

Cost would be \$11 billion under last estimate | p3

Former VP lauds nominee at fundraiser | **p5**

Landtroop, King voice opposition to Obamacare

Texas House hopefuls decry uncertainty, costs brought about by health care law

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

While most of the issues have remained constant during the race for the 88th House District, with the recent

Supreme Court decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, health care has gained more attention from the candidates, Ken King of Canadian and Jim Landtroop of Plainview.

"I think it's horrible for the country," said King. "I think it should be repealed. I hope to see an administration change in November, and get it repealed before it can truly take effect."

Landtroop believes that the health care law will negatively affect unemployment and businesses, and he also thinks it will cause a tax increase.

"It's going to produce an incredible amount of uncertainty for business owners as they're looking to grow and

hire more employees," he said. "It's going to have significant costs to the state of Texas. In a time when the economy is still not back to where it was a few years ago, adding this debt onto the back of the taxpayers of Texas and on the back of government is going to have some bad consequences."

"It's going to cost Texas billions of dollars, and we don't have billions of dollars to spend on this," he added. HEALTH cont. on page 8A

PD forum to cover drugs on Thursday

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Police Department will host a community forum at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26 at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.



At the forum, the chief deputy of the Gray County Sheriff's Office, Cary Rushing, will discuss drug awareness. Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar said the meeting will cover a little bit of everything, but focus on the drugs most common in Pampa, like methamphetamine, crack cocaine and K2. "It'll be good for parents to come," said McCullar. "We'll discuss personality changes to





staff photo by Redonn Woods Brad Morse, CEO of Pampa Regional Medical Center, speaks at a meeting of the local Lion's Club on Thursday.

Rushing



McCullar

recognize when someone is on drugs."

The meeting will cover how to recognize the drugs, side effects and how law enforcement views them in the community.

Snacks will be provided.

Woody Guthrie Center now hosting weekly jam sessions

'Laid back' jams start at 6:30 p.m. every Friday

> **MOLLIE BRYANT** editor@thepampanews.com

With a wealth of musicians in town eager to get together and play music, the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center now has a weekly jam starting at 6:30 p.m. each Friday.

"It provides local people a place to play," said Jerry Lister, an organizer of the jams. "A lot of people like to play, but they don't know we're open. During the summer, people are out of town, but there are still about 15 or 20 people who like to play every Friday."

Although the center was named in honor of the folk icon Woody Guthrie, who spent his early adulthood in Pampa, the musicians at the jams play much more than folk music. Each musician has a chance to pick a song for the group to play, which covers everything from rock and roll, Western swing, bluegrass, blues and R&B.

"The center is named after the musician Woody Guthrie, and a lot of us like to play his songs from time to time," said Lister. "But folk is not all we do."

While the center is not open every day, Guthrie-philes are happy to open up the center upon request.

"It's Woody Guthrie's 100th birthday this year, which is news, not just in the nation, but across the world," said Lister. "People stop in the center from France, Germany and South America. It's amazing how many people stop by here to see where he started out."

The Guthrie center is located in the historical Harris

Drug Store on South Cuyler, where Guthrie worked while he lived in Pampa. He reportedly would serve moonshine under the counter, and play the guitar when there was a lull. The jams at the center connect the musicians to Guthrie lore, as well as to three types of history-that of folk music, Pampa and the United States as a whole.

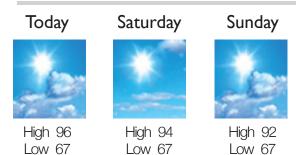
"I'm very honored to play in the place where he started out," said Lister. "There's a history there, and I'm honored to be a part of that. Woody Guthrie wrote thousands of songs, and they came from here, California and New York, but this is the place where he got his first guitar. He played around Pampa with a small band, and that's how he got started. The Woody Guthrie center is an amazing place to play."

Lister said one of the reasons he likes to play at the jams is that they are laid back, where everyone from GUTHRIE cont. on page 8A



Some musicians also bring in original material.

PAMPA FORECAST



Today:

Mostly sunny, with a high near 96. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight:

Mostly clear, with a low around 67. South southeast wind 10 to 15 mph

Saturday:

Sunny, with a high near 94. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night:

Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

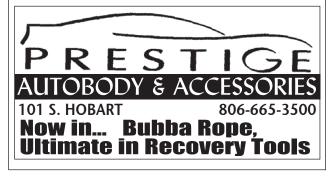
Sunday:

Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night:

Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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A FUND has been set up at the Cabot & NOI Employees Credit Union, 1063 N. Sumner, to help with burial expenses for Peggy Smith of Pampa (owner of Peggy's Place). BEN'S LAWNMOWING Service, call 832-967-8705.

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Testimony wraps up in voter ID trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — Testimony in a week-long trial that will determine the fate of Texas' controversial voter ID law wrapped up Thursday with an expert witness for the Justice Department telling a federal court the law would affect minority voters more than white ones.

Steve Ansolabehere, a Harvard University professor and expert in statistics and elections, said his research shows the 2011 Texas law is more likely to affect black and Hispanic voters than white ones.

He then noted under cross examination the limits of his research when pressed by lawyers for the state of Texas and three judges hearing the case. Ansolabehere acknowledged there could be "legitimate critiques" of his research and that tweaks could make it more precise.

Lawyers for Texas had argued that

Obituaries

Ansolabehere's research methods were flawed. On cross-examination, they presented him with some names from a list of people he had said could be affected by the law. They included people who were well-known, such as former President George W. Bush and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Texas' voter ID law, passed by the state's Republican-controlled Legislature last year, requires voters heading to the polls to present a valid, government-issued photo ID. Currently, Texas only requires voters to show their voter registration cards, which do not have photos, or another acceptable alternative form of ID, such as a driver's license or a utility bill.

Texas' law is similar to other laws passed by GOP-controlled legislatures in Georgia and Indiana.

The Justice Department blocked Texas' new law in March, citing the Voting Rights Act. Texas, in turn, sued the Justice Department bringing the case to Washington, where a three-judge panel is set to decide the fate of the law in a case that will test the limits of the Voting Rights Act, passed in 1965 as a safeguard on minority voting rights.

Judges deciding the case will hear closing arguments Friday from Texas, the Justice Department and a group of organizations supporting the Justice Department's position that the law should be thrown out under the Voting Rights Act.

The judges have said they would like to make a decision before November's elections. At the end of testimony on Thursday, the presiding judge, Rosemary Collyer, thanked both sides for moving through the case quickly and courteously.

"You're not spitting at each other," she joked. "That's appreciated."

Margaret Webster Saunders Holland, 90

Margaret Webster Saunders Holland, 90, died July 12, 2012, in Pampa.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 14, 2012, at Calvary Baptist Church, with Rev. Dallas Stringer, pastor, and Rev. Richard Bartel, associate pastor, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14, 2012, at Rowe Cemetery in Hedley with Rev. Bruce Howard, pastor

of First Baptist Church of Hedley, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors

Mrs. Holland was born March 2, 1922, in Memphis. She married R.M. Saunders on July 6, 1940, in Memphis. He preceded her in death on June 24, 1968. She later married Otis Holland on July 11, 1970. He preceded her in death on February 10, 2001. She had been a resident of Hedley from 1946 until 2004 when she moved to Pampa. She retired from Security State Bank in Hedley as a cashier in 1999 after 36 years of service. She was a former member of First Baptist Church in Hedley for 56 years where she taught Sunday school for many years, and was a current member of Calvary Baptist Church. She was a member of the Eastern Star in Hedley. She and her husband, R.M. Saunders, owned and operated Saunders Garage and Saunders Conoco and Butane.

