cooling system.

Rick Fleming with Western Builders told the board that the dirt work was finished at the site of the new junior high school and that electrical and plumbing lines would be laid in the new few weeks.

The school board approved \$428,400 for the 38,500 square foot high school roofing project. It will begin about March 24 and should be completed within 90 days.

They also approved \$19,073 for tile in the production area of the new high school kitchen.

The board approved a bid of \$747,850 for new synthetic turf at the football stadium, naming Hellas Construction as the contractor. Hellas installed the synthetic turf at the Canadian football field.

Athletic Director Stuart Smith said the money to pay for the synthetic turf, raised through donations

and from a grant by the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, had been collected and was in the bank.

Joe D. Geronimo of Hellas told the board that the price included gold end zones with gold letters outlined in green that spelled out Pampa.

Stephenson said Hellas would begin bringing in equipment today and over the weekend. Work on the field was expected to start Tuesday with a May 15 completion date.

With the Pampa soccer team moving to the stadium after the synthetic turf is installed, Smith said he's exploring with Pampa High School soccer coach John True renting out the existing soccer fields at Travis to local and area soccer clubs.

The school board also discussed using one of two Harvester logos for the new junior high school.

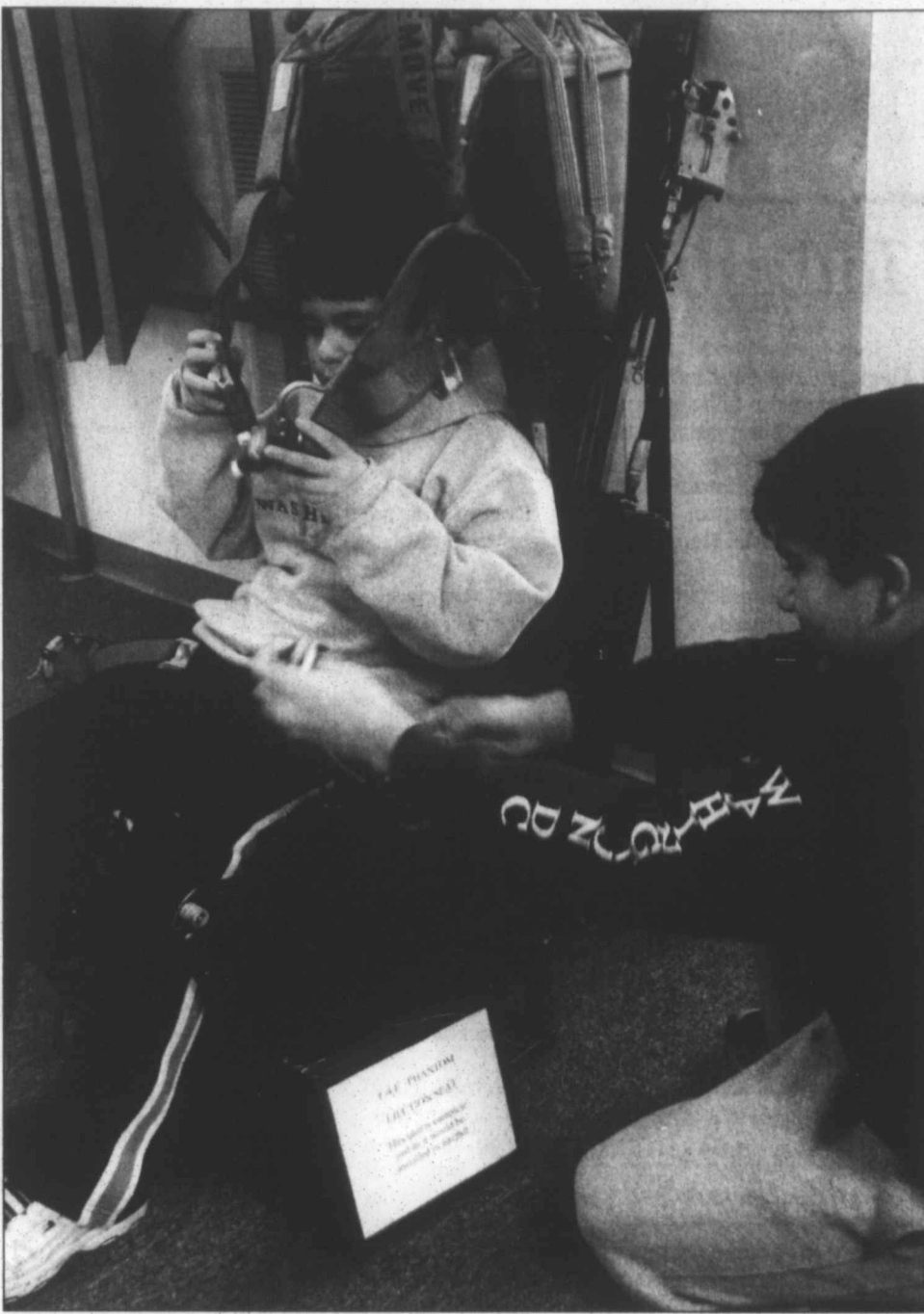
The traditional Harvester logo has been in use for more than 50 years, but a newer Harvester logo, similar to the Texas Tech Red Raider, but without the mask and with a scythe is being used on some tee shirts and on the school's website.

