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# PAMPANEWS







staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa lawyer Gene Thompson (left) and the Rotary Club's newest member, Heather Seabourn, talk with Steve Drillette of the National Weather Service following the program Drillette gave on severe weather in the Texas Panhandle.

### Drillette: 'Tornado season is coming up'

BY DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

The devastating forces of tornadoes are most likely to occur in South Central Oklahoma, but the Texas Panhandle has its share, particularly in the Eastern Texas Panhandle, according to a representative with the National Weather Service.

This year's tornado season hasn't officially started, meteorologist Steve Drillette of the National Weather Service office in Amarillo

told the Pampa Rotary Club Wednesday. "Our tornado season is coming up," he said.

"We aren't there yet." With the weather systems this year following an El Nino pattern, there is some concern about

several weather. "Our last El Nino spring (2007)," said

**Tornadoes in Gray County by month** 

Tornado Season since 1995

April

Last: 8:50 p.m., April 21, 2007, 15 miles west of Alanreed

Last: 4:25 p.m., May 15, 2009, two miles

Last: 7:47 p.m., June 11, 1997, one mile

May

June

northwest of Lefors

west of McLean

Source: National Weather Service

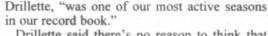
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Drillette said there's no reason to think that this year will be as bad. In 2007, the National Weather Service issued

nearly 400 warnings. "We had 59 confirmed tornadoes," Drillette

The old record was 46 in 1995, when Pampa was hit by a tornado, he said.

In 1991, the panhandle recorded one fatality due to tornadoes. Last year, there were three.

While tornadoes can occur in the panhandle in almost any month (no tornadoes have been reported in December or January), the tornado season is considered to be in April, May and

"Eighty-four percent of our tornadoes occur in those three months," Drillette said, "with the vast majority in May and June."

About mid-April is when the panhandle starts

seeing tornadoes. While reports of tornadoes on average keep

increasing, Drillette said that's probably due to better reporting rather than more tornadoes.

"We have so many more people that are spotting short-lived tornadoes and are reporting those to us," he said. "They're chasing them all over the place. We have better ways to communicate."

In the past, only the big tornadoes were spotted and reported, he said.

"There's probably some out there that we're

still not counting," Drillette said. Gray County has had about 70 tornadoes reported since 1950, but Roberts County has had less than half that many reported.

Drillette said that's probably due to more open space, less population and fewer reports in Roberts County. He said that traditionally less populated counties report lower numbers

TORNADOES cont. on page 3

## Jury to decide on Hathcoat's competence

BY DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

If a jury on Monday decides a Pampa man is mentally competent to stand trial, he will face charges Wednesday in the Gray County Courthouse.

William Darren Hathcoat, 44, is charged with injury to an elderly person. He was arrested May 11,



Hathcoat

A contested competency hearing before a jury is set to begin Monday morning in Judge Lee Waters 223rd District Court.

If the jury finds that Hathcoat is competent to stand trial, another jury will be empanelled and Hathcoat will go to trial Wednesday morning in the same court-

Court officials said this week that a contested competency hearing in Gray County is unusual.

Hathcoat also faces separate charges in an unrelated case of possession of marijuana and manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance.

In the meantime, Hathcoat filed a complaint in federal district court in Amarillo this week against the Gray County Sheriff and two Gray County jailers, claiming HATHCOAT cont. on page 3

### Consumers should sign up early for appliance rebates

AUSTIN — Consumers should sign up early to receive rebates on selected ENERGY STAR appliances purchased during the Texas Trade Up appliance rebate program April 16-25, according to Texas Comptroller Susan Combs. Approximately \$23 million in federal stimulus funds are available for the rebate

Beginning April 5, a toll-free phone number and an online reservation system will be available for Texans to reserve an appliance rebate. When all of the guaranteed rebates are reserved, consumers may continue to sign up for a waiting list to receive rebates on a first-come-firstserved basis. Consumers must give their name, address and appliance type when making a reservation.

Consumers must be on the guaranteed rebate reservation list or the waiting list to be able to print or receive the forms they will mail in to claim rebates. To be eligible for a rebate, a qualifying appliance must be purchased between April 16 REBATES cont. on page 3

## Court of Appeals refuses to halt Skinner execution

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK **Associated Press** 

LIVINGSTON (AP) - The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused on Wednesday to halt next week's execution of a man convicted of a triple slaying in the Texas Panhandle more than 16 years ago.

The state's highest criminal court denied a request from inmate Hank Skinner to stop his lethal injection, scheduled for March 24 in Huntsville.

"I expected no more, no less from them," Skinner said from death row, describing the court as "nine prosecutors."

Their previous rulings have been so far out of whack," he said. "One thing, they sure don't believe in due process. That court is a joke."



Skinner, 47, contends he's innocent of fatally bludgeoning 40-year-old Twila Busby and fatally stabbing her two adult sons, Elwin Caler, 22, and Randy Busby, 22. All three were killed at their home in Pampa on New Year's Eve in 1993.

Skinner has contended

Skinner for years that he couldn't have committed the murders because he was passed out on a couch, sick from alcohol and codeine use, when the crimes occurred. He and his lawyers have argued that Twila Busby's uncle, Robert Donnell, could have been the killer. They said Donnell, who has since died,

had a history of violent behavior, particularly when he was drinking.

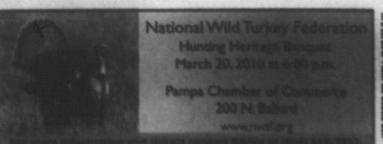
Skinner and his attorneys want more time to test evidence for DNA that they say could show he wasn't the killer.

"Because state officials continue to refuse to conduct readily available DNA testing on evidence from the crime scene that could clear him, there remains a serious risk that Texas, one week from today, will execute an innocent man," Skinner's lead attorney, Rob Owen, said.

Skinner still has an appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court and is asking Gov. Rick Perry

"We remain hopeful that the Supreme Court, which has often found it necessary to correct egregious injustices in Texas capital cases, will SKINNER cont. on page 3







## For the record

### PAMPA FORECAST Friday Saturday Sunday

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52. Windy, with a north northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35

Low 26

Low 27

High 55

Low 33

Friday Night: Rain likely before 1am, then a chance of rain and snow between 1am and 2am, then a chance of snow after 2am. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Wind chill values between 15 and 25. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 55. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

() This information brought to you by...



## Fear grips families in border violence

Mexico (AP) — Elodia for having the misfortune Ortiz drops her children of serving marked men. at school in the morning, picks them up in the after- house," said Ortiz, a moth- lived on her family farm hoon and makes an occa- er of five, as she stood sional trip to the supermarket. Anything else, she says, is too dangerous.

Parents in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas, are afraid to venture into the streets amid a turf war between two powerful drug cartels that has left more than 4,500 people dead during the past two years.

