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TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, April 20, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 13

75¢ The Gulf oil spill after two years | **PHS needs final furlong run**
 \$1.50 weekend What's the latest? Questions answered | **p4A** Andrew Glover: Pampa can take district by stepping up | **p8A**

Community Concert series wraps up with Curry

■ Crooner to present full-length concert tribute to legendary John Denver

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com
 The Pampa Community Concert Association will wrap up its 2011-2012 concert season with "Take Me Home,"

a live, full-length concert tribute to the legendary John Denver, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 at the M.K. Brown Civic Center.
 "We've heard lots of positive, positive things about the show, and we're



Curry
 The show is performed by Jim Curry,

really looking forward to it," Glennette Goode, treasurer of the PCCA, said. "Of course, John Denver is a national heritage classic, so it should be great. I think it's something the whole community should enjoy."

whose uncanny likeness in appearance and vocals to Denver earned him the role of Denver's singing voice in the 1997 CBS movie, "Take Me Home: The John Denver Story."
 "It is scary how much he looks like him, and it's all natural," Goode said. "It's not a wig or added makeup or anything else. It's just his natural appearance. It should be really appropriate."
 Curry will be backed by a full band
CONCERT cont. on page 3A

LUCKY SIGHTING

staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Here's something you don't see in Pampa every day: A rainbow adorned the skies over the city following a spate of midweek showers.

Republican convention on Saturday

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com
 The Gray County Republican Party will hold its convention at 10 a.m. this Saturday at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce on 200 North Ballard. During the convention, the group will elect 12 delegates and 12 alternates to attend the state convention for the party.
CONVENTION cont. on page 3A

Wheeler Co. grand jury indicts five

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com
 A Wheeler County Grand Jury returned five indictments against three people this month.
 James Richard Tidwell, 49, was indicted on a charge of injury against a child with intent of bodily injury, in connection with a January incident.
INDICTMENTS cont. on page 3A

Giovanni's Western Wear open in downtown Pampa

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com
 A new clothing store has stepped into downtown Pampa in the last month. Giovanni's Western Wear, located at 109 N. Cuyler, carries men and women's Western style clothing and boots.
 Oscar Olivas, manager of the store, came to Pampa from Hereford.
 "We decided to move to Pampa, because it's a pretty good sized community," he said. "We want to see what the results are, and go

from there."
 Giovanni's carries a variety of boots, including about 30 models of Reyme boots, and the store also carries work-wear.
 "We have steel toe work boots," Olivas said. "I'm thinking about carrying the square toe boots for the oilfield."
 "That's another reason that brought me here, because there's a lot of oil people here," Olivas added.
 Olivas said the store is more than happy to special order items for customers as well.



staff photo by **Mollie Bryant**
Julissa Torres, 14, browses the merchandise at Giovanni's Western Wear, which recently opened on Cuyler Street in Pampa.

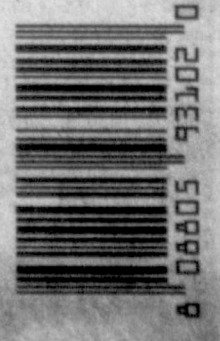
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
20%		
High 66 Low 44	High 74 Low 52	High 81 Low 50

Today: A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 66. North northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 74. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 81. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Texas math standards to exceed national?

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' top education official said Thursday that the state should hammer out new K-12 math curriculum standards that are better than national requirements adopted almost everywhere in the country, or delay approving anything until it can.

Textbook publishers are waiting for final approval by the State Board of Education so they can begin producing classroom materials. But Education Commissioner Robert Scott said making the final product better than national "common core" math standards is more important than meeting deadlines.

"We're going to fight and we're going to complain and we're going to have amendments and we're going to have dialogue," Scott told the board. "If you can't walk out of here tomorrow with math standards that are better than the common core, delay. Come back in May and finish them."

Scott was referring to the possibility of calling a special education board meeting next month to finish work on the standards if they aren't ready in time for a final vote scheduled for Friday. But after he spoke, the board spent hours sifting through small mountains of papers and going grade-by-grade to carefully tweak the language of what's required in the new, 10-year math curriculum. It then voted 14-0 to give preliminary approval to the would-be requirements — with one

member not voting.

That move clears the way for what looks to be smooth final approval, even though Thomas Ratliff, a Republican from Mount Pleasant, promised to offer a motion on Friday delaying the final vote for 30 days to give members more time to rework the math curriculum. Few board members appeared ready to back Ratliff's proposal.

The proposed requirements are based on the math tested in previous Texas standardized tests, and past curriculums in California, Massachusetts and Minnesota, as well as standards in Singapore. They don't adhere to the Common Core State Standards Initiative coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Texas is one of just five states that haven't adopted those standards, which were developed by teachers, school administrators, and experts with the intent of proving a consistent benchmark for preparing students for college and the workforce.

Thursday's hours of revising and tweaking the proposed math standards came in response to a flood of public comments — many of which complained that they may not be strenuous enough or include all subject areas they should.

Scott noted, "we had a last minute barrage of concerns raised, and we will do our best to address them."

Mavis Knight, D-Dallas, responded by saying, "the common core is an unnecessary distraction."

"That really should not be the overriding focus. For me, it's about the students and the teachers and their abilities and them having the necessary resources," said Knight, alluding to \$5.4 billion in cuts to public education approved last summer by the state Legislature.

The Texas Association of Business, one of the most-influential organizations of its kind in the state, has opposed the new math curriculum standards as not strict enough — saying they ultimately will hurt the competitiveness of future Texas workforces. The group also says the requirements try to cover so many areas that they practically are incoherent at times, and don't place enough focus on basics like algebra.

Some education groups have supported the standards as a major step forward. But others worry students are being asked to do too much, tackling advanced math at young ages.

Regardless of how strenuous they are, the proposed Texas standards also have a rule built in blocking their implementation unless the state Legislature provides funding for books to help students cope with tougher math requirements — an attempt by the board of education to hold lawmakers' feet to the fire on funding.

Proposed XL pipeline route unveiled

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Officials unveiled a new preferred route Thursday for the Nebraska portion of the stalled Keystone XL oil pipeline that avoids the state's groundwater-rich Sandhills region.

The proposed route would veer east around the the Sandhills before looping back to the original route. Developer TransCanada has said the reroute adds about 100 miles to the original 1,700-mile project that would carry oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast.

The company submitted the proposal after Gov. Dave Heineman allowed state officials to proceed with an environmental review. The review stalled in January when the Obama administration rejected a federal permit for the pipeline. Administration officials said they didn't have time to review the project before a congressional deadline and cited uncertainty about the Nebraska route.

The full \$7 billion pipeline would travel from Canada through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. TransCanada wants to build the 36-inch pipeline to carry oil from tar sands in Alberta to refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Nebraska became a pivotal battleground for the project last year, pitting environmentalists and some landowners against unions and the oil industry. Heineman called a special session to address concerns over the pipeline's pro-

posed path, and TransCanada executive eventually agreed to route the pipeline away from Nebraska's groundwater-rich Sandhills.

Nebraska lawmakers passed a bill earlier this month authorizes the state Department of Environmental Quality to review possible routes through the state and hold at least one public hearing on its evaluation. Its findings would then be added to a federal environmental review, if the company reapplies for a project permit.

Environmentalists say the pipeline still threatens Nebraska's water and wildlife, and they dispute company claims that it will create tens of thousands of U.S. jobs and reduce the nation's dependence on oil from hostile foreign nations.

The review is expected to cost as much as \$2 million. The state has spent roughly \$153,000 since November but stopped the analysis after the permit was denied.

Jane Kleeb, executive director of the group Bold Nebraska, said the proposed corridors still cross the Sandhills and the Ogallala aquifer, a groundwater supply that lies beneath Nebraska and smaller parts of seven other states.

"All of the routes are unacceptable and show once again we cannot trust TransCanada," Kleeb said.

TransCanada spokesman Shawn Howard said the new corridor proposals avoid the Sandhills, as they were identified by the state.

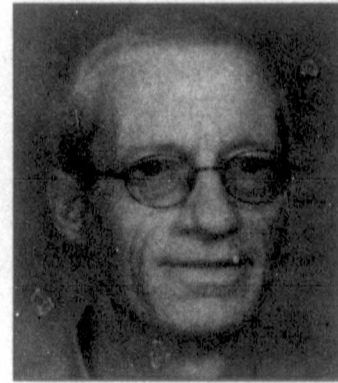
Obituaries

Steve Taylor, 49

Steve Taylor, 49, died April 19, 2012, in Amarillo. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 21, 2012, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel, with Pastor Paul Nachtigall of Highland Baptist Church officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2012, at Plymouth Cemetery near Samnorwood, under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Taylor was born October 4, 1962 in Spearman. He was a Pampa High School graduate. Steve was an Eagle Scout and Little League all-star. He owned and operated Taylor Pest Control for the past 16 years. He was a member



Taylor

of Highland Baptist Church. Steve loved hunting, fishing and being in the outdoors.

