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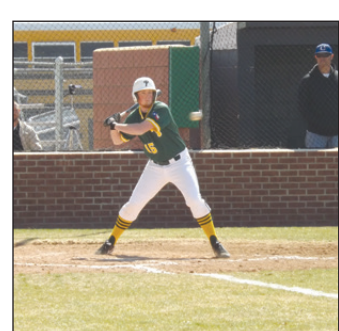

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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, March 15, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 261

75¢ Events galore in today's calendar | p6
 \$1.50 weekend Cheney's main fault: not thinking enough | p4
 38¢ subscription Photos from PHS baseball win over Childress
 Miami Heat winning streak upped to 20 games | p10

NWS' weather workshop slated for Saturday

STAFF REPORT

It's a one-stop shop for everything you need to know about severe weather.

The National Weather Service in Amarillo and the Amarillo/Potter/Randall Office of Emergency Management will host a Severe Weather Workshop on Saturday in the Heritage Room at the Amarillo Civic Center.

The workshop is free and open to the public.

Krissy Scotten, warnings coordinator meteorologist with the NWS in Amarillo, said it is a day to learn about weather, safety and preparedness.

"We are bringing in local weather experts to talk about different weather events that have happened in the past two years in the Panhandle," she said. "We will have a panel discussion with the chief meteorologists from all of the local TV stations and the chief meteorologist from the NWS."

Scotten said there will be door prizes and each booth will have freebies for the public. "A spotter talk will be held and it is a great opportunity for those who wish to become a trained Skywarn storm spotter."

WEATHER cont. on page 3



Photo courtesy of the National Severe Storms Laboratory
 The April 10, 1979 Seymour, Texas, tornado damaged roofs, telephone poles, trees and overturned a truck, but remained over open country while at peak intensity. It was rated on the Fujita Scale as an F2, which carries winds between 113 and 157 mph.

Gov. Perry asks delegation to push for Medicaid flexibility

BY EMILY RAMSHAW
 The Texas Tribune

Ahead of yesterday's speech before the Conservative Political Action Conference, Gov. Rick Perry has sent a letter to members of Texas' congressional delegation asking them to fight for flexibility for the state's Medicaid program.

In the letter, Perry reaffirms his pledge not to expand Medicaid, an important — if optional — tenet of President Obama's federal health care law. Medicaid serves the disabled and poor children; the Affordable Care Act aims to expand coverage to more impoverished adults.

Instead, Perry called on Texas' members of Congress to help get the state the flexibility to fix what he called a "broken system that doesn't work."

"I urge you to help your home state by securing flexible funding so we may tailor our program to specifically meet the needs of our citizens in a

MEDICAID cont. on page 3



Rick Perry

AERIAL INSTALLATION



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Jesse Hanes, atop a ladder and in inset photo, installs a receiver Thursday on the communications tower over the city's central fire station on Foster Avenue. Hanes is a captain for the Pampa Fire Department. Keeping close watch from the ladder truck below are John Evans, left, equipment operator, and Jack Ware, firefighter. The ladder, which can extend a maximum of 120 feet, was extended 80 feet for Hanes to reach the tower, said Assistant Fire Chief Randy Dunham. The receiver was installed as part of an expansion of the city's wireless network.

Country club hires new manager, chef

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Amanda Clawson is putting her career as a golf instructor on hold for a while, but it will be worth the wait.

Clawson, who was hired eight months ago to teach golf at the Pampa Country Club, was training to become a certified golf instructor.

That changed on Feb. 13 when she was promoted to club manager.

"I am putting teaching instructor on hold for now as I learn my new job," she said. "Restaurant management is a new field for me."

Clawson, a Dallas native, said she loves the PCC course.

"This course is beautiful and amazing," she said.

But most of all, Clawson said she enjoys the members and living in Pampa.

Clawson moved to Pampa from Amarillo with her husband, Ben, who is the mechanic for the Med Trans helicopter used by Pampa Regional Medical Center.

While in Amarillo, Ben worked at Bell Helicopter and Amanda worked at Grainger, an industrial supply company, and also as

MANAGER cont. on page 3



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Amanda Clawson, new manager at the Pampa Country Club, in the kitchen with Larry Diamond, executive chef.

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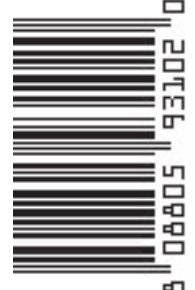
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IN THIS ISSUE:

Local Record	2	Classifieds	8,9
Viewpoints	4	Puzzles/Dear Abby...	9
Comics	7	Sports	10



PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 82 Low 47	High 61 Low 39	High 68 Low 42

Today: Mostly sunny with a high of 82. No chance of rain. Wind west southwest at 13 mph. Sunrise at 7:54 a.m.

Tonight: Mostly clear with a low of 47. No chance of rain. Wind west southwest at 10 mph. Sunset at 7:52 p.m.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high of 61. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind north northeast at 17 mph. Sunrise at 7:53 a.m.

Saturday night: Cloudy with a low of 39. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind east northeast at 13 mph. Sunset at 7:53 p.m.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a high of 68. No chance of rain. Winds southeast at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:52 a.m.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 42. No chance of rain. Winds south southeast at 14 mph. Sunset at 7:54 p.m.

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C P R Q J M I G Q O E T X F Q L P N T I O

P G Q N T T U . — W E J Q A G L O N J Q U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHAT IS CALLED GENIUS IS THE ABUNDANCE OF LIFE AND HEALTH. — HENRY DAVID THOREAU

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For the record

Pampa man arrested for multiple DWIs, unlawful possession of firearm by felon

• Ronald Scott Davis, 54, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by the Texas Department of Public Safety on charges of a DWI — third or more offense and unlawful possession of a firearm by a

felon.
• Don Ray Howard, 40, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office on possession of a controlled substance of more than one

gram, but less than four grams.
• Alexis Flores, 26, Santa Barbara, Calif., was arrested Thursday by GCSO on two bond surrender charges for possession of a controlled substance.

Texas lawmakers renew guns on campus debate

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers are renewing the debate on allowing concealed handguns into college classrooms.

The House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety is meeting Thursday to consider several bills allowing concealed handgun license holders to carry their guns into campus buildings where they are currently banned.

