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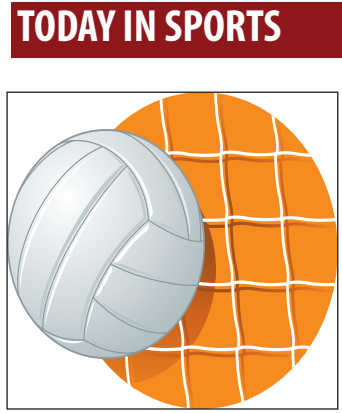
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The PAMPA NEWS



Wednesday, January 30, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 229

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New animal shelter breaks ground



Photos by Sasha Heller

Above, elected city officials and animal shelter directors break ground on the new City of Pampa Animal Shelter Tuesday with the ceremonial shovels. Below, Pampa Mayor Brad Pingel addresses the crowd before the groundbreaking ceremony. Construction should be completed by Nov. 1.

By SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

Pampa city officials, community members and animal shelter employees gathered on Tuesday for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new City of Pampa Animal Shelter. "We know our current facility is in need of renovating," Pampa Mayor Brad Pingel said. "It's an exciting time for us."

City manager Richard Morris said the city expected construction of a new animal shelter to be challenging as the funding had to be raised. "When we started this project, we knew it was going to be a hard project because we were going to have to have a bond measure," he said.

Morris then expressed his gratitude for the city directors and key animal shelter personnel who were involved since the planning and design stages. "The new animal shelter will serve the less fortunate animals resigned to a life on Pampa's streets as well



as those from shelters in neighboring communities who do not have adequate resources to house animals from their areas. The Pampa City Commission recently extended its contracts with the cities of Clarendon, Groom, Lefors, McLean, Miami, Skellytown and White Deer. "We just signed our contracts with

however many communities we're servicing," Pingel said. "It's just to increase the service of our animals and our communities." Pingel then thanked those present and all of the city employees who were involved in the project. "Thanks for coming out and continuing to support the City of Pampa," he said.

DPS seizes 5,620 grams of meth, coke

SUBMITTED BY DPS

Troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety kept busy Saturday as they made unrelated drug busts on Interstate 40 in the Panhandle. Altogether, the three traffic stops that led to drug arrests netted \$703,650 worth of drugs.

Meth, coke seized in Carson County

DPS conducted a traffic stop Saturday on I-40 yielding 5,620 grams of methamphetamine and four grams of cocaine. The methamphetamine was valued at \$470,718 and cocaine at \$247. At approximately 11:15 a.m. Saturday, a DPS trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2002 Jeep traveling eastbound on I-40. The traffic stop was conducted near Conway in Carson County. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Shea P. Jones, 22, of Phoenix, Ariz. The two passengers in the vehicle were identified as Adam A. Wallace, 20, and Britani N. Bell, 22, also of Phoenix. During the traffic stop, the trooper conducted a search of the vehicle, and 5,620 grams of meth, four grams of cocaine and a stolen pistol were discovered. All of the contraband was located inside an aftermarket compartment located in the rear floor of the vehicle. The driver and passengers were placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance, a first degree felony, and booked into the Carson County Jail. The contraband was allegedly being transported from Phoenix, **DRUGS** cont. on page 3

Gov. Perry talks water, tax relief in State of the State

By AMAN BATHEJA AND ELENA SCHNEIDER
 The Texas Tribune

Twelve years after first becoming governor and one year after a failed bid for president, Rick Perry delivered a State of the State speech Tuesday that was long on large-scale spending proposals and short on red meat for his conservative base.

"Our bank balance is healthy. Our economy is growing. Our future is limitless," Perry told a joint session of the Legislature from the floor of the Texas House. Over 35 minutes, Perry laid out an ambitious agenda for the remaining four months of the legislative session. He avoided hot-topic issues like abortion, immigration and gun control and focused instead on infrastructure, budget reform and education.

After a presidential campaign in which he touted the notion of getting the government out of the way of families and businesses, Perry spent a large portion of Tuesday's speech touting the ability of government programs and spending to transform its people's lives for the better. He spoke about the power of better roads and a reliable water supply in boosting economic development. He raved about how recent public expenditures have transformed South Texas. He criticized the federal government only briefly, when he vowed to not expand Medicaid under federal



Rick Perry

STATE cont. on page 5

Waters named new United Way president

By TIMOTHY P. HOSWARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Lloyd Waters was named the new president of the Pampa United Way at the organization's annual meeting and luncheon Tuesday at the AmericInn Event Center. He replaces Ryan Monroe, who conducted most of the business at the meeting. During its 2012 campaign, United Way raised \$288,322, or 92 percent of its goal of \$315,000. That money will be dispersed to 18 charitable organizations in Pampa and Gray County, including Meals on Wheels, Casa of High Plains, Lefors Senior Citizen Center and the Tralee Crisis Center.



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

From left, Ryan Monroe, outgoing president; Mac Smith, 2012 campaign chair; Charles Henry, board member and commercial division chair; and Lloyd Waters, incoming president.

UNITED cont. on page 3

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High 44 Low 29	High 57 Low 27	High 54 Low 32

Wednesday: Sunny with a high of 44. No chance of rain. Wind west northwest at 16 mph. Sunrise at 7:45 a.m.

Wednesday night: Clear skies with a low of 29. No chance of rain. Wind west southwest at 10 mph. Sunset at 6:10 p.m.

Thursday: Sunny with a high of 57. No chance of rain. Wind north northwest at 9 mph. Sunrise at 7:44 a.m.

Thursday night: Clear skies with a low of 27. No chance of rain. Wind southeast at 7 mph. Sunset at 6:11 p.m.

Friday: Sunny with a high of 54. No chance of rain. Wind south at 13 mph. Sunrise at 7:44 a.m.

Friday night: Clear skies with a low of 32. No chance of rain. Wind east southeast at 8 mph. Sunset at 6:12 p.m.

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Obituaries

Ardelle Sirmans

Ardelle Sirmans, 85, died Jan. 29, 2013 in Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Feb. 1, 2013 at First Baptist Church in Miami, with the Rev. Dennis Williams, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Ardelle Sirmans

Mrs. Sirmans was born April 18, 1927 in Miami where she resided until moving to Pampa in 1997. She married E. L. "Jack" Sirmans on Nov. 25, 1944 in Miami. He preceded her in death on March 18, 1980. Ardelle worked for W&W Fiberglass Tank Co. in Pampa for 19 years. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Miami and Miami Chapter No. 98 Order of the Eastern Star. She was a BSA Hospice volunteer for 19 years. Ardelle loved to cook for her grandchildren and loved yard work.

The family would like to express their appreciation to

Interim Healthcare and Hospice for their wonderful care of Ardelle.

Survivors include her daughter: Zelda Wilson and husband Wayne of Pampa; her son, Jackie Sirmans and wife Suzy of Pampa, her sister, Jane Bright of Miami; eight grandchildren, Loney Wilson and wife Melody of Mobeetie, Chil Wilson and wife Stephanie of Amarillo, Judd Wilson, Jona Little and husband Todd and Jim Sirmans and wife Brenda, all of Pampa, Brandi Wyatt and husband Kelly of Van Vleck, Chad Michael and wife Sara of Fort Worth, and Joshua Sirmans and wife Alana of White Deer; 21 great-grandchildren, two step-great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews. Ardelle was preceded in death by her parents, Sandy and Adah Carnahan; a daughter, Ettavie Michael; a great-grandson, Chafin Wilson; two brothers, Sanford Carnahan Jr., and James Edwin Carnahan; and by a sister, Ava Lea Ellzey.

Memorials may be made to Interim Hospice, 2217 Perryton Parkway, Pampa, Texas 79065, or First Baptist Church, 114 E. Wichita St., Miami, Texas 79059.

Sign the on-line register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

For the record

Oklahoma pair arrested for less than 5 pounds of marijuana

■ 30-year-old Blake Nave, McAlistler, Okla., was arrested Monday by the Department of Public Safety for possession of marijuana — greater than 4 ounces and less than 5 pounds and possession of a controlled substance (penalty group 2) less than 1 gram.

■ 34-year-old Matthew Hyden, McAllister, Okla., was arrested

Monday by the DPS for possession of marijuana — greater than 4 ounces and less than 5 pounds and possession of a controlled substance (penalty group 2) less than 1 gram.

■ 39-year-old Michelle Windle, Pampa, was arrested Monday by the Pampa Police Department for possession of a controlled substance (penalty group 1) less than 1 gram.

■ 58-year-old Elias Chacon, Am-

arillo, was arrested Monday by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

■ 41-year-old Roberto Flores III, El Paso, was arrested Monday by the DPS for having a warrant in another county and failing to register.

■ 17-year-old Michael Darwin Heuer, Pampa, was arrested Monday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for minor in possession of tobacco.

Judge OKs \$4B BP oil spill criminal settlement

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday approved an agreement for BP PLC to plead guilty to manslaughter and other charges and pay a record \$4 billion in criminal penalties for the company's role in the 2010 rig explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. District Judge Sarah Vance said the plea deal

was "just punishment" considering the alternatives to the settlement, including the risk that a trial could result in a lower fine for BP.

Before she ruled, Vance heard emotional testimony from relatives of 11 workers who died when BP's blown-out Macondo well triggered an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and started the

spill. "I've heard and I truly understand your feelings and the losses you suffered," she said.

Billy Anderson, whose 35-year-old son, Jason, of Midfield, Texas, died in the blast, recalled the trauma of watching the disaster play out on television.

"These men suffered a horrendous death," he said.

"They were basically cremated alive and not at their choice."

BP agreed in November to plead guilty to charges involving the workers' deaths and for lying to Congress about the size of the spill from its broken well, which spewed more than 200 million gallons of oil.

Much of it ended up in the Gulf and soiled the shorelines of several states.

The company could have withdrawn from the agreement if Vance had rejected it.

BP America vice president Luke Keller apologized to the relatives of the workers who died and for the spill's environmental damage to the Gulf Coast.

"BP knows there is nothing we can say to diminish their loss," he said. "The lives lost and those forever changed will stay with us. We are truly sorry."

Courtney Kemp-Robertson, whose 27-year-old husband, Roy Wyatt Kemp, of Jonesville, La., died on the rig, said workers had referred to it as the "well from hell" before the explosion.

"By cutting corners, they gambled with the lives of 126 crew members to save a few dollars," she told the judge before turning to address Keller. "They gambled and you lost."

Vance told victims' relatives who were in court that she read their "truly gut-wrenching" written statements and factored their words into her decision.

She also said she believes BP executives should have personally apologized to family members long before Monday's hearing.

"I think BP should have done that out of basic humanity," she said.

The deal doesn't resolve the federal government's civil claims against BP.

The company could pay billions more in penalties for environmental damage.

Keith Jones, whose 28-year-old son, Gordon, died in the rig explosion, said \$4 billion isn't adequate punishment.

"It is petty cash to BP," he told Vance. "Their stock went up after this plea deal was announced."

BP separately agreed to a settlement with lawyers for Gulf Coast residents and businesses who claim the spill cost them money.

BP estimates the deal with private attorneys will cost the company roughly \$7.8 billion.

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Lawmakers renew push to ban texting while driving

By MAURICE CHAMMAH
The Texas Tribune

Jeanne Brown, whose daughter Alex Brown died in a 2009 accident while texting and driving, spoke Jan. 29, 2013, in support of a bill making texting and driving illegal. Texas is one of 11 states without a state-wide ban on texting while driving, though multiple cities have passed ordinances making it illegal.

At a legislative briefing Tuesday, relatives of men and women killed in accidents caused by texting while driving sat in committee chairs at a room in the Capitol. In front of each was a framed photograph of one of the deceased.