School board President Charles Smith suggested using the latter for the junior high logo.

"We've got to do something for the junior high," Smith said.

"There should be an official mascot for the junior high," board member Mark McVay agreed.

Porter ended the discussion with the suggestion that the junior high school art department be tasked with coming up with a logo.



staff photo by Betsy Phillips

Freedom Museum USA visitors Lou Carrera Jimenez and Taylor Max Jimenez of Amarillo examine the ejector seat from an F-4 E Phantom jet Wednesday afternoon.

Jr high cornerstone

Jr High — cont. from page 1

stone in the colonies of what would become the United States in 1734, when Grand Master Benjamin Franklin presided over services for Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Some 60 years later, Epps said, George Washington leveled the cornerstone of the United States Capitol Building.

"This has been done on a symbolic basis as long as our country has been here," Epps said.

The first Masonic cornerstone was leveled in

Texas on Feb. 3, 1838, when Rev. Lyttleton Fowler, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Texas, presided over ceremonies at the first Protestant church built west of the Sabine River in San Augustine.

He said that Masons have laid cornerstones for more than 115 Texas courthouses and hundreds of public schools and places of worship.

"Here in Texas," Epps said, "the tradition stems in part from the father of public education Mirabeau

B. Lamar." He was the first Vice President and the second President of the Republic of Texas.

Lamar secured legislation in 1839, that set aside land for public schools and two universities.

Epps said that one side of the cornerstone would read "Leveled by the Grand Lodge of Texas AF&AM AD 2009 AL6009. He suggested another side could contain the date and names of the school board.

Titan lays off 34

Layoffs — cont. from page 1

to the same source. Titan is preparing a press release regarding the company layoffs, which was not available as of press time today.

Titan was founded over 40 years ago in Pampa. The company designs, manufactures and distributes perforating gun systems, shaped charges,

well-logging instrumentation and other ancillary drilling and completion products for the oilfield services industry.

Gov. turns down funds

Perry — cont. from page 1

Watson said it's now up to the Legislature, which can still try to accept the funds but risks gubernatorial veto.

"I would not jump to the conclusion that we're not going to get the money," Baylor said. "The governor's decision puts a red light in front of the Legislature, but the Legislature still plans to go forward and hold hearings on these bills and try and get votes. The Legislature is not lying down in response to this."

However, Perry noted that Texas lawmakers had previously rejected proposals to expand unemployment benefits and criticized the stimulus money for coming with strings that would "force our legislators to enact policies they have repeatedly rejected as wrong for Texas."

"The federal government is trying to come in the back door and expand government without any debate," said Perry, who stood at a podium in the store's paint supply aisle, flanked by rows of brushes, rollers and cans of spray paint.

To receive the full amount of stimulus money available, lawmakers would need to adjust the time period used to determine whether people are eligible for benefits.

Texas also is being asked to expand eligibility to include thousands of low-wage workers. Lawmakers have said the change would help part-time employees like single mothers, college students

and senior citizens.

Perry said the requirements attached to the federal stimulus money would require a change in the state's definition of unemployment. He said such an expansion would counteract the package's objective of job creation by leading companies to limit hiring and raise prices.

"The math is simple: employers who have to pay more taxes have less money to meet their payroll, hire new employees and grow their businesses," said Perry, who has been adamant that stimulus money not be used on items that will require continued state funding once the federal money has dried up.

Perry's decision comes despite warnings from Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Pauken that the state's unemployment compensation trust fund could be operating at a deficit by October. Pauken told lawmakers recently that insolvency might not be far behind.

A year ago, almost to the date, Perry ordered a one-year suspension of the tax that replenishes the state's unemployment fund. The Texas Workforce Commission approved the cut after determining there was enough money to cover unemployment payments in 2008.

At times in the previous year, the state's unemployment rate had reached a 31-year low of 4.1 percent. In January of this year, the Texas unemployment rate jumped to 6.4 percent.

Perry said he would prevent the unemployment compensation fund from falling into insolvency by reinstating the tax paid by businesses, but refused to term that change as a tax increase.

"We have a business cycle that goes up and down," Perry said. "I lowered those taxes, now they are going back to where they were."