A similar measure erupted into one of the most contentious bills

of the 2011 session before it failed. Supporters are pushing the measure again.

College administrators have generally not supported the effort in the past. They worry guns will spark more campus violence and suicide.

Supporters call it a gun rights issue and a self-defense measure that could prevent mass shootings similar to the one at Virginia Tech in 2007 and last year at a Connecticut elementary school.

Census: Record 1 in 3 US counties are now dying

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record number of U.S. counties — more than 1 in 3 — are now dying off, hit by an aging population and weakened local economies that are spurring young adults to seek jobs and build families elsewhere.

New 2012 census estimates released Thursday highlight the population shifts as the U.S. encounters its most sluggish growth levels since the Great Depression.

The findings also reflect the increasing economic importance of foreign-born residents as the U.S. ponders an overhaul of a major 1965 federal immigration law. Without new immigrants, many metropolitan areas such as New York, Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh and St. Louis would have posted flat or negative population growth in the last year.

"Immigrants are innovators, entrepreneurs, they're making things happen. They create jobs," said Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, at an immigration conference in his state last week. Saying Michigan should be a top destination for legal immigrants to come and boost Detroit and other struggling areas, Snyder made a special appeal: "Please come here."

The growing attention on immigrants is coming mostly from areas of the Midwest and Northeast, which are seeing many of their residents leave after years of staying put during the downturn. With a slowly improving U.S. economy, young adults are now back on the move, departing traditional big cities to test the job market mostly in the South and West, which had sustained the biggest hits in the housing bust.

Census data show that 1,135 of the nation's 3,143 counties are now experiencing "natural decrease," where deaths exceed births. That's up from roughly 880 U.S. counties, or 1 in 4, in 2009.

The Texas metropolitan areas of Dallas, Houston and Austin continued to be big draws for young adults, ranking first, second and fourth among large metro areas in domestic migration due to diversified economies that include oil and gas production.

Mark Mather, an associate vice president at the Population Reference Bureau, noted that political efforts to downsize government and reduce federal spending could also have a significant impact on future population winners and losers.

Cops kill suspect in deadly New York shooting rampage

HERKIMER, N.Y. (AP) — Police in upstate New York stormed an abandoned building Thursday morning where a man suspected of a deadly shooting rampage at a car wash and barbershop had been holed up, killing him after he fired on an FBI dog.

SWAT teams entered the building around 8 a.m., and sent the dog in first, trooper Jack Keller said. The 64-year-old suspect, Kurt Myers, had been inside since Wednesday afternoon.

"He was waiting for us," Keller said. "He kills the dog. They hear shots fired. Our teams returned fire and the suspect gets shot."

No officers were injured in the basement shootout, he said.

Police say Myers sauntered into a barbershop Wednesday, coolly asked if the man cutting hair remembered him and then opened fire with a shotgun, the first shots in a burst of violence that would leave four dead, two critically wounded and people in this small village aching to find out what set the gunman off.

John Seymour, one of the men wounded in the attacks told his sister, Mary Hornett, the barbershop attack came out of nowhere.

"He just said that the guys were in the barbershop and this guy comes in and he says, 'Hi John, do you remember me?' and my brother said, 'Yes, Kurt, how are you?' and then he just started shooting," Hornett said.

Hornett said her brother, who was hospitalized in critical condition, was doing well after being shot in the left hand and right hip.

"My brother couldn't think of any reason why he would do such a thing," she said of Myers, a former customer who hadn't been in the shop for a couple of years.

The shootings shattered the peace and rattled the nerves of Mohawk and Herkimer, two small villages about 170 miles northwest of New York City, separated from each other by the Mohawk River and the New York State Thruway.

Police said Myers' rampage started with a fire in his apartment in the nearby village of Mohawk at about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. He then drove to John's Barber Shop around the corner and used a shotgun to kill two customers, D'Amico said, identifying them as Harry Montgomery, 68, and Michael Ransear, 57, a retired corrections officer. In addition to Seymour, the shop's owner, another customer, Dan Haslauer, also was listed in critical condition at a Utica hospital.

The gunman then drove to Gaffy's Fast Lube in nearby Herkimer and used the shotgun to kill Michael Renshaw and Thomas Stefka. Renshaw was a 23-year employee of the state corrections department who worked at Mid-State Correctional Facility near Utica. Stefka worked at Gaffey's and attended Mohawk Reform Church, where he played guitar during services.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, in a press conference in Herkimer, called it "truly an inexplicable situation."

Neighbors said they barely knew Myers, who rarely spoke, left every morning in his red Jeep and came back.

Traci Randall said the only time she remembers speaking to her next-door neighbor was when he yelled at her son because he thought he had shot an air pellet at his Jeep.

"He would walk by himself. He was kind of a loner. No wife," she said.

Neighbors said he never had visitors or friends. Gary Ulrich said Myers wouldn't even say much as 'Hi' to him when walking by his porch.

"I said, 'How are you doing?' No response. He just walked by," he said.

Michele Mlinar, a bartender at Cangee's Bar and Grille in Herkimer, said Myers frequently went in and had a bottle or two of Coors Light and left without speaking to anyone. She said he was always alone and she didn't even know his name until police released his mug shot on Wednesday.

Cangee's owner Candy Rellin called Myers "just an odd little man."

The two villages are about 65 miles east of Syracuse on opposite sides of the Mohawk River — which connects the Erie Canal to the Hudson River and from there, the sea — in a region known as the Mohawk Valley.

Elizabeth Cirelli was shocked by Stefka's slaying. He was a neighbor in Herkimer.

"He was a great guy, a really nice person. This is horrific. We really couldn't believe it," she said.

Herkimer County Community College lifted a lockdown during the afternoon, and schools near the scene released students. D'Amico said most of the three-block neighborhood around the search scene was evacuated.

Herkimer is a village of 7,700 named for the German immigrant family that settled in the western Mohawk Valley in the 1720s. The economically distressed villages are 2 miles away from Iliion, where a 2-century-old Remington Arms gun plant is a major employer.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

SUDOKU

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	9			8				

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Association to preserve Canton Lake announces public meeting

Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy ready to help.

