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onal & Commercial

raised on a farm in Deaf Chamber of Commerce has Smith County. He is a selected Joe Weaver, curgraduate of Hereford High rently of Tulia to replace School, and West Texas Keith Pitner as Director. State University (now Weaver officially takes WTAMU) in Canyon, with

over the directorship June

of the Texas Panhandle,

Chamber

about our area."

tions. President He is a member of Texas Troy Newton said Friday, Chamber of Commerce "We're excited to get Joe, Executives. Texas Economic Development and anxious just to really turn him loose. He's got Council, Rotary International, Storytellers a lot of creative ides and a great deal of knowledge of the High Plains, and the Texas Archaeological Joe Weaver is a native

Society.

a degree in communica-

Joe was in public library administration, where he honed his skills for promotion and public relations.

Since 2006, he has been Director of the Tulia Chamber of Commerce and the Swisher County Industrial Foundation. He also served as Chair of the Swisher County Historical Commission.

"I am really excited about moving to Pampa. I like this size city—it has many things a smaller community doesn't, yet For almost 15 years, CHAMBER cont. on page 3



Incoming Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce Director Joe Weaver

## END OF YEAR FUN



Community Christian School students Hunter Nichols and Cayson Stewart playing Putt Putt during their end of the year field trip to Putt-a-round or two. (Photo submitted by Misty Jordan)

## Highlights from the **Texas** Legislature

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - House and Senate negotiators are getting ready to vote on the massive state budget, a \$180 billion spending plan for the next two years.

Republican Sen. Steve Ogden of Bryan, the Senate's lead budget writer, said Thursday the bill will probably get committee approval on Tuesday and would be sent to the full House and Senate chambers for approval later next week.

The budget is the only bill lawmakers are legally required to pass. It includes more spending on education, health care and highway construction. The budget also counts on \$11 billion in money from the federal economic rescue package

#### TOP TEN PERCENT

A bill changing the policy that guarantees automatic college admission to top high school achievers stalled after a long and rambling debate in the Texas House late Thursday.

The bill will be back before the House Friday morning.

Before consideration of the legislation was delayed, lawmakers voted to replace the top 10 percent rule - giving guaranteed slots to students in the top 10 percent of their high school class - with a "top 8 percent rule" at the University of Texas at Austin.

That measure was adopted late Thursday as lawmakers mulled the most sweeping reforms to university admissions policies in more than a decade. The UT admissions policy would take effect in 2010, but other changes would not be put in place until 2012.

UT Austin, where more than 80 percent of the home-state freshman class are admitted under the rule, has been pushing the Legislature to allow it to start cutting back on such automatic admissions.

SESSION cont. on page 3

## PRMC providing free health screenings



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BY RACHEL STENNETT rstennett@thepampanews.com

Pampa Regional Medical Center will conduct free health screenings for any interested businesses in Pampa. This week, employees of the Pampa News took advantage of the program.

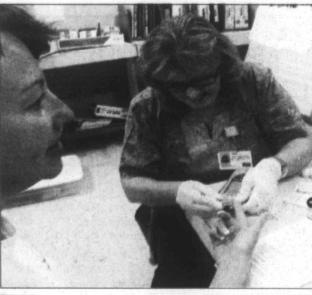
The screenings include a lipid/ cholesterol check, blood sugar and blood pressure check, and body fat measurement. PRMC provides all equipment, supplies, and staff for the screening. A business need only provide a table and a couple of chairs for the screenings to be

PRMC began offering the screenings started a year ago, and 12-15 businesses in Pampa have taken advantage of the

program so far. According to PRMC Marketing Director Terry Barnes, the screenings are provided as a community service by the hospital.

"This is a remind for friends to know we're here to take care of you and we want to give back to the community," Barnes said.

Any interested businesses can contact Terry Barnes at 663-5874 or e-mail at terry.barnes@ signaturehospital.com



staff photo by **Betsy Phillips** Carmen Knutson, RN at Pampa Regional Medical Center administers a health screening to Beverly Taylor at The Pampa News office Tuesday, May 19. The screenings are a free service offered to busi-

nesses in the

community.







# For the record

#### PAMPA FORECAST

Friday

Saturday



High 73 Low 58



High 74 Low 59



Sunday

High 83 Low 59

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Memorial Day: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 83. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast.

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#### Grain prices

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

Wheat	\$5.57
Milo	\$.5.88
Corn	

## **Cash Five Results**

Cash Five Texas results

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

Winning numbers drawn: 7 - 9 - 11 - 34 - 35.

Number matching five of five: 0. Prize: \$0 Matching four of five: 113. Prize: \$288

Matching three of five: 2,708. Prize: \$9

Matching two of five: 27,235. Prize: \$2

Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

#### Daily 4 results evening drawing Prize: \$48

Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

6 - 9 - 4 - 3. Sum It Up: 22

(six, nine, four, three. Sum It Up: twenty-two)

## **Emergency Services**

#### PAMPA PD

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

Wednesday

Officers conducted 16 traffic stops

A total of 11 calls and/ or stops concerning animals were made.

Two attempts to serve papers were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the 600 block of North Deane, and the intersection of Buckler and Roberta.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the intersection of Harvester and Evergreen, and the 1200 block of North Hobart.

An assault was reported in the lobby of the PD.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles, the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 1100 block of North Duncan, and the 1600 block of East Highway 60.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 400 block of South Graham, and the 2500 block of North Rosewood

One alarm was investigated.

Forgery was reported in the 1000 block of South Neel, where a rental agreement was forged.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Dwight, and the 500 block of North Doucette, where bbs were shot at a windshield of a car, value

reported in the 100 block of of North Wells. South Russell.

Thursday traffic stops.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

One open door was investigated.

A prowler was reported in the 2200 block of North Christine.

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

Officers conducted a total of nine traffic stops. A total of 17 calls and/or stops were made.

One alarm was investigated.

Agency assistance was rendered in the intersection of hobart and Worrell streets

Welfare checks were made in the 700 block of East Frederic

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the inter-section of 20<sup>th</sup> and Duncan

Suspicious persons were reported in the 500 block of North Dwight, and the 1000 block of South Barnes. Criminal mischief was

reported in the 300 block of North Ward. Criminal trespass was

reported in the lobby of the PD. Burglary was reported

in the 300 block of South Finley. A traffic complaint was received from the

Somerville. An unattended death was

intersection of Wells and

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1200 block

Harassment was reported in the 1200 block of North

Officers conducted four Hobart, and the 1000 block of South Sumner.

