

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 62 Low 37	High 71 Low 37	High 61 Low 26

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. Wind chill values between 21 and 26. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 62. Wind chill values between 19 and 29 early. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 71. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. Blustery, with a north northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My stepmother — the only mother I have ever known — has been clinically diagnosed with a paranoid personality. This means she is suspicious, a martyr in any situation and flatly denies anything she thinks would cast her in a negative light. She can be very convincing. Once or twice she has even convinced me that my memories were wrong, although the facts were later corroborated by other family members.

People who can't see through her "act" consider my mother to be a saint. Those who see her clearly know that she's spiteful and vindictive. She has, for years, refused to take her prescribed medicine and won't explore any other treatment. She insists the problem is with everyone else, especially me.

You have told others about the need to cut toxic friends and relatives out of their lives, but how does one do it? I know there will never be closure or a good relationship, but I can't help wanting one. I'm in my mid-30s and feel if my mother doesn't love me, how can anyone else? — **NEEDS A RESOLUTION IN GEORGIA**

DEAR NEEDS A RESOLUTION: You have more than one problem. Removing toxic individuals from one's life is as easy as refusing to go along with their behavior.

Once you draw the line, those people will "help" you by cutting you out of theirs. Your mother's mental illness may prevent her from loving anyone — not you specifically. I hope you realize how important it is to discuss your feelings with a licensed psychotherapist. You have an entire upbringing by a woman with a damaged personality to overcome. The fact that she couldn't love you does not mean you are unlovable. And the sooner you are able to accept that, the more lovable you will be because you will like yourself more.

DEAR ABBY: Ten years ago I was suddenly widowed after many years of marriage. Because I was totally "available," I became very involved with my children and grandchildren. I did not date.

About a year ago, that changed. I met "Gerald," a man who makes me very happy. We enjoy dinners together, dancing and travel. We spend three nights a week together — usually at my place.

My brothers and friends are happy for me, but my daughters have not accepted him. They are civil in his presence, but in private they put him down. Their objections are: Gerald is more reserved than their father was, he takes up a lot of my time, that I'm "acting like a schoolgirl," and

United

the United Way to review them in a manner that will best serve the interests of their respective communities.

1. Be incorporated, not-for-profit and IRS tax-exempt.

Agencies receiving United Way dollars must be not-for-profit organizations that have been declared tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) Or have a 501 (c)3 purpose. The United Way has the responsibility to verify that the recipient organization has been ruled tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service. Evidence of compliance with state charitable regulations should be provided, where applicable. A copy of the agency's by-laws should also be provided to the United Way.

2. Offer human service programs.

The United Way of America Service Identification System defines various human services and programs that may qualify for funding. Many communities may limit "human service programs" to specifically health, welfare, and youth guidance programs. United Way funded agencies should meet the tests of accessibility (e.g., location of the facility) and availability (e.g., frequency and times of operation). The entity applying must be in service for two full years.

3. Provide community service based on documented need(s).

The agency program should address itself to an identifiable current need, demand, or problem in the community. Services which are supported by voluntary dollars should be clearly defined and their impact documented by the organization. They should be offered to a target population or geographic local not presently served by existing programs.

4. Be non-discriminatory.

Discrimination by race, creed, color, sex, age or religion should be prohibited in programs, service, staffing and volunteer areas. A written affirmative action plan for employment of staff would reinforce compliance with the

Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972.

5. Have an active, rotating, volunteer leadership that represents the diverse elements of the community.

The agency's board of directors of governing body should consist of volunteers who participate in the policy-making processes, represent the diverse elements of the community, periodically rotate off the board and meet, at least, quarterly. Members of the volunteer structure should not receive financial remuneration from the program(s) or service(s) they oversee.

6. Have sound financial and program management.

Demonstrated ability to manage the finances of the programs/services in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures. The organization should provide copy of its annual audit using an independent certified public accountant or accounting firm, where feasible. A determination should be made as to the convincing likelihood that the organization can or will meet its stated program objectives.