STAFF REPORT

The Canton Lake Association (CLA) announced a public meeting at Canton Elementary School Gym Complex, Oklahoma 58 Canton, Okla., at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28. The lake is a popular recreation destination for many Pampa residents. Interested parties are invited to attend for discussions on future solutions to preserve Canton Lake

water levels, recreation, and western Oklahoma streams and groundwater. "Devastating actions have compounded Canton Lake's present condition," Tom Adams, a CLA board member said. "One issue for the patrons of Canton Lake and the CLA is northwest Oklahoma citizens were left out of the process in the lake's current federal water storage contract and the state water permit both which exist

in perpetuity." When combined, these actions create an environment in which Canton Lake could literally be sucked dry, he added. The primary goal of the CLA is to affect change in the contracts, permits and water laws that enable this to happen to Canton Lake. Another goal of CLA is to give the public a voice in present and future policy-making decisions both at the federal and state level. We simply cannot allow a catastrophe like this to repeat again and again at our lake.

"The current and future status of our rivers and lakes including challenges brought on by the ongoing drought will be discussed," said CLA President Jeff Converse. Legislators including State Sen. Bryce Marlatt, State Rep. Mike Sanders, board members and representatives from a strong conservation group known as Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy (ORWP, www.orwp.net), and others from various state, federal, and tribal agencies will participate. Additionally, Northwest Oklahoma

Alliance (NwOA), a group composed of municipalities, businesses and organizations will speak on a north-west Oklahoma water plan. Discussion and ideas from the general public will be encouraged. "Representatives from ORWP speaking at the meeting is extremely significant," Adams said. The ORWP brings experience to the Canton Lake situation in the form of extensive knowledge of state water law and permitting processes. ORWP has been heavily involved with the Choctaw and Chickasaw

Tribes in southeastern Oklahoma in the battle over Sardis Lake and the interstate battle over water between Oklahoma and Texas. "Now ORWP is ready to help the Canton Lake community," Adams said. People passionate about keeping water in Canton Lake and its tributaries are urged to attend the March 28 meeting in Canton. For more information, including how to join the association, go to a blog at www.cantonlakeassn.org or write to Canton Lake Association, P.O. Box 693, Canton, OK 73724.

Statewide gas price average drops 4 cents

SUBMITTED BY AAA TEXAS

The statewide average for a gallon of regular unleaded in the Lone Star State is now \$3.54, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. That price is four cents less than last week and 16 cents less than the current national average of \$3.70. Drivers in Dallas are paying the most on average at \$3.58, and drivers in El Paso are paying the least at \$3.47. It is too soon to say whether retail prices have peaked for the spring, because there is still refinery maintenance to be completed and much of the country must still transition to

summer-blend gasoline. The spike in pump prices earlier this year was the result of refinery maintenance and other unplanned concerns, rather than more expensive crude oil. "Texans are now paying about \$50 to fill up a typical 14-gallon size fuel tank," said AAA Texas/New Mexico Representative Doug Shupe. "As people head out for spring trips we encourage travelers to pack all their belongings inside their vehicles and not on top to reduce drag, make sure their car or truck is up-to-date on manufacturer's maintenance recommendations, and drive the speed limit and not aggressively."

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Manager

Continued From Page 1

a manager at Lane Bryant, a women's clothing store. She holds a degree in economics from Charleston Southern University in South Carolina. Also new at the country club is executive chef Larry Diamond, who started in August. Diamond said he doesn't really have a specialty as chef. "I just let it cook," he said. Clawson added, "His steaks are wonderful." Diamond was born in Pampa and grew up in Fort Worth. The chef said he's made a few changes to the menu since starting in August. New are Porterhouse pork chops and his own specially breaded onion rings. There are also new shrimp entrees and salads, including an Asian salad and a beef tenderloin salad. The club currently has 260 members and plans to grow its membership, Clawson said.

"We have lots of parties and social activities," she said. There are special buffets on holidays and tomorrow a St. Patrick's Day Shrimp and Oyster Night tops the bill. For more information, call 806-669-3286.

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Physicists make find after half-century quest

GENEVA (AP) — It helps solve one of the most fundamental riddles of the universe: how the Big Bang created something out of nothing 13.7 billion years ago. In what could go down as one of the great Eureka! moments in physics — and win somebody the Nobel Prize — scientists said Thursday that after a half-century quest, they are confident they have found a Higgs boson, the elusive subatomic speck sometimes called the "God particle." The existence of the particle was theorized in 1964 by the British physicist Peter Higgs to explain why matter has mass. Scientists believe the particle acts like molasses or snow: When other tiny basic building blocks pass through it, they stick together, slow down and form atoms. Scientists at CERN, the Geneva-based European Organization for Nuclear

Research, announced in July that they had found something that looked like the Higgs boson, but they weren't certain, and they needed to go through the data and rule out the possibility it wasn't something else. On Thursday, they said they believe they got it right. "To me it is clear that we are dealing with a Higgs boson, though we still have a long way to go to know what kind of Higgs boson it is," said Joe Incandela, a physicist who heads one of the two main teams at CERN, each involving about 3,000 scientists. Whether or not it was a Higgs boson had to be demonstrated by how it interacts with other particles and its quantum properties, CERN said. The data "strongly indicates that it is a Higgs boson," it said. The discovery explains what once seemed unexplainable and still is a bit

hard for the average person to comprehend. But it means the key theory that scientists use to explain everything works — for now, at least. Its discovery could be a strong contender for the Nobel, though it is uncertain whether the prize would go to the 83-year-old Peter Higgs and the others who first proposed the theory, or to the thousands of scientists who found it, or to all of them. Finding it wasn't easy. It took more than two decades, thousands of scientists and mountains of data from trillions of colliding protons. And it needed the world's biggest atom smasher — CERN's Large Hadron Collider, which cost \$10 billion to build and run in a 17-mile (27-kilometer) tunnel beneath the Swiss-French border — to produce the extreme surge of energies simulating those 1 trillionth to 2 trillionths of a second after the Big Bang.

Medicaid

Continued From Page 1

fiscally responsible manner," he wrote. Perry also laid out some specific reforms he'd like to see in Medicaid, including establishing copays, deductibles and premium payments on a sliding scale for poor patients, using asset testing to ensure services are going to people who truly need them, and promoting the use of existing private health coverage and employer-sponsored plans. These reforms are similar to proposals built into the state Senate's version of the proposed budget. "With this increased flexibility, my goal is to better serve Texas' most needy," he wrote, "while promoting a sense of personal responsibility and ownership in an individual's own health care."

