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Page 10



Thursday, April 7, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 2

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District Attorney's Office to hold Victim Walk

office,

Segura said,

wanted to do

something

awareness

during Crime

Victim Rights

Week, which

from

increase

ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

The Gray County District Attorney's Office will be holding its first ever Crime Victim Walk from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. next Thursday, April 14.

The concept is the brainchild of Crime Victim Coordinator Molli Segura, who said that she got the idea while attending a conference in El Paso this past November.



April 11-15. "I was just listening to stories

The D.A.'s of what people in other places were doing for victims," Segura said. "Obviously, in Houston and San Antonio and places like that, they're doing things on a bigger scale, but I just wanted to have something here in Pampa that would fit the size of our town, and I thought that this might be something good to let people know that we're here for them.'

Segura said that it was important to establish that the role of the D.A.'s office is as much about helping crime victims as bringing offenders to justice.

"We decided to do it because the District Attorney's office is known for prosecution, but we're also all about our victims," she said. "They can come to us for information or for help during a difficult time, and we want them to know that."

The walk will start downtown WALK cont. on page 2

FORWARD PROGRESS



staff photo by David Bowser

Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes points out the activity at the Pampa Aquatic Park to architect Mark Hatchel who designed the park as Pampa Public Works Director Donny Hooper looks on. While much of the construction has been under ground, the above ground slides are beginning to take shape under spring-like conditions in the Texas Panhandle. The water park is scheduled to be completed in time to cool off Pampa residents this summer.

Pot charges land couple behind bars

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

An Indiana couple were in

Gray County jail today in lieu of \$20,000 bond each after being arrested on drug charges Robert Eugene Humphrey Jr.

42, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Amber Nichole Presley, 26, of Elwood, Ind., were arrested by Gray County deputies on drug charges late Wednesday after being stopped for a traffic violation on Interstate 40 in Southern Gray County.

Gray County Sheriff's Lt. Joe B. Hoard said today that Humphrey was driving a black 2001 GMC pickup eastbound on Interstate 40 when they were stopped shortly before 8 p.m., Wednesday by deputies because of an expired vehicle registration.

Deputies questioned Humphrey and his passenger, Presley, individually and when their answers didn't match, deputies asked and received permission to search the pickup.

Hoard said a Wheeler County K-9 unit was called to the scene and the dog indicated something suspicious in the tool box in the bed of the pickup.

Deputies said they found a large BUST cont. on page 2

Blue Glove Dance benefit next week

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

Starla Kindle will be leading a benefit on Saturday, April 16, at Harvester Field to raise money for the

Kindle said that her grandson, Brecken, was stillborn on Dec. 29, 2009, and that she doesn't want anybody to go through a similar experience.

"It was horrific," Kindle said. This year she is leading a Blue Glove Dance at

Harvester Field. She said they will be dancing to a video of Justin Bieber's "Baby, Baby, Baby, Oh Baby."

Kindle said participants will meet at Harvester Stadium at noon, rehearse the dance steps and then perform the dance at 1:30 p.m. The dance will be video taped by Pampa High Basketball Coach Dustin Miller and put on You Tube. PHS choir teacher Brianna Bailey will choreograph the dance, Kindle said.

Kindle said they will be selling Team Brecken

DANCE cont. on page 2

March of Dimes

LYNNZY STANDERFER BENEFIT RUN

CHARITY WAGER



staff photo by David Bowser

Ready for this Saturday's Lefors 5K Walk/Run Challenge, LeRoy Cox of the Pampa Fire Department (form left), Brady Christian of the Gray County Sheriff's Department, Brent Aaron of Pampa EMS and Stormy McCullar of the Pampa Police Department will be running to help raise money for ailing Lynnzy Standerfer. The group that raises the most money gets bragging rights. Donations can be made through the Pampa Fire Department, Gray County Sheriff's Department, Pampa EMS or Pampa Police Department.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries 2 Antique or Junque?.. 7 Local Record 2 Weather 2 Comics 8 Afternoon Rush 3 Classifieds 9 Viewpoints 4 Sports 10



PAMPA FORECAST

Friday

Saturday



High 84 Low 53 High 80 Low 45 High 65 Low 40

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 49 Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 84. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 80. Windy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. Windy, with a southwest wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. Very windy, with a west wind between 25 and 35 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Windy, with a north northwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

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GOP seeks extension as shutdown looms

WASHINGTON (AP) - Short of a deal, congressional leaders bargained and squabbled by turns Thursday on legislation to cut spending and prevent a partial government shutdown that loomed for Friday at midnight.

After all-night talks among aides, President Barack Obama summoned Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. to the White House meeting for the second time in a little over 12 hours.

Before departing the Capitol, Boehner urged the House to pass legislation to cut \$12 billion, fund the Pentagon through the end of the year and keep the gov-ernment running for a week. "There is absolutely no policy reason for the Senate to not follow the House in taking these responsible steps to support our troops and to keep our government open," he said.

At the same time, he accused the White House of backsliding, adding that there hadn't been as much progress as it appeared after a late-night White House meeting. "It's really just more of the same. We're going to have real spending cuts. I don't know what some people don't understand about this," he said.

Reid said otherwise, although he, too, made it clear he wants to avoid a shutdown that the White House says would cause problems for combat troops overseas and delay IRS refunds for taxpayers at home.

"The issue is ideology, not numbers," he said, criticizing Republican proposals to limit the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency and a prohibition of the use of federal or local funds to pay for most abortions in the District of Columbia.

"These matters have no place on a budget bill," he

Obama has expressed opposition to the week-long interim measure, and Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., said the president would veto it. It's unlikely to get that far -Reid has labeled it a non-starter, as well.

Despite Reid's assertion that the two sides had largely agreed on spending cuts, Boehner said partial agreements were not possible.

It was unclear how much the talks had narrowed the differences on spending. Boehner recently floated \$40 billion, more than the \$33 that the negotiators had adopted as a framework, but less than the \$61 that was contained in a bill the House cleared than six weeks ago.

Other policy "riders" pressed by Republicans include: blocking money to implement Obama's health care bill; effectively stripping the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing rules on global warming, cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and lakes in Florida; and limiting enforcement of last year's financial reform bill.

Obama emerged from the negotiations late Wednesday night to declare that differences between Republicans and Democrats had narrowed somewhat. But at this point, only urgent action can avert a shutdown of much of the government at midnight Friday, he said.

"It's going to require a sufficient sense of urgency," Obama said, "to complete a deal and get it passed and avert a shutdown."

Even a brief shutdown could affect a wide range of Americans, from troops fighting abroad who are awaiting their pay to tourists planning trips to national parks.

The move by Boehner to advance a one-week interim budget measure angered his Democratic negotiating counterparts and came after negotiations at the White House moved slower than had been hoped.

Dance

T-shirts for \$15.

On Saturday, April 30, representatives from Pampa will travel to Amarillo with the money they've raised to participate in the March for Babies.

cont. from page 1

cont. from page 1 -...

cont. from page 1

Last year, Kindle said, they raised \$4,000 for the March of Dimes. For more information call Starla Kindle at 662-0913.

Bust

amount of what they believed taled 218 pounds. to be marijuana in the tool box, Hoard said.

Records indicate that the suspected amount of marijuana to-

Presley and Humphrey were booked into the Gray County jail in Pampa about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday where Gray County

Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman set bond today at \$20,000 for each ...

Hoard said officers were continuing their investigation today.

