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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS


Tuesday, February 19, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 243

75¢ Central Park's trees need attention | Cheney's 2 cents on Obama's team | **p4** Pampa varsity boys lose scrimmage **pB2** Danica Patrick first woman to win NASCAR pole | **pB1**
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription

Once a Marine, always a Marine

■ Pampa veteran remembers fallen heroes of Iwo Jima.

By SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

Former Marine Corps Corporal Larry Ray flew his American flag high today in observance of Iwo Jima Day, to honor all of the fallen heroes who have served in the American armed forces, and especially those who fought for this country during the iconic World War II battle in the South Pacific.

"Iwo Jima is really close to me," said Ray, who served during peacetime between the Korea and Vietnam wars. Ray was honorably discharged in 1962.

But there's a special reason Ray observes Iwo Jima Day, a very personal reason.

Ray's wife, Lynn, had been diagnosed with breast cancer in the late 1990s.

They decided Lynn would receive cancer treatment at a center in Tulsa, Okla.

One day, while Lynn was recovering from a round of chemotherapy, Larry went for a walk around the hospital campus. On that walk, Larry saw a car with a personalized license plate displaying the famous image of the soldiers planting an American flag on the beach at Iwo Jima. The car had a second license plate in the front that listed the battles of Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, which caught Larry's attention.

FALLEN cont. on page 5



Photo by Sasha Heller
 Former U.S. Marine Larry Ray flies his American flag high today in observance of Iwo Jima Day.

Overland Group to meet Wed. with residents

STAFF REPORT

The Overland Property Group will host an informational meeting Wednesday evening to answer any questions citizens may have regarding a potential affordable housing development in the north-east portion of the city.

The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium.

Overland developer Brett Johnson will be present to answer questions and address concerns.

The City of Pampa released a statement of facts last week concerning the proposed housing development. The city's position:

• Is not clear about whether it endorses the project. The city's statement follows:

"City staff has an obligation to meet with developers when requested to answer their questions and discuss items of concern. Overland Group has met with the City of Pampa to ask questions and obtain data to which we have provided. These types of meetings take place several times per year with numerous developers and we always strive to be open and helpful to those wishing to build in our city. When requested, the City of Pampa meets with

OVERLAND cont. on page 5

County approves \$9K for furniture at airport terminal



Photo by Sasha Heller

Judson Eddins, with Texas Furniture, discusses with Gray County commissioners choices for furnishings at the new terminal at Perry-Lefors Airport.

By SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Commissioners Court heard a presentation from Judson Eddins, with Texas Furniture, at the County Commission meeting Friday, regarding the county's plan for furnishings at the new hangar at Perry-Lefors Airport. Eddins said he had visited the Borger Airport to study the furnishings being used there and he also visited with the Lefors Airport personnel to inquire about what they would like.

The County Commission voted unanimously to approve a \$9,000 budget to cover the costs of: three sofas, four club chairs, two coffee tables, four end tables, four chairs and two high tables with chairs.

Eddins said the furnishings selected by the commissioners are made of quality materials and will offer plenty of utility and comfort in a social setting like the airport lobby.

AIRPORT cont. on page 5

Deadline for comment on lesser prairie chicken March 11

■ Information meeting on efforts to keep bird off threatened species lists held in Canadian.

By TIMOTHY P. HOSWARE
 thosware@thepampanews.com

The deadline to submit comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the potential listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species is March 11.

The bird could be designated as a threatened species, which is one step away from being listed as endangered, on Sept. 30.

The bird is a member of the grouse family and lives on open ranges in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas and Colorado.

Ninety-six percent of the bird's habitat is on private land, and placing the bird under protection of the federal USFWS could negatively impact ranching and the oil and gas industry, which are staples to the Panhandle economy. Currently, a landowner seeking an

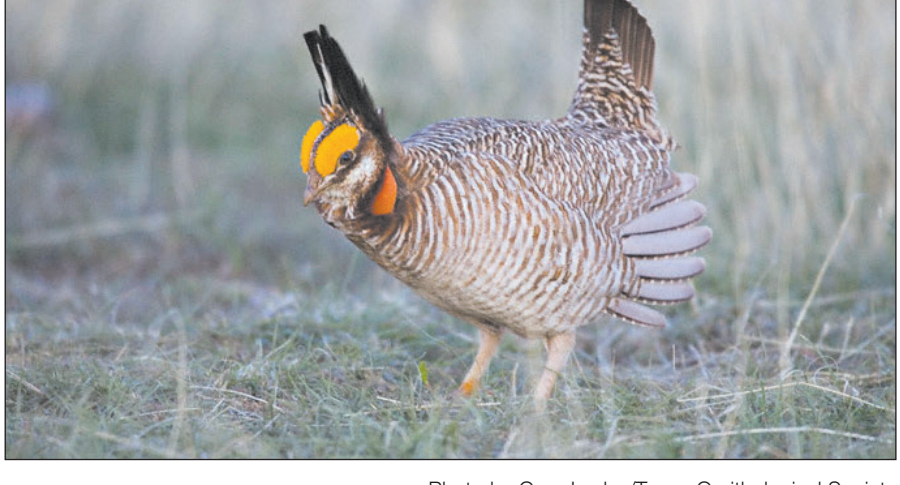


Photo by Greg Lasley/Texas Ornithological Society


The lesser prairie chicken, which has habitats in five western states including Texas, could be placed on the threatened species list in September, which could have a negative impact on ranching and the oil and gas industry.

oil and gas permit goes to the Texas Railroad Association, the regulatory agency that oversees oil and gas in the state, and the permitting process takes two or three weeks.

But if the process was regulated by the federal instead of state government, a permit could take months to obtain, and

a third party could contest that permit, said Wayne Hughes, executive vice president of the Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association (PPROA) at an information meeting held Friday in Canadian.

PPROA is the trade association representing ranchers and oil and gas producers. **LISTING** cont. on page 6

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 Comics 6B
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High 52 Low 33	High 43 Low 33	High 54 Low 25

Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 52. Chance of rain 10 percent. Winds south southeast at 20 percent. Sunrise at 7:26 a.m.

Tuesday night: Mostly cloudy with a low of 33. No chance of rain. Winds south southeast at 22 mph. Sunset at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Isolated thunderstorms with a high of 43. Chance of rain 30 percent. Winds southeast at 23 mph. Sunrise at 7:25 a.m.

Wednesday night: Showers and wind with a low of 33. Chance of rain 60 percent. Winds south at 20 mph. Sunset at 6:31 p.m.

Thursday: Sunny and windy with a high of 54. No chance of rain. Winds west northwest at 22 mph. Sunrise at 7:24 a.m.

Thursday night: Mostly clear with a low of 25. No chance of rain. Winds east southeast at 10 mph. Sunset at 6:32 p.m.

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Obituaries

Penni Mileen Pfitzner

Penni Mileen Pfitzner, 47, died Friday in Amarillo. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Blossom Matthews, pastor, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Penni Pfitzner

Penni was born Aug. 21, 1965 in Pampa. She attended schools in Austin and was a 1984 graduate of Lanier High School in Austin. She attended Austin Community College. Penni married Scott Pfitzner on Dec. 22, 1991 in Pampa.

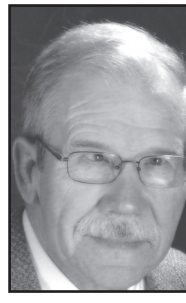
She returned to Pampa in 1999 where she was a member First United Methodist Church and served as an administrative assistant at the church. She was a former member of the Pampa Altrusa Club, and she was an avid quilter. Penni was a beloved wife, mother, and sister and was an inspiration to many.

Survivors include her husband, Scott Pfitzner, of the home; two daughters, Monika Pfitzner of Austin and Allison Pfitzner of Pampa; a son, Karl Pfitzner of Pampa; her stepfather, David Dixon, of Pampa; two brothers, Bob Long and wife DeAnn of Amarillo and Thomas Long of Pampa; and by a granddaughter, Lillian Elaine Patin, of Austin. Penni was preceded in death by her father, Jack Long, and by her mother, Billie Dixon. Memorials may be made to the Penni Pfitzner Benefit Fund, c/o National Bank of Commerce, P. O. Box 2750, Pampa, TX 79066-2750.

Sign the online register book at [Carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

Paul F. Thompson

Paul F. Thompson, 77, died Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013 in White Deer. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa with Pastor Gary Snider, associate pastor of Friends and Family Worship Center of Amarillo, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Paul Thompson

Mr. Thompson was born June 29, 1935 in Clinton, Okla. He was raised in the Clinton and Hobart, Okla. areas and attended schools there. Paul married Alice Archibald in 1956 in Vernon, Texas. He and his family moved to the Pampa and White Deer area in 1968 where he had resided until his death. Paul worked as a welder and mechanic for Moran Drilling Co. and Siv-

alls, Inc., retiring in 2000. In his spare time, he liked the outdoors where he enjoyed travelling in his RV and fishing. He also enjoyed his family, especially attending his grandchildren's sporting events. Above all, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend.

Survivors include his wife, Alice Thompson, of the home; two daughters, Donna Caskey and husband Mike of Pampa and Staci Cochran of Thomas, Okla.; a son, Rick Thompson and wife Lucy of Harrah, Okla.; a sister, Frances Harless of Hobart, Okla.; five granddaughters, Jennifer Harper of Amarillo, Crystal Simms and husband Justin of Noble, Okla., Candra Mizeski and husband Christopher of Mineral Wells, Madison Cochran of Thomas, Okla., and Emilee Thompson of Harrah; two grandsons, Shawn Caskey of Amarillo and Josh Cochran of New Braunfels; six great grandchildren; a brother-in-law, Jack Archibald, and wife Tillie of Altus, Okla., and a sister-in-law, Dollie Orman of Canon City, Colo. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, six sisters, and three brothers. Memorials may be made to Skellytown Senior Citizens in Skellytown.

For the record

Pair of Pampanans arrested for unrelated burglaries

- 49-year-old Martin Merkie Martinez, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for burglary of a habitat with intent to commit another felony.
- 30-year-old Travis Frank Berryman, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the PPD for theft of property and burglary of a habitat.

rested Friday by the PPD for theft of property and burglary of a habitat.

• 38-year-old Ricky Diaz, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by the Pampa Police Department on Sunday for unauthorized use of vehicle.

• 57-year-old Lori Painter, White Deer, was arrested Sunday by the PPD for theft of property — more than \$50 and less than \$500.

• 55-year-old Larry Scriggs, Pampa, was arrested Monday by the PPD on a warrant from another county for violation of probation — aggressive kidnapping and violation of probation — burglary of a building.

• 26-year-old Austin Chase McCarthy, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the PPD for no drivers license and failure to appear.

• 33-year-old Gregory Beavers, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the PPD for non-payment of child support — Moore County.

• 51-year-old Gerald Roland Janssen, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the PPD for possession of marijuana and disorderly conduct — language.

• 31-year-old Eric Paul Carr, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the PPD for theft of property — Bosque County.

• 30-year-old Timothy James Adcock, Canadian, was arrested Friday by the GCSO for capias pro fine — possession of drug paraphernalia.

• 28-year-old Benjamin Richard Reyna, McLean, was arrested Saturday by the GCSO for public intoxication.

• 44-year-old David Allen David, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by the Department of Public Safety for theft of property by check.

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SWEETS FOR A SWEETHEART



Submitted photo
Bill Hite of Heard Jones held a drawing recently for a two-pound, 10-ounce box of Valentine's Day candy from Russell Stover. The winner was 5-year-old Natalie Frye (daughter of Blake and Paige Frye).

Obit

Continued From Page 1

at Coronado Healthcare Center, Pampa Regional Medical Center, and Interim Hospice. Survivors include two sons, Jackie Taylor and wife Carolyn, and Larry Taylor and

wife Janet, all of Pampa; two sisters, Lee Nelson and Dee Crews, both of Tacoma, Washington; 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews, and lots of loving friends. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, John Hagen and Katie Gressett; a son, George Taylor; a grandson, Donnie Taylor;

a brother, Joe Hagen; a sister, Anna Carrico and a brother, John "Buster" Hagen.

Memorials may be made to Bible Baptist Church, 500 E. Kingsmill, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

North Texas teacher disciplined after incident

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — A teacher at a North Texas school was suspended after she deposited pencil shavings in the mouth of an eighth-grader who had fallen asleep in class.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports the teacher at Boles Junior High School was disciplined following the incident last month. The district did not identify the teacher. The

actions of the teacher were "unacceptable" and the school district informed the student's mother of the incident, the district said in a statement. But Kyev Tatum, president of the Texas Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Fort Worth, wants to meet with school officials.

He's concerned because he said the eighth-grader is black and was targeted.

Airport

Continued From Page 1

The approved budget for furnishings will also cover the costs of installing a TV in the hangar.

Judge Richard Peet stressed the importance of buying the furnishings from a local vendor.

In other business, the commission voted unanimously to allocate \$1,571 to change out a water heater at the airport.