If the above guidelines are satisfied, the United Way may be reasonable assured that the applying organization is eligible for voluntary support. Eligibility determination does not necessarily result in United Way funding. The amount of available dollars, the urgency of existing needs, and other key variables are important to the United Way budget allocation process and the final funding decision. Many United Ways require additional information from agencies as conditions for funding. These conditions are unique to the United Way funding relationship and are often included in formalized agreements. Examples of common agreement conditions are listed below:

7. Agree to support and cooperate with the united way in the following areas: Fundraising, planning, communications and allocations

United Ways' relationships with

agencies should be one of partnership rather than one of ownership. This relationship evolves around four primary areas: raising voluntary contributions, planning for the needs of the total community, communicating their services to the public, and allocating the funds through an equitable and effective budget allocation process.

8. Agree to provide timely financial and program information.

Agencies share the responsibility of being accountable to the community for the expenditure of voluntary dollars. Periodic reporting of financial and program data to the United Way on operating costs and income which documents agency expenditures and substantiates their validity.

9. Agree to inform and seek approval from the united way for all significant program/staff expansion or reduction.

The United Way should not be expected to assume financial responsibility for any expansion or discontinuation of the agency's operations or facilities without prior approval and discussion of how this action will affect the agency's allocations, if at all.

10. Agrees to obtain prior approval from the united way before engaging in any supplemental fund raising effort.

Explanation: Agencies must obtain prior approval from the United Way regarding their capital and supplemental fund raising needs. Efforts by agencies to develop sources of income should be carried out in such a manner as to assure that:

- The United Way giving base in the community will not be adversely affected.
- Agency financing efforts are consistent with mutually agreed upon policies between the United Way and the agency.
- The United Way is fully informed and supports, in advance, special financing efforts undertaken by the agency.

Obituaries

Annie Lois Glover, 98

Annie Lois Glover, 98, died Sunday, February 20, 2011, in Amarillo.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at Fairview Cemetery with Mark Lance, pastor of Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Glover was born December 2, 1912, in Archer City. Annie married Marson Luther Glover on April 20, 1935, in Spearman and he pre-



Glover

ceded her in death on December 24, 1959. Ann has been a resident of Pampa for 50 years. She was a buyer for Sandra Company for 18 years and she worked for Walmart for 8 years. Ann was a member of the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ and she also was proud to say she had been a member of the Church of Christ since the age of 14.

Survivors include one grandson, Doug Glover and wife Annie Heng of Santa Monica, Calif.; one great-grandson, Lucas Glover of Santa Monica, Calif.; two special nieces, Connie Ward of Belmont, Calif. and Rue Anne Santos of Las Vegas, Nev. Ann was preceded in death by a son, Bobby Wayne Glover on January 20, 1997; three sisters, Jewel Parnell, Lena Schumacher and Nell Daigle; one brother, Rueben Deering.

Memorials may be made to Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ, 1342 Mary Ellen, Pampa, TX 79065

Please sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

For the record

Police Department

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

There were 40 animal-related incidents.

There were 35 traffic-related incidents and seven accidents.

Officers responded to one medical incident.

Pampa EMS reported 13 ambulance calls.

The Pampa Fire Department responded to three fire investigations and one grass fire.

The Lefors Volunteer Fire Department responded to one grass fire.

Friday, Feb. 18

An escort was provided in the 500 block of E. Francis.

Theft was reported in the 2200 block of N. Perryton Pkwy.

A follow-up investigation was conducted in the 1000 block of S. Neel Rd.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Lefors and Browning.

Identity theft was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

An information call was

reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

A burglary was reported in the 2400 block of N. Christine.

A suspicious person was reported in the 900 block of N. Frost.

A burglary was reported in the 600 block of N. Lowry.

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

An information call was reported in the 200 block of N. Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of N. Mary Ellen.

A follow-up investigation was conducted in the 600 block of Doucette.

An information call was reported in the 400 block of N. Ballard.