Walk

806-665-3500

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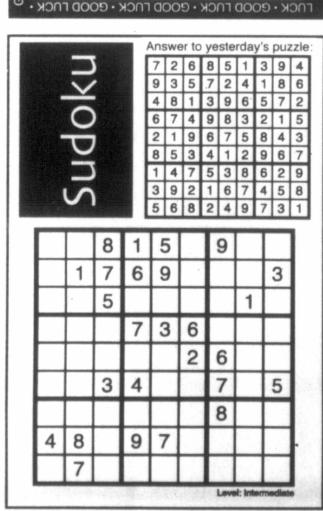
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16 WEEK teaching of Celebrating Biblical Feast, ea. Sat. starts Apr. 2, 3pm., 210 N. Ward.

ALTRUSA STYLE Show, Apr. 9, 2:30pm, Trinity Fellowship Church. Tickets \$12.

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at the corner of Foster and Cuyler and proceed north on Cuyler to the Knights of Columbus building.

Several groups involved with law enforcement and

victim advocacy will have booths at the event, including the Police Department, Sheriff's Office and Tralee Crisis Center.

Ibituaries

Erma Lee Kennedy Barber, 83

WEATHERFORD-Erma Lee Kennedy Barber, 83, died March 28, 2011, in Weatherford.

Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with John Curry, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Barber was born

May 9, 1927, in Pampa where she was a lifelong resident before moving to Weatherford three years ago. She was a 1946 graduate of Pampa High School and attended Texas Woman's University in Denton. Erma Lee married Gene

Rearrange the letters of each word below and

place them in the blanks so that, together with

LEVEL the two letters that have already been placed,

Yesterday's Answer: DEPICT, COBALT, CAVIAR,

BLIOYED LINEAUR GAZERO

they form a new word.

ARGE



Barber

the corporate secretary for her husband's company, Merriman & Barber, Inc. She was a member of First United Methodist Church. She was a supporter of the arts and was a member of Pampa Fine Arts Association and Community Concert Association. Survivors include her husband, Gene Barber; daugh-

Barber on June 24, 1949, in Pampa. In 1985 she became

ter, Connie Jean Carlisle of Weatherford; son, Ronald Lee Barber of Fort Worth; two grandchildren, Jeanette Hawkins and husband Gary of Nevada, Mo., and Scott Carlson of Taos, N.M.; two great-grandchildren, Alyx Hawkins and Spencer Hawkins, both of Nevada, Mo.-Erma Lee was preceded in death by a sister, Maleta Parker; and by five brothers, Russell Kennedy, Clarence Kennedy, Everett Kennedy, Harley Kennedy, and Cecil-

Memorials may be made to Pampa Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 939, Pampa, TX 79066-0939

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

For the record

Police Department

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

Police reported 16 trafficrelated stops and three accidents. They also reported nine attempts to serve legal

Animal Control Officers Huff Road. reported 11 animal-related calls.

seven ambulance calls. block of North Ward. The Lefors Volunteer Fire

medical emergency. Wednesday, April 6

violation of city ordinances North Lowry. in the 1000 block of South

RANGE

CIDER

Six units of the Pampa Police Department pro-Pampa EMS reported vided an escort in the 600

A theft was reported in Department reported one the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was Officers reported one reported in the 500 block of

A suicide attempt was reported in the 600 block of

North Magnolia. Disorderly conduct was reported at Harvester and

Duncan. Pampa firefighters reported a grass fire in the 1800

block of West McCullough. Firefighters launched a fire investigation in the 500 block of North Somerville. A theft was reported in

the 500 block of Magnolia. Officers were put on special assignment in the 900 block of North Frost.

Harassment was reported to police. A burglary was reported

in the 1100 block of Prairie. Officers performed a welfare check in the 400 block of North Lowry.

A theft was reported in the 300 block of South Anne.

A threat was reported to police.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North Dwight.

Sheriff's Office

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

Wednesday, April 6 Jodie Mathews, 28, of. Aurora, Colo., was arrested.

by deputies on a bond surrender on a possession of marijuana charge. Amber Nichole Presley, 26, of Elwood, Ind., was

arrested by deputies oncharges of possession of marijuana, over 50 pounds but under 2000 pounds.

Robert Eugene Humphrey Jr., 42, was arrested. by deputies on charges of possession of marijuana, over 50 pounds but under , 2000 pounds.

Thursday, April 6 Joshua Earl Cochran, 22,7 of White Deer, was arrested by Texas Department of. Public Safety troopers on charges of driving while in-

toxicated.

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HOUSTON (AP) - A man caught in a stolen vehicle in the Houston area is accused of then swiping the patrol car where he was being held.

Harris County law officers on Wednesday night chased one of their own cruisers after the handcuffed man drove off in it.

The suspect, who initially was stopped in a truck reported stolen, was put in the back seat of a constable's patrol car when he climbed into the front seat and took off, smashing over yards and through fences. The law enforcement vehicle ended up dumped in a gully.

The chase ended in Atascocita as authorities caught the suspect, who has previous auto theft convictions. Nobody was hurt.

Lizard considered for listing

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP) - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reopened the public comment period on a proposal for listing a small lizard found in southeastern New Mexico and West Texas as an endangered species. The agency is planning two public meetings on the

dunes sagebrush lizard. The first meeting will be April 27 in Midland, Texas.

The second will be in Roswell the following day. The decision to extend the comment period resulted

from numerous requests. Biologists say the dunes sagebrush lizard faces threats from oil and natural gas development and herbicides.

The lizard lives in a small area of shinnery oak dunes in northeastern Chaves County, Roosevelt County, eastern Eddy and southern Lea counties in New Mexico and in a narrow band in Gaines, Ward, Winkler and Andrews counties in Texas

Bill would ease grad requirements

AUSTIN (AP) — The House has approved a plan that would ease graduation requirements for high school students.

The plan, approved Wednesday, changes a requirement that a series of end-of-course tests count 15 percent of a student's grade and toward graduation containment lines," state requirements.

But, the House agreed to allow school districts to determine how much test scores would count toward the student's final grade. Students would be required to pass four of the 12 end-of-course exams - including in algebra II and English III - to graduate.

The new testing system, called the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, goes into effect

Critics, including the Senate education leader, argue that the House plan would allow students to fail eight strengthen the lines in end-of-course exams and still graduate from high

Forecasters: Above average season

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Weather forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting an aboveaverage hurricane season for the Atlantic Ocean.

The forecast issued Wednesday is a slightly scaledback version of the one released in early December.

Researchers now predict 16 named storms in the Atlantic, instead of 17. Nine of those storms are expected to turn into hurricanes, five of them major.

Forecasters say the combination of warm surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic combined with neutral surface temperatures in the Pacific will make for an active season.

No major hurricanes have made landfall in the United States in nine of the last 11 years. Forecaster William Gray says residents can't expect that trend to continue.

Email marketer apologizes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The company at the center of a data heist involving Best Buy, Citigroup, and other major brands said Wednesday that the theft of potentially millions of names and email addresses

won't significantly slow its email marketing juggernaut. Epsilon, a subsidiary of Alliance Data Systems Corp., was the victim of a hacking attack that triggered scores ture and higher humidity, of public warnings this week from major retailers, banks and others.

Epsilon sends more than 40 billion emails a year on behalf of more than 2,500 companies, for things like loyalty rewards programs.

In a statement Wednesday, it reiterated that Social Security and credit card numbers weren't compromised. Epsilon president Bryan Kennedy apologized for the inconvenience and the "phishing" emails that victims are receiving.