Outside, as part of a program called It Can Wait, AT&T set up a driving simulation station, resem-

bling a video game, that showed the dangers of trying to send a text message while driving. Participants were asked to sign a pledge to never text and drive again.

The events were designed to garner support for three bills filed in November: House Bill 63, by state Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, and numerous other coauthors; HB 41, by state Rep. José Menéndez, D-San Antonio; and Senate Bill 28, by state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, a companion to HB 63. Craddick's and Zaffirini's bills would ban typing on a handheld device for the purpose of sending an electronic message, while Menéndez's bill seeks to make any use of a cell phone without a hands-free device illegal.

"Banning texting while-

driving will undoubtedly save lives," Zaffirini said in a statement.

At the briefing, lawmakers urged their colleagues to support the legislation. "It's time for us to pass a uniform law that everyone understands in order to keep our drivers on the road safe," said state Rep. Patricia Harless, R-Spring, adding that Craddick's bill covers everything from posting on Facebook to tweeting to sending an email, not just sending a traditional text message. "You're here to help us today to stop these accidents."

Jeanne Brown told the story of her 17-year-old daughter, Alex Brown, who was killed in 2009 in a rollover accident on her way to school while texting four friends. "All it takes is a split second to lose control," Brown said. "The

truck landed on top of my 110-pound daughter and crushed her."

Brown speaks at high schools to encourage students not to text while driving. "I just want y'all to realize that having a texting-and-driving bill does not take any of our freedoms away," Brown said. "I still have a right to text at an appropriate time, not behind the wheel. I still have a right to drive, but must keep in mind that your safety is as important as mine."

The relatives of people who died while texting and driving held back tears as they gave the details of their loved ones' deaths.

Bobby Greenberg, an emergency room physician from Temple, said, "People know it's wrong; they lie to us about it."

During the 2011 legislative session, similar bills authored by Craddick and Zaffirini were passed, only to be vetoed by Gov. Rick Perry in June.

Perry called the bill "a government effort to micromanage the behavior of adults," and said in his veto statement: "Current law already prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from texting or using a cell phone while driving. I believe there is a distinction between the overreach of House Bill 242 and the government's legitimate role in establishing laws for teenage drivers who are more easily distracted and laws providing further protection to children in school zones." It is currently illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone.

This time, deputy press

secretary Josh Havens said Perry "continues to believe that texting while driving is reckless and irresponsible" and that "the key to dissuading drivers from texting while driving is information and education, not government micromanagement."

Zaffirini responded by saying Perry would have "blood on his hands."

"There is conversation with his office" about the legislation, Harless said Tuesday, adding that pressure from the community may lead Perry to change his position. Already, 25 cities in Texas have local ordinances banning the practice within city limits.

Other opponents of the ban have said the laws would have little meaning because they would be difficult to enforce.

Gnomes to stay on California utility poles to stay for now

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Small paintings of gnomes that have popped up on utility poles have become a community sensation in Oakland, prompting Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to say Tuesday that it will keep them in place for now.

The hand-painted portraits on 6-inch blocks of wood began going up last year in an apparent effort to brighten up the blue-collar California city. There are currently more than 2,000 of the images on utility poles, with many screwed to the

bases.

The gnomes have red hats, white beards and brown shoes. Some of the images contain a mushroom.

Word that PG&E planned to remove the paintings sparked an outpouring of support from residents who said the gnomes add character to the city.

PG&E spokesman Jason King planned to meet Tuesday with the artist, who requested to remain anonymous, and a member of the City Council. The utility hopes to even-

tually relocate the gnome paintings from the poles to other spots in the same neighborhoods.

"We've received a lot of feedback from residents who love the gnomes," King told The Associated Press. "We're looking for solutions. We'll keep them where people can enjoy them."

King said PG&E did not want to encourage such installations, explaining a proliferation of such images could cause damage or make it difficult for crews to access the poles.

United

Continued From Page 1

Waters said of United Way's mission: "The needs of the community are not just for a couple of months, but for the whole year."

Throughout the meetings donors and volunteers alike were recognized for their support and contributions.

Special recognition was given to Katrina Bingham, who is retiring after 26 years as executive director. Bingham's last day is Thursday and Jana Gregory, who Bingham has been training for the past few months, is taking charge as the new executive director.

A retirement reception was held for Bingham later in the day at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

Mac Smith, campaign chair for 2012, said although United Way was \$24,000 short of its goal, it did well when compared to other communities.

He said the organization will still strive to make the \$315,000 goal before the next campaign begins.

"It's been a tough year for fundraising but we still have the desire and push to get there," he said. "I would like to see us 8 percent over instead of 8 percent under."

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Drugs

Continued From Page 1

was allegedly being transported from Phoenix, Arizona to Oklahoma City.

Marijuana seized in Carson County

DPS conducted a traffic stop Saturday on I-40 yielding 30 pounds of marijuana that was valued at \$162,150.

At approximately 6:34 p.m. Saturday, a DPS trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 1991 Honda Civic traveling eastbound on IH-40.

The traffic stop was conducted near Groom in Carson County.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Nathan J. Thierfelder, 36, of Beaverton, Ore.

During the traffic stop, the trooper conducted a search of the vehicle and 30 pounds of marijuana were discovered.

The 30 bundles of marijuana were located in the rear seat and cargo areas of the vehicle inside 3 separate bags.

The driver was placed under arrest for possession of marijuana, a third-degree felony, and booked into the Carson County Jail.

The drugs were allegedly being transported from California to Austin, Texas. A DPS K-9 unit assisted in the traffic stop.

a.m. Saturday, a DPS trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2000 Volkswagen traveling eastbound on I-40.

The traffic stop was conducted approximately five miles west of Vega.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Sean A. Rodriguez, 24, of Romeoville, Illinois.

During the traffic stop, the trooper conducted a search of the vehicle and 13 pounds of marijuana was discovered.

The 13 vacuum sealed bundles of marijuana were located inside the trunk of the vehicle.

The driver was placed under arrest for possession of marijuana, a third degree felony, and booked into the Oldham County Jail.

The drugs were allegedly being transported from Arizona to Chicago, Illinois.

A Randall County K-9 unit assisted during the traffic stop.

www.thepampanews.com

The driver was placed under arrest for possession of marijuana, a third-degree felony, and booked into the Carson County Jail.

The drugs were allegedly being transported from California to Austin, Texas. A DPS K-9 unit assisted in the traffic stop.

Marijuana seized in Oldham County

DPS conducted a traffic stop Saturday on I-40 yielding 13 pounds of marijuana valued at \$70,535.

The driver, Sean A. Rodriguez, was placed under arrest for possession of marijuana and jailed.

At approximately 10:42

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The teenage horror of parenthood

The NBC series "Parenthood" has drawn raves from TV critics this season for a storyline about a 40-something mother fighting cancer.



L. BRENT BOZELL

Then on Jan. 1, NBC asked viewers to tune in the following Tuesday for an "unforgettable" new episode. A teenager would get an abortion at Planned Parenthood.

Such is NBC's definition of "parenthood." Drew, one of show's leading teenager characters, has an ex-girlfriend named Amy who comes back to tell him "I'm pregnant." The high school seniors go to the Planned Parenthood clinic, and the scene plays like a political commercial.

The counselor says, "If you decide to continue the pregnancy, we'd be happy to refer you for prenatal care. Of course, there are resources for teen moms who decide to raise a child. Adoption is also an option for you to consider. Now, if you decide to end the pregnancy, you have two options." But then NBC swells the sensitive guitar-strumming music up. They don't really want viewers to hear the abortion pitch. Oh, the irony.

The couple returns to the car. Says Amy, "Well there's only one option, right?" Drew replies, "That's not the only option." But Amy is traumatized: "If I have this baby, my life is over!" You can almost feel her channeling her inner Barack Obama. She doesn't want to be "punished with a baby."

Drew isn't so much pro-life as he is pro-Amy, wanting to convince her he supports her choices and hoping for a future with her.

"Look, obviously I'm gonna support you no matter what. That's all I'm saying." This neatly matches the laughable new Planned Parenthood slogan, selling the idea of their neutrality on abortion: "Care. No matter what." Care to murder a child if you

believe the fetus to be a child?

The girl blankly insists, "I need help coming up with the money." Guess what Planned Parenthood called it on Twitter? A "refreshing" episode about "the real issues teens face."

After the off-camera abortion, Drew drives Amy home and asks if he can call later. She thanks him for the ride, but says she needs "a lot of space." At the episode's end, he arrives home crying and falls into his mother's arms. Is the crying from the trauma of the abortion? Or is he just distraught at being dumped by the girl? NBC ends the show without any actual explanation.

Of one thing we can be certain. NBC will never portray him as guilt-ridden for taking the life of his own child.

The next week's episode skipped this life-and-death chapter completely, but not for long. On Jan. 22, the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade abortion decision, the story arc wrapped up in a brief scene placed smack-dab in the middle of the show. Drew shows up on Amy's doorstep and says he's been accepted to college at Berkeley. She says she's been accepted to Tufts in Boston. With the realization that this "love" will never last, Drew gives Amy a hug and they say they'll never forget each other, and he leaves. Life goes on — for them, anyway. At the end of that episode comes the obnoxious feint toward "balance." Two adult characters smile at a sonogram of their unborn baby. They're apparently old enough to be "punished" with it.

The abortion plot gets sillier if a viewer rewinds back a few episodes to November to the beginning of this "unforgettable" plot. Seemingly out of nowhere, Amy shows up at Drew's home and agrees to sex with the boyfriend she had freshly dumped just because she felt sorry for him that his aunt was suffering with cancer. "Reality," 90210-style.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center.

Time to pump up the liberalism

So now the president is a committed man of the left. No longer is he faking moderation or



BILL O'REILLY

even trying to bring the nation "together." Nope. As he made clear in his inauguration speech, Barack Obama is dedicating himself to achieving "social justice" no matter what the cost.

And the cost is high. The annual federal deficit is more than \$1 trillion, with the national debt approaching \$17 trillion. Just last week, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office warned once again that federal spending is "unsustainable."

That means if government spending is not curtailed and quickly, the U.S. dollar could col-

lapse.

But you would not know that by listening to the president's address.

He was decidedly upbeat when telling the nation that more needs to be done (code for spending) to ensure "equality." That's the big leftwing word these days: "equality." But can we be real here for a moment? Does anyone, even those of you living in San Francisco, believe that an American who earns a Ph.D. in economics is going to be equal to the high school dropout in the marketplace? Anyone? Bueller?

So let's drop the equality business at least in the capitalist arena. The strong and smart prosper; the weak and lazy fail. But not in Obama world. Not there. The president sees his mandate as "providing" for those who can't cut it. He is the biggest spender of all the presidents in the nation's history by far.

Obama is proud of his

belief that government knows best. When he told the world that individuals are not totally responsible for their personal success, that government has a major role in it, many Americans were taken aback. But Obama sincerely believes that. Let me prove him wrong with a vivid comparison.

In 1979, a man named Rupert Murdoch started a company that today employs 48,000 workers worldwide.

The employees of News Corp., of which I am one, pay taxes and support families.

The company gives us an opportunity to succeed on our own without any financial assistance from the government. In turn, we provide assets to the government. We don't take from it.

Some of our tax dollars go to pay the salaries and benefits of government workers.

Since he was elected, Obama has increased the

federal payroll by more than 130,000.

Most of those folks work hard, but again, they are paid by private sector workers.

So which scenario is better for America? The private sector situation, or the expanding government workforce?

If you don't know the answer to that question, you don't want to know.