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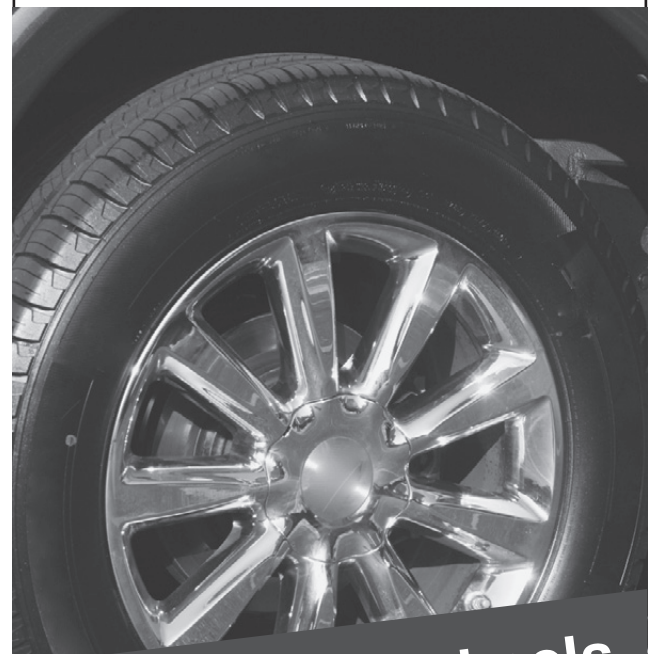
Correction

An article in Saturday's edition titled "An original love story" had an incorrect spelling of the car dealership that Dick Stowers serves as vice president. The correct spelling is Culberson-Stowers. Also, Dick's son Richard is one of the owners. The Pampa News apologizes for the errors.

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Viewpoints

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Pope shows true leadership by resigning

Pope shows true leadership by resigning. Roland S. Martin. When Thurgood Marshall retired from the U.S. Supreme Court in June 1991, a reporter asked him what were the medical reasons that contributed to him leaving the bench — and its lifetime appointment — after serving for nearly 25 years. He was his usual blunt self. “What’s wrong with me?” Justice Marshall said at the packed news conference. “I’m old. I’m getting old and falling apart.”

When the news broke this week that Pope Benedict XVI was stepping down as the spiritual leader of 1.2 billion Roman Catholics due to his concerns about being able to do the job, many began to speculate that there were other reasons for the decision. We have become accustomed to a pope dying in office. That’s not a surprise. It has been nearly 600 years since the last pope, Gregory XII, quit in 1415. Even though the appointment of pope is a lifetime appointment, frankly, it is selfish of any individual to hold on to the job for dear life, knowing full well they didn’t have the capacity to do the job.

“Strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me,” according to a statement from Pope Benedict released by the Vatican. Whether we want to be honest or not, it was sad to watch the decline of Pope John Paul II. He was a vibrant figure when he became pope in 1978, traveling the world and spreading the gospel to anyone who would

listen. But towards the end of his life in 2005, he was barely able to move or talk, clearly worn down by significant health challenges.

Any leader who respects the organization they serve should have the common sense to know when it’s time to say goodbye. We’ve seen countless examples of CEOs, pastors, politicians and others hanging onto a position of power, hurting the very people they were elected or chosen to serve.

It takes considerable courage for anyone to step away from a powerful position, as well as the trappings that come with it.

I’ll leave it to others to try and figure out other reasons behind the resignation. But we should at least acknowledge the value of an ego-less decision that reflects humility and concern about the very institution to which he pledged his life.

Any leader should be concerned about the institution they serve continuing to grow and thrive once their days are no more. That’s why a proper succession plan is vitally important. Too often we have assessed a great leader by what they did in the position. But their final legacy really is defined by how they left a place.

Pope Benedict XVI knows full well the Catholic Church cannot grow and prosper if its leader is limited in traveling and attending to his flock. There comes a time when one chapter must end and another begins. He has more days behind him than in front of him. He should enjoy his last years in peace and tranquility, without having to worry about trying to do the work designed for a younger man.

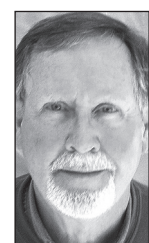
Roland S. Martin is an award-winning CNN analyst and author of the book “The First: President Barack Obama’s Road to the White House as Originally Reported by Roland S. Martin.”

Prairie Plains Perspective

Trees in Central Park in need of help

Over the past month or so, something about Central Park has been bugging me, so I decided to call our parks and street director to discuss the source of my vexation.

Actually, the park has been on my mind for quite awhile. Due to this ongoing drought, the trees Pampa’s forefathers were gracious enough to plant for citizens future enjoyment are quite stressed. Continual lack of moisture eventually affects a stressed tree’s resistance, which leads to insectivora attack. Extreme heat and cold temperatures weaken thirsty trees even more.



DENNIS PALMITIER

Essentially, everything harsh that Mother Nature can throw in our trees direction She has done. If readers will take a looksee at all the park’s trees, many are with dead branches that need to be taken off before they snap due to a good mega blow, come crashing down courtesy Mr. Newton’s theory and possibly hurt someone. Of late, it doesn’t look like Mother Nature’s bad mood She has impacted upon our region is going to abate any time soon, and it also doesn’t look like the city will expend monies for watering and pruning needs for the trees. The future for Central Park’s trees certainly does not bode well.

What has caused more issue with me of late in regard to Central Park is the new kids jungle gym, squirrel workout, or whatever the contraption is called that was erected on the

southeast corner of the park adjacent to Duncan Street. Something was overlooked by our Streets and Parks Department in the installation of the new playground equipment.

My bugginess developed as a result of a phone conversation I had recently with Pampa’s streets and parks director. He was gracious in returning my call, but when I spoke my concern, the gentleman became quite unwavering in regard to my issue and it’s relevance.

All trees have what the Dirt Doctor (look him up on the Internet) and arborists call a “root flare.” A root flare is the part of a tree’s trunk that meets the topsoil and flares out any number of inches before descending downward as an actual root. The root flare is essential to a tree’s growth, where a goodly portion of all things benefiting the tree are absorbed. Completely cover a tree’s root flare and problems develop, namely malabsorption and decay issues which can and ultimately will lead to a tree’s demise. That is what has happened when the city constructed the new jungle gym. Three of the park’s trees root flares where the jungle gym was placed have been covered up. Per Pampa’s streets and parks director, the cover up cannot be corrected.

I was told something about the jungle gym’s completed specs that correcting the tree issue would violate playground statutes. I thought about letting my fingers walk the computer keyboard and look up state or federal playground statutes, but quickly thought a resounding “you’ve got to be kidding me, I ain’t gonna do that” because I can

well imagine the size of a regulations tome, particularly after a government dweeb finishes writing such.

Besides, with the trees in mind it’s plain and simple: Our parks department did not, first, correctly plan; and second, perform the playground construction correctly. Had they done so, the trees root flares would be visible. And quite frankly, I think hiding behind a “we can’t correct it” mentality is lame and typical government reaction to a wrong.

OK, I confess there is a tree hugger gene or four in my DNA make-up. And, because of that fact, many a reader might be thinking why am I making such a big deal over three trees. As I mentioned above, Central Park’s trees are in critical need of help and to date the city has shown no interest in the trees’ care.

I can guarantee you if not remedied, the three trees with root flares covered will die. I can also guarantee there is many a tree in Central Park with dead branches that need to be trimmed as soon as possible and reiterate, they will prove Newton correct. If our city management is not concerned with our Central Park’s trees, they should be so and had better jump on the bandwagon before things get worse for the trees. Worse could perhaps be liability issues where a branch suddenly snaps and come crashing down on a park goer.

If a reader were to pay the Pampa Chamber of Commerce a visit, there is a rack of brochures available for any and all takers. One of the brochures touts the tourist attraction of our Central Park. That is certainly not the case today.



ROLAND MARTIN



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.

We reserve the right to edit letters or not to publish certain letters.

By U.S. mail:

Letters
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403 W. Atchison
Pampa, Texas
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By E-mail:

thowsare@thepampanews.com

Why Cheney disdains the ‘2nd rate’ Obama team

No doubt President Obama was deeply stung over the weekend to hear Dick Cheney criticize his new national security team. At a Wyoming



JOE CONASON

Republican Party dinner, the former vice president brisly dismissed Obama’s choices as “dismal,” saying that America needs “good people” rather than the “second-rate” figures selected by the president, particularly Vietnam veteran and long-time U.S. senator Chuck Hagel, nominated by the president as Secretary of Defense.

For sage advice on security policy and personnel, after all, there is no living person whose approval could be more meaningful than Cheney. It is hard to imagine a record as profoundly impressive as that of the Bush-Cheney administration, back when everyone knew that he was really in charge of everything important — especially the war on

terrorism, the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan.

True, Cheney’s intelligence apparatus failed to capture or kill Osama bin Laden after 9/11 — indeed, failed to prevent the 9/11 attacks, despite ample warnings that began with Bill Clinton’s farewell message in January 2001 and culminated in a blaring President’s Daily Brief from the CIA in August 2001. True, Cheney’s defense command allowed bin Laden and Mullah Omar to escape following the invasion of Afghanistan, while American and NATO troops slogged through that deadly conflict without a plausible goal or even an exit strategy. And true, the national security cabinet run by Cheney misled the nation into war against Iraq, on false premises, without adequate preparation or clear objectives, at a cost of many thousands of lives and trillions of dollars. And true, too, the ultimate result was to embarrass the United States repeatedly while increasing the regional power of the mullahs in Iran.

How can Obama pre-

sume to compare his own record with all of that?

Obviously Cheney’s success cannot be measured by achievement alone. That wouldn’t be fair at all. No, his success resides in the capacity to commit disastrous misconduct and malfeasance in office and still be taken seriously by the serious people in Washington, D.C.

If only the president were sensible enough to appoint figures of the same caliber as Cheney’s choices in the Bush years — men such as Donald Rumsfeld, whose capacity to deceive the public remains unequaled a full decade after he first declared utter certainty about the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein’s huge, perilous cache of “weapons of mass destruction.”

“We know where they are. They’re in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south and north somewhat,” explained Rummy somewhat inanely. He also assured us that the Iraqi people would warmly welcome U.S. troops, that the war would require a commitment of no more than six months and that

we wouldn’t need to send an overwhelming force of troops to prevail.

Like his old comrade and boss Cheney, Rumsfeld remained perfectly arrogant and absolutely rigid to the end and beyond, even as all his predictions and promises proved tragically hollow. Even when he came under attack by the neoconservative propaganda apparatus, led by Weekly Standard editor William Kristol, for “glibly passing the buck” for administration failures, Rumsfeld never admitted any fault or responsibility. Leaving office in disgrace, he spent years composing a farrago of falsehoods to be published between hard covers, seeking to justify his reign of error — and topped the bestseller lists following a triumphant tour of television and radio.

Now there was a first-rate Defense Secretary. President Obama, please take note.

To find out more about Joe Conason and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Fallen

Continued From Page 1

Larry went back to his wife's room and wrote a gratitude note to the owner of the car and left it under the windshield wiper. Later that night, the owner of the car, Lloyd Densmore, called Larry, thanked him for the note, and a friendship was born. Densmore said he and his wife regularly serve at the cancer center as volunteers and would return the following Thursday. "So we went down and met him and a lifetime friendship was formed," he said. In 2002, Densmore invited the Rays to a reunion for the 2nd Armored Amphibious Battalion,

a unit Densmore had served with, and the group inducted Larry as an honorary member. Larry attended seven of the group's reunions. Larry said the members, who were getting older, had considered disbanding the group. However, Larry offered to host the reunion every year in Pampa. The group had been meeting every two years. Ultimately, the unit voted to disband in 2011 due to health issues. "Those guys are heroes to me, actually being a Marine," Larry said. So why will Larry fly the American flag high today? "Bottom line, because I am a former Marine," he said. "Iwo Jima is probably the most iconic battle ever fought by the Marine



Corps. Iwo Jima is hallowed ground for the Marines." After his discharge, Larry worked for Diamond Shamrock Oil Company for 33 years. Larry and Lynn have two children, Randy, a teacher and author in Canyon, and a daughter, Kristi, in Cedar Rapids. Larry also performs Taps at memorial services and volunteers at the VFA in Pampa.



Photos by Sasha Heller
Above: This is a model of an LVTract A-4 tank, which was used by the Marines to land on Iwo Jima. Left: Ray displays a canister of volcanic ash and black sand from the beach at Iwo Jima.

Overland

Continued From Page 1

developers so that they are armed with the best information possible and with knowledge of all issues regarding their project." At no point in that block quote does the city offer any endorsement, one way or the other, regarding the affordable housing development. • The property is zoned multi-family residential. "The property in questions is two separate plats and was zoned multi-family by two separate ordinances — one in 1979 and the other in 1982. The property has not been re-zoned by the owners since then. The owner of the property is the only one who can legally request a re-zone and the current designation cannot be changed by the City of Pampa or neighboring residents," from a statement by the city. • Not all elected officials can impact this project's development. "The only role that the City Commission has is to approve or deny any assistance, if requested by the developer. No official request for assistance has been made by the Overland Group. If any requests are made, they will go before the City Commission in an open meeting that would require a vote for approval," from a statement by the city. • Denial of a re-plat cannot stop the project; and the city has not denied Overland Group requests to develop other properties in Pampa, including east Harvester Street. The location of the 48-unit, multi-family housing development is east of Navajo Road and between Laguna Road and Sioux Place. Around 120 residents gathered last week at Calvary Baptist Church to raise concerns about the proposed apartment complex planned for their neighborhood.