Forgery was reported in the lobby of the PD.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the intersection of Linda and Mary Ellen streets, and the 1100 block of Neel. Civil matters were

reported in the 1800 block of North Christy, the 2100 block of North Chrisitne, and the lobby of the PD. Burglary of a mtoor

vehicle was reported in the 300 block of South Anne.

A traffic complaint was received from the 900 block of East Malone.

Friday A total of two calls and/ or animals were reported.

A civil matter was reported int eh 1000 block of North Sumner.

Officers conducted two traffic stops. One alarm was investi-

gated.

#### FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. Today. Thursday

8:49 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 1900 block of Duncan on a public service

3:22 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky on a med assist. 3:37 p.m. — One unit

and two personnel respond-

ed to the 12000 block of East Frederic on a small grass fire.

4:19 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 1300 block of North Hobart on a motor vehicle accident.

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3:38 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 1300 block of North Hobart on an odor investigation.

6:23 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to PRMC on a med assist.

9:43 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 900 block of East Malone on a smoke scare.

#### SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Kacie Virginia Ferguson, 24, of Borger was sentenced for possession of a controlled substance.

Misty Michelle Minyard, 36, of Pampa was arrested by the GCSO for theft of property, and bond surrender for forgery of a financial instrument.

Tamara Michelle Horton, 24, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for possession of a dangerous drug, failure to appear, non-guardian permit unlicensed driver. and a civil warrant for theft under \$50.

Sarah Marie Mizze, 26, of Lefors was arrested by the Lefors Marshall for public intoxication, and disorderly conduct.

## Ex-soldier gets life in prison for Iraqi slayings

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) - An ex-soldier convicted of raping and killing an Iraqi teen and murdering her family has been sentenced to life in prison in a case that drew attention to the emotional and psychological strains on soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Steven Dale Green, 24, of Midland, Texas, was spared the death penalty Thursday after jurors couldn't agree on a punishment for the brutal crime.

In March 2006, after an afternoon of card playing, sex talk and drinking Iraqi whiskey, Pfc. Green and three other soldiers went to the home of 14-yearold Abeer Qassim al-Janabi near Mahmoudiya, about read. 20 miles south of Baghdad. Green shot and killed the Sept. 4 by U.S. District

teen's mother, father and Judge Thomas B. Russell. the face. Her body was set not sentenced to death.

give Green a death sen- Tariq Dawood, 55. tence or life in prison witheither, life in prison had to Iraqi rights."

be the verdict. bad choices," said his dier, he would be regarded father, John Green, who as a terrorist and would sighed as the verdict was

His son will be sentenced

sister, then became the In Baghdad, Iraqis said third soldier to rape the they were shocked and disgirl before shooting her in appointed that Green was "Has Iraqi blood and

Federal jurors who con- honor become so cheap, victed Green of rape and where a family can be murmurder deliberated for dered and a daughter raped more than 10 hours over and killed, and the verdict two days on whether to is life imprisonment?" said Haidar Kadom, 31, a

out parole. Since they could teacher there, called the not unanimously agree on sentence "a mockery of

"If an Iraqi did the same "It's the better of two to an American female sol-

be sentenced to death," he Green's attorneys never

denied his involvement in the attack, instead focusing on building a case that he didn't deserve the death penalty. Former Marines and other soldiers Green served with testified that he faced an unusually stressful combat tour in Iraq's "Triangle of Death" with a unit that suffered heavy casualties and didn't receive sufficient leadership.

Jurors declined to comment as they were escorted out of the courthouse. A civilian jury decided Green's case because he was out of the Army before he was charged.

#### **Texas Two Step results** AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 18 - 20 - 22 - 24. Bonus Ball:

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

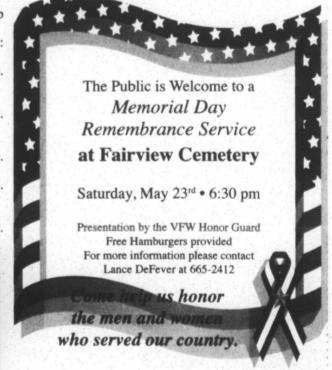
Prize: \$525,000 Number matching four of four: 17. Prize: \$903. Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 39.

Number matching three of four: 1,158. Prize: \$22. Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 830. Prize: \$20.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 5,196. Prize: \$7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 9,468. Prize: \$5. Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$650,000.





## LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

BEGINNING MAY 26, The Pampa News Office hours will be 8am-4pm. Monday through Friday. Night Service will still be available.

CITY WIDE Garage Sale Ads, will be in The Pampa News, on Thurs. June 4th & Fri. June 5th on special pages. Reserve your ad now! \$25 includes 1x2 box ad for 2 days, Free garage sale kit which includes 2 signs, pricing stickers, sales record form & some garage sale tips. Deadline for ads is Tues. June 2, before 4pm

NO NEWSPAPER on Mon.- Memorial Day so that (JcPenney our employees may enjoy the holiday with their families & friends! Happy Memorial tress. \$225 call- 662-5837 Day, Pampa News

Sale- \$200 call 669-1971

PAMPA LIONS Club will be Cooking Hamburgers at Fairview Cemetary, May 23 at 6:30. Public welcome to attend the recognition service honoring the men and women who have served our through 5th grade. Call First

BABY CRIB for sale Cottage Convertible Crib in maple color) includes Sealy Mat-

SHEPHERD'S HELPING PILATES MACHINE for Hands & Shepard's Crook Home Health Community Flea Market / Gar. Sale, June 5th: Booth Rental avail. Call Pam or Myra 665-0356 for more info

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A reservation is not needed. No paper work. Simply sign in at least 30 minutes early, and be treated. No children, please.

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New Life Clinics relies on public support to continually provide free clinics. Therefore, a voluntary five-dollar donation is appreciated when signing in.