A follow-up investigation was conducted in the 1800 block of N. Banks.

An alarm was reported in the 2600 block of N. Evergreen.

An information call was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

An information call was reported in the 700 block of E. Francis.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of N. Doyle.

Water was shut off in the 2000 block of N. Williston.

An information call was reported in the 700 block of Sloan.

An assault was reported in the 400 block of N. Zimmers.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of N. Faulkner.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

AFTERNOON RUSH

Man killed in police standoff

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - Lubbock police say they fatally shot a man who was holding a woman at knife-point during a reported domestic disturbance at an apartment complex.

The episode began at an apartment complex in southwestern Lubbock about 4:30 a.m. Sunday when a 20-year-old woman called police to report that she and her boyfriend were having a domestic dispute.

Police Capt. Greg Stevens said the 911 operator could hear clearly over the phone that the dispute had become violent. Two officers arrived, and Officer Jennifer Breazeale reported that she saw 25-year-old Jermar Antwan McKinzie standing over the woman with a knife in his hand.

Breazeale reported that McKinzie ignored her command to drop the knife, so she shot him twice.

Last tollway section opens

HOUSTON (AP) - A Houston-area tollway that's been in the works for decades is nearly finished.

The final section of the nearly \$1.5 billion Sam Houston Tollway opens Saturday.

The Houston Chronicle reports it's the last stretch of the 88-mile ring road first conceived by Houston planning officials in 1952. The projected cost in 1960 was \$150 million.

The first major section opened in 1988. The latest 13-mile stretch, on Houston's northeast side, runs from the Eastex Freeway to just south of Highway 90.

The Sam Houston Tollway is owned by the Texas Department of Transportation. The toll lanes are operated by the Harris County Toll Road Authority.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett says if you're going to have development, you've got to have roads.

Okla. state workers to rally

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Hundreds of state employees are expected at the Oklahoma Capitol to urge lawmakers to retain their pension benefits and implement a total compensation package that would include better salaries.

Although today, President's Day, is a state holiday, the state House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Senate is in session.

Legislative leaders say reforming state pension systems is a top priority this year because of their collective \$16.5 billion unfunded liability. But state workers want their pension benefits to remain as they are, according to officials at the Oklahoma Public Employees Association, which represents about 10,000 of the state's 36,000 workers.

State workers also want better salaries. The OPEA says state workers' salaries are on average 16 percent below salaries in the private sector.

Bonus won't reduce SS benefits

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate



Q: I retired and took my Social Security at age 62. That was late last year. Part of my retirement package included some accumulated sick and vacation pay, which amounted to about \$12,000. I received that money in January. But another part of my separation package was a \$20,000 bonus that I just received last week.

That total income of \$32,000 puts me well above the Social Security earnings limit for this year. Will I have to suspend my Social Security payments or pay back any of the money I've already received?

A: No. The income you received as part of your retirement package will not reduce or cause a suspension of your Social Security benefits.

Before clarifying that, I should explain the earnings penalty rules to those readers who might be confused. If you are under age 66 and collecting Social Security, the law limits the amount of outside earnings you can have. Specifically, the rules say that for every \$2 you earn above \$14,160 per year, \$1 must be withheld from your Social Security benefits. So, for example, if you were actually still working and making \$32,000 in 2011, \$8,920 would have to be withheld from your Social Security payments for the year -- \$32,000 minus \$14,160 equals \$17,840, and then divided by 2 equals \$8,920.

But you're not working. You're retired. And there is a rule that says money paid to you in the form of vacation pay, sick pay, bonuses, etc., counts as income when it was earned, not when it was paid. You didn't earn that \$20,000 bonus in 2011. You didn't accrue all that sick and vacation pay in 2011. So, it can't count as income for 2011.

Having said that, I've got to warn you there is a chance you will get a computer-generated "overpayment" letter from Social Security sometime later this year. Don't let that worry you. Social Security earnings records (as reported by your employer) will eventually show that you had \$32,000 of income in 2011. The agency's computer has no idea you actually earned that money in prior years. So when you get the letter, don't panic. Everything will be OK. All you have to do is call or visit your local Social Security office to explain that the money was earned prior to your retirement.