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Listing

Continued From Page 1

representing independent petroleum producers, service companies and mineral royalty owners in the Texas Panhandle, western Oklahoma and southwestern Kansas.

The meeting was held to inform landowners and other interested parties of the potential consequences of listing the bird on the threatened species list and to encourage them to write the USFWS to request a 90-day extension on the public comment period.

Doug Fisk, president of PPROA, said before the meeting he is "extremely concerned" USFWS is investigating listing the bird.

Though over the years the bird's habitat has contracted by 80 percent, state officials and landowners alike say that all wildlife in the state has suffered from the two-year drought.

Fisk and other officials at the meeting, including State Rep. Ken King and State Sen. Seliger, empha-

sized that private landowners — not the federal government — are the best stewards of the state's vast grasslands.

"We have been working on an industry approach for the past three years," Fisk said.

Sean Kyle, a wildlife diversity biologist with Texas Parks & Wildlife, said ranchers and oil and gas producers can enter into voluntary agreements with the USFWS, called Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCA), to manage the species on their property.

Kyle said if a company wants to develop a piece of land, they would contact a biologist who would assess the quality of the habitat.

The biologist could recommend anything from not drilling at all if the area was a breeding ground for the birds to placing marker tape on fence lines to prevent the birds from flying into them, he said.

Hughes encouraged anyone concerned about the potential listing to contact the USFWS in writing. He stressed not to make politi-



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

State Rep. Ken King, left, and State Sen. Kel Seliger listen during a public information meeting on the potential listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species Friday at the Palace Theater in Canadian.

cal statements, emotional appeals or write about how listings the bird would cause economic hardship.

Rather, Hughes advised asking the USFWS for a 90-day extension to the comment periled so any new science on the bird's population can be evaluated.

Written comments can be sent to:

Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0071; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.

For more information or to view a PowerPoint presentation of Friday's information meeting, visit www.pproa.org.

Two SS maximizing strategies often confused

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Every single day, I get dozens of emails from readers asking me if they should "file and suspend" their Social Security benefits — many times without really knowing what they are asking. They maybe heard that term from a friend or neighbor. Perhaps they attended a retirement seminar and listened as some financial advisor told them that by employing this "file and suspend" practice, they could maximize their Social Security benefits. They might even have read a past column of mine in which I discussed two maximizing strategies — "file and suspend" and the "restricted application" — but my explanations sailed right over their heads.

So I will try yet another time to explain these rules that generally help couples that are each approaching retirement age at about the same time to get more benefits in the long run. But first, a bit of background:

If you take reduced Social Security benefits at any age before 66, the law says you must file for any and all benefits for which you are eligible. For example, if you are a woman who has worked and paid into Social Security, you cannot file for reduced wife's benefits on your husband's record at 62, and then at 66, switch to full benefits on your own account. (Please note that widows are an exception. They can make the switch at any age.)

But everything changes if you wait until age 66. At that age, you can "restrict" your Social Security application to one benefit or another, and put off taking the other benefit until a later date, usually age 70.

So that same woman we were talking about two paragraphs back could file for Social Security benefits at age 66, restricting her application to spousal benefits only, and continue to receive those dependent's benefits until age 70, at which point she could switch to her own retirement rate, which would come with a 32 percent delayed retirement bonus.

But many people who should be employing this restricted application policy mistakenly claim they want to "file and suspend" their benefits. This is a completely separate Social Security maximizing strategy. Simply put, it means you are allowed to file for Social Security benefits at age 66 and then immediately suspend those benefits. There are two reasons why you might want to consider doing this.

The first reason really has nothing to do with a spouse. It would apply to someone who simply wanted to delay filing for his or her Social Security benefits until age 70 to get the 32 percent bonus described above. You could still file for your benefits at age 66, and then immediately suspend those benefits. Why would you want to do this? To protect your eligibility for back benefits if your circumstances change before you reach age 70. For example, if serious health issues afflict you in your late 60s, you may decide it is no longer worth it to delay your Social Security until age 70. You could then "unsuspend" your benefits and receive back pay benefits to age 66. (Of course, you would no longer be due the delayed retirement bonus.)

Had you not filed for your Social Security benefits (and then suspended them) at age 66, you would not have been able to claim the retroactive benefits once you changed your mind.

And under this "file and suspend" plan, if you remain healthy or your circumstances don't otherwise change, you simply "unsuspend" your benefits at age 70 at which point you will be credited with the full delayed retirement bonus.

The second reason you might want to "file and suspend" at age 66 involves a spouse — and this is where all the confusion creeps in. It can apply if you have a spouse who has not worked, and thus has no Social Se-

curity benefits on his or her

own record. Or as is more often the case, you have a spouse who has worked and is due a smaller benefit on his or her own account. The simplest example involves the former. Bill is turning 66 but wants to keep working until 70 to get his full Social Security benefit and the 32 percent bonus. His wife Mary is 62 and hasn't worked enough to get her own benefit. Bill can file for his Social Security at age 66 so Mary can start getting reduced wife's benefits on his record. Then Bill suspends his benefits, but Mary continues to receive her spousal check. At 70, Bill "unsuspends" his Social Security and starts getting full benefits and the bonus. Mary continues to receive her reduced spousal rate.

But things get more confusing if we have a spouse who has worked and has her own Social Security. Let's follow an example. Joe is 66 and is due \$2,400 per month from Social Security. His wife, Jill, is 62. Her full retirement rate on her own record is \$1,800, but she is due \$1,350 in re-

duced benefits at 62. In this case, Joe can do one of two things. He can "file and suspend" or he can restrict his application. (Please note that you can't do both: You can choose one maximizing strategy or the other!)

If he files and suspends, that means he would file for his own Social Security at 66 and immediately suspend those benefits until age 70, at which point he would "unsuspend" and collect his full benefit plus the 32 percent bonus. Jill is out of the picture in this "file and suspend" scenario. She would simply start getting her own reduced retirement benefits at 62.

Joe's better option in this case would be to employ the restricted application policy. This means that at age 66, Joe would file for Social Security but restrict his application to husband's benefits only (assuming Jill had filed at age 62.). Joe would collect a husband's benefit on Jill's record (50 percent of her age 66 rate) until age 70. At that point, he could terminate his husband's benefits and start getting his full retirement rate, which would come with that 32 percent bonus.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.



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Lent devotionals by Mike Sublett

Day 6 – Tuesday
Scripture: Mt 23:27, 37-39

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ (The Gospels Interwoven,)

Devotional:

In the seven woes of condemnation issued against the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23, in stall No. 6, Jesus paints a vivid portrait. His verbal strokes give life to a cold, chilling picture of a spotless white coffin; so beautiful on the outside, but full of a rotting corpse. They placed so much emphasis on minor spiritual externals that major league qualities in character that concerned God so much were left untouched. They completely missed God’s cruise liner; it left them at the dock and sailed away.

Then suddenly, in the midst of this blistering of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus could hide His love no longer and burst out in these words.

“... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” Even to the most arrogantly evil snobs He could not withhold words of His love.

Usually when I read this scripture I comfort myself with words of assurance that I am not like the scribes or the Pharisees. And in part that is true; maybe even mostly true. But not 100 percent true. There are times when I get mixed up and confuse the mountains and the molehills. It almost always follows a time of temptation when I did not say, “Get behind me, Satan.” Rather I gave in to the eerie voice whispering, “It’s OK.

Go on ahead.” During this season of Lent I must ask myself, “How often have I been like the Pharisees? How often the wandering chick; totally oblivious to the dangers around, ignoring His loving wings of protection?”

How ever often it has been, it has been too often. Again, Lord, I repent. I sing to You the words of John Michael Talbot’s song “Create In Me A Clean Heart”.

“Create in me a clean heart oh God Let me be like you in all my ways

Give me your strength, teach me your song Shelter me in the shadow of your wings

For we are your righteousness If we die to ourselves and live through your death

Then we shall be born again to be blessed in your love!”

Prayer:

Jehovah Jireh, You are the God who provides what we need to do Your will. And Lord God, I know that it is Your will that I be pure on both the inside and the outside. So Father God, rescue me from my confusion, my mixed-up-ness. Bless me with the discernment that I need to defeat Satan’s daily assaults.

Lord Jesus, please help me repent. I know that You will not do for me what I can do for myself because in that doing I confirm that You are my Lord. But, sweet Jesus, I sometimes run from You when I know better; sometimes in ignorance, sometimes in stubbornness. Help me hurdle both of these stumbling blocks. I promise to give You the glory for the victory. Amen.

Day 7 – Wednesday
Scripture: Mk 12:41-44; Lk 21:1-4

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put. He looked up and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in everything—all she had to live

on.” (The Gospels Interwoven,)

Devotional:

They were so small that, as you can see, they almost disappeared in the tiny hands of the widow. They weighed almost nothing, were worth almost nothing and they hardly made a sound when she dropped them into the collection at the Temple. They were so common that hardly anyone even noticed them; kind of like pennies these days. But that day in heaven, at Jehovah’s throne, the gong heard when she dropped those 2 coins was nearly deafening. How often has my giving made angels near God’s throne cover their ears? The widow’s giving did. What about mine?

She was not only completely sacrificial, but the reality of her poverty did not cause her to withhold her last 2 coins for her personal needs. I wonder what she had for dinner that night and the next and the next. She gave because she was a giver. Do I give because I am a giver?

Prayer:

Lamb of God, no one ever gave like You; not even the widow. So if anyone can teach me and help me be a giver it is You. So my prayer is very simple: Lord, please help me. Teach me. Take me by the hand, lead me in Your steps. And please don’t stop until I am a giver. Amen.

Day 8 – Thursday
Scripture: Mt 25:1-13

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.” Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’

“But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (The Gos-

pels Interwoven,)

Devotional:

They were cheap and common, but essential for all activity after sundown. They were constructed from the ordinary clay/dirt that was just about everywhere. Then even unskilled laborers could mold the clay into a flat holder with 2 arms-1 as a handle, the other as the wick holder. All that was then needed was some oil and a flame and viola! Sounds simple enough, huh?

As His final day drew closer Jesus began to turn the heat up in His words. He told the story of 5 foolish, unprepared virgins who said they wanted desperately to attend a wedding. But their desperation did not lead them to prepare. There were also 5 wise, fully equipped virgins who yearned to share in the same wedding banquet. Their yearning motivated them to prepare properly. The Bridegroom came and only the prepared were admitted.

It was a story of judgment. Many people confuse Jesus with some “always warm and fuzzy” person who never said anything harsh. Jesus was often harsh; especially during His final week.

How often has He come for me for something special He has planned, only to find me unprepared, useless?

What would it be like for my lamp to be empty on that final day when He comes with His mighty angels and the trumpet is blown? I don’t even want to think about that. Therefore, Lord, by Your grace I will keep my lamp full. I won’t wait until I run out of oil to replenish the supply. I will come to You each day to be refilled by Your Holy Spirit. I will, Lord; I really will. I promise.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, over 200 years ago You filled Your servant John Newton with the gut wrenching and inspirational words, “I once was lost, but now I’m found.” So plain, so simple, so powerful. For most of his life he was not prepared to meet You, his lamp was empty. But then one day he fell at Your feet and You filled Him with Yourself and he was never the same again. There was a time when my lamp was empty, when I didn’t care about You or Your will. Tears arise every time I reflect on those days. Holy Spirit, please fill me each day when I report for filling. And should I ever forget for even part of a day to seek Your fullness, please whack me, correct me, discipline me. Being full of You means more to me than anyone or anything. So fill me now and fill me every day. Amen.

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Please attach the following form to your photos. Photos submitted without this information will not be considered. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish you photos returned. Mail completed form and photos to Photography Contest, The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, TX 79065.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone # (____) ____ - _____

The names of people in the photo (if any) from left to right, front row to back row _____

Description of photo _____

Submission by email: Send the form information with the photo(s) attached to thowsare@thepampanews.com. Photos should be sent in high resolution, .jpg format.

Contest rules—Each photo submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting it and must have been taken since Jan. 1, 2012. The photos cannot have appeared previously in any other publication or contest. The Pampa News will publish all the winners, and many of the other submissions in our annual Pride issue in March.

PUPPY LOVE



Submitted photo McKenzie Woods, daughter of Keith and ReDonn Woods, won the Valentine's Day drawing for kid patients at Dr. Jay Johnson's DDS office. The prize was a stuffed puppy dog that records sound.

Married for 82 years, La. couple still going strong

By CHEVEL JOHNSON
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Together, Norman and Norma Burmah went through much of the Great Depression, World War II, the social upheavals of the 1960s and seeing the New Orleans Saints win a Super Bowl.