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More Info: (800) 274-3589 www.NewLifeHypnosis.org

## Stimulus funds for repair of Governor's Mansion

JAY ROOT ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

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AUSTIN, Texas (AP) While Gov. Rick Perry is criticizing Washington bailouts, state lawmakers are planning to use \$11 million in federal stimulus money to help rebuild the badly burned Texas

Governor's Mansion. Top budget negotiators said Thursday that a House-Senate committee agreed on the expenditures late Wednesday night. Some \$11 million in federal rescue dollars would be spent to refurbish the mansion, which was badly

burned in an arson fire last

Around \$10 million in

state tax money will also late Wednesday meeting be spent on a renovation expected to cost about \$20 million, officials said.

"If we're going to fix it up we're going to have to use stimulus money," said Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan. "We've made a decision to use the stimulus money. This is a good use of it."

Ogden, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, both said the \$11 million was coming out of a \$700 million rescue package for Texas - part of the massive federal stimulus pie

approved earlier this year by the U.S. Congress. The financing for the

repairs was decided in a

of the budget conference committee, which Ogden and Pitts lead, both men said. The final budget still faces a vote in the House and Senate, then approval from Perry, before it can become law.

Asked if Perry approved of using federal money for the mansion, Pitts said, "He just wanted it done."

Perry

spokeswoman

Allison Castle released a short, written statement late Thursday. "We are continuing to work with lawmakers on

the budget," she said.

Perry, expecting a 2010 primary challenge from U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, has against federal bailouts

and what he calls the freespending, power-hungry ways of Washington. In January, he said Texas was endangered by Uncle Sam's "audacity."

"I can't imagine what Texas would be like if we had applied the federal government's free-spending principles over the years," he said.

The governor's mansion was being renovated when an unknown arsonist torched it in June. Perry has been living in a threestory, limestone home with a heated pool, an outdoor cabana and a guest house.

The state is paying some \$9,900-a-month in rent while the Governor's Mansion undergoes renovations, records show.

## Chamber

energy in the area, and

being part of the growth

that will bring. We are

Weaver's first memo-

ries include Pampa, as his

grandmother lived here,

and his family would visit

often. On one occasion,

he and his sister rode a

train from Hereford to visit

her. He jokes that living

in Pampa is his destiny.

"I have lived in Hereford,

Borger, Dumas, and Tulia.

I seem to be in some sort

of 50-mile orbit around

Amarillo, so Pampa seemed

eager to get involved."

cont. from page 1

it's not so large it's imperto be the only place left." sonal or hard to get around His interests include hisin, and Pampa has some tory and he has read extenreal assets" Weaver said Thursday. "I look forward to the development of wind

sively of the Red River War. He has also assisted in archaeological digs in Roberts County, and plans to again this summer when the Texas Archaeological Society returns for their annual Field School.

Joe and his wife Linda, a native of the Oslo community in Hansford County, have been married 32 years. They have two daughters. Elizabeth is a writer for the Red Hat Society International. Anne recently received her Masters Degree in Music Theory and is seeking a teaching position.



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#### Lawmakers given details on state school suit settlement vulnerable population," that in a four-year period

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) -Texas must improve living conditions and medical care and more quickly investigate claims of abuse at the state's large institutions for the developmen-

tally disabled, under a fiveyear settlement with the U.S. Justice Department. Details of the \$112-million settlement — which will require hiring more than 1,000 new care workers - were given Friday to lawmakers, who must still

approve the deal negoti-

ated by state and federal

officials.

Texas has nearly 5,000 residents at the state's 13 institutions known as state schools. Dozens of people have died under questionable circumstances and hundreds of employees have been disciplined for mistreating residents.

"It's disappointing for me to know it takes a settlement agreement .... to make sure we are protecting the civil rights and liberties of the state's most said Rep. Abel Herrero, D-Robstown.

The agreement developed from a series of federal investigations that revealed widespread mistreatment of residents in the state schools. A December 2008 Justice Department report said residents' civil rights were being violated. From September 2007

to September 2008, at least 114 residents died. Although many were considered medically fragile, 53 deaths were attributed to preventable conditions that indicate lapses in proper care, according to the report. In a three-month period

in 2008, the state investigated at least 500 allegations of abuse, neglect and other mistreatment of residents and at least eight facilities were in danger of losing Medicaid funding because of "significant care and safety deficiencies."

The report also noted

ending in 2007, more than 800 employees from the 13 facilities were suspended or fired for mistreating patients.

The investigation started before the revelation of the fight club bouts at the Corpus Christi State School.

Separately, lawmakers are close to passing bills that would improve training and safety at the schools, including putting surveillance cameras in common areas. A provision in the state budget would move 500 people out of state schools in the next two years to community-based care and identify more than 1,000 others who could be better served in other facilities.

"The abuse that has taken place is inexcusable," said Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. "We are all ready for a new begin-

The settlement could be approved in the next few days. Provisions include:

Improved medical, dental and psychiatric care, including dozens more psychiatrists and pharma-

Reduced use of restraints on residents. Tougher penalties for failure to report abuse.

Speedier conclusion of abuse investigations, from 14 days to 10 days.

Hiring independent monitors for each school to track how they are meeting requirements to improve care. If a monitor finds a campus is in compliance for one year, it would be released from the settle-"It's important we don't

just do the minimum, that we reach for the best practices," said Addie Horn, commissioner of the state Department of Aging and Disability Services.

## Session

"This is an attempt to adjust, to tweak, to change, to reform the top 10 percent rule," said Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, sponsor of the bill. "It is not attempting to end, repeal or retreat from the 10 percent rule."

THE GRADUATE Members of the Texas House found time to congratulate one of their own on earning her college degree.

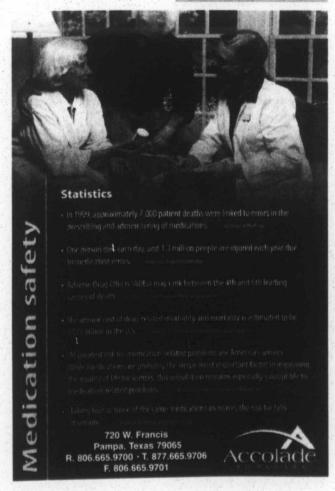
Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, is graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in government. Chavez started college in 1978, but never finished. She returned to earn her remaining credits in her spare time from her work at the Capitol.

"I wanna give a message

cont. from page 1 here, because this journey spanned 25 years," she said. "It goes out to all those people who dropped out of college for whatever reason ... my message to you, is if I can do it, so can you.'



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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Friday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2009. There are 223 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1761 - The first life insurance policy in the United States is issued, in Philadelphia.

