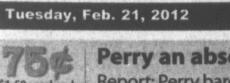


TODAY IN SPORTS

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Volume 107 • No. 263



Perry an absentee governor?

Report: Perry barely at office since campaign | p12A

Itching to get started

Harvesters ready for Lamesa's press in bi-district | p1B

Five arrested for possession over weekend

mbryant@thepampanews.com

Five individuals were arrested by the Pampa Police Department and the Gray County Sheriff's Office for possession of drugs over the weekend.

Around 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, deputies stopped a vehicle

> for a traffic violation on East Tyng, which resulted in a search.



Tucker



a controlled substance, in an amount over one gram but less than four.

She remains in custody at Gray County Jail, and faces an \$8,000 Hope was arrested and charged with pos-

substance

Tambunga

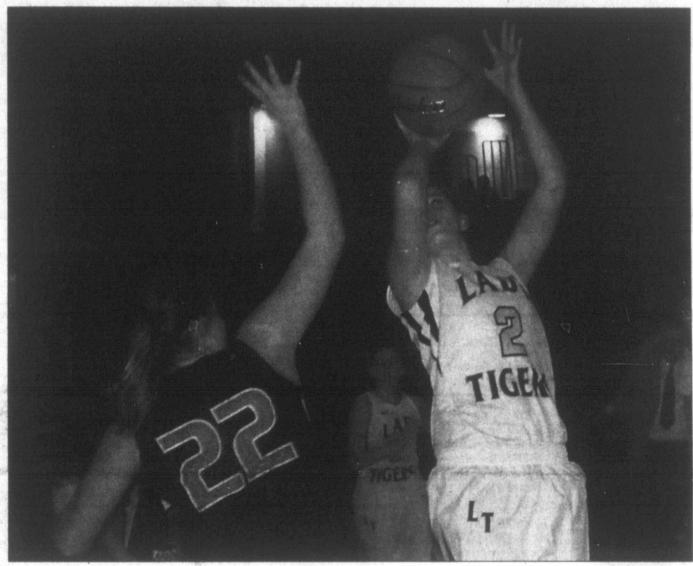
session of a controlled under one gram. She was released on a \$2,500 bond.

and for possession of

Around 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, deputies stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation near the intersection of Barrett and Maple.

Deputies asked to search the vehicle when ARRESTS cont. on page 12A

TIGERS MOVE ON



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Saber Bohlar shoots a jumper over Lazbuddie's Allison Weaver during the schools' Friday showdown in the area round of the postseason. Bohlar scored 21 points and helped the Lady Tigers to a 58-40 victory. Full story in **SPORTS**, page 2B.

Pampa Young Professionals to host mixer

MOLLIE BRYANT

mbryant@thepampanews.com

From 6 to 8 p.m. this Friday, Pampa Young Professionals will host its first mixer at the Pampa Country Club. Refreshments will be provided, with support from the

Pampa Chamber of Commerce and the Pampa Economic Development Corporation.

This mixer is partly aimed at giving prospective members of the Young Professionals a chance to learn more about the group. The event is free and working Pampa residents 40 and under are encouraged to attend to meet and network

with their peers.

"We felt it could be a good event to connect and engage young professionals in Pampa, and provide an opportunity for people to get to know each other better," said Bryan Guymon, president of Young

Professionals. "If we get people out, (we'll) get them to realize there is a big group of young people around town," said local businessman and state House candidate Mac

Smith, who helped organize the event. "We want people to get involved, because it's a good organization and a

benefit to the area and Pampa." The mixer will be the first event for the Young Professionals group under its new mission statement, which lists networking, education and empowerment of young professionals among their new

Smith

Guymon

goals. "We hope it will be a successful kicking off," said Guymon. "We've rebooted and regrouped, and we hope it will be a good event to net-

work, and at the same time, meet some of our goals." This informal event will allow members to discuss the future of Young Professionals.

"We'll have an informal discussion on action items to go with our goals, and really, it's just an opportunity for people to get together and talk," said Guymon.

Kathryn Killgo (center) serves up some brisket for Wanda Youngquist as Heather Douglas





looks on during the baseball's team brisket dinner on Sunday.

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The Savage Truth 3A	Sports 1B,2B





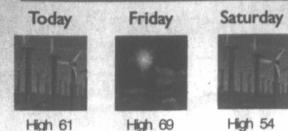
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staff photo by Andrew Glover

PAMPA FORECAST

Low 33



Today: Sunny, with a high near 61. Wind chill values between 17 and 27 early. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as

Low 33

Low 24

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 33. Wind chill values between 26 and 31. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 69. Wind chill values between 24 and 34 early. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33. West southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. Windy, with a north northwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Blustery, with a north northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

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Obituaries

Keith Oliphant, 60

Keith Oliphant, 60, died February 17, 2012 in Pam-

Services will be at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at Central Baptist Church, with Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor, and Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor, officiating.

Burial will be at Mobeetie Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Oliphant was born December 7, 1951 in Haskell. Keith was a lifelong Pampa resident and a 1971 Pampa High School graduate. He married Melody Kilcrease on May 30, 1981 in Pampa. Keith had a special calling where he loved to serve at Central Baptist Church and singing with his quartets. He was a member of the Mobeetie Historical Society where he loved to volunteer. Keith was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He loved gardening and working in the yard and loved being "Boom Pa" to his grandchildren.

Keith Oliphant

Keith is survived by his wife: Melody of the home; one son: Cory Oliphant and wife Tiffany of Amarillo; one daughter Christy Heuston of Amarillo; one brother: Jerry Oliphant and wife Dianne of Big Spring; two grandchildren: Landry Oliphant and Hutson Oliphant both of

He was preceded in death by his parents: Talmage and Agnes Oliphant; and a sister: Francis Jowers. Memorials can be made to Central Baptist Church, 513

E. Francis, Pampa, Texas 79065. Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-

whatley.com

Elizabeth "Liz" Robinson-Upton, 83

Elizabeth "Liz" Robinson-Upton, 83, of Pampa, died Saturday, February 18, 2012.

Graveside service will be at 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 20, 2012 in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, with C. W. Parker, Chaplain of Odyssey Hospice officiating. Arrangements are by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors, 2800 Paramount

Mrs. Upton was born on

April 26, 1928 in Gerty, Oklahoma to Annie and John great-grandchildren. Hays. She was a homemaker and a Baptist. She was an avid remodeler and loved to garden and plant flowers. She was preceded in death by six sisters, son, Ricky,

Elizabeth Robinson-Upton

and husbands, Bill Robinson and Dude Upton. She is survived by three stepsons, Kent B. and Trudy

Upton of Amarillo; Ricky and Debbie Upton of Amarillo; and Jody and Toni Upton of Canyon; her sister, Doris Puckett of Pampa; and her brother, Marland and Sandra Hays of Amarillo; six step-grandchildren; several stepgreat-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Sign the online guestbook at www.boxwellbrothers. com

Victor Villarreal, 87

Victor Villarreal, 87, died February 19, 2012 in Pampa. Vigil will be at 5:30 Wednesday, February 22, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Arockia Raj, associate pastor of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, officiating, and funeral mass will be at 2:00 PM Thursday, February 23, 2012, at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, with Rev. Francisco Perez, pastor, of-

Burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Villarreal was born January 11, 1926 in Corsicana, Texas. He lived in Robstown until 1959 when he moved to Pampa. He was a World War II veteran, serving until 1945. Ha married Consuelo Ybarra on August 26, 1946 in Robstown. Together they had 10 children and were married for 64 years. Mr. Villarreal worked for Arthur Brothers and Emmett Lefors until his retirement. He was a member of the Hispanos Unidos of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church. He was a people person. He enjoyed his Dr. Peppers and Snickers. He liked going for walks at night, fishing, playing the guitar, singing, reciting poems for his wife, working on cars and visiting with his family. The Villarreal family was recognized by The Smithsonian on their 50th wedding anniversary for their large family, years of marriage and family values.

He is survived by six daughters: Luzecida Allen and husband Don of Oklahoma City, Okla., Maria De Los Santos, Irma Estela Shorter and husband Tom, Rachel

Villarreal and Ermelinda Fernandez and husband Richard, all of Pampa, and Cruz B. Villarreal of Weatherford; four sons: Richard Villarreal and wife Elidia, Gilbert Villarreal and wife Ernestina, Roy Villarreal and wife Mary, and Arthur Villarreal and wife Melissa, all of Pampa; 27 grandchildren, 43 greatgrandchildren and 9 greatgreat-grandchildren. Victor was preceded in

Victor Villareal

death by his parents: Antonio and Adelina Villarreal; his wife: Consuelo Villarreal, two sisters: Juanita Martinez and Corina Ponce; a brother: Ismael Villarreal four grandchildren: Christina Ann Shorter, Marcos Victor Villarreal, Migel Shorter and Rick Villarreal; and a greatgrandchild: Bethany Nicole Caviness.

Memorials may be made to Shriners International Headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, Fla,

Sign the online register book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com

R.E. Stover, 81

R.E. Stover, 81, died February 19, 2012 in Pampa. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday, February 22, 2012, at White Deer Cemetery with Rev. Jim Sinyard, pastor of Carpenter's Church of Pampa, officiating. rangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Stover was born March 30, 1930 in Bonham. He married Lela Wil-



R.E. Stover

cox on January 25, 1950 in McKinney. She preceded him in death on February 14, 1997. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1960. Mr. Stover worked at Texas Pipe & Metal as a heavy equipment operator. He enjoyed fishing, camping, hunting and traveling.

He is survived by a daughter: JoAnn McClellan and husband Jim of Cheyenne, Okla.; daughter-in-law: Coelene Stover of White Deer; a brother: Bobby Stover of Pampa; seven grandsons: Dale Stover, Chris Stover, Lee McClellan, Donald Winn, David Winn, Dennis Winn and Dwayne Winn; two granddaughters: Missy Sandefur and Becky Keathley; 22 great-grandchildren and three great-

Memorials can be made to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, Texas 79065, or a favorite charity.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com

Teri Keeling, 59

Teri Keeling, 59, died Feb. 18, 2012 in Canyon. Graveside services will be at 1:00 P.M. Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at Dreamland Cemetery, with Dr. Lewis Holland, retired minister, officiating.

Teri was born to James Frank and Marian Ray Heare on October 31, 1952. She grew up in Pampa, Texas. While she was attending college in Canyon, Texas at West Texas A&M University she met Jimmy Keeling.



Teri Keeling

They were married on October 19, 1974. They had two children. A daughter, Annalee Keeling-Moore and a son, Alton Joel Keeling. Teri went back to college and received her bachelors' degree in Social Work from West Texas A&M University in 1998. She worked for Adult Protective Services in Amarillo, Texas for ten years. Teri was a true bleeding heart and loved being a social worker and helping people in need. She was a wonderful person to be around, full of energy and loved having a good time. She always knew what needed to be done. Teri will be deeply missed by all those who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her step-father, Ernest Oscar Stroup and sister-in-law, Karen Heare.

Survivors include her husband, Jimmy Keeling; daughter, Annalee Moore and husband, Eran; son, A.J. Keeling and wife, Kim and two grandchildren, Ally and Andrew; brother, Steve Heare with two sons, Adam and Daniel; mother, Marian Stroup; and father, Frank Heare and wife, Evelyn.

Please sign the online guest registry at www.brooksfu-

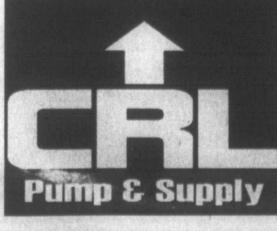
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Perry donations dwindled

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Rick Perry raised a paltry \$389,000 — and spent nearly ten times that — during his failed presidential campaign's final three weeks.

The Texas governor took in just \$388,531 in donations from Jan. 1 until he dropped out of the race for the GOP nomination 18 days later.