Obama is a utopian at heart. He wants to improve the lives of the downtrodden, which is a good thing.

But he doesn't understand that damaging the free marketplace in pursuit of "social justice" will eventually harm those he wants to help.

The nation's crushing debt is a tsunami brewing offshore. Let's hope Obama wises up before we all get swept away.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show The O'Reilly Factor.



How To Write Us

The Pampa News welcomes letters to the editor. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and signatures.

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What Texans should know about providing SS number

According to the federal trade Commission, Texas ranks fifth in the nation for identity theft complaints. In 2011, more than 24,000 Texans were identity theft victims and as a result, lost thousands of dollars and hours of time attempting to correct their credit ratings and personal financial history.



GREG ABBOT

Identity theft occurs when a criminal illegally uses someone else's personal information — a name, address, driver's license number, credit or debit card account number or Social Security number — to commit fraud or other crimes.

Fortunately, increased identity theft awareness has made Texans much more cautious about freely providing their personal information. One particularly sensitive part of a person's identity is his or her Social Security number (SSN). Many Texans call the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to ask when and where they are required to give out their SSN.

One of our most commonly received questions on this subject is, "Can a private business ask for my Social Security number?" Generally, the answer is yes. The law does not prohibit a business from asking for a person's SSN; however, the customer has options and does not have to provide that information.

Texans are not legally required to provide their SSN to private businesses unless the transaction is one which triggers mandatory Internal Revenue Service notification. Texans should be aware, though, that

businesses can refuse to provide products or services to customers who fail to provide their SSN.

If a business insists that customers provide their SSN and customers feel this is not justified, customers may want to ask for a supervisor or manager to discuss the situation. If the company is unwilling to budge, Texans may want to consider taking their business elsewhere.

Be aware that while federal law does not forbid a business from asking for a person's SSN, it does mandate that the business protect any numbers it collects. People who provide their SSN to a private business should familiarize themselves with the company's privacy policy.

Texas law also requires that businesses safeguard their clients' sensitive personal information, including names, addresses, financial information and SSNs.

The OAG has charged several commercial vendors with unlawfully failing to protect such information.

Many Texans also inquire about government agencies and whether they have the right to ask for a person's SSN. Federal law does compel government agencies to ask for a SSN in certain instances.

For example, certain government agencies, including taxing authorities, human resource offices and departments of motor vehicles, can require a SSN as mandated by federal law.

Federal law does provide protections when citizens are required to divulge their SSN. The Privacy Act of 1974 requires that all government agencies that request Social Security numbers provide a disclosure statement on the form. The statement explains whether citizens are

required to provide their SSN or if it is optional. Additionally, the document details how a person's SSN will be used.

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the U. S. Office of Management and Budget provides guidance and oversight regarding the Privacy Act of 1974. Interested Texans may read the Act on the U.S. Department of Justice website at www.usdoj.gov.

The Privacy Act also provides that citizens cannot be denied government benefits or services if they refuse to disclose their SSN — if the disclosure is not required by federal law or if the disclosure is to an agency which has been using SSNs prior to January 1975.

Texans who are asked to give their SSN to a government agency but do not receive a disclosure statement may want to cite the Privacy Act and contact their U.S. congressmen or senators.

Points to Remember
Social Security Number

■ You do NOT have to give your SSN to a private business.

■ If you do give your SSN to a business, get a copy of their privacy policy.

■ If you are required to give your SSN to a government agency, you must be provided with a disclosure statement.

■ NEVER give out your SSN or other personal information over the phone or by email.

■ Report ID theft to your local police department.

■ File an ID theft complaint on FTC's website at www.ftc.gov or call (877) ID THEFT.

Greg Abbott is the Texas Attorney General.

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State

Continued From Page 1

health reform. "From these great chambers to the governor's office, to local offices in small towns across our state, we are all privileged to do our part to make a better Texas for all," Perry said.

Perry called for budget writers to tap more than \$3.7 billion from the Rainy Day Fund for one-time infrastructure projects. Lawmakers have recently proposed tapping as much as \$2 billion from the fund for water projects and an additional amount for road projects. The fund is projected to have \$11.8 billion by the end of the next biennium. Additionally, on transportation, Perry proposed ending \$1.3 billion in diversions of the state's highway fund away from road construction and maintenance, much of which currently goes to fund the Department of Public Safety.

"It's the decisions made here, in this chamber, in this building, that will determine what Texas will look like 50 years from now," Perry said solemnly near the end of his address.

The governor also proposed \$1.8 billion in tax relief but said he wanted a discussion on what form that relief would take, asking Texans to have their say on a new page on his website. Lawmakers have recently discussed providing relief from either the property tax or the state's business tax. Perry urged lawmakers to make the franchise tax exemption for small businesses permanent.

Perry devoted most of the second half of his speech to education, where he called for creating more public charter schools, launching a

scholarship program that gives students in low-performing schools the option to attend a different one, and giving students more flexibility in the classes they take to prepare for adulthood.

On higher education, Perry pushed lawmakers to implement a four-year tuition freeze for incoming freshman and to tie at least 10 percent of state funding to the number of degrees and certificates colleges and universities award. He also urged both chambers to muster the two-thirds vote necessary to amend the state's Constitution to allow South Texas access to the state's Permanent University Fund.

Two years earlier in the same speech, Perry challenged Texas colleges to develop \$10,000 degree programs. On Tuesday, he bragged that such programs are now available in 13 schools and noted with a smile that, "Florida is developing its own \$10,000 degree program, and even California — yes, that California — is taking a stab at making these programs commonplace."

One of Perry's most expensive proposals may also be the ones that Texans will have the most trouble grasping: making the state budget more transparent.

"We're in a position today to put our financial house in order, and it's time to do so," Perry said.

He called for the Legislature to "true up our budget" — unwinding a litany of accounting gimmicks used in the past to bypass shortfalls without finding more revenue. States routinely employ such gimmicks during recessions and undo them when the economy rebounds. Some gimmicks, such as billions of dollars sitting in dedicated accounts that aren't being used for their intended purpose, have been part of the Texas budget process for more than a decade.

Credit card offers work as useful tool

TERRY SAVAGE
Creator's Syndicate

As your holiday credit-card bills start arriving, this is a good time to take a close look at what you are paying for finance charges -- and consider whether another card with lower rates, lower annual fees or a low introductory rate for balance transfers might make a dent in your debt repayment.

Or if you aren't carrying a balance, you might be surprised by some of the cash-back offers being made to entice card-users with excellent credit to switch cards.

Banks are in search of more credit-card business. In the past few years, Americans have tended to pay down balances and avoid the use of excess credit. While that means fewer delinquencies and charge-offs for card issuers, it has also meant less money collected in finance charges and all sorts of fees, from late charges to over-limit penalties.

It's no wonder that card issuers are rolling out new deals to attract a wide range of customers, as the economy and spending pick up steam. According to CardHub.com, the value of initial rewards bonuses is on the rise -- nearly 15 percent higher than last year. Plus, the average initial miles or points bonus for taking on a new card increased more than 12 percent from last year -- to an average of 10,366 point/miles. (CardHub surveyed more than 1,000 credit card offerings.)

Customers with excellent credit pay an average of 13 percent on carried balances, while those with fair credit paid an average of 19.58 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012. But those in the "penalty box" -- for having gone over their credit limits or failed to make minimum required payments, pay an average of 28.23 percent --

with some cards charging more than 30 percent interest!

There is no one "best deal" for everyone. The card that works best for you depends on your individual circumstances. Among CardHub's 2013 survey favorites for those with excellent credit, who are searching for rewards, are the following:

Chase Sapphire Preferred Card: You get 40,000 bonus points for spending \$3,000 during the first three months, which can be redeemed for a \$400 statement credit.

Blue Cash Preferred from American Express: This card gives 6 percent cash back at supermarkets (up to a \$6,000 annual limit), and 3 percent cash back at gas stations and department stores, or 1 percent on other purchases. The annual fee of \$75 may be offset by these rewards.

CardHub also highlights best deals for balance transfers:

Slate card from Chase: This card offers a 0 percent introductory rate, and no balance transfer fee or annual fee.

Citi Diamond Preferred: This card offers an 18-month introductory rate of 0 percent, the longest such rate, and it applies to both transfers and new purchases. But there is a 3 percent balance transfer fee.

When choosing a balance transfer, it's important to be aware of how long the introductory rate will continue. The range is from six to 18 months, with the average of 10 months at the intro rate. Then the rate jumps to slightly over 16 percent, on average, with some as high as 25.99 percent! And, the average fee on balance transfers is 3 percent of the amount transferred.

If you are considering a balance transfer, you may

be jumping out of the proverbial frying pan and into the fire, unless you can use that introductory period to pay off your balance.

There are some other interesting card deals out there, designed to catch the attention of money-conscious consumers:

Citi Price Rewind: On certain "eligible" Citicards, and on "qualified" purchases, the consumer can register the purchase, and this tool will search hundreds of retail sites for 30 days after the purchase to find a lower price. If a price is at least \$25 less than what the cardmember paid, Citi refunds the difference -- up to \$250 per item. Details at www.citi.com/pricerewind.

Discover "it": This strangely named card is a takeoff on the "It Pays to Discover" ad theme. It's a no-annual-fee card that also has no other onerous fees -- no over-limit fee, no foreign transaction fee and no fee for your first late payment. The card offers generous rewards -- up to 5 percent cash back on certain categories that change throughout the year, a 1 percent cash back on all other purchases, and larger bonuses when purchases are made through its ShopDiscover site. Plus there's a concierge to help you decide how to make best use of the card, including setting your own monthly payment date.

Fifth Third Duo card: While most debit cards can be used either as debit purchases, using a PIN, or "credit" purchases, by signing the slip, these cards typically access only the money in your bank account, depleting the bal-

ance when the purchase is recorded. The Duo card lets you access your established line of credit if you sign for your purchase -- leaving the money in your checking account available to pay current bills. If you use the card for credit purchases, you can earn points for every dollar spent.

You can search several websites to compare cards based on interest rates, annual fees, and the rate and cost for balance transfers.

At CardHub.com, there is a tool called "Credit Card Advisor" that will sort through the offers for you after you fill out an anonymous online form indicating your past credit history. Another tool easily helps you estimate your credit standing, without giving personal information.

At Bankrate.com, you can search and compare cards by type, or by your credit score. So if you're looking for a "secured card" (which allows those with no credit history to build credit), or cards with benefits for students, or cash back rewards, or balance-transfers, you can easily compare features.

Keep in mind that your credit report is affected not only by the balances on your cards and the number of cards outstanding, but by the length of time you have had your credit card. So you might want to pay off, but keep your oldest credit card to maintain your credit standing while you pay down your balances, save on interest and earn rewards for the money you do spend. It's a balancing act. And that's The Savage Truth.

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

The Savage Truth on money



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Pampa Faith

Politicians sometimes forget who they are

Back in 1978 I decided that I had not been involved enough in the Right To Life movement; that I needed to put more effort, time and money into the attack of the murderers of unborn babies in our country. Now being from a Church of Christ background, I wasn't accustomed to much association/interaction with people from other churches. I was living in Sabetha, Kan., at the time, but the county Right To Life group had their meetings

in Seneca, Kan. So I drove the 25 miles to the county seat and listened.

It was apparent that the group was an extremely diverse mixture of almost every type of religious organization and church. At one point there was some bickering between some of the attendees on what I thought were minor differences. They asked for input from the floor as to how to remedy these differences. Most of the comments just seemed to just keep stoking the fires of the tiny differences. So I spoke up about the foolishness of focusing on our differences and stated that I was sure the devil was rolling on the ground in laughter at our public display. I then suggested that if we really cared about the unborn as much as each of us said, then we would focus on protecting THEM and would put our egos/differences aside. The next thing I knew I was the president of that Right To Life group.

