

SUNDAY RECORD

YOUR GUIDE TO PUBLIC RECORDS AND VITAL STATISTICS IN CALHOUN COUNTY

DEATHS

Shirley Allen, Roanoke
James Anglin, Roanoke
Sarah H. Benton, Talladega
Ross Doyle Blackburn, Anniston
Avis Ingram Boyd, Lineville
Linda L. Cole, Anniston
Fred N. Coogler, Anniston
Carlyn Causey Creel, Ocean Springs, Miss.
Faye Sharpe Culbertson, Five Points
Hovert Allen Cunningham, Oxford
Raymond Douglas DaLee Jr., Anniston
Martha W. Daniels, Piedmont
Charles L. Dinsmore Jr., Anniston
Charles M. Easterwood Sr., Meridian, Miss.
Denise Browning Galvin, Mableton, Ga.
Brenda Faye Gould, Villa Rica, Ga.
Abram Harris Jr., Tampa, Fla.
Freda Gail Hawkins, Oxford
Raymond David Johnson Sr., Choccolocco
Jim Kirby Jr., Anniston
Ann Lewis, Anniston
Barbara Sue Turner Marcum, Heflin

Grace Juanita McCurdy, Thomasville, Ga.
Winnie Lou Long Medders, Anniston
Lloyd Ogle, Oxford
Jeremy Russell Owen, Piedmont
Jennie Phillips, Anniston
Forrest Faulkner Ray, Piedmont
Donna Sue Reaves, Fitzgerald, Ga.
Kenneth Eugene Rich, Anniston
Estelle Sprayberry Robertson, Anniston
Barbara Whaley Saffold, Anniston
Ann Paulk Sanders, Munford
Margie Smith, Oxford
Martha J. Smith, Woodland
Inez Beal Swindle, Jacksonville
Crystal Gail Terrell, Wedowee
Robert "Boo-Boo" Walker, Anniston
Larry Welch, Little Rock, Ark.
Thomas Wayne Wright Sr., Piedmont
Wilbur Clarence Vander Yacht, Jacksonville

FORECLOSURES

• **Dennis E. Jarrells** and **Debra Jarrells**, a parcel of land in section 21, township 13, range 7.
 • **Michael K. Butler**, Anniston Land Co., block 700, lot 4; Hight McCoy addition, block D, lots 15 and 16; Albert/Ernie Noble, block 248, lot 7.
 • **David M. Craft** and **Violet L. Craft**, Valley Land Corp., block A, lot 1.
 • **E Creek Construction Inc.**, Choccolocco Estates, lot 3.
 • **Ed Hise**, a parcel of land in section 30, township 16, range 7.
 • **Randall G. McCaffery** and **Chong D. McCaffery**, Lenlock Land subdivision, block B, lot 26.

• **Jesse Little** and **Jessica Little**, a parcel of land addressed 215 South Center Avenue, Piedmont.
 • **Bryan Glass** and **Heather Glass**, a parcel of land in section 7, township 14, range 8.
 • **Steven B. Utley**, Wildwood subdivision, lot 2.
 • **Kevin R. Moyers** and **Angela C. Moyers**, Oak Ridge Estates, block B, lot 4.
 • **Belinda Gail Santiago** and **Hector Rush Santiago**, Lyncoya subdivision, 8th addition, block 19, lot 11.
 • **Jeremy Smith** and **Amber Smith**, Mary T. Garrett subdivision, lot 1 and 3.

ARRESTS

The people listed in this arrest report, whose names and charges are obtained from public records, are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Calhoun County

The following felony arrests were reported by the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office during the seven-day period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.
 • **Larry Eugene Pritchett**, 44, of Alexandria: order of arrest.

BANKRUPTCIES

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy allows the debtor to retain certain exempt property, but the debtor's remaining property is gathered and sold by a trustee from which creditors will receive payment. It may also be used by businesses which wish to terminate their business.

A Chapter 13 bankruptcy enables debtors, through court supervision and protection, to propose and carry out a repayment plan under which creditors are paid, in full or in part, in installments over a three-year period. During that time, debtors are prohibited from starting or continuing collection efforts.