Q: I got a big laugh when I read your answer to the woman who was struggling on a small Social Security pension. She was divorced and her ex had stipulated in the divorce decree that she could not get any of his Social Security. You explained that she could get benefits despite that clause in the divorce papers.

But then you said you hoped the "old goat" would have a heart attack when he found out about her getting benefits on his record, and then she would receive higher widow's benefits. That's what gave me the chuckle. Why do some men think they can deny their ex-wives Social Security benefits like that?

A: Well, let's be honest. A lot of men aren't exactly model husbands to begin with. And then you add the acrimony that can come with divorce proceedings, and these guys can turn into real jerks!

I've written many times in my column about the fact that during my 32-year career with the Social Security Administration, I saw hundreds of examples where a mean and nasty husband added a clause to a divorce decree that said something like, "I don't want my ex-wife to get a nickel of my Social Security." That clause is meaningless and carries no legal standing. Federal law will always trump anything a lawyer might scribble into divorce papers.

But the tragedy of such legal tomfoolery can be a confused woman who doesn't know her rights. During my SSA career, I talked to many women who signed a divorce paper with that worthless clause just because they wanted to get rid of the jerk -- no matter what the cost. And then they went through the rest of their lives thinking they weren't due any benefits from the ex. Had they not gotten the facts (from me or from some other Social Security expert), they could have missed out on tens of thousands of dollars in benefits that were rightfully theirs.

Q: I am thinking of getting married to a man much younger than I am. But I am worried that when I turn 62 in a couple years, his age or his income will mess up my Social Security.

A: You have nothing to worry about. Your Social Security benefits are just that ... YOUR benefits. The fact that you may or may not be married does not affect your right to the benefits you earned. And it doesn't matter if you're married to Bill Gates or Elmer Fudd; you'll still get your money.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

Trees

cont. from page 1

poplar, Nanking cherry, native plum, sandcherry, Siberian elm and sumac.

In addition to the tree seedlings, three different wildlife packets are also available. Each Wildlife Packet contains 25 seedlings each of 4 different species designed to enhance either deer, squirrel or quail and pheasant.

The tree seedlings will

arrive at the District Office at the end of March.

The deadline for ordering the tree seedlings is March 15. In addition to the tree seedlings, the District will also have a wide variety of larger trees available including hardwoods, fruit trees, evergreens and shrubs in 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, and 15 gallon sizes. The larger trees

can be ordered through the middle of April with an expected delivery date at the end of April.

Anyone interested may obtain an order form at the Gray Co. SWCD Office located in the Gray Co. Annex Building at 12125 East Frederic (Highway 60 East), or by calling the District Office at (806) 665-1751, Ext. 102.

Chisum

cont. from page 1

one, forcing incumbent members to run against each other.

Chisum said he has been considering running for one of the openings on the Texas Railroad Commission, instead of running for the Texas legislature in 2012.

The Texas Railroad Commission oversees the state's oil and gas production.

The veteran legislator from Pampa said that the oil and gas industry is important to his hometown and surrounding area, and he feels he might better serve his constituency on the railroad commission.

"It's important to the area and the state," Chisum said.

Salvation

cont. from page 1

Martin is very excited about that development since the local Salvation Army Board has been looking to build a new building for the purpose, but found the approximate \$700,000 cost of such a project daunting.

"I just began praying about it," he said.

After a month or so the owner of the Cuyler Street building came up to him and asked him if the Salvation Army would like to rent it.

"I'm really pleased," Capt. Martin said of the development. "It just all fell into place after worrying about how we were going to do this, and progress and grow and help the community. I knew we couldn't afford a new building and all of a sudden there is this huge building available."

Thrift Store sales provide a good portion of the operating funds of the local organization, including helping to pay the wages of the five employ-

ees on the local payroll. "The store is the staple for everything that we do," Martin said. "Our mission is to preach the gospel to the people who come to us, but it is also to help the community in any way we can."