Before the meeting ended we had decided to have a special Saturday Right To Life seminar/celebration and try to get a major speaker to come and highlight the day's events. We contacted Dr. and Mrs. Jack Wilke, the most famous defenders of the unborn anywhere on the planet. We were shocked; THEY SAID YES! WOW! I was stunned that they would come to what many would call "Podunk Holler". Everyone was so excited.

We also decided to invite every politician in the state of Kansas who either held a state office or was running for a state position. They were each to be given five minutes to address our audience. Everyone agreed that the politicians were to be told clearly and plainly that they had only five minutes. Since I was to be the emcee, I asked what they wanted me to do if one of the politicians tried to exceed the time limit. The RTL members said, "Take the microphone and kick him/her

off the stage."

Soon our special Saturday arrived and what a privilege it was to meet Dr. Jack Wilke. His presentation was jaw-dropping powerful.

Then came the time for all of the politicians to speak. I was asked to make two points very clear to the politicians: 1) that we would all remember what they told us their position on abortion was and that we would remember if they lied to us; 2) that their five-minute time limit would be enforced by me. I explained that when they had two minutes left I would walk to the edge of the stage; when they had one minute left I would step up on the stage; when they were out of time I would walk to the podium and take them mic from them and go on. My last words were, "Please don't put me in the position to where I have to take the mic from any of you."

We had 13 politicians show up and the first 12 did perfectly; not only sticking to their time limit, but clearly stating their position. Then came No. 13, the honorable Lt. Gov. Shelby Smith. He spent his first minute saying "Hi" and then spent the next three minutes telling a joke. As I walked to the edge of the stage he looked straight at me and just laughed. My worst nightmare was on a giant screen for all to see. When I stepped on to the stage, he just glanced over at me and said, "Now he really doesn't think that he can take this mic from me, does he?" and then he chuckled. I never felt so exposed. But our groups directions were clear. So I walked over to the podium and took the mic out of Shelby's hand and began to thank all of the other politicians for the great job they had done. Evidently Shelby stood there for a moment and then, as others stated later, stormed off the stage. I didn't look over at him. We went on with the day's events and had a fabulous day.

I learned that day that there are people who think that no rules apply to them. I also learned that sometimes someone has to remind them that they are wrong in that assumption and then has to enforce the rules. I hated having to do it that day and I have hated being the enforcer every time since then when the need has arisen. But I do know that sometimes an enforcer is the only way the majority don't get taken advantage of by a bully. That day in Seneca, the lieutenant governor was an arrogant bully. Shame on him and shame on all bullies.

God bless. Mike

MIKE SUBLETT



Statistics show alarming trend

America was founded as a Christian nation. So are we living up to our title? Each generation, it seems our country is slipping farther away from its roots and turning away from God.

Some time ago, I heard a pastor on the radio say something that shocked me. He said only 4 percent of today's teenagers are Bible-based Christians.

He quoted this statistic from a book called The Bridger Generation: "Only 4 percent of teenagers will be Bible-believing Christians as adults, compared with 35 percent of the generation of baby boomers, and before that, 65 percent of the World War II generation."

That shocked me, so I did some searching on the Internet and found some other sad — and scary — statistics. The numbers show that teens are abandoning the faith in droves. I read one study that says the majority of young adults in America today do not go to church, do not pray and do not read the Bible. How sad!

It's not just teenagers who are falling away from Christian values, though. It's people of all ages.

I read another survey that says even though 65 percent of those surveyed call themselves Christian, "many are either mushy Christians or Christians in name only."

If we're going to say we're Christians, we have to live it. We have to be committed, and we have to stay faithful to a biblical world view.

The Barna survey group defines someone as having "a biblical world view" if they agree to these six key beliefs:

1. Believing that absolute moral truth exists.

2. Believing that the Bible is completely accurate in all of the principles it teaches.

3. Believing that Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic.

4. Believing that a person cannot earn their way into heaven by trying to be good or by doing good works.

5. Believing that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth.

6. Believing that God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

These beliefs are the foundation we must build our lives upon to be a Christian. They don't make us perfect. It's a process. It's starting where we are and taking one step at a time.

And for the generation of teens and nonbelievers, we must reach out to them. We don't condemn them. We need to love them and compel them to come to God and receive salvation.

Don't be a statistic! Commit your life to God and start living for Him.

Chris Ely is a Pampa resident and author of the book *Through Eyes of Faith*. He can be contacted at Eyeofaith.webs.com.

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669-3212</p> <p>Hi-land Christian Church
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1435 N. Sumner
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665-0804</p> <p>Open Door Church of God in Christ
402 Oklahoma
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665-6132</p> <p>Priest Park Church of God
731 N. Faulkner
Pampa TX 79065
688-0174</p> <p>Primeria Iglesia Bautista Mexicana
541 Hamilton
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665-8347</p> <p>Redeemer Pampa
225 N. Cuyler
Pampa, TX 79065</p> <p>Salvation Army
701 S. Cuyler
Pampa TX 79065
665-7233</p> <p>Seventh Day Adventist Church
421 N. Ward
Pampa TX 79065
665-4492</p> <p>Southside Church of Christ
11927 McCullough
Pampa TX 79065
665-2183</p> <p>St. Paul United Methodist Church
511 N. Hobart
Pampa TX 79065
665-8951</p> <p>St. Mark CME Church
406 Elm Ave
Pampa TX 79065
665-6743</p> <p>St. Matthews Episcopal Church
727 W. Browning
Pampa TX 79065
665-0701</p> <p>St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
810 W. 23rd Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
665-8933</p> <p>Straight-Up Fellowship
400 N. Wells
Pampa TX 79065
664-0096</p> <p>Trinity Fellowship Church
2225 N. Hobart
Pampa TX 79065
665-3255</p> <p>United Methodist Church
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Community Calendar

City Commission meetings

The Pampa City Commission meets at 4 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held on the third floor of City Hall.

School board meetings

The Pampa Independent School District board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Check The Pampa News for meeting locations.

County Commission meetings

The Gray County Commission meets at 9 a.m. on the 15th and 30th of each month. If the date falls on a Saturday, the meeting will be held on Friday. If the date falls on a Sunday, the meeting will be held on Monday. The meetings are held on the second

floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

Jam sessions every Friday night

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center has a jam sessions every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to play or listen. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler St. For more information, call 806-664-0824.

Meredith House presents live music

Meredith House, an assisted-living facility at 812 W. 25th Ave., has a band performing at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday night.

Join them for Western music, gospel and the classics. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

Citizen, business of year nominations

The Pampa Chamber of

Commerce is now seeking nominations for the Pampa Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year for 2012. Forms may be picked up at the chamber office, 200 N. Ballard St., or by sending an email to admin@pampachamber.com. Nominations must be in to the chamber office by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31.

The winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet at 7 p.m., Tuesday Feb. 26, at the M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium Heritage Room. The cost is \$25 per person and tickets can be purchased at the chamber.

Last week for PHS yearbook sales

Pampa High School is in its final week of selling its yearbook for 2012-13.

The deadline to purchase a yearbook is Feb. 1 and the cost is \$80 plus tax. The yearbooks can be pur-

chased at PHS or by visiting www.pampaisd.net. For more information, call 669-4800, Ext. 1164.

Book fair at Austin

Austin Elementary School is holding book fair during school hours Tuesday, Feb. 5, through Friday, Feb. 8.

Adults must bring a driver's license for admittance to the school. Austin is located at 1900 Duncan St. For more information, call 669-4731.

Pampa Pride religion section

The Pampa News will publish multiple special sections in the paper on March 29.

One of those sections is the religion section.

To have your church featured, please contact the paper.

Send us a story and/or picture about your church

or bring it by the paper. Submissions must be received by Jan. 31.

For more information, call 669-2525.

Pampa Pride

The Pampa News will publish multiple special sections in a paper on March 29.

Send us a story and/or picture you want featured.

You may also bring the story to the paper. Submissions deadlines vary by section.

Please get the stories in ASAP to increase the chances of the story being included. For more information, call 669-2525.

Poetry reading today

Local area poets will hold an open Poetry Reading at Lovett Memorial Library from 2 to 5 p.m. today.

The following poets will be reading: Virginia Yates,

Panhandle; Gaye Robinson, Pampa; and Gloria G. Bowen, Pampa.

Social planned on Valentine's Day

The Meredith House is celebrating its community sweethearts at 2 p.m. on Valentine's Day.

All visitors will have a chance to win a grand prize and join them as they crown the Meredith House King and Queen.

RSVP by Feb. 11 by calling 665-5668.

Editor's note: Email submissions to thowsare@thepampanews.com. Submissions should be 100 words or less and written in the third person. Please include the title of the event, the date and time, physical address, the admission cost or whether it is a free event and a contact number and/or email address for the public.

Area support groups

The following is a list of support groups that meet regularly each week in Pampa. Information for each meeting is submitted to The Pampa News office and may not be completely updated or accurate. Please notify the newsroom if a change is necessary.

The Pampa News welcomes all submitted materials for area support groups. Please include the meeting time, date and location and, if applicable, provide a contact number for each group.

■ **Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault**, meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursdays, and at 2 p.m., Fridays, at the Tralee Crisis Center, 308 S. Cuyler St.

For more info, call the Center at 806-669-1131.

■ **Narcotics Anonymous — The Pampa Group** meets at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, and at 6 p.m., Saturdays, at 805 N. Gray St. **Narcotics Anonymous — Rufe Jordan Unit** also meets at 6 p.m., Mondays, and at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, at 1992 Hilton Road.

■ **Diabetics Support** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Pampa Regional Medical Center cafeteria. For more info, contact Cynthia Ackley at 806-663-5504.

■ **Cancer Support** meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each

month in the Pampa Regional Medical Center cafeteria. For more info, contact Beth Kean at 806-359-4673. Ext. 235.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** Open Door Club meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky Ave. **Al-Anon** meets at noon on Mondays. For more information, call 665-9072.

■ **Pampa Caregiver Support** meets at the Pampa Nursing Center on 1321 W. Kentucky Ave. at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information call 806-669-2551.

■ **Accolade Home Care** sponsors a **Parkinson's Support Group** the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The group meets at Accolade at 1313 N. Hobart St. For more information, call Lindsey Been at 665-9700 or 324-3230.

■ **Celebrate Recovery** meets every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at First Assembly of God, 500 S. Cuyler St. We all know someone who is in need of some spiritual Bible studies that will enrich their life and make a difference in their outlook on life. Invite anyone that you know, no matter their age, to attend. Through this time, God can change lives.

For more information, contact Darlene Lewis at 806-440-4489.

Stunt drivers close freeway

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The California Highway Patrol is trying to locate a group of drivers who briefly shut down part of a San Francisco Bay area freeway while they performed stunts in the middle of the road.

Sgt. Rob Barrera said Monday that the CHP is confident that someone will be prosecuted for the brazen sideshow that stopped traffic on Interstate 880 near the Oakland Coliseum on Saturday afternoon. Barrera declined additional comment.

Video clips show at least a half-dozen cars peeling out from the shoulder and doing doughnuts in the road while other vehicles stack up behind the demonstration.

Soldier looks to driving with new arms

BALTIMORE (AP) — A soldier who lost all four limbs in an Iraq roadside bombing says he looks for-

ward to driving and swimming with his new arms.

Twenty-six-year-old Brendan Marrocco spoke at a news conference Tuesday at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He was joined by the surgeons who performed the double-arm transplant there.

