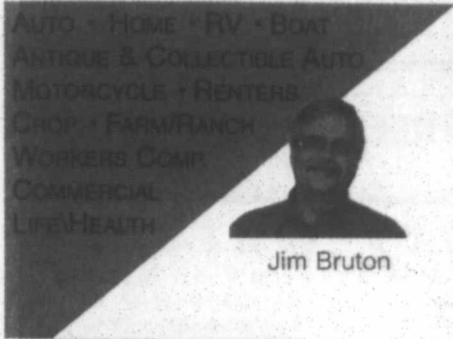


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Thursday, March 19, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 292 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

MARCH 20 IS AG DAY Burgers named Ag Family of the Year

by David Bowser
 dowser@thepampanews.com
 Dean Burger is and has been on a lot of boards -- bank boards, school boards, co-op boards and agricultural boards -- but his passion is not the boardroom. It's the land. Almost since the day he

was born in 1927, he's been tied to the land and has loved it. That's why the Top of Texas Cattlewomen chose the Burgers as their Ag Family of the Year this year. "I was born in Oklahoma," Burger chuck-

led, "but I don't ever tell anybody that." He said there weren't any doctors in Ochiltree County when he was born, so his mother went to stay with Burger's grandmother in Thomas, Okla., so she could be near her doctor. "I grew up in Perryton,"

he said. "My Dad broke out a lot of the land up in Ochiltree County." His father used mustangs to pull the plow, Burger said. "When he got his first tractor," Burger said, "he got rid of all his mustangs."

Ray Burger took them to Oklahoma where there was still a demand for harness broke horses. Growing up in the Texas Panhandle in the 1930s, in the middle of the Dust Bowl, Burger admitted, wasn't easy. "Back in the 1930s," he said, "it was bad, but everyone was broke, so you weren't by yourself. You didn't have to feel bad about not having any money. No one else had any either."

Burger said he asked his father once why he didn't sell some of the land and try to get out of debt. "He said no one had any money to buy it," Burger said.

Burger said the family lived on milking cows. "You either went to work for the WPA or milked cows," Burger said.

The WPA, Works Progress Administration, was a government program that put people to work on public infrastructure projects.

"It was worse up around Boise City and Dalhart," Burger said. "It was worse there than it was down in this country."

His worst memory of growing up was April 14, 1935, Black Sunday.

"I remember every one Burgers -- cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

Dean and Donna Burger of Pampa have been named the Ag Family of the Year by the Top of Texas Cattlewomen.

GCSO: Don't trash our county

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com
 The Gray County Sheriff's Office is launching an initiative against illegal dumping, which started this weekend with one arrest and another warrant issued for an arrest.

Johnathan Frank Cole, 20 of Pampa remains in custody after being arrested for illegal dumping last weekend, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of the GCSO.

Deputy Robert Douglas received a call on Saturday afternoon concerning illegal dumping on the northern end of County Road 4. Upon arrival at the scene, the dumpers, Cole and another suspect, were illegally dumping large amounts of trash. Douglas issued citations, made the two men pick up the trash, and left the scene.

"The Gray County Sheriff's Office is actively pursuing illegal dumpers. If you dump trash and are caught, you will be filed on."

—Lt Joe B Hoard, GCSO

Sunday Douglas received another call concerning illegal dumping on County Road A, east of Highway 70, in the far north part of Gray County. When Douglas arrived at the location, the same items had been illegally dumped there as on CR 4. Warrants were obtained for the arrest of Cole and another man who has not been served yet.

The trash from the second dumping
 Trash -- cont. on page 3

Grand Jury indicts four

by Rachel Stennett
 rstennett@thepampanews.com
 A Roberts County Grand Jury handed up four indictments in the 31st District Court on Wednesday, March 18.

Shawn Shaffer Baxter, 26, was indicted for two separate charges of aggravated sexual assault on the same child. Total bond for the two first-degree felonies was set at \$100,000.

On October 15, 2008, Baxter allegedly committed two offenses of sexual assault by penetration on a child younger than 14 years of age.

Pedro Dustin Garcia, 29, was indicted for posses-

sion of marijuana, greater than four ounces but less than five pounds. Bond was set for the state jail felony at \$15,000. Garcia was also indicted for possession of a controlled substance, greater than one gram but less than four ounces. Bond was set for the third degree felony at \$20,000.

On October 21, 2008, Garcia allegedly possessed a useable quantity of marijuana in an amount of greater than four ounces, but less than four pounds. On the same day Garcia also allegedly possessed a controlled substance, cocaine, in an amount greater than one gram but less than four grams.

Highlights from the Texas Legislature

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas House will now get a chance to throw itself into the partisan frenzy that visited the Senate during the voter ID debate — about tightening identification requirements for voters.

As expected, the Senate gave final passage Wednesday on a strict party-line vote to the bill that would require Texas voters to produce a photo ID or two alternatives. The

move to send the bill to the House capped a tense debate process that dragged on for days — and at one point, deep into the night during more than 20 hours of expert and public testimony.

The legislation, Senate Bill 362, was a sure bet in the Senate, where Republicans have a 19-12 majority and all GOP members supported it. In the House, Republicans have a much slimmer 74-

majority and at least two Republican House members have expressed



misgivings about erecting new paperwork hurdles for Texas voters.

DIRTY NEEDLES

Public health officials would be allowed to establish a needle exchange program, permitting people to hand in dirty needles in exchange for clean ones, under a bill approved by the Senate on Wednesday. The legislation still faces another vote, but its approval by a 23-7 margin

Wednesday makes final Senate passage almost certain. It would then go to the House.

Sen. Bob Deuell, a Greenville Republican and physician who wrote the legislation, said Texas is the only state in the nation that doesn't allow such exchange programs. He said the measure was needed to reduce disease and protect people from being harmed by dirty needles

Tession -- cont. on page 3

Chamber Luncheon

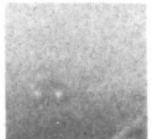

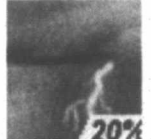
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Speaker will be Dr William Auvenshine from Clarendon College touching on new programs being established at the college including Wind Energy Programs

Meal catered by Peggy's Place - pot roast, mashed potatoes, green beans or corn, hot rolls, and cobbler

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PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 68 Low 49	High 70 Low 31	High 54 Low 26 20%

Tonight: Patchy fog after 3am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. East southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 70. Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 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.....	\$4.83
Milo.....	\$5.15
Corn.....	\$6.72

Winning Lotto Texas numbers
 AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 4-24-20-34-15-22.
 Number matching six of six: 0.
 Number matching five of six: 25. Prize: \$1,430.
 Number matching four of six: 1,149. Prize: \$46.
 Number matching three of six: 23,395. Prize: \$3.
 Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$5 million.