Weather

Continued From Page 1

The doors will open at 9 a.m. with a booth fair that will have numerous weather, safety and emergency-related kiosks staffed by local and regional exhibitors available throughout the morning. More than 15 organizations are expected to staff booths, including NWS Amarillo, Amarillo/Potter/Randall Office of Emergency Management, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, Potter/Randall 911, KFDD-TV, KAMR-TV, KVII-TV, American Tornado Shelter

Association, Weather Lab, American Red Cross, Don Harrington Discovery Center and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. In addition, Coffee Memorial Blood Center will be conducting a blood drive on site. At 9 a.m., NWS Amarillo will present a Skywarn Storm Spotter presentation for those interested in becoming a certified Skywarn Storm Spotter. The general session will begin at 10:30 a.m. Topics and speakers for this session include:

- Two-year hazardous weather review
- April 11, 2012 hail drifts
- How do you get weather information?
- Special presentations by KAMR-NBC4, KVII-ProNews7, and KFDD-News Channel 10
- Panel discussion featuring chief meteorologists:
 - José Garcia — NWS Amarillo
 - John Harris — KAMR-NBC4
 - Steve Kersh — KVII-ProNews7
 - Dave Oliver - KFDD-News Channel 10

For additional info, please call NWS Amarillo at 806-335-1421 or visit Weather.gov/ama. The Amarillo Civic Center is located at 1401 S. Buchanan St.

er information?

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Viewpoints

The PAMPA NEWS

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806-669-2525 • Fax: 806-669-2520

ReDonn Woods

Publisher

rwoods@thepampanews.com

Timothy P. Howsare

Editor

thowsare@thepampanews.com

Zachary Green

Sports Editor

zgreen@thepampanews.com

Sasha Heller

Reporter

sheller@thepampanews.com

Dana Whinery

Advertising Representative

dwhinery@thepampanews.com

Cardinals would be wise to ignore journalists' advice

The College of Cardinals met in conclave on Tuesday to begin the process of electing a new pope. The cardinals have been getting plenty of advice from American journalists.



MICHAEL BARONE

The Catholic Church, they say, should open up the priesthood to women and allow priests to marry.

It should abandon its ban on contraception and endorse same-sex marriage. It should stop being so dogmatic about its dogmas.

As a non-Catholic, I don't presume to offer any advice. The church has managed to exist for nearly 2,000 without my counsel. But I do have some observations.

The journalists' advice is based on the premise that the church will lose members if it continues to adhere to what these journalists think are outmoded rules. And it risks antagonizing moderates who may admire its ritual and share some of its beliefs but want it to be more in line with contemporary thinking.

This resembles the advice journalists give to conservative (but not usually to liberal) politicians. You have to modify your beliefs to attract voters in the middle of the ideological spectrum.

Sometimes that advice is good; sometimes not. The assumptions behind it were validated by the defeat of Barry Goldwater but refuted by the victories of Ronald Reagan.

In the religious sphere, however, history soundly refutes the idea that watering down your beliefs strengthens your appeal and attracts new converts.

Sociologists Roger Finke and Rodney Stark tell the story in their book "The Churchofing of America 1776-1990: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy."

As they note, Ameri-

cans inherited a free market in religion from our colonial beginnings.

The religious settlement following Britain's Glorious Revolution of 1688-89 maintained an established church, funded by taxpayers, but allowed for free religious practice by other Protestants and by Catholics and Jews, as well.

The religious marketplace was especially free in the North American colonies, whose founders included Anglicans, Calvinist Puritans, Roman Catholics and Dutch Reformers.

The Founding Fathers took note of this diversity. In the Constitution, they specified that there be no religious test for public office. In the Bill of Rights, they barred Congress from passing any law regarding an establishment of religion.

Note that they didn't bar states from having taxpayer-funded established churches. Massachusetts had one until 1833.

But churches and clergymen (and clergywomen) were free to compete for Americans' allegiance. And they did so vigorously, with interesting results.

One is that church membership rose enormously, from surprisingly low levels in the colonial period.

Another is the rapid rise of new denominations. In the 19th century Methodists and Baptists — Finke and Stark call them "the upstart Protestants" — outnumbered previously more numerous Anglicans, Congregationalists and Presbyterians.

The Catholic Church grew not only among previously Catholic immigrants but also by making converts. Black Americans formed their own churches, which have thrived to this day.

The journalists advising the Catholic cardinals, some of them former Catholics, think a church that is closer to secularism will attract people like them.

Michael Barone, senior political analyst for The Washington Examiner.

Financial planning 101: required course

Dear Carrie, I'm a sophomore in college and would like to start some kind of financial plan to help protect me in the future. What's the best kind of investment at this stage in my life?



CARRIE SCHWAB-POMERANTZ

—A reader

It's encouraging to see someone your age thinking so broadly — and wisely — about their financial future. With current surveys showing that during these challenging times more and more young people are living at home and struggling to become financially independent, you're smart to be thinking about this now.

And you're right on when you say "financial plan." Because protecting yourself financially isn't just about

investing. It involves looking at all the pieces of your financial life to make sure they're working together for both the short and long term. So let's first go through some basic financial planning steps for your stage in life. Establishing a practical foundation is step one.

It's easier now when your financial life is fairly simple and will help you manage wisely as your finances become more complicated. Shop around for low or no-fee checking and savings accounts with low minimum balances and extras like unlimited checking and free online bill pay.

Once you have money to invest, open a brokerage account. Establish — and control — credit. Get a credit card in your own name, ideally with low interest and no annual fee. (If you're under 21, an adult

must co-sign.) Then use it so that you establish a credit history. But be careful. Misuse of credit creates many problems, and a negative credit history can follow you for years. For starters, never use a credit card for small purchases, and make a commitment to pay off your balance every month.

Create files to keep track of your financial activity. Whether you keep paper or online files, here are some categories that make sense: Bank accounts, Debt, Household Expenses, Taxes, Insurance, Personal documents, Retirement and Investments.

Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER (tm) is president of the Charles Schwab Foundation and author of "It Pays to Talk."