Marrocco says he's happy and amazed to have new arms. He has prosthetic legs but says that without arms, he felt "kind of lost for a while."

The procedure was only the seventh double-hand or double-arm transplant ever conducted in the United States.

The infantryman was injured by a roadside bomb in 2009.

The New York City man also received bone marrow from the same dead donor to minimize the medicine needed to prevent rejection.

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O.B. and Jean Elkins



O.B. and Jean Elkins of Pampa, Texas are pleased to announce their 68th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Elkins were married November 18, 1944. Their family includes one daughter, Suzan Gail and husband Richard Anderson, and two sons, Monty B and wife Pat Elkins and Marcus D. Elkins, all of Pampa. O.B. and Jean Elkins also have five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Erica Susanne Smith



Chad and Stephanie Smith are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Erica Susanne. Erica was born on January 10, 2013, in Pampa, Texas. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20 1/2 inches long. Susanne was welcomed home by her big brother, Aaron, 3 years old. Erica is the granddaughter of Bill and Rachael Adams of Pampa, Texas and Charles and Mary Smith of Dallas, Texas. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Edward and Mary Adams of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Robert and Jean Smith of Wichita Falls, Texas.

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Team Impact coming to Pampa Feb. 1-3



SUBMITTED

Team Impact, some of the strongest men on the planet, will be making several public appearances at Calvary Baptist Church on Feb. 1-3.

With demonstrations of feats of strength, such as shattering five feet of concrete with one blow from their massive arms and snapping baseball bats in half with their bare hands, Team Impact members are sure to capture the attention of both the young and old — all to share an inspiring message of hope.

Team Impact is a group of world-class athletes, including champion power-lifters, previous WWE wrestlers and former NFL football players. The men of Team Impact travel the globe motivating and inspiring people of all ages and have performed their amazing presentation in

front of millions.

With the problems young people face today, Team Impact has taken seriously the task of reaching America's youth with a timely message through their school assemblies. Visiting nearly 1,000 schools each year, this group has the unique opportunity to speak to hundreds of thousands of students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and the importance of academic excellence.

Team Impact will be appearing at Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd St. in Pampa. The Friday and Saturday event will begin at 7 p.m. The Sunday event will be at 3 p.m. A free nursery will be provided for children through 3 years of age. The program is free, but a love offering will be taken.

You may visit Team-impact.com to learn more about the efforts of Team Impact.

Reward offered for most wanted sex offender

SUBMITTED BY DPS

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has added Santos Francisco Sanchez, 45, to the Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender list, and a \$5,000 cash reward is now offered for information leading to his capture. The Texas Syndicate gang member has a violent criminal past and is wanted for Parole Violation and Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. All tips can be offered anonymously.

Sanchez was born in Brown County, but has primarily resided in the Tarrant County area, where he also has relatives. He was convicted in the sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl in Fort Worth in 1996, and was required to report to a halfway house after his release from prison in 2003, but he never registered with the La Villa Police Department in Hidalgo County. He has been known to work carpenter jobs.

Sanchez is 5 feet, 10 inches tall and was last known to weigh approximately 205 pounds. His tattoos include: dragon/skulls/devils on his left forearm, a heart

on his upper left arm, a peacock on his upper right arm and heart/rose on his right forearm. For more information, view his wanted poster at: Dps.texas.gov.

Texas Crime Stoppers, which is funded by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, offers cash rewards to any person who provides information that leads to the arrest of one of the Texas 10 Most Wanted fugitives or sex offenders. There are four different ways to provide anonymous tips:

- Call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).

- Text the letters DPS — followed by your tip — to 274637 (CRIMES) from your cell phone.

- Submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under their picture.

- Submit a Facebook tip at <http://Facebook.com/texas10mostwanted> by clicking the "SUBMIT A TIP" link (under the "About" section).

All calls, texts, e-mails and Facebook messages are anonymous.

DPS investigators work with local law enforcement agencies to select fugitives for the Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and Sex Offender lists. You can find the current lists — with photos — on the DPS website at Dps.texas.gov.



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PampaSports

GOING FOR GOLD — AND GREEN



Submitted photo

The Pampa boys and girls swim teams with their medals after the district swim meet in Amarillo Saturday. Many of the swimmers will now go on to regionals in El Paso Feb. 8-9. If any of them make it, the state swim meet will be Feb. 22-23 in Austin.

JH teams lose to Borger

By ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

Both eighth-grade girls teams lost to Borger last night. The B team lost 33-32. Pampa was ahead until the other team hit a three-pointer for the lead with a minute left.

The top scorers were Ale Jimenez and Darian Harkcom with eight points each.

The A team played a close game back and forth the entire time. Pampa was down by one at halftime, ahead by five after the third quarter, then ended up losing 37-27 in the last few minutes.

The top scorers were Shavonna Fields with 11 points and Elise Kennedy with seven.

Seventh-grade A girls lost 31-12. The top scorer was Megan Dickinson with 10 points. Seventh-grade B girls won 27-18. The top scorer was Yolanda Blanco with eight points.

In the tournament over the weekend, the seventh-grade girls A team lost 32-3 to Perryton. They also beat River Road 18-6. The seventh-grade girls B beat River Road 20-9. They lost to Bushland 21-12 and beat Dalhart 28-15.

Junior High boys

Over the weekend, the seventh grade boys basketball team went to Borger for the district tournament. The seventh-grade B team went 2-1 and earned third place. Zack Trimble and Zane McCoy led the team in scoring for the weekend.

The A team went 1-2 and for fourth. Brandon Steward led the team in scoring for the weekend. Brady Porter and Angel Gonzalez led the team in rebounds.

Monday night, Pampa hosted Borger. The seventh-grade B team won 28-25 in a great game. Trimble led the team with 12 points, and McCoy had seven. The seventh-grade A team lost 47-39. Moses Avila led the team with 12 points, and Steward had 11.

The eighth-grade B team won 33-22. Kade Hood and Juan Perez both had six points. Derek Norris had five points and made a lot of hustle plays. The seventh-grade A team won 48-33. Nick Stevens led the team with 22 points.

The big men inside, Jonah Munsell and Enrique Villanueva, had their best games of the season offensively and defensively according to Coach Brittin East.

University basketball team 'adopts' 14-year-old

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — If you're ever following the Evangel University men's basketball team, either in practice or a game, one of the Crusaders seems out of place, leaving you to think, 'He's too young to be on a college team.'

But for 14-year-old Christopher Banks, he is right at home with the family.

When he was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2008 — it turned out to be benign — doctors told the family that Christopher would not play sports again and he would likely die in his sleep.

"How is a mother supposed to sleep at night after hearing that?" Kimberly Banks said.

And yet here he is, three years since surgery and nudging into the Evangel pre-game huddle, the timeout huddle, jogging to the locker room at halftime and sitting on the bench as the Crusaders blitz through the season.

For three years, it's been a fun ride since the team adopted him.

However, concerns are beginning to emerge again.

Years ago, Christopher experienced 100 seizures a day. Lately Christopher's teachers have reported him "spacing out" in class, which could be misconstrued as an absent seizure, his mother said. Other symptoms such as headaches, muscle weakness and personality changes have caused him to miss some school recently.

"The personality changes are what's hardest for his (16-year-old) sister. But when he can be in a really bad mood or not feeling good, we bring him here (Ashcroft Center) and he leaves happy," Kimberly said. "It's something we like to keep normal and they are family."

Certainly, the Crusaders have provided a setting that helps Christopher escape from the real world and be around the game he absolutely loves.

Christopher doesn't have one favorite player because, to him, it's like he has 18 older brothers. However, he does have a past favorite, Jackson Capel, who became Evangel's all-time leading scorer in 2008. Capel, who scored 2,227 points in his career, now plays pro ball in Germany and visits the Banks family whenever he is in town.

"Jackson came to my birthday party once. Him and

Mike (Storey)," Christopher remembered with excitement. "And they helped us when we moved house, too."

Christopher feels a strong connection to any player wearing Capel's old No. 13 jersey. This season, that's J.J. Williams, the team's transfer point guard who handed the boy his Nike Hyperdunk shoes after a practice last week.

"That's just how they are here," Kimberly said. "It just warms your heart."

Williams said he hopes the small gesture has an impact on Christopher's life.

"One day he might be in a situation where he's able to give to somebody else in the same manner, and he'll do it out of remembrance for somebody who did it for him," Williams said. "You hear about his situation and what he's been through, but then you see how bad he wants to be around the team and how much he loves the game. It's inspiring. It makes me not take for granted that I get to play."

Christopher has come a long way since his surgery in 2009 at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis. The surgery successfully removed 100 percent of a tumor the size of a lemon. However, a return to normalcy was slow. Tasks that seemed so simple before were completely forgotten, such as how to read and how to tie his shoes. Christopher had to learn these tasks all over again.

Christopher will return to Le Bonheur on Feb. 11 to have his symptoms tested. The vigorous tests will mean he will have to be sedated. His mom said he's in denial because he doesn't want to be sick again.

To which her son counters ...

"I keep telling you it's not a tumor," Christopher said. "I just get mad sometimes. I've seen guys at practice get more mad than me."

It's understandable if he is concerned about being away from the team.

When Christopher was home-schooled, his mother enrolled him in Evangel's home-school physical education program. There, he practiced with the men's basketball team. Even after he returned to Hickory Hills School for the last two weeks of the fourth grade, he continued to join the Crusaders at practice and for home games.

"Four years have gone by and he was here before I was

and I remember when I first came here he was just a little guy running around. I've been able to watch him grow up. But he's helped me grow, too," senior guard Jayme Donnelly said. "He's like a little brother that we always expect to be there, in the locker room getting a little rowdy and just with so much energy."

For the team, not having Christopher around for the late-season matchups would only make the Crusaders fight harder.

"It's tragic when kids that age have to go through such trauma like that, it puts things in perspective," Williams explained. "When I come out of the game and look down the bench, I shake everyone's hands, and then I see Chris. He's just as excited as anybody, you'd think he just came off the floor and scored 50."

"With him not being there I know, for me, it's definitely going to ring a bell," Williams said. "Coming down and shaking everyone's hands and not getting to see that smile and that excitement. But as a team we'll be praying for him and we'll be here for him."

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Spiked Punch	0-2	2-2
Briarwood A	0-2	0-4
Recreational	Conference	Overall
Xtra Auto	2-0	3-1
Rednecks	2-0	3-1
Notorious D.I.G	1-1	3-1
Domino's	1-1	2-2
Briarwood B	0-2	2-2
Utility Tire	0-2	0-4
WOMEN'S		
	Conference	Overall
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Ex-Michigan Supreme Court justice pleads guilty to fraud

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — A former Michigan Supreme Court justice pleaded guilty Tuesday to bank fraud, eight days after she quit the state's highest court in a scandal involving a huge mortgage and property in Michigan and Florida.

Diane Hathaway, a Democrat, faces 1½ years in prison under a deal with federal prosecutors.

She was accused of concealing assets while trying to persuade a bank that she needed a short sale to get rid of a Grosse Pointe Park home that carried a mortgage of more than \$1 million.

The bank fraud charge says Hathaway made false statements to ING Direct, transferred property to others and failed to disclose available cash — all in an effort to fool the bank into believing she had a severe financial hardship.

Hathaway and her husband, Michael Kingsley, transferred a debt-free Florida home to a relative before the 2011 sale of their Detroit-area home. But after the sale went through, the Florida property went back to them.

In short sales, banks let distressed owners sell properties for less than what's owed on them, providing a significant benefit to borrowers who often can't afford to keep paying the mortgage. Hathaway and Kingsley, it was \$600,000.