Community donations keep the store going. The offerings include used clothing, furniture, appliances, plates, sheets, etc.

Donations may be brought to the store and a receipt will be given for tax purposes.

BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints to help you solve each grid. Reuse the 15 tiles in the bunch for each grid.

LEVEL

A O D E R L T F
E B A L N W Z

BANANA BITE: One word means "to sing"

BANANA BITE: One word is a kind of dance.

Yesterday's Answer: VERTICAL, ARTISTIC, ANCESTRY 2.21

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Reading aids
 - 6 Packs down
 - 11 Verdi work
 - 12 Perfect
 - 13 "The Devil and Daniel Webster" writer
 - 14 Figure out
 - 15 Uses a needle
 - 17 Slugger Williams
 - 18 Allot
 - 22 Like some cheese
 - 23 Chide
 - 27 Shows fondness
 - 29 Become prevalent
 - 30 Pebbles
 - 32 Chilly
 - 33 Circus swings
 - 35 Chick's mother
 - 38 Proceed slowly
 - 39 Came up
 - 41 Renter's paper
 - 45 Easy two-pointer
 - 46 Come in
 - 47 Fragrance
 - 48 Take the wheel
- DOWN
- 2 Orangun, for one
 - 3 Fellows
 - 4 February honoree
 - 5 Unable to eat another bite
 - 6 Sneezer's needs
 - 7 Hubbub
 - 8 Liquefy
 - 9 Make roads
 - 10 Winter glider
 - 16 Spider's creation
 - 18 June honorees
 - 19 "— You Babe"
 - 20 White House power

S	T	A	F	F		F	O	G	U	P
T	E	N	O	R		I	N	A	N	E
A	N	G	L	E		T	E	M	P	T
S	U	L	K	E	D		E	L	I	
I	R	E		L	E	F	T	O	U	T
S	E	E		O	A	R	I	N	G	
				F	A	R	E	S		
				F	R	I	D	G	E	C
				H	E	A	R	S	O	F
				A	L	I		D	A	R
				W	I	S	P	S		L
				K	N	E	E	L		L
				S	E	D	G	Y		S
										M

Saturday's answer

- 21 Earlier case
- 24 Whole range
- 25 Floor unit
- 26 Finishes
- 28 Eden tempter
- 31 Mineo of movies
- 34 Magnet ends
- 35 Millinery buys
- 36 McCormack of "Will & Grace"
- 37 "Yup" opposite
- 40 Sermon topic
- 42 Had supper
- 43 Glimpse
- 44 Mess up

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
				15		16		17	
18	19	20					21		
22					23			24	25
27					28		29		
30						31		32	
					33			34	
35	36	37		38					
39				40			41		42
45							46		
47							48		

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2011. There are 313 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1911, composer Gustav Mahler, despite a fever, conducted the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall in what turned out to be his final concert (he died the following May).

On this date:

In 1846, Sarah G. Bagley became the first female telegrapher as she took charge at the newly opened telegraph office in Lowell, Mass.

In 1866, Lucy B. Hobbs became the first woman to graduate from a dental school, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1925, The New Yorker magazine made its debut.

In 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside the Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1986, Larry Wustal Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell.

In 1995, Chicago adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean in a balloon, landing in Leader, Saskatchewan.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court ruled that state workers cannot use the Americans With Disabilities Act, a federal law, to win money damages for on-the-job discrimination.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush endorsed the takeover of shipping operations at six major U.S. seaports by a state-owned business in the United Arab Emirates, and pledged to veto any bill Congress might approve to block the agreement.

One year ago: A mistaken U.S. missile attack killed 23 civilians in Afghanistan (four American officers were later reprimanded).