Cash Five Texas results
 AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 7-6-32-9-18.
 Number matching five of five: 0.
 Matching four of five: 76. Prize: \$454
 Matching three of five: 2,585. Prize: \$10
 Matching two of five: 27,187. Prize: \$2
 Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Oldest Arizona newspaper closes

On Saturday, Arizona's oldest newspaper, the nearly 140-year-old Tucson Citizen will print its final edition. The paper is owned by the Gannett Co. More than 60 newsroom employees will lose their jobs, reports AP. In February, E.W. Scripps closed the 150-year-old Rocky Mountain News, one of two daily newspapers in Denver, in February. Hearst Corp. has said it will close or sell the San Francisco Chronicle if it can't cut expenses.

14-year-old found hanged at prison

CROCKETT, Texas (AP) — Authorities say a 14-year-old inmate at the Texas Youth Commission's juvenile prison in Crockett has hanged himself.
 Houston County Judge Lonnie Hunt said the boy hanged himself with his own underwear. Hunt said a TYC officer found the teen early Monday morning after someone alerted him that paper covered the window of the door to the teen's room, the Houston Chronicle reported in its online edition Wednesday.
 "This is a tragic event. No death of a young person can be anything but tragic," TYC Executive Commissioner Cherie Townsend said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. We will conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine how this young man was able to take his life while in our custody."
 TYC spokesman Jim Hurley declined to say how long the teen had been at the Crockett State School or what crime he had committed.
 Hurley said an administrative review and a criminal investigation were being conducted.
 The last TYC inmate suicide occurred in 2006 when Robert Schulze, a 19-year-old inmate who had complained he felt unsafe, hanged himself in his cell at the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center in Bronte.
 State lawmakers overhauled TYC after the agency came under fire in early 2007 when allegations surfaced that administrators at the West Texas State School in Pyote sexually abused inmates.
 The Crockett State School, a 265-bed facility, is about 110 miles north of Houston.

For the Record

Obituaries

Bernice "Nana" Rippetoe

Pampa— Bernice "Nana" Rippetoe, 72, died March 19, 2009 in Amarillo, Texas.
 Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.
 Mrs. Rippetoe was born April 25, 1936 in Herring, Oklahoma. She attended Erick High School in Erick, Oklahoma. She married Gene Rippetoe on October 21, 1952 in Carter, Oklahoma. Bernice had been a resident of Pampa since 1962. She worked for Cabot as a payroll timekeeper, retir-

ing after 26 years of service. She was a Baptist. Bernice never met a stranger. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and especially great-grandmother.
 Survivors include her husband, Gene Rippetoe of the home, one son, Roy Rippetoe and wife Connie of Pampa, one daughter, Pat Gibson of Pampa, three sisters; Shirley Graham of San Angelo, Pat Omernik of Plover, Wisconsin, and Diann Bullard of Amarillo, seven

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Rippetoe

grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren. Bernice was preceded in death by a daughter, Eva Rene Fritz in 2003, a brother, John Throckmorton and a granddaughter, LaDonna Williamson.
MEMORIALS: BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, Texas 790105.
 Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. Thursday:
Wednesday
 Two medical calls were received.
 Ten calls concerning animals were made.
 Three informational calls were received.
 Nine traffic stops and/or complaints were made.
 Police responded to one home alarm in the 2300 block of North Navajo and a business alarm at 310 S. Culyer.
 There was one report of phone harassment in the 1100 block of N. Hobart.
 Police made one welfare check in Hamilton, Penn.
 There were two reports of lost property. One 114 W. Foster and one 200 N. Ballard.
 There were three reports

of disorderly conduct.
 There were two reports of suspicious people, one in the 300 block of North Starkweather and one in the 300 block of East Brown.
 An assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.
 Follow-up investigations were done in the 2500 block of North Duncan, 332 N. Wells.
 An assault was reported in the 700 block of North Frost.
 A checkbook was reported stolen in the 800 block of South Somerville.
 Tools were reported stolen in the 1900 block of Lynn.
 Criminal mischief was reported to the police department.
 A DWI was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.
 A purse was reported stolen to the police depart-

ment.
 A lawn mower was reported stolen in the 1000 block of Charles.
 There was one threat reported in 800 block of Malone.
Thursday
 One informational call was received.
 Five traffic stops were made.
 There were three reports of suspicious people and one of a suspicious vehicle.
 A follow up investigation was made in the 1000 block of Faulkner.
 Police checked a building in the 1200 block of North Hobart.
 There was one report of a city ordinance violation in the 1400 block of Williston.
SHERIFF
 The Gray County

Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests:
Wednesday
 Anthony Curry Pendleton, 21, was arrested about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday by Texas Rangers on a fugitive warrant out of Woodward, Okla., charging him with rape.
 Josh Seymour, 21, was arrested about 4:45 p.m. Wednesday by Gray County Deputies for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana.
Thursday
 Kandace Deann Roby, 24, was arrested about 12:45 a.m. Thursday by Pampa Police Officers for failing to yield and possession of drug paraphernalia.
FIRE
 There were no fire calls between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. Thursday.