Their fears spiked last weekend when hit men attacked two white SUVs leaving a birthday party, killing parents from two U.S. Consulate families in front of their screaming children.

The violence has risen to such levels in Ciudad Juarez that everyone feels at risk in the city of 1.3 million, where innocent people have been increasingly caught in the crossfire. Hit men have gone to wrong addresses or shot indiscriminately into homes, mowing down not only the targeted people but anyone nearby.

Mothers have driven into daytime shootouts, bending over their children to protect them. Toddlers have been fatally pierced by bullets while playing on the swings at city playgrounds.

JUAREZ, Waitresses have been slain

"We're shut in our outside Vicente Guerrero elementary school, her 7-year-old daughter clinging to her as she shyly eyed other students walking by. 'We have to get to school, we have to work. But we're afraid when we leave."

Families in Ciudad Juarez started taking precautions years ago. At night, some couples drive in separate cars so one spouse can call the other on a cell phone upon seeing something suspicious. Many restrict their children to socializing at the homes of neighbors and relatives instead of meeting up at cafes and discos.

But even those measures are sometimes not enough: In January, gunmen barged into a private party of youths inside a small subdivision and killed 15 people in what families say was a case of mistaken identity. State officials claim someone was marked at the party and have made arrests but have not said who the target was. Police arrested four

more suspects in the case Wednesday, bring the total to eight, Chihuahua state Attorney General Patricia Gonzalez said.

## **Obituaries**

### Cassandra Grays-Watkins, 49

Cassandra Grays-Watkins passed away March 15, 2010. Cassandra was born April 7, 1960 in Pampa to Alice and Thomas Grays she lived most of her life in Pampa and later moved to Amarillo and married Ray Oliver with whom she had one daughter Ray Nessia. She had a smile for all who

knew her. She was preceded in death by her father, Thomas Grays in 2006 and husband Jesse Watkins in 2007. She is survived by her daugher Raynessia Oliver; mother Alice Grays; sisters Chiquita Grays of Corrizzo N.M., Patrice Grays of Amarillo and Sheila Evans of Pampa; brothers Thomas

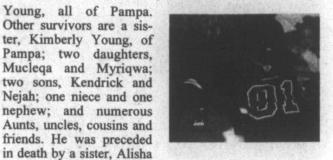
of Richardson and Kizer K. Grays of Pampa; uncle, aunts, nieces and nephews and friends. We will all miss you Connie. Memorial Service will

be held Saturday March 20, 2010 at St. Mark CME Church, 406 Elm 11 a.m.

Other survivors are a sis-



**Grays-Watkins** 



Loftus, and grandfather Young



Slentz

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

#### Keith Elliot Young, 29 Keith was born February Young, all of Pampa.

23, 1981 in Pampa. He

graduated from Pampa

High School in 2000. Keith

Keith Elliot Young 29 died Sunday March 14, 2010 in Pampa.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday March 20, 2010 at New Hope Baptist Church in Pampa with Darren Willis officiating. Burial will be in Fairview

Cemetery in Pampa. Arrangements by Warford and Walker Mortuary of Amarillo.

Pampa—Louise Bowers

Slentz died March 15,

Mrs. Slentz was born

June 8, 1912 in McLean.

She had been a lifelong

resident of the Pampa area.

Louise married Aubra L.

Bowers on March 7, 1934

in Pampa. He preceded

her in death on January

27. 1967. She later mar-

ried George G. Slentz on

2010 in Amarillo.

was an avid gamer. Survivors include companion Brandi Brewer and son Corbin Hair of the home; two nephews, Derek

and Jonta of the home; parents Carter Young and Lovetia Young ;and a grandmother, Genive

Louise Bowers Slentz, 97 He preceded her in death on May 11, 1975. She was and Charles Pearce, both of Dallas; devoted sitters, a homemaker, manager Bea, Cindy, Sam and B. and investor. J. Louise was preceded She is survived by her in death by a sister: Polly

Eugene Young.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in Pampa.

Memorial may be made to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Day School, 727 W. Browning, January 10, 1970 in Pampa. 2 brothers, Cal Pearce Pampa, Texas 79065.

### Betty "Bet" Sloan, 83 husband: Jack Sloan of the

son, Guy Bowers of Texas;

granddaughter, Lisa Kirk

of Fritch; 3 great-grand-

daughters, Raetanna and

Pepper, both of Amarillo,

and Rachelle of Fritch, 1

great-great-granddaugh-

ters, London of Amarillo;

Pampa—Betty "Bet" Sloan died March 16, 2010 in Pampa.

Mrs. Sloan was born March 29, 1926 in Miami to Leo and Thelma Paris, and was a 1943 graduate of Miami High School. She in Roberts County until 2006 when she moved into Pampa. She married Jack Sloan on May 23, 1947 in Miami. Betty was a great cook and a very loving mother and wife. She always helped family

members who needed care, and she cooked for all family members and friends. Betty loved the Coronado Healthcare Center and helped with Sunday church services there for 27 years. She was a member of First Christian Church and a member of the Wayside Club, which takes care of the "Little Red School House." She was preceded in death by her parents, and by a very, very special son, John Paris Sloan, in 2006. Survivors include her

and wife Lorene of Miami; a sister, Billy Jo Ratliff of Miami; and several nieces and nephews. Services are with Carmichael-Whatley

home; a brother, J. D. Paris

Funeral Directors.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to Little Red School House Roof Replacement Fund, c/o Debbie Davis, 641 County Line Road, Pampa, Texas 79065.



Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-what-

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### EMERGENCY SERVICES

### PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Officers reported 19 traffic-related calls.

Animal control officers reported 16 animal-related

Pampa EMS reported three ambulance calls.

Wednesday, March 17. A theft was reported in the 400 block of Hill Ave. Officers had escort duty in the 800 block of West

An alarm was reported in the 2500 block of North Beech Lane.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

A threat was reported in the 1500 block of North Banks.

A theft was reported in the 1600 block of Faulkner. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of West Foster.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block

Criminal mischief was

reported in the 3100 block of Perryton Parkway.

A theft was reported in the 728 North Bradley Drive.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block

of North Duncan. An alarm was report-

ed in the 1000 block of

Cinderella. Found property was reported in the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

Fire officials launched a fire investigation in the 100 block of North Nelson.

A theft was reported in the 700 block of North

Thursday, March 18. Prowlers were reported in the 700 block of North Magnolia.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1800 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported at the intersection of Marry Ellen and 17th.

A threat was reported at One Medical Plaza.

### SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Officer reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Wednesday, March 17. Stephen Orin Stokes, 46, was arrested by deputies on charges of possession of a controlled substance.

Michael Don Burns, 27, was arrested by police on charges of aggravated rob-

Ashli Diane Harris, 22, was arrested by police on charges of aggravated rob-

Brittany Nichole Jones, 19, was arrested by deputies on charges of aggravated robbery.