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Bob Ratelson is 78. Actor Gary Lockwood is 74. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 72. Actor Peter McEnery is 71. Film music company executive David Geffen is 68. Actor Alan Rickman is 65. Actress Tyne Daly is 65. Actor Anthony Daniels is 65. Tricia Nixon Cox is 65. Actress Christine Ebersole is 58. Actor William Petersen is 58. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 56. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 53. Actor Jack Coleman is 53. Actor Christopher Atkins is 50. Actor William Baldwin is 48. Rock musician Michael Ward is 44. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 42. Blues musician Corey Harris is 42. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 38. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 32. Singer Charlotte Church is 25. Actress Ellen Page is 24. Actor Corbin Bleu is 22.

Thought for Today: "You owe it to us all to get on with what you're good at." — *W. H. Auden (born this date in 1907, died 1972)*



Discontent, but no revolt in China...yet

CHARLES HUTZLER
AP Analysis

BEIJING (AP) — For those who rule out the possibility of a Middle East-style democracy revolution in China, consider the town of Xiangshui.

There, tens of thousands of farmers fled their homes this month in a middle-of-the-night panic on rumors that a nearby chemical plant with a bad safety record would explode. The chaos ensued despite appeals from officials that the rumors were unfounded. It left four people dead when a motorized three-wheel vehicle jammed with 20 people veered into a river.

China may have successfully squelched a mysterious call for protests Sunday, but people's trust that the government will look after their interests runs shallow.

"The current regime structure is very fragile. It's not right for revolution at the moment, but that doesn't mean mass political upheaval can't take place in the future," said Minxin Pei, a China politics expert at Claremont McKenna College in California.

In the latest test, China's authoritarian government seems to have dispatched the threat of public protests with great efficiency. In response to an Internet appeal of unknown origin for simultaneous protests in 13 cities Sunday, police detained known activists, disconnected some cell-phone text messaging services and blocked online searches for the phrase "Jasmine Revolution." TCO the name of both the protest call and the wave of Middle East democracy protests that started in Tunisia.

As a result, only a handful of people protested in Beijing and Shanghai, though hundreds of onlookers made it difficult to discern sympathizers from rubbernecks. On Monday, many activists remained in detention or unreachable, state media mainly ignored the protests, and Internet connections to news sites and search engines were sporadic, usually a sign of heavy government monitoring.

Tens of thousands of large-scale though local protests take place

every year over corruption, seizures of land for development and other acts of government misfeasance. Food safety scandals over milk laced with industrial chemicals and rice contaminated with heavy metals have shaken the confidence of middle class consumers.

Still few China watchers believe a revolution is at hand, following the mass demonstrations that swept the autocratic rulers of Tunisia and Egypt aside and are now violently engulfing Libya and roiling Algeria, Bahrain and Yemen. Conditions in China aren't quite as desperate.

China is the world's fastest-growing major economy, with economists predicting another year of better than 9 percent growth for 2011. While unemployment is surely higher than the nearly 5 percent urban joblessness rate, factory wages and conditions are improving for many. University graduates TCO a crucial group in Egypt's uprising TCO are finding jobs in China, though they are poorly paid.

The military, at least at the leadership level, is not showing fissures in support for Communist Party rule, and the police state has suppressed any opposition leaders or organizations from emerging.

"If you look at Chinese people, their lives are improving. There's no way they are going to put their lives on the line," said Jing Huang of the National University of Singapore.

Yet as adept as the Chinese leadership has become in learning from the mistakes of other authoritarian regimes and keeping the economy humming, it has steadfastly refused to open up the political system. That insistence on "maintaining stability," in the government's phrase, is now seen by many in China as exacerbating social problems: rampant government corruption, glaring gaps between the haves and have-nots and withering public trust.

"History will prove that stability cannot be placed above all else and that quite possibly will destroy all else. This ossified mentality that stability overrides all else will nip in the bud all our efforts to bring health to Chinese society," said often out-

spoken Tsinghua University sociologist Sun Liping in a commentary last week on the Renmin Wang website.

Rather than social upheaval, Sun's diagnosis is that Chinese society is speeding toward extinction, crushed by government power that ruthlessly protects vested interests.