1822 - United States and Korea sign treaty of peace and friendship.

1840 - Transportation of British convicts to New South Wales officially ends.

1939 - Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini sign "Pact of Steel," a 10-year political and military alliance.

1972 - Richard Nixon becomes the first U.S. president to visit Russia, where he signs a pact with Leonid Brezhnev to reduce the risk of military confrontation.

1975 - White-ruled African nation of Rhodesia, now known as Zimbabwe, is expelled from Olympics because of its racial

'You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements."

> - Norman Douglas, British author

explodes in a Beirut suburb, killing 60 people and wounding 190 others. 1991 - India's

1985 - A car bomb

policies.

Congress Party offers party leadership to Sonia Gandhi, widow of assassinated leader Rajiv Gandhi, but she refuses, only to take it up in 1998.

1993 - Cambodians vote in first multiparty elections in 21 years.

1995 - Half a million Poles turn out to catch a glimpse of their native son Pope John Paul II during his 10-hour visit in southern Poland.

1998 - Voters in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland vote overwhelmingly for a peace agreement to end 20 years of sectarian strife.

2001 - In Afghanistan, the ruling Taliban militia announce a law requiring Hindus to wear identity labels to distinguish them from Muslims. The measure also requires Hindu women to be veiled for the first time.

2006 - U.S. warplanes hunting Taliban fighters bomb a religious school and mud-brick homes in southern Afghanistan, killing dozens of suspected militants and 17 civilians in one of the deadliest strikes since the American-led invasion in 2001

2007 - People flood out of a besieged Palestinian refugee camp, waving white flags and telling of bodies lying in the streets and inside wrecked houses after three days of fighting between Lebanese troops and Islamic militants.

2008 - President Mikhail Saakashvili's pro-Western ruling party emerges from the May 21 parliamentary election with a majority of seats — but election observers gave the vote a mixed report, and the opposition refuses to concede.

Today's Birthdays: Richard Wagner, German composer (1813-1883); Mary Cassatt, U.S. Impressionist painter (1844-1926); Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, English author (1859-1930); Daniel F. Malan, South African statesman, instituted apartheid (1874-1959); Sir Laurence Olivier, English actor (1907-1989); Bernard Shaw, U.S. journalist (1940--); Naomi Campbell, British model (1970--); Bernie Taupin, songwriter (1950--).



## National security, not partisanship

By Mac Thornberry

If you are confused by the trail of conflicting explanations offered by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on what she did or did not know about waterboarding terrorists, you are not alone. Her migrating story reflects a politician under pressure and looking to point the finger at somebody — anybody — else.

A more honorable response from the speaker would be as follows: "After 9/11, we knew that follow-on attacks were being planned and that thousands more Americans might be killed. We had neglected our intelligence capabilities over a number of years, and there was a lot we did not know about Al Qaeda. So we had to get information in order to protect American lives, and I supported that. Now, looking back, I wish I had done more to protest the use of certain enhanced interro-

gation techniques that had been briefed to me. But now, moving forward, it is important to learn from the past as we continue to defend American lives."

Somehow, I get the feeling that admitting mistakes, or sharing responsibility, is not the speaker's style.

Remember how we got here. The Obama administration selectively released certain classified Justice Department memos that gave legal analysis on whether the use of 13 enhanced interrogation techniques was proper. There were calls for criminal prosecution of the lawyers who wrote those memos and of those who conducted the interrogations.

But it turned out that Democrats and Republicans in Congress had been briefed on these techniques, including waterboarding, from the very beginning. So, if there were going to be prosecutions or a "truth com-mission," then Congress would have to be investigated, too. The possibility that the truth would be revealed about what she knew and when she knew it is what sent the speaker backpedaling.

All of the records have not yet been released, but so far those that have been made public show that Pelosi was briefed on the enhanced techniques in September 2002. Her staffer was briefed again in early 2003. Others in those briefings say they covered the whole subject - who, what, when.

Part of the speaker's current explanation is that, while she might have been told by her staff about the briefings, she no longer had any responsibility for intelligence matters. Her job was to beat Republicans and elect enough Democrats to take over the House.

That may be the most disturbing thing Pelosi has said yet. To keep intelligence matters above petty partisanship, the top leader of both parties is an ex officio member of the intelligence committee, receives personalized intelligence briefings and has a dedicated staffer to monitor the committee's activities. It is part of the job.

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The speaker's excuse that she saw her job as waging partisan politics and that she could not be bothered with issues such as national security may sound a note of truth, but it is not what we expect of a national leader. Many Americans long for the day when the best interests of the country come first for our top leaders in Congress.

Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) is a member of the House intelligence committee and a former chairman of its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

## Analysis: Expect nominee to dodge hard questions

WASHINGTON (AP) - Questions about abortion, gay rights, rights of suspected terrorists and the meaning of a new judicial buzz word — empathy - await President Barack Obama's eventual Supreme Court nominee. Just don't expect much in

the way of answers. Nominees to the high court rarely wade into dangerous waters during Senate confirmation hearings. Nonetheless, senators — especially the conservatives - plan to use the opportunity to try and divine some hint for how far left on the ideological spectrum Obama's first nominee will fall.

"The nominee deserves a fair evaluation, and I will insist on a fair hearing, but I will also ensure that the questioning be a rigorous and thorough examination of his or her qualifications," said Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Obama is expected to announce soon his choice to replace retiring Justice David Souter, a George H.W. Bush nominee whose confirmation hearing in 1990 didn't foretell how much he would side with the court's liberals and against its conservatives.

Among the possible candidates Obama is considering, according to officials familiar with his thinking, are Solicitor General Elena Kagan, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and U.S. Appeals Court judges Sonia Sotomayor and Diane Pamela Wood.

Once Obama makes his choice, the Senate will prepare for confirmation hearings this summer. Between

the nomination and confirmation hearings, the Judiciary Committee will investigate the nominee's past and come up with questions that will try to get the nominee to reveal her or his judicial philosophy and provide a hint as to what kind of justice she or he will be.

The questioning is to ferret out "how Supreme Court nominees view the roles of justice, how a nominee approaches constitutional interpretation and precedent, as well as a nominee's appreciation of the separate branches of government," Republican Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa said at Justice Samuel Alito's confirmation hearing three years ago.

Senators can't force the nominee to answer. They can only vote for or against the nominee, something they have complained about for years when they haven't gotten the answers they wanted.