Perry also sought to assure unemployed Texans that they would still receive unemployment benefits.

"If you are an unemployed Texan and lost your job through no fault of your own, our state's unemployment system has covered you and will continue to cover you."

However, a group of Democratic lawmakers sent out a press release blasting Perry's decision and warning that the state's unemployment rate could reach 8.2 percent in 2009, leaving families in need and forcing businesses to make up the shortfall in the unemployment fund.

"Governor Perry's decision to reject the \$555 million in unemployment aid is simply deplorable," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston. "Texas families are hurting and are worried about how they are going to keep their homes and pay their bills. Today, Governor Perry told them: 'good luck with that.' If the Governor won't do his job, we'll have to go around him, and I am prepared to do just that."

SC Gov. Sanford set to reject stimulus millions

NEW YORK (AP) — South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has been the leading voice among Republican governors who have criticized President Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus plan as a pork-laden boondoggle that will plunge the country further into debt. It's won him praise from many conservatives and boosted his national profile, fueling speculation he will run for president in 2012.

But the governor's announcement this week that he may reject nearly a quarter of the money headed to South Carolina has stirred criticism in the state and elsewhere that he has placed his own political future ahead of the needs of the state's most vulnerable citizens.

Several GOP governors, including Rick Perry of Texas, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Haley Barbour of Mississippi, have said they would reject a portion of the money that would expand unemployment benefits to those not currently eligible to receive them. Sanford says he will also reject those funds, but he has threatened to go much further, requesting a waiver to spend some \$700 million targeted for education and other programs to pay down some of the state's debt instead.

"I have come to conclude that it would be a mistake to simply accept the money as offered," Sanford wrote to state legislators in announcing his decision. "When one is in a hole, the first order of business is to stop digging."

Sanford, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, has steadfastly denied that his actions regarding the stimulus have been politically motivated, noting that he has taken a hard line on tax and spending issues since 1994, when he was first elected to Congress. He was elected governor in 2002.

"I've got a 15-year pattern of doing exactly this kind of thing," Sanford said. But his announcement came the same week that South Carolina's unemployment rate shot to 10.4 percent, the second highest in the nation. With those dire figures as a backdrop, national Democrats — keenly aware of Sanford's rising national stature — piled on.

The Democratic National Committee

planned to run ads on several stations in South Carolina next week accusing Sanford of "putting politics ahead of health care, jobs and schools." In an e-mail blast to reporters Thursday, the DNC assembled a collection of national and state news stories criticizing Sanford's action.

Even Democratic governors got in the game, with Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley issuing a statement decrying Sanford's "fringe" stance. "Every state should be laser-focused right now on one issue: jobs, jobs, jobs," said O'Malley, vice chairman of the Democratic Governors Association. "This rejection is less about the people of South Carolina than it is Sanford's political ambitions," O'Malley added.

South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn, the No. 3 House Democrat, dismissed Sanford's move as "100 percent political posturing." Clyburn also criticized Sanford on Thursday for a comment he made at a news conference in South Carolina likening Obama's economic stimulus efforts to the hyperinflationary economy in Zimbabwe, one of Africa's most corrupt governments.

"What took the man to Zimbabwe?" Clyburn said in Washington. "Someone should ask him if that's really the best comparison. ... How can he compare this country's situation to Zimbabwe?"

Sanford's effort has even irked some Republican lawmakers in the state, who had made plans to use at least \$350 million of the money for state budget items before learning of the governor's decision.

"What I think's happening here is he has made headlines again, national headlines, and that is what he is after," said state Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, a Republican who introduced a measure Thursday that would allow the Legislature to circumvent Sanford's actions.

"It's my intent to take every dollar we can get," Leatherman said, calling Sanford's efforts "tomfoolery."

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2009. There are 293 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:
 1325 - Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire, is founded.
 1552 - Turks invade Hungary.
 1567 - Margaret of Parma, Regent of the Netherlands, uses German mercenaries to annihilate 2,000 Calvinists.
 1639 - Harvard University is named for clergyman John Harvard.
 1707 - Holy Roman Empire agrees to Convention of Milan whereby French troops are to leave northern Italy.
 1868 - The impeachment trial of U.S. President Andrew Johnson begins in the U.S. Senate.
 1881 - Russia's Czar Alexander II is assassinated by radical terrorists who demand a constitutional

'The history of the world is the verdict of the world.'

— Friedrich von Schiller,
German author

government in Russia. Ironically, the czar had just signed a bill to establish exactly what they wanted. When he died, so did the agreement.

1884 - Using Greenwich, England as the commencement point from which all time will be measured, an international time standard is adopted throughout the United States.

1938 - Austria is annexed by Germany a day after Nazi troops march in.