Hathaway's real-estate transactions were first disclosed last spring by Detroit TV station WXYZ.

She refused to speak publicly about them despite calls from critics to explain the suspicious property deals.

The U.S. attorney's of-

fice signaled that a criminal probe was in progress when it filed a civil lawsuit in November to seize the Windermere, Fla., home as the fruit of bank fraud. The criminal case was filed Jan. 18. Kingsley was not charged.

Hathaway, a former Wayne County judge, shook up the Supreme Court when she defeated Republican Chief Justice Cliff Taylor in the 2008 election. Democrats then controlled the court for two years before GOP victories in the 2010 election put Republicans back in the majority.

Hathaway quit the court on Jan. 21, halfway through an eight-year term. Gov. Rick Snyder has yet to name her replacement, but the new justice will expand the Republican majority to 5-2, at least through 2014.

2 injured in fire at East Texas oil storage

VAN, Texas (AP) — Two people are reported hurt in a fire at an oil storage facility in East Texas as firefighters work to prevent the blaze from spreading.

Van Zandt County Emergency Management Coordinator Chuck Allen says authorities were called before 3 a.m. Tuesday about an explosion at the facility north of Van.

Allen says the two people injured were smoking on top of the storage tanks when one of them exploded.

Both victims are 24 years old. Allen says one is on life support. Two of the facility's five oil storage tanks are on fire and firefighters are trying to keep the flames away from the others. Van is about 75

miles east of Dallas.

Hospital resumes kidney transplants

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio hospital where a nurse accidentally threw out a viable kidney has resumed its kidney transplant program.

The University Toledo Medical Center had voluntarily suspended the transplant program after the Aug. 10 accident. After an investigation and policy changes, the hospital announced last month it was ready to resume the living-donor program.

Hospital spokesman Jon Strunk told The (Toledo) Blade that the first surgery took place Thursday. He declined to provide patient information.

A report by a surgeon hired by the hospital to review its transplant program called it "baffling" that the nurse would accidentally put the viable kidney with medical waste.

But he found no problems with the systems that would have indicated the hospital was at risk for such a mistake.

Library solves puppy poop problem

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco's animal control agency is proving that the print editions of newspapers remain just as vital in the digital age.

The agency relies on the papers to line cages and catch its puppy's poop. It is now turning to the city's public library to ensure a consistent newspaper supply.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that the agency will pick up newspapers from the library about twice a month.

Agency supervisor Eric

Zuercher says the arrangement has solved a big problem, noting puppies are poop machines.

The agency had previously relied on public contributions and donations from the Chronicle.

Man implicates self, denies theft

CHURCH HILL, Tenn. (AP) — A Hawkins County man told a Church Hill police officer he didn't go anywhere or steal anything. The officer hadn't mentioned theft.

The Kingsport Times-News reported 25-year-old James Blake McFarland then told the officer he didn't take anything at a school. Officer Dustin Dean then told McFarland that he had not mentioned a school when he said he wanted to talk to McFarland and advised him of his rights.

A witness told police McFarland was near the Church Hill Elementary School on Jan. 22, dressed similarly to a thief captured on surveillance video. Officials said \$250 was taken from an office safe.

After McFarland implicated himself, he was arrested on charges of burglary, theft and vandalism. He remained in jail Tuesday in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

NYC pulling down 'Don't Honk' signs

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's "Don't Honk" signs are coming down, but it's still against the law to blow a car horn unnecessarily.

The city Department of Transportation says all the signs will be removed by the end of the year.

According to The New York Times, city officials

say the decision is part of an effort to de-clutter the streets of signs that generally go ignored.

Unnecessary honking carries a \$350 fine but is rarely enforced.

The DOT says complaints about honking have declined 63 percent since 2008.

But City Councilwoman Gale Brewer said in a letter to the DOT: "I can't tell you how many requests I get for 'no honking' signs."

The signs were introduced during Mayor Ed Koch's administration.

Study says leafy greens can be poison

NEW YORK (AP) — A government study has fingered leafy green vegetables as the leading source of food poisoning illnesses.

However, the most food-related deaths were from contaminated chicken and other poultry.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the study Tuesday. It's based on an analysis of food poisoning cases from 1998 through 2008.

It's the agency's most comprehensive attempt to identify which foods most often carry germs that make us sick.

The CDC estimates roughly 1 in 6 Americans — or 48 million people — gets sick from food poisoning each year. That includes 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths.

Nick Van Exel's son's murder trial begins

DALLAS (AP) — The 22-year-old son of former NBA player Nick Van Exel is going on trial for capital murder in the shooting death of a longtime friend.

Nickey Maxwell Van Exel was arrested in December 2010 for the death of Bradley Bassey Eyo.

Police at the time said Eyo's body was found with a gunshot wound and left at Lake Ray Hubbard, east of downtown Dallas.

Van Exel's attorney has previously said Van Exel and Eyo were playing with a shotgun, and that Van Exel didn't know the gun was loaded.

His trial began Tuesday with opening statements.

He faces up to life in prison if convicted.

Nick Van Exel played 13 seasons in the NBA. He's now a player development instructor for the Atlanta Hawks.

Stuntman tightropes 200 feet over road

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Famed tightrope walker Nik Wallenda crossed 200 feet over an oceanfront highway in Sarasota on a wire without a safety harness or net.


The circus performer and six-time Guinness World Record holder carried out the stunt Tuesday on a sunny but windy morning. He says there was more wind than he expected and the cables were moving "quite a bit."

The Sarasota City Commission allowed the stunt without a tether. Wallenda wore a tether for the first time last summer when he walked across Niagara Falls, because the television network that was paying for the performance insisted on it.


Wallenda started his Sarasota Skywalk at Bayfront Park. The wire ends at the Marina Tower Condominium, and part of U.S. 41 was shut down during the walk.

As a math teacher we use the newspaper a lot during our statistics unit. I have students look up examples of percentages. It is a great way to show students that they will use math in the "real world."


-Middle School Math Teacher




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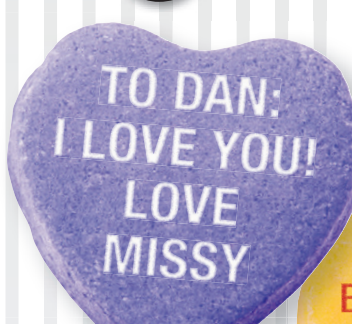
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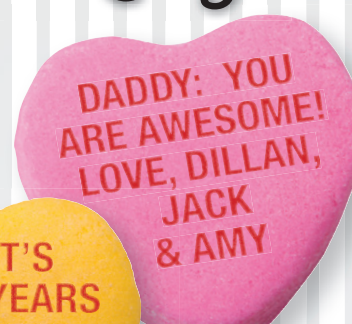
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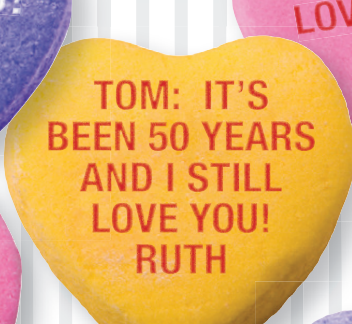



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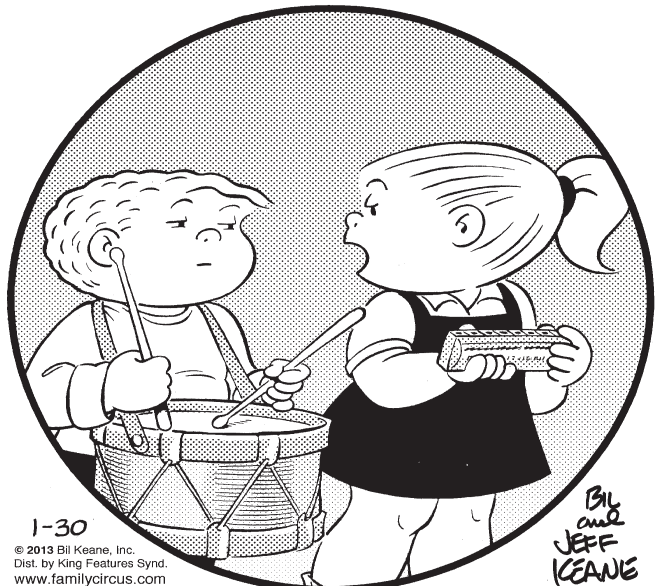




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"No, I don't like drums. They only play one note."

1-30
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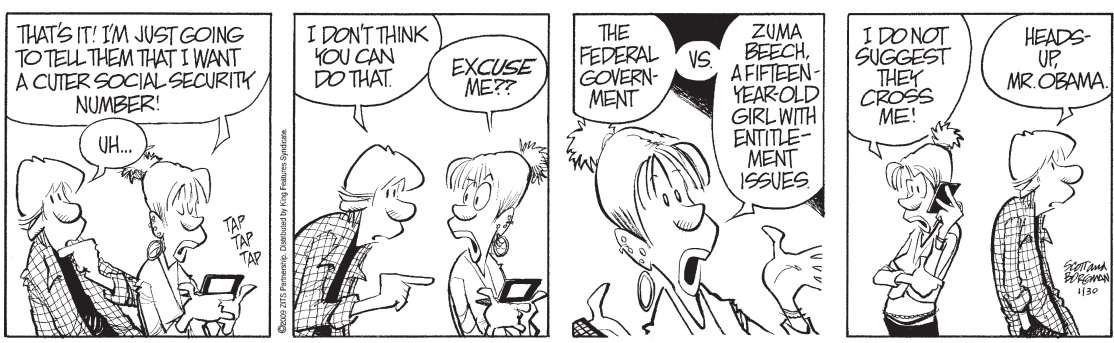
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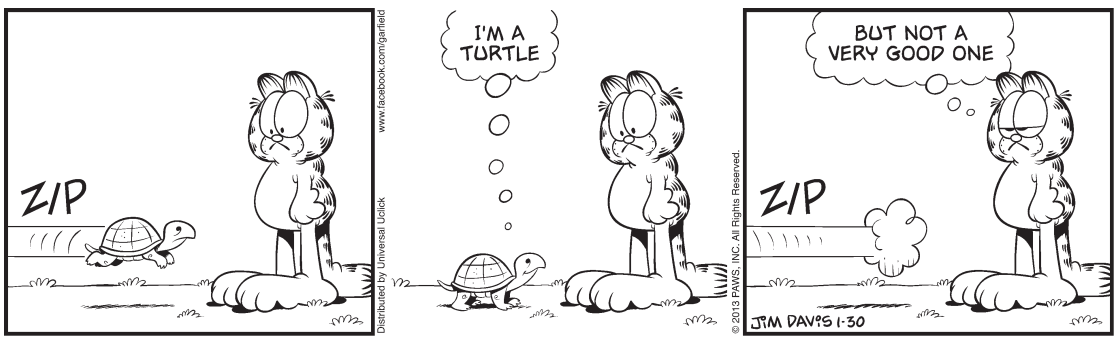
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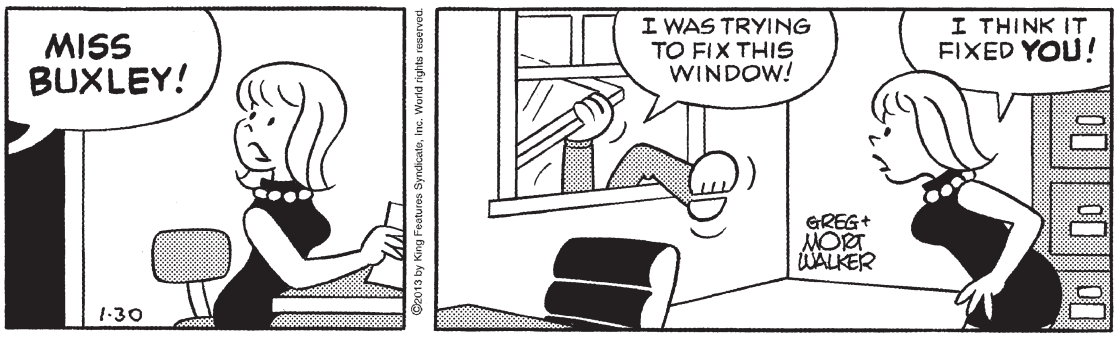
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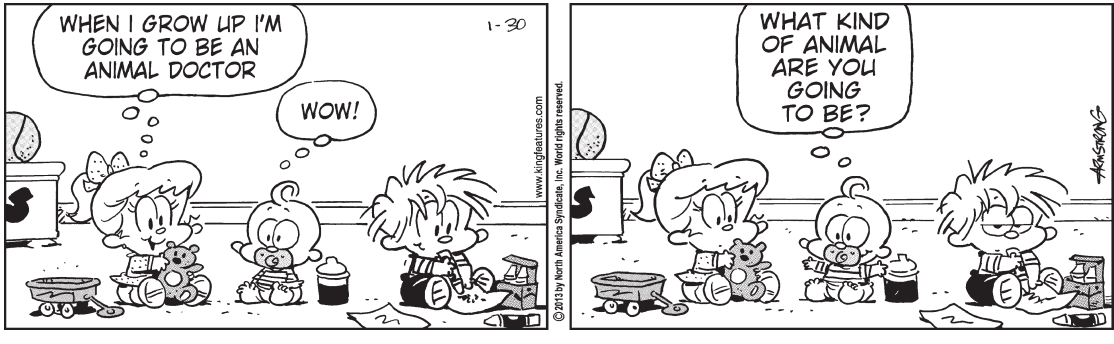
Garfield