Commander says stress is a factor in Army personnel suicides

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top Army commander said Wednesday the strain of long and repeated deployments was a big factor in the spike in suicides among Army personnel.
 "It's a stressed and tired force," Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee. He noted that some troops remain on 15-month deployments to Iraq that won't end until later this year.
 "We can do a lot, but we can't control the demand, and we expect the demand for all of 2009 and into 2010," Chiarelli said.
 Last year, the Army had 140 suspected suicides among active-duty troops, an all-time high. It reported 24 suspected suicides in

January, followed by 18 suspected last month. Each military branch, however, saw an increase in the number of suicides among its ranks from 2007 to 2008.
 Chiarelli vowed to tackle the problem aggressively by looking for ways to mitigate the stress on soldiers and eliminate the stigma associated with getting mental health help. One thing he was doing, he said, was receiving a briefing on the circumstances leading up to every suicide, so he can better understand the problem.
 He said suicide is having an impact on every segment of the Army,

affecting soldiers of all ranks and both men and women. He said about two-thirds of those who had committed suicide last year were either deployed or had deployed. A vast majority, he said, were dealing with some type of relationship problem, and many had legal, financial or occupational difficulties.
 Top officers from each of the other branches joined Chiarelli. Each said a shortage of mental health workers was a problem.
 Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., who chaired the hearing, said the rise in suicides shows that

"despite the services' best efforts, there is still more to be done to prevent military suicides."
 At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the Army is confronting suicides forcefully. He said repeated and long deployments take a toll.
 "What I am told is that one of the principal causes of suicide among our men and women in uniform is broken relationships," Gates said during a news conference. "And it's hard not to imagine that repeated deployments don't have an impact on those relationships."

Odessa councilman dead at 39

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — Odessa City Councilman Michael Sanchez was pronounced dead Wednesday at an Odessa hospital at the age of 39.
 Sanchez's stepfather, Raymond Chavez, said an autopsy is planned to determine the cause of death. Sanchez's brother, Steve Chavez, found him at the family business early Wednesday.
 Raymond Chavez said his stepson often arrived at work at 5 a.m. after a morning run. He was pronounced dead at Medical Center Hospital at 7:45 a.m., hospital officials said.
 "I think the entire city is in a complete state of shock," Mayor Larry Melton said.

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Ag Family of the Year

Burgers— cont. from page 1

thought the world was coming to an end," Burger said.

He said they didn't have the weather forecasters like they do today. There wasn't any television and little radio.

"I've got a book on that called 'The Worst Bad Times,'" Burger said, "and that's exactly right. It was bad times."

"That was the worst one," Burger said of Black Sunday. "We went to the cellar. We didn't know what was happening."

He said the dust cloud just rolled across the countryside.

"I guess I was eight-years-old," Burger said. "It scared the heck out of me."

But he said it didn't last too long.

"Probably a couple of hours," he said.

If that was his worst memory of growing up, his best, he grinned, was

meeting his wife, Donna.

It was during World War II that the family moved to Gray County. It was then that he met the love of his life, Donna Brunner of Groom.

Although their romance had to be postponed because of the war and tour of duty in the Army, Burger returned home to her.

He family had moved to Lockney while he was away, but he found her and brought her back to God's country.

"She was my first love," Dean says. "I just married her."

They will have been married 61 years in June.

Today, Burger and his bride live at Pampa. He takes care of momma cows that graze north of town while his son and grandson run the family ranching and farming operations near Lake McClellan and Groom.

"We have eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren," Donna Burger said. "They're wonderful."

So far, four generations of Burgers are working together in the farming and ranching operations.

Dean said he hopes the tradition will continue.

"I hope they'll go into it," he says of his great-grandchildren. "That place has been in our family quite a while."

His son lives on the ranch near Lake McClellan. His daughter lives in Groom.

"I loved living in the country," Donna Burger said. "I was a little town girl, but I enjoyed it. I really enjoyed all my years in the country."

She said that when they moved to town, she missed the country.

"We moved into town about nine years ago," she said.

They had a nice home on Evergreen, but Burger said he felt hemmed in.

"I just felt like I couldn't get my elbows out," he said.

When a guy came by and said he liked their house, Burger told him he could sure own it.

It was about the same time they found their home in Keller Estates, northeast of Pampa.

"We wanted to get out where we had a little more room," Burger said.

For most of his 80 plus years, Burger has been involved in farming and ranching. Despite his age,

he's led the way in adopting technology and new farming practices.

Much of their farmland is under minimum tillage so the ground is covered and the topsoil won't blow away as it did in the 1930s. Some of his windmills have been adapted to use solar power.

While he's changing the genetics of his cows to meet market demands, he and his son and grandson have diversified their cropping. They raise wheat, corn, milo and cotton.

"We grow a lot of cotton," Burger said. "I hate cotton. That stripping is so

slow."

He said they can harvest their corn before it freezes, and that fits in well with their cattle operation. But the cotton is something else. They hire a lot of the stripping done because they're busy with their cattle.

But he admitted that cotton has been one of their better crops.

"Most of us that were raised on a farm," Burger said, "it gets to you. You don't want to leave, unless you're growing cotton and then you want to get out of there."

Don't trash our county

Trash— cont. from page 1

was picked by county workers and weighed, totalling 900 pounds. Illegal dumping over 500 lbs but less than 1000 lbs is a Class A misdemeanor. Both men have been charged with the misdemeanor, which carries a fine of \$1000.

"The Gray County Sheriff's Office is actively persuading illegal dumpers. If you dump trash and are caught, you will be fined on," Hoard explained. "We urge all citizens in Gray County who observe dumping to call immediately. This is a large prob-

lem in Gray County and we are asking for asking for citizens help to keep the county clean."

Hoard encouraged anyone who witnesses illegal dumping to call the Sheriff's Office at 806-669-8022.

Legislature highlights

Session— cont. from page 1

left by intravenous drug users.

However, Republican Gov. Rick Perry's spokeswoman, Allison Castle, told the Austin American-Statesman that the governor is opposed to the proposal.