Survivors include five daughters, Judy Clendennen of Pampa, Sandra Baggett and husband Doyle of Claude, Marilyn Bolin and husband Ronnie of Texhoma, Okla., Nancy Stephens and husband Henry of Hedley, and Cindy Chilton and husband Mike of Purcell, Okla.; nine grandchildren, Tammy Wagner and husband Randy, Darrin Clendennen and wife Jody, and Misty Baten and husband Brent, all of Pampa, Terry Baggett of Claude, Brannon Stephens and wife Hope of Panhandle, Douglas Bolin and wife Kristi of Enid, Okla., Jena Marr and hus-



Holland

grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church Building Fund, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, TX 79065, Rowe Cemetery, c/o City of Hedley, P.O. Box 185, Hedley, TX 79237, or Interim Hospice, 2217 Perryton Parkway, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Peggy Smith, 52

Peggy Smith, 52, died July 11, 2012, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 14, 2012, at Calvary Baptist Church, with Paul Nachtigall, Interim Hospice Chaplain, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Peggy was born October 25, 1959, in Saginaw, Mich. She married Marvin

Smith on June 30, 1979, in Tucumcari, N.M. He preceded her in death on October 8, 1997. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1980. Peggy owned and operated Peggy's Place which opened September 6, 1988 and closed on October 3, 2010. She was an avid bowler and participated in state and national bowling tournaments.

Survivors include a son, Chris Smith and wife Shaley of Pampa; a daughter, Joy Contreras of Pampa; special friend, Danny Reed of the home; a brother, Bruce Konieczka of Fresno, Calif.; three sisters, Charlotte Nord of Springfield, Mo., Barbara Falk of Fresno, Calif., and Donanne Woodruff of Pampa; four grandchildren; her stepfather, Jesse Cannon of Pampa. Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, Tom Konieczka and Anita Cannon; and a brother, Eric Nord.

Memorials may be made to Interim Hospice, 2217 Perryton Parkway, Pampa, TX 79065.

The body will lie in state Thursday and Friday at the funeral home.

Smith







CJ Johnston, Agent

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band Rodney of Texhoma, Okla., Kristi Barton of Wayne, Okla., and Kandi Evans and husband Dusty of Moore, Oklahoma, 18 great-grandchildren and three great-great-

Fortherecord

Police

Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, July 12 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 12 traffic-related incidents. Animal Control reported nine animal-related incidents.

to four medical calls. Wednesday, July 11 Burglary of a motor vehicle occurred at the 400 block of West.

A threat was reported. An accident occurred at the 1100 block of Crane.

Fraud was reported at of South Wells. the 100 block of West Foster.

An accident occurred at the 1000 block of East Fisher.

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ported at the 700 block of following arrests for the East Francis.

A theft was reported. A hit and run occurred a.m.

ryton Parkway.

occurred at the 1100 block pro fine warrant.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1100 block DPS for non payment of of Juniper and the 1300 block of North Coffee.

A suspicious person was arrested by deputies for An offense against fam- reported at the 600 block assault.

A suspicious vehicle was arrested by police for was reported at the 1400 block of North Wells.

A hit and run occurred at the 1100 block of South Prairie.

Thursday, July 12

A suspicious person was for possession of drug bell.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sher-



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

24 hour period ending

Thursday, July 12 at 7

Wednesday, July 11

Jennifer Espinoza, 17,

Martin Alejandro Far-

Joshua Pieper, 23, was

Sherri Renee Box, 33,

Justin Mark Welch, 32,

James Michael Martin,

28, was arrested by depu-

ties on a probation vio-

lation for possession of

was arrested by deputies

Thursday, July 12

drug paraphernalia.

paraphernalia.

marijuana.

ias, 25, was arrested by

court costs.

Pampa EMS responded ily and children was re- iff's Office reported the

at the 2500 block of Per-

A domestic disturbance was arrested on a capias

of West Browning.

reported at the 1500 block of West Buckler and the 1000 block of East Camp-

assault causing bodily injury. Criminal mischief occurred at the 1100 block Darryl Garrett Nelson, of North Starkweather. 19, was arrested by deputies for possession of

MORNING*RUSH*

Perry stumps for Romney

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry is making his first campaign trip on behalf of Mitt Romney to Nevada.

The Texas governor will make two stops in Elk City, Nevada on Friday evening, visiting the Silver State Stampede Rodeo and a Romney campaign office. The former Massachusetts governor is not expected to attend either event.

When Perry dropped out of the presidential campaign in January, he reiterated his support for Newt Gingrich, until he too dropped out. But the Texas governor promised to support the Republican nominee, despite harsh words between the two men during the Republican primary race.

CDC: Poisoned tea at eatery rare

DALLAS (AP) — Health officials say the first known victims of sodium azide poisoning at a public place were hospitalized after drinking tea laced with the chemical at a Dallas-area restaurant two years ago.

Authorities say the toxic industrial chemical was deliberately added to a tea urn at the Potbelly sandwich shop in Richardson when employees weren't looking.

The five victims of the April 2010 poisoning have recovered. No arrests were made.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it's "the first detailed report of sodium azide poisonings at a public venue."

Dr. Kurt Kleinschmidt, a UT-Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas toxicologist who investigated the case, says there have been no related incidents.

Chicago-based Potbelly told The Dallas Morning News that they have now installed tamper-resistant covers on their tea urns.

PD investigating stabbings

HIGHLAND PARK (AP) — Police in a wealthy Dallas enclave are trying to determine why a man apparently stabbed his wife before taking his own life.

Highland Park police say toxicology results are pending on John Rodman Steele.

Police say Dina Steele was wounded early Wednesday trying to protect herself. She called 911 to report she awoke to find her husband stabbing her and himself.

Police say the couple's 16-year-old son tried to help his mother. The teen and his 12-year-old sister weren't injured. Both also called 911 to summon help.

Dina Steele was taken to Baylor University Medical Center with wounds not believed to be life-threatening. A hospital spokeswoman said Thursday there was no listing for a patient by that name.

Police say her husband was declared dead at the hospital Wednesday.

Captain charged with indecency Dewhurst of raising taxes and boosting state spending

JACINTO CITY (AP) — A Houston-area police officer has been accused of propositioning a 13-year-old girl whose family sought his help.

Jacinto City police Capt. Thomas Harmon DeMont has been charged with indecency with a child.

The 49-year-old DeMont was arrested Wednesday, with bond set at \$50,000. Fort Bend County Jail records Thursday indicated DeMont is no longer in custody.

A woman in April allegedly asked DeMont for help because her daughter had trouble in school. A criminal complaint says DeMont met the girl at the home of one competitive against Dewhurst, who has spent more than of her relatives, allegedly exposed himself and asked her to perform a sex act.

The teen fled and said DeMont threatened to kill her family if she complained. No publicly listed phone number could immediately be located for DeMont, who's on administrative leave with pay.

Health care law to cost less than expected

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Fully implementing the federal health care law and adding 2 million people to Medicaid would cost Texas \$11 billion less than previously estimated, the state's health and human services commissioner said Thursday.

Tom Suehs said it would cost \$15 billion to \$16 billion over 10 years if Texas fully implemented the law. That's 42 percent less than his initial estimate of \$26 billion to \$27 billion to expand Medicaid to include poor single adults and more children.

A study by the federal, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the additional cost for Medicaid expansion is 2.8 percent more than what an individual state would normally spend on the program.

Suchs provided the updated estimate to the state Legislature after Republican Gov. Rick Perry on Monday told federal officials he will reject any attempt to expand Medicaid in Texas. The governor has the power to veto bills and the GOP-controlled Legislature is unlikely to challenge his decision.

"Medicaid spending already consumes more than 20 percent of our budget. It is an unsustainable, budget-busting program," Perry spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said Thursday.

Suchs cautioned that a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act is complex with differing interpretations that could lead to more cost-estimate revisions.

"This will get refined as we see the complexities of what we need to do," the soon-to-retire health commissioner told legislators.