The company said that only 2 percent of its client base leave. In the Sevilleta area, was affected and that its email volumes aren't expected to be significantly impacted. Epsilon said the incident should have "minimal if any impact" on Alliance Data's financial performance.

Epsilon is a big moneymaker for Alliance Data, which is based in Plano, Texas. Epsilon turned \$65 million in operating profit last year, and its \$613 million in revenue was 22 percent of Alliance Data's total.

Protesters want Confederate flag

PALESTINE (AP) — About 50 people have been protesting the recent removal of the Confederate flag from an East Texas town's courthouse.

Tyler's KLTV reports that fourth-grader William Peeler said Wednesday he doesn't pledge allegiance to the American flag because "under that flag, the Yankees killed southerners.

Last week Anderson County commissioners narrowly voted to fly the original Confederate flag to commemorate Confederate History Month in April. It's not the more recognized "rebel flag," but opponents say it represents the South's support for slavery, a key issue during the Civil

On Monday night, members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans decided to take down the flag themselves - just as Palestine city leaders were calling for its removal.

AFTERNOONRUSH House backs plan to allow 85 mph speed limit

Texas House approved a bill that would allow the speed limit on some highways to be raised to 85 mph, which would be the highest in the nation.

The measure passed Wednesday on a voice vote was part of a largtransportation bill. would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to raise the speed limit on designated lanes or entire stretches of roadway after doing engineering and traffic studies, the Dallas Morning News reported Thursday.

The Senate is consider-

ing a similar bill. 'They have high-speed roadways in Europe, and there could be some merit in having some of those highways in Texas," said Rep. Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham, who introduced the bill. "Given the right engineering, we should

Texas currently has

ALBUQUERQUE,

N.M. (AP) - Despite

strong winds, firefighters

are making progress in

battling a wildfire that has

charred thousands of acres

it's still moving along,

but it's not getting outside

Forestry spokesman Dan

The 10,341-acre fire

that broke out Sunday was

50 percent contained by

Wednesday night even

though winds had been

gusting to 40 mph during

advance of high winds

kicking up in the Ruidoso

Downs area, where the fire has charred more than 16

Ware likened the work

of fire crews in the rugged,

steep area to landscape

"They're in the back

country, cutting a path ΓÇö

the containment lines ΓÇö

trimming up trees, cutting

down sick or dying trees

because they're more sus-

A fire burning in cen-

tral New Mexico since

Saturday was 70 percent

contained. There's very

little fire activity on that

2,700-acre blaze near the

Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge,

mopping up. It looks to

be in really good shape,"

"They're patrolling and

A weather system mov-

was bringing some mois-

which Ware said was help-

ing reduce the spread of

Both fires forced evacu-

ations over the weekend.

Several neighborhoods

around Ruidoso Downs

and casino-goers at the

Ruidoso Downs Racetrack

and Casino were told to

heavy smoke forced about

50 people from the New

Mexico Boys Ranch near

Belen, about 60 miles

All the evacuations have

No structures burned in

the Sevilleta area, but the

Ruidoso Downs-area blaze

destroyed five houses and

seven outbuildings, dam-

aged two other homes

and two outbuildings and

burned numerous vehicles.

The fire began in steep,

rugged Gavilan Canyon and grew rapidly, pushed

by winds estimated at 50

Ware said the Ruidoso-

area fire has passed by

neighborhoods that had

been evacuated, and that

even if the wind direction

changed, the fire would not

be able to advance because

it would be pushed into

areas that already have

south of Albuquerque.

been lifted.

the fires despite the wind.

into New Mexico

Ware said.

he said.

ing

ceptible to fire," he said.

worked to

Ware said.

the day.

Crews

square miles.

work.

"It's still an active fire,

and forced evacuations.

NM firefighters show progress

AUSTIN (AP) - The interstate highways where the speed limit is 80 mph.

One such stretch of Interstate 10 "is as nice a road as you can build; it's flat with a long line of sight, wide lanes and good shoulders," said Rep. Joe Pickett of El Paso. "For people like us who travel that long distance, it could be good" to raise the limit to 85 mph, he said.

Some auto insurers oppose the measure, citing safety concerns.

"Obviously, the two things that kill most people on our highways are speed and alcohol. Increasing it to 85, or even 75, will have a dramatic impact on the death and injury rate on those highways where it's implemented," said Jerry Johns, a spokesman for the Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

He said drivers already exceed 70 mph highway speed limits.

"But 85 mph is simply too fast to drive even on a more than 520 miles of flat road. Any little hitch

State Forestry Division

unknown, Ware said.

less than 10 acres.

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burned out.

traffic on those roads, and to drive 85 mph is simply ludicrous," he said. The

Transportation Department hasn't done the speed and safety analyses of roadways the legis-

lation would require, said can cause an accident at department spokeswoman that speed. There is still Kelli Petras.

"It would be awesome to travel it, but you'd have to look at the safety and other factors," she said.



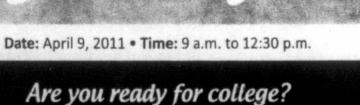
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- Complete Federal Financial Aid
- Complete your college
- application for admission
- · Receive information about college readiness
- - Students need to bring:

- number
- Guardians' PIN Number for
- Social Security Number

Locations:

Tascosa High School, Library

Clarendon College Pampa Center

Amarillo College, Hereford Campus

Frank Phillips College

Amarillo College

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 7, the 97th day of 2011. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 7, 1862, Union forces led by General Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

On this date:

In 1788, an expedition led by Gen. Rufus Putnam established a settlement at present-day Marietta,

In 1798, the Mississippi Territory was created by an act of Congress, with Natchez as the capital. In 1927, the image and voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

In 1939, Italy invaded Albania, which was annexed less than a week later.

In 1948, the World Health Organization was founded in Geneva.

In 1953, the U.N. General Assembly elected Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden to be secretary-general. In 1969, the Supreme Court, in Stanley v. Georgia, unanimously struck down laws prohibiting private possession of obscene material.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he was deferring development of the neutron bomb, a high-radiation weapon.

In 1983, space shuttle astronauts Story Musgrave and Don Peterson took the first U.S. space walk in almost a decade as they worked in the open cargo bay of Challenger for nearly four hours.

Ten years ago: NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft took off on a six-month, 286 million-mile journey to the Red Planet. In Cincinnati, Timothy Thomas, an unarmed black man wanted on 14 misdemeanor warrants, was fatally shot by a white police officer, sparking three days of riots. Actress Beatrice Straight died in Los Angeles at age 86.

Five years ago: A suicide attack in a Shiite mosque in Baghdad killed 85 people.

One year ago: North Korea said it had convicted and sentenced an American man to eight years in a labor prison for entering the country illegally and unspecified hostile acts. (Aijalon Mahli Gomes was freed in August 2010 after former U.S. President Jimmy Carter secured his release.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor R.G. Armstrong is 94. Sitar player Ravi Shankar is 91. Actor James Garner is 83. Country singer Cal Smith is 79. Actor Wayne Rogers is 78. Media commentator Hodding Carter III is 76. Country singer Bobby Bare is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 74. California Gov. Jerry Brown is 73: Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 72. TV personality David Frost is 72. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 64. Singer John Oates is 62. Singer Janis Ian is 60. Country musician John Dittrich is 60. Actor Jackie Chan is 57. Actor-Russell Crowe is 47. Christian/jazz singer Mark Kibble (Take 6) is 47. Actor Bill Bellamy is 46. Rock musician Dave "Yorkie" Palmer (Space) is 46. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 36. Actress Heather Burns is 36. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 35. Actor Conner Rayburn is

Thought for Today: "Verba movent, exempla trahunt." (Words move people, examples lead them.) - Latin proverb



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'Fast and furious' White House gun control

Since the very first days of this president's administration, the drugfueled cartel violence in Mexico has provided a stalking horse for the gun control agenda.