To mark their 82 years of marriage, Gov. Bobby Jindal honored them on Valentine's Day as Louisiana's longest known married couple. He also recognized nine other couples married 73 years or longer.

The Burmahs — Norman is 102, Norma 99 — exchanged wedding vows on Jan. 26, 1931, and are believed to be the longest-living married couple in the United States. Guinness World Records lists Herbert and Zelmyra Fisher, of North Carolina, as holding the record for the longest marriage. They were married May 13, 1924 — 86 years, 9 months and 16 days as of Feb. 27, 2011, the day Herbert Fisher died at age 105.

In a telephone interview Thursday with The Associated Press, the Burmahs said making any relationship last as long as theirs takes patience and a lot of love.

"And trust," she added.

"And attention," he said.

When asked how she and her husband had managed to stay together for such a long time, Norma Burmah said: "To tell you the truth, we are Catholics and we don't believe in divorce and separation. That's one reason."

Norman Burmah said it was love at first sight when he met his wife for the first time at church one Sunday morning. Asked whether she felt that way as well, he said, "I think so."

Later, Norma Burmah echoed his sentiment. "Yes, yes it was," she said, softly.

The Burmahs live independently though they get a "little help" from an aide who comes in daily, Norman Burmah said, but he added that his wife still cooks for him sometimes.

"She often gets up and makes coffee and she'll sometimes poach an egg or fix French toast," he said.

The Burmahs once owned a private catering company in New Orleans where they spent most of their lives until Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home in eastern New Orleans. Now, they live near their daughter in Marks-

ville. Norman Burmah said sustaining a marriage is not always easy. "But it's what I promised to do so many years ago and I practice it every day. It's nothing extra, it's just normal. It takes love, attention and patience."

He said he doesn't often give young people advice on keeping their marriages strong, mainly because women have become so independent and younger generations aren't always willing to work to get the results.

"When they (women) started working at the beginning of World War II and put on those pants, I think now they don't depend on a man like they

used to. In fact, I think the man is now depending on them," he said.

He said younger couples often have made up their minds about whether to continue a marriage.

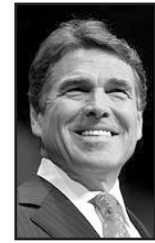
"But by tomorrow, they've changed their minds again," he said. "I say 'Give it a try, don't stop and you'll find it's all worthwhile.'"

The Burmahs were unable to attend Thursday's reception at the Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge, where Jindal presented the couples with proclamations recognizing their marriage achievement and gifts, including a bouquet of flowers, books and stuffed "bride and groom" teddy bears.

Gov. Perry appoints 3 to Texas University System Board of Regents

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry has appointed three members to the Texas State University System Board of Regents for terms to expire Feb. 1, 2019.

Charlie Amato of San Antonio is co-founder and chairman of SWBC. He is chair of the University of the Incarnate Word Board of Trustees, vice chairman of the Texas Business Leadership Council, and past chairman of the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County General Campaign. He is a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Business & Community Advisory Board and Archdiocese of San Antonio Catholic Community Foundation, a board member of Christus Santa Rosa Health System, San Antonio Cancer Therapy and Research Center Board of Governors and Lone Star Capital Bank, and chairman of the Lone Star Capital Bank Advisory Board. He is also a member and past chairman of the Texas Business Hall of Fame, and a board member and past chairman of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Amato received a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University. He is reappointed to the board.



Rick Perry

Vernon Reaser III of Bellaire is president of Texas Teachers Alternative Certification and Texas Educators Association Inc. He is a past member of the Texas Association of Realtors and Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas.

He is also a past board member of Victoria Crime Stoppers and past secretary of the Victoria Junior Chamber of Commerce. Reaser received a bachelor's degree and a Master of Business Administration from Texas State University.

William "Bill" Scott of Nederland is chairman and CEO of TransGlobal Solutions Inc. He is a member of the West Gulf Maritime Association, International Dry

Bulk Terminals Society, and American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. He is a member of the Lamar University College of Business Board of Advisors and Capital Campaign Cabinet, and a board member of the Lamar University Foundation, Texas Energy Museum, Symphony of Southeast Texas, and Jefferson and Orange County Board of Pilot Commissioners. He is also past president and executive board member of the Boy Scouts of America Three Rivers Council. Scott received a bachelor's degree from Lamar University. He is reappointed to the board.

These appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.

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O.B. and Jean Elkins

Erica Susanne Smith

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.

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 Mary Adams of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Robert and Lillian Smith of Wichita Falls, Texas.

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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 1st and 15th 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.

PAWS meets second Tuesdays

Pampa Animal Welfare Society meets the first Tuesday of each month in the north meeting room at the Lovett Library. The meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. There is a desperate need for more members, especially when the new shelter opens. PAWS members are needed to work at the shelter from 3-5:30 p.m. each

day and to work adoption days or take animals to the vets when needed, but mostly people are needed to love and work with the animals where they will be more adoptable. For more information, call the shelter after 3 p.m. at 669-5775 and ask for the PAWS volunteer.

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.

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. 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.

Learn about foster parenting

For those in the Pampa area who would like to learn more about foster parenting, Lutheran Social Services is hosting an informative meeting at CASA of the High Plains from 3-6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20. CASA's offices are located at 315 N. Ballard St.

Chamber annual awards banquet

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual awards banquet at 7 p.m., Tuesday Feb. 26, at the M.K. Brown Memoria Auditorium Heritage Room. The cost is \$25 per person and tickets can be purchased at the chamber. For more information, call 806-669-3241.

Monday night dance club

The Monday night dance club meets from 7-9 p.m., each Monday, in the Pampa Chamber of Commerce building on the corner of Ballard and Kingsmill. Admission is \$3. Cold drinks and coffee are offered. The club plays Country music from the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s. For more information, call Della at 806-665-2858.

Carver School alumni, former teachers

Did you attend the Carver School before Pampa School District integrated? Or did you ever teach at Carver School? The Pampa News is working on an ongoing series that documents the Carver School and would like to share your stories, your memories of the school and your experiences there. Contact reporter Sasha Heller at Sheller@thepampanews.com or call the news office at 669-2525.

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.

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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 sec-

ond 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.

Got A Sports Story or Photo?

Send them to zgreen@thepampanews.com or bring it to the paper!

If you don't see it after a week, call us! 669-2525 ext 209

Bunnies taking toll on cars at Denver airport

DENVER (AP) — Silly rabbits.

The furry creatures are wreaking havoc on cars parked at Denver International Airport by eating spark plug cables and other wiring.

To stop the problem, federal wildlife workers are removing at least 100 bunnies a month while parking companies install better fences and build perches for predator hawks and eagles.

Airport spokeswoman Laura Coale says that out of 4.3 million parking transactions in 2012, three claims were submitted for rodent or rabbit damage, and none was submitted with a claim for towing.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A HAPPY HOUND



Submitted photo

The kids at the First Baptist Church Child Development Center held a birthday party for one of their favorite celebrities, Clifford the Big Red Dog. Clifford, who just turned 50, is a cartoon character in a popular PBS educational program. From left, Jezay McNeal, Eljyn Leal, Barrett Helms, Elyvia Terry, Aryanna Anderson, Cameron Johnston and Lauryn Richards.

Knut the polar bear becomes museum display

BERLIN (AP) — Adorable in life, still attracting admirers in death: Knut the polar bear's hide has been mounted on a polyurethane body and is going on display in a Berlin museum.

The Natural History Museum on Friday unveiled the statue prepared by taxidermists featuring the famous Berlin Zoo bear's fur and claws, with the synthetic body and glass eyes.

The display runs through March 15. Knut will then be added to the museum's scientific collections.

Knut was hand-raised after his mother rejected him. He rose to stardom in 2007 as a cuddly cub, appearing on magazine covers, in a film and on mountains of merchandise. He died in 2011 after suffering from encephalitis. The museum dismissed criticism of the decision to display Knut, saying it gives everyone an opportunity to see him.

Belgians hunt boar: No contest, animals win

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgians went on a boar hunt and at first it looked like no contest: 200 hunters vs. 170 wild boars. Yet in the end, only one boar was slain.

As hunter Jef Schrijvers said after a frustrating day: "The boars won. The hunters lost."

The northern town of Postel had organized the hunt because an explosive increase in the boar population had damaged farm fields and woods and caused rural traffic problems.

In a coordinated swoop, the hunters sought to drive the boars together so that marksmen in high positions could shoot them, but the plan didn't work.

Schrijvers told the VRT television network that "the hunt was perfect, safe and correct. Only the result was disappointing."

Israel's Netanyahu freezes ice cream expenses

JERUSALEM (AP) — Following an Israeli newspaper's scoop, the country's prime minister has "frozen" his annual ice cream budget.

Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Sunday said once he was made aware of the state-financed contract issued to purchase ice cream from his favorite Jerusalem parlor he ordered it stopped immediately. Netanyahu called the contract "excessive and unacceptable."

The Israel economic publication "Calcalist" published a list of items on the prime minister's annual expense budget, including \$2,700 for ice cream. Following the publication, Israelis flocked to the "Metudela" ice cream shop near the prime minister's residence to check out his alleged favorite flavors: pistachio and vanilla.

The prime minister's office said the cost included hosting high-ranking officials at the official residence.

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CULBERSON'S Hometown Spotlight

Terry Noble

Terry Noble is one of the Certified Master Technicians specializing in Diesels at Culberson Stowers. He began 2 years ago but recently moved to Pampa in December. He graduated from Clarendon in 1980. He recently married Lesa Noble. Together they have 6 children: Devin Noble of Canyon, Tiffany Brogdin of Clarendon, Chris Howard, Hunter Hall, Destiny and Jessica Hall.

Chris will soon be attending South Plains College in Lubbock. Terry began as an apprentice in the automotive industry in 1980. He has an associates degree in automotive mechanics through GM and over 200 hours of continuing education. "I enjoy working on vehicles and the satisfaction of knowing its fixed right." says Terry. Richard Stowers is excited to have Terry on staff. "Terry is a valuable employee. He is an expert when it comes to diesels."

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PampaSports

Patrick is first woman ever to win NASCAR pole

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Danica Patrick is at her best in the spotlight. Good thing, too, because she's going to be there all week. Patrick won the Daytona 500 pole Sunday, becoming the first woman to secure the top spot for any race in NASCAR's premier circuit. It's by far the biggest achievement of her stock-car career. She's braced for the attention that will follow.

"I think when pressure's on and when the spotlight's on, I feel like it ultimately ends up becoming some of my better moments and my better races and better results," Patrick said. "I just understand that if you put the hard work in before you go out there that you can have a little peace and a little peace of mind knowing that you've done everything you can and just let it happen."

Patrick, who taped interviews Sunday with CNN, ESPN and Good Morning America, was the first woman to lead laps in the Indianapolis 500. She finished third in 2009, the highest finish in that illustrious race for a woman. And she became the only woman to win an IndyCar race when she did it in Japan in 2008.

Her latest stamp in the history books came with a lap at 196.434 mph around Daytona International Speedway. Patrick went out eighth in the qualifying session, then had to wait about two hours as 37 fellow drivers tried to take her spot. Only four-time Cup champion Jeff Gordon even came close to knocking her off the pole. Gordon was the only other driver who topped 196 mph in qualifying. He locked up the other guaranteed spot in next week's season-opening Daytona 500. "It's great to be a part of history with Danica being on the pole," said Gordon, who joked that at least he was the fastest guy. "I think we all know how popular she is, what

this will do for our sport. Congratulations to her. Proud to be on there with her." The rest of the field will be set in duel qualifying races Thursday.

However the lineup unfolds, all drivers — including boyfriend Ricky Stenhouse Jr. — will line up behind Patrick's No. 10 Chevrolet SS. "I was brought up to be the fastest driver, not the fastest girl," she said. "That was instilled in me from very young, from the beginning. Then I feel like thriving in those moments, where the pressure's on, has also been a help for me. I also feel like I've been lucky in my career to be with good teams and have good people around me. I don't think any of it would have been possible without that.

"For those reasons, I've been lucky enough to make history, be the first woman to do many things. I really just hope that I don't stop doing that. We have a lot more history to make. We are excited to do it." Even before her fast lap, Patrick had been the talk of Speedweeks. Not

only did she open up about her budding romance with Stenhouse — Patrick officially filed to end her seven-year marriage to 47-year-old Paul Hostenhal in January — but she was considered the front-runner for the pole after leading practice sessions Saturday. Now, she will garner even more hype.

"That's a huge accomplishment," team owner and fellow driver Tony Stewart said. "It's not like it's been 15 or 20 years she's been trying to do this. It's her second trip to Daytona here in a Cup car. She's made history in the sport. That's stuff that we're proud of being a part of with her. It's something she should have a huge amount of pride in.

"It's never been done. There's only one person that can be the first to do anything. Doesn't matter how many do it after you do, accomplish that same goal. The first one that does always has that little bit more significance to it because you were the first."

The result surely felt good for Patrick, especial-

ly considering the former IndyCar driver has mostly struggled in three NASCAR seasons.