PARKING FINES

Fines for illegally parking in a handicap spot would be increased under a

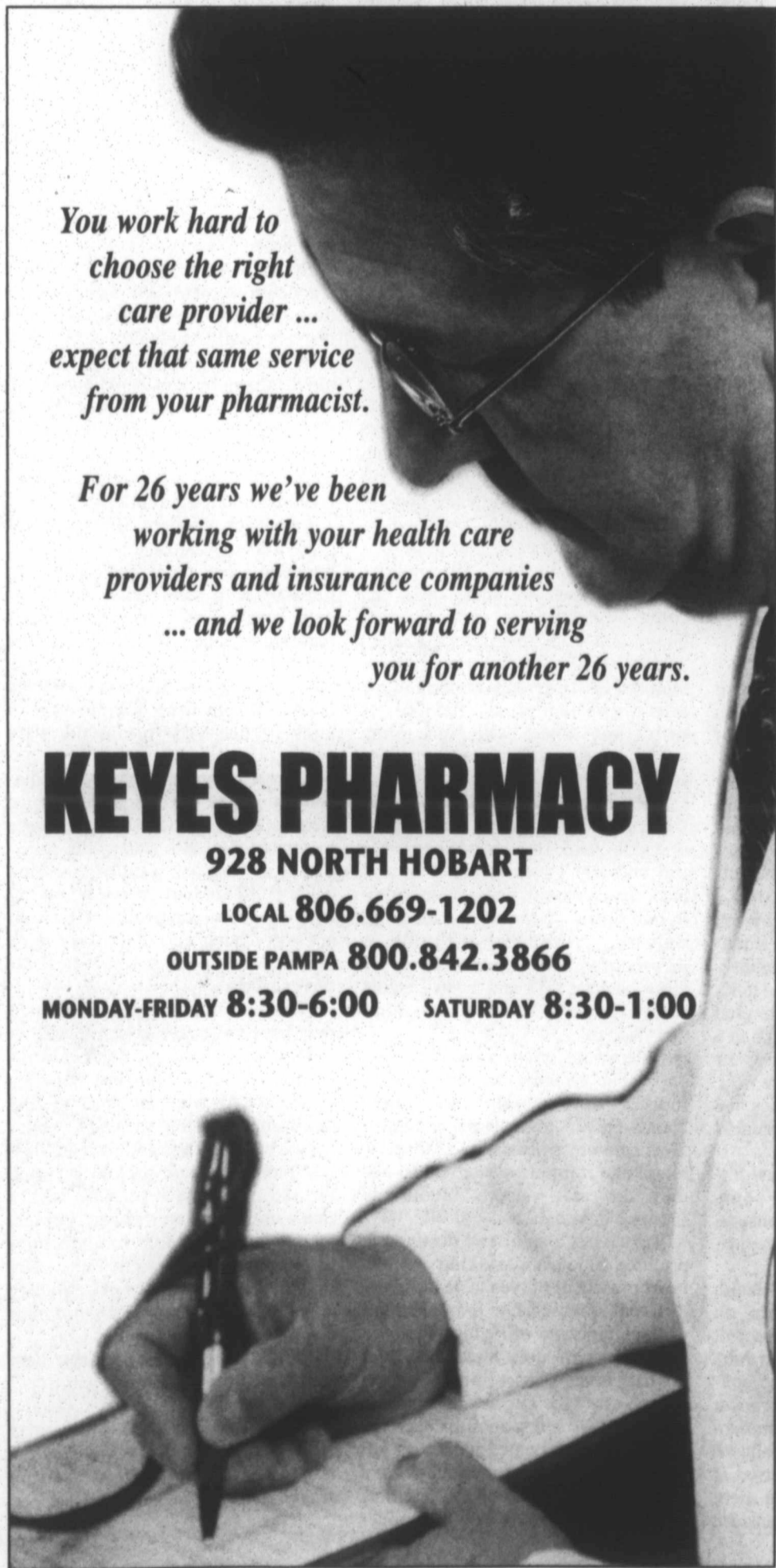
Senate bill that was passed unanimously Wednesday. The legislation would double the minimum fine to \$500, up from \$250, for a first offense. The maximum fine for a first offense would go up by 50 percent, to \$750.

Fines for repeat violators would also rise, with the maximum fine — for four offenses or more — hitting

\$1,100 with 50 hours of community service. The bill now goes to the House.

DISABILITY PROTEST

Several wheelchair-bound activists, part of a group called Community Now!, rallied at the Capitol and demanded to meet with Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday.



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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, March 19, the 78th day of 2009. There are 287 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On March 19, 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its day-to-day business.

On this date:
In 1859, the opera "Faust" by Charles Gounod premiered in Paris.

In 1917, the Supreme Court, in *Wilson v. New*, upheld the eight-hour work day for railroad workers.

In 1918, Congress approved daylight saving time.

In 1920, the Senate rejected, for a second time, the Treaty of Versailles by 49 to 35, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed for approval.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan; the ship, however, was saved.

Adolf Hitler issued his so-called "Nero Decree," ordering the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands.

In 1953, the Academy Awards was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

In 1976, Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Princess Margaret and her husband, the Earl of Snowdon, after 16 years of marriage.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

Ten years ago: During a White House news conference, President Bill Clinton prepared the nation for airstrikes against Serbian targets following the collapse of Kosovo peace talks in Paris.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, on the first anniversary of the Iraq war, urged unity in the war against terrorism. Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian and his vice president were shot and slightly wounded in an apparent assassination attempt on the final day of Taiwan's presidential campaign.

One year ago: Death claimed science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke at age 90 and actor Paul Scofield at age 86.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Ornette Coleman is 79. Author Philip Roth is 76. Actress Renee Taylor is 76. Actress-singer Phyllis Newman is 76. Actress Ursula Andress is 73. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 72. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 63. Actress Glenn Close is 62. Film producer Harvey Weinstein is 57. Actor Bruce Willis is 54. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 39. Rapper Bun B is 36. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 33. Actress Abby Brammell is 30. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 20. Actor Philip Bolden is 14.

'History is principally the inaccurate narration of events which ought not to have happened.'

— Ernest Albert Hooten, American anthropologist

YOU AIG EXECS ARE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF SLIMY, COLD-BLOODED, MONEY-GRUBBING REPTILES!!!



Texas ranked #1 in online transparency

AUSTIN — Texas has been ranked number one in online transparency out of all 50 states, according to a study conducted as part of the annual Sunshine Week campaign. Sunshine Week is a national initiative by journalism organizations to focus on open government and access to information.

"It is encouraging to see Texas' concerted efforts of greater budget transparency recognized at this level," said Gov. Rick Perry. "I am a long-time supporter of transparency and the accountability that comes with it. I hope that Texas will continue to build on these successes by calling for even more transparency, including from our institutions of higher education and municipalities all

across the state." To conduct the study, teams of surveyors scanned government Web sites from each state looking for 20 different kinds of public records. The only state found to provide information online in all 20 categories was Texas.

Surveyors rated each section based on user experience and friendliness, considering factors such as whether information was clearly linked, if full reports or only summaries were available, whether the site offered free viewing and/or downloading, and if the data was current.