The following bankruptcies declared by Calhoun County residents were recorded by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Alabama last week:

Chapter 7

• **Rachel A. Hawkins**, Idlewood Circle, Alexandria
 • **Natasha Terrell**, Choccolocco Road, Anniston
 • **Joyce A. Bostick**, Craig Avenue, Piedmont
 • **Kimberly Susanne Gibbs**, Pinecrest Avenue, Weaver

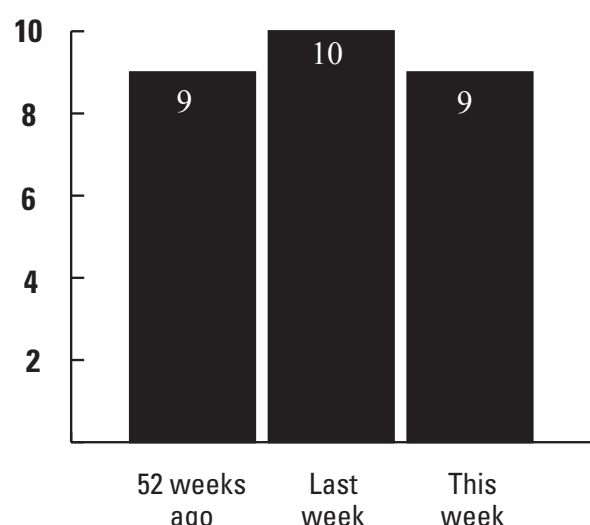
Chapter 13

• **Danny Pearson** and **Deborah Pearson**, Wilson Drive, Jacksonville
 • **Alfred Haynes**, West 44th Street, Anniston
 • **Randy Lee** and **Amy Lee**, Cecile Drive, Oxford
 • **Michael Shane Prickett**, Gary Lynn Drive, Anniston
 • **Angela Downey**, Richeytown Road, Eastaboga

WILLS PROBATED

• **Jane Marie Bar-** • **Shirley Ann**
 tling Zakrzewski

RATE OF BANKRUPTCIES



MARRIAGE LICENSES

• **Brandon Robert William Wailes** of Anniston to **Heather Nicole Brown Horne** of Anniston
 • **Thomas George Buzan III** of Jacksonville to **Haley Lee Henderson** of Oxford
 • **Christopher Jerome Stansell** of Oxford to **Martha Denise Cook** of Alexandria
 • **Randy Wade Fry** of Oxford to **Ronda Danette Hester** of Oxford
 • **George Daniel Duckett** of Anniston to **Janet Lee Rainwater** of Ashland
 • **James Thomas Stanton** of Jacksonville to **Julia Nichole Stansell** of Heflin
 • **Phillip Blaine Rhoden** of Munford to **Teresa Lynnette Taylor** of Anniston
 • **Steven Timothy Sharp** of Alexandria to **Giselle Cosme** of Ohatchee
 • **Koty Alan Bryant** of Weaver to **Kaitlyn Dalana Miller** of Wellington
 • **Rodney Blake Gray** of Eastaboga to **Whitney Alyce Roper** of Eastaboga
 • **Joel Wesley Hawbaker** of Anniston to **Maryellen Moore Fenn** of Anniston
 • **Micah Ryan Yates** of Oxford to **Jessalyn Sue Lambert** of Oxford
 • **Steven O'Neal Norton** of Heflin to **Vivian**

Leigh Brown of Heflin
 • **Stephen Robert Schrader** of Springfield, Mo., to **Beverly Jean Harvey** of Oxford
 • **Justin Randall Shultz** of Anniston to **Brittany Michelle Bobo** of Oxford
 • **Jessie Ray Bates** of Wellington to **Jillian Shyanne Tillery** of Oxford
 • **Mark Edward Lusk** of Anniston to **Charlene Burgess** of Anniston
 • **Justin Alan Buckles** of Jacksonville to **Tara Lane Vickery** of Jacksonville
 • **Roland Brad Johnson** of Shelby to **Jennifer Monica Torres** of Shelby
 • **Jordan Alexander Vanderbleek** of Jacksonville to **Natalie Lynn Simpkins** of Birmingham
 • **Grant Lamar Burt** of Wellington to **Jennifer Lynn Peavy** of Wellington
 • **Aaron Shane Kelley** of Weaver to **Melissa Sue Boyer** of Alexandria
 • **Corey Keith Klein** of Ringgold, Ga., to **Tiffany Nicole Rice** of Oxford
 • **Jessie James Doyle** of Oxford to **Brittney Rebecca Cormier** of Oxford
 • **William Tarver IV** of Oxford to **Shankita Labra Mims** of Oxford