Survivors include his father, Eugene Taylor of Pampa; a sister, Janet Tomme and husband Mike of Amarillo; a brother, Keith Taylor and wife Beverly of Howardwick; sister-in-law, Denise Taylor of Pampa; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles; and special friends, Tam and Beckey Bailey of Pampa. Steve was preceded in death by his mother, Martha Taylor; and two brothers, Randall Taylor and Kevin Taylor.

Memorials may be made to Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Harmon Crutcher, 81

Harmon Crutcher, 81, died April 18, 2012, in Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum, with Nancy Ruff, commissioned lay pastor of First Presbyterian Church, officiating.

Burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery with military honors courtesy of U.S. Air Force. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Crutcher was born October 12, 1930 in Hollis, Okla.. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1947. He married Margaret Davis on February 12, 1965, in Pampa. She preceded him in death on May 30, 1991. Harmon was a machinist for Motor Inn for 24 years. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He was a Baptist. He enjoyed dancing and playing dominos at Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

Survivors include his companion, Rita Geiger of Pampa; three sisters, Helen Holloway of Warner, Okla., Waunell Coleman of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Omega Chisum and husband Warren of Pampa; two brothers, Paskel Crutcher of Owasso, Okla., and Johnny Crutcher of Amber, Okla.; step-son, Doug Davis and wife Teresa; step-granddaughter, Karen Weidner and husband Todd. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Thelma Harriss; four brothers, Preston, Allen, Royce and Edgar Crutcher.

Memorials may be made to Pampa Senior Citizens Center, P.O. Box 475, Pampa, TX 79066-0475.

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MORNINGRUSH

Gulf residents to get extra \$64 million

Dow Chemical to build in Texas

MIDLAND, Mich. (AP) — The Dow Chemical Co. said Thursday that it will build an ethylene production plant in Texas as part of a broader expansion designed to take advantage of lower natural gas prices created by a production boom.

The plant at Dow Chemical's Freeport operations is expected to employ as many as 2,000 workers during the construction phase. It is scheduled to start production in 2017.

It is one of several projects in Dow Chemical's \$4 billion investment plan to take advantage of lower natural gas prices as it expands production of ethylene and propylene, which are chemicals used in industrial processes.

The Midland, Mich., manufacturer also is developing a propylene production plant that is expected to begin production in 2015. It also plans to restart an ethylene production unit near Hahnville, La., by the end of 2012.

Natural gas prices have fallen sharply because production is booming as energy companies use newer drilling techniques to access new underground reserves. The futures price for natural gas has dropped 35 percent this year.

H.B. Fuller to close plants, cut jobs

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Specialty chemical maker H.B. Fuller Co. said Thursday it will close six factories by mid-2013 and cut 130 jobs across its North American adhesives business as it integrates the recently acquired business of Forbo Group.

H.B. Fuller said many of its operations duplicated those it bought from Forbo Group. The company is evaluating its operations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia and could announce further cuts in those areas.

H.B. Fuller completed its acquisition of Forbo Group's adhesive operations last month in a deal valued at roughly \$394 million. It bought operations that generated about \$580 million in revenue during 2011 and included 17 factories in 10 countries.

Plants being closed by mid-2013 are in Pointe-Claire, Quebec; Morris, Ill.; Kansas City, Kan.; Eugene, Ore.; Jackson, Tenn.; and Dallas, H.B. Fuller said.

The company will also consolidate its remaining North American adhesive operations within its remaining U.S. facilities in California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas and Washington.

City mulls hiring ban on smokers

FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth city officials are considering imposing a hiring ban on smokers.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram (<http://bit.ly/Jk7y8t>) reports the city's human resources department is reviewing public and private tobacco-use policies and will report back to the City Council May 8.

Mayor Betsy Price tells the Star-Telegram the idea has appeal because of health benefits and lower health insurance costs.

But council members Frank Moss and Sal Espino express concern that the ban could limit the city's field of job applicants.

City officials say they haven't found any other cities that have such a ban, although many private employers do restrict hiring to nonsmokers.

TDCJ plans to curb phones

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas prison officials are evaluating a California plan to curb calls on smuggled devices by having cellphone towers at units.

The Austin American-Statesman (<http://bit.ly/HW9uWg>) reports the system blocks certain calls, texts and online access. Administrators at each prison would manage the tower and only allow calls based on approved phone numbers.

Federal law prohibits jamming of calls.

Jason Clark with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice said Wednesday that the agency is working with contractor Century Link. The company operates pay phones in Texas prisons.

Clark says Texas corrections employees last year confiscated more than 900 unauthorized cellphones. That compares to nearly 1,500 smuggled phones seized three years ago. Texas authorities attribute the decline to security upgrades.

California expects to begin operating the new system this fall.

Indictments returned on cheese

CHICAGO (AP) — Four people are accused of ignoring U.S. Food and Drug Administration orders and distributing more than 110,000 pounds of contaminated cheese. Some of it contained salmonella, E. coli and other potentially harmful bacteria.

The U.S. attorney's office in Chicago says the suspects even scraped mold and fungus off 35- and 40-pound wheels of the Mexican cheese that unhappy customers had returned so they could be resold. Prosecutors announced the indictments Thursday.

A Wisconsin company distributing the cheese under the brand Queso Cincho De Guerrero to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Georgia and Texas issued a recall in 2007.

To cover up the distribution, the defendants allegedly sent false documentation to the FDA. They're charged with violating food safety laws.

Chase ends in downtown Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — A man suspected of shooting at his girlfriend led police on an hour-long, high-speed chase on Thursday that ended with his peaceful arrest in the heart of downtown Dallas during the lunchtime rush.

The pursuit began just before noon when officers spotted 25-year-old Temorris Duncan in a maroon sport utility vehicle in South Dallas and tried to stop him, police said.

Duncan led officers on a chase that varied from lazily slow to up to 100 mph and took them to Mesquite and Garland before returning to Dallas, police said. Duncan eventually slowed to a stop in downtown Dallas and crawled out on his hands and knees to peacefully surrender.

Mesquite police Sgt. Brian Parrish said that when the chase came through their city the driver called 911 and police tried to talk him into doing "the right thing."

The incident began with an altercation between Duncan and his 22-year-old girlfriend about 1 a.m. Wednesday in southeast Dallas.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Roughly 7,300 residents and businesses harmed by the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will get more than \$64 million in additional payments because their claims with BP's \$20 billion compensation fund were shortchanged or wrongfully denied, the Justice Department announced Thursday.

An independent audit of the Gulf Coast Claims Facility found "significant errors" in its processing of claims that led to applicants receiving less than what they were entitled to under GCCF procedures, the federal agency said.

Claimants eligible for the additional payments should be receiving them in the next week to 10 days, a Justice Department spokesman said.

The auditor also identified claimants who were erroneously overpaid, but the department says the GCCF isn't trying to recover those overpayments.

Although the audit identified errors, it found that the GCCF claims process "constituted a significant advance" in disaster response.

"While our independent evaluation did uncover instances in which errors were made in the claims evaluation process, in general, the GCCF appeared to have consistently applied its protocols and methodologies in processing claims," the auditor's report said.

More than 2,600 others whose claims were erroneously denied won't be getting checks because their claims files did not contain information needed to determine whether they sustained a financial loss, according to the auditor's report.

BP spokesman Scott Dean said the audit shows the GCCF "delivered significant achievements" during its 18-month tenure.

"BP supported the audit throughout the process, and the GCCF played a critical role in helping us to expeditiously meet our commitments under time-sensitive and challenging circumstances," Dean said in a statement.

BP created its compensation fund after the April 20, 2010 blowout of its Macondo well triggered a deadly explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig and spawned the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

The GCCF processed more than 1 million claims and paid out more than \$6 billion from the fund to more than 220,000 businesses and individuals, including commercial fishermen, property owners, hotels and other tourism-driven businesses that blamed the spill for economic damages.

After BP and a team of plaintiffs' attorneys agreed to a class-action settlement of economic damage claims last month, a court-supervised administrator took over the claims process from the GCCF on

March 8. Attorney General Eric Holder directed an independent auditor to evaluate the GCCF after he visited the Gulf Coast last summer.

"While there's no question that the independent GCCF labored under extremely challenging circumstances to get a huge number of payments processed successfully, the fact that this audit has resulted in tens of millions of dollars being made available to claimants who were wrongfully denied or shortchanged underscores the importance of the audit," Acting Associate Attorney General Tony West said in a statement.