Early on, both Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Attorney General Eric Holder cited Mexican violence as a reason to renew the Bill Clinton gun ban of 1994. After those trial balloons were shot down, the ball was passed to Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who repeatedly has blamed American gun rights for Mexican violence. And more recently, the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives cited cartel mayhem as justification for an attempt to mandate the reporting of all multiple long gun sales in border states. This regulation would force dealers to report all purchases of more than one long gun if the guns are magazine-fed and larger than 22 caliber -- effectively creating a

But now, shocking revelations that grow bigger every day completely undercut the argument for additional restrictions. In fact, they illuminate bureaucratic arrogance, recklessness and hypocrisy of the highest order in the hallways of the Obama administration -- including the spreading stench of a massive cover-up.

As it turns out, the ATF was already aware of efforts by shady characters to undertake mass gun purchases in border states, because law-abiding gun dealers reported the attempted purchases voluntarily. But ATF agents acting on "orders from Washington" encouraged gun dealers to complete these transactions against the dealers' better judgment. Worse vet, the guns -- thousands of them -- then were allowed to be smuggled, or "walked," into Mexico and into the hands of drug cartels.

And worst of all, these guns now are turning up at crime scenes -including where a U.S. federal agent

was murdered.

The operation is called "Fast and Furious," and it's absolutely appalling -- but it's all true, and there

is still much more to come. Attorney General Holder has attempted to deflect the call for an investigation by asking the inspector general of the Justice Department to look into the matter. Sounds good on paper, but this is the same

IG whose office

ignored the first expressions of concern from rank-and-file agents who now have turned into whistle-blow-The ATF has been stonewalling

NORRIS

inquiries from Sen. Chuck Grassley; R-lowa, and now Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., has joined the fray -- and he has subpoena power as chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

CBS reporter Sharyl Attkisson is on the story like a bloodhound, in a performance decidedly atypical of the mainstream media. You can catch up on the major developments on her page at http://bit.ly/dNDBJP

I'm not a law enforcement officer; I just played one on TV. But you don't have to be Walker, Texas Ranger, to understand that there are very good reasons that law enforcement agents, as a rule, do not allow guns to "walk" into the hands of criminals.

And to their credit, numerous rankand-file ATF agents understood this truism, as well, objecting to the "Fast and Furious" operation from the get-go. Their superiors told them they "have to break some eggs to make an omelet" and then apparently threatened the agents with career discipline if they continued their objections.

The agents also were warned that the operation had been approved at the highest levels of the Justice Department -- levels that are populated by presidential appointees, not career law enforcement officials. And now the Mexican government has elevated the scandal into an

international incident, launching its own investigation and warning that "sanctions will have to be carried out with the full force of law to (whoever) could have been responsible.

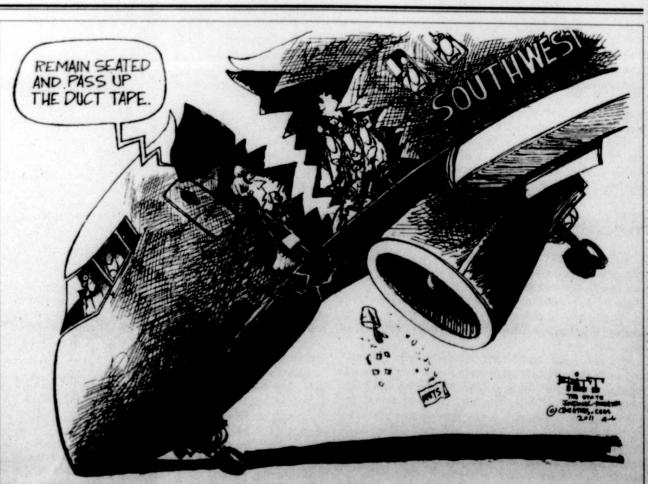
Barack Obama himself was questioned about the scandal by a reporter from Spanish-language station Univision. He quickly passed the buck, claiming ignorance of the operation and saying, "There may be a situation here (in) which a serious mistake was made, and if that's the case, then we'll find out and we'll hold somebody accountable."

But a presidential effort to pin the tail on the donkey ignores the tremendous scope of "Fast and Furious," which apparently involved personnel from not only the ATF and Justice but also the Homeland Security and State departments. Any attempt to lay this massive botch at the feet of an individual ignores systemic problems that "Fast and Furious" illustrates in the federal bureaucracy. (See my remarks above about arrogance, recklessness and hypocrisy.)

At least one federal bureaucrat was better-prepared than Obama to launch the tactics of diversion. When this explosive story first began to unfold, the ATF's chief spokesman, Scot Thomasson, issued a memorandum to ATF field offices nationwide. The memo said, "ATF needs to proactively push positive stories this week, in an effort to preempt some negative reporting, or at minimum, lessen the coverage of ('Fast and Furious') in the news cycle by replacing them with good stories about ATF.

It's going to take a lot more than that to cleanse this stain. In the meantime, proponents of gun control -- including the White House -- should focus on bringing U.S. government agencies into compliance with our existing laws before pushing new restrictions on the rest

Chuck Norris is a syndicated columnist and the former star of "Walker, Texas



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VISION FOR SERVICE



photo courtesy of Daniel Silva

Daniel Silva (right) and Vision Computer Services recently donated \$2500 to the Tralee Crisis Center. "Vision Computer Services is proud to support Tralee Crisis Center and the tremendous job they provide for our community," Silva said. By supporting our local organizations and businesses, we are investing in our community." With Silva are (from left) Branden Price, Kelly Barton, Sarah Gosselin and Dee Dee Laramore.

U.S. to issue terror alerts on networking sites

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government's new system to replace the five color-coded terror alerts will have two levels of warnings — elevated and imminent — that will be relayed to the public only under certain circumstances for limited periods of time, sometimes using Facebook and Twitter, according to a draft Homeland Security Department plan obtained by The Associated Press.

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Some terror warnings could be withheld from the public entirely if announcing a threat would risk exposing an intelligence operation or an ongoing investigation, according to the government's confidential plan.

Like a gallon of milk, the new terror warnings will each come with a stamped expiration date.

The 19-page document, marked "for official use only" and dated April 1, describes the step-by-step process that would occur behind the scenes when the government believes terrorists might be threatening Americans. It describes the sequence of notifying members of Congress, then counterterrorism officials in states and cities and then governors and mayors and, ultimately, the public. It specifies even details about how many minutes U.S. officials can wait before organizing urgent conference calls among themselves to discuss pending threats. It places the Homeland Security secretary, currently Janet Napolitano, in charge of the so-called National Terrorism Advisory System.

The new terror alerts would also be published online using Facebook and Twitter "when appropriate," the plan said, but only after federal, state and local government leaders have already been notified. The new system is expected to be in place by April 27.

The government has always struggled with how much information it can share with the public about specific threats, sometimes over fears it would reveal classified intelligence or law enforcement efforts to disrupt an unfolding plot. But the color warnings that became one of the government's most visible antiterrorism programs since the September 2001 attacks were criticized as too vague to be useful and became fodder for late-night talk shows.

The new advisory system is designed to be easier to understand and more specific, but it's impossible to know how often the public will receive these warnings. The message will always depend on the threat and the intelligence behind it.