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 Fax:
806-669-2520

By U.S. mail:
Letters
The Pampa News
403 W. Atchison
Pampa, Texas
79065

By E-mail:
thowsare@thepampanews.com

Cheney's main fault is not thinking enough

In the trailer for the documentary "The World According to Dick Cheney," which premieres on Showtime on Friday, March 15, the former vice president is asked four



TOM ROSSHIRT

questions. After the first three, he answers instantly with his head held high. But when he hears the fourth question, he looks down.

He repeats the question pensively: "My main fault?" Then he pauses. Finally, he says: "I don't spend a lot of time thinking about my faults."

Definitely answered. That is his main fault. It is the signature feature of his personality. The aggression, the determination and the unquestioned conviction all flow from his incapacity for self-criticism.

Cheney plays it as a strength. He said, "I don't lie awake at night thinking, 'Gee, what are they going to say about me?'" And "if you're not prepared to have critics ... then you're in the wrong line of work."

do, because he knew his ideas could not prevail in an open debate. They could prevail only through force, stealth and skillful maneuvering.

In 1992 — the last full year of the George H.W. Bush administration — the Pentagon under Defense Secretary Dick Cheney was preparing the first iteration of the Defense Planning Guidance, to be issued after the end of the Cold War. Some officials were alarmed by the sharp change in U.S. strategy called for in the document, and the draft was leaked to The New York Times by (in the words of the Times) "an official who believes this post-cold-war strategy debate should be carried out in the public domain."

The guidance downplayed the 45-year emphasis on alliances that had helped win the Cold War and stressed the need for the U.S. to remain the world's dominant military power, resisting the rise of other powers — even allies. It asserted that the U.S. "must maintain the mechanisms for deterring potential competitors from even aspiring to a larger regional or global role."

The goal, once you strip away the bureaucratic code, is chilling: world domination through unrivaled military power. Once the document was released, officials at the White House and State Department repudiated it. An administration official called it a "dumb report" that "in no way or shape represents U.S. policy."

Eight years later, in 2000, the Project for the New American Century published a report called "Rebuilding America's Defenses." The introduction read: "In broad terms, we saw the project as building upon the defense strategy outlined by the Cheney Defense Department in the waning days of the Bush Administration. ... At present the United States faces no global rival. America's grand strategy should aim to preserve and extend this advantageous position as far into the future as possible."

The wisdom of the quest for unrivaled power has been tested by history. The cost in lives and wealth and alliances and human dignity and national reputation is beyond calculating — and the benefits are fleeting.

Former Sen. William Fulbright wrote in 1994: "The British were able for a few decades to survey an empire over which the sun never set, but that did not make Liverpool a beautiful place to live in, nor did it make the children of Welsh coalminers healthy and strong; on the contrary, it consumed resources that might have gone for these purposes, and then after all, the sun did set on the British Empire."

George W. Bush, when campaigning for president, spoke of a completely different national security strategy. He criticized "sending our military on vague, aimless and endless deployments."

He said: "Alliances are not just for crises — summoned into action when the fire bell sounds."

They are sustained by contact and trust." He also said: "I'm not so sure that the role of the United States is to go around the world and say, 'This is the way it's got to be.' ... If we're an arrogant nation, they'll resent us. If we're a humble nation but strong, they'll welcome us."

Whether voters cast their ballots for Al Gore or George W. Bush in 2000, they didn't vote for the Cheney Doctrine, but that's what they got. Some argued that the aggressive foreign policy that brought us the Iraq War was a response to 9/11. No — the plans were laid in 1992. Sept. 11 was not a reason; it was an excuse.

In the documentary, Cheney says, "If I had to do it over again, I'd do it over in a minute."

He has to say that. To say anything else would require a capacity for self-criticism. It would require a man who can bear the pain of doubt. That's not Dick Cheney. Cheney had total conviction, zero doubt, contempt for his critics and no scruples in the use of force.

A fascinating man. And the kind of leader democracy was designed to prevent.

Tom Rosshirt was a national security speechwriter for President Bill Clinton and a foreign affairs spokesman for Vice President Al Gore.

The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Mondays and all national holidays. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

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5-organ transplant patient gives birth: baby girl

By SUZETTE LABOY
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A woman who was given a new liver, pancreas, stomach and small and large intestine at a Miami hospital in 2007 has delivered a healthy baby girl, believed to be the first known case of a five-organ transplant patient giving birth.

Fatema Al Ansari, 26, said Wednesday she was overjoyed after giving birth by cesarean section Feb. 26. She held the sleeping child at a gathering with reporters Wednesday at the same hospital, Jackson Memorial, where she had transplant surgery in 2007.

"It's a hard feeling to express," the smiling mother said, gently cradling her daughter Alkadi Alhayal, who had weighed 4 pounds 7 ounces upon arrival. "It's the best feeling in the world," she said in Arabic, her words translated by an interpreter.

Snuggled in a white blanket and white cap, the child slept quietly in her mother's arms while her parents addressed reporters' questions with her doctors.

The woman, who lives in Qatar and plans to return home in coming weeks, was there at 19 when she was diagnosed with a blood clot in a major vein to the intestine — requiring transplant surgery.

Just over 600 five-organ transplants have been recorded as of 2011, according to the latest figures available from the Intestinal Transplant Association.

The most recent annual report by the National Transplantation Pregnancy Registry also indicates she is the first reported case of a five-organ transplant patient in the world to give birth.

Dr. Shalih Y. Yasin, the woman's obstetrician, said there have been some cases in Europe of births by transplant patients who had two organs "but not five."

"We have searched all medical literature all over the world for any pregnancy that had five multi-transplants and this is the first case to our knowledge," said the doctor with the University of Miami Health System.

Yasin said an adult with five transplanted organs who is sufficiently healthy to even consider having a child "is a miracle by itself."

Al Ansari was forced to terminate a previous pregnancy early on after her diagnosis, which made her think she would never be able to get pregnant. She said her husband, Khalifa Alhayal, gave her hope to realize her dream and they became parents through in vitro fertilization.

Her recent pregnancy was considered high-risk and she was monitored closely by her team of transplant doctors and gynecologists in Miami.

She did not have an infection during her pregnancy, as her doctors had prepared for, but she faced minor complications including the flu, some bleeding and physical discomfort from her growing baby.