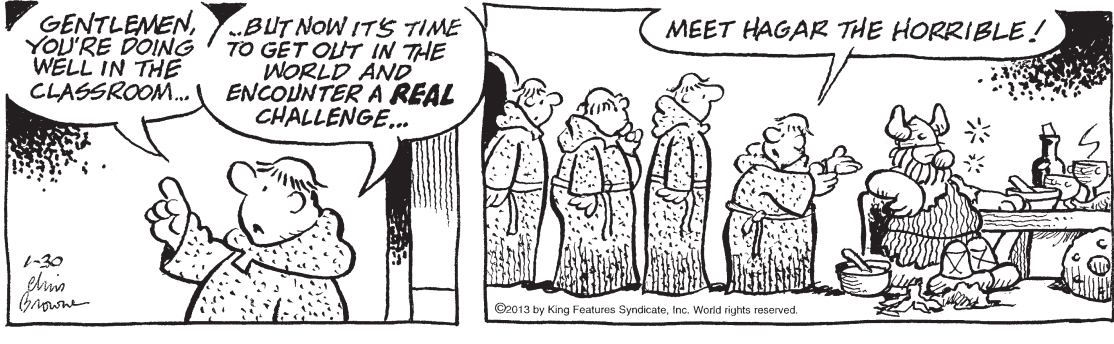
Beetle Bailey



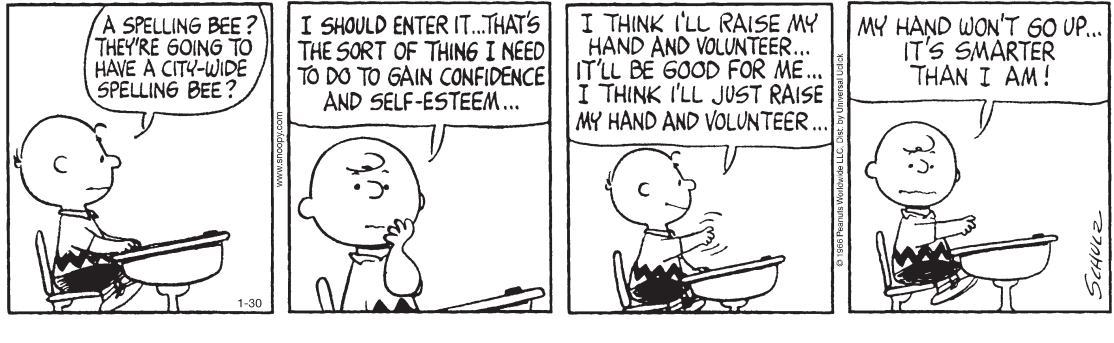
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013:
This year you will want to detach, especially when you are triggered. You also will make more of an effort to look at the big picture. Once you master this skill, you'll feel as though you're more in control of your life. Travel, education and/or a foreigner might play a role in the next 12 months. If you are single, you could become involved with someone very different and creative. This person could be instrumental in your opening up to new ideas and different lifestyles. If you are attached, develop a new hobby together, or plan that long-desired trip. LIBRA knows how to draw you in.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The unexpected occurs, and you seem to be the source of the energy. A surprise or change of plans is likely. You will be unusually fortunate through communication. Be careful when spending, as you tend to justify the most extravagant choice. Tonight: Hang out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Allow greater creativity and more fun into your life. You could be upset by an event or an unexpected situation. For some of you, relief might come in the form of a walk; for others, it could be snacking that soothes you. Tonight: Do something just for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Add more lightness to the moment, especially in difficult or uncomfortable situations. Initially, others might react strangely. Know that humor brings a new perspective. Use care with money and a partner. This person could become controlling. Tonight: Live in the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Stay direct when dealing with a loved one. A situation might cause a conflict between two important areas of your life. If you follow your sixth sense, an innate resourcefulness will emerge. You'll be able to handle what you thought was not possible. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Make it to an important meeting, even if it means canceling or rescheduling other plans. The right words work wonders. Share more of your thoughts, especially with a group that has goals similar to yours. Don't be surprised if you have to revamp plans. Tonight: Out late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Make an extra effort to let someone know your boundaries and what you will and will not do. Creating greater clarity between the two of you will allow more easiness. Accept a compliment in the vein in which it was given. Tonight: Meet up with friends for dinner or a movie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ What was hard, now is easy. Even if you are dealing with someone who has a combustible personality, do not let his or her reaction throw you. You seem to be able to keep the big picture in mind as you have been changing and evolving. Tonight: Your wish is someone's command!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You will want to take some time to sort through what is going on with you, whether it is behind the scenes or with a key person. You have not slowed down enough to assess where your reactions are coming from. Take some time to do some soul-searching. Tonight: Not to be found.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want. The unexpected occurs when dealing with a child or loved one. Someone in your immediate circle has good news that could make you smile. This person also might have a special invitation just for you. Tonight: Join friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You have what it takes, though often you are your own biggest challenge. How you handle a personal matter could change dramatically and cause unexpected developments. You want control, but so does everyone else. Honor your limits. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Life presents many options, and you see them clearly. The question remains: Which path is the best one for you? As you evaluate the possibilities, share them with a friend or an associate who will challenge you if he or she thinks you are off base. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your efforts have paid off in the past. Once more, your ability to work long and hard hours emerges, which makes you endearing to a special group. A meeting could inform you that there are changes in the works. Use your antennae to zero in on them. Tonight: In the game of life.



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Circle one ad only from the grids on Page 4B and Page 5B that corresponds with your prediction for the final game score (using the last number of each score.)

EXAMPLE:

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You would circle 8 down and 2 across: Utility Tire

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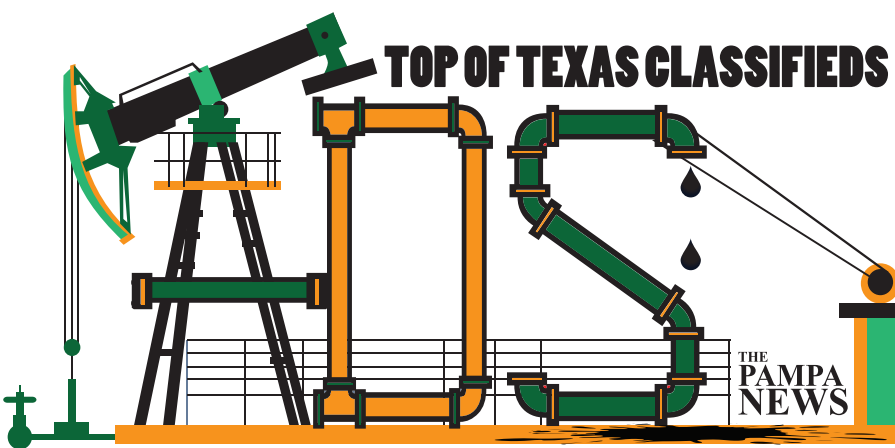
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HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

OGLE Fence Co. Free Estimates Repair & New Const. 665-1712

14s Plumbing
JACK'S Plumbing 1715 W. Foster 665-7115

14w Air Cond/Heat
BROWNING'S Heating & Air and Refrigeration Specialists since 1964!! 665-1212.

19 Situations
HOUSE keeper available to start immediately, have GREAT REFERENCES!!! Call Tiffany at 662-5379.

21 Help Wanted
NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

The Pampa News is in need of a **Newspaper Carrier Substitute** for Tuesdays. Must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation, and proper vehicle insurance. Time of Commitment is early morning hours. Apply within, 403 W Atchison. EOE Drug Free Workplace

21 Help Wanted
APT Manager Position Must Live On Premises Salary & Bonuses E-mail Resume To nlamarillo@yahoo.com 806-383-1985 806-665-1875

COMMUNITY CARE CENTER of Clarendon is looking for a weekend RN. Offers excellent wages. Call Waleen Hiatt or Courtney Dickson at 806-874-5221 or stop by 10 Medical Center Drive, Clarendon, TX.

SCOUT Energy Partners is needing experienced Pumpers needed. •Must have a Valid DL & Pass Drug Screen. Salary is comparable to experience. Send your resume to 216 Price Rd., Pampa, TX 79065 806-662-6349

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for a **Layout Fabricator, Welder Fabricator**, must pass welding tests & **Maintenance Tech** w/electrical & mechanical exp. Must have good driving record & good attendance. **Drug tests required for all positions.** Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa, TX.

GENERAL Labor. Outdoor work, loading trucks, cleaning, minor maintenance. Must be willing and able to work varying shifts, nights and weekends when necessary. Must be able to pass drug test. Honesty and dependability is essential. If interested call 903-343-9141 for appl. and interview. Must have a valid drivers license. neil.rockdoc@gmail.com

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Front line person who will greet visitors while operating a multi-line telephone system, performing various office duties. Accounting experience helpful. High School diploma or GED preferred. Pre-employment physical exam/drug screen, background check required. Competitive wage and benefit package including 401K. EOE.

Contact :
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hr@titanspecialties.com
11785 Hwy 152
Pampa, Texas 79065

21 Help Wanted
SEEKING EXPERIENCED Rig Operator & 2 Rig Hands. Send Resume to P.O. Box 1422, Pampa, TX 79066

NATURAL Gas Services Group is seeking a Field Compressor Mechanic for the Pampa/Wheeler area and surrounding vicinity. This individual must be able to perform maintenance, troubleshoot CAT, Cummins, GM engines and also screw and reciprocating compressors in the field. Must have good driving background and pass DOT. Excellent Salary & Benefit package. For more information or to submit resume contact Employment@ngsg.com or call 432-262-2766.

PAMPA ISD is accepting applications for **Bus Driver**. You may apply on-line www.pampaisd.net or pick up application at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert St. EOE

Multidisciplinary healthcare office is expanding our team. Two positions available. Direct patient care position and front desk clerical/computer position. On the job training. Fax resume to 665-0537.