For example, if there is a specific threat that terrorists were looking to hide explosives in backpacks around U.S. airports, the government might issue a public warning that would be announced in airports telling

travelers to remain vigilant and report any unattended backpacks or other suspicious activity to authorities.

If the intelligence community believes a terror threat is so serious that an alert should be issued, the warning would offer specific information for specific audiences. The Homeland Security secretary would make the final decision on whether to issue an alert and to whom — sometimes just to law enforcement and other times to the public.

Japan rattled by strong aftershock

TOKYO (AP) — Japan was rattled by a magnitude-7.4 aftershock Thursday night nearly a month after a devastating earthquake and tsunami flattened the northeastern coast.

The strongest aftershock since the day of the magnitude-9.0 megaquake was a fresh blow to victims of that March 11 quake and subsequent tsunami that killed some 25,000 people, tore apart hundreds of thousands of homes and has sparked an ongoing crisis at a nuclear power plant.

Damage and injuries from the aftershock were not immediately clear. The Japan meteorological agency briefly issued another tsunami warning Thursday night, but later canceled it.

Officials at the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant said there was no immediate sign of new problems caused by the aftershock. Japan's nuclear safety agency says workers there have retreated to a quake-resistant shelter in the complex. No one there was injured.

Officials say Thursday's aftershock hit 30 miles (50 kilometers) under the water and off the coast of Miyagi prefecture. The quake that preceded last month's tsunami was a 9.0-magnitude. The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., later downgraded Thursday's quake to 7.1. Buildings as far away as Tokyo shook for about a min-

In Ichinoseki, inland from Japan's eastern coast, buildings shook violently, knocking items from shelves and toppling furniture, but there was no heavy damage to the buildings themselves. Immediately after the quake, all power was cut. The city went dark, but cars drove around normally and people assembled in the streets despite the late hour.

The quake struck at 11:32 p.m. local time.

Paul Caruso, a geophysicist at USGS, said it struck at about the same location and depth as last month's hug quake. It's the strongest of the more than 1,000 aftershocks that have been felt since, except for a 7.9 aftershock that day.

Another USGS geophysicist, Don Blakeman, said it was the strongest aftershock since March 11, although several aftershocks on that day were bigger.

The USGS said the aftershock struck off the eastern coast 40 miles (65 kilometers) from Sendai and 70 miles (115 kilometers) from Fukushima. It was about 205 miles (330 kilometers) from Tokyo.





Budget talks at Texas Capitol draw thousands of protesters

AUSTIN (AP) — Thousands of protesters converged on the Texas Capitol on Wednesday as senators work to craft a budget plan that will likely soften severe cuts to state services approved earlier this week in a House

The demonstrators held dueling protests, with some opposing the House cuts and others calling on the

Senate to make even deeper ones.

Much of the strife has been over funding for public schools. The House budget that did not raise taxes or use the Rainy Day Fund leaves schools nearly \$8 billion short of what state law requires and underfunds Medicaid by more than \$4 billion. Teachers across the state have already seen a wave of pink slips and nursing homes warn that they won't be able to sustain such massive cuts.

Senators have vowed to find billions of dollars to save schools, nursing homes and the state's poor and needy. If the two chambers pass different bills, the differences will be worked out by a conference com-

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, told the thousands of protesters that there was an "evolving catastrophe" in the Capitol threatening families, children and the future of the state.

'These cuts are a tragic failure to meet Texas' priorities," Watson said. "We all know that rhetoric is overshadowing responsibility in our state Capitol."

Meanwhile, fiscal conservatives like Talmadge Heflin, director of Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Fiscal Policy, praised the Republicandominated House for coming up with a budget that slashes spending in every corner of state services.

"This isn't a perfect bill, but it stays within the state's available revenue, and we need to applaud them for

that," Heflin said.

Lawmakers are working to fix a budget shortfall that could reach \$27 billion. The House's chief budget writer said Tuesday that representatives may be open to adding \$5 billion to the budget before the legislative session ends in May, but supporters of the plan that passed say schools needs to re-prioritize with the money they already get. They want the state government to tighten the belt on spending just like regular families across the state.

"They don't need more revenue; they need to get state revenue back in a constitutional-sized box," said JoAnn Fleming, chair of the Citizen Advisory

Committee to the Tea Party Caucus.

Those opposed to the House plan chanted "No cuts" and sang "We shall not be moved" as they converged upon the Capitol. They demanded lawmakers stop balancing the budget on the backs of the state's neediest

"If education and health care are the machine of progress, then the cuts proposed will pull the plug on that machine," said Becky Moeller, president of the Texas AFL-CIO. "I wouldn't burn down my house to get rid of the hole in my roof, but the House budget slashes and burns the jobs of millions of families in

Religious leaders from across the state also gathered to urge lawmakers to write a budget that prioritizes the

state's neediest residents.

"We want to see a balanced approach with a clear priority for vulnerable citizens and new sources of revenue," said Rev. Michael Mulvey, bishop of the diocese of Corpus Christi. "We are disappointed in the House budget and call on the Senate to use all of the Rainy Day Fund and create new sources of revenue."

But Fleming said that in two years the state will see Medicaid costs skyrocket, so lawmakers should leave the fund in tact in anticipation of the next biennium.

Osadeba Omoliaro, a student at PrairieView A&M and representative of the Texas League of Young Voters, said cuts to education would be devastating for students and that young voters will make their voices heard in the next election.

"You can't make these cuts and kill our dreams," Omoliaro told the cheering crowd. "You can't make these cuts and expect us to be quiet."

California lawmaker delegation to visit Texas, study job growth

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A Republican-led group of California lawmakers announced Wednesday they will head to Texas next week with Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom to hear from businesses that left the state about ways to encourage job creation.

GOP Assemblyman Dan Logue, who is leading the delegation, said the two-day trip is not intended to bash California but rather to examine how Texas has been able to lure companies in recent years.

Texas has added 165,000 jobs during the past three years while California has lost 1.2 million jobs, he said.

"We want to sit down with these businesses that could not stay in our state and find out why they left, what caused them to pick up their family, their roots, and move to another state in order to compete, in order to grow their businesses," Logue told reporters during a Capitol news conference.

The trip comes as California faces a remaining \$15.4 billion budget deficit after Gov. Jerry Brown signed \$11.2 billion in spending cuts and fund transfers. The governor also wants a special election to renew tax increase but has been unable to get the Republican votes he needs to put the question on the bal-

Lawmakers say taxpayers will not be paying for the trip to Texas, Some said they were paying for it with personal money, while others planned to use campaign funds, which include contributions from business interests.

Brown for reforms they say will help California's fiscal health and business community, including revamping environmental and other regulations. GOP lawmakers hope the trip to Texas, which is addressing a \$27 billion deficit over two years, produces commonsense ideas to get businesses growing in

Logue, who lives in Linda and represents the valley and foothill region north and east of Sacramento, is among 10 Republican lawmakers who will make the trip with Newsom, the former San Francisco mayor who was elected lieutenant governor last year, and Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani, D-Livingston, a Central Valley town south of Modesto.

They will spend Thursday and Friday in Austin, where they will be joined by representatives from the California Manufacturing and Technology Valley Association, the Silicon Leadership Group and the California Teachers Association. The group is also scheduled to meet with Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, and Donna Arduin, who served as the first finance director under former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Newsom, founder of the Plumpjack restaurant group, said he's going to conduct research on an economic development plan for the state. He said he believes there's "some myth and some reality" about Perry's campaign to lure California businesses.