Her best finish in 10 Cup races is 17th, and she has one top-five in 58 starts in the second-tier Nationwide Series.

She raced part-time in 2010 and 2011 while still driving a full IndyCar slate. She switched solely to stock cars last season and finished 10th in the Nationwide standings. She made the jump to Sprint Cup this season and will battle Stenhouse for Rookie of the Year honors.

Starting out front in an unpredictable, 500-mile race doesn't guarantee any sort of result, but securing the pole will put her in the limelight for at least the rest of the week.

"I don't think about Danica as a female race car driver," defending Cup champion Brad Keselowski said. "I think of her as a rookie and someone that hasn't won races or proved that she is competitive." Patrick won the pole at Daytona for last year's Nationwide race. But this is considerably different, significantly bigger.



Danica Patrick

Pampans place in Disc Golf Assoc. tourneys held over weekend

SUBMITTED

Pampa Disc Golf Association members participated in two tournaments this past weekend. The results are as follows:

- Cedar Hill Chill Tournament, Cedar Hill:
 - Armando Garcia, Pampa, tied for 26th — Advanced Division
 - Jeff Rash, White Deer, tied for 6th — Recreation Division

- Clint Dalrymple, Pampa, tied for 12th — Recreation Division
- Sam Gamble, Pampa, tied for 12th — Recreation Division

- Town Lake Pro/Am Tournament, McKinney:
 - Garcia, tied for 17th — Advanced Division
 - Rash, first place — Recreation Division
 - Gamble, second place — Recreation Division
 - Dalrymple, 10th place — Recreation Division.

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PampaSports

Varsity boys basketball preps for playoff game

STAFF REPORT

The Pampa High varsity boys basketball team lost a scrimmage, warm-up game to Hale Center, 69-67. The team's postseason will officially

open at 8 p.m., Monday against Lubbock Cooper, in Canyon. Game results will appear in Wednesday's edition. Check The Pampa News' Facebook page for current scores and highlights.

Got A Sports Story or Photo?

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Lakers owner Jerry Buss dies at 80

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Jerry Buss, the Los Angeles Lakers' playboy owner who shepherded the NBA team to 10 championships from the Showtime dynasty of the 1980s to the Kobe Bryant era, died Monday. He was 80.



He died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said Bob Steiner, his assistant.

Buss had been hospitalized for most of the past 18 months while undergoing cancer treatment, but the immediate cause of death was kidney failure, Steiner said. With his condition apparently worsening in recent weeks, several prominent former Lakers visited Buss to say goodbye.

"The NBA has lost a visionary owner whose influence on our league is incalculable and will be felt for decades to come," NBA Commissioner David Stern said. "More importantly, we have lost a dear and valued friend."

Under Buss' leadership since 1979, the Lakers became Southern California's most beloved sports franchise and a worldwide extension of Hollywood glamour. Buss acquired, nurtured and befriended a staggering array of talented players and basketball minds during his Hall of Fame tenure, from Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and Dwight Howard.

"Condolences to the Buss family," tweeted James Worthy, the Lakers' Hall of Fame forward. "Dr Buss was not only the greatest sports owner, but a true friend & just a really cool guy. Loved him dearly."

Few owners in sports history can approach Buss' accomplishments with the Lakers, who made the NBA finals 16 times through 2011 during his nearly 34 years in charge,

winning 10 titles between 1980 and 2010. The Lakers easily are the NBA's winningest franchise since he bought the club, which is now run largely by Jim Buss and Jeanie Buss, two of his six children.

"We not only have lost our cherished father, but a beloved man of our community and a person respected by the world basketball community," the Buss family said in a statement issued by the Lakers. "It was our father's often-stated desire and expectation that the Lakers remain in the Buss family. The Lakers have been our lives as well, and we will honor his wish and do everything in our power to continue his unparalleled legacy."

Buss always referred to the Lakers as his extended family, and his players rewarded his fanlike excitement with devotion, friendship and two hands full of championship rings. Working with front-office executives Jerry West, Bill Sharman and Mitch Kupchak, Buss spent lavishly to win his titles despite lacking a huge personal fortune, often running the NBA's highest payroll while also paying high-profile coaches Pat Riley and Phil Jackson.

Always an innovative businessman, Buss paid for the Lakers through both their wild success and his own groundbreaking moves to raise revenue.

He co-founded a basic-cable sports television network and sold the naming rights to the Forum at times when both now-standard strategies were unusual, further justifying his induction to the Pro Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010.

"Dr. Jerry Buss was a cornerstone of the Los Angeles sports community and his name will always be synonymous with his beloved Lakers," Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said. "It was through his stewardship that the Lakers brought 'Showtime' basketball and numerous championship rings to this great city.

Today we mourn the loss and celebrate the life of a man who helped shape the modern landscape of sports in L.A."

Johnson and fellow Hall of Famers Abdul-Jabbar and Worthy formed life-long bonds with Buss during the Lakers' run to five titles in nine years in the 1980s, when the Lakers earned a reputation as basketball's most exciting team with their flamboyant Showtime style. The buzz extended throughout the Forum, where Buss used the Laker Girls, a brass band and promotions to keep Los Angeles fans interested in all four quarters of their games.

Jackson then led O'Neal and Bryant to a three-peat from 2000-02, rekindling the Lakers' mystique, before Bryant and Pau Gasol won two more titles under Jackson in 2009 and 2010.

Although Buss gained fame and fortune with the Lakers, he also was a scholar, Renaissance man and bon vivant who epitomized California cool — and a certain Los Angeles lifestyle — for his entire public life.

Buss rarely appeared in public without at least one attractive, much younger woman on his arm at USC football games, boxing matches at the Forum, poker tournaments — and, of course, Lakers games from his private box at Staples Center, which was built under his watch. In failing health recently, Buss hadn't attended a Lakers game this season.

Buss earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at age 24 and had careers in aerospace and real estate development before getting into sports. With money from his real-estate ventures and a good bit of creative accounting, Buss bought the then-struggling Lakers, the NHL's Los Angeles Kings and both clubs' arena — the Forum — from Jack Kent Cooke in a \$67.5 million deal that

was the largest sports transaction in history at the time.

Last month, Forbes estimated the Lakers were worth \$1 billion, second most in the NBA.

Buss also helped change televised sports by co-founding the Prime Ticket network in 1985, receiving a star on Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2006 for his work in television. Breaking the contemporary model of subscription services for televised sports, Buss' Prime Ticket put beloved broadcaster Chick Hearn and the Lakers' home games on basic cable.

Buss also sold the naming rights to the Forum in 1988 to Great Western Savings & Loan — another deal that was ahead of its time.

Born in Salt Lake City, Gerald Hatten Buss was raised in poverty in Wyoming before improving his life through education.

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Pampa United Way seeking applications for 2013

SUBMITTED

Pampa United Way is giving applications for 501(C)3 non-profit organizations to be included in the budget allocations process April 23. This will be for funding starting January 2014.

Organizations may pick up applications at 200 N. Ballard St., Suite 105, or call 669-1001 for more information on the process. Deadline for picking up the applications is Feb. 28. Those accepted into the budget allocations process will need to pick up another set of forms to be completed for the process.

The admission guidelines are as follows:

Listed below are the 10 most common criteria used by United Ways to determine funding eligibility of local agencies. These guidelines are broadly stated to provide maximum opportunity for United Ways to review them in a manner that will best serve the interests of their respective communities. Each criteria is followed by a brief explanation which describes issues and implications surrounding implementation:

1. Be incorporated, not-for-profit and IRS tax-exempt.

Explanation: Agencies receiving United Way dollars must be not-for-profit organizations that have been declared tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service. Or have a 501©3 purpose. The United Way has the responsibility to verify that the recipient organization has been ruled tax exempt by the IRS. Evidence of compliance with state charitable regulations should be provided, where applicable.

A copy of the agency's by-laws should also be provided to the United Way.

2. Offers human service programs.

Explanation: The United Way of America Service Identification System defines various human services and programs that may qualify for funding. Many communities may limit "human service programs" to specifically health, welfare, and youth guidance programs. United Way funded agencies should meet the tests of accessibility (e.g., location of the facility) and availability (e.g., frequency and times of operation). The entity applying must be in service for two full years.

3. Provides community services.

Explanation: The agency/program should address itself to an identifiable current need, demand, or problem in the community. Services which are supported by voluntary dollars should be clearly defined and their impact documented by the organization. They should be offered to a target population or geographic local not presently served by existing programs.

4. Non-discriminatory

Explanation: Discrimination by race, creed, color, sex, age or religion should be prohibited in programs, service, staffing and volunteer areas. A written affirmative action plan for employment of staff would reinforce compliance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972.

5. Has an active, rotating volunteer leadership that represents diverse elements of community.

Explanation: The agency's board of directors of governing body should consist of volunteers who participate in the policy-making processes, represent the diverse elements of the community, and periodically rotate off the board and meet, at least, quarterly. Members of the volunteer structure should not receive financial remuneration from the program(s) or service(s) they oversee.

6. Has sound financial and program management.

Explanation: Demonstrated ability to manage the finances of the programs/services in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures. The organization should provide copy of its annual audit using an independent certified public accountant or accounting firm, where feasible. A determination should be made as to the convincing likelihood that the organization can or will meet its stated program objectives.

If the above guidelines are satisfied, the United Way may be reasonable assured that the applying organization is eligible for voluntary support. Eligibility determination does not necessarily result in United Way funding. The amount of available dollars, the urgency of existing needs, and other key variables are important to the United Way budget allocation process and the final funding decision. Many United Ways require additional information from agencies as conditions for funding. These

conditions are unique to the United Way funding relationship and are often included in formalized agreements. Examples of common agreement conditions are listed below:

7. Supports and cooperates with United Way through: 1. fund raising, 2. planning, 3. communications, 4. allocations.

Explanation: United Ways' relationships with agencies should be one of partnership rather than one of ownership. This relationship revolves around four primary areas: raising voluntary contributions, planning for the needs of the total community, communicating their services to the public, and allocating the funds through an equitable and effective budget allocation process.

8. Provides financial and program info.

Explanation: Agencies share the responsibility of being accountable to the community for the expen-

dition of voluntary dollars. Periodic reporting of financial and program data to the United Way on operating costs and income which documents agency expenditures and substantiates their validity.

9. Informs and seeks approval from United Way for all significant program/staff expansion or reduction.

Explanation: The United Way should not be expected to assume financial responsibility for any expansion or discontinuation of the agency's operations or facilities without prior approval and discussion of how this action will affect the agency's allocations, if at all.

10. Obtains prior approval from United Way before engaging in any supplemental fund raising.

Explanation: Agencies must obtain prior approval from the United Way regarding their capital and supplemental fund raising

needs. Efforts by agencies to develop sources of income should be carried out in such a manner as to assure that:

- The United Way giving base in the community will not be adversely affected.
- Agency financing efforts are consistent with mutually agreed upon policies between the United Way and the agency.
- The United Way is fully informed and supports, in advance, special financing efforts undertaken by the agency.

For more information, call Jana Gregory, Pampa United Way executive director, at 669-1001 or visit the United Way office at 200 N. Ballard St. next to the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

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Nigerian extremists claim abduction of 7 foreigners

By **JON GAMBRELL**
AND **SHEHU SAULAWA**
Associated Press

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP) — A little-known Islamic extremist group claimed responsibility Monday for the kidnapping of seven foreign workers from northern Nigeria, threatening their safety if anyone tried to intervene and free them.

The group that calls itself Ansaru issued a short statement, obtained by The Associated Press, in which it said its fighters kidnapped the foreigners Saturday night from a construction company's camp at Jama'are, a town about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Bauchi, the capital of Bauchi state.

Authorities said those kidnapped include one British citizen, one Greek, one Italian, three Lebanese and one Filipino, all employees of a Lebanese construction company called Setraco.

The statement said Ansaru committed the abduction "based on the transgression and atrocities shown to the religion of Allah by the European countries in many places

such as Afghanistan and Mali." Currently, the French military is conducting operations with the Malian army to rout Islamic fighters who took over that country's north in the weeks after a military coup there last year.

"It is stressed that any attempt or act contrary to our conditions by the European nations or by the Nigerian government will" endanger the hostages, the statement read. The statement offered no conditions, suggesting the group would later contact authorities to make a ransom demand.

Police and security officials in Nigeria did not immediately respond to the statement. Greek and Italian diplomats have confirmed their citizens were abducted. Britain's Foreign Office said Monday it is aware of reports that a number of foreign nationals including a British national were abducted. It said the Foreign Office is in contact with the Nigerian authorities.

The U.S. Embassy in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, issued a statement earlier Monday saying none of those taken were U.S. citi-

zens.

In January 2012 Ansaru declared itself a breakaway group from Boko Haram, the north's main terrorist group, analysts say. Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege," has launched a guerrilla campaign of bombings and shootings across Nigeria's predominantly Muslim north. Boko Haram is blamed for at least 792 killings last year alone, according to an AP count.