Feinberg didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

The audit was performed by BDO Consulting. The Justice Department released an executive summary of the auditor's findings on Thursday. The department said BDO is preparing a full report that will be published later this spring.

Byron Encalade, president of the Louisiana Oystermen Association, said he was not surprised by the audit's findings.

"They weren't paying the claims, and still today we got people with interim claims that are six months old now," he said. "It's always the same thing: 'It's under review.'"

Encalade said the GCCF methodology "was all over the place."

Indictments

cont. from page 1A

Bond for Tidwell was set at \$15,000.

Coleman Ray Rhoads, 20, was indicted on a charge of sexual assault of a child, in connection with a February incident. Bond for Rhoads was set at \$50,000.

Shauna Nicole Hay, 32, was indicted on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third or greater charge, in connection with a March incident. This charge was enhanced by a conviction of driving while intoxicated in May 2009.

Hay was indicted on a second charge of escape from custody, in connection with a March incident. She received another indictment for assault of a public servant, in connection with the same incident. Bond for Hay was set at \$50,000.

Concert

cont. from page 1A

during the show, which also includes outdoor imagery projected onto a screen behind Curry to fully capture the inspiration behind Denver's music.

With Curry's concert being the last of the PCCA's offerings this season, Goode reflected on the success of the shows and encouraged Pampans to help send off the 2011-12 series with a lively crowd.

"It's been good," Goode said. "We've had a few weather issues. It seemed like it was a really nice winter except for when we were having a show, but it's been well-received. Anyone that's made it to a show has just been raving about them and encouraging people to come out, leave their TV and see a live presentation that's really professional and really good."

Single tickets for Curry's performance are \$20 at the door.

Convention

cont. from page 1A

"At the state convention, they usually elect party officers for the next two years and also discuss resolutions for the national elections on things to put on the party platform," said Doug Ware, Republican chairman of Gray County. "They also elect delegates for the national election."

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Cinema 4

Movies Showing
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Thursday, April 26.

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Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
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LockOut (PG-13)
Fri 7:30 10:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 7:30

American Reunion (R)
Fri 7:30 10:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 7:30

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, April 27, the 118th day of 2012. There are 248 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 27, 2011, powerful tornadoes raked the South and Midwest. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, more than 120 twisters resulted in 316 deaths across parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia.

On this date:

In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed by natives in the Philippines.

In 1777, the only land battle in Connecticut during the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Ridgefield, took place, resulting in a limited British victory.

In 1805, during the First Barbary War, an American-led force of Marines and mercenaries captured the city of Derna, on the shores of Tripoli.

In 1822, the 18th president of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio.

In 1865, the steamer Sultana exploded on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tenn., killing more than 1,400 people, mostly freed Union prisoners of war.

In 1932, American poet Hart Crane, 32, drowned after jumping from a steamer into the Gulf of Mexico while en route to New York.

In 1941, German forces occupied Athens during World War II.

In 1967, Expo '67 was officially opened in Montreal by Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

In 1972, the Apollo 16 mission to the moon ended safely.

In 1973, Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray resigned after it was revealed that he'd destroyed files removed from the safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

In 1982, the trial of John W. Hinckley Jr., who had shot four people, including President Ronald Reagan, began in Washington. (The trial ended with Hinckley's acquittal by reason of insanity.)

In 1992, the new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was proclaimed in Belgrade by the republic of Serbia and its lone ally, Montenegro. Russia and 12 other former Soviet republics won entry into the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Betty Boothroyd became the first female Speaker of Britain's House of Commons.

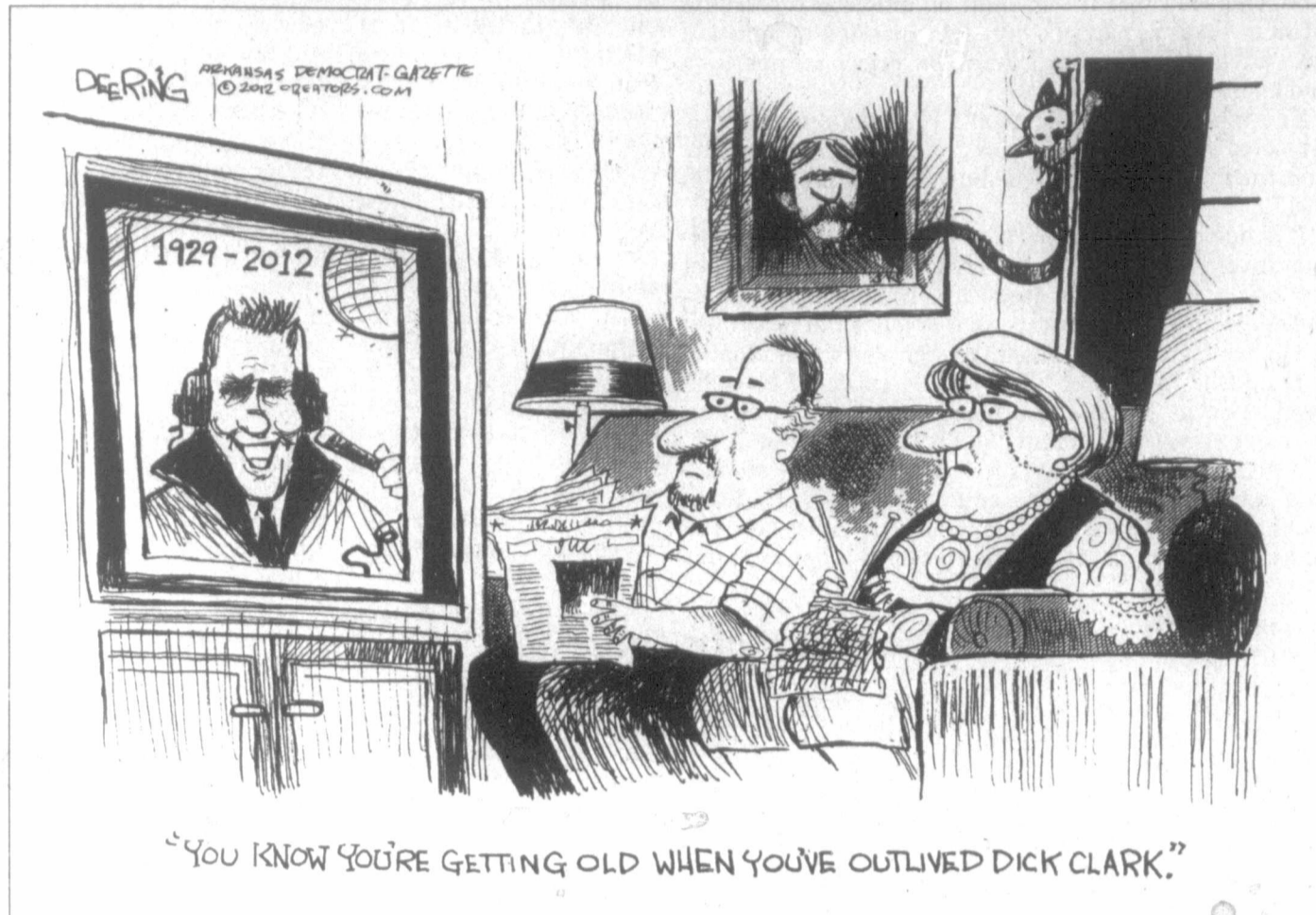
Ten years ago: South African entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth arrived at the international space station for an eight-day, seven-night cruise that had cost him \$20 million. A biker brawl at Harrah's Casino in Laughlin, Nev., left three bikers dead and 12 others wounded. Derek Lowe of the Boston Red Sox pitched a no-hitter against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Mattel toy company co-founder Ruth Handler, creator of the Barbie doll, died in Los Angeles at age 85.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh ah-bay) threatened stronger punitive actions against North Korea if it reneged on a promise to padlock its sole nuclear reactor. A judge in Madrid indicted three U.S. soldiers in the 2003 death of Jose Couso, a Spanish journalist who was killed when their tank opened fire at a hotel in Baghdad. (The U.S., which found the use of force was justified, has refused to hand over the soldiers.) The government reported economic growth slowed to a near crawl of 1.3 percent in the first quarter of 2007. Master cellist Mstislav Rostropovich died in Moscow at age 80.