"It's not an easy pregnancy to go through," Yasin said. "One has to make sure the transplant organ is not rejected, that the medications are safe to the baby."

Experts noted the uniqueness of the case.

"While we have a good success rate to get patients to survive and back to normal, almost none of them go on to bear children," said Dr. Thomas Fishbein, Executive Director at the Georgetown Transplant Institute, who was not part of Al Ansari's medical team.

He said he has seen multi-organ patients go through pregnancy, but not five-organ transplants.

"So this is very good news for the field," he said, noting the number of patients who have had successful bowel transplants is very small because of difficulty in achieving stable, long-term acceptance of that organ.

Al Ansari's doctors said she is in fact healthy enough to try for a second baby. And they said her case also offers some hope to other multi-organ transplant patients.

"We wanted to say that this was a very hard decision," said Al Ansari's husband, also speaking through an interpreter. "But we wanted to give hope to other people who have transplants and give them a chance, too."

Keystone XL pipeline not major jobs creator

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jobs numbers and other benefits touted by supporters of the Keystone XL oil pipeline are probably exaggerated, President Barack Obama told House Republicans on Wednesday, according to lawmakers who attended the closed-door meeting.

But Obama did not rule out a decision to approve the \$7 billion pipeline, according to participants. Obama told Republicans at the Capitol that he's still weighing a decision on the pipeline, which would carry oil from western Canada to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Rep. Lee Terry, R-Neb., said Obama appeared "conflicted" on the pipeline, saying that many of the promised jobs would be temporary and that much of the oil produced likely would be exported.

But Terry said Obama also indicated that dire environmental consequences predicted by pipeline opponents were exaggerated.

"He said there were no permanent jobs, and that the oil will be put on ships and exported and that the only ones who are going to get wealthy are the Canadians," Terry said.

A White House spokesman said Wednesday no decision on the pipeline has been made.

Terry, who supports the long-delayed pipeline, said he wished Obama's comments were less negative, but said he was still hopeful the project would be approved, a view echoed by Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., another pipeline supporter.

Scalise, who asked Obama about Keystone at the GOP meeting, said the president "made light" of jobs numbers predicted by supporters, including some who have predicted that the project could create as many as 100,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Obama said the pipeline "is not going to create as many jobs as you (Republicans) hope," Scalise said.

Calgary-based TransCanada, which is proposing the pipeline, initially said it could create at least 20,000 jobs, including 13,000 construction jobs and 7,000 jobs among suppliers and manufacturers. The company later clarified that the figures were for one person per year, based on a two-year construction timetable. The State Department has estimated the project would create about 5,000 to 6,000 jobs.

A draft environmental report released by the State Department this month said there would be no significant environmental impact to most resources along the proposed pipeline route, which goes through Montana, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. The report also said other options to get the oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries are worse for climate change.

State Department approval is needed because the project crosses a U.S. border.

On at least one aspect of the pipeline, Obama is "flat-out-wrong," Terry said. While some oil is likely to be exported, the total is far less than a majority, Terry said. "That was disturbing to me," he said.

El Paso City Hall demolition for ballpark

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — The 10-story city hall in El Paso will be demolished April 14 to make way for a new \$50 million minor league baseball park.

City officials on Tuesday afternoon announced the demolition date as

plans proceed for a new venue for the Triple-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres.

The MountainStar Sports Group bought the Tucson Padres in a relocation expected in time for the 2014 baseball season.

The El Paso City Council earlier voted to buy two buildings for nearly \$12 million to house municipal offices.

Opponents of demolishing city hall went to court but a judge last month ruled El Paso may proceed with a bond sale to finance construction. The ballpark will be owned by the city but leased to MountainStar and partly funded by hotel taxes.

Silicone fingers fool punch-in clock

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The Brazilian newspaper O Globo is reporting that a doctor in Sao Paulo was arrested after being caught in the act of using fake fingers made of silicone and imprinted with real finger prints to defraud a hospital's biometric punch-in clock.

The news report says the doctor, Thauane Nunes Ferreira, was detained and released Sunday.

Police told the newspaper the suspect confessed to using different fake fingers bearing the prints of 11 fellow doctors and 20 nurses to pretend they were showing up to work five overnight shifts each month instead of just one. She also said the staff at the Ferraz Vasconcelos Hospital paid the director \$2,400 per month to participate.

Ferreira will face charges of falsifying a public document and could get two to six years in prison.

Man used fake police lights to beat traffic

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Police in Oregon say a Washington man wove through interstate traffic at 80 mph with phony police lights flashing.

In his passenger seat was his 12-year-old son.

Marion County deputies didn't recognize the 2009 Nissan Maxima as one of their own unmarked vehicles. And when the driver passed a marked police car, the lights went off.

James Winfrey, a 27-year-old from Vancouver, Wash., told police he was only using the lights to help him catch up to friends.

Deputies say they found no evidence that Winfrey was attempting to pull over cars and falsely represent himself as a police officer.

Winfrey was cited for disorderly conduct, reckless endangerment and

traffic violations.

Four arrested for freeway stunt

WEST COVINA, Calif. (AP) — Four men — including the would-be groom — have been arrested for a marriage proposal stunt in which hundreds of motorcycles blocked a Southern California freeway, authorities said.

The prospective groom and three of his friends were all booked for investigation of misdemeanor public nuisance and participating in an unlawful assembly. The 24-year-old groom, Hector Martinez of Covina, also was booked for investigation of exhibition of speed, authorities said Tuesday.

As many as 250 motorcycles stopped on the eastbound Interstate 10 in West Covina on Jan. 27 so

that Martinez could propose to his girlfriend. At one point, a bike sent up a cloud of pink smoke.

The stunt, which lasted about two minutes, was captured on video and went viral on the Internet.

"They made a spectacle of it," said Sgt. Kurt Stormes of the California Highway Patrol. "It's a slap in the face of law enforcement, in general."

Martinez's bride-to-be accepted the proposal. She is not facing any charges.

Stormes said investigators were able to find the men through social media. "They bragged about it a lot," Stormes said of the bikers.

Three members of a rock band were each sentenced to probation last year and 35 days of community service for blocking a freeway to promote their music.