The Supreme Court upheld most of the federal health care law, but ruled that the federal government cannot coerce states into expanding Medicaid, which is a joint federalstate health insurance program for the poor and disabled. Under the new law, the federal government would pay for most of the additional costs of expanding the number of people with health insurance, with the state share capped at 10 percent.

About 24 percent of Texans lack health insurance, Suehs said, the largest percentage of any state. A recent Gallup poll placed the number at 27 percent.

Suchs said expanding Medicaid would reduce the number of uninsured from nearly 5.9 million to 2.9 million. "Without Medicaid expansion, the uninsured would be back to 3.9 (million)," he said.

He agreed with Perry's stance that Medicaid should not be expanded. Suchs said the program needs to be improved before that happens.

Texas has one of the most restrictive Medicaid programs in the country, offering coverage only to the disabled, children and some parents. Last year, state legislators underfunded Medicaid by \$4.8 billion. Suchs told lawmakers he will be asking them to make up that shortfall when they meet again in January.

State Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin, questioned the wisdom of rejecting additional federal funds to help lower the number of Texas residents who are uninsured. Currently, the health care of those without insurance is covered by county taxes when those people go to the emergency room instead of a

penny-wise that when the reimbursement rates could go up and so many more people who are part of the uninsured population ... could be covered that some people won't even consider this expansion," Dukes said.

Suchs said it's up to lawmakers to decide who will pay to cover those uninsured people: counties, Medicaid or private insurance.

"I assure you Ms. Dukes that if (the federal government) would give me the four or five things I think are necessary to create accountability and flexibility in the Medicaid program, I'd go knock on the governor's door tomorrow and say, 'Let's change your position,' Suchs said in response to the lawmaker's comments.

The federal Centers on Medicare and Medicaid do not allow states to create individual specifications for who is eligible or the best way to reimburse doctors, Suehs said.

"Some of the fixes are very simple and may be part of the negotiations with the federal government in the future," he said.

State figures breaks down the data on the uninsured in Texas this way: 36 percent are eligible for federally subsidized insurance under the Affordable Care Act, 14 percent are already eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled, 15 percent are ineligible because they are illegal immigrants and 11 percent can afford insurance, but choose not to buy it and will now be required to under the law.

Expanding Medicaid would reduce Texas' uninsured population by 24 percent.

"The big difference is the childregular doctor, Dukes said. less adult," Suehs said, in ing who would be added. less adult," Suehs said, in explain-

Group buys \$1.5M ad against Dewhurst

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Club for Growth has bought \$1.5 million in television and radio ads attacking Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in his bid for the Senate, the conservative activist group said Thursday.

In the statewide ads, the anti-tax organization accuses while presiding over the state Senate.

"Fact: Dewhurst fought Texas conservatives because he wanted to spend billions more," one 30-second ad said. The group calls for Republicans to vote for Ted Cruz in the Republican primary runoff on July 31.

Dewhurst and Cruz are in a fierce competition to replace U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Cruz has said Dewhurst is not conservative enough to represent Texas in Washington while Dewhurst has said Cruz lacks the necessary experience.

Groups like Club for Growth have helped Cruz remain \$9 million of his own money on the race.

The Dewhurst campaign began airing a statewide tele-

The lieutenant governor's office also acknowledged that it removed all of Dewhurst's speeches from its official website last year but did not explain why. The Cruz campaign has repeatedly accused Dewhurst of trying to hide his record.



Doctor found slain in his home ning a business," Dewhurst said in the ad.

LUBBOCK (AP) — Lubbock police are investigating the death of a doctor found shot in his home as a homicide.

Sgt. Jonathan Stewart says police were called to the home Wednesday afternoon after a landscaper and a maid found the body of Dr. Joseph Sonnier III, chief pathologist for Covenant Health System in Lubbock.

Stewart says landscapers had found a broken window at the house.

vision ad on Tuesday attacking the Obama administration for the federal health care law. Dewhurst called the plan to provide health insurance to nearly all Americans "the next threat our economy" and he pledged to introduce legislation to repeal it.

"President Obama has never spent a single day run-

With less than three weeks left before the runoff, both sides are trying to rally supporters to come out and vote. A federal court case over redistricting delayed the Texas primaries almost three months, and turnout for the midsummer runoff will likely decide who wins.

On Wednesday, the Cruz campaign acknowledged that he missed a deadline to file his financial disclosure forms. Cruz was required under federal campaign finance laws to file an updated personal disclosure on May 15 and was fined \$200 for missing the deadline.

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Today in History

Today is Friday, July 13, the 195th day of 2012. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 13, 1787, the Congress of the Confederation adopted the Northwest Ordinance, which established a government in the Northwest Territory, an area corresponding to the presentday Midwest and Upper Midwest.

On this date:

In 1793, French revolutionary writer Jean-Paul Marat was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday, who was executed four days later.

In 1812, New York became the first U.S. city to adopt regulations on how pawnbrokers could conduct business.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOODLAND" was dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1939, Frank Sinatra made his first commercial recording, "From the Bottom of My Heart" and "Melancholy Mood," with Harry James and his Orchestra for the Brunswick label.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. solicitor general.

In 1972, George McGovern received the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Miami Beach.

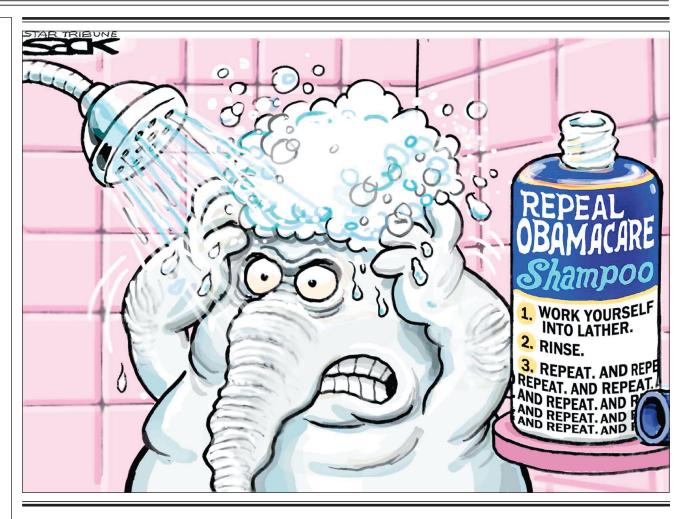
In 1977, a blackout lasting 25 hours hit the New York City area.

In 1978, Lee Iacocca was fired as president of Ford Motor Co. by chairman Henry Ford II.

In 1985, "Live Aid," an international rock concert in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, took place to raise money for Africa's starving people.

In 1999, Angel Maturino Resendiz, suspected of being the "Railroad Killer," surrendered in El Paso, Texas. (Resendiz was executed in 2006.)

Ten years ago: The nation's governors opened heir summer meeting in Boise, Idaho, with high health care costs the main topic. Photographer Yousuf Karsh died in Boston at age 93.



Obama swings, misses in Rust Belt

"A step in the right direction." That's what Barack Obama said in Poland, Ohio, about Friday's Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment report, which showed only 80,000 net new jobs and unemployment remaining at 8.2 percent.

The thought will occur to many, not all of them Obama detractors, that this was at best a baby step. It's not enough to keep up with population growth, much less to restore the low unemployment rates of most of the 1990s and 2000s.

Another thought will occur to professional amateur political strategists: Why did the president's campaign schedule a two-day bus tour of northern Ohio and western Pennsylvania to coincide with the day the unemployment numbers were announced?

Sure, Ohio and Pennsylvania are important states politically. They have 18 and 20 electoral votes, and Obama carried them in 2008 with 51 and 54 percent of the votes.

And current polling shows Obama with only 46 percent in Ohio and 47 percent in Pennsylvania when paired against Mitt Romney.