One year ago: An Afghan officer, Col. Ahmed Gul, killed eight U.S. airmen and one U.S. civilian during a routine meeting at an Afghan air force headquarters compound in Kabul. Responding to critics' relentless claims, President Barack Obama produced a detailed Hawaii birth certificate in an extraordinary attempt to bury the issue of where he was born and confirm his legitimacy to hold office.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jack Klugman is 90. Actress Anouk Aimee is 80. Announcer Casey Kasem is 80. Actress Judy Carne is 73. Rock musician Jim Keltner is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cuba Gooding is 68. Singer Ann Peebles is 65. Rock singer Kate Pierson (The B-52's) is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer Herbie Murrell (The Stylistics) is 63. Actor Douglas Sheehan is 63. Rock musician Ace Frehley is 61. Pop singer Sheena Easton is 53. Actor James Le Gros (groh) is 50. Rock musician Rob Squires (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 47. Singer Mica (MEE'-shah) Paris is 43. Actor David Lascher is 40. Actress Maura West is 40. Actress Sally Hawkins is 36. Rock musician Patrick Hallahan (My Morning Jacket) is 34. Rock singer Jim James (My Morning Jacket) is 34. Rock singer-musician Travis Meeks (Days of the New) is 33. Actress Ari Graynor is 29. Rock singer-musician Patrick Stump (Fall Out Boy) is 28. Actor William Moseley is 25. Singer Allison Iraheta is 20.

Thought for Today: "Fear not those who argue but those who dodge." — Dale Carnegie, American writer-lecturer (1888-1955).



Two years later: The latest on the spill

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Two years have passed since the April 20, 2010, blowout of BP's Macondo well triggered an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, killing 11 workers and spawning the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

After several attempts to cap the well failed, engineers finally halted the flow of oil after more than 85 days, but not before an estimated 206 million gallons of crude spilled. The oil soiled fragile wetlands, stained beaches, killed wildlife and closed vast areas of the Gulf to commercial fishing for time.

A series of government probes have spread out the blame for the disaster among London-based BP PLC, rig owner Transocean Ltd. and other companies involved in the doomed drilling project. But plenty of questions remain about the spill's long-term environmental effects.

Here are some questions and answers about the current state of the Gulf Coast's tourism, oil and gas and fishing industries, of the region's environment and of efforts to resolve spill-related litigation:

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE OIL SPILL LITIGATION AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIONS?

A: On Wednesday, BP and a team of plaintiffs' attorneys presented a federal judge in New Orleans with the proposed terms of a class-action settlement that would resolve more than 100,000 claims by people and businesses who blame economic losses over the spill. They're asking the judge to give preliminary approval to the deal that would be one of the largest class-action settlements ever. BP PLC estimates it will pay about \$7.8 billion to resolve these claims, but the settlement doesn't have a cap. The agreement doesn't resolve any claims by the Gulf states or the Justice Department, which launched civil and criminal probes following the

spill.

Q: HOW HAS BP RESPONDED TO THE SPILL?

A: BP has repeatedly said it accepts some responsibility for the spill and will pay what it owes, while urging other companies to pay their share. The company created a \$20 billion fund to resolve many claims out of court. The Gulf Coast Claims Facility paid out more than \$6 billion from the fund before a court-supervised administrator took over the claims process on March 8. BP says it has spent more than \$22 billion on spill response expenses, including more than \$8.1 billion in payments to people, businesses and government entities.

Q: WHAT HAS THE GOVERNMENT AND OIL INDUSTRY DONE TO IMPROVE SAFETY IN OFFSHORE DRILLING?

A: A presidential commission that investigated the Deepwater Horizon disaster says the Interior Department, which oversees offshore drilling, has taken a series of steps to improve safety and protect the environment from another spill. The commission says the industry also has made improvements, including installation of capping stacks that can be used if there's another deep-water well blowout in the Gulf. But the group's commissioners have expressed disappointment that Congress hasn't done more to improve drilling safety.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE GULF FISHING INDUSTRY?

A: All of the Gulf of Mexico, except for a few spots in Louisiana's coastal bays hit hardest by the spill, is open for recreational and commercial fishing. But fishermen say they are struggling to return to the harvest levels they saw before the BP spill and, more ominously, warn that many species seem to have been hurt by the spill. The state and federal government say Gulf seafood is now being tested more than it's ever

been and that it's safe to eat.

Q: WHAT ARE SCIENTISTS FINDING?

A: Millions of dollars are being poured into scientific research looking at what has happened to the Gulf since the spill. Many of the findings are not known yet because they're part of a secret legal process state and federal agencies are doing to assess how much the oil spill cost in environmental damage. Independent scientists, though, are reporting that they have found oil damage or the presence of oil in a variety of places — deep-sea corals, bait fish in Louisiana, reef fish like red snapper, mangrove shrubs and in oysters. Although the damage is not as bad as first feared, scientists say the picture of the Gulf is not as rosy as it may have seemed just a year ago.

Q: IS THERE ANY OIL LEFT?

A: Most of the 200 million gallons of oil that spewed into the Gulf from BP's out-of-control well is no longer in the environment after it evaporated, dissipated or was cleaned up. But there is an unknown amount that remains. Scientists say lots of oil sits on the sea floor of the Gulf and oil, in the form of tar balls or weathered oil, can be found washing up on beaches. There also is oil in Louisiana's marshes that remains in those places hit hardest when oil washed ashore — particularly Barataria Bay and around the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Q: HAS THE GULF COAST'S TOURISM INDUSTRY REBOUNDED?

A: The spill dealt a severe blow to tourism-driven businesses along the Gulf Coast. A June 2011 report prepared for the Louisiana Office of Tourism says lost visitor spending in the state was expected to total \$153 million through 2013. But the tourism industry has rebounded over the past two years. BP says it has paid \$150 million to tourism organizations in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.



Continue termite treatment or not?

Dear Pat: We just moved into an older home that has had termite bait treatment in the past but no signs of them now. Many neighbors have problems. Should we continue to have it treated for termites? — Carey N.

Dear Carey: Termites invade almost every home at one time or another. They may do just a minor amount of damage, or they can destroy much of the framing. Homeowners spend many millions of dollars each year repairing termite damage. Often the termite damage is not apparent until there is some structural failure or you do a home improvement project and run into them.

If your neighbors' homes have or did have termites, then it is likely your home will be a target at some future time. Termites from one colony are constantly expanding into new colonies, and one may eventually be near your home.

First, check with the company that treated the home for termites before you purchased it. Most companies offer a warranty against future termite infestations as long as the previous owner continued to pay the annual checkup fee. If the warranty has not lapsed, it would be reasonably inexpensive to continue it. If it has lapsed or will not transfer, you might also consider other treatment options.

Termites have a very sophisticated social structure within the colony. They send out worker termites to find new food sources to bring back to nourished the queen and the other termites back at the colony. They just go out randomly in all directions looking for wood, and some may eventually run into your home's lumber.

The bait method used at your home is designed to kill the entire termite colony. It requires periodic inspections from the termite company to be effective. Once the inspectors see that termites have found the bait, they replace it with a poisonous material. The termites continue to come to it and eventually carry the poison back to the colony to kill all of them.

If the termites find your home walls before they find the bait, they will begin eating your home instead. It may take a while for them to finally find the bait. Also, termites do serve a useful purpose in the ecosystem, and destroying en-

HOME HOW-TO

invading colony. This should stop the problem. Also available, at a lower cost, are barrier-only chemicals. These kill only the termites which contact it against your house, but they do not carry it back to the colony.

To install termite barrier treatments, the exterminators will push a long rod into the ground near the foundation and inject the chemicals under pressure. This will be done every several feet around the entire house. If you have a basement, they will also drill holes in the floor and inject it there.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

HOME HOW-TO

Termite Invasion

Subterranean termites are widespread throughout the United States. Because they are hard to detect, the damage can be extensive by the time they are discovered.

Subterranean termites live in the soil, not the wood. Look for mud tubes on the foundation walls from the soil to the wooden structure.

Workers make up the majority of the colony. They also maintain the colony, build and repair the nest, forage for food, and help care for the young. They are about 1/8 inch long.

Tunnels stretch from the nest to structure.

Tunnels can extend for 50 to 60 feet to reach wood.

Termites need moisture to survive. Poor surface drainage should be improved with the advice of a professional.

Remove any vegetation, mulch or soil that contacts any wooden surface of the house. Keep stored firewood or other lumber well away from the house structure.

Subterranean termites can enter a home through a crack or void as small as 1/32 inch. Common entryways may include expansion joints, slab wall, brick veneer or foam insulation.

Signs of infestation may include wall cracks or blistered areas on a floor, wall, window frame, joist or stud.

Source: pubs.ext.vt.edu

Creators.com/Bob Kast

Wrong turn takes driver, ammo to Mexico

EL PASO (AP) — The boss of a truck driver caught with 268,000 rounds of ammunition in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, said Thursday that his employee took a wrong turn on his way to deliver what he insists was legal cargo bound for an Arizona dealer.