"Rick Perry keeps coming in on Republican lawmakers have pressed what he calls these 'hunting trips' to

take businesses from our state to his. He's had some successes, but much of it, I candidly believe, is overstated," Newsom said.

The lieutenant governor noted that Texas struggles with its own budget

Last month, Texas's nonpartisan Legislative Budget Board released data showing the state would lose 335,000 jobs — both public and private ΓÇö if a bare-bones House budget proposal became law. That budget makes massive cuts to public education and health care programs for the poor.

Perry's spokeswoman Katherine Cesinger said Texas believes it is doing things right with a pro-jobs appeal.

Jack Stewart, president of the manufacturing association, said California is missing an opportunity to make new products before the items are made cheaply overseas. Republican lawmakers said they believe businesses are fleeing California as a direct result of regulatory overkill and high taxes, which has contributed to the state's high unemployment rate.

Jerry Nickelsburg, a senior economist at UCLA Anderson Forecast, found that California's housing bust was mainly responsible for the state's job losses. He also found that much of Texas' job gains were simply a direct result of more Americans migrating south, not necessarily more companies relocating

Nickelsburg added that California, with high-priced land and high-skilled labor, could do better at job creation, but it would create different jobs.

"It's not that Texas is stealing California jobs. It's just that we're creating different things," he said.

Brown echoed that view, saying it's difficult to compare states given that 50 percent of all the venture capital money in America comes to California, not

"Don't undersell the home of Google, the home of Clorox, the home of the aerospace industry, the home of the Internet, so much of the research and development," the governor said.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

are 12 and 13. The letter ents: from "Terrified for My Niece in the Southwest" (Feb. 16) horrified me. The aunt who wrote the letter said her sister "bragged" about how popular her is a FELONY in most, if 14-year-old daughter is be- not all, states, particularly cause she gives oral sex to if the boy is over the age the boys. Is this the kind of of 16. At 14, this girl is not girl my sons are exposed to at school?

and experiment at this age, voluntary on her part. but it's disturbing that the see that her actions are dangerous and can lead to charged with a crime. I've more serious sexual situations. If she were MY niece, I would speak up and let Mom know exactly how I felt in hopes that she would recognize how in- fare of all the children is at appropriate her daughter's actions are. Pregnancy can become a harsh reality to a parent who was blind to the seriousness of her child's on the back of my neck actions. - YVETTE IN stand up when I think about RANCHO SANTA MAR- a mother who would actu-GARITA, CALIF

DEAR Thank you for writing. Many readers were equally disturbed by that letter, and a few even questioned its authenticity. I spoke to the aunt who wrote the letter. She verified that she had written it and everything she said was true. Perhaps the following responses

tor for more than 38 years and can state with certainty that having sex with Naomi able to give consent. What is happening is considered I know kids are curious an act of rape, even if it is

> Someone needs some "innocent" boy gets handled too many cases where boys have been charged with rape when the girl gets angry at him for almost no reason. The welstake! - "SNOOPER" IN WISCONSIN

DEAR ABBY: This letter literally makes the hair ally BRAG about something like this to family and do nothing about it. That mother is in desperate need of counseling, and Naomi is in desperate need of guidance because, obviously, she's not getting any from her mom. I wonder if her dad has any idea what's BARBARA IN KALAMgoing on? - A MOM IN AZOO, MICH. GREAT FALLS, MONT.

DEAR ABBY: I'm the will serve as a wake-up rified's" niece is being mother of two boys who call for teens AND par- sexually abused. It would be particularly egregious DEAR ABBY: I have if her partners are 18 or been a criminal investiga- older. For her mother to crow about her daughter's exploits makes her an unfit parent. "Terrified" needs to take a firm stand with her sister, and if she is ignored, the authorities should be contacted. - MIKE IN **NEW YORK**

DEAR ABBY: This girl's mother is abdicating her responsibilities to as a parent and indirectly mother of this girl doesn't intervene NOW before condoning and encouraging her daughter's promiscuous behavior. The emotional damage could be irreparable. Naomi is being used and abused by any young man with whom she is involved. The aunt should talk to her sister and, if there is a father in the house, he needs to know about his daughter.

In my opinion, that mother wants her daughter to be popular for all the wrong reasons. Mom sounds like someone who sat on the sidelines in high school and never understood that what makes a person popular is the ability to carry on an intelligent conversation, get good grades, provide community service and so on. Pity!

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH **ACROSS** 44 Choose

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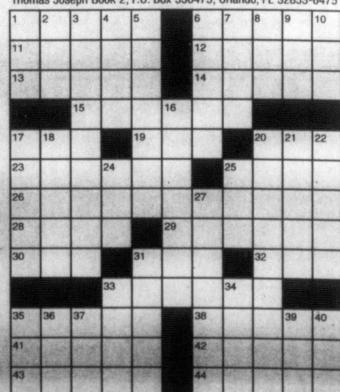
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NEW YORK (AP) - Blockbuster says a bankruptcy judge has approved Dish Network's \$228 million offer for the movie-rental chain, paving the way for a combination of the two media companies.

Dish, the No. 3 pay-TV provider, won an auction for Blockbuster Inc.'s assets earlier this week. Judge Burton R. Lifland of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of New York approved the bid on

Dish says it expects the deal to close in the second quarter.

Once the dominant movie-rental chain Blockbuster filed for bankruptcy protection in September after losing money for years as that business declined because customers shifted to Netflix Inc., video on demand and DVD rental kiosks.

Woman collector dressed as man

TYLER(AP) - An East Texas woman is accused of dressing as a man, arming herself with a knife and a stun gun and barging into the wrong house to try to collect a debt.

Tyler police say a child was slightly hurt in Thursday's

The homeowner told police that she and her three daughters, ages 8 and 6-year-old twins, were bound and gagged, but escaped through a window. One girl suffered a scratch to her back.

Police entered the home and arrested a woman with a cap and false moustache.

Officer Don Martin says Maricela Aguilera Rodriguez of Tyler tried to collect \$15,000 over a car, but targeted the wrong residence.

Rodriguez faced a charge of residential burglary with intent to commit a felony. She did not yet have an

4,000 Rangers tickets stolen

ARLINGTON (AP) - About 4,000 Texas Rangers tickets stolen from a vendor will have the bar codes changed to void them.

KTVT-TV reports Metro Tickets in Dallas had a break-in through the wall of an adjacent business. Police say the theft of about \$140,000 worth of tickets was discovered last week as the season was starting.

Metro Tickets owner David Christopherson says the tickets are for games in July, August and September. Christopherson warns that the tickets probably will be offered online or scalped and buyers should use legitimate brokers.

Rangers spokesman John Blake says team officials can check tikets to make sure they are legitimate.

The Rangers, unbeaten in their first six games, will visit the Orioles on Friday night.

Texas company added to lawsuit

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP) - A Texas security company has been added as a defendant in a lawsuit against businesses operated by Tony Alamo Christian Ministries of Fouke and people associated with the ministry.

The lawsuit by seven women says they were beaten, denied food and psychologically abused. Six say they were forced as children to marry Alamo and the seventh says she was being groomed as his wife before escap-

The Texarkana Gazette reports that Robert Gilmore and Associates Security of Wake Village is now accused of knowing about sexual abuse of underage girls and failing to report it.

Robert Gilmore denies the allegation and said if he had known of abuse it would have been reported.

Alamo is in prison after being convicted in 2009 of taking minors across state lines for sex.

Bill could alter juvenile program

AUSTIN (AP) - The state agency in charge of juvenile criminal offenders could be significantly restructured under legislation making its way through the Texas

A Senate committee earlier this week approved a bill that would combine the Texas Youth Commission and the Juvenile Probation Commission into one department.