Ansaru's aims are unknown — but they have a different message from Boko Haram, according to Raffaello Pantucci, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

"They seem to disagree with some of Boko Haram's strategies — in particular, they disagreed with Boko Haram's tendency to kill Muslims," Pantucci said. "They seem to be more internationally focused, they talk a lot more in global jihad terms and they seem very eager to cultivate that side of their image. It makes them more dangerous."

An analysis published Monday by Stratfor, a

U.S.-based private global intelligence firm, suggested Ansaru had stronger ties with al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the Africa branch of the terror network. It warned that there likely will be more attacks by Ansaru targeting Westerners and Western interests in Nigeria, as well as neighboring nations.

"Kidnappings in northern Nigeria probably will become more frequent," Stratfor warned. "As al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb comes under more pressure in northern Mali, it will use all available means, including its affiliate groups, to continue its insurgency."

The attack Saturday in Jama'are saw gunmen first assault a local prison and burn police trucks, authorities said. Then the attackers blew up a back fence at the construction company's compound and took over, killing a guard in the process, witnesses and police said.

The gunmen appeared to be organized and knew who they wanted to target, a local construction worker who witnessed the attack told the AP. He said the Nigerian household

staff members at the residence were left unharmed, while the foreigners were quickly abducted. The worker spoke on condition of anonymity as he's not authorized to speak to journalists.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, in a statement issued Monday through his office, condemned the attack and said he ordered security agencies to "take all necessary action" to locate and rescue the abducted construction workers.

"He assures the relatives of the kidnapped foreign workers as well as the governments of their countries that the federal government and its security agencies are doing everything possible to find their abductors and ensure the safe release of all those they abducted," the statement issued by spokesman Reuben Abati read.

The Ansaru statement hinted that it would kill the hostages and vaguely referenced a previous kidnapping. The group earlier claimed the kidnapping in December of a French national working on a renewal energy project in Nigeria's northern Katsina

state. Britain also linked Ansaru to the May 2011 kidnapping of Christopher McManus, who was abducted with Italian Franco Lamolinara from a home in Kebbi state. The men were held for months, before their captors killed in March 2012 them during a failed Nigerian military raid backed up by British special forces in Sokoto, the main city in Nigeria's northwest.

Authorities initially blamed Boko Haram for the kidnapping, something that it denied. That apparently represented the public's first brush with the group, whose motivations remain murky, but whose threat is increasingly real for foreigners in northern Nigeria.

In November, Britain's interior ministry announced that a parliamentary order that makes membership in or support of Ansaru a criminal offense.

Associated Press writers Cassandra Vinograd in London, Bashir Adigun in Abuja, Nigeria, and Yinka Ibukun in Lagos, Nigeria, contributed to this report.

A look at the murder case facing 'Blade Runner' Oscar Pistorius

By **JON GAMBRELL**
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's prosecutors will begin explaining Tuesday why they accuse Olympian Oscar Pistorius of committing murder in the Valentine's Day shooting death of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Pistorius hasn't entered a plea in the case, though his family has said they strongly deny the 26-year-old double-amputee runner committed murder. They have not, however, denied outright that Pistorius shot Steenkamp, a 29-year-old model and law school graduate who is featured in a South African reality television show.

Here are some facts about the case that has shaken a nation that idolized the runner:

The Blade Runner

Pistorius made history in the London Games last year when he became the first double-amputee track athlete to compete in the Olympics. He's known as "the Blade Runner," a nickname that plays off the high-tech carbon-fiber blades that he races on. Pistorius had both legs amputated below the knee before his first birthday because of a congenital condition, and campaigned for years to be allowed to compete against able-bodied athletes. He was

initially banned because of his blades — which critics said gave him an unfair advantage — before being cleared by sport's highest court in 2008. In 2011, he won a silver medal at the world championships having been the first amputee runner to ever compete there.

The model girlfriend

Steenkamp is a local celebrity in South Africa, known for appearing in both domestic and international commercials. She's also known for her vampsy, bikini-clad photo spreads in men's magazines. She was named one of the world's 100 Sexiest Women for two years running by FHM magazine. She met Pistorius in November at a race track near Johannesburg and ended up accompanying him to a sports award show the same night, a mutual friend has said. She also was a contestant on "Tropika Island of Treasure 5," a reality television show sponsored by a milkfruit drink now being aired on South Africa's national broadcaster SABC.

The Valentine's Day Killing

In the predawn hours of Feb. 14, police officers arrived to Pistorius' home in a gated community in the suburbs of South Africa's capital, Pretoria. There, police say they found paramedics trying

to resuscitate Steenkamp, whose body lay in a pool of her own blood. Police say officers found a 9 mm pistol and arrested Pistorius, who they say was the only other person in the home at the time of the shooting. Pistorius later underwent DNA testing and had samples of his blood collected. Investigators also conducted an autopsy on Steenkamp's body, though police declined to give any information about what they found. They have said she was shot multiple times in the attack. Police have not offered a motive for the killing and Pistorius' uncle Arnold later said that "the state's own case, including its own forensic evidence, strongly refutes any possibility of a premeditated murder or murder as such."

Pistorius' past

Pistorius has had troubles in the past in his personal life. In February 2009, he crashed a speedboat on South Africa's Vaal River, breaking his nose, jaw and several ribs and damaging an eye

socket. He required some 180 stitches to his face. Witnesses said he had been drinking, and officers found alcoholic beverages in the wreckage, though they did not do blood tests. In November, Pistorius was involved in an altercation over a woman with a local coal mining millionaire, South African media reported. The South African Police Service's elite Hawks investigative unit became involved before the two settled the matter. Pistorius had a fondness for guns and once tweeted about him searching his house once with a pistol, looking for an intruder.

The bail hearing

The bail hearing Tuesday and Wednesday in Pretoria will see prosecutors offer Chief Magistrate Desmond Nair evidence about the killing to bolster their arguments that Pistorius should be denied bail and held until his trial. That evidence likely will include specific details about the killing and why they believe the athlete killed Steenkamp — things that police have

been hesitant so far to release publicly. Pistorius likely will offer a plea in the case, as he didn't in a brief court appearance Friday. Pistorius' lawyers will likely try to show that he is not a flight risk and represents no danger to the community if he's free until trial. Prosecutors have said they'll pursue a premeditated murder charge against Pistorius, which could make it more difficult for him to be granted bail. Nair will hear both the prosecution and the defense, then issue a ruling about whether Pistorius will be allowed bail. That could include Nair asking Pistorius to put up cash for his release, as well as the athlete giving up his passport and setting other restrictions. If Pistorius is held without bail until trial, he will be transferred from the local police station he's currently being held in to prison, likely in Pretoria.

Justice in South Africa

South Africa is one of a few countries in the world that has a court system that takes root in Roman-Dutch law. Because of this, those appearing in criminal trials do not have the option of a jury trial, common in the United States and other countries. Instead, a single judge will hear the entire case and then rule on a person's guilt or innocence. The judge can be assisted by two advisers during the trial. Typically, those advisers offer assistance in looking at the more technical aspects of the evidence given at trial. If found guilty, a person can later appeal the ruling or the sentence they receive. A premeditated murder charge carries a minimum sentence of life in prison. There is no death penalty in South Africa.

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Singer Mindy McCready dies in apparent suicide

By **CHRIS TALBOTT AND JEANNIE NUSS**
Associated Press

HEBER SPRINGS, Ark. (AP) — Perhaps there was one heartbreak too many for Mindy McCready.



Mindy McCready

The former country star apparently took her own life on Sunday at her home in Heber Springs, Ark. Authorities say McCready died of a suspected self-inflicted gunshot to the head and an autopsy is planned. She was 37, and left behind two young sons.

McCready had attempted suicide at least three times since 2005, as she struggled to cope amid a series of tumultuous public events that marked much of her adult life.

Speaking to The Associated Press in 2010, McCready smiled wryly while talking about the string of issues she'd dealt with over the last half-decade.

"It is a giant whirlwind of chaos all the time," she said of her life. "I call my life a beautiful mess and organized chaos. It's just always been like that. My entire life things have been attracted to me and vice versa that turn into chaotic nightmares or I create the chaos myself. I think that's really the life of a celebrity, of a big, huge, giant personality."

This time it seems the whirlwind overwhelmed McCready.

Her death comes a month after that of David Wilson, her longtime boyfriend and the father of her youngest son. He is believed to have shot himself on the same porch of the home they shared in Heber Springs, a small vacation community about 65 miles north of Little Rock. His death also was investigated as a suicide.

It was the most difficult moment in a life full of them. McCready issued a statement last month lamenting his death. And she called him her soul mate and a caregiver to her sons in an interview with NBC's "Today" show.

"I just keep telling myself that the more suffering that I go through, the greater character I'll have," she said, according to a transcript of the interview.

Like so many times before, McCready showed a little toughness in the midst of a personal storm, again endearing herself to her fans. But as usual, the brave face for the camera hid a much more complicated internal struggle that surfaced publicly time and again over the last 10 years.

This time, along with her remembrances of finding Wilson as he lay dying, she also answered questions about whether they'd argued earlier that evening about an affair and if she'd shot him.

"Oh, my God," the "Today" transcript reads. "No. Oh, my God. No. He was my life. We were each other's life."

It's unclear what circumstances led to McCready

taking her own life, but it appears she was struggling again with twin issues that have persisted for years — substance abuse and the custody of her children. She checked into court-ordered rehab and gave her children up to foster care earlier this month after her father asked a judge to intervene, saying she'd stopped taking care of herself and her sons and was abusing alcohol and prescription drugs.

A deputy stationed outside McCready's home Sunday night referred questions to the Cleburne County sheriff, who was unavailable. Yellow crime-scene tape cordoned off the front yard and a dark-colored pickup truck sat in the driveway.

News of McCready's death spread quickly Sunday night on Twitter, with major country stars paying their respects to the one-time Nashville darling.

"Too much tragedy to overcome. R.I.P Mindy McCready," wrote Natalie Maines of The Dixie Chicks.

And Carrie Underwood added: "I grew up listening to Mindy McCready... so sad for her family to-night. Many prayers are going out to them..."

Melinda Gayle McCready arrived in Nashville in 1994 still in her teens with tapes of her karaoke vocals and earned a recording contract with BNA Records. She had a few memorable moments professionally, scoring her first No. 1 hit almost immediately.

"Guys Do It All the Time," a self-assured dig at male chauvinism, endeared her to female fans in 1996. She also scored a hit with "Ten Thousand Angels," and her album of that title sold 2 million copies. Beyond that, though, she's mostly remembered for a string of dramatic moments as she spent the next 15 years chasing another huge hit. Her problems included a custody battle with her mother over one of her sons, arrests, overdoses and discord in her love life.

She made headlines in April 2008 when she claimed a longtime relationship with baseball great Roger Clemens. Published reports at the time said she met the pitcher at a Florida karaoke bar when she was 15 and he was 28 and married. Clemens has denied the relationship.

On Monday, Clemens handed a written statement to reporters at the Houston Astros spring training facility in Kissimmee, Fla., where he is serving as a special instructor for the team.

"Yes, that is sad news. I had heard over time that she was trying to get peace

and direction in her life. The few times that I had met her and her manager/agent they were extremely nice."

A decade earlier she was engaged to actor Dean Cain, but the two never married.

She also had a turbulent relationship with Billy McKnight, a country singer who is the father of her oldest son. McKnight was arrested in 2005 on charges of attempted murder after authorities say he beat and choked her.

McCready pleaded guilty to obtaining the painkiller OxyContin fraudulently at a pharmacy in 2004 and got probation. She violated the probation with a drunken driving arrest in May 2005, a few days before McKnight was arrested. And in July 2007, she was arrested in her hometown of Fort Myers, Fla., on misdemeanor charges of scratching her mother, Gayle Inge, on the face during a scuffle and resisting sheriff's deputies.

Less than a year later, McCready was arrested and charged with violating her probation by falsifying her community service records relating to the 2004 drug charge. A month later, she entered an extended care facility for undisclosed treatment, and followed that with a 60-day jail sentence. Inge took custody of Zander.

There were at least three suicide attempts between July 2005 and December 2008. She tried to get help in an unusual way, joining the cast of "Celebrity Rehab 3" with Dr. Drew Pinsky. McCready came off as a sympathetic figure during the show's run. Pinsky called her an "angel" and in an interview in 2010 said it appeared McCready was doing "rather well."

Pinsky helped treat McCready for love addiction on the show and said he'd referred her to professionals who could continue to help her afterward.

"A love addict basically is somebody that really didn't have a good model for intimacy in their childhood, often times traumatized in one way or another, thereby intimacy becomes a risk place, becomes an intolerable place," Pinsky said.

McCready suffered a seizure in one of the show's scarier moments. Tests showed she had suffered brain damage, some-

thing she attributed to her abusive relationship with McKnight.

McCready is the fifth celebrity to pass away since appearing on Pinsky's show and the third from Season 3. Alice in Chains bassist Mike Starr and "Real World" participant Joey Kover both died of overdoses.

In the months after her stint, McCready said she found some peace, telling The Associated Press in early 2010 that she hoped to get her career restarted, write a book about her experiences and begin production on a reality show with her brothers. She'd just met Wilson and talked openly about their relationship, although the producer and musician declined to speak on the record.