Dennis Mekenye, operations manager at Demco freight company in the Dallas suburb of Arlington, said Jabin Bogan, 27, made "a very honest mistake" when he took a wrong turn that eventually led him to Mexico on Tuesday. Mekenye said he has been in touch with U.S. law enforcement agencies and the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez.

ATF spokesman Tom Crowley said that agents in Juarez "are looking into the specifics of what happened" but declined further comment.

"We want this solved, that is why we have been so forthcoming with authorities," he said.

The truck's tracking unit showed that it had entered into Mexico, and that is when Mekenye said he decided to call Bogan.

"We do not go into Mexico; our company is not licensed to go into Mexico," Mekenye said. The driver told him over the phone that Mexican authorities had detained him and were going to inspect the cargo.

Mekenye said that Bogan informed him that after making two of his three stops in El Paso, Texas, he proceeded to drive to the third stop at company called Carefusion before heading to Phoenix, where the ammunition was to be

delivered. But he took a wrong turn and found himself at the Bridge of the Americas, unable to make a U-Turn.

"He said a cop told him to go straight and then he could make a U-turn," Mekenye told The Associated Press. He could not confirm whether the law enforcement officer Bogan talked to was from the U.S. or Mexico.

Delilah Dominguez at Carefusion said the company would not comment on whether there was cargo expected to be delivered by Demco Tuesday.

Howard Glaser, owner of United Nations Ammunition in Phoenix said the cargo was 18,000

units of 5.56 caliber bullets like those used for ar-15 assault rifles and 250,000 .308 caliber bullets. "They are saying these (.308 rounds) are for AK-47 rifles but the brass casing is 12 millimeters longer, it will not fit in the chamber," Glaser said.

"They are making a big political issue out of this," he said.

Glaser said he bought these surplus rounds from Wideners, an ammunition distribution company in Tennessee and they were intended to be sold mostly online at his online store. There was no immediate comment from Wideners regarding this cargo.

The federal prosecu-

tor's office in northern Chihuahua state said Bogan is being held pending investigation on illegal weapons charges. Spokesman Angel Torres said the driver claimed he had no goods to declare. Torres said a gamma-ray inspection of the truck's cargo compartment revealed the presence of metal canisters holding the ammunition. He says the bullets were hidden under pallets in the truck's floor.

Two calibers of ammunition were found, which can be fired by AR-15 and AK-47 assault rifles, Mexican prosecutors said. Prosecutors said it was the largest seizure of ammunition in Ciudad Juarez in recent memory.

BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the four-letter groups below may be extended both on the right and the left to form an eight-letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

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Yesterday's Answer: SKIRT, KIMONO, SCARF, SWEATER

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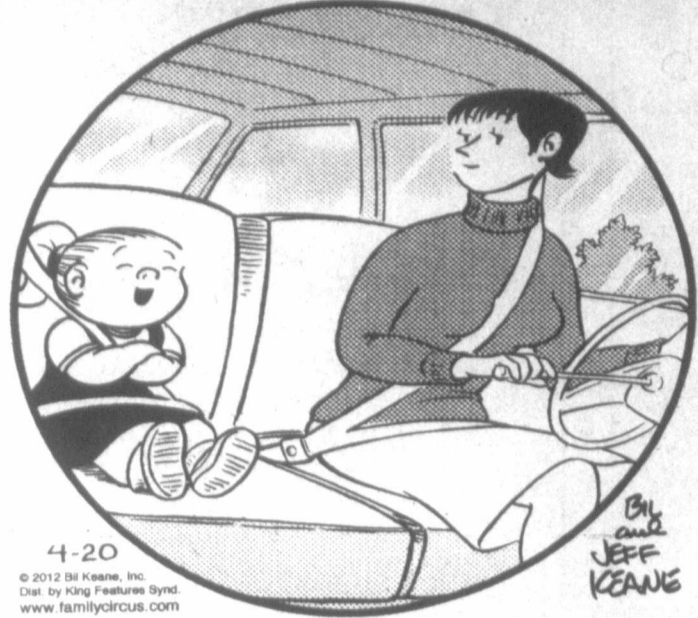
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-20

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"Being buckled up makes me feel loved."

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, April 21, 2012:
 This year points to a new beginning. Be open to different ideas. Learn to express yourself more clearly, even if you're dealing with difficult feelings. You'll become willing to explore offbeat ideas and see a rational basis to them. Travel seems likely. If you are single, the person you choose today might not be the right fit for you in several years. Keep it light. If you are attached, share your changing mindset with your sweetie. Schedule a class together or explore a common interest. **TAURUS** can be stubborn.
 The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ A decision involving spending finally becomes possible. At the same time, you might want to establish stronger boundaries. A new beginning helps clear the air and allows you to claim your power. Tonight: Having a great time does not need to impact your budget.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Use your innate charisma to attract more of your desires. Certainly you will find that you are enmeshed in making a desire or goal a reality. A special friend plays into events. Make socializing more of a priority. Tonight: Create more of what you want.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ Know when to pull back and say less. Play the role of amateur PI when looking for answers; unconsciously, you might already know them. Trust your judgments, yet understand they are coming from a personal bias. Tonight: Steer away from the crowds.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Zero in on someone's idea. If you can't seem to follow through but want to, open up a discussion. Acknowledging this person will increase the natural rapport between the two of you. You might find the right path. Tonight: You are the party.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ A call or visit just might work. It is important to touch base with an older friend or relative. Someone quite close to you has made plans that could be quite enticing. You wouldn't want to say "no," would you? Tonight: In the limelight.

Others notice.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance. If you are driving distance, you might want to meet this person halfway in the near future. Detach from someone's vagueness, as it gets you nowhere. Tonight: Taking in new vistas.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You have an idea of what you want to happen, but you have difficulty verbalizing it. A friend could be scratching his or her head, trying to understand. Discussions on a one-on-one level will help you express this concept. Tonight: Just don't be alone.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Someone lets you know what he or she expects. You might not be willing to let on that you are delighted to go along with this person's desires. Don't be silly. He or she will see your smile and note the lilt in your voice; you can't hide your feelings. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★ You have a lot to squeeze in, but make time for some exercise, whether it is walking the dog or going to the gym. Eventually, you'll clear up a lot of time and decide to respond to someone's request. Tonight: You are the lead actor wherever you are.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Others respond to your weekend mode and want to be around you, no matter what; however, you don't want people around you. Distance yourself and make your own choices. Deal with your popularity. Tonight: Your charisma speaks.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You might want to rethink plans, as an adventure or major expenditure becomes possible. You are concerned with the quality of your life. Listen to feedback from someone knowledgeable before making a purchase. Tonight: Entertain at your pad.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Just answering your phone could cause plans to change for the better. Many of you will be in situations that you often have wished for. Make no excuses, just go for the experience. You could meet a lot of people. Tonight: And the party goes on.

Tundra



Shoe



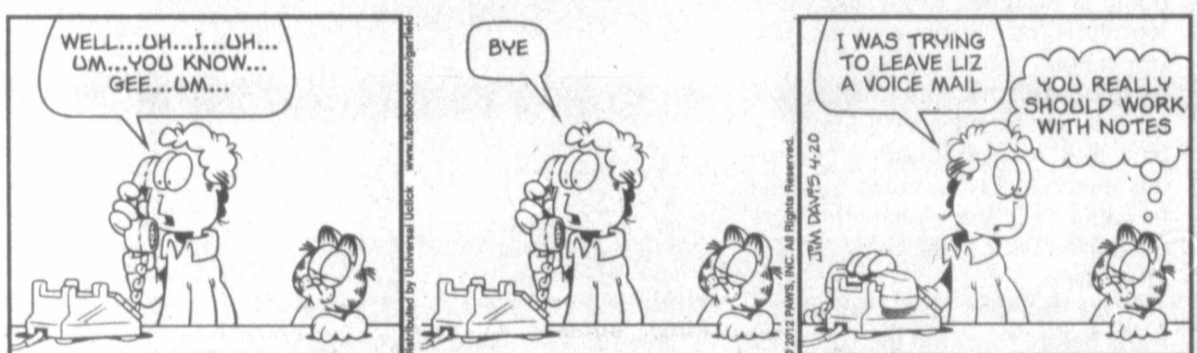
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Garfield



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Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Rubio shrugs off vice president talk, but just wait until 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wherever Sen. Marco Rubio goes, talk of vice president follows — whether he's inadvertently referring to himself as the second in command or insisting to questioners that he'd rather stay in the Senate.

In the morning Thursday, the Florida Republican called himself vice president at a forum sponsored by National Journal, saying, "If I have done a good job as vice president ..." He quickly corrected himself. It was unclear whether the slip was intentional.

Later in the day, he told reporters that he'd prefer to remain in Congress but left open the possibility of an ambitious political future in 2016 or beyond.