MICHAEL BARONE

single state, they would have cast 19 electoral votes for Mondale, more than doubling the 13 he won from his native Minnesota and the District of Columbia. In the 1980s,

the Rust Belt was still smart-

ing from factory closings and heavy job losses in the recession of the late 1970s. Most of those lost unionwage jobs never came back, and angry laid-off factory workers and their families were unpersuaded by the Reagan campaign's claim that it was "morning in America."

In the years since, the economy of the Rust Belt has changed. The biggest employers in Cleveland and Pittsburgh these days are not steel mills but hospital complexes.

There has been considerable outmigration of young people, and from 1980 to 2010, the population of these 33 counties declined by 7 percent, while the national population increased by 36 percent. If they were a single state, they would have 14 electoral votes, down from 19 three decades ago. The aging electorate of the Rust Belt remains Democratic, and these counties voted 56 to 42 percent for Barack Obama. But that means that they were only 3 percent more Democratic than the national average.

family and adding, "People've been commenting: I need to gain some weight."

As if to compensate, he ate some grits -- a staple once you get an hour or so south of Washington, but not so much up north.

But what else could he talk about? Certainly not the Environmental Protection Agency's rules shutting down coal-fired electric plants. Nor his decision blocking the Keystone oil pipeline.

He could hail the development of fracking in the region's Marcellus shale natural gas formation in the region, except for the fact that regulators in his administration seem intent on shutting it down.

He could repeat his calls for "investment" in education, but even if you don't regard that as a political payoff to the teacher unions, the dividends are going to be a long time coming in.

And calls for investment in infrastructure may lead people to recall his chuckling admission that there are no shovel-ready projects, thanks to regulatory and legal roadblocks.

The uncomfortable fact is that

Five years ago: Former media mogul Conrad Black was convicted in Chicago of swindling the Hollinger International newspaper empire out of millions of dollars. (Black was sentenced to 6¹/₂ years in federal prison, but had his sentence reduced to three years; he was freed in May 2012.) Family prayer services and a huge public outpouring in Austin, Texas, ushered in three days of memorial ceremonies honoring the late Lady Bird Johnson.

One year ago: California became the first state in the nation to add lessons about gays and lesbians to social studies classes in public schools under a measure signed by Gov. Jerry Brown. Three coordinated bombings in India's busy financial capital killed 26 people in the worst terror attack in the country since the 2008 Mumbai siege. Abby Wambach broke a tense tie with a thunderous header in the 79th minute, and the United States earned its first trip to the Women's World Cup final since winning it in 1999 with a 3-1 victory over France. (Japan, which went on to win the Cup, upset Sweden 3-1 in the other semifinal.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Patrick Stewart is 72. Actor Robert Forster is 71. Actor Harrison Ford is 70. Singer-guitarist Roger McGuinn (The Byrds) is 70. Actor-comedian Cheech Marin is 66. Actress Daphne Maxwell Reid is 64. Actress Didi Conn is 61. Singer Louise Mandrell is 58. Actordirector Cameron Crowe is 55. Tennis player Anders Jarryd is 51. Rock musician Gonzalo Martinez De La Cotera (Marcy Playground) is 50. Comedian Tom Kenny ("SpongeBob SquarePants") is 50. Country singer-songwriter Victoria Shaw is 50. Bluegrass singer Rhonda Vincent is 50. Actor Kenny Johnson is 49. Actor Michael Jace is 47. Country singer Neil Thrasher is 47. Singer Deborah Cox is 39. Actress Ashley Scott is 35. Rock musician Will Champion (Coldplay) is 34. Actor Fran Kranz is 31. Actor Steven R. McQueen is 24.

Thought for Today: "If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power. but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never." - Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855).

Obama's bus tour was aimed at the historically Democratic Rust Belt territory. Since the United Steelworkers, United Auto Workers and United Rubber Workers organized the steel, auto and rubber factories on Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown and Toledo, this has been prime Democratic territory.

Even in 1984, when Ronald Reagan was winning a 59 to 40 percent landslide, this Rust Belt --19 counties of northern and eastern Ohio and 14 counties of western Pennsylvania -- voted 52 to 47 percent for Walter Mondale. It was 12 points more Democratic than the national average.

If these 33 counties had been a

Letter to the Editor

Become a CASA volunteer

The trial of former Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky is dominating the news. Every day, sordid new details emerge about his alleged abuse of children entrusted to his care. Because he was considered an upstanding citizen, no one could imagine he might be taking advantage of vulnerable boys entrusted to his care. And because of his standing, the children were afraid to cry out because they feared they would not be believed.

Unlike the Sandusky case, there is little outcry abotu the thousands of children abused every year in Texas — one every eight minutes

The polling data suggests that Obama is not running as strong in the Rust Belt counties this year. The bus tour was undoubtedly aimed at pushing his numbers up.

But he seems to have been left with little to say. No wonder he resorted to making jokes about his

according to figures from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Most of them are abused by people known to the children. Every 38 hours in 2011, a child died from abuse and neglect in Texas.

In Gray County, 121 children were victims of abuse and neglect and one died last year.

But the outrage over these statistics is remarkably absent.

If the Sandusky case makes you angry, turn that anger into good for our children in our community. Consider becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate - a CASA volunteer.

CASA volunteers are ordinary people appointed by judges to speak up for the best interest of children, who through no fault of their own, Obama doesn't have a convincing economic story to tell. The recovery summer promised for 2010 and for 2011 and again for 2012 has yet to arrive.

Obama needs majorities in the Rust Belt counties to carry Ohio and Pennsylvania again. But last week's bus tour shows he's having difficulty in this historically Democratic territory.

Michael Barone, senior political analyst for 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.

end up in foster care. Last year, there were 46,063 children in Texas' custody and more than half did not have a CASA volunteer to speak up for them in court and in the child welfare system. These children went through the terrifying process of being removed from their homes and losing everything they knew. CASA volunteers work to move children through the foster care system and into safe permanent homes as quickly as possible.

For more information, visit www. BecomeACASA.org and make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. You can also call the CASA office at 806-669-7638.

> **Stephanie Kelly** President of the Board **CASA of the High Plains**

We welcome your letters

- To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:
- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.

Questions ready for Fort Hood shooting suspect's jury pool

FORT HOOD (AP) — A questionnaire likely will be sent this week to potential military jurors in the trial of the Army psychiatrist charged in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage, officials said Thursday.

A military judge, Col. Gregory Gross, decided Thursday on the questions for the jury pool to answer and return a month before Maj. Nidal Hasan's courtmartial starts Aug. 20. The judge's decision came after prosecutors and defense attorneys submitted 350 questions and discussed them behind closed doors, Fort Hood officials said after the hearing. It was unclear how many questions were rejected.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys discussed some questions in open court, arguing over the wording.

Some questions on the form are related to the death penalty, Hasan's religion and ethnicity, Fort Hood officials said.

Hasan is an American-born Muslim. He faces the death penalty if convicted of 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the shootings on the Texas Army post, about 150 miles southwest of Dallas.

The pool of nearly 150 military officers will come from Army posts nationwide, including Fort Hood. Jurors must be of Hasan's rank or higher. Death penalty cases in the military require at least 12 jury members, more than in other military cases. And unlike other military trials, their verdict must be unanimous in finding guilt or assessing a sentence.

Hasan was not in the courtroom again Thursday because he has refused to shave his beard, a violation of Army regulations. Hasan and one of his attorneys have watched the past four hearings on closed-circuit television in a room in a trailer just outside the courthouse. Last month, Gross said Hasan would be barred from attending hearings and his trial in person unless he shaves the beard, which his attorneys have said is an expression of his faith.

Hasan, 41, was paralyzed from the waist down after being shot by police the day of the rampage. He remains jailed.

Former VP Cheney praises Romney at Republican fundraiser

WILSON, Wyo. (AP) — Former Vice President Dick Cheney told Republican fundraisers Thursday night that Mitt Romney is the "only" man who can make the right decisions in unexpected foreign policy crises. The presumptive 2012 Republican presidential nominee called Cheney a "great American leader" - and didn't mention former President George W. Bush in a 20-minute speech to a country club reception.