With a publicist, reporters, cameras, makeup artists and musicians swirling around her during a press day for her last album, "I'm Still Here," McCready fended off questions about a sex tape and said she and Wilson started out as friends.

"And I've never had a relationship like that before where we started completely as friends," she said. "It turned into friends really caring about each other and then it turned into love and I've never had that happen before."

At the time, Pinsky thought the relationship was on the right track: "She's an easy person to like and to care about and we hope she does well. So far so good as far as I can tell."

McCready said her main goal in 2010 was to pull her family back together: "I would like my son back with me and for my brothers and I and he to be able to go and do this (TV reality show), and I think after that I will be a pretty happy girl."

The new album debuted at No. 71 and failed to gain radio airplay. McCready's plans never materialized and she soon was in legal trouble again, this time fighting for custody.

McCready took her older son from her mother, the boy's legal guardian, in late 2011. She fled to

Arkansas without permission over what she called child abuse fears. Authorities eventually found McCready hiding in a home without permission and took the boy into custody.

She and Wilson had

their son in April 2012.

Music Writer Chris Talbott reported from Nashville, Tenn. Sports Writer Noah Trister, in Kissimmee, Fla., and Associated Press writer Tamara Lush in Tampa, Fla., contributed to this report.

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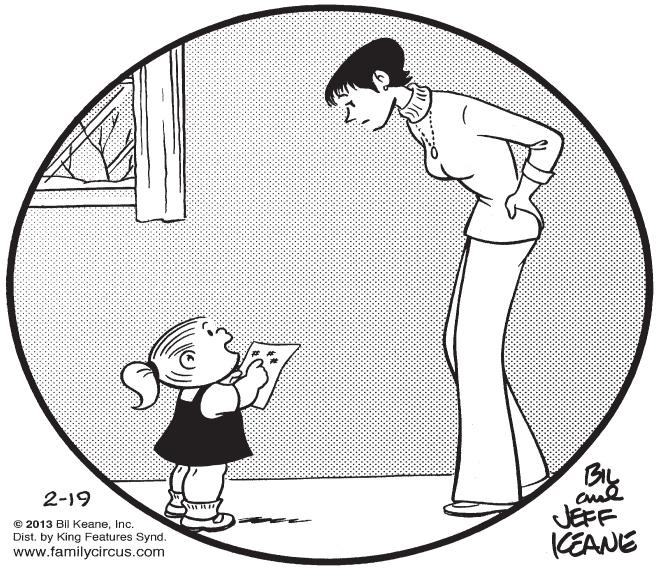
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By Bil Keane



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BIL KEANE
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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013:
 You have many dreams that you choose not to share. This year, you might witness one of them being fulfilled. You become incredibly intuitive and seem to have strong premonitions. If you are single, you could meet someone who seems so special that you have to pinch yourself to make sure the experience is real. Be careful. When you put someone on a pedestal, there is only way to go ... and that is down. If you are attached, the two of you seem to develop a new style of communication. Understand that there could be a lot of confusion around your relationship this year. Do not listen to gossip or hearsay, especially from a GEMINI.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ You find that others often seek you out. Use your imagination, and you'll come up with many workable ideas. In fact, you'll have so many options that you might not know which way to go. You have a unique way of understanding personal issues. Tonight: Head home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Your sense of timing and choice of words appear to be right on, and many people will react to them. You understand far more than others might realize. Listen to someone's news, but take it with a grain of salt. You'll want to do what is most workable. Tonight: All smiles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ Be conscious of your limits before you jump into a situation. Your view of what is provocative could change radically. A matter involving your career might not be resolvable at this point. You know what must be done. Carefully consider your options. Tonight: Out late.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★ Know when to say that you have had enough. Your sense of humor will come out as you begin to understand what motivates others. Detachment gives you a unique perspective that allows you to see a situation differently. Tonight: Have a ball with friends and loved ones.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might want to be more mindful of your spending, needs and assets. Once you are, you will make better choices. Your ability to understand vagueness can help you in your dealings, but you still might need more information. Friends surround you. Tonight: Where the gang is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on your priorities. Understand who you are and with whom you will be dealing. Conversations might become animated, and you could receive more feedback as a result. Trust your intuition when reaching out to someone at a distance. Tonight: Say “yes” to an invitation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Pressure builds. You might feel as if you have little time to accomplish a lot. Reach out to someone you really care about. This person's reaction could shock you. A boss pushes hard to get his or her way. You could become overwhelmed as a result. Tonight: To the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. You could gain critical information that will help you move a project to a different level. Ask questions, and you'll come up with a better solution or a more workable idea. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Respond appropriately.

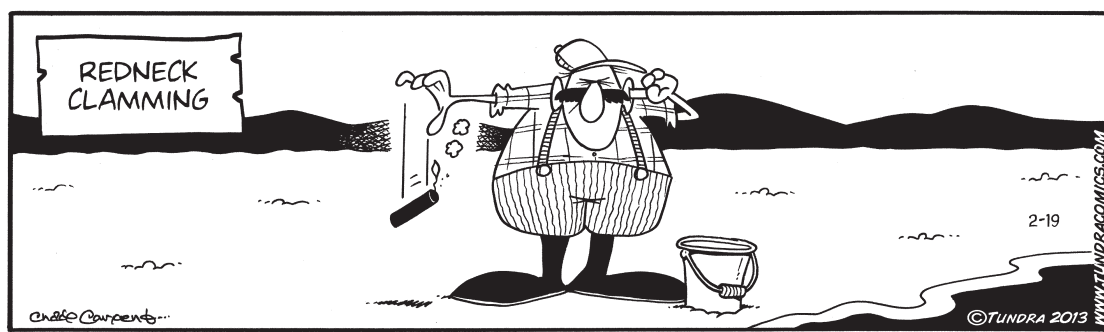
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You might want to head in a new direction. Despite what is happening with others' insecurities, a partner or associate supports you 100 percent. This person follows his or her intuition. Communication flourishes in real-estate issues. Tonight: At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision more carefully. You often use logic to explain your actions or decisions, but know that they were motivated by a gut feeling or an intuitive hunch. Be honest with yourself. Tonight: Listen to a friend and follow through on his or her suggestion.

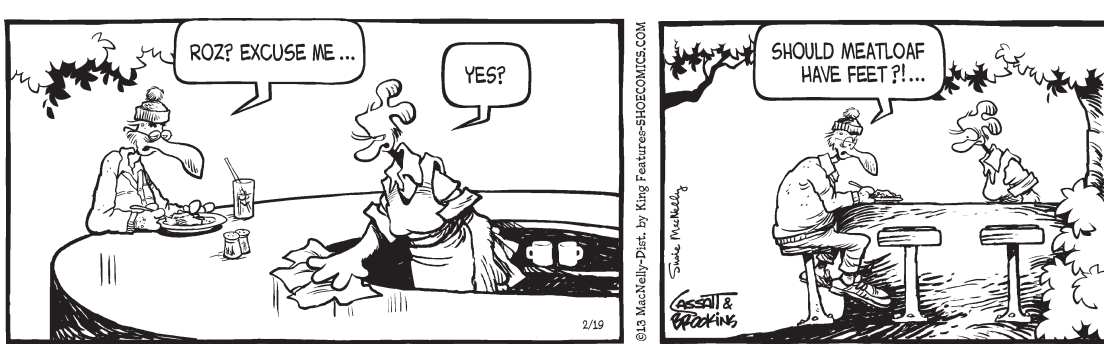
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Maintain a mellow attitude when dealing with co-workers and associates. They need to ask questions in order to understand why you are moving in a certain direction. You might need to seek out more information on a financial decision. Tonight: Get feedback from others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Tap into your endless creativity, and know that there are answers to your questions. How you handle a personal detail could change the outcome of an entire situation. Use your ingenuity. Others enjoy their conversations with you. Tonight: Easy works. Attention is reciprocal.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



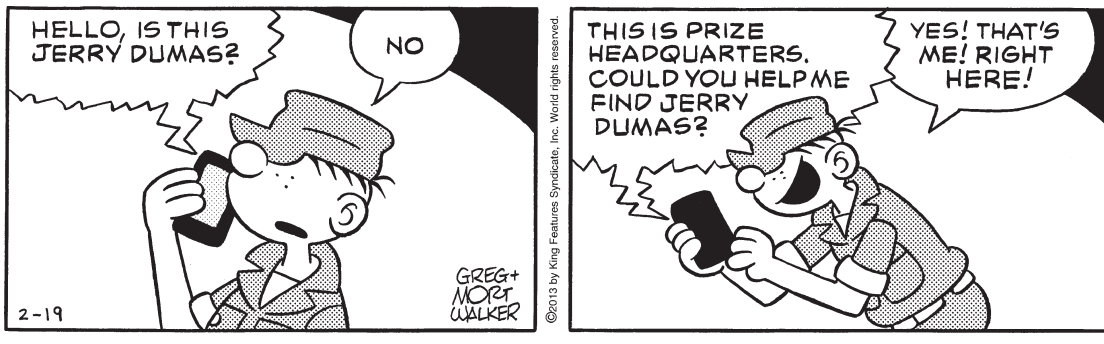
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



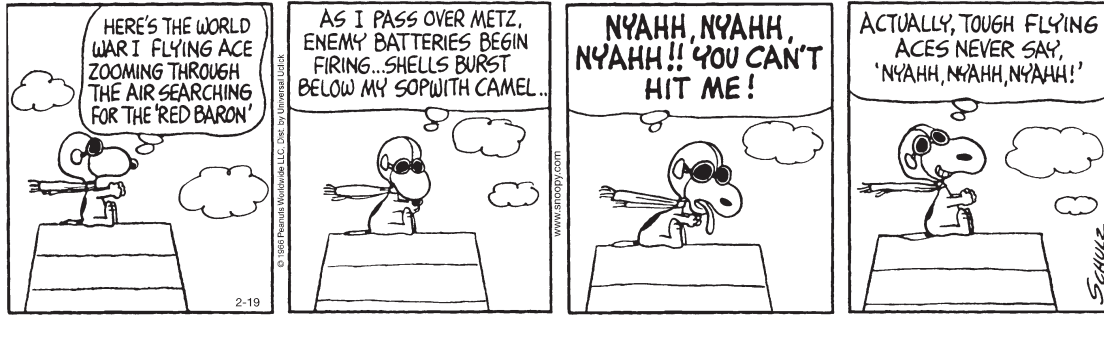
Marvin



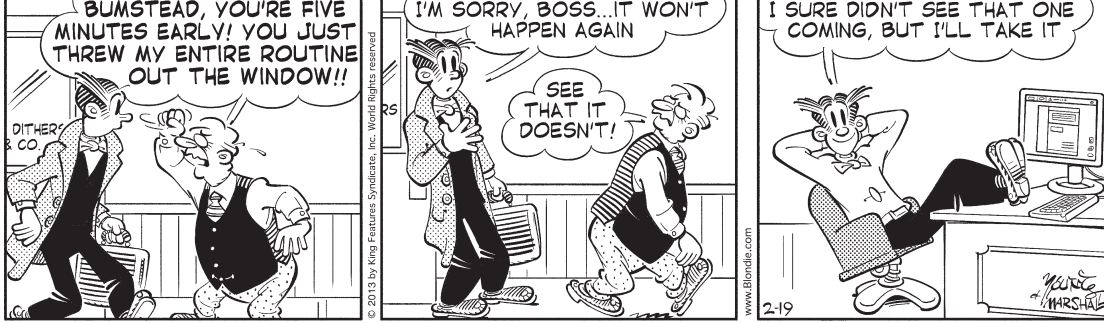
Hagar The Horrible

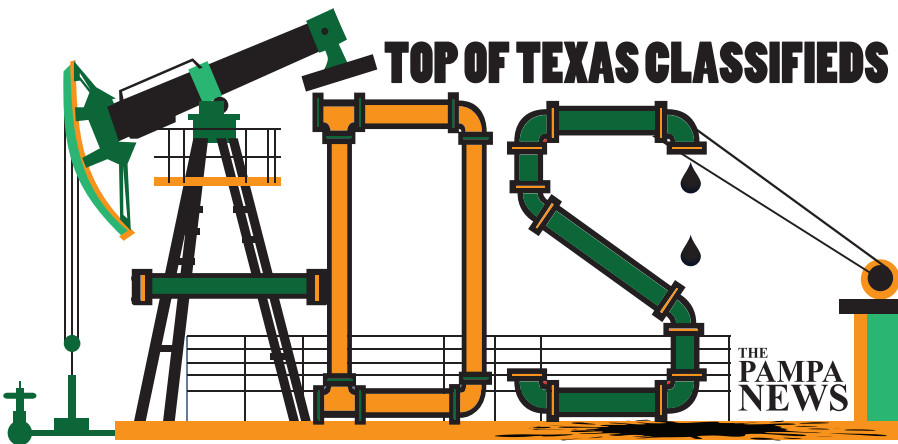


Peanuts



Blondie





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ADS Jobs \$3990 4 lines 1 week

ADS Services as low as \$69 per month see display

ADSHappy Ads FREE \$3 with photo

Say Happy Birthday to friends for FREE

5 Lines for 7 days \$25

7 Lines for 7 days \$30

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14d Carpentry
OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.