Categories surveyed included financial disclosures, audit reports, project expenditures, department of

transportation projects, bridge inspection reports, fictitious registration of business names, death certificates, disciplinary actions against attorneys, disciplinary actions against medical physicians, hospital inspection reports, nursing home inspection reports, child care center inspection reports, statewide school test scores, teacher certifications, school building inspections, school bus inspections, gas pump overcharges, consumer complaints against businesses, environmental citations, and campaign finance information.

For more information on the study, visit <http://www.sunshine-week.org/>.

Stem cell payoff wait is decades not days

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all the past week's headlines about embryonic stem cells' medical promise there is a sobering reality: The science to prove that promise will take years, probably too long for many of today's seriously ill.

On his desk at Children's Hospital Boston, Harvard stem cell researcher Dr. George Daley keeps a file about 3 inches thick of e-mails and letters from patients and families who hope his work could help them. They are both inspiration and caution.

"It took much of the 20th century to figure out how to deliver chemicals as drugs," noted Daley. "We should be humble and appreciate it may take us the better part of this century to truly harness the power of cells as medicines."

Nor is there any way to know which kinds of cells ultimately will work. "Ai embryo-derived ones that elicit heated moral debate, or some of the many other types of stem cells that scientists are studying furiously.

President Barack Obama last week lifted restrictions on taxpayer funding of research using human embryonic stem cells, widening the field. The Bush administration had limited taxpayer money for that research to a small number of stem cell "lines," or groups that were created before Aug. 9, 2001, lines that in many cases had drawbacks that limited their potential use.

Make no mistake: Federal law forbids taxpayer money from being used to create or destroy embryos, and only Congress could change that, considered unlikely.

The National Institutes of Health now is developing guidelines on what kinds of stem cell studies will be allowed. The rules are due in July.

It's a young science to be so contentious. University of Wisconsin scientists culled the first human embryonic stem cells "Ai from an embryo no bigger than the period at the end of this sentence. Ai a mere decade ago. They're prized because

they can turn into any cell of the body. If scientists could control that metamorphosis, they might create replacement tissue to treat a variety of diseases and conditions, from diabetes to Parkinson's to the paralysis of spinal cord injury.

But that initial culling of the cells does kill the days-old embryo. So critics say using the resulting stem cells "Ai which can propagate in lab dishes indefinitely, Ai makes taxpayers who are morally opposed to embryo research complicit in it.

There are various alternatives. Different types of stem cells can come from fetuses and placenta, blood and bone marrow. So-called "adult" stem cells that already have matured to create a given tissue-type aren't considered as flexible as embryonic ones, although some recently discovered in men's testicles seem close.

Then there are recently developed "reprogrammed" stem cells where scientists take, say, an ordinary skin cell and slip genes inside it to turn back the clock and make it embryonic-like again. If those so-called iPS cells truly prove to be as flexible as they appear, they could remove the moral debate "Ai and even leading embryonic stem cell scientists hope that happens.

Meanwhile, critics argue that adult stem cells already can cure people. Indeed, what people once called "bone-marrow transplants" are injections of stem cells destined to grow blood and immune-system cells, and they do treat various blood and immune disorders.

But taking a stem cell destined to produce blood and making it grow heart muscle or nerves instead is very different, stressed Dr. John Gearhart of the University of Pennsylvania.

Adult stem cell injections temporarily helped heart-failure patients a few years ago. The new cells didn't grow but for a few months secreted substances that helped what was left of the old scarred heart tissue work a little better, he said. New attempts using different stem cells are under

way now. Spinal cord injury may be more amenable to stem cell therapy than diseases that could overtake and damage newly implanted cells. Stem cells have helped paralyzed rodents move again by repairing insulation lost around damaged nerves. In the first attempt at an embryonic stem cell therapy this summer, Geron Corp. will test if a few recently paralyzed people react similarly.

Last week another California company, DaVinci Biosciences, reported injecting a few paralyzed patients in Ecuador with stem cells from their own bone marrow. The researchers reported no side effects and recorded some signs of improvement in movement and bladder function two years later, although there was no way to know if that was due to the stem cells.

Scientists long thought Type 1 diabetes might be the easiest disease for stem cells to tackle. After all, some patients today do well with transplants of donated insulin-producing cells. But Gearhart said it's proving hard to grow pancreatic cells from any sort of stem cell. They seem to be missing compounds essential for their survival.

"It's the whole neighborhood" that may have to be recreated, he said.

Desperate patients don't always recognize those hurdles, laments Gearhart "Ai who has tried to dissuade some heading overseas to clinics advertising stem cell "cures." Just last month, Israeli doctors reported the sad case of a 9-year-old with a fatal brain-disease whose parents carried him to Russia for injections of purported fetal stem cells. Not only did the injections not help, they apparently triggered a brain tumor discovered four years later.

"You try to give the message there of caution, caution, caution," Gearhart said.

EDITOR'S NOTE— Lauran Neergaard covers health and medical issues for The Associated Press in Washington.

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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

•Lovett Memorial Library would like to invite the public to come and help the staff say good-bye and best wishes to Mabel Pletcher as she retires March 31 after 20 years of service. Her retirement party will be held from noon - 2 p.m. Monday, March 23 in the library's auditorium room.

•Gray County Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for Decemebr. 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: 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.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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			4	9	1		2	
	4		1					3

Level: Intermediate

Thieves steal \$3,400 in panties

HURST, Texas (AP) — Police are looking for two men and a woman they say snatched \$3,400 worth of panties from a Victoria's Secret in the Fort Worth suburb of Hurst.

The thieves took 100 panties valued at \$14 each and 125 valued at \$16 each, the police report said.

The suspects removed the panties from drawers opened at the front of the store and started placing them into a bag while most of the employees were in the rear of Victoria's Secret, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported in its online edition Wednesday.

No arrests have been made in the March 9 theft.

Odessa councilman Sanchez dead at 39

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — Odessa City Councilman Michael Sanchez was pronounced dead Wednesday at an Odessa hospital at the age of 39.

Sanchez's stepfather, Raymond Chavez, said an autopsy is planned to determine the cause of death. Sanchez's brother, Steve Chavez, found him at the family business early Wednesday.

Raymond Chavez said his stepson often arrived at work at 5 a.m. after a morning run. He was pronounced dead at Medical Center Hospital at 7:45 a.m., hospital officials said.