Cheney said serving under four presidents taught him that a surprising international crisis is inevitable.

"When I think about the kind of individual I want in the Oval Office in that moment of crisis, who has to make those key decisions, some of them life-and-death decisions, some of them decisions as commander-in-chief, who has the responsibility for sending some of our young men and women into harm's way, that man is Mitt Romney," Cheney said to applause.

It was a strong endorsement from a man who has come to represent the neoconservative foreign policy wing of the Republican Party. Until Thursday, Romney had avoided appearing with Cheney or with Bush.

While Romney avoided mentioning the former president in remarks that were open to the press, he invoked Bush in a question-and-answer session with donors at a private dinner at Cheney's home. In remarks overheard by reporters standing outside the clubhouse, Romney contrasted what he called "President George W. Bush's freedom agenda" with President Barack Obama Cheney, who generally avoids retail politicking, is still a controversial figure because of his hawkish foreign policy stances and support for enhanced interrogation techniques — like waterboarding that many consider torture. Obama banned those techniques after he took office. gathered Donors Thursday night under

a tent next to the driving range at Teton Pines Country Club, a golfing community where Cheney has a home. After Cheney introduced him, Romney praised the former vice president as "a great American leader."

criticized Romney Obama's domestic policies on health care and spending. "But the foreign policy mistakes, I believe, may be even longer lasting in their negative impact on the country," he said, but he did not specify those policies. In the past Romney has attacked Obama's policies on Iran, China and Israel, although he has praised the president for authorizing the raid that led to the death of Osama bin Laden.

Romney raised more than \$4 million with Cheney, long a strong fundraiser in part because of his popularity among the conservative Republican base. The Cheney-sponsored events in this resort area near Yellowstone National Park represent a welcome endorsement for Romney, who is eager to win over more of the party's base.

Cheney was hosting Romney at a private dinner at his Wyoming home after he posed for photos with Romney and the fundraisers who had flown from all over the country for the event. They were drawn either by Cheney or by the dramatic beauty of the mountains in this resort valley. New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, a national campaign finance co-chair, was in attendance, as were bundlers from Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma and New York, among other places.

Oklahoma City oil magnate Harold Hamm, frequently mentioned in Romney's standard campaign speech as an inspiring rags-to-riches example of American entrepreneurship, also attended. Hamm drove a truck to put himself through college before striking it rich in North Dakota.

"Harold's doing just fine, by the way. How you doing, Harold?" Romney called out, as the crowd laughed. "Forbes publishes his net worth on a regular basis."

Hamm is No. 78 on Forbes' list of the world's billionaires, worth \$11 billion, according to the magazine.

Attendance at the dinner with Cheney cost \$30,000, though many had already contributed that much before Thursday night's event. Cheney's reddoored home is at the end of a cul-de-sac and overlooks the golf course and the Grand Teton mountain range. The Secret Service had set up metal detectors on the back lawn in preparation for the dinner, and a tent for the dinner was erected near the 18th hole of the golf course close to the clubhouse.

Romney doesn't have a close personal relationship with the former vice president. While he speaks regularly with former President George H.W. Bush, Romney seldom refers by name to the most recent Bush to occupy the White House. On occasion he goes out of his way not to say Bush's name out loud and simply calls him "the predecessor" to Obama.

Romney has embraced Cheney in the past. Last year, he told an Arizona town hall that Cheney's "wisdom and judgment" would provide a model for choosing his own vice president.

Many of Romney's policy advisers were officials in the Bush White House. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently endorsed the former Massachusetts governor. On Thursday, Romney aides refused to comment on reports that Rice is a top consideration for vice president. Earlier this month, Romney's wife, Ann, said her husband was considering choosing a woman as a running mate.

Romney's visit with the GOP sage came as he was in the final stages of picking his No. 2. Cheney is familiar with the process: He was charged with leading Bush's vice presidential search in 2000 and ended up vice president himself. Romney has tasked longtime aide Beth Myers with leading his own vice presidential

search.

Cheney has long struggled with cardiovascular disease, suffering a heart attack in 2010, his fifth since the age of 37. Now 71, he received a heart transplant earlier this year at a more advanced age than most patients.

Cheney's daughter Liz also attended Thursday's fundraiser. She recently bought a house in Wyoming, sparking questions about whether she plans to run for office. Her father was elected to six terms as a House member from the state.



TUESDAY, JULY 17 CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Program - Top O' Texas Rodeo Association Sponsor - Top O' Texas Rodeo Association Cost is \$10/person RSVP by Monday, July 16 (Please get each name for multiple reservations)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 15-19, 2012 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.



Preschool age 5 (by 9-1-12) to Kindergarten Children Grades 1 through 6 Youth Grades 7 through 12 All ages of Adults

> Central Baptist Church 513 E. Francis – 665-1631

SATURDAY, JULY 21 JR. RODEO

Rodeo Grounds

SUNDAY, JULY 22 KID PONY SHOW

Rodeo Grounds

Check out the calendar of events on our website for more information www.pampachamber.com.

Don't forget to post your event information! It's easy and it's FREE!







HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, July 14, 2012:

This year you will want to clarify appointments, statements and meeting places. If ever there were a year where confusion could occur, it is this one. As a result, your communication will improve. You also will opt for a lot of downtime to re-energize. If you are single, you could attract someone who could be emotionally unavailable. Make sure you know this person well before giving away your heart. If you are attached, the two of you will gain, especially if you take weekends away together from your normal lifestyles. You need this bonding time. GEMINI understands you better than you would like.

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)

***** You happily dart from spending time with a favorite friend to the gym, or perhaps a meal with a loved one. You seem to be playing catch-up with others and enjoying every moment. Do choose your words with care. You could be misunderstood easily. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

 $\star\star\star$ Remain sensitive to others, and understand that money might not solve the problem or be the vehicle to express your caring. In some sense, you realize the importance of your actions. You cannot underestimate this self-expression. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

 $\star\star\star\star$ You beam in much more of what you want. Others are highly responsive to your energy and inquiries. A child or loved one could be creating a lot of uproar. Talk about your feelings, and allow the other party to clear the air. Tonight: It is your call.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Know when to pull back and do little. Sometimes it is more appealing to allow the other party to make the first move; you might be a lot happier that way. The unexpected occurs when you are out and about or dealing with a respected person. Tonight: Add some mystery to the mix.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ Whatever you touch seems to work, whether it is just getting together with friends or playing softball. A conver-

sation might have a harsh tone to it, but ultimately you discover that no ill will was intended. Unexpected news might be pivotal. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Pressure to do something becomes more and more important as time goes on. You could think there is a problem surrounding the request or demand. Still, you need to respond. A confusing message needs clarification. Make no judgments yet. Tonight: To the wee hours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

 $\star\star\star\star\star$ You have an ability to see the big picture. Surprising events could cause you to rethink a certain commitment. Detach, and look at the long term. Do not forget to call a loved one at a distance. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

 $\star \star \star$ Be willing to have a long-overdue discussion. You could feel uneasy, yet you may need to experience this discomfort if you want to root out a problem. Your sense of caring is pivotal to a loved one. Let your feelings show. Tonight: Add in some fun or flirtation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

 $\star\star\star\star$ You need some quality time with a friend or loved one. Whether it is a low-key visit or traveling somewhere together, you could be surprised and delighted by this person. Nix an invitation to join friends if you want to. Tonight: Doing only what you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

 $\star \star \star$ A project needs to be taken off the back burner. You could be drawn and tired from the past few days, which most likely were spent socializing. Take advantage of a need to catch up on rest, and also make sure to handle this project. Tonight: More R and R.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your lighthearted manner attracts both children and adults. Where you direct your energy is your choice. Make calls to someone at a distance; you'll see life in a much different light as a result. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

 $\star \star \star$ If you can, stay close to home. Invite family over if you are due for a visit. You will enjoy all the chatter and fun -- far more than you ever thought possible. You'll feel fortunate by the day's end because of what happens. Tonight: Lighten the mood.