CATTLE SALE

Here is the livestock market report for the Tuesday sale. Receipts for this week 524 compared to 714 last week. Receipts a year ago 817.

FEEDER CLASSES:

Bulls and steers (Medium and Large No. 1 and No. 2): 200-300 lbs. 270.00 to 300.00; 300-400 lbs. 250.00 to 275.00; 400-500 lbs. 210.00 to 235.00; 500-600 lbs. 180.00 to 212.00; 600-700 lbs. 155.00-185.00. Heifers (Medium and Large No. 1 and No. 2): 200-300 lbs. Too Few; 300-400 lbs. 210.00 to 235.00; 400-500 lbs. 195.00 to 210.00; 500-600 lbs. 175.00 to 195.00; 600-700 lbs. 160.00 to 185.00.

SLAUGHTER CLASSES:

Cows: Breakers 93.00 to 96.00; Boners 97.00 to 105.00; Lean 90.00 to 95.00. Bulls: Normal Dressing 54-58% 115.00 to 117.00; High Dressing >58% 120.00; Low Dressing <54% 106.00.

INCORPORATIONS

• **JSAR Solutions LLC**
 • **Rustic Pine Farms LLC**
 • **Rod Lemon Foundation**

Dissolved

• **Scrub Shop LLC**
 • **Anniston-Oxford Realty Co. Inc.**

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DIVORCES

• **Tia B. Allen** and **Michael W. Allen**
 • **Crystal G. Champion** and **Jamie D. Champion**
 • **Jason A. Dorries** and **Melanie Dorries**

• **Nicholas Putnam Norton** and **Leah Ann Thompson Norton**
 • **Steven Lyle Lay** and **Stacey Taylor Lay**

EDITOR'S NOTE

The material inside the Sunday Record is recorded by The Anniston Star from various institutions and government offices.

The public records are published as they appeared

on the documents obtained by the newspaper. Direct questions and comments about Sunday Record to Isaac Godwin at igodwin@annistonstar.com.

For the latest in local news, visit www.AnnistonStar.com

BLOTTER

Crimes are listed by location. Anonymous tips may be called in to Crime Stoppers at 256-238-1414. A reward of up to \$1,000 may be given.

Anniston

The following property crimes were reported to the Anniston Police Department during the seven-day period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

Burglaries

• Residence, 5300 block of Whisperwood

Court: game consoles, television.

• Residence, 1400 block of Greenbrier Dear Road: television.
 • Residence, unspecified block of North Avenue: golf club with bag, die cast Nascar toy cars, tires, wheels, air filter, 1/10 scale gas-powered trucks, JATO gas-powered truck.

Thefts

• Construction site, 1300 block of Clydesdale Avenue: construction equipment, dual axle trailer.

Auto-related thefts

• Bar, 1300 block of West 10th Street: 2007 Cadillac CTS.

Calhoun County

The following property crimes were reported to the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office during the seven-day period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

Burglaries

• Residence, Roy Webb Road, Jacksonville:

central air conditioning unit, stove, tool boxes, tools, metal door, wall heater, nails, window air conditioner.

• Residence, Mt. View Road, Alexandria: construction tools, welder, gas bottle.

Thefts

• Commercial location, Alabama Highway 204, Wellington: gas pumps.
 • Residence, Iron City Cut-Off Road, Anniston: farming equipment.
 • Residence, U.S. 431, Wellington: flatbed trailer with rails.