"I think the entire city is in a complete state of shock," Mayor Larry Melton said in Wednesday's online edition of the Odessa American.

Melton said Sanchez "did his homework. He was a good councilman and an asset to our community."



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been friends with our next door neighbors "Henry" and "Flo" for many years. When our daughter graduated from college, I didn't think much about it when Henry gave her a bracelet. He said it was for her graduation.

After that, he began giving her other expensive items for birthdays and such. I know our daughter should not have accepted these gifts, but she thought Henry was just a nice old man. Then one day he actually asked her if she would like to go out with him some time. She told him it wouldn't be appropriate.

I feel uncomfortable around my neighbors now. Is it my business to tell Flo? I have a hunch that some of the items may have come from her jewelry box. What would you do? -- DELICATE PROBLEM IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR DELICATE PROBLEM: I would instruct my daughter to box up all of the items "Harmless Henry" gave her and return them to him, because they might be stolen property -- and were given with strings attached. And I would seriously consider mentioning to Flo to keep her eye on Henry, because he appears to be spending too much time in fantasyland.

DEAR ABBY: I have a wedding etiquette question I hope you can help me with. My fiance's best man, "Rocky," is his best friend since childhood. He's a great person, and I couldn't ask for a better friend for my future husband.

Here's the problem: Rocky happens to be a well-known celebrity. While many relatives and friends have met him, many more have not.

My fiance and I are normal people with average

lives, and we know many of our guests will be star-struck at the event. We want Rocky to enjoy the day like everyone else and not be hounded by fans wanting pictures or autographs. We have spoken with him about our concerns, and we're all on the same page here.

What is the best way to handle this? Should I tell people beforehand, or just let them show up at the wedding and see what happens? Your insight would be most appreciated. -- BAFFLED BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR BRIDE-TO-BE: By all means let your guests know at the time you receive their RSVPs that there will be a celebrity present at your wedding -- but that this is not a public appearance; he will be there as a member of the wedding party.

They should also be told that you and your fiance would appreciate it if guests refrain from seeking autographs or pictures. If you tell them what kind of behavior you expect from them, there will be less of a mob scene.

P.S. If "Rocky" is approached, he should have the presence of mind to point out nicely that this is YOUR day, and he would prefer to keep it that way.

DEAR ABBY: Who should greet whom first? Is it the guest walking into someone's home? Or should the host be the first to greet guest(s)?

What if you're the only one saying hello all the time? -- MARISSA IN HIGHLAND MILLS, N.Y.

DEAR MARISSA: I would think that when the host opens the door, both parties would greet each other at the same time. However, if it didn't happen, I wouldn't let it stop me from offering a cheery hello and a smile. And neither should you.

MARCH MAYHEM IS HERE!



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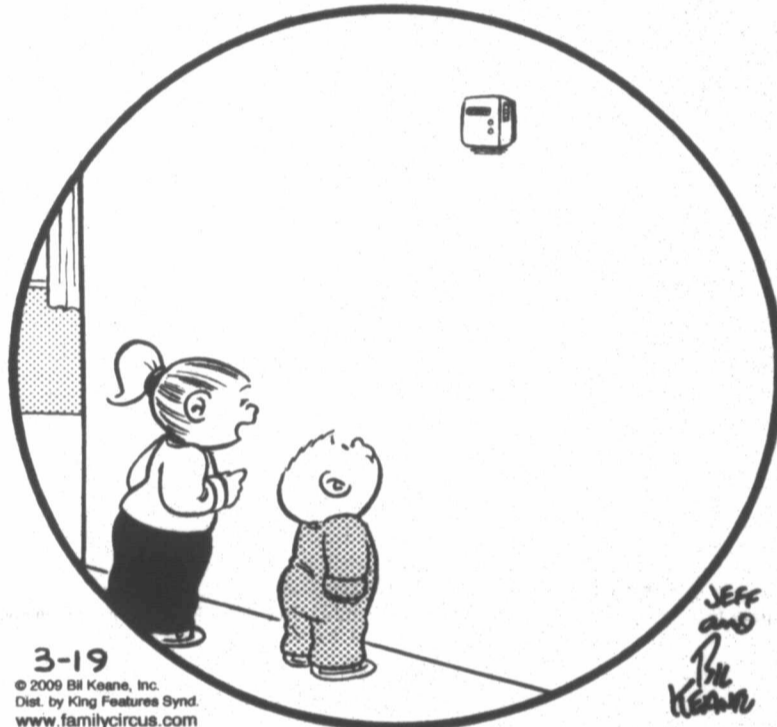
Marmaduke



"We wanna talk to you about your goalie."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"That little box can heat our whole house."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Flock holders
 - 5 History division
 - 11 Golfer's choice
 - 12 Wipes off
 - 13 Center
 - 14 Orderly sets
 - 15 Re-quested
 - 17 Lingerie item
 - 18 Crew member
 - 22 Irascible
 - 24 Cache
 - 25 Old card game
 - 26 Disencumber
 - 27 Some singers
 - 30 Starkers
 - 32 Trattoria sauce
 - 33 Planet
 - 34 Kitchen staple
 - 38 Strand
 - 41 Olden days
 - 42 Driven out
 - 43 Dust Bowl character
 - 44 Fix
 - 45 Gorbachev's nation
- DOWN**
- 1 Print unit
 - 2 Aphrodite's son
 - 3 Heavy footwear
 - 4 Con-temptuous looks
 - 5 Unable to hear
 - 6 Blunders
 - 7 Prop for Bugs
 - 8 Simile center
 - 9 Susan of "L.A. Law"
 - 10 Twisty turn
 - 16 German article
 - 19 Holders of class exercises
 - 20 American lake
 - 21 Funny Foxx
 - 22 Thunder sound
 - 23 Part
 - 28 "My Favorite Year" star
 - 29 Flew alone
 - 30 Election Day mo.
 - 31 "Who — kidding?"
 - 35 Role for Harrison
 - 36 Eye part
 - 37 Lewd look
 - 38 Sea, to Simone
 - 39 Log chopper
 - 40 Brink