Lexton LaRue, 20, was arrested by police on a capias pro fine warrant.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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BIG TOOL / Equip. Sale 941 Sierra. March 18 - 20th. 8 am -? Lg. Asst. Welding Equip., New Wire Feed Welder, Sandblaster. Huge Size 6. \$1200, purchased for Asst. of Grinders & Other Asst. Tools, some household items & men's clothing.

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News

### Rebates

and April 25. Consumers will have 60 days from the reservation date to install appliances and submit their paperwork for the rebate. Appliances must be purchased by Texas residents at stores located in Texas.

As further details on the

reservation and mail-in rebate systems are finalized in the next few weeks, a new Web site, http:// www.texaspowerfulsmart. org, will become the onestop resource for information and reservations.

Flat rebates will be avail-

cont. from page 1

able for consumers who certain ENERGY STAR certified appliances and replace the same type of functional old appliance, with an additional \$75 rebate for recycling the old appliance.

## Selena killer's petition denied

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has affirmed the conviction of a fan serving life in prison for the 1995 killing of Tejano singing star Selena.

The appeals court in Austin on Wednesday denied a petition challenging the conviction of Yolanda Saldivar, who formerly led the entertainer's fan club.

Selena was shot and killed on March 31, 1995, at a Corpus Christi motel. Prosecutors say Selena had confronted Saldivar about embezzlement allega-

A jury in Houston, where the trial was moved due to extensive publicity about the case, convicted Saldivar of murder.

Saldivar in June 2009 lost an appeal before the court in Austin because it was filed in the wrong county.

Selena was immortalized in a movie starring Jennifer Lopez.

### Tornadoes

cont. from page 1

He said that most tornadoes in the panhandle are considered weak.

"Since 1980, we've never had an F5 tornado," Drillette said. "We've only had one F5 tornado on record. That was 1947."

That tornado started near White Deer and headed northeast to Woodward, Okla., striking Glazier and Higgins and killing 68 people in the Texas Panhandle.

"It was a big tornado," Drillette said. "It was almost two miles wide at times." He said F5 and F4 tornadoes kill about

90 percent of the people killed by tornadoes, but they only occur about two percent of the time. Drillette, who was once a television

weatherman, has worked for the National Weather Service for the past 17 years. He was in Pampa this week, speaking to the Rotary Club about severe weather in the Texas Panhandle during the spring.

"Our mission at the National Weather Service is to protect life and property," Drillette said.

Working out of the weather bureau office in Amarillo, Drillette said they cover the top 20 counties of the Texas Panhandle and the three counties of the Oklahoma Panhandles.

"Any time you hear a watch, warning or advisory or even a forecast for any of those counties," he said, "those come

directly from us." In this part of the country, Drillette said weather can present a threat in the form of tornadoes, hail, downburst or straight line

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winds, floods and lightning. Drillette said lightning actually kills as many people each year as tornadoes, but

floods actually kill more people. "As we look at some of the averages based on severe weather," he said, "floods

are the number one killer." More people die in floods and flash

floods than any other weather event. That's followed closely, he said, by

lightning and tornadoes. In an average year, he said the weather bureau issues about 33 tornado warnings

in the panhandles. "We actually see about 21 or 22 torna-" Drillette said. "That's almost one

tornado per county per year on average." He said they also issue an average of 219 thunderstorm warnings each year and

about 20 flash flood warnings. "It's a pretty active area for 23 coun-

ties," Drillette said.

He said lightning deaths usually occur in open areas, such as in recreational set-

"People that are killed by lightning are struck before the rain starts," he said. "Most people know to take shelter when it starts raining, but lightning strikes as much as 10 or maybe 15 miles before the

rain ever begins.'

He said if a person can hear thunder, people are close enough to a storm to be struck by lightning.

"Our mission at the **National Weather** Service is to protect life and property. Any time you hear a watch, warning or advisory or even a forecast for any of (the Panhandle) counties, those come directly from us."

Steve Drillette, NWS

Beneath a tree is the second mostly likely place to be struck by lightning, he said. Drillette said that when the weather service first categorized severe hail, it was characterized by penny-sized or larger. "That's changed," he said. "It's now

quarter-sized or larger.'

Severe hail is the most costly weather event across the panhandle, he said. It costs residents millions of dollars every

In the northeast part of the panhandle, they get the most days each year of severe hail, 10 or more days of hail.

Drillette said they don't get hail on the West Coast because the weather is too stable, but in the panhandle, hail can be devastating. In 2004, one hailstorm in Amarillo caused more than \$200 million in damage.

The heaviest downburst winds, he said, are generally to the east of Pampa in

"We still get three or four or five days per year where damaging down-burst winds occur in this county," Drillette said. The weather bureau considers 58 mph

wind speeds or higher severe. It's not unusual, he said, to get 50 or 55

mph winds in the panhandle. "It's approaching severe," he said, "but

not quite severe." When the winds reach 60 to 80 mph, trees will begin to topple and large limbs will break. With winds this strong, he said buildings can be damaged.

"When you get from 80 to 100 mph," Drillette said, "it's very, very destructive. It's similar to tornado damage, actually.'

## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing to encourage "Wants to Do Right by Mama" (Jan. 25) to honor her mother's final wishes regarding her burial attire and the position of her body. Several years ago, I sat down with my parents and we talked about their wishes for when they die. We discussed everything from the distribution of their assets to the type of funerals they want. I learned that my father would like a large tombstone, which is something I never knew, so I asked him to draw up exactly what he had in mind.

Mom and Dad have already written their obituaries for the newspaper. Mom listed all the songs to be played at her service and the flowers she wants. We visited funeral homes, and discussed coffins and services, etc.

Since then, they have changed their minds several times and have now decided they prefer cremation. Everything is written down and I sent copies to my brother, who lives out of town. Both of us want to respect our parents' wishes.

It wasn't as difficult as we thought it would be, and when the time comes and everyone is emotionally spent, the arrangements will already be in place. -- JIM IN CHESTERFIELD, MO.