One of those who wanted to take part in Sunday's protests, lawyer Liu Shihui, posted a message on Twitter — "I have a date with the Jasmine Revolution group" — but never made it. At the doorway to his home in the southern city of Guangzhou, five men stopped him, hooded him and beat him with sticks of bamboo.

"It was cruel," he said by telephone from a hospital Monday as he received treatment for cuts and possible fractures on his legs. "They didn't say a word. They just started beating."

It isn't just activists who suffer. An analysis of the stampede in the coastal town of Xiangshui found that locals had good reason to be worried about the chemical plant's safety. After a 2007 explosion killed eight people, the local government prevented reporters from investigating the accident, said the analysis posted on a web site run by the national prosecutor's ministry.

The government has become so adept at silencing critics and suppressing protests, starting with the Tiananmen Square democracy movement in 1989, that scholars worry that it is becoming a well-worn tool. When that happens, Pei's Pei said, regimes that look very stable sometimes collapse, like the communist bloc in Europe in 1989, Indonesia a decade later and seemingly Egypt this year.

The original, anonymous call for a Chinese "Jasmine Revolution" echoed some of the tactics of these earlier movements. The appeal said people should gather not just this past Sunday afternoon, but on every Sunday afternoon.

AP Beijing Bureau Chief Charles Hutzler has covered China for more than a decade. Associated Press reporter Cara Anna contributed to this report.

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MEMBER 2010

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Letter to the Editor

Reader responds to PRMC board

To the Editor:
With all due respect to Mr. Ware and fellow members of Pampa Regional Medical Center's Board of Trustees, I and others in the community are fully aware of the board's capacity in regard to any corporate decisions regarding Signature Hospital Corporation. Pardon my bluntness, but the board has no capacity at all involving Signature's corporate decisions. Signature's investors hold all distinction/capacity in re corporate decisions. Reiterating: When the bottom line is mandated by the investor, particularly when the investor is not seeing proper returns on his/her investment — for any type of business — stopping the bleeding is of first priority. Pampa's healthcare crisis has

nothing to do with the quality of care presented by Pampa Regional Medical Center.

I can attest that part of the equation has been tremendous. However, I have to add this little caveat of Signature corporate decision-making that does affect patient care.

When I became aware that the nursing staff was working two twelve hour shifts — rather than the requisite three — an imminent step in the quality of patient care was enacted. That is factual, bringing to light employee stress issues as well as increases sick days away from work.

PRMC's nursing staff has performed its duties fantastically with this problem. My point being, twelve-hour shifts is a sure fire notice that something is up — financially — with any healthcare institution.

Mr. Ware mentioned general sales within the community were in

decline as part/parcel of the hospital's situation.

I dispute that when I read in the paper that sales tax revenue for Pampa has shown increases the past two years. Mr. Ware failed to mention this long standing fact as well. Pampa's physician community has long supported Amarillo's hospitals above PRMC for their patient's needing hospital care.

Reiterating again, the citizens of Pampa would be better served by a community hospital void of corporate bottom line decisions, a community hospital whose sales revenue is placed directly back into its own coffers, a community hospital whose guidance is mandated by elected local officials, and by a hospital board of trustees to whom the elected officials must answer.

Dennis Palmitier
Pampa



THE PAMPA NEWS

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LEGAL NOTICE: This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on March 27, 2011. You have until September 23, 2011, to redeem any tickets for this game. #1247 Flying Aces (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.49. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on March 31, 2011. You have until September 27, 2011, to redeem any tickets for this game. #1254 Houston Texans (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.82. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 1, 2011. You have until September 28, 2011, to redeem any tickets for these games. #1285 Platinum Present (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 2.99. #1287

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tives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. G-66 Feb 21, 2011.

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Saturday's Cryptoquote: A SURE WAY TO LOSE HAPPINESS. I FOUND. IS TO WANT IT AT THE EXPENSE OF EVERYTHING ELSE. — BETTE DAVIS

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.