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Yesterday's answer

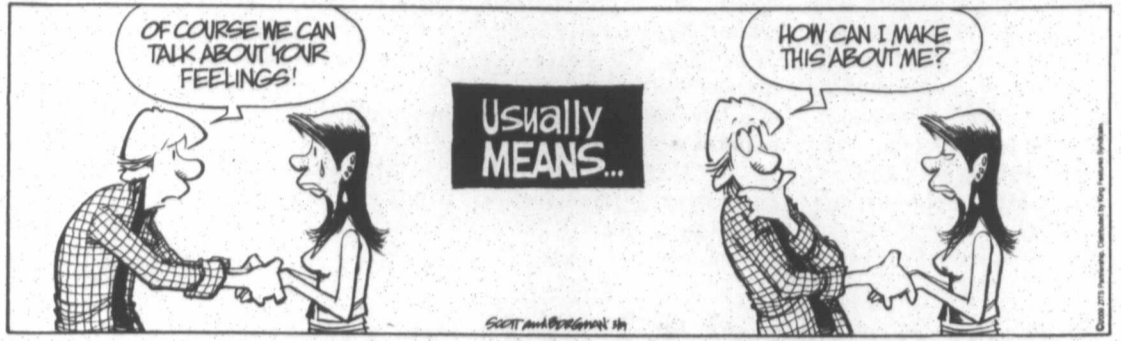
NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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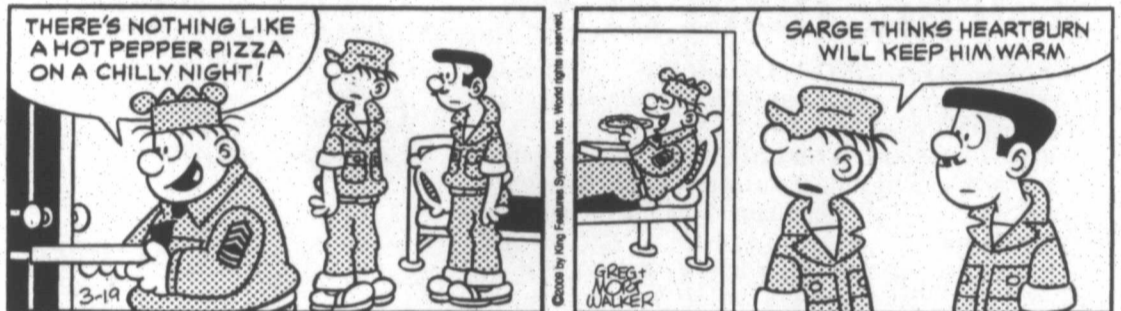
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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19 Situations

After School Care Pick up from Austin & Travis Sch. 214-544-5642 Spring Break & Summer Openings

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE
 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

HELP wanted in a chiropractic office. Clinical exp desired. Ins. exp. a plus! Send reply to Box 75 c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa.

NEED Maintenance Man. Must have tools & transportation. Apply at 800 N. Nelson.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL Contractor seeks asbestos abatement workers with industrial experience. Long term project. Pay rate \$13/hour. 954-818-6478 or 724-996-9699.

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 D.E. Chase, Inc., is looking for an experienced diesel mechanic. Top pay with benefits. Must pass drug screen. CDL a plus but not required. Apply in person at 1445 S. Barnes.

OUTREACH Health Services is hiring Providers in the Pampa, TX area. Must be 18+. For more info, please call 806-373-0986 or 1-800-800-0697. EOE.

TAKING applications for Salvation Army tutoring program. Also store dock worker. Must be 18 & over & background check. Apply in person at The Salvation Army 701 S. Cuyler

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69 Misc.

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115 Trailer Parks

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103 Homes For Sale

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106 Coml. Property

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95 16x76, very nice 3 bdr., 2 ba., in Lefors, w/ gar. on 1 1/2 lots. \$17,000. 835-1402

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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.

3-19 CRYPTOQUOTE
 G Z A G B W Z O Q P Q W T I D D G B L
 I H D U X E G J C J Z B C V G B D Q
 H Z P T X J V V Q X O X P F H Q Q P
 A Z B T Z B U Z O X Z U Q A X .
 — Z Y P Z U Z A J G B T Q J B
 Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LET US NOT BE TOO PARTICULAR; IT IS BETTER TO HAVE OLD, SECONDHAND DIAMONDS THAN NONE AT ALL.
 — MARK TWAIN

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 20, 2009:
 Pursue the practical this year, but not at the expense of letting go of creativity. Experiment and merge these two assets. Focus on your long-term desires, and you'll beat a path in a new direction. Meetings, friends and groups prove to be beneficial. Networking helps in many facets of your life. If you are single, listen to your inner voice, which points you in the right direction. A romance this year will be based on friendship. If you are attached, you might find a common goal or community commitment important to your health as a couple. CAPRICORN demands and demands again.

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) ***** The spring equinox energizes you. You have a skip in your step. A strong sense of duty guides you. You cannot avoid following your inner desires. An insight about the boss — whomever that person might be in your life — heads in your direction. Tonight: A must appearance.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Investigate a situation and get to its root. You might need to curtail your ingenuity if you are to complete certain key tasks. You are distracted by this issue. Remember that it is Friday and time for even the Bull to relax. Tonight: Read between the lines.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Appreciate what appears to be a totally different point of view and new way of engaging. What starts out as a

sound discussion easily could tumble into a debate or quarrel! Someone you look up to surprises you. Tonight: Reach for the stars.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Wonder why it seems that everyone drops his or her work and responsibilities on you? Could you be too nurturing or too supportive? Revamp, step back and make yourself number one. Don't settle for anything less. Tonight: Could be late.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Celebrate spring fever, flowers and anything else that reminds you of spring. Some of you might want to plan a little getaway to refresh the mind, spirit and body. Others might want to consider a new exercise plan or diet — summer isn't that far away! Tonight: Read between the lines.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** You have an unusually creative and dynamic bent. Don't sell out, and remain true to your values. Sometimes you cannot get out of your own way when solving problems. Understanding grows with a key friendship or relationship. Tonight: An important chat over dinner.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** If you aren't good at juggling, you'll wish you were by the end of the day. Your hands are full with associates and friends wanting to do their thing, whereas your major focuses are investments, domestic concerns and property. Tonight: Head home.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Express yourself and brainstorm, and out of left field comes a brilliant idea. You discover just how easy it is when you flow with a situation rather

than fight it. A friend could be serious or withdrawn. Tonight: Join a pal for TGIF. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** In some sense, you are too aware of the costs of a situation and what you need to do. Listen to an elder who has another perspective on work and life. You might feel encouraged to head in a new direction. Tonight: Your treat.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Your smile makes a big difference to others. Somehow you are able to bypass problems and find solutions. Pressure builds in your personal or domestic life. Get ready to funnel your attention in this area. Tonight: Go for what you want.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** You might want to exit a situation, meeting or group. Do honor your feelings and don't get caught up in the shoulds. As you relax, you will visualize and tap into your dreams, fears and wishes. Use this resourceful period well. Tonight: Vanish while you can.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Focus on people, not one person who could be negative! Honor a need for greater happiness. You could act in a surprising manner with others, but not to those who understand you and what you recently experienced. Tonight: Beat a path to where the action is.