Perry's Federal Election Commission report for January shows he spent almost \$3.3 million over the same period. He had a bit more than \$860,000 in cash-on-hand at

It was a spectacular collapse for Perry, who raised over \$17 million in donations in just his first seven weeks of

But high-profile debate flubs saw his popularity plummet, and Perry took in just \$2.9 million in the final three months of 2011. Things only got worse after that.

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Bodies found after Houston fire

HOUSTON (AP) - Investigators say two bodies have been found in the rubble of a Houston-area apartment complex fire that happened last week.

Cadaver dogs on Monday located the victims in the debris from the Feb. 15 blaze. Autopsies have been

A resident on Sunday night reported that two people who had been staying with him never turned up follow-

Investigators believe the fire started in the kitchen of an elderly woman's unit where an oxygen tank had been in use. Fire marshal's Lt. Chad Shaw says the oxygen fine melted when it came in contact with a hot burner

Two residents and a firefighter were injured in the blaze. About two dozen units were damaged.

Farm Bureau warns of water costs

BROWNWOOD (AP) — The Texas Farm Bureau's head state lobbyist says state lawmakers have yet to craft a way to pay for a state water plan Texas developed in 1997 in response to a drought.

Billy Howe is the bureau's state legislative director. According to the Brownwood Bulletin, Howe told the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce on Friday that the state could lose \$160 billion in income, \$9.8 million in tax revenue and 1.1 million jobs if the state doesn't deal with its water issues.

Howe said Texas must find a comprehensive revenue source, such as a sales tax on water and wastewater, to raise sufficient funds. However, he said he is not advocating any specific funding mechanism.

Missing woman found in Okla.

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) — An 18-year-old Frisco, Texas, woman who had been reported missing has been found in Oklahoma.

Officials say Bethany Stroud was located in Muskogee on Saturday. Frisco police said in a news release that Stroud is under the care of law enforcement authorities, and that Frisco detectives were en route to speak with her about her disappearance.

Officials say the teen called police in Texas on Friday, saying she had been abducted after leaving her job at the

Dr Pepper Arena. Police said Stroud drove to a fast-food restaurant in Muskogee and asked for help about 10 p.m. Saturday. Muskogee police didn't immediately return a call seeking comment on Sunday. Frisco police say the case remains under investigation.

- Frisco is located about 30 miles north of Dallas.

Paul: U.S. slipping into fascism

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul warned the U.S. is "slipping into a fascist system" dominated by government and businesses as he held a fiery rally Saturday night upstaging established Republican Party banquets a short distance away.

The Texas congressman drew a couple thousand standing and chanting people to Kansas City's Union Station as the party's establishment dined on steak across the street at the Missouri GOP's annual conference. Kansas Republicans were holding a similar convention in a suburb across the state line.

Paul staged his rally near the nation's World War I museum, asserting that the U.S. got off track about 100 years ago during the era of President Woodrow Wilson, who led the nation through World War I and unsuccessfully advocated for the nation's involvement in a forerunner of the United Nations

"We've slipped away from a true Republic," Paul said. "Now we're slipping into a fascist system where it's a eombination of government and big business and authoritarian rule and the suppression of the individual rights of each and every American citizen."

Gingrich woos with cheap gas

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich is dangling the prospect of gas as low as \$2 a gallon if he's elected.

The former House speaker has spoken in the past of gas dropping to \$2.50 a gallon under a Gingrich administration. Monday's prediction, coming as Gingrich campaigned in Oklahoma, contrasts sharply with rival Rick Santorum, who told an Ohio audience that big-city Americans should brace themselves for \$5-a-gallon gas. Both candidates are citing new sensitivity over rising pump prices to push for relaxed regulation on domestic

- According to AAA's daily fuel gauge, the national average Monday for a gallon of regular gas was \$3.56.

Gingrich and Santorum have been highlighting oil exploration in North Dakota and slamming the Obama administration for delaying a Canada-to-Texas oil pipe-



Market rewards patient investors

TERRY SAVAGE Creator's Syndicate

It happened so quietly and under the cover of volatility that you might have missed it. But two weeks ago, the stock market reached its highest level since May 2008. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at its highest level since before the September 2008 Lehman Brothers collapse - which triggered all sorts of mayhem and pushed the index down to the 6,700 level the following March.

The new Dow high happened under cover of all the headlines about Europe's financial woes and the worries about global financial disaster. Even more deeply "undercover," the Nasdaq Composite Index, spurred by a surge in technology stocks, jumped to its highest close since December 2000!

And all of this happened while most ordinary investors were still scared to invest. In fact, \$20 billion flowed out of domestic equity funds in December — thereby missing the nearly 4 percent market gains in January.

In fact, total inflows to all kinds of mutual funds dropped by \$20 billion last year as scared Americans decided to hoard cash in the banking system, while deposit accounts expanded by about \$2 trillion in the past few years.

And now we're at new highs. If you stuck with your plan of regular investing in your 401(k) or IRA, despite the volatility, you would have accumulated quite a portfolio - at much lower costs than today's headlines.

It was tough to stick to the plan. That's the point of discipline. As I've noted in earlier columns, in 2011 the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 608 points. But if you added up all the closing point changes (up 300 points one day, down 150 the next, etc.), the index traversed a total of 28,032 points on a closing basis during the year.

That was enough to give any investor heartburn and indigestion on a daily basis. But those who were able to keep their emotions in check over the past few years have been well-rewarded.

Now what? That's the question

The Savage on money

on the mind of all investors, whether they are market participants or wishing they were. And it's no easier to make that call now than it was back in March 2009, when this column begged stock investors to merely stick to their plan of regular

Certainly there will be more volatility. And equally certainly, there will be announcements of fund managers who have "beat" the market - and of market timers who have called the turns in between the ups and downs of the past few years.

But it's as tough to be right about which market technician to follow or which mutual fund to choose as it is to call the market itself. Every year or so, a different group of stocks is "in fashion." But fashion can change quickly. Last year's most popular stocks can move to the bottom of the list more quickly than your favorite NFL football team. Mutual funds that loaded up on financial stocks in 2011 suffered huge losses, but the banking group has been a winner so far this year. Meanwhile, last year's list of winners was topped by utilities — a much ignored, stodgy group in previous years but one that performed well in 2011 because of the higher and more secure dividend yields that utility stocks offer.

It's easy to move from understanding the importance of being in the market to trying to "beat" the market by picking the best mutual fund or stock group. That's where most ordinary investors go wrong, because the challenge of doing better than the market is so daunting. Yes, the pros who manage the funds are paid for beating their benchmark indexes. But for ordinary investors trying to build assets for retirement, that's quibbling around the edges.

Your most important decision is not which stock, stock group, or mutual fund. It's just the decision about being invested in the market. In the long run, that's the decision that will have most impact on your financial future.

And please don't hide behind the oft-heard excuse that the market is rigged to favor the professional investor. Yes, the headlines about "inside trading" have been disconcerting. Even worse, Congress is finding it tough to ban its own members from "legal" inside trading.

But for the vast majority of us, the long-term gains potential of the stock market is not driven by any inside knowledge. It is driven by the long-term growth potential of the American economy.

And if it makes you feel better, even the professional money managers have a tough time "beating" the market. According to Morningstar, in 2011 just 23 percent of equity mutual fund managers beat their relative benchmark the worst performance in more than a decade.

Yes, it's tough to watch your hard-earned money go into the risk pool of the stock market, especially when you saw money melt away in past market declines. That's why you have to decide — based on your situation in life and your personal risk tolerance -how much of your money belongs in the stock market. But the time to make that allocation decision is not in the heat of passion when the market is making new highs — or lows. That's when fear and greed override common sense.

Since it's almost impossible for most investors to control those emotions, the best course of action is to make a plan that you can carry out over the long run. Then stick to the plan. You can start any time even now. And that's the Savage Truth

Terry Savage is a registered invest-ment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at www.terrysavage.com. She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?'

U.S., Mexico to cooperate on energy

LAS CABOS, Mexico (AP) — The United States and Mexico agreed Monday to work together when drilling for oil and gas below their maritime border in the Gulf of Mexico.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mexico's foreign minister signed the deal at a ceremony in the Mexican resort of Los Cabos as Mexican President Felipe Calderon and U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar looked on.

The cooperation stems from an understanding that President Barack Obama and Calderon reached in 2010 to share in the profits and work together to avoid spills.

Clinton said the deal would "ensure safe, efficient, responsible exploration of the oil and gas reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico.'

Cinema 4

y, February 17 through hursday, February 23.

"These reservoirs could hold considerable reserves that would benefit the United States and Mexico alike," she said.

But they don't necessarily stop neatly at our maritime boundary," Clinton added. "This could lead to disputes if a company discovers a reservoir that straddles the boundary — disputes, for example, over who should do the extraction and how much they should extract."

Clinton said the agreement will prevent such disputes and create new business opportunities.

Calderon said the deal

creates clear rules and should erase any fear among Mexicans that their oil will be appropriated by Americans.

And he stressed that "operations will be done in a safe and responsible manner, with full respect to the environment."

Under the agreement, U.S. companies will now be allowed to partner with Mexico's national oil company in drilling. But neither country is constrained by the other.

If the two governments can't agree on how to exploit a reservoir, either ENERGY cont. on page 5

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2012. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 21, 1912, a new phrase entered the American political lexicon as former President Theodore Roosevelt, traveling by train to the Ohio Constitutional Convention, told a reporter in Cleveland, "My hat is in the ring," signaling his intent to challenge President William Howard Taft for the Republican nomination. (After losing the nomination to Taft, Roosevelt then ran as the nominee of the Progressive Party, also known as the Bull Moose Party; the resulting split among Republicans is believed to have led to Democrat Woodrow Wilson's

On this date:

victory in November.)

In 1862, Nathaniel Gordon, captured at sea with nearly 900 Africans aboard his ship, the Erie, became the first and only American slave-trader to be executed under the U.S. Piracy Law of 1820 as he was hanged in New York.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 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).

In 1912, the Great Fifth Ward Fire broke out in Houston, Texas; although property losses topped \$3 million, no one was killed in the

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

In 1925, The New Yorker magazine made its debut

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318

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 1973, Israeli fighter planes shot down Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 over the Sinai Desert, killing all but five of the 113 people on board.

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

In 1992, Kristi Yamaguchi of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Albertville Olympics; Midori Ito of Japan won the silver, Nancy Kerrigan of the U.S. the bronze.

Ten years ago: The State Department declared that Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was dead, a month after he'd been abducted by Islamic extremists in Pakistan. President George W. Bush failed to persuade China to halt sales of missile technology as he neared the end of his six-day Asia tour. In Salt Lake City, U.S. figure skater Sarah Hughes jumped from fourth to first to win the gold after a near-flawless performance, leaving teammate Michelle Kwan to settle for a bronze (Irina Slutskaya of Russia won the silver).

Five years ago: British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced his country would withdraw around 1,600 troops from Iraq in the coming months; Denmark, meanwhile, said it would

withdraw its 460 troops.

One year ago: Deep cracks opened in Moammar Gadhafi's regime, with Libyan government officials at home and abroad resigning, air force pilots defecting and a major government building ablaze after clashes in the capital of Tripoli. Yemen's embattled leader, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, rejected demands that he step down, calling demonstrations against his regime unacceptable acts of provocation and offering to begin a dialogue with protesters.

Today's Birthdays: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is 88. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 79. Actor Gary Lockwood is 75. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 73. Actor Peter McEnery is 72. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 72. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 69. Actor Alan Rickman is 66. Actress Tyne Daly is 66. Actor Anthony Daniels is 66. Tricia Nixon Cox is 66. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 65. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 63. Actress Christine Ebersole is 59. Actor William Petersen is 59. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 57. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 54. Actor Jack Coleman is 54. Actor Christopher Atkins is 51. Rock singer Ranking Roger is 51. Actor William Baldwin is 49. Rock musician Michael Ward is 45. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 43. Blues musician Corey Harris is 43. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 42. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 42. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 39. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 33. Singer Charlotte Church is 26. Actress Ellen Page is 25. Actor Corbin Bleu is 23.