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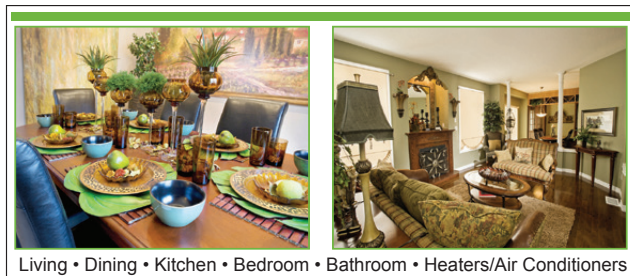
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The PAMPA NEWS Community Calendar

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 first 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.

Immunization clinic 3 times a month

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) hosts an immunization clinic in Pampa three times a month. The clinics are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays of each month. The first 10 people in line will always receive shots.

However, if there are more than 10, they still may be able to accommodate the patients, or ask them to come back at another time. For more in-

formation, call 665-4752. The clinic is located at 736 S. Cuyler St.

PAWS meets second Tuesdays

Pampa Animal Welfare Society meets the first Tuesday of each month in the north meeting room at the Lovett Memorial 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.

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.

Mejia to perform Saturday

J.A. Mejia, 23-year-old multi instrumentalist and composer, will perform several of his original compositions on violin and piano at the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center, 320 S. Cuyler St.

The concert is from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday and admission is free, but dona-

tions will be accepted. For more information, contact Thelma Bray at 806-665-1180.

Chamber luncheon Tuesday, March 19

This month's Chamber Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 19 at noon in the M.K. Brown room of the Chamber.

The program will be presented by Marshall Jeffus of the Texas Association of Business

The program is sponsored by Howard Compressor Services.

The luncheon is catered by Dyer's, serving brisket and sausage.

The cost is \$10 per person. RSVP by Monday by calling Allie Stark at 806-669-3241.

Garage and Trade Show March 23

Open Range Engineering is hosting the "Welcome Home" Garage & Trade Show. The event is designed to showcase the new development of The Edwin Park Subdivision at 2401 Charles (the old middle school). The Garage & Trade Show will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 23, with the groundbreaking following immediately after.

There is still plenty of booth space available for vendors, crafters, homemade items and even the service industry. This is also wonderful opportunity to advertise your business, to showcase items, or discuss the services your business offers. For information, contact

Stephanie Nelson with Open Range Engineering at 806-665-1115 ext. 20.

PHS Choir garage sale March 23

The Pampa High School Choir is holding a garage sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

The sale will be held in the music rooms and outdoors at the old Pampa Junior High School off the Perryton Highway.

The sale is concurrent with the Garage & Trade Show that is being sponsored by Open Range Engineering.

All proceeds from the choir garage sale will go to the choir students' Italy trip.

The Choir Booster Club will be selling hamburgers, chips and water.

No choir performances are scheduled at this time, since several students will not be present because of other extracurricular events.

Hidden Hills 3-Person Scramble March 23

Hidden Hills Golf Course is hosting a 3-person scramble at 9 a.m., March 23.

The entry Fee is \$45 per person.

Only one player with a 8 handicap or less is allowed.

Extra money will benefit the Course Improvement fund. Free lunch will be provided to tournament players.

For more information, contact David Teichmann at 806-669-5866.

Financial Peace University at Briarwood

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, an eight-week financial planning course, will be offered at Briarwood Church, beginning at 7 p.m., March 28. Lessons include budgeting, relationships and money, getting out of debt, saving for emergencies and investing.

Briarwood Church is located at 1800 W. Harvester Ave. Contact the church office 806-665-7201 for more information or to register.

Food manager training course

A professional food manager certification training course will be offered March 27-28 at the Gray County Annex, located at 12125 E. Frederic Ave. in Pampa by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Gray County.

For more information about the Professional Food Manager Certification training course, call Gray-Soria at 806-669-8033.

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.

Altrusa International holds March 12 meeting

Altrusa International Inc. of Pampa, met March 12 at First United Methodist Church with President Pat Johnson presiding. Carolyn Kessel and Chleo Worley served as greeters. Maxine Watson attended as a guest. Pam Pillars was accepted as a new member. The Accent was given by Mary McDaniel on the procedures for fundraising. The club voted to donate \$100 to the Bike Rodeo to be held May 11.

The following Committee Reports were given:

Travis Reading Program: five Altrusans read to Travis kindergartners last week. ASTRA - Allison Watson reported that ASTRA members assisted with the Heart Gala recently.

Lunch with Dignitaries: Kathryn Green reported that the Lunch

with Dignitaries visit was to Clarendon College. Taste of Pampa: Linda Weaver announced that Taste of Pampa will be held April 16 at M.K. Brown Heritage Room. Committees are being assigned for the event. Pat Johnson reminded members to complete registration forms for District Conference to be held April 19-21 at Embassy Suites in Frisco, Texas.

Officers for 2013-14 were elected as follows: President — Kitty Hall; Vice President — Melodie Dosch; Recording Secretary — Rochelle Lacy; Corresponding Secretary — Sheila Winton; Treasurer — Terry Gamblin; Directors — Brenda Guess and Linda Weaver


The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., March 26, at First United Methodist Church.



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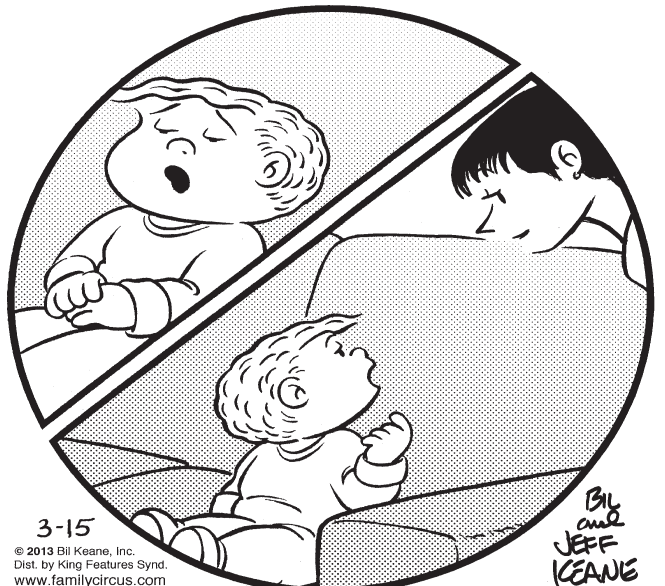
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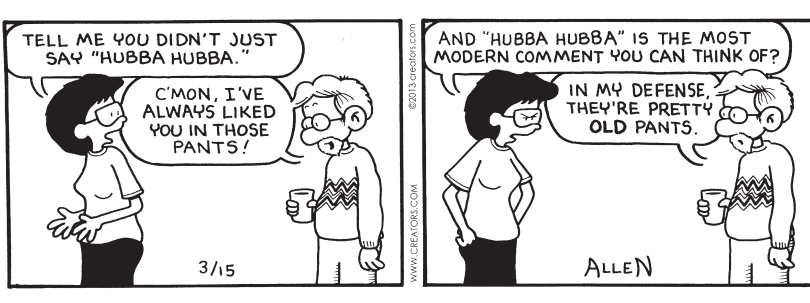
"That was a bored yawn, not a sleepy yawn."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