14e Carpet Serv.
NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.

14h Gen. Serv.
CERAMIC tile work, stucco, cement. Remodeling, floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. **New# 440-0239** lv msg, **Jesus Barraza.**

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

JH Concrete, all types of concrete incl stamp, stain, fence, pools. Free est. 806-382-5408

14s Plumbing
JACK'S Plumbing 715 W. Foster 665-7115

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

16 Cosmetics
AVON MIRACLE II Products & Scripture Purses. Call Tonya, Avon Rep. at 806-665-0346, leave a message.

19 Situations
LOOKING for a full-time babysitter for a baby & 3 older children. References please. Call 806-661-8210

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

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

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.

SEEKING EXPERIENCED 2 Rig Hands for a workover rig/pulling unit. Call 669-9617 Send Resume to P.O. Box 1422, Pampa, TX 79066

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

PART TIME YOUTH PASTOR. Local Church needs person with Bachelors degree or equivalent experience to teach and coordinate youth programs. See www.pampapcusa.org. Send resumes to info@pcusa.com.

NOW hiring! All shifts needed at the Subway inside Walmart Apply within.

HELP WANTED Part time **Bookkeeper/Secretary.** Working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word preferred. Call 806-665-0627 and leave a message to schedule an interview.

21 Help Wanted
R. Chester Trucking needs Hot Shot Drivers Class A CDL req. No drug addicts or drunks. Rick 806-595-0613

CAFETERIA Manager
position available. TRS benefits/Health Insurance. Applicant must be fingerprinted. For more information contact Mr. Frank Belcher, Wheeler ISD, 806-826-5241.

Wheeler ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

OIL TECH & Auto Detailer needed. Exp. a plus, will train. Some mechanical skills. Apply in person @ **Robert's Quality Auto Service.** No Phone Calls Please.

FRITO Lay is seeking hard workers to fill full-time Route Sales Positions in the Pampa area (\$50,300-\$53,000 / yr). Benefits incl. 401K /retirement / stock options, health/dental/vision ins. & vacation leave. Some travel involved. Candidates must have a solid work history, strong communication skills & an excellent driving record. Please apply online at www.fritolay.com for consideration. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer dedicated to diversity in our workplace. EOE M/F/V/D

DRIVERS-\$500 sign on Bonus. Tanker Drivers needed. Class A CDL required w/ hazmat endorsement. 2 Yrs experience preferred. Local hauling only. Home every night. Benefits & great pay. Call 432-288-3761 or 432-683-2868 for info.

GRAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently accepting applications for **JAILER** positions. Benefits included. Pickup and return application to the Sheriff's Office. **NO PHONE CALLS.**

MIKEY'S Liquor Store is looking for Part time help in the afternoons/nights. Apply in person at 1222 Price Rd.

PROVIDER help for large homecare needs to be acquainted with light cleaning, meal prep and shopping. Call 355-1899 Nurses by Prescription

RNs with OB experience needed! Moore County Hospital District in Dumas has immediate openings for RNs with Obstetrics experience. Flexible shifts, excellent benefits, competitive pay and state of the art electronic documentation set MCHD above the rest. **\$2000 sign on bonus!!!** If you are ready to work with a progressive team of healthcare professionals, call our Human Resources Department at **806-934-7852** or visit us on the web at www.mchd.net.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY healthcare office is expanding our team. Direct patient care position. On the job training. Fax resume to 688-9227.

SALES representative needed. Base plus bonuses. 8-5 Monday thru Friday. Sales Experience preferred. Must be self motivated-dependable, friendly, professional and have own transportation. Email resume to rwoods@thepampapcusa.com or apply in person

CONTINENTAL CREDIT
Assistant Manager/Collector
Continental Credit, a recognized leader in the consumer loan industry, is now accepting applications for the above position. If you are dedicated to excellence in customer service, motivated by achieving results through teamwork, and a positive thinker with a drive to succeed – we want to talk with you about joining our team. Prior customer service and/or finance experience preferred. Must have access to reliable transportation for field collection work. Competitive pay and comprehensive benefits package. Apply in person at:
Continental Credit
1429 N Hobart St
Pampa TX 79065
(806) 669-6095
Equal Opportunity Employer

Murphy-Brown **Smithfield** Premium Genetics Group
CDL DRIVER
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
Equal Employer/Affirmative Action Employer m/f/d/v

21 Help Wanted
CUSTOMER service cashier and delivery driver needed. If you are responsible, friendly and like to work apply in person at Heard-Jones 114 N. Cuyler.

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.

NOW Hiring Satellite Technicians. Will train. Must pass background & drug test. Serious Applicants Only! Call Matt 928-221-1119 to apply.

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MULTI-DISCIPLINARY healthcare office is expanding our team. Direct patient care position. On the job training. Fax resume to 688-9227.

SALES representative needed. Base plus bonuses. 8-5 Monday thru Friday. Sales Experience preferred. Must be self motivated-dependable, friendly, professional and have own transportation. Email resume to rwoods@thepampapcusa.com or apply in person

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Equal Opportunity Employer

21 Help Wanted
ASSISTANT FOREMAN
Needed immediately for a privately owned exploration and production company. The individual filling this position is required to live in the Perryton-Woodward area. An experience minimum of 12 years supervising oil and gas production operations is required. The successful candidate will be an individual that can organize field operations, supervise personnel and create a positive work environment. Please submit resumes to: Box 32 c/o The Pampa News P.O. Box 2198 Pampa, TX 79066-2198

69 Misc.
NEW King size mattress 3 pc. set. Sale \$496. Queen set \$246. Country Red Barn. 1424 S. Barnes. 665-2767

SHOP 918 S. Barnes. \$60,000. Mobile home \$1,000. Two lots \$2,000. Or make offer! Call 806-669-3001

DELUXE 3-WHEELED SCOOTER with electric lift. \$1,000 Call 806-669-9979

FLORAL Print Sofa, burgundy & green on beige background. Great Condition! \$100 Call 806-662-5324

80 Pets & Suppl.
CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES FOR SALE! CALL 663-9053 663-9054

89 Wanted To Buy
NEED Money Now? We Buy & Sell Houses & pay Top \$\$ Call today!! 665-1875

SAY I Love You! With a Classified Happy Ad for FREE 5 Line Classified Ad that runs for 1 week to \$3 add a photo Call Today! 669-2525

95 Furn. Apts.
All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

96 Unfurn. Apts.
APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386

CAPROCK APARTMENTS 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms with rent starting as low as \$445 / mo. Pool and on-site laundry, W/D hookups in all 2 & 3 bdrms. 665-7149

96 Unfurn. Apts.
LRG 1 bdr. apts. w/ app, are in walking distance to things you need. 665-4274, 663-2579, 881-8518

SCHNEIDER Apartments. Call for special rates. Short term lease. Business people welcome. 665-0415

HOMES & APTS. 1 and 2 bdr. Largest sq. footage in Pampa. Great Value! 665-1875 or 881-8518

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97 Furn. Houses
NICE 1 bedroom, 1 bath home with refrigerator/stove. \$600/mo + deposit. 665-6936 or 665-3788

98 Unfurn. Houses
PICK up rental list, in the **Black Box**, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

CLEAN 2 bdr., 1 ba., gar. \$550 per mo. \$550 dep. Ref. required 514 N. Dwight. Call 806-440-1445

FOR RENT 3 bedroom for \$500/month & 1 bedroom for \$275/month. Call Rick at 662-7913

2122 Hamilton, 3 bed, 1 bath, c h/a, updated. \$750/ month with \$750 deposit Call 806-570-9824

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Reaching over 12,000 readers daily • Call Stephanie at (806) 669-2525

103 Homes For Sale

FSBO 2310 Charles St. \$68,000. 3/1/1, 1256 sq ft. Nice brick home. No owner financing. Call 669-1738 or 440-3494

HOUSE for sale by Owner in White Deer, 3br/2ba/2car Storm cellar, fully updated. 806-663-6063. \$60,000

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: While I always enjoy your column, I thought your advice to "Wants My Space" (Dec. 14), whose son "Dustin" moved away five years ago and expects her to keep his room as he left it, was off the mark. I would have told Dustin what I have told both of my daughters several times: It is not "your" room; I merely let you use it.

Not only is "Wants" not obligated to use her home as a storage facility, she's doing her son a disservice by doing it under these circumstances. At 24, he needs to learn that if he wants a service, it's his obligation to procure it. There are plenty of businesses that can fulfill his needs at a reasonable price. — MATT IN PROVIDENCE FORGE, VA.

DEAR MATT: For the most part, readers agreed with you, and they offered their own "take" on how to accomplish the removal of the young man's belong-

ings: DEAR ABBY: An acquaintance of mine had a similar problem with his son. The son expected his dad to provide storage space at no charge for an indefinite length of time. My friend told his son: "No way! You get it out of here within six months, or I'll sell it and keep the money for storage fees."

He didn't think his father would actually do it. Well, he was wrong. And now the younger siblings don't even think of leaving any of their stuff at the father's house. — SHIRLEY IN CHULA VISTA, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: My parents, while not upset with still having their four adult children's belongings in their home, solved their dilemma in a unique way. One Christmas we all gathered at their house and were delighted to find heaps of presents under the tree. Concerned that our folks had way overspent, imagine our surprise when we

unwrapped the packages and found all of our own belongings! It was an inventive and effective way to clear out the attic and basement. We still talk about it to this day — a warm Christmas memory. — KATIE IN NEWARK, DEL.

DEAR ABBY: "Wants" is blessed that Dustin voiced his desire for his mom to keep his stuff. My mother continued asking me if I wanted my stuff for years. I said no, until one day, yes, I did. My parents are no longer alive, and I treasure the little stuffed dog that was my very first Christmas present.

I'd advise "Wants" to return some of the items to her son from time to time in the form of gifts. To him, they are treasures, and they can be returned in a way that won't make him feel betrayed. — IRENE IN OWOSSO, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: Dustin should either pay rent to his mother or move his stuff out. If he doesn't, he has

as I had left it as a shrine. I was glad not to have to move all my coin, toy and stamp collections and the other things from my first 18 years.

However, subsequently Mom allowed a young male relative to use my room, and he lost, stole or destroyed all of my memories. I was and am still sad, but I never told my mom 'cause "that's life."

— CHARLIE IN FLORIDA

BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

LEVEL

E R T L E M T E
L B E R C E P E

BANANA BITE: One word is something that rings.

BANANA BITE: One word is something you wear.

Yesterday's Answer: BOOKLET, BULLPEN 2.19

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

4	7	3	9	2	5	6	8	1
1	2	5	8	4	6	3	9	7
8	9	6	7	3	1	2	5	4
3	1	9	5	7	8	4	6	2
6	8	2	3	9	4	1	7	5
5	4	7	1	6	2	9	3	8
7	6	4	2	8	3	5	1	9
9	3	1	4	5	7	8	2	6
2	5	8	6	1	9	7	4	3

Sudoku

	6							2
	1			2	5	3	4	7
2			3	4	9			8
	3	1		6				
	7	2	5	1	8			
4							6	
5	9		1	3		8		4
			8		2	9		
				6				

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Locked up
- 7 José's home
- 11 Wear roughly
- 12 Weary word
- 13 "Empress of the Blues"
- 15 Bra part
- 16 Speaker's stand
- 18 Verdant
- 21 Hydrant attachment
- 22 Sermon giver
- 24 Louvre fill
- 25 Concealed
- 26 Low number
- 27 January birthstone
- 29 Like Vassar since 1969
- 30 Thug
- 31 Dad, in slang
- 32 City-based
- 34 "Downton Abbey" star
- 40 Opera highlight
- 41 Sound system
- 42 Camp home
- 43 Blotto

B	A	N	J	O		T	A	C	O	S
A	D	E	E	R		O	B	A	M	A
G	O	O	F	S		R	E	R	A	N
			F	O	P	S		E	N	D
C	A	F	E	N	O	I	R			
A	J	A	R		P	O	O	P	E	D
P	A	S	S	E		N	O	L	T	E
E	X	T	O	L	S		S	A	T	E
			N	E	A	T	E	N	U	P
M	A	T		M	M	I	V			
I	R	A	T	E		D	E	L	A	Y
N	I	X	O	N		E	L	I	T	E
T	A	I	N	T		S	T	E	M	S

Yesterday's answer

17	Texas player	31	Lasagna or linguine
19	Small porch	33	Top-rated
20	Sharpens sight	34	Porch
21	Old crone	35	Verb for you
22	Deep hole	36	Martini ingredient
23	Warning color	37	Bother
25	Painter Matisse	38	Golf need
28	Chewy candy	39	Brick carrier
29	Swindlers		

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1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15							
	16	17				18		19	20	
21					22					23
24				25				26		
27			28				29			
	30					31				
					32	33				
34	35	36						37	38	39
40						41				
42						43				



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