DEAR JIM: I congratulate you for having that important discussion with your parents. A number of readers commented on that letter. Their remarks made me smile, so I'll share. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My father wanted to be buried without any clothes on and without his dentures. His reasoning was he came into the world naked and toothless, and he wanted to go out the same way. To my brother's dismay, Daddy got his wish. He was, however, covered discreetly by a lovely blue sheet. -- MISSING DADDY

DEAR ABBY: My children know

for a fact that if I'm ever unable to care for myself, they'll have to pluck out my chin hairs. Whether I'm in a nursing home or in a coffin, if there are any coarse hairs sprouting from my chin, I'll come back and haunt them. -- MARTHA IN GREEN BAY

DEAR ABBY: When we buried my mother, Dad realized his burial plot next to hers would be so close to the road that visitors might drive over it or park on his grave. So he requested that when he was interred, a nail be placed in his fist so he could reach up and pop their tires. When he passed away last August, we gave him the largest nail we could find. -- DADDY'S **DAUGHTER** 

DEAR ABBY: Our mother saved her favorite square dancing outfit for when the angels called her, and we honored her wishes when she passed away a few months ago at the age of

She was completely decked out in her dress, right down to the "full" slip, shoes and six-shooter earrings. We miss her terribly, but can't help smiling when we think of her in her dress. -DID RIGHT BY MAMA, OTHELLO, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: My great-grandma also requested that she be buried in her pajamas, but said she also wanted a fork placed in her hands. We could understand the pajamas -- given the "long sleep" -- but the fork had us stumped. She explained that when dishes were cleared after family dinners when she was growing up and dessert was on its way, her father would say, "Hold onto your fork, the best is yet to come!"

We did as my great-grandmother asked, and it helped those of us who were grieving to remember that she's now enjoying her "just desserts." --HOLDING TIGHT TO MY FORK, SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

## Skinner

cont. from page 1

intervene to protect Mr. Skinner's right to pursue that DNA testing in federal court," Owen said.

He also said he hoped Perry would "do the right thing and postpone Mr. Skinner's execution until all the facts are in."

"Time is growing short, and ultimately someone must have the courage and the common sense to step forward and ensure the reliability of this verdict through the best available scientific technology,'

## Hathcoat

his civil rights have been

violated. Complaining about some of the treatment he received in the Gray County jail, Hathcoat filed a lawsuit in federal district court against Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland and Deputies Shelly McCarn and Lisa

### CORRECTION

In the Feb. 18, 2010 edition of the Pampa News, Lamar Hot Shot

Parmen.

winner Gomez Hylee Gomez (2nd place, fourth grade) was misidentified in

a photo. The Pampa News apologizes for the error.

Served with your choice of potato or french fries and the all new 32 item salad bar!

Owen said.

## expert breast radiology right here in the Panhandle.

Dr. John Coscia: Providing

John "Chip" Coscia, M.D.

breast health needs.

At our state-of-the-art practice in Amarillo, Texas Breast Specialists proudly welcomes back Dr. John "Chip" Coscia. As the only dedicated breast radiologist in the Panhandle, Dr. Coscia offers vast experience as well as clinical expertise. We are also the only facility in the region

to offer Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI) — the most sensitive and specific breast-cancer imaging technique currently available.

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To learn more, stop by our office in Amarillo or visit us online at TexasOncology.com.



**Imaging - Diagnosis - Treatment** 

## Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Thursday, March 18, the 77th day of 2010. There are 288 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On March 18, 1910, the first filmed adaptation of Mary Shelley's novel "Frankenstein," produced by Thomas Edison's New York movie studio, was released, with Charles Ogle as the Monster.

On this date:

In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act of 1765. In 1837, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, was born in Caldwell, N.J. In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.)

In 1937, some 300 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London,

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain. In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed

the Hawaii statehood bill. (Hawaii became a state on Aug. 21, 1959.) In 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet

cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether. In 1974, most of the Arab oil-producing nations

ended their embargo against the United States. Ten years ago: Taiwan ended more than a-half century of Nationalist Party rule, electing an opposition leader (Chen Shui-bian) whose party favored Taiwan's formal independence from the rest of

Five years ago: Doctors in Florida, acting on orders of a state judge, removed Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. (Despite the efforts of congressional Republicans to intervene and repeated court appeals by Schiavo's parents, the brain-damaged woman died on March 31, 2005, at age 41.)

One year ago: Under intense pressure from the Obama administration and Congress, the head of bailed-out insurance giant AIG, Edward Liddy, told Congress that some of the firm's executives had begun returning all or part of bonuses totaling \$165 million. Tony-winning Actress Natasha Richardson, 45, died at a New York hospital two days after suffering a head injury while skiing in Canada.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel peace laureate and former South African president F.W. de Klerk is 74. Country singer Charley Pride is 72. Actor Brad Dourif is 60. Singer Irene Cara is 51. Actor Thomas Ian Griffith is 48. Singer-songwriter James McMurtry is 48. Singer-actress Vanessa L. Williams is 47. Olympic gold medal speedskater Bonnie Blair is 46. Rock musician Jerry Cantrell (Alice in Chains) is 44. Rapper-actress-talk show host Queen Latifah is 40. Actor-comedian Dane Cook is 38. Rock musician Stuart Zender is 36. Rook singer Adam Levine (Maroon 5) is 31.

Thought for Today:

"I take a simple view of living. It is keep your eyes open and get on with it." Laurence Olivier, British actor (1907-1989).



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## Will pushing healthcare doom Dems?

BY MORTON KONDRACKE CaglePost.com

President Barack Obama has taken to nonstop demonizing of the insurance industry - a sign of desperation over the prospects of passing health care reform.

Meanwhile, Republicans say that if Obama succeeds in persuading Democrats to push reform through Congress on a party-line basis, a GOP battle cry of "Repeal It!" will sweep the 2010 elections.

The Senate's No. 3 Republican leader, Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), a man not known for hyperbole, told me, "I think it is the making of a political wipeout" for Democrats "if they pass this unpopular bill" and "jam it through in a partisan way."

"I could be wrong, but based on 40 years in politics, I believe it will become the symbol of an overreaching Washington and will define every single Congressional race," he said.

"The only thing I can remember that's like it is the Watergate election of 1974," when Republicans lost 49 House seats, four Senate seats and were left with only 12 governorships.

Democratic leaders are now privately admitting they probably can't get health care legislation to Obama's desk by March 18, when he is to leave on a trip to Asia and will be unable to do essential personal lobbying.

Some well-connected Democratic lobbyists are now convinced the measure has only a 1 in 3 chance of passing at all - dragged down by distrust between the House and Senate, differences over abortion language, fear among moderates over bad polls and the difficulty of passing a reconciliation measure in the Senate.

If the House were to "eat" the Senate-passed version, Obama and Democrats would achieve reform. But the House is insisting on the Senate's passing a reconciliation bill to fix its work and Senators are not sure they can, even though it takes only 51 votes.

So, the president is intensively lobbying Members by arguing that Democrats will be doomed if they don't pass his signature initiative, while publicly thrashing the insurance industry, a favorite Democratic whipping

In one speech on Monday, Obama condemned insurance companies 22 times, demanding to know, "How much higher do premiums have to get before we do something about it?"

And his Health and Human Services secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, has piled on with demands that insurance companies explain why insurance rates are rising and what their profit margins are.

Actually, they have done so rather persuasively using statistics from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, part of Sebelius' own department. CMS figures show that insurance costs closely track the underlying - and surging - costs for hospitals, doctors and drugs.