1974 - The Arab nations agree to end their five-month oil embargo on sales to the U.S. Their sanction crippled both the American industry and economy.

1996 - A gunman in Dunblane, Scotland, shoots to death 16 children and a teacher.

1998 - South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, himself once imprisoned for his political beliefs, grants amnesty to some 5 million South Koreans, including six elderly political prisoners.

2000 - Alcoa Inc. settles a government lawsuit by agreeing to spend US\$8.8 million to clean up the Mississippi River and reduce pollution.

2006 - A series of powerful storms in the U.S. spawn numerous tornadoes, leaving nine people dead and generating miles of destruction across five states.

2007 - Somalia's President Abdullahi Yusuf comes under mortar attack in his palace just hours after moving in upon his return from southern stronghold Baidoa.

2008 - Serbia's president dissolves parliament and calls an early election that should determine whether the country aligns itself with the European Union and other Western groups or returns to its isolationist past.

Today's Birthdays:

Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II (1741-1790); Hugo Wolf, Austrian composer (1860-1903); George Seferis, Greek poet and diplomat, Nobel literature laureate (1900-1971); Kofi Awoonor, Ghanaian poet (1935—); Neil Sedaka, U.S. singer (1939—); William H. Macy, U.S. actor (1950—); Dana Delany, U.S. actress (1956—); Adam Clayton, bassist with rock group U2 (1960—).



Texas Dems criticize Perry...

(Austin, TX) — Today, Governor Rick Perry, in a move sure to draw legislative opposition, announced that he intends to turn down \$555 million in stimulus funds that would provide additional benefits for unemployed Texas job-seekers who are trying to get by in the wake of layoffs caused by the Republican recession.

"First, the Governor compared out-of-work Texans to junkies, and now he's using them as political pawns to appeal to the talk show bosses that drive the agenda of

Perry's heartless Republican base," said Texas Democratic Party Chairman Boyd Richie. "We don't need a right-wing candidate masquerading as Governor; we need a leader who will work with mainstream Texans in a bipartisan effort to rebuild our economy."

Perry announced his refusal to help Texas families at a hardware store in an affluent area in Houston less than two miles from a branch of the Texas Workforce Commission where Texans were lined up to get unemployment benefits while they

actively seek employment.

"Governor Perry's failed policies have already put our state unemployment fund on the verge of bankruptcy, and now he wants to compound that failure by sending our federal tax dollars to help the unemployed in other states while hardworking Texas taxpayers are losing their jobs," Richie added. "It's shameful that Rick Perry would rather play politics to keep his job than help Texans who have lost their jobs."

Others applaud stance on stimulus

AUSTIN— The following statement was issued by Michael Quinn Sullivan, president of Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, upon the announcement that Texas Gov. Rick Perry is rejecting the unemployment insurance portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"Governor Perry has done the right thing for employers and employees, and Texas, economy, by rejecting the mandate-heavy UI portion of the federal stimulus package. "The package would force Texas

down a costly path stifling, not stimulating, economic and employment growth. Taxpayers and small businesses would for many years bear the heavy burden of radical changes to unemployment insurance policies that the administration requires for Texas get short-term federal funding. The costs are simply too high.

"For example, the federal funds would require that Texas keep paying out unemployment funds even if the recipients aren't looking for full-time work. The mandates would also

force payments to be made even to people who quit their job for personal situations.

"Texas taxpayers don't want, and cannot afford, to have Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid turning the Lone Star State into California or Illinois. The radical policy shifts they would force upon us would make it harder for Texans to find work, increase the cost of doing business, and restrain the kind of economic growth needed to employ, and empower, Texans.

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America: Molding future leaders

Parents throughout Texas take pride in two of our nation's most iconic youth leadership organizations. In February, the Boy Scouts celebrated their 99th anniversary. In early March, the Girl Scouts celebrated "National Girl Scout Week" in honor of their own 97th year. Whether we led a local Boy Scout camping trip or purchased Girl Scout cookies from a neighbor, we are confident that the values Scouting instills are ones that will serve our children well throughout their lives.

The Girl Scout Law eloquently sets admirable goals: "I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do; and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout." Such values certainly epitomize many Americans' aspirations for all their leaders, whether they are doctors, school principals, military officers, park rangers, social workers or judges. In fact, the Girl Scouts report that eighty two percent of high achieving alumnae believe that Scouting influenced their success.

Today, more than 50 million women in the United States are Girl Scout alumnae, including my colleague Barbara Mikulski, Senator from Maryland, who carries a copy of the Girl Scout Law with her almost always. When Barbara arrived in the Senate back in 1987, she was one of only two female senators, and the very first Democratic female senator elected in her own right. Twenty-two years later, there are 17 female senators. Barbara applied the values that she learned as a Girl Scout to become an effective and well-respected member of the Senate, fostering teamwork and camaraderie among her female colleagues. Like many Texans, I, too,

am proud to count myself among the ranks of former Scouts, and I was honored to serve as a past honorary Co-Leader of Girl Scout Troop Capitol Hill, with Senator Mikulski.