Thought for Today: "There is nothing more horrifying than stupidity in action." - Adlai E. Stevenson, American politician and diplomat (1900-1965).

SINCE WHEN DID THE FEDERAL

Prudence the key for Republican party

favorable verdict

from voters in the

election coming

Speaker John

Boehner -- who

started off as a

rebel himself and

served as a lead-

er when Newt

Gingrich some-

times adroitly,

up this fall.

Many Republican House members, and the bloggers and tea partiers who cheered their victory in gaining a majority in November 2010, seem to be seething with discontent and eager for confrontation.

They believe, reasonably, that that victory represented a repudiation of the vast expansion of government by the Obama Democrats. They want to see those policies reversed, and pronto. And if the dilatory Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and the all-campaign-no-governance President Obama want a confrontation, so much

Such impatience is unbecoming in those who call themselves "constitutional conservatives." It is James Madison's Constitution that prevents the winners of one election from directing the course of public policy as unilaterally as, to take one example, the British Labor Party marched Britain into a socialist welfare state on the basis of one election victory in 1945.

We have a House of Representatives 100 percent of whose members were elected in a historic Republican year, a president elected in a historic Democratic year, and a Senate twothirds of whose members were elected in historic Democratic years and onethird in a historic Republican year.

It should not be surprising that they cannot agree on policy. Most of the high-minded folk who decry "gridlock" would like the Republican House to say uncle. The Republicans bemoaning their leaders' lack of boldness imagine that if they force confrontation they can somehow prevail.

Neither can succeed in the framework the Framers gave us -- not until another election.

The Republicans who seek changes in policy need to exercise prudence in framing issues in order to gain a



MICHAEL **BARONE**

sometimes maladroitly, moved policy in a Republican direction -- is as well positioned as anyone could be

to make judgments on when prudence should override principle.

But say this for the impatient Republicans: They have a worthy goal. They want to turn back the Obama Democrats' advance into what Alexis de Tocqueville, the author (according to Harvard's Harvey Mansfield) of

"the best book ever written on democracy and the best book ever written

Tocqueville, after describing in "Democracy in America" how Americans avoided the perils of equality by forming voluntary associations, engaging in local government and believing in religions that disciplined their pursuit of self-interest into a pursuit of virtue, painted the picture of a

darker future.

despotism.

Above a democratic populace, he writes, "an immense tutelary power is elevated, which alone takes charge of assuring their enjoyments and watching over their fate. It is absolute. detailed, rigid, far-seeing and mild. It would resemble paternal power if, like that, it had for its object to prepare men for manhood; but on the contrary, it seeks only to keep them fixed irrevocably in childhood; it likes citizens to

enjoy themselves. It willingly works for their happiness; but it wants to be the unique agent and sole arbiter of that."

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Thus Tocqueville, writing in the 1830s, foresees Obamacare and the crony capitalism that produces a Super Bowl commercial from a governmentand union-controlled company that seeks Obama's re-election.

It is worth quoting more from a political thinker as far elevated above almost any other as Mozart was above almost all other composers.

"Thus, taking each individual by turns in its powerful hands and kneading him as it likes, the sovereign extends its arms over society as a whole; it covers its surface with a network of small, complicated, painstaking, uniform rules through which the most original minds and the most vigorous souls cannot clear a way to surpass the crowd; it does not break wills, but it softens them, bends them and directs them; it rarely forces one to act, but it constantly opposes itself to one's acting; it does not destroy, it prevents things from being born; it does not tyrannize, it hinders, compromises, enervates, extinguishes, dazes and finally reduces each nation to being nothing more than a herd of timid and industrial animals of which the government is the shepherd."

That is what House Republicans are fighting to reverse. With their presidential candidates at odds, with mainstream media disparaging them at every turn, they need to exercise prudence and not give in to passion that

ald defeat their purpose.

ael Barone, senior political analyst to The Washington Examiner (www.washingtonexaminer.com), is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a Fox News Channel contributor and a co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.



We welcome your letters

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All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter fraction. Only your name and city will be published.
Defamatory comments will not be published.
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Texas death row inmate: 'Secret deal' tainted court case

DALLAS (AP) — A man condemned to die in Texas for the 2005 murder of his pregnant ex-girlfriend and her 7-year-old son is seeking a new trial on claims that his attorney had a "secret deal" with the judge to dispose of cases quickly.

Attorneys for Stephen Barbee will argue in state court in Fort Worth this week that the death row inmate received ineffective counsel because of the alleged deal between his court-appointed attorney, William H. "Bill" Ray, and the presiding judge, Bob Gill, when he was convicted of suffocating bagel shop owner Lisa Underwood and her son, Jayden.

The proceeding, scheduled to begin Wednesday and last two days, was ordered by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals as a result of an Associated Press story in 2010 that revealed that Gill, unlike other judges, negotiated plea' deals in probation revocation cases and that many of those cases were handled by Ray.

The arrangement made Gill's docket move faster because prosecutors weren't in the loop. It was disclosed by Ray during testimony in a 2009 federal court case but wasn't publicly known until the AP story because the judge ordered the



Barbee

Prosecutors presented evidence at Barbee's trial that he had confessed to the

case file sealed.

killings. Authorities believed Barbee, now 44, wanted to hide Underwood's pregnancy from his wife, although DNA tests later revealed

the unborn child wasn't his.

The trial, including sentencing, was wrapped up in less than three days in February 2006.

In seeking a new trial, Barbee's attorneys claim the swi mess of the proceeding was because Ray and his co-counsel, Tim Moore, presented a limited and ultimately ineffective defense as an accommodation to Gill.

"It was open and shut because the attorneys never opened the door," said A. Richard Ellis, the lead attorney representing Barbee in the quest for a new

Barbee's application for a writ of habeus corpus in state court claims his trial attorneys tried to pressure him into pleading guilty, failed to investigate or present a case of actual innocence, fired

hour west of Houston.

a mitigation expert "for no apparent reason" and didn't inform a false confession expert of facts that might have changed his opinion.

The filing contends those matters are "understandable when viewed through the prism of what we now know about Judge Gill's manner of running a court."

Gill, who left the bench in 2007 and is now an assistant district attorney in Tarrant County, declined to comment, citing the pending litigation. Ray did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Both are expected to testify at the hearing, which will be presided over by Gill's successor, Louis Sturns.

Steve Conder, chief of post-conviction writs in the Tarrant County district attorney's office, said he couldn't comment on the case other than to say he disagrees with Barbee's position.

The 2010 AP story revealed that Ray testified in federal court in May 2009 that there was no interaction with prosecutors when probation revocation cases were handled by Gill unless the cases were contested.

Ray testified in a hearing on a writ of habeus corpus filed on behalf of a mentally ill woman whose probation had been revoked in Gill's court. The

Ray, who had been appointed to defend her, was ineffective because he failed to bring up her mental condition even after she tried to hang herself in her jail cell.

Ray testified about Gill's procedure to explain why Wilson received a 15-year prison sentence after she rejected a plea deal in which the judge offered 12 years.

U.S. District Judge John McBryde vacated Wilson's sentence on the grounds of ineffective counsel and also noted he had "serious concern" that she had been denied due process because of Gill's procedure. He then sealed the file to protect Wilson's privacy.

The AP story also reported that Gill cleared more probation revocation cases than any other Fort Worth judge and that Ray was appointed in many of those cases, allowing him to earn more than \$700,000 in the judge's court between 2001 and 2007.

Ellis said he hopes to show that Ray's handling of Barbee's defense was simply another facet of the attorney's relationship with Gill.

"What we're saying is there was a conflict, it wasn't just in probation revocation cases and, as a result of Judge Gill's unwillingness to listen to mitigation and his desire to run a fast docket, certain woman, Sandra Wilson, contended that things weren't presented," Ellis said.

Woman finally identified 37 years after body found in river

HOUSTON (AP) — The woman's nude body was found floating in the muddy Brazos River in 1975, her features unrecognizable save for her flawlessly painted scarlet fingernails and flowing yellow hair.

But after 37 years, the 22-year-old mother has been identified by Harris County forensics experts as Gloria Faye Stringer, opening an investigation into her possible murder and inflaming the long-held suspicions of Austin County Justice of the Peace Dennis R. King, a man committed to the case for decades.

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alyst for ashingv at the News of The "The only thing worse than dying in a strange place is being lost at the same time and never finding your way home," King said. "That was always the fear for me — that she had not been able to find her way

Stringer had recently relocated to Texas City, leaving her 6-year-old son with grandparents in Tennessee, before vanishing in 1975.

King and Austin County Sheriff's investigators will try to determine how a woman who owned no car and couldn't swim ended up naked and dead in a river 87 miles away from her last known address. Among other theories, officials are looking at whether her death is finked to the unsolved serial killings of young women and teens abducted from the Houston and Galveston areas in the 1970s.

It was King who helped recover Stringer's body in 1975 and who had her bones exhumed in June 2009 hoping a forensic artist's reconstruction of her face or DNA evidence might result in identification.

"He never gave up," said Scott Minyard, a corporal who got permission from the Austin County Sheriff to Join the investigation in 2010. "Different sheriffs got elected, deputies retired or moved on and part of the file was lost ... if King had died or left office this may hever have been solved. But once he reopened the case 'it took a lot of teamwork and cooperation to put it all together."

Stringer last phoned home on June 4, 1975, saying only that she planned to travel to Houston. Three days later, boys fishing near their subdivision in Sealy spotted a body afloat in the fast-moving Brazos River, about two miles upstream from where the river crosses Interstate 10, said King, who arrived at the scene as a 29-year-old rookie in his first year as Justice of the Peace.

"We had to go out into the water and pull her

ashore," King recalled. "She was a Jane Doe. With the type of systems we had back in 1975, there was little we could do other than just calling around to see if anyone was missing."

Officers found no clothing or a car in searches of the riverbanks. There was no matching missing person's report. Reluctantly, King authorized a county burial in a pauper's grave. It was King's first — and for 37 years remained his only — unidentified death victim as Justice of the Peace in Austin County, about an

He never stopped working the case. In 2009, he placed his hopes in forensic science. King successfully petitioned for funds to exhume the body and asked a skilled forensic artist to use the skull to sketch a likeness. Then he hand-delivered bones from the body to the University of North Texas' DNA Identity Lab in Fort Worth.

Attempts to extract DNA proved unsuccessful. But an artist for the Texas Rangers, Suzanne Birdwell, produced a portrait of a 19-year-old with a pug nose, large pouting lips and widely-spaced oval eyes whose face was framed by a popular 1970s hairstyle. That image and case summary appeared on web sites for missing and unidentified persons in 2010.

On June 7, 2011 — the 37th anniversary of the body's discovery - King, Minyard and others gathered to place a plaque on the still-unmarked grave. King offered a prayer: "I wanted for it to happen before I retired or before I died."

Afterward, Minyard dropped by the sheriff's office to find a telephone message from Tennessee. The caller was Sandy Stringer, whose sister-in-law Gloria disappeared in Texas in July 1975.

All the elements matched: height, weight, age. Both had their spleen surgically removed. Soon, Minyard

reached Stringer's only son, Dan E. Moore. Moore had been only six when his mother disappeared. Their last portrait shows him smiling beside her: They share the same pale hair and oval eyes. In the photo, her long manicured fingernails are painted scarlet -the same shade King spotted on the body in the river.

Moore is now a Tennessee Highway Patrol lieutenant who supervises criminal investigations. Over the years, he combed police reports and countless archives. Then in June 2011, his aunt told him to

check the sketch of a woman she found on a Texas Department of Public Safety web site.

Finally, a combination of 11 different clues helped convince Jennifer Love and Dwayne Wolf of the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences to positively confirm Stringer's identity earlier this month.

"I don't know how many hundreds or thousands of pictures that I've looked at since the Internet came around — always looking for my mom's face,' Moore said. "I sometimes made calls ... But when I clicked on this one that night, I just knew."