The new Texas Juvenile Justice Department would prioritize probation and community treatment, becoming what supporters hope can be a model agency for the rest

The bill's author, Houston Sen. John Whitmire, said he hopes the agency will be a seamless system allowing youth to stay in their communities to work with profes-

Probation officers from around the state have spoken in support of the merger but want to ensure the change provides true reform beyond administrative restructur-

Grants for natural gas vehicles?

AUSTIN (AP) - The Texas Senate approved a program that would encourage companies to switch heavy

vehicles from diesel fuel to natural gas. The proposed legislation by state Sen. Tommy Williams would also create the Texas Clean Transportation Triangle. The state would provide grants to companies that built natural gas refueling centers along interstate highways connecting Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

Companies that own heavy trucks will also receive grants to either buy natural gas-powered replacements, or to refit existing trucks to accept natural gas fuel.

The program would be funded with \$41.7 million from the Texas Emissions Reduction Program.



AFTERNOONRUSH Murphy bed solves space dilemma

ANNE MCCOLLAM

Q: I sent a photo of a Murphy bed that I bought at an estate sale. I had it repaired, so it actually can be opened and used. The man who did the work told me that he has been restoring old furniture for a lifetime, but he had never seen anything like it.

Can you tell me anything about my Murphy bed?

A: Murphy beds have been around since the late 1800s. They are known as hide-beds, wall bed, pull-down beds and fold-up beds. Around 1916, along came William L. Murphy who designed and patented a bed that could fold up and disappear into a large cabinet. From that time on, fold-up beds were known as Murphy beds. They solved the problem for those who only had small spaces available; they are still being made today.

Your Murphy bed was made in the early 1900s and would probably be worth \$1,000 to \$1,500.

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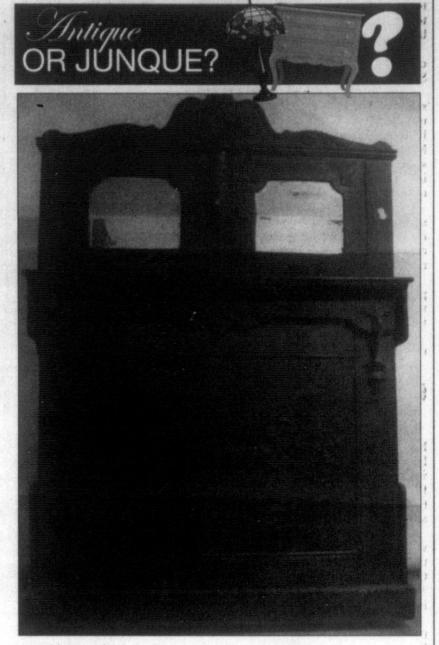
THE HALL CHINA CO. FOR HOTPOINT REFRIGERATORS

Hall China Co. made refrigerator ware in a variety of sizes, shapes and colors.

Q: Enclosed is the mark on the bottom of my grandmother's covered casserole dish. Still in extremely good condition, the dish is 8 inches in diameter and has a yellow glaze.

I am curious about its history and

A: Hall China Co. made your dish. They produced refrigerator ware for Sears, Hotpoint, General Electric and Westinghouse. The Hotpoint line included dishes designed for leftovers and water servers. Created in a variety of sizes, the dishes were available in square, round and rectangular shapes. The official name for the



Murphy beds were patented in the early 1900s.

color is "warm yellow."

Similar dishes can be found in antiques shops and malls in the range of \$45 to \$65.

Q: I have my mother's blue willow dishes that she brought from Ireland in 1914. The set has a total of 55 pieces, which include dinner plates, dessert plates, coffee cups, saucers, egg cups, a pitcher and two platters. Marked on the bottom of the dishes are the letters: "R.H. & S.L. Plant.'

Please give me a value of my dishes.

A: R.H. & S.L. Plant has made

porcelain in Longton, Staffordshire, England, since 1898. They have been part of Wedgwood China since 1970. Inspired by ancient Asian design, the blue willow pattern features a female and a male, a bridge, flying birds and a pagoda.

Your set was made around 1900 and would probably be worth \$500 to \$1,000.

If you have any antique inquiries, address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Items of a general interest will be answered in this column. Due to the volume of inquiries, she cannot answer individual

59 bodies found in pits in Mexican border state

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Fifty-nine bodies were found buried Wednesday in a series of pits in the northern Mexico state of Tamaulipas, near the site where suspected drug gang members massacred 72 migrants last summer, officials said.

Security forces stumbled on the site as they were investigating reports that passengers had been pulled off several buses by gunmen in the area in what may have been an attempt at forced recruitment by a drug gang.

State and federal authorities conducted a raid that netted several suspected kidnappers and freed five kidnap victims.

Then they made a grisly discovery a total of eight pits, containing a total of 59 corpses. One of the pits held 43 dead.

The Tamaulipas state government said the find was made Wednesday, and 11 suspects were detained, but the federal Interior department said the first pit was found Saturday and five suspects were detained by soldiers.

Tamaulipas state interior secretary

Morelos Canseco said two of the dead were women. Many of the victims found in the pits appeared to have died between 10 and 15 days ago, dates that would roughly match the bus abductions, he said.

Canseco said state officials began getting reports that gunmen had been stopping buses, starting around March 25. At least two more cases were reported in the following days. The buses were allowed to continue on with their remaining passengers in

The bodies were being examined to determine their identities and the causes of death, the Tamaulipas state government said in statement in which it "energetically condemned" the

The statement did not identify what drug gang, if any, that the arrested suspects belonged to, or why they might

have hijacked the bus. President Felipe Calderon's office issued a statement saying the find "underlines the cowardliness and total

nizations that cause violence in our country.'

While there was no immediate confirmation that a drug cartel was involved, officials refer to the cartels as "criminal organizations."

The statement said Calderon had ordered federal officials to help in the investigation, and particularly in the work of identifying the victims.

The pits were found in the farm hamlet of La Joya in the township of San Fernando, in the same area where the bodies of 72 migrants, most from Central America, were found shot to

death Aug. 24 at a ranch. The area is about 80 miles (130 kilometers) from the border at Brownsville, Texas.

Authorities blamed that massacre on the Zetas drug gang, which is fighting its one-time allies in the Gulf cartel for control of the region.

The victims in the August massacre were illegal immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador and Brazil.





THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy, listen to this. Daddy's using his head to tell a story stead of a book!"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 8.