The nominee's job is to get confirmed, which usually involves saying nothing to the Senate that is particularly attention-grabbing, out of character or that reflects anger or lack of preparation.

Sometimes, even simple questions have gotten Supreme Court nominees in trouble.

When asked in 1987 why he wanted to serve on the nation's highest court, Robert Bork startled even some supporters when he replied that it would be an "intellectual feast." Nominated by President Ronald Reagan, Bork had already been criticized for being unfeeling and for caring more about legal ideas than the effect the law had on people. For those and other reasons, he failed to win confirmation in the Democraticcontrolled Senate.

Asked the identical question in 2006 by Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., Alito responded simply: "This is a way for me to make a contribution to the country and society.' Nominees in recent his-

tory have refused to discuss issues that might come before the court. That way, nominees argued, they couldn't be accused of prejudging cases. Given the number of issues that the Supreme Court might deal with in the future, it also allowed them to avoid giving any answers that could have swayed a senator to vote against them.

Asked about abortion at his confirmation hearing for chief justice in 2005, John Roberts was willing to talk legal theory but refused to answer specifics on how he thought.

"I think I should stay away from discussions of particular issues that are likely to come before the court again," Roberts told the Judiciary Committee. "And in the area of abortion, there are cases on the court's docket, of course. It is an issue that does come before the court. So while I'm happy to talk about stare decisis and the importance of precedent, I don't think I should get into the application of those principles in a particular area."

Democrats plained bitterly after hearing Roberts' and Alito's

"At a time when great legal issues are being decided by the slimmest of margins, we cannot afford to learn nominees' views only after they have obtained lifetime tenure on our highest court," said

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy,

One line of questioning the nominee probably won't escape is Obama's emphasis on wanting a justice willing to empathize with people affected by cases that come before the court.

D-Mass.

"I view that quality of empathy, of understanding and identifying with people's hopes and struggles, as an essential ingredient for arriving at just decisions and outcomes,' Obama said recently. In the toughest cases, the president added, "the critical ingredient is supplied by what is in the judge's heart."

That description doesn't worry Democrats, but conservatives have pounced on the president's use of "empathy," which they equate to judicial activism, and they are sure to question any nominee about it.

"Sounds like instead of another Judge Roberts, the president is looking to put Dr. Phil on the court,' quipped Michael Steele, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Conservatives say a Supreme Court justice should use the law, not what's in their heart, to make decisions.

"Americans expect, and should receive, equal treatment whether they are in small claims court or the Supreme Court," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "And any judge who pushes for an outcome based on their own personal opinion of what is fair undermines that basic trust Americans have always had and should always expect in an American court of law."

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# Around town

## Glo-Valve improves to 7-0

Three pitchers combined for Glo-Valve's fourth shutout of the year in a 13-0 win over Cabot Corporation Thursday at Optimist Park in Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken League play.

Brody Gaines knotched his third victory of the season allowing no hits in two innings. He struck out four, walked none and hit two batters. Ryan Powell pitched an inning and gave up a hit. He struck out two and did not walk a batter. Aaron Allen finished up by striking out the side.

Glo-Valve came out strong in the first inning. Allen walked, stole two bases and scored on a wild pitch. Powell was hit by a pitch.

He stole second, went to third on an error and came home on a single by Gaines swiped a

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ays can base and tallied on a single by Casey Martindale.

Martindale stole a pair of bases and came in on a passed ball. Chance Douglas struck out but hustled to first when the ball got by the catcher.

He stole two bases and scored on a single by Zach Hill stole second and third and slipped in to score on a ground out by Colton Thompson. Valve led 6-0.

In the second inning Allen reached base on an error, stole two bases and scored on a passed ball. Powell followed with an inside-the-park home run to deep right field. A single and two stolen bases by Martindale set him up to score after a wild pitch to increase Glo-Valve's lead

Glo-Valve went out in order in the third inning.

Velasquez started a rally in the fourth inning with a single and a stolen base. He went to third on a single by Allen and came home on a ground out hit by Powell. Allen stole second, went to third on Powell's ground out and scored on a throwing error. Walks to Gaines and Martindale set the table for a two-run single by Chance Douglas to conclude the scoring.

Josh Archibald, with a single, and Jacob Brown and Bryan Yates, who were hit by pitched balls, were the only base runners for Cabot.

Jacob Brown made a fine catch of a foul ball just behind home plate for the outstanding defensive play of the game for Cabot. A third strike got away from Allen at catcher. He threw to Thompson at first who

performances

performances.

N. Cuyler.

relayed back to Gaines, the pitcher covering home, to nab a runner coming from third and turn a very unusual 2-3-1 double play for Glo-Valve's outstanding defensive play. Thompson and Gaines combined for a 3-1 out at first base to rob a Cabot batter of a base hit for another Glo-Valve defensive gem.

improved Glo-Valve to 7-0 and remains a half game behind Rotary Club's 8-0 record.

Play will resume after the Memorial Day weekend with Glo-Valve hosting Panhandle at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday. Cabot and Rotary follow at 7:45 p.m. Claude and Clarendon square off in Claude at 7 p.m.

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

at 6:30 p.m. at Fairview Cemetery to honor veterans.

The service will include a 21 gun salute and special

Memorial Day tributes are scheduled for Saturday

and Monday, including the dedication of an F-4 plane

at the Freedom Museum. A dedication service will be

held at The Freedom Museum at 2 p.m. to dedicate the

F-4 Phantom Fighter plane at Freedom Museum to Lt.

Col James H. Ayres, a fallen solider who was missing

Saturday, May 23, a memorial service will be held

at 6:30 p.m. at Fairview Cemetery to honor veterans.

The service will include a 21 gun salute and special

Additional services will be held at 10 a.m. at Memory

In case of inclement weather, the dedication cer-

emony and the candlelight service scheduled for

Monday will be moved to the VFW #1657 hall, 105

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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Gardens, and a candlelight service will be held at 8

p.m. on Monday at The Freedom Museum.

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in action for 36 years from Pampa.

Saturday, May 23, a memorial service will be held

## Share the road safely

AUSTIN - As Texans prepare to travel for Memorial Day, Texas Motor Transportation Association reminds the motoring public that from driveway to highway, safe driving requires attentiveness to your surround-

 Allow a Safety Cushion: Look 1/4 mile ahead for a safe path. Leave yourself an out.