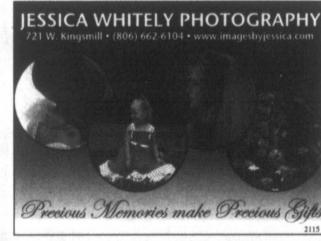
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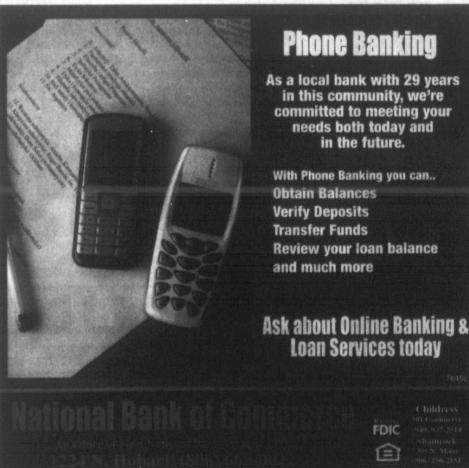


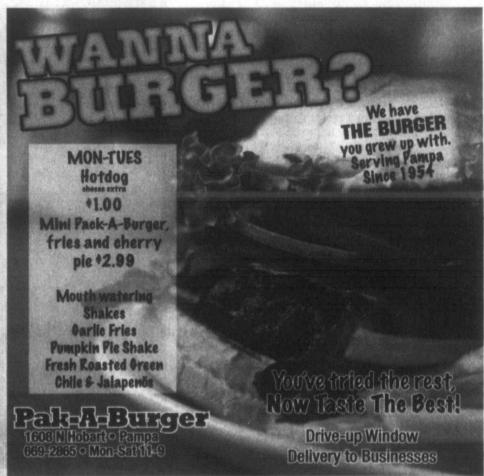
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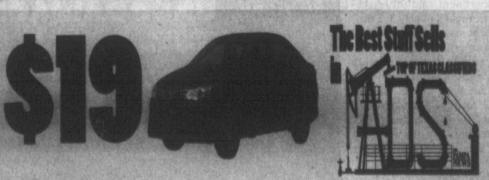
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Paul looks for GOP delegates, respect in caucus states

WASHINGTON (AP) - Ron Paul may not win the Republican nomination for president — he has yet to win a single state — but his strategy of trying to amass delegates in caucus states could land him a prominent role at the party's national convention this summer.

Imagine this: A primetime speech at the GOP convention in which Paul criticizes American military action overseas and condemns the war on terror as an overreach of government authority at home. It's enough to make some Republicans cringe.

But they may have little choice if they want to placate Paul's supporters and keep them from becoming a distraction at an event designed to promote party unity and showcase the nominee, whoever it is.

"Paul is fascinating because good ol' Ron will say just about anything he wants to say at any particular time," said Dennis Goldford, a professor of politics at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. "And the last thing you want somebody doing is going off message in primetime at a convention.'

With the exception of Maine, the Texas congressman hasn't come close to winning the popular vote in any of the first nine states to vote. However, campaign aides say their knowledge of caucus rules combined with the enthusiasm of Paul's supporters gives them a unique ability to take advantage of a process that could take several months to sort out.

Paul's campaign manager, John Tate, said he is unsure how many delegates Paul has amassed in caucus states. But, he boldly predicted: "We are confident that when all is said and done and some of these caucus states finish their process that we will end up with either a good plurality or a majority of the delegates out of Maine, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, possibly Colorado.

Paul echoed Tate's prediction for Iowa and Maine in a broadcast interview Sunday. "The bottom line is, who is going to get the delegates and we think we're doing pretty good," Paul said on CNN.

Five caucus states have voted so far. In The Associated Press delegate count, Paul isn't projected to win any national delegates in Iowa, Colorado or Minnesota. He got five out of 28 in Nevada and 10 out of 21 in Maine

Romney leads the overall race for delegates with 123, followed by Santorum at 72, and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich at 32. Paul is in fourth place, according to the AP count, with 19 delegates. It takes 1,144 delegates to win the Republican nomination for president.

Most primaries and some caucuses are binding, meaning delegates won by the candidates are pledged to support that candidate at the national convention this summer. Political parties in many caucus states, however, use a multistep process to award national

In those states, The AP uses results from local caucuses to project the number of national delegates candidates would win if they are able to maintain the same level of support throughout the process. Those projections, however, can change because local caucuses are just the first step.

In Iowa, for example, more than 120,000 caucus goers attended local caucuses on Jan. 3. At those caucuses, they voted in a straw poll for president in which Rick Santorum eked out a 34-vote win over Mitt Romney. Paul finished third, about 3,000 votes behind.

The national media focused almost entirely on the straw poll results, but the real work was just beginning. After the straw poll was over, caucus-goers elected delegates to county conventions scheduled for March Those conventions will elect delegates to congressional district conventions in April and the state GOP convention in June

Delegates to the GOP national convention in Tampa, Fla., will be selected at the congressional district and state conventions, and the outcome may look very different from the results of the Jan 3 vote.

In most years, it doesn't matter because the party nominee is obvious by then, so the presumptive nominee gets all the delegates, regardless of who won in

Paul's supporters, however, plan to promote their delegates at every level of the process, regardless of what happens in the national campaign, Tate said.

"The ultimate goal is obviously still to win, to get enough delegates there to win the nomination," Tate said in an interview. "I think there's lot of secondary goals, to make sure that our and Dr. Paul's views are represented at the convention, represented in the plat-

'We want to make sure that the Republican Party understands that we are a major part of the Republican Party," Tate added. "We're not to be overlooked; we're not to be taken for granted."

It is not unusual for some losing candidates to have a role at the party's national convention. Hillary Rodham Clinton got a prominent speaking spot at the Democratic convention in 2008. But Clinton had waged an epic primary battle with then-candidate Barack Obama, and her speech was designed to help

Many of Paul's libertarian views dovetail nicely with mainstream Republican ideas on limited government and low taxes. But Paul breaks with much of his party when he talks about American intervention abroad and government efforts to fight terrorism at home.

"Following the Constitution, don't police the world, don't participate in all this nation-building, cut spend-

ing, cut taxes, cut deficits - these are traditional Republican principles," said David Fischer, vice chairman of Paul's campaign in Iowa. "I consider the view of these Republicans who want to simply grow the size and scope of the government, that's outside of Republican mainstream.

There is precedent for Paul winning delegates in caucus states where he lost the initial vote. In 2008, during Paul's first campaign for president, he finished a distant second in the Nevada caucuses, which Romney won with more than half the vote. At the GOP state convention three months later, Paul had so many supporters that he was poised to win some of Nevada's national delegates when party leaders abruptly shut

Later, the party's executive committee tried to appoint its own delegation to the national convention and Paul's supporters sued. The lawsuit failed but the

down the convention.

two sides eventually reached a compromise that gave Paul some delegates to the national convention in St.

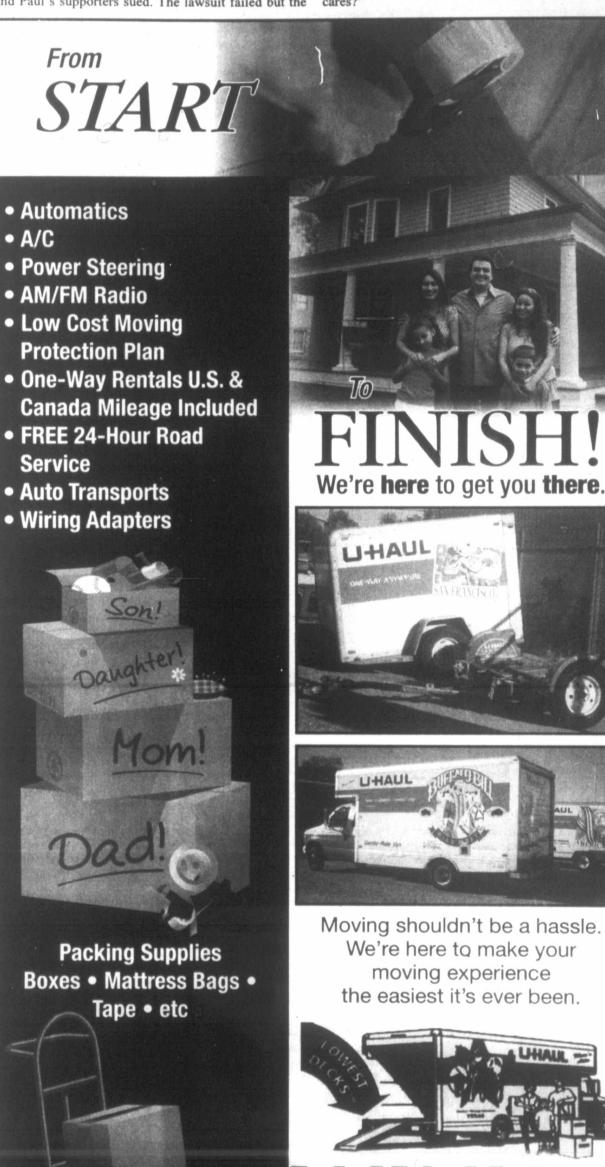
Paul, however, didn't attend the 2008 convention. Instead, he held a rival rally in nearby Minneapolis.

This year, it might be better to accommodate Paul and his supporters rather than try to shut them out, said Rich Galen, a GOP strategist and former Gingrich aide who is neutral in the 2012 race.

Galen thinks Paul is guaranteed a speaking spot at the convention, and maybe a few concessions in the party platform, as long as they don't deviate too much from mainstream Republican positions.

And what if Paul gets up at the convention and talks about slashing the military or repealing the Patriot Act?

"That's just Ron Paul being Ron Paul," Galen said. "It would make the next morning's papers, but who



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Energy

cont. from page 1

can take its share unilater-

ally. U.S. The Interior Department said the agreement makes nearly 1.5 million acres of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf more accessible for exploration and production activities.

The area could contain 172 million barrels of oil and 304 billion cubic feet of natural gas, it said.

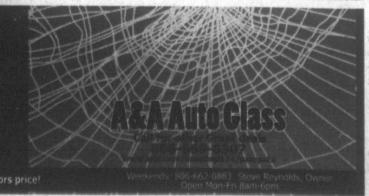
"This is an area larger than the state of Delaware, Salazar said.





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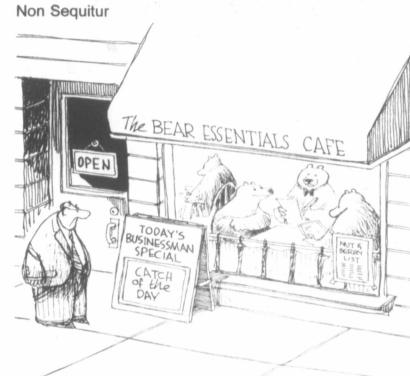
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"No school today! Some weeks have bigger ends than others."



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This year you channel your enormous present his or her opinions. creativity and hefty magnetism into your day-to-day life. Individually, these traits could make you a powerhouse. Eve a new beginning in a key area of your life. Trust and you would like to change your status, tation. you will have an opportunity to do so. If you are attached, as a couple you can steer so choose. PISCES understands you well.

Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

** Others might not intend to be challenging, but they are. You could be tired of the meetings and from processing information, and want to toss your hands Tonight: Obviously, you need some time at hand. Tonight: Have a little fun. to vourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** See what a demanding person wants, then decide what you want from the situation. Though your immediate reaction could be that you cannot give this person what he or she wants, you will find a way to do just that. Brainstorm with a trusted friend. Tonight: You have a lot to

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Your mind drifts here, there and everywhere. By midday, you anchor in and handle a demanding project or situation. You are engaged now and not likely to be distracted. Opportunities knock on your door. Make people wait in a manner that shows them they will have your full attention very soon. Tonight: Working late. be dealt with. Handle important matters CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ A partner or loved one dumps his or her problems on you. These problems only become yours if you so choose Detach and imagine what it might be like to be this person. Within this framework, you will come up with a solution that works. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) over others, and worrying will not help. to bring up a situation you were concerned Allow others to run with the ball; you cannot stop them anyway. Discussions come

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Feb, out far better if they occur on a one-on-one level. Tonight: Allow another person to

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ The best of intentions can fall could be hard to resist. Together, they to the wayside. Complete a project that is likely to bring in money. Allow feedback from others. You will like one person's in your communication. If you are single, ideas a lot. Tonight: Accept a dinner invi-

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your imagination impacts your your relationship in a new direction, if you morning. By afternoon, you will focus on each task, project and interaction. Do not The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll forget to make a call or schedule an important meeting. Seeing this person could be most important. Tonight: As late as you

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** ★ Getting going could be difficult, yet by lunch you are a force to be dealt with. Your creativity peaks this afternoon. up in the air. However, it would be better Attempt to stay grounded, and project to play it low-key, say less and/or vanish. some of this positive energy into the matter

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Make important calls early. You might want to cocoon and do nothing in the afternoon. You will see a situation a lot differently as a result. Take some time to reflect on whether you should close your door at work or go for a brief walk. Tonight: Happily head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Handle a financial matter immediately in the morning. Phone calls come in from everywhere. Your popularity might interfere with work. Know how to postpone a meeting without hurting others' feelings. Tonight: Join a friend, and catch up on his or her news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** You start the day as a force to ASAP. By the afternoon, you might find yourself involved in some financial discussions. You will not have time for much

al. Time. Invite a friend to dinner. PISCES (Fc. 10 March 20)

** * You wake up on the wrong side of the bed. The contrast between how you feel then and later in the afternoon could be astonishing. There is very little that *** You might not have control will stop you. The smart move would be about. Handle it as well. Tonight: Go out





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WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM? TROUBLE.

Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey





Hagar The Horrible





Peanuts



WHAT HAPPENED WAS THE PONY EXPRESS LOST THEIR BEST PONY, AND THEN THERE WAS A ROBBERY AND THEN SOME BAD WEATHER, AND.





Blondie







"We're cold! Can we finish our showman in the house?"



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Nest Heads





HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012

This year you demonstrate the ability to get along with people who wield power. Your creativity and charisma draw people toward you and also allow barriers to dissolve. Many people act differently with you than they do with others. The downside is that you will see some of their less-amiable traits. If you are single, you will have to sort through quite a few admirers. Know what type of relationship you want, and that information will help you choose the right person. If you are attached, remember that this bond consists of two people. Note a tendency to be me-oriented. Another PI-

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

** You follow through on your instincts with someone you look up to. Communicate what you feel is necessary. Perhaps revealing more of your thoughts would be helpful. At this point, you probably will keep them within. Tonight: Vanish while you can

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** You know exactly what you want and where you are going. You also easily convince others of your sense of direction. You have supporters and a strong understanding of your goals. When these factors blend, you head toward success. Be sensitive to an irate child or loved one. Tonight: Let the good times begin.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

relax, you discover that that might be an impossibility. Wherever you are, no matter what your plans are, you will step up to the plate. Responsibilities weigh heavily on your shoulders. Tonight: A family member go far. or roommate could be on the warpath.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Revise your thoughts about a only what you want, and/or you are not recognizing a change in this person's behavior. Be careful when handling machinery, as your mind might not be focused. Tonight: Follow the music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

common ground. Whether this bond is new or old, you will notice where change might

sive than you realize. Tonight: Postpone a chat until you both are relaxed

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** You might be far more sarcastic

or angry than you realize. Creative distractions and ideas can camouflage what is really going on, even with you. When animosity breaks out with a partner or friend, look within to see what is going on with you. Tonight: Get past a hassle. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ What you feel is appropriate

with someone in your daily life probably is. However, for some reason anger could break out before you can have a conversation with this person. Do not overthink a SCES demonstrates a different side of your situation, if possible. Tonight: Do what you

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** A meeting could be more important than you realize. You could be drawn to one specific person, or just believe that he or she is very special. Observe more before making a decision. Might you be putting this person on a pedestal? Tonight: Where the fun is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Stay centered and direct when dealing with a family member about a property issue. You might want to revise your thinking about a money matter. An investment might not be as good as you think it is. Someone you look up to is very irri-

table. Tonight: Happy close to home. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Your perspective is subject to *** While you thought you could change. What you originally thought was OK might not be the case now. The more you learn, the fewer judgments you will make. Make sure your goals transform with your intellect. Tonight: You do not need to

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

** Your perspective of a financial matter changes rapidly and gives you yet partner or loved one. You could be seeing a different point of view. How you viewed yourself several years ago is substantially different than now. You are in a period of transition. Tonight: Someone is adjusting to the ever-changing you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Defer to others, even if you *** Build a key relationship on are sure of yourself. You don't need to prove that you are right over and over again. Let others come to that conclusion be good. A struggle over finances could on their own. Tonight: Someone you care happen. Your words might be more defenabout becomes feisty. Let this person be.

Tundra

LEADER TO THE PERSON OF THE PE



Shoe



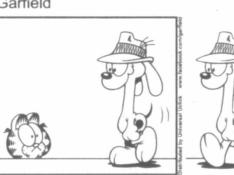
Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield







Beetle Bailey









Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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Zetas members kill rivals, escape prison

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Imprisoned members of the hyper-violent Zetas drug cartel stabbed and bludgeoned 44 members of the rival Gulf cartel to death and then staged a mass escape, apparently with the help of prison authorities, officials in northern Mexico said Monday.

Rodrigo Medina, governor of the northern state of Nuevo Leon, said the prison's director and three other officials have been fired and are under investigation for purportedly helping in the escape. The same was done with 18 prison guards.

"Unfortunately, a group of traitors has set back the work of a lot of good police," Medina told a news conference. "The most important thing is to make sure that the people working on the inside are on the side of the law, and that they not be corrupted and collaborate with the criminals, as the investigations indicate they presumably did."

Medina did not say how the escape was carried out, but he noted that no members of any gang had broken into the prison to spring their colleagues, as has happened at other Mexican prisons. Nor were any firearms smuggled into the facility; all of the deaths apparently occurred with blunt

Medina confirmed that all 30 escaped inmates were linked to the Zetas cartel, a brutal gang founded by deserters from an elite Mexican military

He did not say what crimes the escaped inmates had been convicted of, but said 25 of the 30 were in the prison on federal charges, which often involve drug trafficking or illegal weapons possession. Medina offered a reward of 10 million pesos (almost \$800,000) for information leading the arrest of those involved in the mass escape.

Medina did not say whether the riot and murders were carried out to cover up the jailbreak, but said the mass escape appeared to have been planned, and may have involved help from authorities at a specific point along the prison perimeter, known as Tower Six.

The Zetas and Gulf cartels were allies before splitting in 2010 and they have been fighting turf battles in Monterrey and elsewhere in northeastern Mexico.

Medina repeated a complaint often voiced by governors in northern Mexico, where violent drug cartel suspects are often lodged in state prisons that are overcrowded

and don't meet the standards of the country's few maximum-security federal lockups.

"It would be very good for the state if a large number of federal inmates are transferred out, in light of the overcrowding we have," Medina said, noting that a lot of the inmates "are very highly dangerous."

Prison guards in Mexico are vulnerable to corruption; they are poorly paid and in many cases, they and their families are vulnerable to threats because they live in the same poor neighborhoods where the cartels operate.

The prison is located in Apodaca, a part of the Monterrey metropolitan area that is Mexico's third-largest and that has long been the country's symbol of development and prosperity.

All 2,500 inmates in the prison were incarcerated for federal crimes, and as many as 70 percent had yet to be convicted. The inmate population there grew by 1,500 in the last year to 180 percent of capacity, the result of a crackdown on organized crime and drug trafficking in the last year.

Medina said about 60 percent of inmates in local lockups across the state are facing federal charges.

Deadly fights happen periodically in Mexico's cartels stage jail breaks and battle for control of penitentiaries, often with the involvement of officials. Sunday's riot was one of the deadliest so far.

Thirty-one prisoners died in January during a prison riot in the Gulf coast city of Altamira in Tamaulipas state, which borders Texas. Another fight in a Tamaulipas prison in the border city of Matamoros in October killed 20 inmates and injured 12.

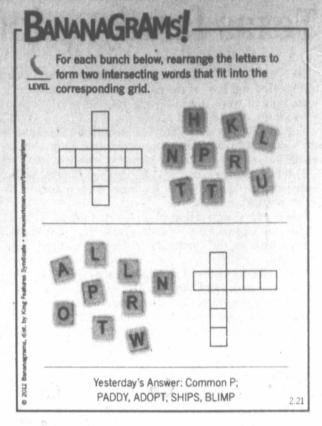
Last July, a riot at a prison in the border city of Juarez killed 17 inmates. Mexican authorities detained the director and four guards over that clash. Surveillance video showed two inmates opening doors to let armed prisoners into a room where the slain victims were reportedly holding

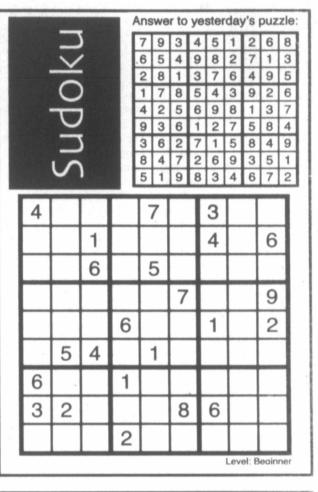
Twenty-three people were killed in a prison riot in Durango city in 2010, and a 2009 riot in Gomez Palacio, another city in the northern Mexican state of Durango, killed 19 people.

More than 47,500 people have been killed in drugrelated violence since 2006, when President Felipe Calderon intensified Mexico's crackdown on organized crime.

Families of prisoners protested outside the prison because they couldn't get information on the victims. Only 10 of the dead had been identified by late afternoon.

The Apodaca prison was also the scene of a fire last May that killed 14. Officials then said the blaze could have been caused by a short circuit, not a prisoner uprising.





Small businesses criticize ICE fines for paperwork errors

HOUSTON (AP) — Some small business owners are complaining that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement audits touted as deterrents to hiring illegal immigrants are instead becoming a "money grab" with fines for paperwork errors.

The Houston Chronicle reports an analysis of nearly 800 audits ICE completed since October 2010 shows roughly half of the 117 companies fined were penalized not for hiring illegal immigrants, but for problems with employment verification paperwork.

Mike Weir, who owns a small lightning protection company in suburban Houston, said an ICE audit of his business found that none of his 35 workers were illegal immigrants. But he was fined \$13,300 for errors on his workers' employment eligi-

bility forms. In comparison, a Dallas-area car wash was issued a warning but not fined after an ICE audit found 70 percent of its 276 employees were found to have "suspect documents" that signal potential problems with their U.S. work authorization.

"They're not looking for illegals. They're looking for clerical errors," said Weir, who eventually negotiated his fine down to \$7,500. "It's a money grab."

A third of the total \$1.8 million in fines issued by the agency in those nearly 800 cases involved companies that auditors found had no workers with "suspect documents," the records show.

ICE officials said the fines for poor bookkeeping are part of an overall "deterrent strategy" to keep employers from hiring illegal immigrants.

"Much like the IRS uses audits as a deterrent strategy to prevent people from falsifying tax records, part of our strategy in conducting audits is to encourage businesses to comply with the law," said Danielle Bennett, an ICE spokeswoman.

The agency has opened more than 7,200 audits since the start of the 2009 fiscal year. Last fiscal year, it issued a record-setting \$10 million in fines in connection with the audits.

ICE officials said some of the companies fined only for paperwork errors may have actually hired illegal immigrants, but left auditors with an insufficient paper trail to prove it by failing to fill out I-9 employment forms or to keep copies of important documents, like Social Security cards.