National health spending rose a whopping 5.7 percent in 2009, according to a February CMS report, and the "primary drivers" were a 5.9 percent increase in hospital costs, a 5.2 percent increase for drugs and 6.3 percent for physician care.

Insurance-company administrative costs were not even mentioned as a driver — they dropped 2 percent last year abundant evidence indicates that industry profit margins run 3 percent to 4 percent, compared with 20 percent for drug companies and an average of 13 percent for the health care industry.

Obama is now proposing to create a new agency to cap insurance premiums --an idea opposed by state health commissioners who worry that federal price controls will render compa nies insolvent.

That may, in fact, be the whole idea: Drive the private insurance industry into bankruptcy so "public plans" can take over, perhaps leading to the singlepayer system that liberals favor. There is limited polling to

will get wiped out if they jam health care through Congress — or that they'll suffer if they don't. Democrats have been

indicate whether Alexander

is right that Democrats

ence in 1994, after the defeat of Bill Clinton's health plan, when they lost 52 House seats and eight Senate seats. A poll of 11 swing districts

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by the GOP firm Tarrance Group for a client named StartOver showed that disapproval of Obamacare outpaces approval by 6 to 28

More than 70 percent of respondents in every district believed their taxes would rise, and 63 percent to 81 percent said that how members of Congress vote on health care will matter "greatly" in the election.

The 11 districts, in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania. Indiana, Colorado and Arizona, are all occupied by Democrats who took them from Republicans in the past two elections.

the Nationally, RealClearPolitics average of polls shows that 41 percent of voters favor Obamacare and 49 percent oppose it. The generic Congressional ballot is tied - a 10-point drop for Democrats over the past

My hunch, on the question of whether Democrats will be worse off passing health care or not passing it: They will be damned if they do but damned worse if they don't, demonstrating that they can't govern even with overwhelming dominance of the government and wasting two years without fixing the job-short economy.

### Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

This letter is a response to the letter to the Editor written by Mr. David Brito Garcia.

Mr. Brito Garcia, I'm quoting a line from your letter to the Editor Mar 13-14. You said "The one alarming fact is that it seems that it is easy for the County Judge and the D.A. to wastefully spend our tax dollars in attempting to enhance the D.A.'s resume". Is the public to believe that Judge Peet is in cahoots with Ms. Switzer to further her career and enhance her resume? Why on earth would the County Judge care to enhance the DA's resume? Where is your proof of this? Her position as our District Attorney speaks for itself in a most positive way, so why would she need or want help from the County Judge? You also seemingly have personal knowledge of her future career plans. Has Ms. Switzer included you in any plans she may be making for the future?

Furthermore, you stated that the verdict is evident that Ms. Switzer did not do her job. I ask you Mr. Brito Garcia, were you there? Were you in the courtroom for 6 grueling weeks? If not, how can you argue this point? We were there. The verdict was not due to the lack of performance by the D.A nor was it due to any brilliant legal strategy of the defense. According to a statement made by the Jury Foreman, during deliberation one juror stated that she could not give a death penalty under any circumstance. I believe this juror was not truthful from the beginning. No one could have predicted that. Quoting your letter once

again you said "Ms. Doan Squires letter to the edi-

tor (3-9-10) contained only one sentence that I and the majority of the person's in Gray County can accept as reality, yes we are in a recession. Duh?" I was not aware until now that you are the voice for Gray County. How and when did you obtain this position of Reality Spokesperson? Were you elected? Are you paid for this, or do you volunteer? Where is your data to support your position? Obviously it was not the March 2nd Primary election results.

The last sentence of my original letter was omitted. It read, "Going forward do not launch a campaign to rub salt in the very open wounds of the victim's families for your personal gain" I was, and still am very angry at the remarks made by Mr. Hall concerning the price of the trial, which prompted me to write the

letter. Mr. Hall had numerous ads in the Pampa News, and mailed flyers containing the unnecessary remarks. He put a very low monetary value on the tragic deaths of 4 people in Gray County; his comments demonstrated no regard for the Families of the victim's. What was only worth \$10,000.00 to him cost the Families far more than that. I was very angry, but more importantly, I worried about how his insulting comments would affect Robin, who witnessed the tragedy firsthand, and is probably the one most traumatized by it. She should not be subjected to the insinuations that her Mother, unborn baby Brother, Brother Zach and Stepfather Brian weren't worthy of a trial.

I don't believe you can begin to "appreciate" the suffering that King has caused. You have no clue. Speaking for my own family, we were very disheartened and disappointed with the verdict, but there is nothing more we can do but try to put it behind us and move forward. I would hope that any future political endeav-ors Mr. Hall undertakes would be ran using his own merit, rather than insulting remarks that are irrelevant to the position he seeks.

Patricia Doan Squires

### We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines: Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

\*All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

Defamatory comments will not be published.

• E-mail submissions are welcome.

## Ellis named chairman of First Perryton Bancorp, Inc

AMARILLO - Smith Ellis has been named Chairman of the Board for FirstPerryton Bancorp, Inc. at the annual Stockholder's meeting on March 17, 2010, according to a press release by the company. Ellis is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of FirstBank Southwest and will continue in that capacity while serving as Chairman.

Smith Ellis succeeds Carl Ellis, who has served as Chairman of the board since 1984. They are fourth generation members of the Ellis family, which has led the bank since the 1930s. Carl Ellis will continue to serve as a board member.



Administration Management, specializing in Insurance

and Finance at the University of Texas at Austin, and became a Chartered Life Insurance Underwriter through American Smith Ellis received a Bachelor of Business College. He served for nine years in 1990

in as Director of Operations for Higdon and Higdon and as Director of Operations at Aon Consulting, and held a similar title at Frost Insurance Agency, a division of

> Ellis was appointed to the FirstBank Southwest Board of Directors in 1996, and

joined the Senior Management team as Executive Vice President in 2004. He was named President and CEO in 2006.

"I want to continue to grow a conservative financial institution for the benefit of our customers and the communities that we serve," Ellis said.

He is Past Chairman of Harrington Cancer Center's External Relations Committee, an Advisory Board Member of West Texas A&M University's College of Business, a Board Member of Junior Achievement of West Texas and President Elect of United Way of Amarillo and Canyon. He is married to Barbara. They have three children and two grandchildren.

## Pampa's Pooley serves as delegate for Pork Act

DES MOINES, Iowa — Jason Pooley, a pork producer from Pampa, recently served as a delegate at the Pork Act Delegate Assembly March 4-6 in Kansas City, Mo.