YOUNTE MARSHALL

Congress report challenges Mexico's choices in drug war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mexico's reliance on the military to combat widespread drug violence and crime has been largely ineffective and has led to increases in human rights violations, according to a congressional report released Thursday.

The majority staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which traveled to Mexico in April for extensive interviews with U.S. and Mexican officials, said in the study that the administration of President Felipe Calderon has made progress in confronting organized crime bosses, but the stopgap use of the military to pick up the slack for the police has had limited success.

"Heavy reliance upon the military to quell lawlessness and directly confront the narcotics syndicates appears to have been largely ineffective — and in some instances to have exacerbated the violence suffered by civilians," the report said.

Like Calderon, Mexico's President-elect Pena Nieto will be under pressure to deal with the rampant violence. The report said that since December 2006, when Calderon began his campaign against organized crime, there have been more than 55,000 drug-related homicides. The report briefly described the horrific tactics used by organized crime.

"All too frequently mass killings include women and minors. Bodies visibly mutilated are hung from bridges and severed heads are deposited in public places. In at least one instance, a pig's head was sewn onto a torso," the report said.

Calderon's efforts to combat crime and stem the violence receive strong support from the majority of Mexicans, the report said. However, significant numbers of Mexicans doubt that the government can stop the drug violence. That's due in part to suspicions about the police and judicial system, which have been plagued by corruption and ineffectiveness.

As the United States and Mexico maintain close

Firefighting planes mobilized in West

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Six military cargo planes that are employed to drop fire retardant around wildfires have been moved to air tanker bases in Utah and Idaho to put them closer to the most active fires in the West.

Four of the C-130s were staged at the Boise Air Terminal and two were at Hill Air Force Base near Salt Lake City on Thursday. In recent weeks, the planes were staged in Cheyenne and Colorado Springs, Colo., to fight fires in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota.

Last weekend, a cold front brought rainy weather to the eastern Rocky Mountains. On Wednesday, firefighters succeeded in fully containing the Waldo Canyon Fire that killed two people and burned 350 homes in Colorado Springs, making it the most destructive fire in Colorado history.

Massive fires that prompted evacuations in Wyoming also cooled off somewhat.

"With all the recent rain in the Rocky Mountains, they just don't need us down there right now," Col. Jerry Champlin, commander of the Wyoming Air National Guard 153rd Air Expeditionary Group, said in a release.

On Thursday, the most active fires were in Idaho. There, 10 fires had burned some 445 square miles of mostly grass and brush, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

The six C-130s were already flying some missions into Idaho before the U.S. Forest Service asked the military to move them closer to the more active fires A total of eight C-130s outfitted to drop fire retardant were operated by four military units: Two each by the 153rd in Wyoming, the California Air National Guard 146th Airlift Wing, the North Carolina Air National Guard 145th Airlift Wing, and the 301st Airlift Wing, a Colorado Air Force Reserve unit. One of the North Carolina planes crashed in the Black Hills on July 1, reducing the fleet to seven. The other North Carolina plane is not presently fighting wildfires. Forest Service officials said they only needed the use of six C-130s. The crash killed four crew members and injured two others, and remains under investigation by the military.

ties, the report recommended that Congress provide at least \$250 million a year for the next four years for the Merida Initiative, the cooperative security effort. The money would allow Mexico to speed up judicial reforms and overhaul of the state police forces.

Since 2008, Congress has appropriated \$1.9 billion for the initiative, named for the Mexican city that hosted Calderon and former President George W. Bush in 2007. By April of this year, the United States had provided about \$1 billion worth of equipment, technical assistance and training. "Mexico's presidential transition provides a new window to discuss and debate the best security strategies to deal with the serious violence plaguing Mexico," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., said in a statement. "As the political landscape continues to change in both countries, this report underscores the importance of continuity in two critical areas — judicial and police reform. Mexicans have committed to these fundamental reforms and as tough as they will be to implement they are fundamental for any sustained reduction in violence in Mexico."

Install child-safe gates and other safety tips

Dear Pat: My baby boy is at the crawling stage, and I want to make my house more child-safe, with gates at the stairs and room doors. What is the best type to get, and do you have any other tips for safety? -- Sandy T.

Dear Sandy: People naturally think first of a child falling down the stairs or getting from a safe room to a more dangerous one, such as a utility room or workshop. Installing special child-safe gates is an excellent method to isolate your child from the typical dangers inside a home.

It might sound silly, but before you make any safety changes, literally do a "crawl" through your home. Until you are actually down on the same level as your child is, it will be difficult to locate all the potential hazards. Reach out and touch everything you can. Also, consider tight spots that might be too small for your hand, but not for a child's little fingers.

The two basic types of gates are pressure gates and hardwaremounted gates. The pressure gates use an expansion spring force to hold them in the hallway, stairway or door opening. These are easy to move from area to area and to store away.

The drawback to a pressure gate is your child may be able to knock one down as he grows older. It is not recommended to use a pressure gate at the top of stairs for this reason. Also, if you have a large pet, it may run into the gate and knock it down.

A hardware-mounted gate is more secure and can be used longer as your son grows. It is more difficult to install than a pressure gate, but certainly within the skill limits of most homeowners. When selecting one, consider the type of latch mechanism. It must be tricky enough to work so your son cannot figure it out, but not too difficult to operate. A one-hand operation feature is definitely a plus.

A mother apfatry approximate draws



cated to operate, you may become frustrated when you are in a hurry and not always take the time to lock it. As with gates, look for onehand operation.

Kitchen cabinets and drawers are an obvious location for these locks because of knives and cleaning chemicals. Spend the extra money to install the locks on the upper cabinets, too. Small children, especially inquisitive little boys, can climb like monkeys. They may be able to get to an upper cabinet at an earlier age than you expect.

In the kitchen, remove small magnets from the refrigerator door. These are easy for a child to pull off, pop in his mouth and choke. Install corner guards on the corners and edges of cabinets and the kitchen table. Bumping one with your shin is painful enough, but imagine if the edges are headheight for a child.

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

HOMES Do-it-Yourself Safety Gates

Child safety gates keep children away from stairwells, fireplaces and other hazardous places. Many designs are available, ranging from pressured-mounted gates to extra-wide baby gates that can fit even the oddest spaces.



Gates are available in a wide range of materials, such as wood, plastic, metal and mesh.

2 Choose a design with no large openings or places where kids can step up onto, so climbing over the gate would be very difficult.

Locks open and close with childproof lock. One-hand operation of a child safety gate is an advantage for

Another safety concern is drawers and cabinet doors. It is surprising how many commonly used items in drawers can be hazardous in the hands of a child. There are many types of child-safe drawer/ door locks available, from inexpensive plastic ones to metal and magnetic ones.

Inspect how difficult it is for you to get the lock unlatched to open the drawer. It does not take a sophisticated design to keep a child out. If the lock is too compli-



Pressure-mounted Gates

Pressure-mounted gates are easy to install and simple to move from one location to the next. They use rubber bumpers that prevent damage to walls or doors; no hardware is required to install. Pressure-mounted gates are not secure enough to use at the top of stairs.

Source: www.onestepahead.com

Hardware-mounted Gates

When installed properly, hardware-mounted gates are extremely sturdy and secure. These gates are designed to install directly to a stud in the wall or are mounted using a gateinstallation kit that allows you to install the gate in a location without a wall stud.

Creators.com/Bob Kast



Documents conflict on when Romney left Bain Capital

WASHINGTON (AP) — Documents filed by Mitt Romney's former company conflict with the Republican presidential candidate's statements about when he gave up control of the private equity firm Bain Capital. President Barack Obama's campaign seized on the discrepancies Thursday to charge that Romney was lying about his background.