In 2000, the women of the Senate collaborated on *Nine and Counting*, a book to encourage young women to overcome obstacles. Most of us had been Girl Scouts, and we unanimously agreed to donate all the proceeds from our book to the Girl Scouts of America to encourage leadership programs for girls.

Pete Sessions, Member of Congress for Texas' 32nd District, also is an exemplar of Scouting values. An Eagle Scout and a former Scout Master, he received the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award for service to his community and support for the Boy Scouts in the Dallas Community.

Last year, Boy Scout participants included 35 of our 84 male Senators and 147 members of the House of Representatives, including 17 members of the Texas House delegation. Each year I receive more than 1,000 letters from Texas Boy Scouts working toward the rank of Eagle Scout. When they ask me for career advice, I congratulate them on the path they have already chosen; fully 10 percent of last year's Senate consisted of Eagle Scouts.

The leadership skills that Scouting instills have propelled Scouts to the top of virtually all professional fields. Scouting alumni include comedian Lucille Ball, director Steven Spielberg, astronaut Neil Armstrong, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and President Gerald Ford. Texans are lucky that the National Scout Museum is located right here in our home state at the National Boy Scouts of America headquarters in Irving.

I am particularly touched by Scouts' commitment to service. For



example, Scouts were overwhelmingly represented among the volunteers who helped with recovery efforts in the wake of recent hurricanes, including Katrina and Rita. The Boy Scouts reported 1.4 million service hours involving 15,246 service projects in 2007 alone. Girl Scouts, too, visited nursing homes, collected cans for food drives, and hosted remembrance ceremonies for victims of 9/11.

Over the years, in addition to emphasizing service, both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts have fostered citizenship, fitness, and character by nurturing a love for the outdoors. Nowadays, in addition to hiking, canoeing and knot tying, scouts learn robotics, business and budgeting tips, Internet techniques, and the importance of math, science, and technology.

In recognition of the important role they play in our society, I co-sponsored legislation in the Senate to mint Centennial coins for both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts as they each approach their respective hundredth anniversaries. As they modernize and diversify in their quest to train tomorrow's stars, let us thank them for their bountiful contributions to our country.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.

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How many times did Jesus fail? Even the mention of that question infuriates most dedicated Christians. Well, today I want us to take a look at what most often is pointed to as a failed attempt by Jesus to heal a blind man. Why? If He failed, then Christians need to know it. And if He didn't fail, then Christians need to be armed with the truth when unbelievers point an accusing finger at the Son of God. The text is: Mk 8:22-26.

"They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

I know of no other event in Jesus life that is more often pointed to as a failure by critics. And upon first read it sure looks like a failure. I mean if you are trying to heal a blind person, vision that is so blurry that trees and people look alike doesn't seem very successful. Every other time in the Gospels when Jesus healed a blind person their sight was immediately completely restored. So what is the answer? Was Jesus incapable of conquering the blindness on the first try?

Now since I'm a huge fan of the television show MONK, I want to try and see this predicament like Monk would. What would he see that I normally wouldn't? Hummmmm? There are only 2 possible answers. Either, 1-Jesus couldn't conquer the blindness on the first try or 2- He did exactly what He was trying to do on the first try.

Now here is where Monk's hero, Sherlock Holmes, enters the picture. Holmes' fundamental rule of investigation was first mentioned in The Blinded Soldier: "When you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

So what is the impossible in this story that must be eliminated? In the Gospels there are 38 different specific miracles described. In all other 37 Jesus has no difficulty doing exactly what He was trying to do. In 25 other scriptures Jesus is said to perform many miracles, healing all who came without any difficulty. These 25 scriptures don't give exact numbers, but would have to be noting hundreds and hundreds of healings. Combine this with the divinity of Jesus and the "impossible" that must be eliminated is that He was incapable of healing the blind man on the first try.

So what is the "improbable" that is left which must be the truth? Jesus did exactly what He intended to do. He only partially healed the blind man on the first try. But why? Why would Jesus only partially heal the man?

Check out Mt 16:1-12 and Mk 8:11-26 and look at what happened just prior to the encounter with the blind man. In those verses Jesus is once again pounced upon by the Pharisees. The extreme dangers posed by the Pharisees were growing clearer by the day. Jesus saw and understood this danger, but the disciples did not.