"I am really committed to doing a good job in the Senate," Rubio said at a sitdown session with a dozen-plus reporters. "If I do a good job in the Senate, three, four, five, six years from now, I'll have a different opportunity ... to do things inside of government and outside of government."

The Cuban-American and freshman lawmaker has frequently been mentioned as a potential running mate for likely GOP nominee Mitt Romney — and a surefire way for the Republican Party to improve its abysmal standing with Hispanic voters. A Pew Research Center survey out Tuesday showed President Barack



Rubio

Obama with an overwhelming advantage over Romney among Hispanic registered voters, 67-27 percent.

In discussing his immigration legislation with reporters, the 40-year-old Rubio said the vice presidential talk was flattering but that he expects Romney to consider other, more experienced Republicans. He mentioned Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

He also questioned all the attention on the No. 2 job. "Presidential campaigns are won by the presidential nominee," he said. "I think you pick a vice president because the Constitution says you have to have one. Otherwise I think most of these folks would go it alone."

Amid the GOP struggle to win over Hispanic voters, Rubio is pulling together a bill that would allow young illegal immigrants to remain in the United States but stops short of citizenship. The measure, still in the works, would permit young illegal immigrants who came to the United States with their par-

ents to apply for non-immigrant visas. They would be allowed to stay in the country to study or work and could obtain a driver's license but would not be able to vote. They later could apply for residency, but they would not have a special path to citizenship.

Romney has said illegal immigrants should return to their home country. Rubio was pressed on the contradiction between his evolving legislation and the candidate's comments.

"All I can tell you is that I think the issue of kids who were brought to this country and here in an undocumented status through no fault of their own, who are high achievers and have much to offer us in the future, I think there's broad biparti-

san support for the notion that those kids are in a different category than the vast majority of people who find themselves in this country undocumented," Rubio said.

"And if we can, we should figure out a way to accommodate them. Hopefully we can put something that Gov. Romney would be supportive of," he said.

On a more local front, Rubio said he works closely with fellow Florida Sen. Bill Nelson and "won't say anything negative about" the Democrat. He did say he was counting on Republicans to pick a solid challenger to Nelson in November as the party tries to reclaim control of the Senate.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: My two children were in a terrible car accident and were both airlifted to a children's hospital. My son was released two weeks later, but my daughter is still there, suffering from traumatic brain injury.

Abby, I was driving the car. Why can't my daughter have the life I took away from her? Why is she being punished and not me? — ANGUISHED MOTHER

DEAR ANGUISHED: You're asking a question that philosophers have pondered for centuries — why bad things happen to good people. In many cases the answer is simply "fate."

While you feel your daughter is being punished instead of you, I say the guilt you're carrying IS punishment and it is not healthy for you or your child. Please don't waste time flogging yourself, because your daughter needs you. Counseling may help you to come to terms with what happened. I hope you'll consider it, as you will need every ounce of strength you can muster to help her in the months ahead.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and well below the average height for females. It bothers me a lot. I'm treated like a 5-year-old. I get picked up all the time, and it's awkward talking to people because they look straight down at me — and they never let me forget it.

I try to act cool about it, but honestly, I'm losing sleep over it. I'm really self-conscious, and when I get upset people just laugh

at me and say I'm "cute." What should I do? — LOOKED DOWN UPON IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOOKED DOWN UPON: No one has the right to pick you up or touch you in a familiar way without your permission. If this is happening at school, tell the principal about it because it could be classified as a form of bullying. It will then become the school administrator's job to make clear to your classmates that their behavior is not appropriate. If it's happening outside of school, your parents should be told so they can help you put an end to it.

P.S. If you work to develop your mind, you can accomplish what many short people have done — compensate by becoming a mental giant. Do that, and you'll become a role model that people of every size will look up to.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are in a serious relationship. Not long ago we got on the topic of marriage and what we are looking for. He comes from a religious family and I do not. His mother says if we don't get married in a church with a religious ceremony, she won't consider me her daughter-in-law and we won't be a married couple.

I want a civil ceremony, something outside and casual. Thankfully, my boyfriend agrees with me. We're just not sure how to deal with his mom and her point of view. What should we do? — LOOKING TO THE FUTURE IN NEW

YORK DEAR LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: What you should do depends upon to what degree you want to placate his mother. Having the casual ceremony you want in the setting of your choosing, and afterward having your union blessed in a clergyman's study, might be a workable compromise.

DEAR ABBY: What is a polite way to say: "My husband is NOT a bum; he's a hardworking, stay-at-home dad until he can find a job that offers not only benefits, but also enough extra money to afford child care, and it's none of your business"? — I BRING IN THE DOUGH, HE BAKES

DEAR BAKER'S WIFE: Don't get angry. Tell the person, "My husband is a very hard worker. His JOB took a vacation."

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Sports

Harvesters need to pick it up in final district games

Last week, the Pampa Harvesters were sitting in good position as they were leading the district and closing in on the title. After losses to Borger and Perryton, Pampa finds themselves in need of help to force a three-way tie. The Harvesters find themselves in this position mostly on their own doing. Granted, I can't take away credit from Borger and Perryton because they hit the ball well. With that said, Pampa desperately needs to shore up issues in the last two district games.

In the Harvesters' three district losses they committed at least three errors, including 10 in an April 6 loss to Perryton. In Tuesday's loss, two of the Harvesters' three errors were committed in the seventh. If those mishaps didn't occur, Pampa could have won in extra innings.

I have spoken plenty this season on how expensive errors can be and how they can wipe out good hitting performances. To cut down on this in the last two games, the Harvesters need to slow down and make a good throw, get good reads on



ANDREW GLOVER

Perryton, junior James Thompson walked six and hit two. All walks and hit batters do is help the opponent advance on the base paths and increase its chance of scoring thus decreasing your chance of winning. I understand that sometimes pitches get away or miss the mark. However, Pampa's pitchers need to find a way to limit that. Honestly, there isn't a set recipe for that. One thing that could help is Pampa's coaches being more observant. If head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves or

the ball and be in the right position.

In the last two games, Pampa's pitchers have struggled with control. Saturday, against Borger, senior Collin Killgo hit five batters and walked three. Eight batters got to reach base without swinging the bat. Tuesday against

assistant coach Tyson Hickman see that a pitcher is struggling with a pitch, stop calling for it. It's the coaches' job to put his players in a position to succeed.

The Harvesters' hitting is solid but the team could be more consistent. In the recent losses, the bottom of the order has struggled only recording four hits. This has put more of a burden on the top of the order to produce with less chances. The bottom of the order needs to hit well so it can turn the lineup back to the top, giving it more chances to get hits and drive in runs. What the six through nine hitters need to do is be disciplined at the plate and find a pitch they can put in play.

Finally, the Harvesters need to "run their race." They have to focus on the task at hand: win the game. Pampa doesn't need to be throwing its gloves at the dugout wall, pout or be concerned about whether the manager gave them a hit or an error. Just on focus on the game.

Pampa has a lot of experience. Most of these players had significant roles on last season's team, when they faced a

similar situation. This year's team is in a little better spot because they have beaten every team in district and played every one competitively. Snelgrooves' team should be more than confident.

The team's pitching has done well in district as it's able to get their starters deep into the game. This has given Snelgrooves more liberty with his pitchers and keeps his relievers' arms fresh.

With solid hitting, good starting pitching and experience, the Harvesters still have a good chance of winning district. The teams' strengths will be more magnified if it shores up its issues.

On a completely unrelated note, I just wanted to spend some time to congratulate the Pampa Lady Harvesters on batting .605 (23 for 38) against the Perryton Rangerettes on Tuesday. That's a very impressive team statistic. Good job, ladies.

Andrew Glover is The Pampa News sports reporter. He can be reached by email at aglover@thepampanews.com.

Baylor women's hoops star Griner won't play in Olympics

WACO (AP) — Baylor star Brittney Griner said Thursday that she will not play for the U.S. women's basketball team at the London Olympics this summer.

The 6-foot-8 Griner had been seen as a candidate for the 12th and final roster spot on the U.S. national team.

"Because of a family illness and my school schedule during the summer, I have told USA Basketball Women's National Team Director, Carol Callan, that I will be unable to participate

this summer," Griner said in a statement released by the school. "I am disappointed that I will be unable to participate, but I want to stay involved in USA Basketball and hope to again have the opportunity to represent my country in future international competition."

USA Basketball announced 11 of the 12 roster spots late last month.

The last college players to compete in the Olympics for the U.S. were Vicky Bullett (Maryland) and Bridgette

Gordon (Tennessee) in 1988.

Leaving spots open is nothing new for the U.S. The Americans only announced nine players initially for the 2008 Games before filling out the roster nearly two months later. They also unveiled a core of players in 2000 and 2004 before filling out those teams later.