Obama has accused Romney of being an "outsourcing pioneer" who invested in companies that shipped jobs to China, India and elsewhere overseas. But Romney, who has made his business experience the central part of his candidacy, claims he had no role in outsourcing U.S. jobs because much of that activity didn't happen until after 1999, when he says he had given up operational control at Bain.

Both candidates dug in on their positions, dispatching aides to level deeply personal criticisms aimed at casting each opponent as little more than a typical politician. Each candidate is seeking to sully his rival's integrity in hopes of gaining ground in closely contested campaign four months before Election Day. But the strategy carries risks: It could alienate voters — especially critical independents — who are turned off by negative campaigning and want to see the candidates focus on the economy and job growth.

At issue is when Romney left Bain, and whether he was at the helm when it sent jobs overseas.

The documents, filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, place Romney in charge of Bain from 1999 to 2001, a period in which the company outsourced jobs and ran companies that fell into bankruptcy.

Romney has tried to distance himself from this period in Bain's history, saying on financial disclosure forms he had no active role in Bain as of February 1999. Obama has labeled Romney a job killer in hopes of undercutting the Republican's claim that his private business experience gives him the ability to turn around the struggling economy.

But at least three times since then, Bain listed Romney as the company's "controlling person," as well as its "sole shareholder, sole director, chief executive officer and president." And one of those documents — as late as February 2001 — lists Romney's "principal occupation" as Bain's managing director.

The Obama campaign called the SEC documents detailing Romney's role post-1999 a "big Bain lie." And Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter said the presumptive GOP nominee may have even engaged in illegal activity.

"Either Mitt Romney, through his own

Guthrie

words and his own signature, was misrepresenting his position at Bain to the SEC, which is a felony," Cutter said, "or he is misrepresenting his position at Bain to the American people to avoid responsibility for some of the consequences of his investments."

Countering, Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades said Cutter's comments marked "a new low" in the campaign and called on the president to apologize for "the out-of-control behavior of his staff, which demeans the office he holds.'

After weeks of Bain attacks by Obama, Romney rolled out his new ad alleging dishonesty — a signal that the Democratic criticism may be hurting him.

The ad sought to establish dishonesty as a pattern for Obama, and uses his 2008 Democratic primary rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to do it. It included a clip of Clinton — now serving Obama as secretary of state - saying, "Shame on you, Barack Obama" and calling on her then-challenger to stop running dishonest ads.

In an appearance Thursday on NBC's "Today" show, Romney campaign adviser Ed Gillespie called the outsourcing charge by the Obama campaign "a lie" and asserted that job outsourcing wasn't the policy at Bain Capital when Romney was in charge.

Even as it sought the upper hand with the ad, Romney's campaign found itself scrambling to explain the apparent discrepancies between the former Massachusetts governor's past statements about his Bain tenure and the SEC documents.

Campaign spokeswoman Andrea Saul insisted Romney left Bain in February 1999 and "had no input on investments or management of companies after that point."

The campaign also issued a statement from Bain saying that "due to the sudden nature of Mr. Romney's departure, he remained the sole stockholder for a time while formal ownership was being documented and transferred to the group of partners who took over management of the firm in 1999. Accordingly, Mr. Romney was reported in various capacities on SEC filings during this period."

The SEC documents — which have received modest attention despite being reported in recent days by publications including the political website Talking Points Memo — raise questions about Romney's role at Bain in 1999, 2000 and early 2001. If he turned his full attention to the Olympics in early 1999, as his campaign says, it's hard to square with the Bain SEC filing, two years later, listing his "principal occupation" as the titles as CEO and president.

James Cox, a securities law professor at Duke University, said the SEC's Schedule 13D forms have always been under legal scrutiny by SEC officials and company executives. He said law firms hired to file such reports — known as "beneficial ownership reports" because they deem who can sell securities "pay great attention to these forms. I don't find that these parts of the documents are casually reported.3

"It's hard for me to believe you could be listed as 'management anything' without it taking up a bulk of your time, said Cox, who had not reviewed Bain's statement on Thursday.

During the years in question — 1999 to 2011 — Bain oversaw investments that either sent jobs abroad of filed for bankruptcy. For example, in late 1999, Bain-controlled Steam International set up overseas call centers, and a subsidiary moved jobs from California to Mexico.

Health

Both candidates said they supported Governor Rick Perry's desire to opt out of a part of the law that would expand the Medicaid program. Yesterday

the Health and Human Services Commission said that previous estimates of the cost of implementing the plan were off by about 42 percent. Commissioner Tom

Suchs said that the

program will cost the

state between \$15

and \$16 billion over



Landtroop

10 years, down from King

his original projection of between \$26 and \$27 billion.

Even with \$11 billion shaved off of those estimates, the state remains concerned about covering the cost of implementing the law, particularly during a recession. The state currently has a budget shortfall, which Landtroop wants to address by cutting spending, rather than by raising taxes.

'The government does not have a revenue problem," he said. "The government has a spending problem. We need to be able to prioritize our spending, and do those things that the government is supposed to do, ... and let the free market and the private citizens spend their money that they've earned the way they want to."

Along with water and education fund-

company's managing director and his In 2000, the Ampad company declared bankruptcy. The following year, so did steel-maker GS Industries — just as Bain made \$58.4 million from its investment.

> The Obama campaign has used workers laid off from Ampad in attacks on Romney's business record.

> Romney helped found Bain Capital in 1984. The private equity firm invested in various companies, often restructuring their management and operations. Some became success stories that hired new workers and enriched Bain's investors. Others struggled or went out of business. Romney made millions of dollars and cites Bain as chief proof that he understands private enterprise and jobcreation.

> The Boston Globe reported Thursday that a Massachusetts financial disclosure form Romney filed in 2003 stated he still owned 100 percent of Bain Capital in 2002. Romney was elected to one term as Massachusetts governor in 2002.

cont. from page 1A

expect that to continue on for the next few months. As long as agriculture and oil and gas stay strong, Texas should do pretty well.

During 2011, the agriculture industry was affected by an intense drought that has since grown less severe, but the protection of water resources has become more important than ever.

"There are things we need to do, and I think the biggest step in that is conservation," said Landtroop. "We need to be very mindful of that, but the bottom line is that our groundwater belongs to the landowners, period. We need to keep the big cities, like Dallas, Houston and Austin, from coming and taking our water.'

King mentioned finding an alternative to groundwater as one solution to the state's water woes.

"There are ag producers who are upset about the conservation rules imposed by their local water districts," he said. "It's understandably so, but from a state level, the state needs to get involved on the infrastructure of the water plan to ensure water for the people."

Landtroop recommended prudent use of water.

"A lot of the farmers and ranchers out here make their living off of water, and they are some of the most conservationminded people that we have," he said. "We need to make sure we do things that encourage conservation and the wise use of water, but understand that the water does belong to the landowners, and make sure we protect their rights.'

Both candidates describe themselves as pro-life and against gay marriage.

"I'm just about as conservative as it

beginners to experts can join in.

also available at the center.

cont. from page 1A

"Anybody who would like to sing or play music is welcome," he said. "There are no rules. Just show up."

Violin, mandolin and guitar lessons are

Lister invites anyone interested in checking out the center when it is closed the key issues in the race. to give him a call at 806-676-0711.

ing, King noted the economy as one of

"Overall, sales tax revenues have shown growth all year," he said. "I

gets, I think," said King

"Those types of social values are very important to me," said Landtroop. "I'm going to fight for them."