Midwest Precision Testing has an immediate opening for an **Office Assistant**; Candidate will be responsible for producing analytical reports and entering data in spreadsheets, as well as accounting. Must have experience in Excel and Word, strong math skills are a plus. Additionally, must be able to multi-task and answer phone calls. No walk-ins, apply by resume only to: neil.rockdoc@gmail.com

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IMMEDIATE OPENINGS! VARIOUS SHIFTS! We need state licensed & certified professionals. Very competitive rates. EOE/MFHV. For more information, call our DON (806) 273-3785 or apply in person: **BORGER HEALTHCARE CENTER** 1316 South Florida Borger

Conner Industries in Canadian is looking for two individuals to join our team. Open positions include: Experienced working truck foreman for a roustabout crew who has a valid Texas driver license, and an experienced CDL truck driver. Come in to our Canadian Shop at 10875 Exhibition Center Rd., Canadian, TX 79014 to fill out an application.

CDL Drivers needed. \$75K-\$85K/yr! Hazmat and Tanker endorsements required. Please call Joe @ Gunner Mac, LLC 806-316-8026

IN home help needed. Good job for a nice, mature, dependable lady. Please call 806-665-6435

A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z S F B F N V M S V D X V D K H R

Y D K P D Z S F V D K H G Z S F

P Q H H S V M S . — X E X Q H S I

I S S N X J X E V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HATRED IS NEVER ANYTHING BUT FEAR — IF YOU FEARED NO ONE, YOU'D HATE NO ONE. — HUGH DOWNS

21 Help Wanted
Foreman to lead utility contract crews. Outdoor physical work, many positions, paid training, \$17/hr plus performance bonuses after promotion, living allowance when traveling, company truck and benefits. Must have strong leadership skills, a good driving history and be able to travel in Texas and nearby States. Email resume to Recruiter1@osmose.com or apply online at www.OsmoseUtilities.com. EOE M/F/D/V

FOUNTAIN at Heard Jones seeking someone who is mature, friendly, hard working. Waitress and or grill cook exp. a plus. Apply at Heard-Jones, 114 N. Cuyler.

WANTED at Grannys Home Cooking, Part Time cook/waitress. Experience A Must. No Phone Calls! 328 E. Frederic, Apply from 12-3.

TEXAS Rose Steakhouse is hiring Hosts, Servers & Cooks. No phone calls! Apply at 2841 Perryton Pky.

INVENTORY Warehouse Manager needed. Forklift & shipping/receiving experience preferred. Required to lift 50 lbs. Good driving record, physical and drug test required. Competitive pay and benefits. Submit resume to jobs@flogistix.com or come by 2538 W. Kentucky.

NATIONAL Home Health Care needs Delivery Tech. Heavy lifting up to 100 lbs, on call. Clean driving record, drug screen / background check. Benefits. Apply in person 1521 N. Hobart, Pampa. Will train.

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This position performs direct care services for persons with intellectual developmental disabilities. Responsibilities: training, transporting, cooking, feeding, toileting and other duties required with daily living. A high school diploma/GED and a Texas Drivers License required. Shift Available: Full or Part-time. Full time 8am-8pm, Saturday and Sunday and 3pm-11pm Monday and Tuesday. Or Part-time 8am-8pm, Saturday and Sunday. To pick up an application come by Pampa Center, 615 W. Buckner, Pampa, TX 79065. Call 806-669-3371 or download an application at www.texaspanhandlecenters.org
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MINUTES from downtown-efficiencies. Short term leases avail. 806-665-4274, 663-2579.

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Premium Genetics Group

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Smithfield Premium Genetics, the live production company for Smithfield Foods, Inc., has an opening in Pampa, TX. We are looking for a Driver to haul breeding stock to various farm and market destinations. Excellent benefits, including health, dental and vision insurance, 401k, pension, and paid time off. Career opportunities are available for the right individuals.

Details

- M-F Day trips
- Occasional overnight travel with additional mileage paid
- Driver Bonus after 6 months

Requirements

- Valid Class A CDL
- Acceptable Driving record
- Solid Work History
- Tractor/Trailer experience(at least one year)
- Ensure adherence to Animal Handling, DOT and Safety Regulations.

You can apply in person @ Smithfield Premium Genetics located 11 Miles East of Pampa on Hwy 60 between 10:00am – 3:00pm or at the Texas Workforce Office in Amarillo

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ACCORD DONATIONS



Submitted photos

ACCORD Inc. (Active Citizens Concerned Over Resource Development in Agriculture Inc.) made donations of \$528 to several service organizations: Left photo, Jack Seals, left, a World War II veteran representing ACCORD, presents a check to Andy Epps, one of the directors of Freedom Museum USA. Top left photo, Marie Eastham, treasurer of ACCORD, right, presents a check to Kathleen Greene, president of the Texas Rodeo Bible Camp, to help support and impact young cowboys and cowgirls' lives. Above photo, Tonya Lewis, President of ACCORD, presents a check to Gloria Swires to be used for the Sheltered Work Shop Education Fund. Pictured from left are Tonya Lewis, Randy Swires, Marie Eastham, Gloria Swires, Abby Ashley, Mary Lane and Carol Herkey.

Lake Meredith to host public meetings on off-road vehicle management

SUBMITTED

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area near Pampa has announced the release of the Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Plan/DEIS) for public review.

This Plan/DEIS analyzes a range of alternatives for management of off-road vehicles (ORVs) and their impacts on the environment.

The Plan/DEIS seeks to provide management of ORV use in the national recreation area (NRA) for visitor enjoyment and recreation opportunities, while minimizing and correcting damage to resources. The Plan/DEIS addresses ORV use at Rosita Flats and Blue Creek.

The Plan/DEIS is available electronically on the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at Parkplanning.nps.gov/LAMR-ORV-DEIS. Comments may also be submitted electronically at this address. Printed copies and compact disks of the Plan/DEIS are available upon request.

Written comments may be submitted in person to the park headquarters or by mail to: Superintendent, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, P.O. Box 1460, Fritch, Texas 79036-1460. The comment period ends March 26. All written comments must be postmarked by this date.

The National Recreation Area will hold public meetings on Feb. 26 and 27 seeking public input on the Plan/DEIS. The public meetings will be held Feb. 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Ashmore Inn and Suites, located at 2301 E. Interstate 40 (Grand Street exit) in Amarillo and on Feb. 27, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Sanford-Fritch schools business office, located at 540 Eagle Blvd. in Fritch.

Recreation area staff will be available to answer questions during the meeting. The input received at the public meetings and during the public comment period will be used to help develop the final Plan/EIS.

Four alternatives are analyzed in the Plan/DEIS. Alternative A

represents the continuation of current ORV use. Under this alternative, ORVs are allowed below the 3,000 foot elevation line in Rosita Flats and from cutbank to cutbank at Blue Creek.

Alternative B manages ORV use through a zone system. At Rosita Flats, two ORV areas would be established and a number of routes would be designated. At Blue Creek, ORVs would only be allowed on the sandy bottom areas and on designated routes. ORV users would be required to obtain a free permit for educational purposes.

Alternative C manages ORV use through a fee permit system and user limits.

Permits would include a fee and studies would be required to determine the appropriate use limit. ORV routes and areas would be designated. Alternative D is the NPS preferred alternative. Under this alternative, ORV use would be managed through a zone system. At Rosita Flats, two ORV areas would be established and a number of routes would be designated.

New Mexico girl found locked in wooden cage

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A New Mexico woman and her boyfriend locked up an 8-year-old girl with developmental disabilities in a wooden cage, then left her alone while they headed out to watch a movie, police said Tuesday.

Cindy Patriarchias and Edmond Gonzales took her three children to an elementary school to watch the movie on Friday, a police report said. Patriarchias' estranged husband called police when he arrived at the school and learned that the 8-year-old girl was unattended at the mobile home.

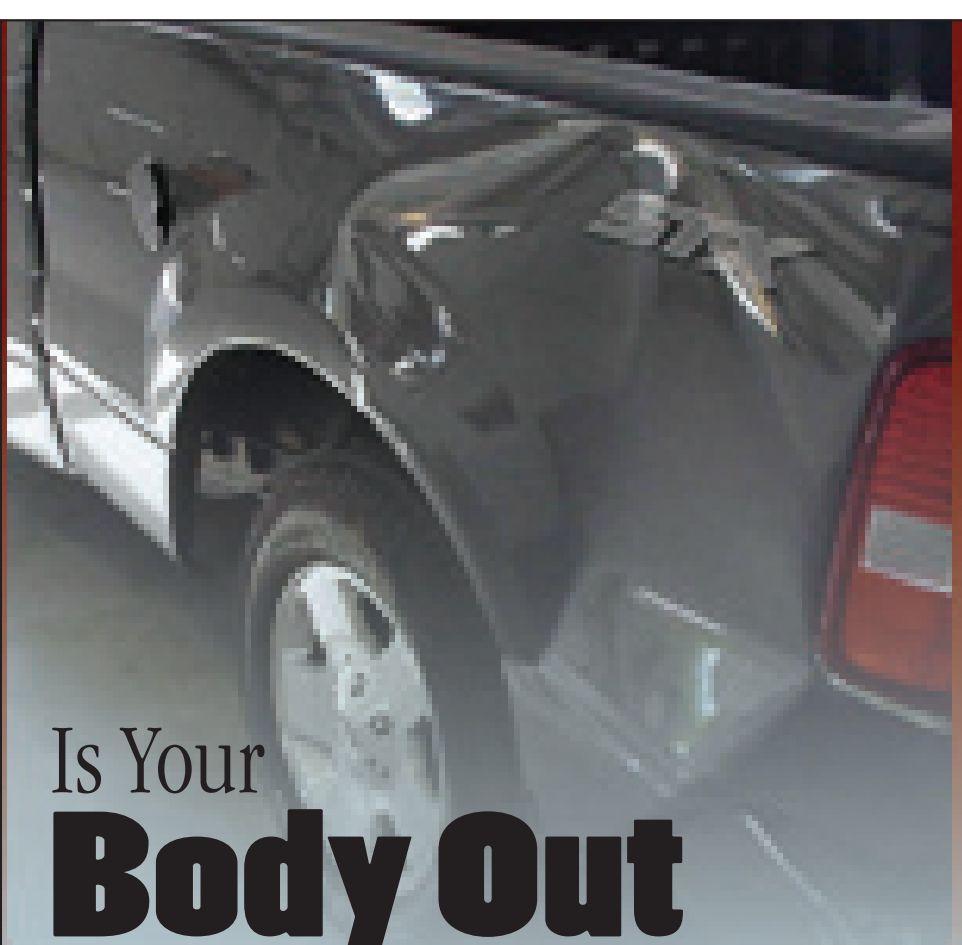
Police waited for an hour for Patriarchias and Gonzales to return before they could enter. Officers discovered a large homemade wooden cage in the corner of a bedroom with the girl inside. The cage had two latches on the

door, a baby crib's mattress inside and was about 2 1/2 feet wide and 4 feet inches tall, police said in a statement.

The girl didn't appear to have any physical injuries, police said. She was placed under the care of New Mexico's child-protection agency.

A police spokesman said Patriarchias had been trying to adopt the girl but hadn't been able to reach the girl's birth mother to get her consent. The girl suffers from microcephaly — a condition that gives people an abnormally small head.

Patriarchias, 33, has been charged with negligently causing child abuse. Gonzales, 37, was charged with negligently permitting child abuse. Court records indicated that they appeared in court Monday but didn't enter pleas.



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