PROPERTY TRANSFERRED

• **Ann Ashley** to **Geralyn Blohm**, a parcel of land in section 27, township 14, range 7, \$10.
 • **Ohatchee Volunteer Fire Dept.** to **Town of Ohatchee**, a parcel of land in section 28, township 14, range 6, \$10.
 • **Mercury Funding LLC** to **Tim Stewart** and **Pat Stewart**, a parcel of land in section 17, township 16, range 7, \$10.
 • **Winkler Properties LLC** to **Sarah Katherine Burkhalter**, Standard Coosa Thatcher Co., block 12, lot 1, \$10.
 • **Douglas S. Mitchell** to **Tanya Sexton** and **Danielle Sexton**, a parcel of land in section 18, township 15, range 8, \$10.
 • **Bank of America** to **Housing & Urban Development**, a parcel of land in section 17, township 15, range 6, \$171,913.
 • **EH Pooled Investments LP** to

Terry Penny, South Anniston Land Co., 3rd division, block 16, lot 8, \$5.
 • **William Mack Huckaby** to **Christopher Brett Key** and **Lyndsey S. Key**, Club View Heights, block 565, lots 5 and 6, \$10.
 • **Kessler Land & Development LTD** to **Jon Spraggins**, Martin Property, lot 26, \$28,000.
 • **Clayton Dewey Hicks III** to **Richard Lee Hicks**, a parcel of land in section 4, township 16, range 9, \$10.
 • **Farmers & Merchants Bank** to **Shannan T. Garvey**, Wildwood subdivision, 1st addition, lots 38 and 39, \$10.
 • **James Lloyd Andrews** and **Robin W. Andrews** to **DDB LLC**, Bradley Acres, block 1, lot 17, \$55,700.
 • **Chandra Gehi** and **Anthony Esposito** to **Anthony Esposito**, Anniston City Land Co., block 18, lot 12, \$10.

• **Southern Specialty Properties LLC** to **Jimmy D. Price** and **Lisa W. Price**, Pine Hill Country Club, lot 3, \$10.
 • **Audean S. Miller** to **Jerry Fuller**, a parcel of land in section 35, township 16, range 7, \$10.
 • **Regions Bank** to **Casey A. Guess**, Meadowbrook subdivision, block 3, lot 1, \$10.
 • **Timothy Allen Wells** and **Myra Wells** to **Clifford N. Lloyd** and **Elaine L. Lloyd**, a parcel of land in section 34, township 14, range 7, \$10.
 • **Marie E. Stanley-Estate** to **Michelle Dianne Ansley**, East Highland Land Co., block E, lots 11 and 12, \$10.
 • **Michael A. Kutchmarek** to **Michael John Kutchmarek**, **John Edward Kutchmarek**, **Mark William Kutchmarek** and **Malena Ann Kutchmarek**, a parcel of land in

section 28, township 14, range 8, \$10.
 • **Kewal K. Verma** and **Chander Verma** to **Chander K. Verma Revocable Trust**, Stoney Brook subdivision, 2nd addition, block 1, lot 18, \$1.
 • **Kirby K. Bryant** and **Shirley B. Bryant** to **Cynthia Henderson**, Anniston City Land Co., block 602, lots 6 and 7, \$10.
 • **Mandy Floyd** to **Frank E. Cobb** and **Gail R. Cobb**, a parcel of land addressed 112 McCollister Street, Piedmont, \$10.
 • **Community & Southern Bank** to **Mercedes Esteban**, a parcel of land addressed 1006 Humphries Street, Oxford, \$10.
 • **Stonecrest Income and Opportunity Fund I LLC** to **Gordon R. Moore**, Anniston Manufacturing Co., block 361, lots 5 and 6, \$3,275.
 • **Ohio Investments LLC** to **Susan**