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



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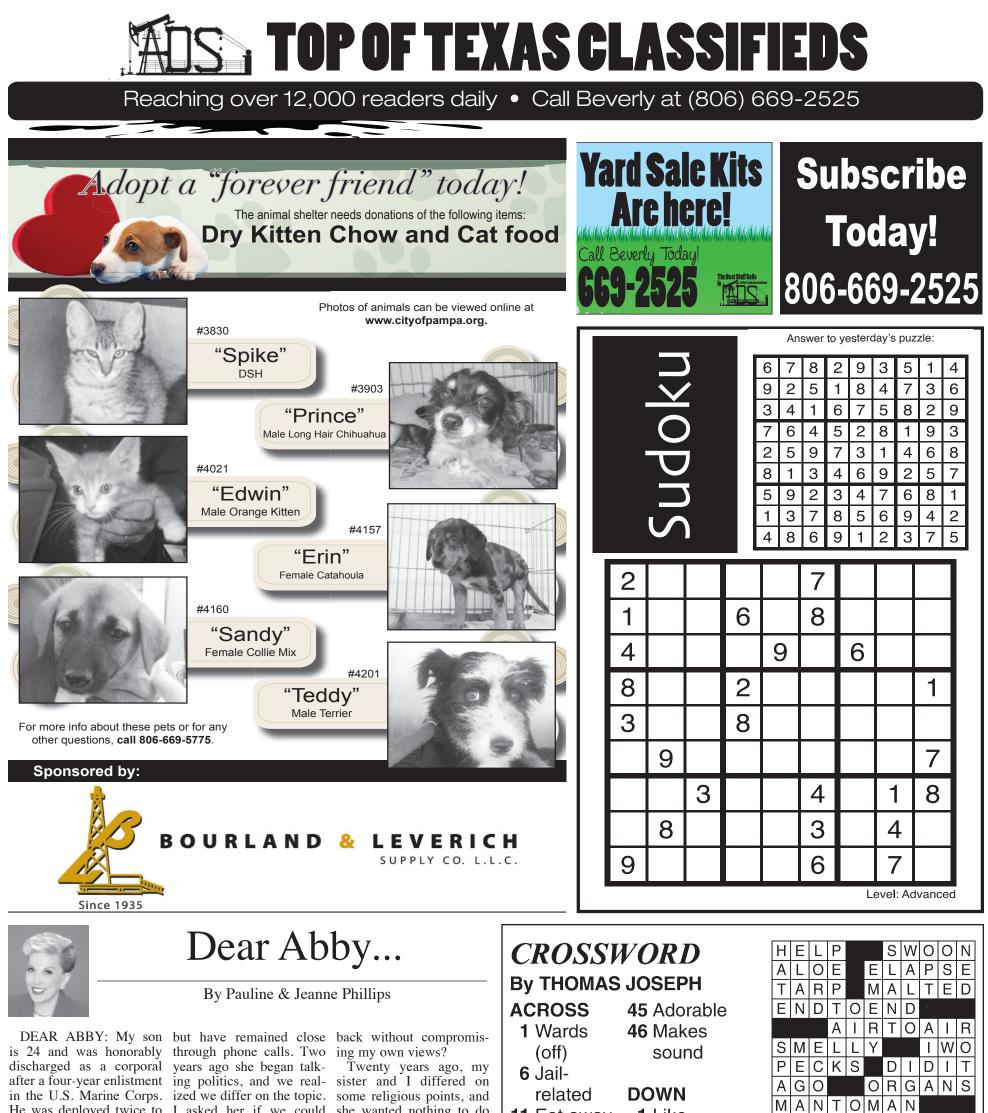
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He was deployed twice to I asked her if we could she wanted nothing to do Iraq. Since his return he not talk so much about the with me for the next two

has been attending commu- subject and just "agree to years. It took our mother's

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1 Like

nity college, but he lacks disagree." the focus and is bored. He that he would like to return me and also a friend who to the military.

to re-enlist, he was told friend, but I didn't want to and devoted service, this rejection is insulting. He trip. has announced to family ment in the French Foreign Legion next year.

This is very distressing to me, and I'm sick with worry about his wellbeing. I do not want him to military. Can you offer any words of wisdom? - WORRIED MOM IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR WORRIED **MOM:** Encourage your son to explore enlistment opportunities with other branches of the U.S. military regarding their tattoo policies. However, while you and I might consider his desire to join the French Foreign Legion to be an extreme overreaction to his rejection by the Marines, as an adult he has a right to make that choice. If he goes through with his plan, he may see less action than he would as a member of the U.S. military.

While I can't make this easier for you as a parent, I do have this advice to offer. Tell your son it would be in his best interest to learn some basic French before he goes.

DEAR ABBY: My twin sister and I have lived across the country from each other for many years,

has recently announced she planned a visit to see TWIN agrees politically with her. you and your twin were When he approached I told her she was welcome the Marine recruiter to use my car to see her he's ineligible due to tat- go because I knew politics toos on his arms. After would be brought up. It four years of honorable made her very angry, and she ended up canceling her

that he will pursue enlist- phone chats, and I stayed tion open as far as your with her several days last sister and brother will year to celebrate our brother's birthday. But the bond is over, your relationship we had is no longer there. I may normalize. can feel her and my brother pulling away from me. I'm then it's important you go off to fight in a foreign sure it's because of our remember that the expepolitical differences.

death to get us back togeth-Things were fine until er. Help! - LOVES MY

DEAR LOVES: While womb-mates, nowhere is it written that because of vour twinship you must think in unison. For the time being, my advice is to calm down. This being an election year, feelings are running high. Keep We have continued our the lines of communicaallow. After the election

However, if it doesn't, riences we have as we I don't know how to turn travel life's path can turn things around. I have never even twins into very difargued with them, but feel ferent people. Accept they are making me an out- that, and your heart will



Yesterday's Answer: 1-7; 2-6; 3-5; 4-8

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My son is 24 and was honorably discharged as a corporal after a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was deployed twice to Iraq. Since his return he has mates, nowhere is it written that because of your twinship been attending community college, but he lacks the focus and is you must think in unison. For the time being, my advice is to relationship may normalize. bored. He has recently announced that he would like to return to the military.

When he approached the Marine recruiter to re-enlist, he was told he's ineligible due to tattoos on his arms. After four years of honorable and devoted service, this rejection is insulting. He has announced to family that he will pursue enlistment in the French Foreign Legion next year.

This is very distressing to me, and I'm sick with worry about his well-being. I do not want him to go off to fight in a foreign military. Can you offer any words of wisdom? - WORRIED MOM IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR WORRIED MOM: Encourage your son to explore enlistment opportunities with other branches of the U.S. military regarding their tattoo policies. However, while you and I might consider his desire to join the French Foreign Legion to be an extreme overreaction to his rejection by the Marines, as an adult he has a right to make that choice. If he goes through with his plan, he may see less action than he would as a member of the U.S. military.

While I can't make this easier for you as a parent, I do have this advice to offer. Tell your son it would be in his best interest to learn some basic French before he goes.

DEAR ABBY: My twin sister and I have lived across the country from each other for many years, but have remained close through phone calls. Two years ago she began talking politics, and we realized we differ on the topic. I asked her if we could not talk so much about the subject and just "agree to disagree."

Things were fine until she planned a visit to see me and also a friend who agrees politically with her. I told her she was welcome to use my car to see her friend, but I didn't want to go because I knew politics would be brought up. It made her very angry, and she ended up canceling her trip.

We have continued our phone chats, and I stayed with her several days last year to celebrate our brother's birthday. But the bond we had is no longer there. I can feel her and my brother pulling away from me. I'm sure it's because of our political differences.

I don't know how to turn things around. I have never argued with them, but feel they are making me an outsider. How can I get them back without compromising my own views?

Twenty years ago, my sister and I differed on some religious points, and she wanted nothing to do with me for the next two years. It took our mother's death to get us back together. Help!



LOVES MY TWIN

DEAR LOVES: While you and your twin were womb-

calm down. This being an election year, feelings are running high. Keep the lines of communication open as far as your sister and brother will allow. After the election is over, your

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