The Americans have until June 18 to select the final player for London.

The team is expected to be a gold medal favorite for American head coach

Geno Auriumma.

Five former UConn Huskies — Sue Bird, Diana Taurasi, Swin Cash, Maya Moore and Tina Charles — are on the team. All five helped the U.S. qualify for the Olympics by playing on the 2010 world championship team that won the gold medal.

Joining the UConn contingent on the team is two-time Olympic gold medalist Tamika Catchings. Also returning for a second straight Olympics are Candace Parker, Seimone Augustus and Sylvia

Fowles. Lindsay Whalen and Angel McCoughtry will be competing in the Olympics for the first time and trying to

help the U.S. win a fifth straight gold medal. The Americans have won 32 straight Olympic games.

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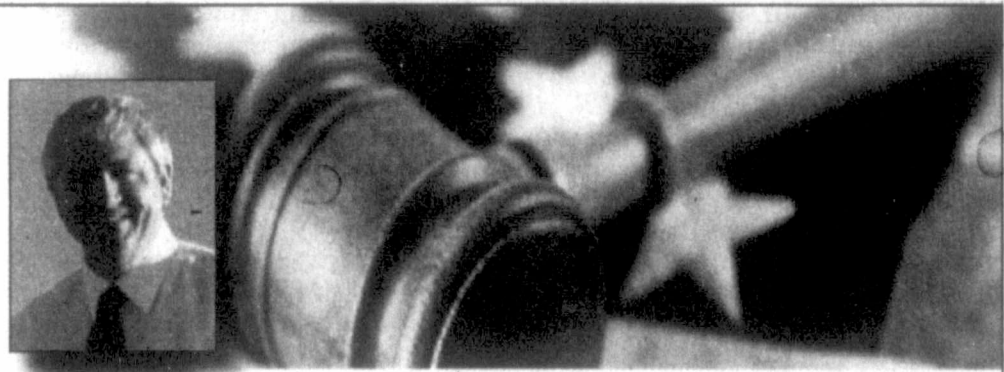


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LAWN

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Spring is the time to dig in and add some outdoor appeal to your home

The case for choosing native plants

One of the best ways to improve a home's resale value is to address the landscape. Increasing a property's curb appeal can be done in many ways, but a well-pruned lawn and garden gives buyers the impression that the sellers truly took the time to maintain the home and the surrounding property.

Unfortunately, many homeowners choose exotic plants when addressing their landscape. Though these plants can be appealing and make a property stand out, if the plants are not native to the region, they could be doing more harm than good. Instead of upgrading your property with exotic plants from a far away land, consider the following benefits of choosing native plants before addressing your landscape.

—Native plants benefit local wild-

life. The native plants and the native wildlife spent years and years evolving together, with each doing their part to ensure the other's survival. But as development continued, local wildlife suffered because of lost food sources. The local wildlife needs local, native plants to survive, so choosing these plants instead of exotic plants can help ensure the survival of wildlife that helps keep the ecosystem in check.

—Native plants require less work. Some prospective home buyers might find a yard filled with exotic plants to be visually stunning, but they might also see a good deal of work to maintain those plants. Many exotic plants require significant work on a homeowner's part to survive, while native plants have already adapted to the local climate and will require much

less care. This is often attractive to current and future homeowners alike.

—Native plants might be a better investment. A native plant has evolved over the years to survive in its given area. Local insect populations and fungal infections might be able to destroy an exotic plant, but a native plant has grown resistant to such problems and likely has the ability to fight such infestations or infections on its own. An exotic plant might require costly pesticides and considerable attention from homeowners to survive such problems.

Though homeowners might find exotic plants help their home stand out from their neighbors', it's important that homeowners recognize the environmental benefits of choosing local plants before making any decisions.



Embrace ecoscaping

Ecoscaping is a growing trend among homeowners who want to take care of their lawns and landscapes but want to do so in a way that's environmentally friendly. Integrating both landscape architecture and spatial planning with environmental science, ecoscaping is meant to help homeowners create a sustainable and eco-friendly landscape design. It's natural to assume that ecoscaping includes looking for ways to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides, but there are many additional ways homeowners can embrace ecoscaping. This includes removing or refusing to plant invasive plants that are difficult to control because they are from different ecosystems and can threaten local wildlife and existing plants. Instead of choosing exotic plants that aren't native to the area, choose native plants that are accustomed to the local climate. Another way to embrace ecoscaping is to develop a planting strategy wherein plants are planted in beneficial growing conditions that can eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers and excessive watering.

How to prevent damage to your lawn

Many homeowners aspire toward a pristine and lush lawn. For some a nice lawn gives them feelings of pride. Others believe a perfect lawn enables them to have the best-looking house in the neighborhood. Many homeowners spend hours outdoors perfecting their lawns or spend a good deal of money hiring professionals to make their lawn more appealing. But

just because a lawn looks good now doesn't mean it will look good later. That's because delicate grass can be damaged by a number of different factors.

Grubs

Grubs are not very lawn-friendly. Grubs are actually the larval stage of different types of large beetles. These worm-like creatures feed on the roots of grass and are able to kill large

sections of the lawn in a relatively short amount of time. It can sometimes be difficult to discern whether grubs, drought or another other pest has damaged a lawn. One way to check is to grab a portion of the damaged lawn and attempt to peel it back. If it comes back easily like a piece of carpet, it's likely grubs. Spotting grubs underneath is a sure sign these larvae

are killing the lawn.

Using an insecticide for grub control in July can help kill off grubs that start hatching in August through September. Grub eggs do well in sunny patches of lawn that are well watered. More shade may deter them. There's also the option of letting the lawn go dormant and not watering it, but you will be left

LAWN cont. on page 4B

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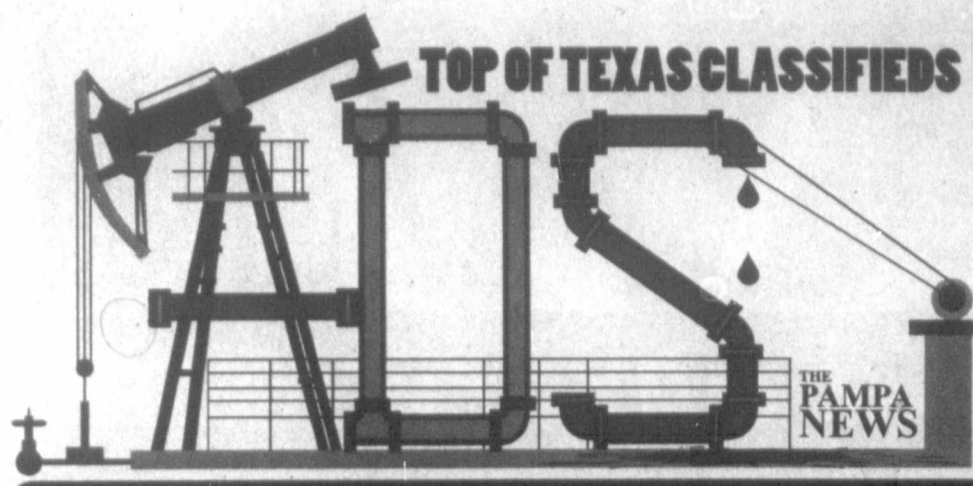
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2008 F150
FORD SUPERCAB
4 new tires. Toolbox, & headache rack. CD player. Interior in good shape! ONE OWNER. \$13,000 or best offer.
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122 Motorcycles
FOR Sale 2006 Harley, 883L, 6,800 miles, \$5,000. Call 665-6155 after 5pm or cell 595-0757.

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16 ft. V-Hull
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Public Notice

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012 for repairs to the Pampa High School Communications Systems, including but not limited to interconnection to the clocks, fire alarm, intercom system and access control. It will be the responsibility of the contractor to visit the job site for assessment. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806)669-4700. C-3 Apr. 20, 21, 2012

2008 F150 FORD SUPERCAB
4 new tires. Toolbox, & headache rack. CD player. Interior in good shape! ONE OWNER. \$13,000 or best offer.
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Answer to yesterday's puzzle:
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3 4 5 9 1 8 2 7 6
8 1 7 4 2 6 5 3 9
7 8 4 5 9 2 6 1 3
5 9 3 6 4 1 8 2 7
2 6 1 7 8 3 4 9 5
1 5 2 8 3 9 7 6 4
4 3 8 1 6 7 9 5 2
6 7 9 2 5 4 3 8 1

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Photo finish
6 Casino request
11 Clear sky
12 Fire product
13 Clip
14 Future flowers
15 Short time
16 She loved Hamlet
18 Dos preceder
19 Milne marsupial
20 None too cordial
21 Hunger reminder
23 Some love songs
25 Nourished
27 Numerical prefix
28 Skirmish
30 A long time
33 German article
34 Course goal
36 Supporter's vote
37 Planned
39 Kayo count
40 Hog holders

DOWN
41 British lockups
43 Exact copy
44 Up (stuck)
45 Posts
46 High homes
1 Blunder
2 Goddess of wisdom
3 John Grisham book
4 Hot brew
5 Blunder
6 Discuss in detail
7 "Got it"

Yesterday's answer
8 John Grisham book
9 Army docs
10 Lamb work
17 Okra unit
22 Salon stuff
24 Pitcher's stat
26 Kicks out
28 Yankees legend
29 Ring setting
31 Lace's place
32 Detects blades
35 Daughter of Lear
38 Watch over
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for only \$21 Best
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LAWN cont. from page 1B with a brown, unappealing lawn.