Pooley was named a delegate to the assembly by United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

Pooley was one of 163 delegates who represented producers from 44 states and importers who sell pork products in the country. The delegates were charged with helping to

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provide direction to the pork promotion, research and consumer information programs that are funded by the Pork Checkoff through the National Pork Board

Producers contribute 40 cents of every \$100 of sales to the Checkoff, and importers use a sales formula to contribute a similar amount. That money helps producers support "We Care," a responsible pork initiative coordinated by the National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council to earn the trust of regulators and consumers, as well as "The Other White Meat" brand and research into animal welfare, food safety, swine health, environment and other topics.

"From managing issues to promoting our product at home and internationally, Pork Checkoff programs are continually working toward the end results of yielding positive results for pork producers," said

The National Pork Board approved a 2010 budget for national spending of \$44.1 million. About \$19 million is focused on domestic pork expenditures.

Frost Bank, through 2004.

"Several of the National Pork Board's goals for 2010 reflect a commitment to increasing demand for pork products," said Pooley. "For example, aggressive retail programs are being planned with leading retailers in a year that likely will have consumers paying higher prices for pork."

For more information on the Pork Checkoff and Checkoff-funded programs, pork producers can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at 800-456-PORK or go online to www.pork.org.

YOU TALK. WE LISTEN. IN PERSON. **Duane Harp** 

1921 N Hobart Pampa, TX 79065 www.edwardlones.com Me

Edward Jones

## Perry activates border violence initiative

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry has activated a secret spillover violence contingency plan, citing an increasing threat of violence crossing the Texas border

Perry's office said details of the plan, activated Tuesday, wouldn't be released because of security concerns. However, Perry said that, "With the growing threat of violence in Mexico spilling over the border, we have taken important measures to increase the law enforcement presence along the Texas border and have placed additional resources on standby to combat any potential situation."

The plan includes increased surveillance of border activity and increased ground, air and maritime patrols. Additional resources ready for rapid deployment also have been placed on standby. Those resources include Texas Department of Public Safety tactical teams and Trooper Strike Teams, as well as Texas Ranger Recon Teams prepared to deploy based on the threat.

## Judge rejects punitive damages against BP

HOUSTON(AP) - Ajudge has rejected a federal jury's \$100 million punitive damages award against BP PLC over a 2007 refinery leak at its Texas City plant.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth M. Hoyt on Tuesday set aside the December decision that the evidence in the case awarded \$10 million to ers who said they were injured by the April 19, 2007 chemical release.

Hoyt said he agreed with the jury in Galveston that had found Londonbased BP responsible for the leak. But he said BP did not intend to cause harm to the workers and that plaintiffs failed to prove gross negligence.

Without "clear and convincing" evidence of gross negligence, Hoyt wrote in his ruling, the \$100 million in punitive damages "must be set aside.'

The jury also had awarded actual damages ranging from about against the company in \$6,000 to more than \$244,000 per worker.

"We agree with the court's decision to set aside the punitive damage award," said BP spokesman Scott Dean. "Having said that, we continue to believe that did not warrant a finding

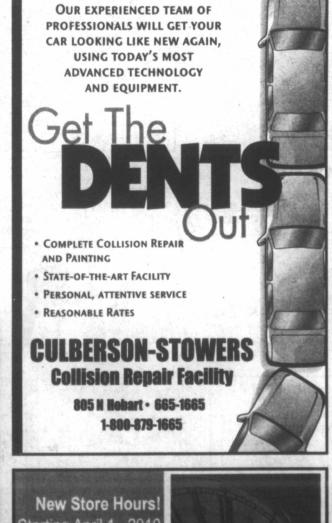
any amount and that we have solid legal grounds for an appeal.

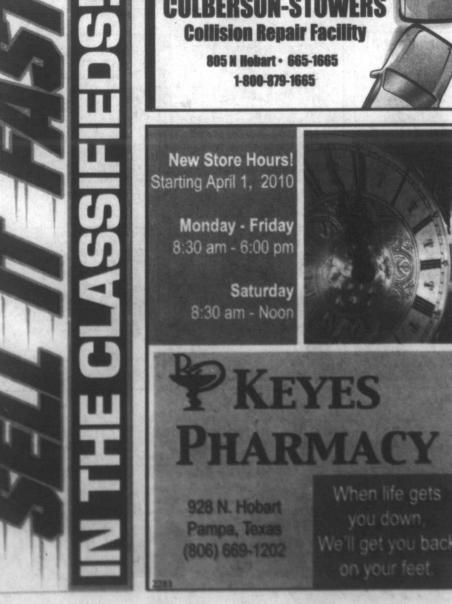
Plaintiffs' attorney Tony Buzbee said the judge's ruling sets an impossibly high bar for proving gross negligence and gives refiners a "free pass" to continue exposing workers to serious

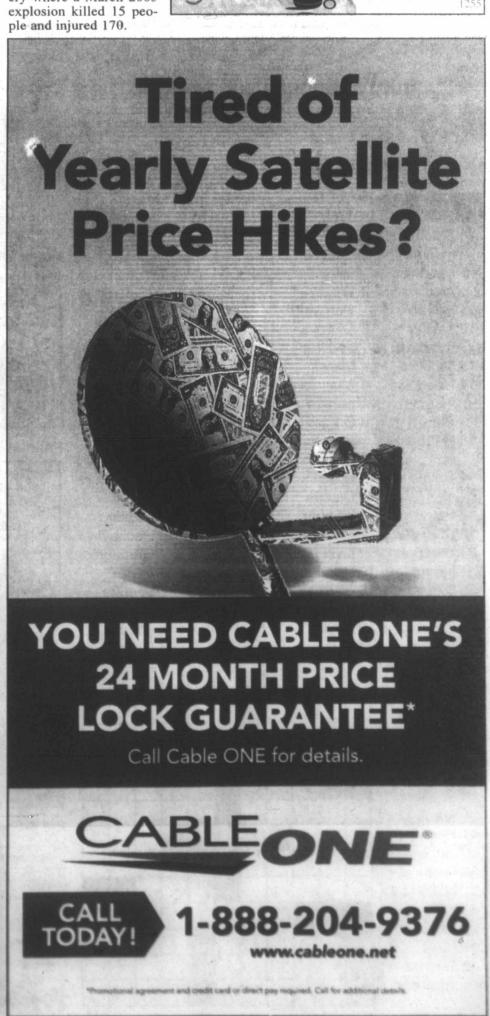
injury. Buzbee says he plans to ask the judge to reconsider the decision before a formal appeal is filed.

The 2007 leak happened at the same refinery where a March 2005 ple and injured 170.