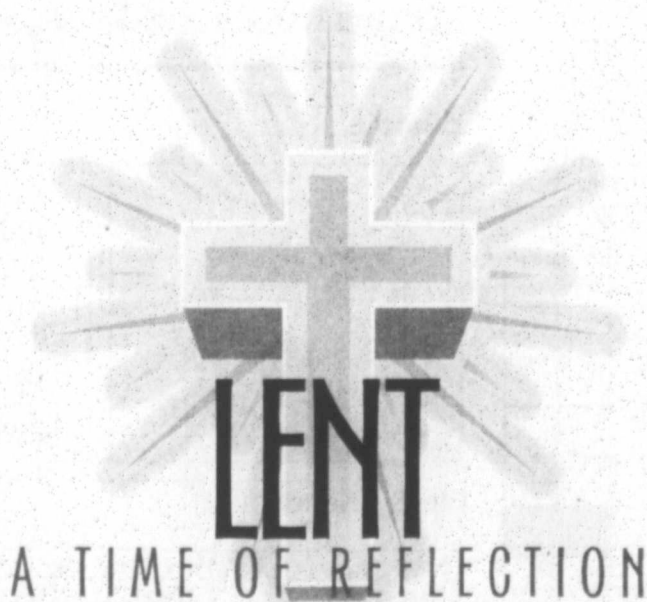
Jesus and the disciples then embarked to Bethsaida. On the way the disciples found that they had only one loaf of bread between them and began to discuss what they would do. Jesus was still concerned that they didn't really see the danger of the Pharisees so He tried again to warn them of the wolves among the sheep, the Pharisees. He tried to get them to change their focus from the trivial bread to the danger of the Pharisees. So what did the disciples do? Again they broke out in a discussion of their lack of bread, completely missing Jesus' warning.

Jesus then asked the disciples if their eyes and ears were working properly. They had just seen Him miraculously feed 4,000 (actually more like 12,000, only counted the men). So why were they so worried about bread? Where was their faith? They had just heard Him discuss the danger of the Pharisees, something critically serious. Why couldn't they hear what He was saying? They could see, but not really see. They could hear, but not really hear.

Therefore, to help better teach them Jesus gives them a visual illustration of seeing, but not really seeing clearly. The blind man at Bethsaida was a physical illustration of where the disciples were spiritually. The partially healed man could see, but not clearly. The disciples could see, but not clearly. They not only should have been able to see past the tiny matter of bread, but they should also have been able to see clearly the danger posed by the Pharisees. But they didn't. They were just like the blind man when he was only partially healed. They couldn't see anything but bread for their bellies. Jesus wanted desperately for them to see something much more important.

So that is why Jesus only partially healed the blind man before He healed him completely. Jesus healed the man just like He intended to do; no failure, no botched attempt, no half-healing.

God bless, Mike



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44 Comfy

part

6 Duel

45 Takes

count

11 Hiker's

path

12 Skirt

13 Snared,

as a steer

14 Swift

15 Musical

princess

16 Recipe

amount

18 Simile bit

19 Ab's

neighbor

20 Switch

settings

21 Dupe

22 Paper

worker

24 Bowling

target

25 Michigan

neighbor

27 Brood

29 Traffic

jams

32 Auditor's

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33 Gun

34 Galleon

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35 Collins

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36 Pinder

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37 Dissenter's

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38 Frost crea-

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40 Miniature

42 Commer-

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I	R	A	T	E	G	A	Y	L	E
P	A	N	T	S	E	S	S	E	X

Yesterday's answer

- 10 Some cars
- 17 Like some indie films
- 23 Blasting stuff
- 24 Slapstick weapon
- 26 Rosie, for one
- 27 Messy room
- 28 Colorful bird
- 30 Gorp bit
- 31 Be agreeable
- 33 Derby prize
- 39 Cambridge sch.
- 41 Hydro-carbon suffix

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DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823

103 Homes For Sale

2724 DUNCAN Great location! Newly remodeled! 3300 sq. ft., 4 bdr., 3.5 ba. All new built-in appliances. Hardwood floors. Plus apt. in back with 700 sq. ft. that could be extra income. 886-5754

HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

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PRICE REDUCED! 1128 Terry 3 bdr. \$54,900 MLS #08-8182

Turn-Key Business 112 N. Court, Leffors \$35,000 MLS #09-8214

Make Good Rental 720 & 722 E. Browning 2617 sq. ft. duplex \$99,900 MLS #08-8100

Commercial Lot 2200 Coffee MLS #08-7980 Your Listing Could Be Here!! Anyone can sell you a house, let me find you a home!!

106 Coml. Property COMMERCIAL PROPERTY for Lease 7000 sq. ft. shop with offices and over head Hoyst and Air plus fenced yard for Lease!!! 886-5754

AXYDLBAA XR 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.