Pet Urine
Pets can also damage a lawn. Pet urine can create burnt patches and significant discoloration on the lawn, particularly if the dog or cat uses one area consistently as their potty zone.

The best way to prevent urine damage is to walk your dog so that he or she will not have free reign of the yard. However, sometimes dogs get out or stray cats and dogs visit your yard and relieve themselves without your knowledge. So this method is not foolproof. Therefore, you should take added action to maintain a lush lawn.

First, make sure that soil and lawn is in good health by fertilizing and taking care of it properly. Second, water can dilute urine and neutralize its corrosive properties. Some have found that diluted urine can often act as a fertilizer to grass. You may have noticed that the outside ring of a urine-burned spot is often greener than the healthy lawn. Try to dilute the urine prior to 8 hours having elapsed for the best effect.

Burrowing animals
Moles and voles are among the more common lawn damage culprits. Voles are small rodents that resemble mice but have stouter bodies, shorter tails and rounder heads. They feast on everything from bulbs, succulent roots, ground cover, and even dead animals in their paths. Their burrows enable them to move around relatively undetected, typically until the damage has already been done.

Moles, although they have a similar-sounding name, are not related to voles and look very different. They have a cylindrical body shape with velvety fur,

very small or invisible ears and large paws for digging. Moles often feed on earthworms and other small invertebrates found in the soil. The burrows they create are essentially traps for the worms, who fall into the burrows, where moles easily access them. Moles often stockpile worms for later consumption in underground larders.



Preventing lawn damage includes cleaning up after pets, whose urine can cause discoloration in the yard.

Voles can be kept away with natural vole predators, such as cats, hawks, owls and snakes. Mouse traps can also capture voles when baited. You may also dig sharp materials or chicken wire into your soil around planting beds to make it uncomfortable for voles and moles to tunnel through.

Moles can also be controlled with traps. Finding active mole tunnels will help you place the traps effectively to either kill or simply contain the mole. The live animal can be relocated to a site where they won't cause trouble.

Lawn damage can occur through a number of different factors. Finding out the cause can help you find an effective treatment.

Riding mowers can make lawn care more manageable

Homeowners love extensive, lush, green lawns. But the elbow grease that goes into tending to the landscape is far less beloved. One task that routinely causes bouts of procrastination is mowing the lawn. But riding mowers can change the way homeowners view mowing the lawn.

Traditionally, mowing the lawn has been a task largely handled by homeowners pushing walk-behind mowers. Whether these mowers were powered by gasoline, electricity or simply human power, they were the type of mower that was generally the most popular and most affordable.

Individuals had different features they could consider in their mowers, including horsepower and the size of the deck. There were also mowers that could bag or

mulch. Despite these features, homeowners with a particularly large back or front yard — or both — may have found lawn mowing to be tedious work. Those who have yards of almost an acre or more often find riding mowers to be an efficient method of mowing the lawn, and one that also does not require as much effort out in the sun.

A riding mower's cutting deck is in front, while a lawn or gardening tractor's cutting deck is mid-mounted, which is how they differ. Lawn tractors also may be able to accept other landscaping attachments. A riding mower is more maneuverable than a tractor, particularly for landscapes that may have trees or planting beds.

Cost is the one thing that may deter some homeowners

from a riding mower. While a walk-behind mower could cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars and up, riding mowers generally start at \$1,000 and may be as much as \$10,000, depending on the extra features, like cruise control and cup holders.

However, some find that what riding mowers lack in affordability, they make up for in convenience. Plus buying a riding mower may pay for itself in savings on landscaping services over the course of one to two seasons.

As with any lawn tool, it's important to note that riding mowers are not toys and they should not be handled by children, nor should children be allowed to ride along while mowing.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

We have always heard that the best defense is a strong offense. This old adage can be successfully applied to many circumstances: football, basketball, the courtroom, the health of our families, the maintenance of our vehicles and homes, even personal and professional relationships.

For the past several years, severe drought has been a very serious opponent for Texas homeowners, lawn and landscape professionals, turf managers, farmers, ranchers, and anyone else involved with the health and success of plants or livestock. We have had to watch years of dedication and hard work disappear before our very eyes due to a lack of moisture, which brings with it many other challenges to overcome. Will we be facing the same opponent in 2012? Will we have to watch our lawns and gardens die because we can't water them? Will we choose not to plant our crops because we can't be sure the rain will come when we need it most, or that irrigation water will be available to us? Tough questions, no doubt.

As stewards of the land, what offensive strategy can we employ to defend that portion of the natural environment for which we are responsible? How can our soil remain productive without the level of moisture we think it needs? How can we create an environment in the crucial top six inches that will enhance biological activity, encourage microbial life to work as hard as possible, and grow strong plants that are able to withstand the extremes in temperature we have come to expect?

Sustainable agriculture is the strongest offensive strategy we have. It has been defined as "an integrated system of plant and animal production practices ... that will, over the long-term: satisfy human food and fiber needs, enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends; ... make the most efficient use of non-renewable and on-farm resources and ... natural biological cycles and controls; sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and enhance the quality of life for farmers/ranchers and society as a whole." (Title XVI, Subtitle A Sec. 1603)

The sustainable agriculture community is adamant in their mission to preserve the whole while restoring and improving it. The first questions asked when considering a problem to overcome are, "How can I remediate this problem without messing up, destroying, or eliminating anything that is vital to the natural order of life here? How can I accomplish my goal while working with nature instead of against it?" Most soil and plant amendments can help overcome a stated problem or help restore the damaged area of a crop, garden, pasture, or lawn. However, they often do so at the expense of something else. There is usually a biological price to pay for the good it does.

Water soluble, bio-available Silicon (Si), when combined in a unique way with strategic amounts of humic acid, fulvic acid and a few other key ingredients, can provide you with an offensive strategy like you have never seen. Applied immediately before or after planting, it will aerate and restore the soil, restructuring the molecules, so that over time, they are more effective in retaining nutrients and water. All the while, it is also pulling salt and other toxins down through the soil and away from the root systems of plants. These two things allow root systems to expand, become more fibrous, and therefore collect and transfer more nutrients and water through the system, providing hydration for the plant as it matures and to the fruit as it develops.

A second application of bio-available Silicon as a foliar spray, just before the plants bloom, will help the plant itself in several ways. Silicon is absorbed and accumulated into the plant tissue, fortifying the plant and helping it to withstand extremes in temperature such as flood, drought, wind, etc. Because it is a sticky substance, it also stays on the foliage long enough to deter the attention of insects and the ravages of crop-specific diseases, which tend to attack plants at their most vulnerable stages. Insects tend to gravitate toward plants that are weaker and easier to consume. Healthy plants, like healthy people, are more prepared to fight off disease than weaker ones.

As a homeowner, how can bio-available Silicon affect your bottom line? Helping to grow an organic, productive garden in spite of dry weather, enjoying beautiful green lawns and flowerbeds well into the dry season, and providing cool shade from healthy trees and shrubs who maintain their leaves ... will make your lawn the "place to be" for outdoor fun in 2012.

Now that you are all excited about incorporating bio-available Silicon into your lawn and garden, how do you find it? How will you know it is in the correct form to help your lawn and garden achieve its' maximum level of health and vitality?

This unique formula can only be found in Quick-Sol, a certified organic soil and plant treatment that is manufactured in and distributed from Comfort, Texas. For more information visit www.quick-sol.com. Quick-Sol is available locally through John Crowell at 806/440-1268 and Gray County SWCD at 806/665-1751, ext. 102.

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Testimonials:

I have been using Quick-Sol on my lawn since last October. Our grass this spring greened up quickly and is healthier than it has ever been. I spray it with Quick-Sol every 2 weeks.

We had some large cracks in the soil that used to return between watering. But after 3 treatments with Quick-Sol the cracks went away and the soil has loosened up. The grass is healthier and requires less watering.

—John Crowell
Pampa, Texas