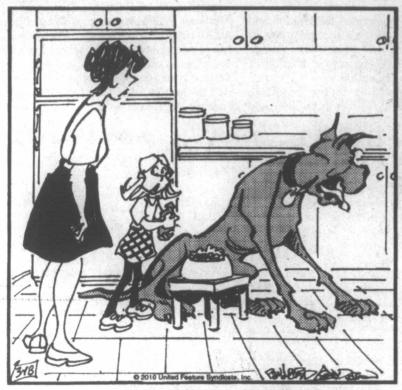




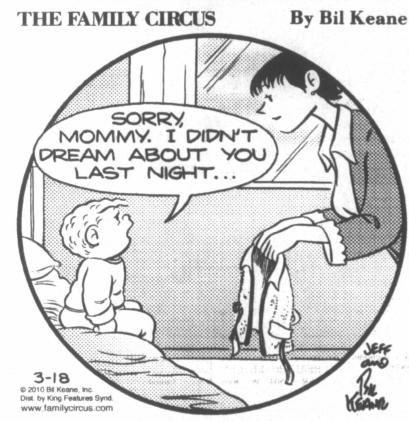


## Comics

Marmaduke



"Marmaduke changed his mind about having mustard on his dog food."



"...but I promise I will tonight."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH **ACROSS DOWN**

1 Will

Smith's

wife

2 Weary

word

3 Gives a

4 Brews

5 Musical

6 Burger

7 Buzz in

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9 Snaky

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1 Spielberg thriller

**5** Laughed loudly

11 Heaps 12 Taking

the place 13 Be bold

14 Hoedown instrument

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17 Relaxing spot

18 Swell

22 Disgusting

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Yesterday's answer

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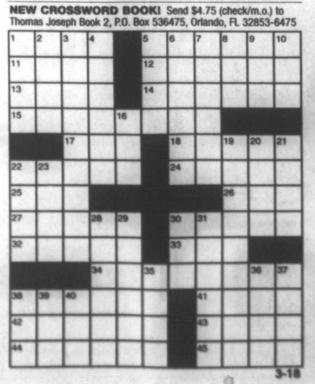
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#### For Better Or Worse





Garfield



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### Hagar The Horrible...



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getting a project done, could make all the

difference in what occurs. You could be

tired and wanting to complete the week-

end early. Understand what is happening

within a relationship. Tonight: Feeling

\*\*\*\* Keep asking questions, know-

ing full well you are on top of your game,

Remember, your words don't fall on deaf

ears, and others will respond. Your tone

can make or break a situation. Let humor

evolve. Creativity flourishes in this

atmosphere. Tonight: Hook up with some

\*\* If you feel the need to pull back

some and play the recluse, take off early

or call in. Everyone needs a break, even

you. Schedule some time for indulgence

where you can and will enjoy yourself.

Know what works for you. Tonight: In

\*\*\*\* You say the right words, and

others respond. You might have had a

problem for a while, but now you loosen

up. Others want your views. Express the

same type of excitement about others'

opinions. Build up more mutuality.

Western Marshall Wyatt Earp (1848),

actress Glenn Close (1947), actor Bruce

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at

© 2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc

www.jacquelinebigar.com.

Tonight: Hanging out is fun to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

1958

claim. Call 440-4235

Work!

1 Public Notice

CITATION-DIVORCE PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

IN THE MATTER OF MARRIAGE OF MARTHA PALOMARES, a/k/a MARTHA ALVARADO, PETITIONER AND **IVAN MAXIMINO** ALVARADO, Respondent Cause No: 35961 IN THE 223RD

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GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS TO: IVAN MAXIMI- PAMPA, TX 79066-NO ALVARADO, Respondent, GREET-INGS

DISTRICT COURT

NOTICE TO RE-SPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 E-50 Mar. 18, 2010 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The Original Petition of ceased, were issued on PALOMARES. MARTHA ALVARA- ing in the County Court DO, petitioner, was of Gray County, Texas, filed in the above entitled cause on the 9th SON HUDMAN. day of March, 2010 in SUZANNE JOHNSON the 223RD DISTRICT HUDMAN is a resident COURT of GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS. A brief statement of the presented in care of the

19, 2010:

Have:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March

This year is a very special period in

which you evolve to a new level and cre-

ate much more of what you desire. You

discover just how far-reaching your

influence might be and who can and will

make a difference. If you are single,

you'll discover how attractive others

think you are. If you are attached, the two

of you will connect on a level that you

haven't experienced in many years.

TAURUS always brings logic to a situa-

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll

\*\*\* Your perspective is in demand.

How you see finances or a business

arrangement remains unique to you.

Look for the right path for all those who

are mutually concerned. Listen to some-

one who might have different expertise.

Tonight: Indulge a little. It's about time.

\*\*\*\* You might be on top of your

game. Your way of handling a situation

could change radically after a meeting or

conversation with more than several peo-

ple. A decision made now could be sound

and productive. Worry less. Tonight: Out

\*\*\*\* Working to facilitate a situa-

tion could be difficult if others aren't

working with you. Know when to walk

away from a situation and call it futile.

Understanding what is going on could be

5-Dynamic;

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

on the town.

nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: SUIT FOR DIVORCE as is nore fully shown by the Petition on file in this suit.

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree, indivision of property, tate which is currently ments from the public, must be received no latwhich will be binding being administered are and comments from the er than 5:00 PM, Mon-

ISSUED AND GIVEN within the time and in The IPP is currently comments received will bricks or walls? Child-AND SEAL OF SAID by law GRAY TEXAS, ON THIS THE 11th day of March, 2010. Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff: STEVE N. HALL

P.O. BOX 1420 120 W. KINGSMILL, SUITE 202 1420 District Clerk Planning

**Gray County** By Phyllis Carroll, Deputy

TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MAYNARD C. JOHNSON Deof MARTHA March 15, 2010, in aka Docket No. 9700, pend-

of Garza County, Texas. Claims maybe attorney for the Estate.

4-Positive;

1 Public Notice

addressed as follows: Suzanne Johnson Hudman, Independent Executrix Estate of Maynard C. Johnson

Deceased c/o Don R. Lane P.O. Box 1781 required to present them PWPG.

COUNTY, March, 2010 , 2010 org gional Water Plan.
Suzanne Johnson and in the County E-45 Mar. 18, 22, 2010

E-52

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP 4-28-10 Amarillo, Texas

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solicit input and com- lo, TX ments from the general (806)372-3381; public and interested kingham@theprpc parties and entities. Re- org, The PWPG will re- OVERHEAD DOOR Dallam,

Daily Horoscope

\*\*\*\* Look at the end result. Listen

to others in a meeting. The solution,

though evident to many, might not be

evident to others. Realize when you have

gone too far. Back off diplomatically.

Know when you no longer have control

and what needs to happen. Tonight: Say

\*\*\* Others look to you. Your advice

probably means much more than you

realize. Understanding evolves because

you are willing to listen to an important

partner. Your ability to understand some-

one emerges. Tonight: Assume the lead.

\*\*\* Your ability to grasp what has

happened comes out. Reach out for oth-

ers at a distance. If you want to take off

early for the weekend, by all means do.

Lunch easily could become an event.