M. Bradow, Kara Lynn Heights, 2nd addition, block 2, lots 2 and 4, \$10.
 • **Linda A. Major** to **Wendell Leon Nelson** and **Janet Nelson Greenwood**, Sunset Heights, block 5, lot 5, \$10.
 • **Charlotte K. Hagerty** to **Reida K. Jolly**, Tyler Park, block 10, lot 10, \$10.
 • **Robert J. Sikes** to **Charles A. Cooper** and **Teresa S. Cooper**, Tyler Park, block 11, lots 13 and 14, \$10.
 • **Terry L. Pegg** to **Dhiman LLC**, Anderhold Property, lots 1-3, 22 and 23, \$950,000.
 • **Josh Kelley** and **Patricia James Kelley** to **Matthew S. Hicks**, a parcel of land in section 4, township 15, range 7, \$10.
 • **Myhanh Q. Nguyen** to **Myhanh Q. Nguyen**, Stoney Brook subdivi-

Please see PROPERTYI Page 7E

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PROPERTY TRANSFERRED

PROPERTY

Continued from Page 6E

division, 4th addition, block 3, lot 2, \$0.
• **Rocco D’Gomez to Glenda Fennell McCall**, Mimosa subdivision, lot 10, \$1.
• **Fannie Mae to Joseph D. Smith and Sharon D. Smith**, a parcel of land in section 23, township 14, range 8, \$55,000.
• **Lou Reinisch and Sue Ann B. Reinisch to Jon Seth Johnson and Jillian Lynne Johnson**, Northern Woods Estates, block B, lot 6, \$10.

• **Lectora K. Johnson to Grant M. Jackson and Elizabeth Lee Jackson**, a parcel of land in sections 9/16, township 16, range 8, \$10.
• **Juanita Roach to Alvin Jack Roach Jr.**, a parcel of land in section 9, township 16, range 9, \$10.
• **Doris M. Adkinson to Jeremy W. Morris**, Anniston City Land Co., block 138, lots 9 and 10, \$10.
• **Dexter R. Bradford and Beverly G. Bradford to Timothy C. Parker**, Anniston City Land Co., block 615, lot 4, \$10.
• **Douglas Williams to Virginia Trapp**, Corning Land & Loan Co., block 52, lots 1 and 2, \$100.
• **Benjamin T. Singleton and Ash-**

ley Steward Singleton to Benjamin T. Singleton and Ashley Steward Singleton, Piedmont, block 18, lots 1-4, \$10.
• **Denise S. White to Nolan D. Densmore and Donna Ann Holt**, fraction 5 of a parcel of land in section 32, township 12, range 10, \$10.
• **Betty W. Tyler to William W. Kerr Jr.**, City of Anniston, Micou addition, block 3, lots 9 and 10, \$10.
• **Fannie Mae to Sasha Robertson**, Hidden Oaks subdivision, lot 13, \$242,000.
• **David L. Funderburg Jr. to Jackie Flenord**, J.C. White subdivision, lot 35, \$10.
• **Heirs of Dorothy Elizabeth Mess-**

er to Michael James Edward Messer and Florence Messer Hall, Pinecrest subdivision, block 2, lots 26 and 27; block 3, lots 11 and 12.
• **Lewis Jenkins to Lee Christopher and Cherly Christopher**, a parcel of land in section 33, township 12, range 8, \$10.
• **Branch Banking & Trust Co. to Greg Montgomery**, Mountainview subdivision, phase 3, lots 126 and 127; phase 5, lots 128, 129 and 173-177, \$10.
• **Branch Banking & Trust Co. to Dustin Baker and Crystal Baker**, Mountainview subdivision, phase 4, lots 156 and 157, \$10.

• **David Randall Toler to Richard Toler**, Glade View subdivision, section A, lots 16 and 17, \$10.
• **Robert Dillon Toler to Richard Toler**, Glade View subdivision, section A, lots 16 and 17, \$10.
• **Richard Toler to William P. Hurst and Deborah C. Frost**, Glade View subdivision, section A, lots 16 and 17, \$10.
• **Bank of Wedowee to Kenneth W. MacAllister and Casey S. MacAllister**, a parcel of land in section 34, township 14, range 7, \$10.
• **Sammie C. Franklin and Deborah C. Franklin to Johnny Flynn Morgan**, Lyncoya subdivision, 8th addition, block 18, lot 20, \$10.



Joyce Marshall/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Barrie Page Hill, left, does makeup for her mother, Bobbie Wilburn, at her home in Arlington, Texas. Wilburn has Alzheimer's disease and now lives with Hill.