•Slow Down: Chances of a crash nearly triple when driving faster than surrounding traffic.

•Buckle Up: Safety belts are not a fashion statement they save lives.

•Remember Large Trucks Have Blind Spots: If you can't see the truck driver in his or her mirrors, then the truck driver can't see you.



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My mother is 66 and has had two major epileptic seizures. The incidents occurred in the middle of the night, and each time she was unconscious for a long time (45 minutes or more) and was taken to the emergency room by ambulance. She also has "minor" seizures that last only 30 to 60 seconds. I have seen them.

Her doctor has told her not to drive and that it's against the law in our state for her to drive until she has been seizure-free for six months. The problem is, Mom and her husband believe she can drive safely. She even bought a new car so she can get "better gas mileage.'

I have offered to take Mom to doctors and other appointments, etc. She allows me to, but still drives herself to the grocery store and hairdresser and other places because they are "close by." (Not!)

Abby, I lost a brother in a car accident. I don't want to lose my mother in one, too. I'm also afraid for the safety of pedestrians and other drivers in her path. What can I do or say to get Mom to follow the doctor's orders? -- WORRIED IN THE WEST

DEAR WORRIED: Nothing. Because your mother refuses to use common sense or listen to reason, accept that talking to her is like talking to a wall.

A person doesn't have to have a major seizure to cause an accident. A blackout lasting a few seconds can cause a driver to lose control of a vehicle.

If your mother's physician isn't aware that she hasn't been complying with his or her instructions, let the doctor know. Write a letter explaining that you have seen her having minor seizures and that she's still driving. Urge him (or her) to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles, and you should do the same. The more time that goes by without this being dealt with, the greater the chances your mother could kill herself or kill or maim an innocent person who happens to cross her path at the wrong time.

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 years old and aware of what is going on in the world around me. My parents have owned a successful company for years, but with the economy in its current state, our family is having a tough time. We live a luxurious life and I am very blessed, but we have begun to give things up. I am fine with that.

parents have My changed. If I ask how things are, they get mad at me. If I tell them I don't need something, such as a present for my birthday, they ask me why and I tell them, "I know we don't have money to spend right now." Then they say, "We have money, but it's in the bank and is only for emergencies such as an illness."

How can I convince my parents that it is OK to tell me what is going on, and that we should go through it as a family? -- TEEN IN **CALIFORNIA** 

DEAR TEEN: It is the instinct of every parent to protect his or her child. That may be what your parents are trying to do when you raise the sensitive subiects of "how things are" and birthday gifts. What they may not realize is that you are no longer a child, and the questions and statements you are making are a reflection of your anxiety.

As stressful as the current economic environment may be, fear of the unknown can be even worse. By telling you they are not out of funds but being careful about how they will be spent, your parents have already taken the first step in letting you know what's going on, but now they need to fill in more of the blanks. Please tell them that that's what I suggest.

## VENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

· Beaux Arts Dance Studio will present their 61st Annual Recital Saturday May 23, at 7:30 p.m. at M. K. Brown Memorial Auditorium. 315 N. Nelson Pampa, Texas 79065, (806) 669-6361 (806) 669-7293

 The Wolf Creek Improvement Board will be hosting a Children's Fishing Tournament at Lake Fryer on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. at the gazebo on the north shore of the lake. There will be a \$1.00/contestant registration fee with all proceeds dedicated for improvements to the lake. The first 220 contestants will receive a free registration bag including a fishing pole and t-shirt. However, last year we had more contestants than fishing poles so anyone who has a fishing pole is encouraged to bring theirs as backup!! Saturday is a free fishing day for all ages so no permits will be needed. The tournament ends at 12:00 noon with prizes awarded at 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in three age groups: ages 1-5, ages 6-10, and ages 11-14. Additional "All Ages" prizes will be awarded for First Fish Caught, Largest Fish, Smallest Fish, First Turtle, Most Unusual Thing Found In The Park, and the Contestant Who Traveled The Furthest. A special category prize will be given for anyone 80 or over assisting a contestant. For further information please contact Kay Allison at Allegiance Communications 806-435-3231 during business hours or Jan Hickey at 806-435-3249.

· 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.

· 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.

• 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.

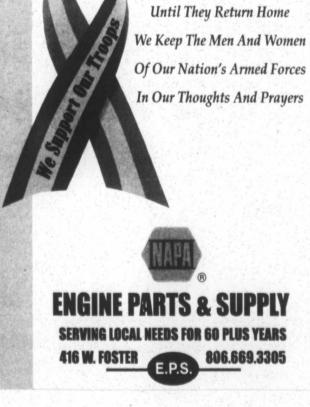
• T.O.P.S. Club, a weight loss group, is seeking new members. The club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday at 513 E. Francis. New members welcome.

• 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.

DRIVE WITH CARE.









# Comics

Marmaduke



"Nice try, Marmaduke, but I'm not going to give up the vacuum cleaner."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"This is a neat party we're havin', Mommy! Is everybody staying for lunch?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

**43** J.R.'s

45 Clair-

**DOWN** 

46 Tender

spots

1 Fragrant

flowers

2 Charlotte

Zealand

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4 Easter

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3 New

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voyants

**44** Kingdom

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13 "Sweet

Dreams" star

14 Dixie damsel **15** Kin of

calc. 16 Silo item

**18** Espionage org. 19 Punk-rock

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23 Egypt's Sadat

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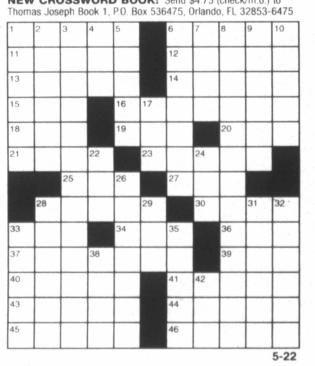
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Flo & Friends



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69 Misc. 6pm. Mon. thru Fri. and ADVERTISING Marotating on call. Salary terial to be placed in depending on exp. the Please apply at BritKare MUST be Home Medical, 912 W. Kentucky, Pampa, TX.

KITCHEN Help and Wait Staff needed. Apply in person Dyer's BBQ, Pampa.