Bennett said ICE's internal audit records "should not be used to make statistical conclusions about ICE's work site program" since the agency has so many cases still under investigation.

Bennett added that ICE does not formally track fines that are levied for hiring illegal immigrants versus those for only paperwork violations.

Experts on the I-9 auditing process said it is often difficult to prove companies knowingly hired illegal immigrants, even in what might appear to be egregious cases, since the law requires only that employers fill out an I-9 and make sure a Social Security card looks "reasonably genuine" on its face.

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH **ACROSS DOWN**

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3 Campaign

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8 Squeak

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Southern Baptists mull name

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The nation's largest protestant denomination will definitely remain "Baptist," but leaders are thinking about whether it will be "Southern" for much longer.

Southern Baptist President Convention Bryant Wright was expected to present the recommendation of a task force assigned to study a name change to the denomination's executive committee at a meeting Monday night. Any name change would have to be approved at the SBC's annual conventions the next two years.

Wright has said he is concerned the name is too regional and hinders efforts to plant new churches outside of the South. Others outside of church leadership say the name has become a liability because it is too often associated with divisive, partisan poli-

Either way, a recent survey conducted by the SBC's own Lifeway Research firm gives weight to the idea that the name does drive away some potential members.

Of the 2,000 Americans surveyed, 40 percent of respondents had an unfavorable view of the denomination and 44 percent of respondents said that knowing a church was Southern Baptist would negatively impact their decision to visit or join the church.

Although 53 percent of respondents overall had a favorable view of the Southern Baptists, the high negatives are a concern for a denomination in which spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a fundamental to their faith.

While the 16 million member denomination continues to plant new churches in the U.S. and around the world, it has seen a decline in baptisms, church attendance and member- two straight years.

ship in recent years.

Wright has not revealed whether the task force voted in favor of a new name, but task force members have spoken positively about the idea.

"If we don't aggressively plant churches and lead people to Christ, we become increasingly irrelevant to the world around us," Jimmy Draper, the task force chairman, said recently. Draper also is a former SBC president and the former head of the SBC's Lifeway Christian Resources.

Wright, the senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., will address the SBC executive committee on Monday evening at SBC headquarters in Nashville. If that group approves a new name, it would still have to pass a majority vote of delegates to the convention's annual meeting for

Texas family, pilot in Colo. air crash BANANAGRAMS!

DENVER (AP) — A pilot and a passenger from Texas were killed and four of the passenger's family members were injured when a small plane crashed in a Colorado snowstorm, officials said Monday.

The family was on its way to Steamboat Ski Resort, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported (http://bit.ly/ xN8FWb).

The twin-engine Cessna 414A crashed Sunday while approaching Yampa Valley Regional Airport about 125 miles northwest of Denver.

Passenger Gabbi Humpal, 44, of Corpus Christi, Texas, and pilot Hans Vandervlugt, 75, of Refugio, Texas, died in the crash, Routt County Coroner Rob

Ryg said. Humpal's 10-year-old daughter, Sarah, suffered critical injuries and was flown to a Denver hospital, he said. Humpal's husband and two sons suffered broken bones and bruises and their injuries weren't consid-

as 47-year-old Scott Humpal, 18-year-old Tad and 13-year-old Dillon, all from Corpus Christi.

ered life-threatening, Ryg said. They were identified

No other details were released. Scott Humpal owns Humpal Physical Therapy, which

has clinics in the Corpus Christi area. The family was on its way to Steamboat Ski Resort about 25 miles east of the airport, Ken Weir, the company's human resources manager and marketing director, told the newspaper.

"The people I'm talking to are really distraught," Weir He didn't immediately return telephone messages

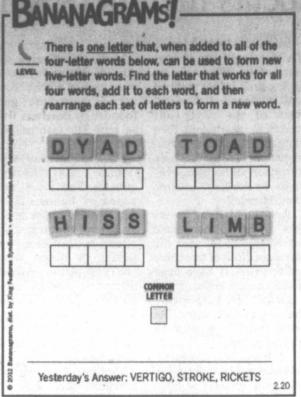
from The Associated Press. Scott Humpal's Facebook page spelled the names of his wife and daughter as Gaby and Sara. The discrepancy could not immediately be resolved.

Vandervlugt had been a pilot since he was 14 and operated Vanair Aviation Services, said his wife, Ruth Vandervlugt.

The Steamboat Today newspaper reported (http://bit. ly/xfn8oc) the plane came to a rest in knee-deep snow and airport crews plowed a path to the wreckage for emergency responders.

The airport was closed to incoming traffic until Monday morning.

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating.



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

reconnected via the Internet and have become close again. It has been a blessing. Penny and has been to visit me a couple of times.

One of Penny's relatives nice man from across the country immediately cononce, explaining her recent SPARKS, NEV loss, and he has been courting her with extremely romantic daily emails ever since. Penny asked me for advice, and I told her that her loss is fresh and raw, and she should give herself time to grieve for her husband.

alone, and I know she's scared. However, I see big red flags and I'm worried Little League or Scouting. that "Wants to Enlist" may about her. I advised that they That way, you'll meet other wish to consider. My readshould keep in casual con- parents with similar inter- ers comment: to heal. Should I stay out of or should I reiterate my concerns? — CONFLICTED IN COASTAL CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFLICTED: I see nothing wrong with continuing to share your thinking with your friend. You gave her good advice. Although some beautiful relationships have been formed online, this one seems to have blossomed unusually quickly.

Encourage Penny to take her time, invite him to visit eventually, and go visit him so she can meet his friends and family and get to know him better. If it turns out that remarriage is in the cards, then suggest that she contact her law-

DEAR ABBY: We are in our late 40s and have two eleand at our children's school. out with the others. Some- to go elsewhere

DEAR ABBY: One of how we got dragged into it, my closest friends from child- and now no one interacts with the best foundation for me. to see if it would help. I canhood, "Penny," lost her hus- us anymore. The parents of It taught me discipline, in- not tell you the difference band of 30 years five months our children's friends attend stilled confidence that I could it has made in my life. I'm ago, after a short illness. We another church and have a handle any situation, and pro- calmer, happier and have group they're part of, but we vided me with skills that en-

has moved back to California could afford to have the kids

have something in common GIRL IN NEW MEXICO with them. If that doesn't you will widen your circle can lead to friendships.

band left me after 38 years of the first time, I finally had marriage. All my adult life I purpose and direction. My fihave been known personally nal job lasted 17 years. I don't and professionally as "Mrs. mean to suggest "Wants to Brown." Now that I'm being Enlist" suffers from the same known as Mrs. Brown? — **KEEPING MY NAME**

DEAR KEEPING: Yes.

or Ms. Brown if you prefer. a position where there are alfully disagree with the advice have a long-term and sucyer and have a pre-nuptial old woman who burns out attending college even partagreement in place before of jobs quickly and is think- time -- to satisfy her intellect

Force. You discouraged her. mentary school-age children. U.S. Air Force, Air Force Re- LAS CRUCES, N.M. My husband and I are ac- serves and the Air National tively involved in our church Guard for 14 years. Experi- Enlist" may want to be tested ence taught me that if I didn't for ADD (Attention Deficit However, we have no friends like my current assignment, it Disorder). For many years, we can just hang out with. was easier to tolerate it for the I was misdiagnosed with a We used to be part of a small time being knowing it wasn't variety of mental health isgroup of friends from church, a permanent assignment. sues. Then my husband read but one family had a falling Eventually, I received orders an article about adult ADD.

2-20

abled me to work with people When I was working, we under various circumstances.

"Wants to Enlist" needs in activities but there wasn't to be honest with the commuch time. Now that I am panies/organizations she apnot working the time is there, plies to. During the interview, FLORIDA signed her up on some online but not the money. People she should be upfront in saydating sites, and a seemingly our age have empty nests ing she is willing to commit difficulty settling down in or are grandparents. We'd to a set period of time and/ love to have friends, but we or to accept a part-time potacted her with a beautiful don't know how to resolve sition, lower pay and a flexemail. She responded to him this. — LEFT BEHIND IN ible schedule. The employers who hired me under these **DEAR LEFT BEHIND:** terms have written me letters Why not invite your chil- of recommendation, proving dren's friends and their they benefitted from our arparents over? You already rangement. -- FORMER FLY

DEAR FORMER FLY work, a way to make new GIRL: Thank you for offriends would be to sign fering a solution that my dreams! - TRACY IN Penny has never been your children up for afford- worked for you. Responses able extra-curricular activi- I received to that letter proties such as YMCA, YWCA, vided interesting insights

tact, and if it's real now, it ests. Another alternative DEAR ABBY: I, too, will still be real in another would be for you and your wasted years of my life jobyear. I think she needs time husband to join a service hopping. It seemed I couldn't **club so you can meet others** stay in a position longer than it and mind my own business, who contribute to the com- six months. It wasn't until munity. If you give it a try late in life that I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. of acquaintances, which With therapy and medication, my life finally took on some DEAR ABBY: My hus- semblance of "normal." For divorced, can I legally still be disorder, but it deserves some consideration. — B.P.D. IN

TENNESSEE DEAR ABBY: Once a job Although you will no longer became routine, I lost interbe "Mrs. John Brown," you est. Eventually I found my will be Mrs. JULIA Brown way to higher education and DEAR ABBY: I respect- ways new challenges. I now you gave to "Wants to Enlist" cessful career. Perhaps this (Dec. 29). She is the 19-year- 19-year-old should consider ing about enlisting in the Air while preparing for a more varied and challenging fu-I served honorably in the ture. — BEEN THERE IN

> DEAR ABBY: "Wants to After checking with my doc-

RDKH D OPPV

DTOREHI

AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

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

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

CRYPTOQUOTE

WTBBHI

Saturday's Cryptoquote: HAPPINESS HAS A

BAD RAP. PEOPLE SAY IT SHOULDN'T BE YOUR

GOAL IN LIFE. OH, YES IT SHOULD. - RICHARD

hints. Each day the code letters are different.

GW CPT NPTBV

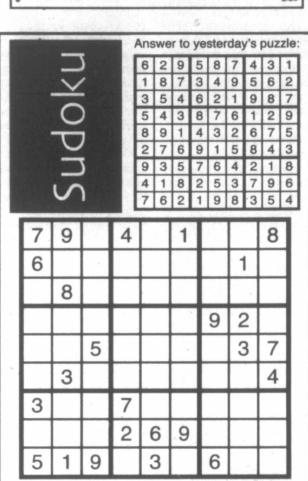
ERPZDU

DREYFUSS

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

My military training was tor, I was put on medication more confidence than ever. I hope this young lady will look into what might be causing her behavior because she will see how wonderful she is. -- HAPPIER NOW IN

DEAR ABBY: I also had one place. My solution was to become a traveling health care worker. I work for a contracting agency that sends me on three-month assignments all over the country. If I don't like a facility, I know my time there will end soon. There are local contracting agencies in larger cities if you don't want to pack up and move. This job has been the answer to KINGWOOD, TEXAS



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH **ACROSS DOWN**

2 Pub

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5 Fire

6 Small

7 Keats

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8 Alan of

"Shane"

language

9 Bangkok

16 Undoing

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Saturday's answer

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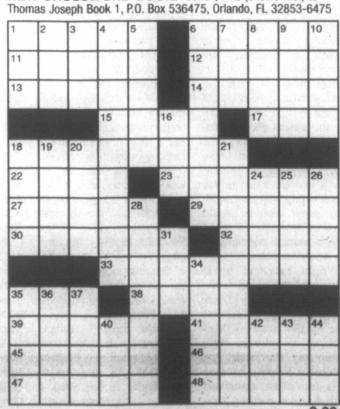
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SWEET

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Report: Perry now mostly absent from governor's office

DALLAS (AP) — A review of Texas Gov. Rick Perry's official state calendar conjures an image of an absentee governor.