3-13 CRYPTOQUOTE H Z B G I W G H P V I P C U P D O V G X C, C P O I W Z I J V Z X X I W G O G J V P C U P D.

— O Z X N W R Z X E P G H G O V P M Yesterday's Cryptquote: OUR AIM IS NOT TO DO AWAY WITH CORPORATIONS ... WE DRAW THE LINE AGAINST MISCONDUCT, NOT AGAINST WEALTH. — THEODORE ROOSEVELT

96 Unfurn. Apts.

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98 Unfurn. Houses

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115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos

FOR Sale! 1999 Olds Alero, looks & runs good. \$4,000 OBO. 665-6715, 544-0742.

120 Autos

1995 Cadillac Deville \$3500. 1993 Cadillac Seville \$2500. 1984 Chevy Suburban \$1500. 1964 Volkswagon Bug \$3000. 806-665-5155.

120 Autos

2001 Black Toyota Solara, Convertible, Leather Interior, Excellent Condition - \$9,000 obo 806-206-4586

122 Motorcycles

FOR Sale: 2006 Kawasaki Vulcan 900 Classic LT \$7,500. One owner, 6,000 miles, 664-3311.

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DAIY HOROSCOPE HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 14, 2009: This year, your mind roams and experiments with new types of thinking and different philosophical views.

LARGE ESTATES AUCTION AUCTION ANTIQUES ~ FURNITURE ANTIQUE FIREARMS ~ ANTIQUE COINS SATURDAY MARCH 14TH ~ 10 A.M. SHARP! PAMPA, TEXAS M.K. BROWN CIVIC CENTER ~ 1100 W. CORONADO DRIVE

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

• **Top O' Texas Republican Women** will meet from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 8 at the Pampa Senior Citizen Center. Lunch will begin at 11:30, the meeting will begin around noon.

• **Pampa Regional Medical Center and Accolade Home Health Care** will hold a Community Health Fair from 1-5 p.m. Monday, March 23 in MK Brown Auditorium. Checks on Cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and body fat measurement will be available. A blood drive will be held in conjunction with the health fair. There will be giveaways, prizes, the public is invited to attend.

• **The Rushing Wind Emmaus** community will meet Saturday, March 14, at 6 p.m. at the Waka Christian Center. A potluck supper will be served followed by a praise and worship service and training for sponsors. A nursery will be provided. A women's walk is scheduled for April 23-26.

Pampa Moose Lodge will hold a Texas Holdem Open Tournament beginning at 6 p.m. at the Pampa Moose Lodge, 401 E. Brown. There is a \$50 buy-in with rebuys

until 9 p.m. Eight places will be paid. For more information call Larry Ingram, 898-9435, William Ma, 886-8658 or th Moose Lodge after 6 p.m., 665-4661.

• **Gray County Genealogical Society** will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for December. Visitors are welcome.

• **Members of Crowley, Texas, High School Class of 1989** are organizing a class reunion. For more information, e-mail chs89reunion@gmail.com or contact Nancy Dodgen Dyess (817) 994-0969 or Misty Shewmaker Hollis at (817) 991-8090.

• **Pampa Book Club** will meet at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room of Lovett Memorial Library. The 2009 reading schedule is as follows: March 11, "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years" by Julie Andrews; and April 8, "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. The May 13 book for review will be announced at a later date. Public welcome.

• **USS Maddox Destroyer Association Reunion** is slated Sept. 9-13 in Phoenix, Ariz. To find out more, call (337) 616-8450 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.

• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2 x 3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

• **T.O.P.S. Club**, a weight loss group, is seeking new members. The club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday at 513 E. Francis. New members welcome.

• **T.O.P.S. Club**, a weight loss group, meets at 11:30 a.m. at noon each Monday at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 511 N. Hobart.

10 drink windshield wiper fluid at Ark. day care

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Ten children drank windshield wiper fluid after a staffer at an Arkansas day care served it from a container mistaken for Kool-Aid and placed in a refrigerator, authorities said Friday.

The day care owner surrendered her state license, meaning she wouldn't be able to take care of children in the future, said Julie Munsell, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Human Services.

Doctors estimate the children, ages 2 to 7, drank about an ounce of the blue fluid late Thursday afternoon before realizing it tasted wrong, said Laura James, a pediatric pharmacologist and toxicologist at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock.

Only one child remained hospitalized Friday morning, after blood samples showed "measurable levels" of methanol, a highly toxic alcohol that can induce comas and cause blindness, officials said. The day care also provided the fluid for testing.

The windshield wiper fluid was bought with several other items on a recent shopping trip, James told The Associated Press. "This product was mistakenly grabbed and thought to be Kool-Aid and put in the refrigerator," she said.