UNDERWOOD Law Firm seeking experienced legal secretary for Pampa office. Knowledge of MS Word and other computer applications a 6th 9-4, Sun. 7th 10-3, plus. Excellent starting 105 S. Cuyler. Spaces salary and benefits avail 806-663-0704 available. Send resume to Firm Administrator P.O. Box 9158, Amarillo Tx. 79105.

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2, before 4pm. Sales: \$2,000.00 training pay, \$45,000 + po tential first year in-

Finance Mgmt: Asst Manager \$40-\$75K **Business Manager** \$60-\$85K

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SAT. 9am-?? MOVING Sale: 623

clothes, kitchen table w/ 665-4180, 440-3044. room furn., freezers & 4 chairs, bedroom furnicomplete home furnishture, lots of misc. ture, lots of misc.

New carpet & paint,

1321 Terrace. Sat. & F.P., corner lot. 2100 **OUEEN Electric adjust-**Retail

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> 664-3417. News

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Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes, 665-2767. Sat. 10-5pm. 10x12 OFFICE COMPLETE

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber

101 S. Ballard

669-3291

60 Household

ings. 662-7557.

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Ready for delivery! 806-358-9598 FLEA Market, Sat. June

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FURNITURE Clinic-

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69a Garage Sales MOVING Sale. Sat. Recliners, desks, TV & more. 1002 E. Francis.

> **CITY WIDE** GARAGE SALE Ads will be in The

> > on

net.

Thurs. June 4th & Fri. June 5th on special pages. Reserve ad now! \$25 cl. 1x2 Box Ad 2 days, Free Garage Sale Kit which inc. 2 signs, pricing stickers, sales record form & some garage sale tips. Deadline for ads on the special pages is Tues. June

Pampa News,

GARGAGE Sale, 2329 Aspen. Sat. 8 am - 4 pm. Furniture, wedding refrig., completely renitems, antiques.

MULTI Family Garage LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & Sale. Furniture, applian-

ces & lots of toys, etc. for availability. Ref. & acres. Sat. 8-1. 2236 Aspen. 3 Fam. Sale: Loads of LARGEST Apts. in

Christmas decorations, Pampa, Reduced rates girls clothes, baby fur- Work crews welcome niture, old whiskey bar- Call 665-1875. rell, table & chairs, THE Schneider House prom dress, misc. 1408 S. Barnes. Fri., Sat. 9-?

HUGE Sale. 311 Oak, Walnut Creek. Power tools, water wagon, coke machine, glassware & misc. Sat. 8:00.

ESTATE Sale 218 E. houses, 2 bdr. duplexes, Wichita, Miami, Tx., 1 bdr. apts. All reasona-Fri., Sat. 9-6pm. Furn., bly priced. 665-4274 handicapped NICE large 2 bedroom. scooter lift, Washer / Dryer hookelectric scooter, scooter tools, etc.

HUGE SALE, 8am. 1820 N. Zimmers. Furni., antiques, name br. NOW Available! Nice 3 clothes / shoes, etc.

1901 Fir, Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-2pm. Furniture and lots of misc.

3 Family Garage Sale. month, \$475 a month Bedroom set & much References Required more. Friday 5-? Sat. 8- 806-374-4360 or 610-? 1133 N. Starkweather. 929-1761.

69a Garage Sales 98 Unfurn. Houses PICK up rental list,

**GARAGE SALE** 814 E. BROWNING

Somerville. Sat. 8-? Baby swing, car seat, living rm., dining rm.

Sun. 8-? 1st time garage Lea. \$1000 a month + sale. Freezer - Rascal dep. Call 806-669-6467 Scooter- RCA 32" T.V., or 806-663-2014. golf balls, golf club, 2 bedroom for rent. tools, too much to men-1232 Duncan. \$400 a tion. No checks. month, \$200 deposit. 662-7557 or 662-3572.

25 Angus Bulls for

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ble. 806-358-4559.

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Houston, Pampa.

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103 Homes For Sale 1029 Mary Ellen. 1994 sq. ft., 3 bdr, 1 1/2 ba. Basement 1000 sq ft. Attached 1 bdr., 1 ba., sitting area-910 sq. ft. \$142,500,440-1510. 1616 N. Dwight. Newly

constructed 3/2/2 & office. Trustar Realty & Tinney Built Homes, Gary Winton, 665-4595 **1900 GRAPE** 

4/ 2.75 /2 3256 sq. ft. Corner Lot Completely Remodeled colonial home 2 liv. areas. Bonus Sun room Completely Move-In Ready!!

\$230,000 obo 595-0234 required. Call 662- 2 bdr. home, utility

6089, for appointment. room, nice yard, lami-RANCH House Motel nate floor, Owner carry 662-7557

> 2724 DUNCAN

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2 bdr. unfurn. apt. Call 3 bedroom, 2 bath on 2 \$65,000 firm. 669-9532. Leave a mes-

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CALL 665-1875 NICE 2 bdr. home, 103 Burdett, Skellytown

NUMEROUS houses in Owner fin. avail. Gary, Pampa area. 2 & 3 bdr. Trustar RE, 665-4595 WONDERFUL home located in great neighborhood. 3327 sq. ft., 3 bd, 2 1/2 ba, sunroom 2369 Beech. Motivated

to sell! 806-202-2491

104 Lots

2 vacant lots for sale 1000 bl. N. Dwight St. 662-0043 or 236-7731.

106 Coml. Property COMMERCIAL

**PROPERTY** for Lease on Milliron Road call for more info 886-5754

115 Trailer Parks

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\$700 Firm. 663-1990

#### DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, May 23, 2009:

This year, question your priorities. Much occurs behind the scenes. You would be happiest having a confidant. When possible, make decisions in your own time frame. You will tend to overthink things. Learn ways to counter this problem, be it through yoga or meditation. You aspire to a lot and expect others to be similar. Try to understand where they are coming from. If you are single, the person you meet might not display his or her true colors for a while. Proceed with care. If you are attached, you'll benefit from romantic getaways together. TAURUS reads you cold.