BORN TODAY
 Actress Holly Hunter (1958), model Kathie Ireland (1963), psychologist B.F. Skinner (1904)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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POT O' GOLD



submitted photo

Ford Family Chiropractic Team Members Dr. Samantha Ford, Pam Smith and Kendra Mann are pictured with Susie Thompson winner of Ford Family Chiropractic's St. Patarick's Day Pot O' Gold Contest. Susie received fifty one dollar gold coins as the lucky winner.

Dreyfuss calls attention to neglected battlefields

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oscar-winner Richard Dreyfuss visited the nation's capital on Wednesday to call attention to the most endangered Civil War battlefields.

The actor joined the Civil War Preservation Trust as the group released its annual report on 10 battlefields that it says are deteriorating due to neglect, land development and other threats.

At a news conference, Dreyfuss said his interest in preserving Civil War battlefields grew out of his love for history and the significance of the war.

"We are the consequences of that war and the more we know about our past, the better," said Dreyfuss.

The Washington-based

preservation group issues the "History Under Siege" report annually. The sites on this year's list include Gettysburg, Pa.; South Mountain and Monocacy in Maryland; Cedar Creek, New Market Heights, and Wilderness in Virginia; Fort Gaines, Ala.; Port Gibson, Miss.; Sabine Pass, Texas; and Spring Hill, Tenn.

The battle of the Wilderness opened the Union's offensive against the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. After the fighting ended, more than 25,000 troops had been killed. Today, it may become the site of a Walmart Supercenter, which opponents fear will bring an overwhelming amount of traffic and encourage other retailers to encroach on the area.

The sites were nominated by the members of the group and then selected for the list by board members.

The report also lists natural disasters as a danger.

In 2008, Hurricane Ike stopped efforts to reopen Sabine Pass, Texas — a site already recovering from a direct hit by Hurricane Rita in 2005. At the battlefield, Union troops prevented Confederates from establishing a trade route through Mexico. It's now undergoing repairs and is expected to reopen this year.

Dr. Libby O'Connell, chief historian for the History Channel, presented the trust with a donation of \$80,000 on Wednesday. She said 30 acres of "hal- lowed ground" are lost every day.

George W. Bush to write memoir about 'decisions'

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President George W. Bush, who once famously called himself "The Decider," is writing a book about decisions.

"I want people to understand the environment in which I was making decisions. I want people to get a sense of how decisions were made and I want people to understand the options that were placed before me," Bush said during a brief telephone interview Wednesday with The Associated Press from his office in Dallas.

Bush's book, tentatively (not decisively) called "Decision Points," is scheduled for a 2010 release by Crown, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group. It is unusual in a couple of ways.

Instead of telling his life story, Bush will concentrate on about a dozen personal and presidential choices, from giving up drinking to picking Dick Cheney as his vice president to sending troops to Iraq. He will also write about his relationship with family members, including his father, the first President Bush, his religious faith and his highly criticized response to Hurricane Katrina.

Instead of having competing publishers bid, Bush and his representative, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, negotiated for world rights only with Crown Publishing, where authors include President Obama and Bush's secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice. Barnett used a similar strategy in working out deals with publisher Alfred A. Knopf for another client, former President Clinton.

"Proceeding in this way gets the project going promptly, avoids the time-

consuming process of multiple meetings and multiple negotiations, and preserves confidentiality for all concerned," Barnett said.

Financial details were not disclosed, although publishers have openly doubted that Bush would receive the \$15 million Clinton got for his memoir, "My Life."

The structure of Bush's current book is not unlike his "A Charge to Keep," published by William Morrow in 1999 as the then-Texas governor was preparing to run for president. In the foreword to "Charge," Bush noted that he had no interest in a comprehensive, chronological memoir.

"That would be far too boring," he wrote. "The book chronicles some of the events that have shaped my life and some of my major decisions and actions as governor of Texas."

Bush told the AP on Wednesday that he was not "comfortable with the first book, only because it seemed rushed," and that his current memoir would have "a lot more depth," thanks to his years as president. Although he didn't keep a diary while in the White House — he "jotted" down the occasional note — he said he began "Decision Points" just two days after leaving the White House and had written "maybe" 30,000 words so far.

Once known for his reluctance to acknowledge mistakes, Bush said the book would include self-criticism. "Absolutely, yes," but cautioned that "hindsight is very easy" and that he would make sure readers could view events as he saw them.

"I want to recreate what it was like, for example,

right after 9/11," he said, "and have people understand the emotions I felt and what others around me felt at the time."

Asked if he might write about the ouster of his first defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, or about his decision not to pardon Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, choices both openly disputed by Cheney, Bush said he didn't know.

"I made a lot of decisions," he said.

Bush said he has read other presidential memoirs, including Ulysses S. Grant's highly praised autobiography, a book he enjoyed in part because it was "anecdotal." He said he had "skimmed" Clinton's memoir and had yet to read either of Obama's books, "Dreams From My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope."

Like Clinton, he is a fan of "Personal History," the Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir by Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham.

Presidential memoirs have rarely satisfied critics or the general public, with exceptions including Clinton's "My Life," a million seller despite mixed reviews, and Grant's memoirs, which didn't even cover his time in office.

George W. Bush has been talking for months about a memoir, even while he was president, and has said he wanted to give people an idea of the world as seen through a president's eyes.

Publishers, noting Bush's low approval ratings and questioning his capacity for self-criticism, have been less enthusiastic, urging him not to hurry. Still, Barnett said he received calls from several publishers about a possible book.

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