Researchers seek simple Alzheimer's test

BY SUSAN SCHROCK
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON, Texas — Twice in six months, Bobbie Wilburn walked home from the grocery store because her car had been stolen. It hadn't. She just couldn't remember where she parked. Those incidents and others in an escalating series of memory lapses and questionable judgment calls led the family to take away Wilburn's car keys, disconnect her oven and stove, and eventually decide that she could no longer live alone safely, said her daughter Barrie Page Hill of Arlington, Texas. Wilburn, 79, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease about six years ago, now lives with Hill's family and requires constant care. "It was excruciating for us. I've always seen my mom as the lady who could do anything," Hill said. "It's a horrible, horrible disease. I hate what it's done to my mom. I hate what it's done to my family." Though Wilburn has coherent days, Hill called the disease a "time bomb" ticking away in her mother's brain. "This is a long-term illness that she will have for the rest of her life. It would be tremendous if they could find a cure for this," Hill said. There is no known cure. But researchers, including those at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, are developing blood tests designed to help doctors more quickly detect Alzheimer's disease, dementia and mild cognitive impairment such as Parkinson's disease. Advance detection helps patients begin taking better care of themselves, researchers say, and such breakthroughs will boost efforts to develop medications to delay or even reverse the effects of Alzheimer's. "In the Alzheimer's world, we don't detect the disease until it's pretty advanced. If someone is clinically diagnosable with Alzheimer's, it has been going on for years," said Sid O'Bryant, interim director of the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research at the health science center. "We need to be able to detect it earlier and earlier so we can create new ways to prevent the disease itself and do early treatment so we can be most effective in treating our patients." An estimated half-million Americans each year are affected by Alzheimer's, a degenerative brain disease, which researchers believe is surpassed only by heart disease and cancer as the leading cause of death in the United States, according to a study published this

ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS MAY BENEFIT FROM GAME

Qwirkle is a game, similar to dominoes, in which players match up shapes and colors. It has proven beneficial to Alzheimer's patients. It aids at a cognitive level, adds mobility, and provides a social activity. That's what got John and Holly Schmid interested. The Schmidts own Best Alzheimer's Products, which offers games and activities for people with Alzheimer's or dementia. Their website (best-alzheimers-products.com) offers help and information for those with loved ones touched by these afflictions.

That number includes the Schmidts. A longtime friend was slowly overtaken by Alzheimer's over several years. She was without a family, and the Schmidts became her caretakers, eventually helping her into a care facility. Along their journey they noticed the shortage of mentally stimulating games for such patients. In 2007, John had been writing at length about Alzheimer's; soon the couple began offering products on their site. "Qwirkle was one of first things we got for (our friend) to keep

her busy and one of the first things we had when we opened the store," John says. "It's a neat game and can be used by people on many cognitive levels just by changing the rules or what you do with it." Since then the Schmidts have added about 400 products for patients at all levels. Other popular items are the Busy Bee Lap Pad, which offers tactile and visual stimuli for patients in later stages; a talking photo album that lets you record 10



minutes of audio for each of 20 different pictures; and the Twiddle Muff, a hand warmer with a squeezable ball inside and activities attached outside that comes in animal shapes. More are on the way. — William Hageman, Chicago Tribune