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Sports

Wichert, Wyant toss no-nos, JV softball takes first



staff photo by Andrew Glover

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters junior varsity team pitched strong and took first in the Amy Youree Memorial Tournament Saturday at the softball complex.

Pampa beat Palo Duro 15-0, Caprock 14-0 and Bushland 11-1. Pampa batted an average of 20 minutes per inning. Each game was an hour long. Freshman Bailey Wichert and junior Kaylene Wyant tossed no-hitters in the first two games. Coach Jim Gill said he was impressed with his pitchers.

"I had two great performances from my pitchers," Gill said. "We outscored them 40-1 today."

Gill said it was a good to start to the season and added his team will have their hands full in the next tournament.

"It knocked the edges off," Gill said. "Our next tournament is in Fritch. We play Borger and Perryton's varsity. It will give us a good chance to look at our district opponents."

Going against varsity teams isn't a new thing for Pampa as they beat Childress, River Road and West Texas last season.

The junior varsity (6-0) host Hereford 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Bailey Wichert throws a pitch against Bushland Saturday in the Amy Youree Memorial Tournament. Pampa JV won 11-1 and won first in the tournament. Wichert pitched one of two no hitters for Pampa.

Harvesters win playoff tune-up

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters wanted to get back on the winning track before they started play in the area round of the 3A state playoffs Saturday at Randall. They did exactly that in a 70-61 win over the Hale Center Owls.

Head coach Dustin

Miller said they played well on defense.

"It got ugly late," Miller said. "They were scrambling and they are really athletic but we played solid defense when it mattered."

Miller said everyone got solid playing time including some junior varsity players. Jonathan Cox, who scored a basket, and Langton Harris

played in Saturday's game.

The Harvesters (17-12, 6-3) play either Midland Greenwood or El Paso Presidio in the area round Friday. Miller said it was nice to get back on a winning note.

"We wanted to get back in the winning habit," Miller said. "You don't get second chances from here on out."

Young Bayne wins Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Leading on the final lap of the Daytona 500, a pack of veterans baring down on his bumper, Trevor Bayne didn't panic.

He figured it would be a cool story to tell someday, how he led a lap in NASCAR's biggest show.

Somebody, maybe Tony Stewart, would pass him any moment and Bayne would dutifully push him to the win.

But the pack never came. Nobody ever passed him, and with one smooth block of Carl Edwards, Bayne pulled off a stunning upset.

Unlikely? Absolutely.

Unworthy? He sure thought so.

Unbelievable? That's Daytona for you.

"This is so crazy I don't even know what to say," Bayne said after Sunday's win. "I almost feel undeserving because ... all these guys out here that are racing against us that have been trying to do this for so long."

It took Dale Earnhardt 20 years to win the Great American Race, and on the 10th anniversary of his death in an accident on the last lap of the 2001 Daytona 500, Bayne became the youngest winner in race history.

Bayne won a day after his 20th birthday, in his first Daytona 500, in his second

Sprint Cup Series start. And he did it with the Wood Brothers, NASCAR's oldest team, a pioneering organization that had fallen on hard times over the last two decades.

Although Bayne gave the Woods' its fifth Daytona 500 victory, and first since David Pearson in 1976, it was the team's first Cup win since 2001.

That's what happens, though, in NASCAR's version of the Super Bowl, a race known to break the hearts of the most hardened veterans. This year was no different, with a record 74 lead changes among 22 drivers, and a record 16 cautions that wiped out many of the main contenders.

That included Dale Earnhardt Jr., who found himself in the middle of the pack and out of contention because of a late flat tire when he was wrecked on the first attempt at NASCAR's version of overtime. His entire Hendrick Motorsports team had a rough day: five-time defending series champion Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon and Mark Martin were all caught in an early 14-car accident.

And Richard Childress Racing, the class of the field all of Speedweeks, lost Kevin Harvick and Jeff Burton to engine failures, and Clint Bowyer, who led 31 laps, was wrecked late.



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