In the first 16 days since abandoning his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, Perry has been to his office just three times and stayed no longer than three hours each time, The Dallas Morning News reported in Sunday's edition.

Citing Perry's own state calendars, The News reported Perry has barely returned to his Capitol office in Austin after spending almost six months away campaigning for the presidential nomination. In 11 of the days since, his schedule shows no state meetings, phone calls or other events. In the five days thereafter, he is shown engaging in 10 hours of state business spread over three days.

One day, he taped a message for the El Pasoan of the Year. He toured a racetrack under construction near Austin another day.

However, Perry aides say the schedule does not accurately portray Perry's activity. They say he works, not from his office, but from wherever he is. Furthermore, the aides say, Perry's staff knows his wishes well without requiring his direct supervision — even in the face of challenges on the education, health care and economic fronts.

"It's the same as when he was on the road campaign-

Ex-sheriff's use of forfeitures probed

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A former South Texas sheriff's lavish use of forfeited proceeds from drug and weapons trafficking has prompted the state attorney general's office to investigate the more than \$500,000 in spending.

Critics say the use of seized proceeds by former Brooks County Sheriff Balde Lozano and his office exemplifies Texas' flawed system for dealing with forfeitures, money that is supposed to go toward fighting crime, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported in Sunday's edition.

A state trooper in November 2001 found \$1.5 million in cash inside two locked suitcases in the back of a sport utility vehicle stopped on U.S. 281, the main north-south highway in Brooks County. When word reached Lozano, who was sheriff at the time, he knew instantly what that meant — a cut for his department, which helped with the traffic stop, the Caller-Times reported.

In the next eight years, the sheriff's department splurged on new cedar paneling for the office. An auditor regarded the construction work, 18 vehicle purchases and sales, and \$80,000 in credit card transactions as questionable. Lozano has called the audit's findings politically motivated.

Forfeitures are cash, cars, real estate or other assets associated with a crime that are subject to seizure by law enforcement. The proceeds are distributed among law enforcement agencies and prosecutors involved in the cases.

Assets suspected to be linked to criminal activity can be forfeited even when no one is charged with a crime. All government must do is show "by a preponderance of the evidence" that the assets are linked to crime, a lesser standard than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" required for a criminal conviction.

The Caller-Times analyzed annual reports filed by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors across the state. From 2000 to 2010, Texas law enforcement has received more than \$533 million in forfeited assets and more than \$266 million in assets seized by federal agencies.

However, the Caller-Times found that agencies patrolling long expanses of remote, rural highways seized far more per capita in forfeited assets than urban agencies. In Kenedy County, home to 416 South Texans, authorities received \$656,000 in forfeited assets over the past 10 years, ranking it third in the state.

Arrests

cont. from page 1

the driver, Albert Tambunga, 52, of Pampa, appeared nervous. They found cocaine, and Tambunga was charged with possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less than one gram.

Tambunga was released on a \$7,000 bond.

Later that evening around 10 p.m., a vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation at the 700 block of East Frederic. Deputies searched the vehicle, finding drug paraphernalia, marijuana and methamphetamine.

The driver, Brian Sealman, 29, of Pampa, was arrested on an outstanding traffic warrant and possession of drug paraphernalia, and was later released.

A passenger, Kristie Davis, 19, of Pampa, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, in an amount under one gram, and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released on a \$2,750 bond.

Around 11:30 p.m. on Sunday evening, officers with the Pampa Police Department stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation at the 1300 block of Garland. Officers searched the

vehicle, finding marijuana and an identifying item not belonging to the driver, Tammy Cox, 40, of Pampa.

Cox was arrested on a warrant for theft of property, in an amount greater than \$50 but less than \$500, as well as charges of possession of marijuana, in an amount less than two ounces, tampering or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair and fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.

Cox remains in custody, and faces a \$17.000 bond.

ing; even though he's not in the office and it's not indicated on his schedule, he's still conducting state business," Perry spokeswoman Lucy Nashed told The News. "With the technology that we have today, you don't necessarily have to be in the office to be doing your job."

However, Perry may be leaving state policy to his minions and focusing more on politics. Although he keeps a separate political schedule not reflected on the public record, The News reports that interviews show he has spent time since returning to Texas calling financial and political backers to thank them for their support of his presidential campaign.

On Feb. 9, Perry went to Washington, D.C., to address Republican members of the Texas congressional delegation and a conference of conservative political activists.

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On Wednesday, he is scheduled to travel to Arizona to support Newt Gingrich's presidential campaign.

Keeping a light schedule is not necessarily new to Perry or to any occupier of the office of Texas governor, a constitutionally weak office.

However, in 2010, the Democratic challenger to Perry's re-election, Bill White, pointed out that Perry had no state events scheduled in one out of every three business days over a span of several months. White's campaign suggested that Perry be paid by the hour.

Perry receives a salary of nearly \$133,000 per year as governor and a state pension of \$7,700 per month.

"It doesn't matter what time period you look at, this governor always has something better to do than run the state," Harold Cook, a consultant who works with state Senate Democrats, told The News.



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Sports

Harvesters ready to face Lamesa's press in bi-district

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

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The Pampa Harvesters aren't strangers to facing the press defense as they've seen it against El Paso Parkland, South Garland, Lewisville Hebron and Amarillo Tascosa.

Tonight in Plainview, Pampa will face that defense again when they play the Lamesa Golden Tornadoes at Wayland Baptist's Hutcherson Center.

Head coach Dustin Miller said Lamesa's coach came from Palo Duro, adding how his team handles the press will be key.

"They press, trap and scramble from anywhere on the court," Miller said. "If you aren't ready to handle it, it's going to be a long night. For the most part we handle it OK.

Junior Derrek Pollard said he has to do

"I'm going to have to play big and help them get open in the press," Pollard said. Senior Cole Engle said Perryton ran the press against them Tuesday and the team handled it well.

"We broke it down and got layups on three or four possessions in a row," Engle said. "Hopefully we can do that to (Lamesa) all night and get a 20-point win." Senior Taylor Kennedy said they got to

watch film on Lamesa and feel prepared. "The coaches got plenty of film." Kennedy said. "They are plenty prepared and they have prepared us. I'm sure we are all confident going into that."

The Harvesters (19-8) haven't played since last Tuesday. Engle said he doesn't think it will have an effect.

"Basketball is basketball," Engle said. "We will play like we always have."

Pollard said the team has been going hard in practice.

"The practice has been pretty good," Pollard said. "We've taken it to another level for playoffs."

Miller said they considered playing a

warm-up game if they got a bye.

"Injuries weigh too heavy on my mind," Miller said. "We've had pretty good practices the last week simulating game stuff. I think it's good for us. I think that break was good and we will be just fine."

This week, Miller called three players up from the junior varsity: Juniors Payton Alvey and Jacob Green and sophomore Cory Ponce. Engle said having some of the junior varsity players has made practice

"(The varsity) has been playing each other all year," Engle said. "It gets old. Seeing those different faces and different styles of play, makes us better.'

Pollard said they've helped push them in practice.

"They try to get after us a little bit," Pollard said. "It helps."

Ponce was called up last Tuesday for Pampa's game against Perryton and said he's excited about joining the varsity for the playoffs.

"I feel really proud of myself that the coaches gave me an opportunity to play with the varsity this year," Ponce said. "I'm looking forward to the rush of being in the playoffs with a team that could make it all the way.'

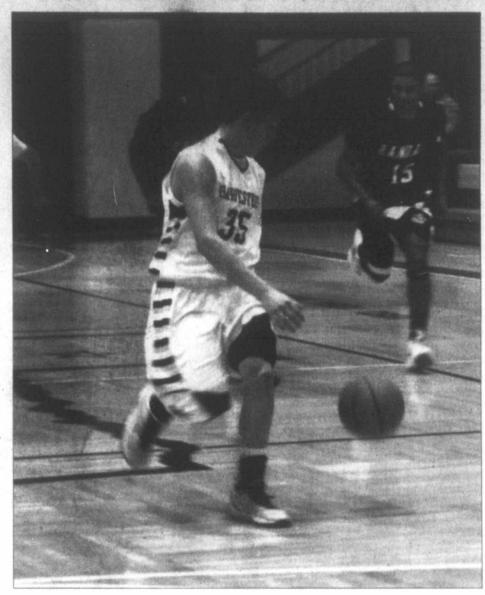
Kennedy will also get his first_playoff action after watching last season while recovering from staph.

"I'm looking forward to it but at the same time there is some pressure," Kennedy said. "Then again pressure is something to look forward to. They made a good run last year and hope we can repeat this year."

Pollard said the team needs to play well together.

"We need to play as a team," Pollard said. "The rest will take care of itself."

The winner plays District 4-3A champion Seminole in the area round February

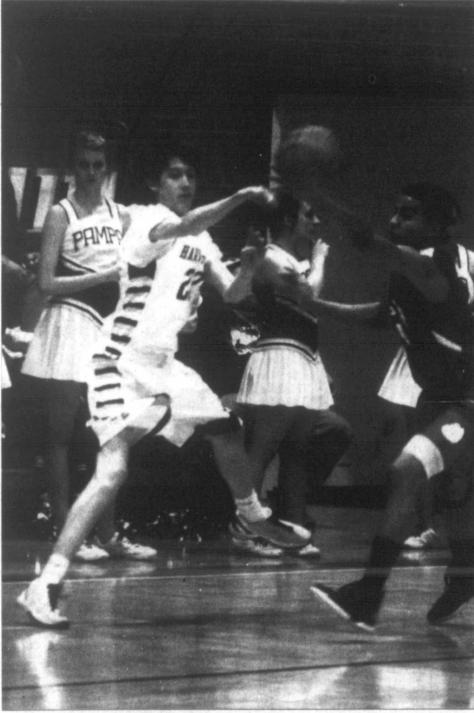


staff photo by Joe Murray

Junior Tyler Powell runs in front of Randall's defense in a Dec. 6 game. The Harvesters hope to break Lamesa's press tonight in the bi-district round.

McLean Boys Playoffs

Due to ongoing technical issues, the recap of the McLean Boys basketball team's bi-district game against Miami will be in Wednesday's issue. The Pampa News thanks you for your understanding.



staff photo by Joe Murray

Junior Ty Hutto makes a pass in a Feb. 10 game against Borger. The Harvesters face Lamesa in the bi-district round in Planiview.

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Sports

Lady Tigers start fast, down Lady Longhorns in area

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

AMARILLO — The McLean Lady Tigers entered Friday's area round matchup riding on a five-game winning streak. Against the Lazbuddie Lady Longhorns, the Lady Tigers' momentum continued as they jumped out early in a 58-40 victory at Amarillo Tascosa High School.

"I felt like we were playing good basketball," head coach Mike Prescott said. "Momentum switched a little in the third but we got it back."

McLean controlled the game from the tip-off, racing to a 17-5 lead after the first quarter and maintained a double digit lead the rest of the game and held Lazbuddie to eight points in the first half.

Bohlar

Rodriguez

"We executed," senior Saber Bohlar said.

Senior Rudy Rodriguez said having a bye in the bidistrict round helped the Lady Tigers prepare.

"We rested, but we also planned our defenses and offenses." Rodriguez said. "We knew who we were playing, so it was good to have extra time."

Bohlar sparked the Lady Tigers nailing five 3-pointers in the first half and scored 21 points in the game. Rodriguez led McLean in the second half with 14 points, finishing the game with 21. In the fourth quarter, Rodriguez was 10-for-12 from the free throw line.

"We had a game plan and knew what we were going to do," Rodriguez said.