study the test further. If approved, the study would launch this year and involve 3,000 older patients from the Fort Worth area. The goal is for the test to become standard, like cholesterol screening, for people over 65 who go in for their annual physical, O'Bryant said. A simple blood test would be more objective and effective than relying on patients to bring up memory concerns on their own or count on primary-care physicians to ask about them specifically, O'Bryant said. "When you consider the average length of time (for an annual exam) is 18 minutes, even brief cognitive assessments are difficult to fit into that," O'Bryant said. "At the annual exam, when people are getting their normal blood work, this blood test can be added to it. It doesn't change the physician's or the patient's time." Even if the predictive test were available in a doctor's office today, Hill said, she isn't sure she would want to know whether she faces the same disease as her mother. "For some families, it might be helpful to know what is up ahead. Do I want to know right now? Honestly, probably not," said Hill, who also has a daughter in college. "I'm dealing with all I can deal with. I'm caring for my mom. I wouldn't want to worry about me." But knowing about a risk could help someone decide to eat better, exercise and address other health issues, such as diabetes, to fight the effects of Alzheimer's, she said. "If people could prepare, then maybe this study is incredible for us. If you can take preventive measures and stave off the inevitability, that is key," Hill said. An estimated 5.1 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, according to the National Institute on Aging. In 2010, the average annual cost to care for an elderly person with dementia was projected at \$41,000 to \$56,000. The changes Hill and her family have made include switching from full-time work to part time, moving into a larger home and hiring assistants to help with her mother's care. "I understand from research, we're about to reach some epidemic proportions," Hill said. "As baby boomers age, we are seeing more and more cases and more cases of early onset. That is troubling to me." "The cost and effort associated with caring for someone with Alzheimer's is astronomical," she said. "It's physically demanding but the challenges emotionally and mentally are draining, too."

month. "It robs patients of their memories. I find that particularly disturbing," said O'Bryant, whose grandmother died with Alzheimer's. "Our memories are intimately linked to who we are. It slowly erodes away the person himself. ... Toward the end of the disease, it's not the same person. That takes a huge toll on families." Alzheimer's research is decades behind cardiovascular and cancer research, and new medications haven't hit the market in years, some neurologists say, partly because of the difficulty in diagnosing patents and enrolling them in clinical trials early enough to test the effectiveness of new medications and treatments, researchers say. "It's been a decade since we've had a new medication come available so we can treat the disease. It's very frustrating," said Dr. Kevin Conner, neurologist and medical director at Texas Health Arlington Memorial's Stroke Center. New blood tests may change all that one day. In a study published in Nature Medicine this month, researchers made international headlines after unveiling a first-of-its-kind blood test they say can predict with 90 percent accuracy whether a healthy person will develop Alzheimer's within two to three years. The test is based on whether the person has lowered levels of particular fatty lipids. In the Rochester Aging Study,

launched in 2007, the researchers collected blood samples from more than 500 healthy people older than 70. Five years later, they further examined the samples from the people who had developed Alzheimer's or other mild cognitive problems and found that 10 specific lipids were at lower levels than normal, possibly an early signal that the disease has begun breaking down brain cells, according an article about the study on the University of Rochester Medical Center website. "The ability to identify individuals who are at risk of developing Alzheimer's before the clinical manifestation of cognitive impairment has long been a holy grail of the neuromedicine community," said Dr. Mark Mapstone, a neuropsychologist at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and lead author of the study. "Current efforts to develop a treatment for this disease are coming up short because they are probably being used too late. Biomarkers that can allow us to intervene early in the course of the disease could be a game-changer." While neurologists say a predictive blood test for Alzheimer's won't be available to the public anytime soon, it could help researchers identify at-risk candidates for clinical trials. "This is a good step to say that this might be used to identify someone at higher risk that we might enroll in therapy or give medication," said Dr. Diana Ker-

win, director of Texas Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders and chief of geriatrics at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas. Kerwin and O'Bryant both caution that the Rochester study population was small and that the researchers' work needs to be replicated by other laboratories. "This is a solid first step but it's still a first step and a lot of work remains to be done," O'Bryant said. In Texas, other researchers are preparing to launch their own five-year study to evaluate a different type of blood test they said primary-care physicians could one day use to screen elderly patients faster and less expensively for signs of neurological disease. O'Bryant, an associate professor at the health science center, leads a team of researchers who've spent a decade developing and refining the serum protein-based blood test. The proposed screening tool, which researchers hope can identify neurological diseases through certain blood proteins, would help primary-care physicians more accurately and easily determine whether patients should be referred to a specialist. Currently, Alzheimer's is diagnosed through expensive, invasive procedures such as spinal taps and brain imaging. "It's difficult and cumbersome to get the diagnosis," O'Bryant said. O'Bryant's team is awaiting word from the National Institutes of Health on whether the researchers will receive a \$6 million grant to