This year, opportunities keep tumbling into sour path. On one side is a spoiled little kidwho feels the power and abundance of these opportunities. On the other side is an adult who makes strong, solid choices. Which is your path? Communication is highlighted as you open new doors and go through them. Know what you want. Know your expectations. Are they in sync? If you are single, you could have a lot of fun dating, though you might not always be in love with this or that person! If you are attached, the two of you canbe found cooing more often together! GEMI-NI understands you well.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have 5-Dynamic, 4-Positive.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** The path of abundance easily leads to excess. You will note that that also might be true of emotions. You cannot help but feel a little like a race car at the starting line as Friday ends. Let's hope for the same thing as Monday begins. Tonight: Making the most of every minute

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** You might be surprised by everything that goes on around you. Though you would like to join in, perhaps the sure bet is to observe. Be happy for those around you while remaining seductively more stable. Tonight: Join a pal. (TGIF!)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You hit your month's power days. Can anyone stop a ball rolling downhill? Yes, and you could hit a bump or two. The likelihood is that in your frame of mind, you will bounce away, never to think about that incident again. Why should you? Tonight: On a roll, so to speak

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might want to try another approach or do something vaguely different. Your path seems convoluted to some, but what counts is you know why you are heading this way. Stay true to yourself, but don't expect a roaring crowd behind you. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Emphasize the collective rather than the individual. You will find many answers and responses. You will clear a mini hurdle because of your demonstrative manner and dynamic thinking. Tonight: Just be

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** You make your way best by assuming responsibility for everything that involves you. You don't always land as you might like to, but you'll gain a sense of relief from the fact that you did your very best and gave it 100 percent. Tonight: Follow through on a call first

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You sway from one opinion to another. Though some people might see this seesaw activity as a problem, it only reflects your ability to grasp and incorporate both sides of an issue. Find the midpoint or discover why both sides might be right. Tonight: Split as fast as humanly possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** The best approach might be to let someone else lead and show his or her true colors. You don't always think you are right and, by all means, have no reason to believe otherwise. Of interest is another approach to the same issue. Tonight: Grow from differences rather than criticize them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Listen to the other side, and you might be delightfully surprised by what is going on behind the scenes. Your laughter comes once you clearly understand where another person is coming from. Though you two are so different, you are so much alike. Tonight:

Go along with a loved one's idea of fun! CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Your ability to get the job done is sometimes abused by others. Please note the unfinished projects that surround people's work as they leave for the weekend. Remember, it is up to you to decide if you want to finish up what was another person's responsibility. Tonight: Do what you want.

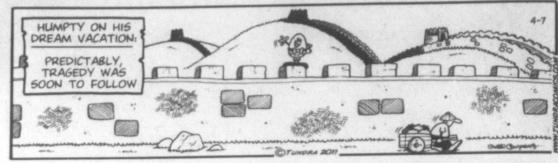
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Your ideas seem endless -be it work, a discussion or making plans. If your thoughts are an indication, you could trigger a lot of positive activity. You are not alone; a friend nearly begs to be a companion! Tonight: Toss yourself into the whirlwind called the weekend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

** Sometimes others expect too much from you. If need be, make it OK to vanish and work from home. Sometimes the less said the better. You might be feeling some impending changes coming on. Tonight: Where your

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



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All persons having MUST claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by LOST: Ladies 14K gold

Vanessa G. Buzzard Attorney at Law 208 N. Russell St. Pampa, TX 79065 DATED the 4th day of

Attorney for 03547900 208 N. Russell St. 14d Carpentry Pampa, TX 79065 Facsimile: (806)669-0972 6347, 806-663-0192. G-91 Apr. 7, 2011

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Sports

PHS Sr. Green likes being in control behind the plate

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Major League Baseball catcher Ivan Rodriguez is known for taking hard hits and getting right back up. Pampa senior catcher Brent Green has taken his fair share of hits and likes Rodriguez's grittiness, and emulates that on the field.

"It's part of the game and you just got to take it," Green said.

The senior catcher said he learned how to play baseball from his dad (Huey)

'Growing up my dad taught me how to play every position," Green said.

The senior said he likes catching because he likes being in control:

"I like touching the ball every play," Green said:

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooes said he first noticed Green when he was on his junior varsity team in 2009.

"I got here with him on my JV and he got my attention as a man that could man the dish and did a good job back there for "Snelgrooes said. "This year he has blossomed even more than that. He does a great job back there for us. He catches and blocks everything and calls the game—to regret anything you do."

when Tyler (Malone) pitches."

Green's first season on varsity was last season. The senior said he enjoyed his first year but wish he didn't get injured.

"It was good," Green said. "I didn't get to play much because I was injured. It was tough because I had to root my teammates on. This season I'm ready to play."

Though he was injured last season, Green hit a pinch hit game-tying single against Caprock March 30. This season Green has pitched in relief including three and one third innings Tuesday against Borger.

Snelgrooes said he likes that Green will do anything he asks.

"He will do whatever it takes to win," Snelgrooes said. "This year he will pitch if we need him. He played shortstop and has played everywhere when we needed

Green said being a senior leader this season has been the best part of his

'It's your team," Green said. "You get to root on the other guys. Knowing it's your last year, you are going to leave everything on the field. You aren't going

PHS girls track takes second, boys finish third in Dalhart

ANDREW GLOVER

The Pampa Lady Harvester track team. finished second and the Harvesters finshed third at the Dalhart Classic April

The girls scored 136 points and was two points shy of Dalhart. J'Cee Holmes won the 3200-meter run with a time of and Kendle Ramie finished and with a time of 14:32. Joleen Pattoran won the 800-meter run with a 40 14 Madison Fatheree won with a time of 18.40. Kristin Ladd fin-Bridwell finished second in the 400-Hizabeth Woody finished fifth with a

Latheree finished second in the 300noter hurdles with a time of 50.46. Coles finished sixth with a time of 3. 39 Madison Joyce finished third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.52. Hydrics won the 1600-meter run with a time of 5.53.24. Ramie finished third ath a time of 6:24.46. Kailyn Troxell timished second in the high jump with distance of 4-08 1/4. Savanna Hulsey finished sixth in the long jump with a distance of 14-11 1/2. Fatheree finished

third in the triple jump with a distance

Pampa finished fourth in the 400meter relay with a time of 53.46, fourth in the 800 relay with a time of 1:55.51 and second in the 1600 relay with a time

The Harvesters score 97 points and were 18 points behind second place Stratford: Trent McAnear won the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:05. Flavio Gonzalez finished sixth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:16.88. Reid Miller won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.90. Samuel Smith won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.80. Trace Carter finished fifth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.42. time of 13.20. Laylor Giles finished. Payton Alvey finished sixth with a time fourth with a time of 13.27. Francheska of 58,20. Joseph Vizcaino finished fifth in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of Smith won the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.30. Zane Robles finished fifth with a time of 23.80,

> McAnear won the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:03.45. Gonzalez finsihed fourth with a time of 5:15.02. Jonathan Cox won fifth in the high jump with a distance of 5-06. Trey Teel finished sixth with distance of 5-06.

> Pampa finished second in the 400meter relay with a time of 44.70 and second in the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:36.36.

The varsity competes at Dumas Friday

photo courtesy of Joe Murray Senior Brent Green pitches against Guymon March 25. Green mainly starts at catcher but is flexible and has developed into a senior leader this season.

Behind the mask of Brent Green

· Green is allergic to ice cream.

CORRECTIONS • The standings in Yesterday's sport page

was baseball and not

· Borger's district record is 2-1 and not 2-0. · The softball team is playing Garden City, Kansas not Garden City,

The Pampa News apol-

Kansas Perryton.

ogizes for the errors.

softball

· His Favorite music is country.

• His walk-up song is "You Shook Me All Night Long" by AC/DC.

• In his first varsity game against Dalhart Feb. 25, 2010, he hit a two-RBI

• Green had three hits and two RBI against Sanford Fritch Feb. 25, 2011.



Pampa High School junior softball player Alanna Stephens is The Pampa News Female Athlete of the Week. Stephens hit a three-run home run and drove in four against Perryton March 29. Saturday at Dalhart, Stephens hit a three-run home run and drove in six.

Pampa High School junior baseball player Collin Killgo is The Pampa News Male Athlete of the Week. Killgo had the only RBI in Pampa's district opening victory against Perryton March 29. Saturday against Dalhart, Killgo hit a two-run home run that helped Pampa to a 15-5 victory.





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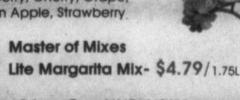
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