The day care's operator, Carolyn Bynum, was interviewed Friday by child welfare investigators and gave up her license, Munsell said. Bynum declined to comment to the Associated Press.

"She was so upset about what had occurred and she was definitely worried some of the children had been injured," Munsell said. "It was just a mistake, she says. She says it was just a horrible mistake."

Bynum's license had allowed her to care for 10 children in her home in Scott, about 15 miles east of Little Rock. Munsell said Bynum had no found complaints or serious compliance issues in the past.

The toxicologist warned that many antifreeze or windshield wiper solutions have bright colors, which can be mistaken for fruit drinks.

"I think the take-home message is not to have these products in the kitchen or where you're doing any kind of food preparation," she said.

Woman finds hungry cat hiding in \$27 couch

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The mysterious mewing in Vickie Mendenhall's home started about the time she bought a used couch for \$27.

After days of searching for the source of the noise, she found a very hungry calico cat living in her sofa.

Her boyfriend, Chris Lund, was watching TV on Tuesday night and felt something move inside the couch. He pulled it away from the wall, lifted it up and there was the cat, which apparently crawled through a small hole on the underside.

Mendenhall contacted Value Village, where she bought the couch, but the store had no information on who donated it. So she took the cat to SpokAnimal CARE, the animal shelter where she works, so it could recover, and contacted media outlets in hopes of finding the owner.

Sure enough, Bob Killion of Spokane showed up to claim the cat on Thursday after an acquaintance alerted him to a TV story about it. Killion had donated a couch on Feb. 19, and his 9-year-old cat, Callie, disappeared at about the same time.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was sexually abused by my sister's boyfriend, "Teddy," three months ago. He is five years older than I am, and now I am pregnant.

I don't want to tell Teddy or my family because I am afraid of the consequences -- especially because he and my sister are getting married in three months. I don't want to ruin their marriage, but I can't keep this a secret much longer. I am starting to show.

Please help. I don't know what to do because Teddy is a respectable person and I know they won't believe me if I tell the truth. -- PREGNANT SISTER

DEAR SISTER: The first thing you must do is accept the fact that "respectable" men do not have sex -- coerced or otherwise -- with their fiancée's sister or any other woman, for that matter. For your own sake and that of your family, you must tell your parents what happened. If they are skeptical at first, assure them that a paternity test will prove that you are telling the truth.

If the sex was forced, "respectable Teddy" is guilty of rape. Even if you were willing, depending on your age, he may have committed statutory rape. Consider this: If your sister knew about this, would she still want to marry this heel? She HAS to be told the truth so she can make an informed decision.

DEAR ABBY: When I was still working and invited someone to join my wife and me for dinner, I always assumed I would pay because I was the one who did the inviting. Now that we're retired, we would like to suggest getting together with other couples, but it can get costly paying for four people.

Saying, "Let's go Dutch," sounds tacky. Is there an acceptable way to invite friends out and let them know we should each

pay our own expenses? -- ON A BUDGET IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR ON A BUDGET: The way this is usually handled is the couple who does the inviting pays for the dinner, and the guests reciprocate by picking up the tab for the next one. Alternatively, when the check arrives at the end of the meal, the couples, by mutual consent, split it.

Because your circumstances have changed, but the expectations may not have, the subject should be raised at the time the date is arranged by saying, "Because I'm retired now, I can't treat you the way I'd like -- but we'd love to see you." If they are real friends, they'll be glad to see you, too -- and the fact they are paying for their own food won't stop them.

DEAR ABBY: My wife often returns home late from work. I am not worried about where she is or what she's doing, but we have had numerous arguments about the common courtesy of calling if she knows she's going to be late.

I say if she will be more than a few minutes past the expected time, she should call or text me. She says that I know where she is, so it shouldn't be necessary. What say you, Abby? -- HAD IT IN HAWAII

DEAR HAD IT: Your wife's actions show a lack of consideration for your feelings. If she knows she will be late, she should contact you so you won't be stuck sitting around with your blood sugar levels sinking, and you can arrange to grab a snack or some dinner. And by the way, if she doesn't show up within 30 minutes of the expected time, nothing prevents you from calling her.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Medication safety

Statistics

- In 1999, approximately 7,000 patient deaths were linked to errors in the prescribing and administering of medications.
- One person dies each day, and 1.1 million people are injured each year due to medication errors.
- Adverse Drug Events (ADEs) may rank between the 9th and 10th leading causes of death.
- The annual cost of drug-related morbidity and mortality is estimated to be \$17 billion in the U.S.
- At present risk for medication-related problems are America's seniors. While seniors are probably the single most important factor in improving the quality of life for seniors, this population remains especially susceptible to medication-related problems.
- Taking four or more of the same medications increases the risk for falls in seniors.

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Accolade

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