Tonight: Don't let a child or loved one

\*\*\*\* Teamwork always brings

results, be they negative or positive. As

your efforts come with positive thoughts

and good will, you will draw that type of

results you desire. Know when you have

had enough. Tonight: Togetherness is the

\*\*\* ◆ Others demand control. It would

be best to be unusually creative when

putting in your two cents. An approach

other than the norm will most likely draw

the desired results. A brainstorming ses-

sion produces excellent results. Tonight:

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

mar a happening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Just don't be alone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

"ves" to an invitation

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

1 Public Notice Hartley, ceive written comments

Hutchiso ham, Potter, Carson, to submit written com-Gray, Wheeler, Randall, ments separate from the Armstrong, Donley, Collingsworth, Hall, their comments to the and Childress Counties. The Public Hearing will Ingham at the above adcluding but not limited Pampa, TX 79066-1781 consist of a presentation dress. All written com-

UNDER MY HAND the manner prescribed available for public re- be considered prior to ers Brothers, Inc. 800view and inspection at COURT AT PAMPA, DATED the 15th day of www.panhandlewater.

Hudman Clerk's office in each of Mar. 18, 2010 the Region a Counties 5 Special Notices listed above. The IPP is also available in the fol- ADVERTISING Ma lowing public libraries terial to be placed in or alternate locations: Dallam County (Dalhart); Sherman County (Stratford); Hansford Amarillo, Texas County (Spearman).

Gaye Honderich, The Panhandle Water Perry Memorial (Perry-(Spearman),

Group ton); Kilgore Memorial 223RD DISTRICT (PWPG), a Regional (Dumas); Hutchison COURT Water Planning Group County (Borger); Robformed pursuant to the erts County (Miami); P.O. Box 1139 requirements of Senate Hemphill (Canadian); 205 N. Russell Street Bill 1 (75th Legislative Oldham County (Vega); Pampa, Tx 79066-1139 Session), will hold a Potter County (Amaril-Public Hearing on April lo Downtown Library); 28, 2010 at the Texas Carson County (Pan-AgriLife Research and handle); Lovett Memo-Extension Center at rial (Pampa); Wheeler; Amarillo, 6500 Amaril- Canyon; Claude; Clar-Wellington; Amarillo, Texas begin- Childress; and the offining at 6:00 PM, CST. ces of the Panhandle Planning lic Hearing is to present Commission, 415 W

> of the initially Prepared For more information 2011 Regional Water please contact: Kyle G. Plan (IPP) for Region Ingham, Local Govern-A, Panhandle Water ment Services Director, Planning Area, and to PO Box 9257, Amaril-79105; ph:

gion A comprises all of ceive written and oral REPAIR Kidwell Con-Sherman, comments at the hear-struction. Call 669-Hansford, Ochiltree, ing and will also re- 6347.

invigorated

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the thick of things.

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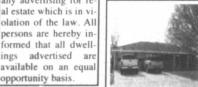
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## Sports

## Lady Raiders take game from Pampa in final inning

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Pampa Lady Harvesters lost their third in a row and drop the district opener 1-0 to the Randall Lady Raiders Wednesday in Canyon.

Head Coach Bobbi Gill said the team played hard but struggled offensively.

"We had some chances to put a run or two across," Gill said. "We just couldn't get anything to fall. We've got to regroup and for today (vs. Palo Duro) and

take care of this one."

Both Pampa's pitcher Carlyn Teichmann and her counterpart, Randall's Jessica Moore were tough to solve, as they only gave up three hits each. Both teams were held scoreless until the bottom of the seventh. The Lady Raiders led off with a base hit. That runner moved to second on a sacrifice bunt. Randall won the game with a base hit.

Teichmann (6-5-1) was charged with the loss. Brooklyn Barker and Teichmann led the team

each. Gill said despite the last three games her team's mindset is fine.

"They are competitors and are going to continue to compete hard," Gill said. "They want a district title and one district loss doesn't change that."

Pampa's record fell to 10-9-1 and 0-1 in districtplay. The Lady Raiders improved to 9-9 overall and 1-0 in district play. The Lady Harvesters host the Palo Duro Lady Dons at 5 p.m. today.



Brooklyn Barker races into second as she hit a double against Randall Wednesday in Canyon. The Lady Harvesters lost 1-0 and are 0-1 in district. Photos by Charla Shults.

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Shelbie Watson beats a throw to first for a base hit against the Randall Lady Raiders Wednesday in Canyon. The Lady Harvesters host Palo Duro 5 p.m. today.

Shelbie Watson about to catch a pop fly against Randall Wednesday in Randall. Pampa lost 1-0 to start district play. Pampa hosts Palo Duro today.

## Hidden Hills results

March 12 Seniors

4-man Scramble

First-66 R.D. Stephens

B. Hardwood D. Dunham

B. Brown

Second-67 T. Taylor

H. Wells

J. McGuire

Third-67 E. Maxwell

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## Rangers' manager tested positive for cocaine in '09

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) - Before he could end a long day unlike any in his professional career, Ron Washington had to prepare

for a game. Hours after admitting he made a "huge mistake" by using cocaine he says for the first and only time and failing a Major League Baseball drug test last season, the Texas manager emerged from the Rangers' clubhouse at Peoria Stadium carrying a sandwich and something to

drink. With a night exhibition scheduled against the Seattle Mariners, Washington headed toward the field alone with his thoughts.

It's a walk he has made thousands of times. This one was different.

As he passed a group of fans waiting for autographs on an embankment, a lone voice called out to Washington from behind

the fence.

the man hollered.

Washington waved and said thanks. An unexpected wish, and

a needed one. On Wednesday, the

57-year-old Washington made an emotional apology for using the drug, calling his behavior "stupid and shameful." He revealed that he had tested positive last July and had attempted to resign but Rangers president Nolan Ryan turned down his offer.

"I made a huge mistake and it almost caused me to lose everything I have worked for all of my life," Washington said at a news conference at the Rangers' training complex that was attended by many of his players. "I am not here to make excuses. There are

none. Washington's failed test first was reported by SI.com.

Before his news con-Washington ference, spoke from his heart to the Rangers, asking them

to forgive him. He felt ashamed, humiliated. "He was very emotion-

al, you could tell that he's a broken man from this one bad choice he made," Texas star Josh Hamilton

Hamilton has his own drug-riddled past. The All-Star outfielder was suspended for the 2004 season when he was in the minors for Tampa Bay. Hamilton is the most prominent player in the last decade to be disciplined for a so-called recreational drug that predated steroids as baseball's biggest problem.

Hamilton said there were no parallels between his problems and Washington's admission of one-time use.

"I was addicted to drugs. All I cared about was getting more and using more drugs. I didn't care who I hurt," Hamilton said. "This was something of a weak moment, a decision of choice ... Our stories are nothing alike. The fact is