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)

\*\*\* Know what not to do, and you could be OK. Temptation could head down your path. You make the final call. What would be helpful is to have a tight budget. Then you won't worry so much. Tonight: Your treat. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

\*\*\*\* Don't allow a touchy or uncomfortable situation to impact your plans. Just go, do and be. Someone you admire is quite taken with your capacity to handle a lot and still stay cool Tonight: A party could degenerate into a wild indulgence. Do you care? GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\*\* Do pull back if you feel uncom-

fortable. Understand what is happening

with you personally, and then you can

make an important decision. Take time to

center and make sure you know what you

Into the wee hours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\* As you open your baby blues thought is reasonable and can be translatand enthusiasm are enough to carry it through and bypass any obstacle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\* Others want your time, and your time alone. Past cloning yourself, to fulfill all requests would demand an unusual ability to juggle. If you have to make a decision, decide who really holds

\*\*\* Defer to others, as they want the final say. Conversations start out of the blue. You might find out a lot, though you could be disappointed. You might

want to revise your thinking some. A

child or loved one could be petulant and

dynamic, and could do the unexpected. Tonight: Just don't be alone. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

thing very differently, and others just want to follow along. Your imagination plays a big role, but you might not be sure of what you want to do. You could discover you are wearing old threads and need new ones. Tonight: Be a kid again.

stand exactly what you expect. Communication intensifies between you and others. Instincts meet with thoughts You might wonder just how much to say Consider your companions. Tonight

(1928), comedian Drew Carey (1958), singer, songwriter Jewel (1974)

www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\* Stay anchored on what counts Stay close to home, understanding your priorities. Invite a friend or two over. Do remember that everyone thrives on individual attention. You could be going overboard. Tonight: Your home is your castle, especially now.

Swap news, jokes and gossip!

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at

are doing. Tonight: Be a free sprit. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\* A friend could have a different idea from you. In any case, you will probably make an adjustment, as you don't really mind. Your imagination could have you working overtime. Try to stay present. It is only polite. Tonight:

\*\* Once more, take the lead. Some of you might find this role exhausting, leading to emotional displays. The impact a reaction has on your role might be interesting, but possibly most ineffective. Make a point of cutting free more often. Tonight: A must show.

or browns, an idea floats through. If this ed, why not give it a shot? Your energy Tonight: In a very different spot.

the dearest spot in your heart. Tonight: Togetherness SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\* Toss yourself into a hobby, though you might want to share some of the activity with a loved one. You could be delighted and surprised by how much that adds to your enjoyment. Confusion surrounds plans. Double-check where to meet friends. Tonight: Don't push too

\*\*\*\* You might want to do some

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\* Speak your mind, and under-

BORN TODAY Actress, singer Rosemary Clooney

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> AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used

for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters,

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different. **CRYPTOQUOTE** 

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ZTGRWS BX, QTC TL BQT TLS

OXTSWXBQT PQT ZTGRWS

BX. — HEXCXEZPF CLROWQGG Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PEOPLE ARE LONELY

BRIDGES. — JOSEPH F. NEWTON

BECAUSE THEY BUILD WALLS INSTEAD OF



# Visit the church of your choice this week

# What to do when you can't decide?

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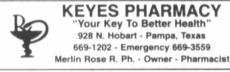
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#### BY ANNETTE BRIDGES

What to do when you can't decide?

This was the question my daughter recently asked on her online journal. For her, the indecision was about which field of study to select for her next Master's degree.

I suspect we've all been faced with indecision at various points in our life.

My mamma told me long ago that if I'm questioning a decision or choice, then is the time to step back and sleep on it before moving forward. Of course when she shared this bit of wisdom with me, she was hoping it would stop me from making wrong choices as a teenager. And it did work pretty well I must say -- when I listened to my intuition. When we have a strong instinct that we should not do something, we probably should not do it.

There isn't a perfect formula that will assure we will always make the best decision. But a good 'ole pros and cons list is always a good thing to do.

It's rarely -- probably never actually -- true that there is only one course of action to take. So when considering a decision, list your options -- any and all alternatives that come to mind. Don't take the time to evaluate while you're doing this kind of possibility thinking.

Since it's often helpful to approach a decision from as many perspectives as possible, don't just ask friends and family members for their ideas -- ask strangers as well.

The goal is to choose a course of action that is the most reasonable and balanced. So be sure to weigh the possible outcomes. Visualize the result you hope for. You want to feel comfortable with your decision. You want to feel what is right. Don't question what feels right with logic.

I have an example of this. We were trying to select fabric to have our living room furniture upholstered. I loved a certain fabric -- its color, pattern, the way it felt. But logic kept telling me I should select a different fabric that was probably more durable and potentially longer-lasting. I did. And I never liked my decision. Unfortunately, I was stuck with that furniture for a few more years and was so happy when I was finally able to buy new. When I did, I bought exactly what I wanted without analyzing its practicality.

What we don't want to do is get stuck wavering between two possible courses of action and remain unable to decide, move or act. Hesitating, wavering and waffling are often seedlings of fear that can become habit-forming. Indecision is a decision to do nothing -- not the decision we want to make.

Mary Baker Eddy wrote, "Each individual must fill his own niche in time and eternity." I love the word -- must -- in this statement of promise. I love the assurance that there must be a right decision, a right place, a right choice for each of us at all times. That includes right now -- at this very moment.

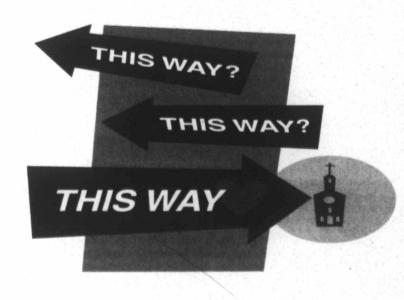
Perhaps sometimes we get so focused on trying to make decisions for tomorrow, we neglect today. Maybe we need to begin our decisions today -- making the most of the present moment, our present situation, our present job, our present home and so forth.

Sometimes, too, we can get so busy analyzing all of our options and possible outcomes, that we don't ask God what His will for us is. He most certainly has a perfect divine plan for all of His creation. The problem is that we don't always ask, listen or follow His direction.

Remember the story of Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. We read that "the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:" (Exodus 13:21) It took them a long time to reach their Promised Land because they relented many times to fears and doubts and stopped trusting in God's guidance.

I feel certain that God is leading each of us each day. And we can each reach our divine heights as we follow and trust His lead. But we must ask and listen first -- moment by moment, step by step.

Yoda, the most powerful Jedi Master of the Star Wars universe, assured a young Luke Skywalker -- and it works for us, too: "The answers are within you." And so they are. God places the right answers in our heart. Trust your heart. God will enable you to feel what the best decision is.





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