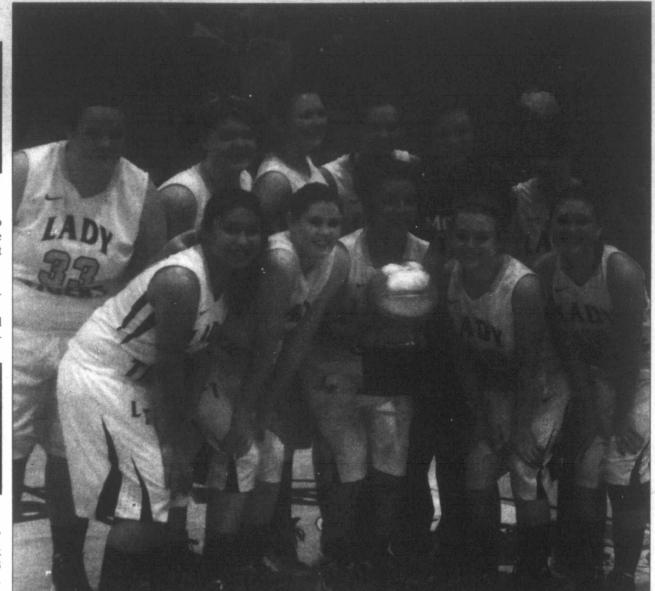
The Lady Longhorns made a small push to start the second half and cut the Lady Tigers' lead to 35-21. Shyann Rainey led the rally, scoring six of Lazbuddie's first eight in the third. Rainey scored 13 points in the second half to finish with a team-leading 18.

McLean pushed its lead back up to 17 at the end of the third and didn't allow Lazbuddie to rally. Rodriguez said the victory gives the team a confidence boost.

"We didn't make it out of the first round last year," Rodrgiuez said. "We did it this year."

The Lady Tigers (13-7) will play in the regional quarter-finals 6:30 p.m. today against the Follett Lady Panthers at Canadian High School. Follett beat McLean twice.

"It's going to be tough," Bohlar said. "We just got to play as a team and play like we did tonight and we will be fine."



staff photo by Andrew Glover

The McLean Lady Tigers pose with their new area round trophy after defeating the Lazbuddie Longhorns 58-40 Friday. Team members front from left: Jasmine Montoya, Saber Bohlar, Rudy Rodriguez, Miranda McMordie, Jacie Ketcherside, Kendra Richardson, Ashley Russell, Shannon Acuna, Kayla Adair, Justana Tate and Charlie Webb.

be fine.

staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

Senior Rudy Rodriguez shoots a jumper in the second half against Lazbuddie Friday. Rodriguez was co-leading scorer with 21 points.

Clarendon College basketball teams return to NJCAA Div. 1

CLARENDON — The Clarendon College Bulldog Basketball Teams are making a return to compete in the toughest junior college conference in the nation next year.

"After approval from the National Junior College Athletic Association as well as the Western Junior College Athletic Conference, and with final approval from the Clarendon College Board of Regents, the basketball programs will move to NJCAA Division I competition starting next year," CC Athletic Director John Green said. "I am thrilled we are making this move back into D-1 status."

Some of the reasons for this move include that during the last three years there has been a reduction of D-2 programs in close proximity to Clarendon College. To remain DII would have required a lot more travel and overnight stays. The closest D-2 basketball college was farther away than the farthest WJCAC DI basketball college.

"The level of competition our teams were forced to play included way too many JV teams," Green said. "We had lost our identity as being one of the toughest home court advantages in NJCAA DI competition. We will return to the glory days of the conference games."

"I am excited to promote doubleheader

basketball coming back to Clarendon," Green said. "A night of fun and exciting basketball complimented with activities, events and contest will create the best show in town."

The conference, region and nation have lit up over the Bulldog return to D-1 competition.

"Personally, I think Clarendon College's return to NJCAA Division I Basketball and to the WJCAC Basketball schedule is outstanding," Conference President Dr Steve McCleery states. "Once again, the WJCAC basketball teams are complete. I commend the Clarendon College Administration and Athletic Department for their commitment to excellence. Thank you Clarendon

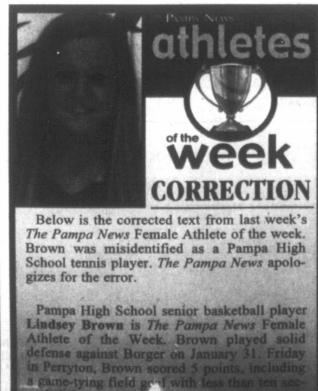
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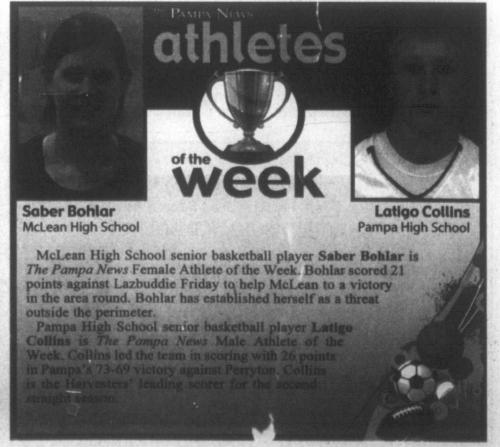
will come along with the D-1 status.

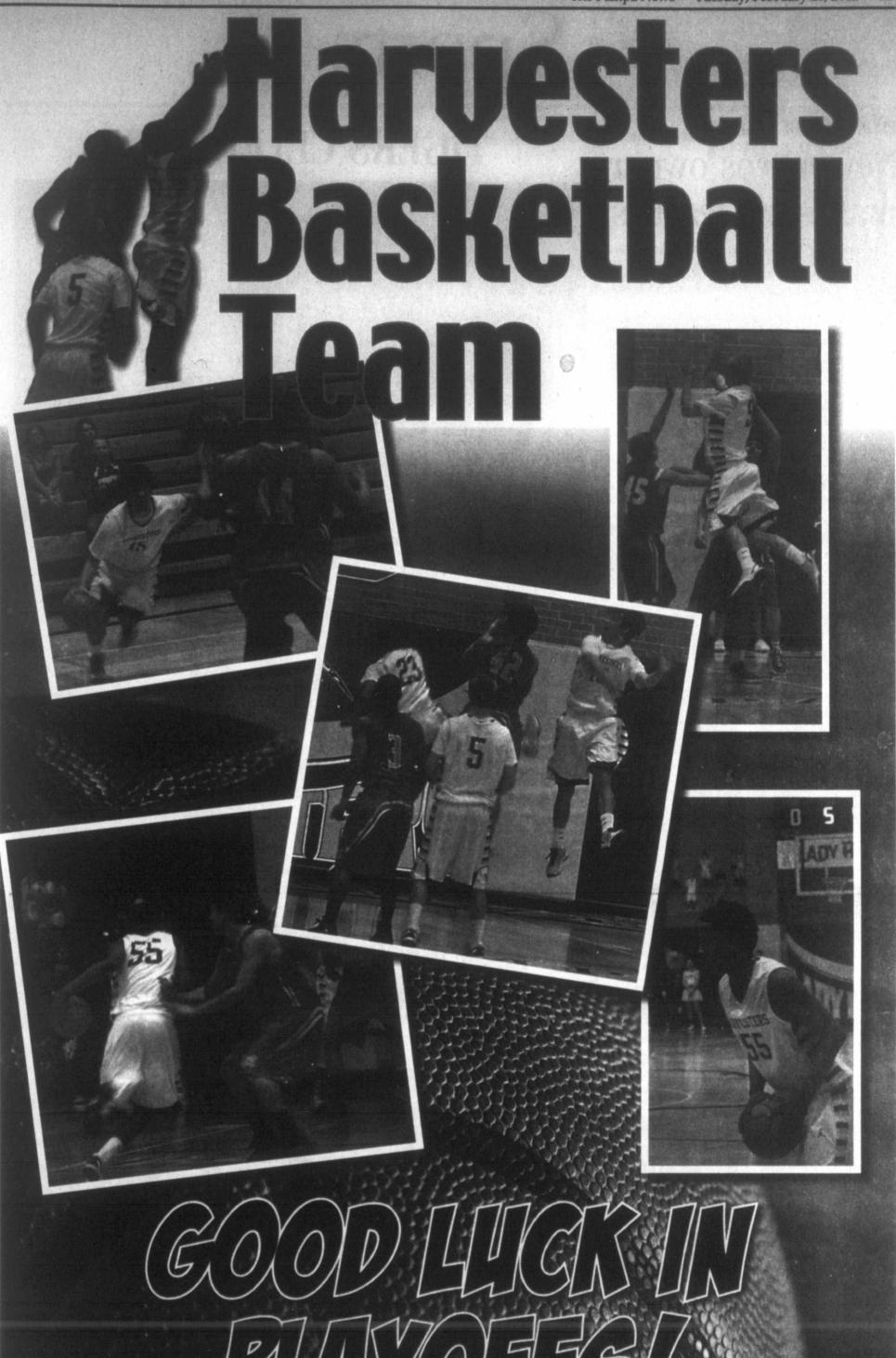
"Men's basketball coach Tony Starnes has already started the creation of two basketball tournaments next November," Green said. "Being NJCAA D-1 will help in attracting competition to fill these events. This in turn will benefit many of the businesses in Clarendon."

These teams, along with fans, will be spending the night, eating, fueling their vehicles and shopping in Clarendon over the weekend.









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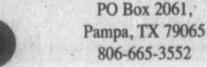
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Sports

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

New Astros owner makes big leagues

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) has bottomed out and one - New Astros owner Jim Crane made it clear on the first day of spring training that there is more to his investment than money.

Baseball has been a part of him since he was a pitcher "from (age) seven to 22, non-stop," Crane said Monday while Astros pitchers and catchers participated in their first organized workout of the year.

"It's fun to get back here," he said. "If you've ever played, you hear that ball popping into that glove, as we do now, and it brings back a lot of fond memories.

Crane bought the team from Drayton McLane last fall for \$615 million in a transaction that requires the franchise to move from the NL Central to the AL West in 2013. The team finished with the worst record in baseball last season at 56-106.

Manager Brad Mills referred to Monday as "the dawning of a new era" and Crane's visit was viewed as a starting point.

"We started talking about the sale of the team two vears ago and that's kind of the way it's been," said pitcher Brandon Lyon. "I think we finally have a resolution where we can move in some direction. There was no direction rest is history. before.

Crane was a pitcher at Central Missouri, but never made the big leagues. The Houston businessman says be happier

He arrived just before 9 a.m., met with Mills and general manager Jeff Luhnow, and then spoke to the team.

"To see all the young faces sitting in that room, probably anxious about making the team, you kind of understand that when vou played baseball ... it brought back a lot of memories

Crane bought a team that

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that has traded away several of their best players. The Astros could start the regular season with a different player at every position from the team that started the 2011 season.

According to Luhnow, who was hired in December after eight years in the St. Louis organization, every season is a new era with new players.

"In this particular case we have a new ownership group and some new executives, but it's up to the players and their mentality," he said. "This is a fresh start for us this year.

. . I think the attitude, from everything that I'm feeling and hearing and expressing, is very positive.'

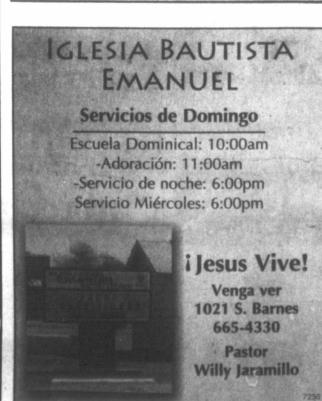
The team will not be burdened by high expectations. Luhnow said the Astros will look toward long-term solutions and Crane reminded the players that although "everybody expects us to come in last," they should not get caught up in those predictions

There was a time when Crane would have loved to trade places with them. When he was pitching at Central Missouri State, as the school was known in the early 1970s, he wound up with a sore arm and the

"I was 22 and lost velocity, and that was the end of that," he explained. "The freight business was better and a lot more economiit's been a long time since cally sound from a lonhe was in a locker room gevity standpoint. Not to and it was his first visit to say that these guys don't a spring training camp in make a lot of money, but several years. He couldn't it's tough to get to where they've gotten.'







TIGERS CELEBRATE



staff photo by Andrew Glover

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