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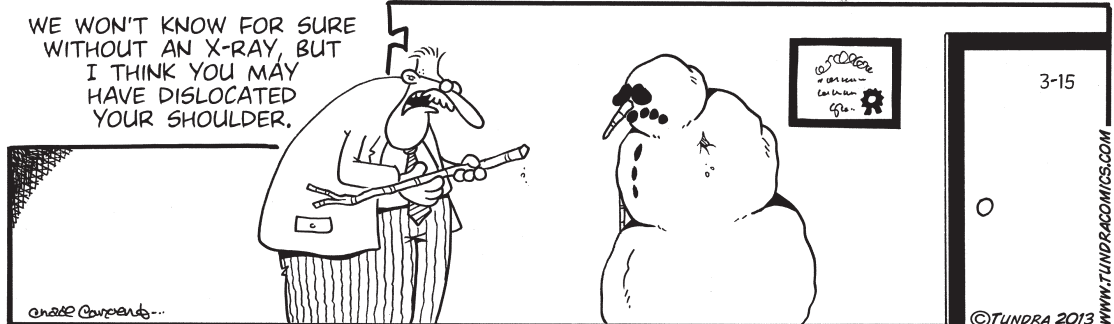
daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 16, 2013:
 This year you enjoy your surroundings and your interactions with others. You will flourish in your present environment, as you will meet new people and bond more deeply with friends and loved ones. Travel could present complications. Be aware of these limitations. If you are single, you might stumble into a very intense romance. If you are attached, your first child could become a topic of conversation. Keep an open mind. If you are childless, your status might change this year. **GEMINI** loves to tease you.
 The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★ Check out the costs of certain desired items. It is possible that you are considering making a change in your work or lifestyle. This experience could be a fabulous vacation. Know what you desire, and you will be OK. A partner could be testy. Tonight: Treat yourself for a change.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ Beam in more of what you desire, and allow others to have a greater freedom of expression. Your judgments prevent you from seeing others openly, and this could cause you to be hard on yourself. Walk in someone else's shoes in order to gain understanding. Tonight: You can have it all.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ Honor the need to retreat or take a vacation. A partner, relative or dear friend might have an opinion here, but your need to get away rises above it. Trust that you will be better for the experience. Tonight: Start daydreaming about how you want to revitalize your life.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★ Zero in on your priorities, and know full well where you are going. As sensitive as you are, you always feel better having friends' support -- it doesn't matter what you are doing. Bring others together in order to express your appreciation. Tonight: Get down to basics.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ Take charge. Whether you're with family or friends, you know what to do. Someone might indicate that he or she does not appreciate your change of

plans. Make a point of letting this person know that you will make special time for him or her. Tonight: Happiest at home.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Express your desire for a different type of situation by making a game plan. Wherever you decide to go, you will have an opportunity that opens up doors for you. Communication with a relative could be touchy. Indulge this person. Tonight: Follow the music.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Don't let your insecurity mar a great relationship. Make a point of doing something that builds your confidence, whether it be shopping or getting a massage. Postpone a meeting if you must. Tonight: Go along with someone else's suggestion.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Others express their high energy and genuine interest in your plans. Resist being mysterious, and share what you have in mind. You will have a better time with friends or loved ones as a result. Allow yourself to go with the flow. Tonight: Follow through on plans.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★ Get into a favorite project, and don't allow yourself to be distracted. Think before you leap, and understand your true motives regarding a long-term goal. Act accordingly. Don't do anything that could create a problem for you. Tonight: Catch up with a favorite person.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You'll get to the root of an issue in an upbeat way. Someone will understand your message, though he or she might need to think it over first. A brainstorming session could evolve into a unique adventure. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ You might be more grounded than you realize. You are capable of tremendous flexibility, but you are likely to stay within your values. Someone might come down hard on you. Decide what you want to do about this behavior, if anything. Tonight: A must appearance.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ You can make a difference if you keep a conversation open. A discussion might be hard at first, but in the end, everything will work out. Listen to others' suggestions more openly. Let go of something that you can't seem to make a decision about. Tonight: With friends.

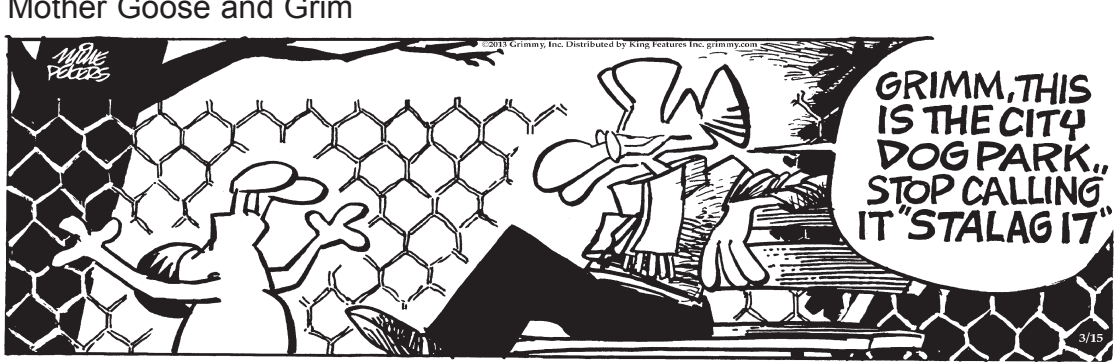
Tundra



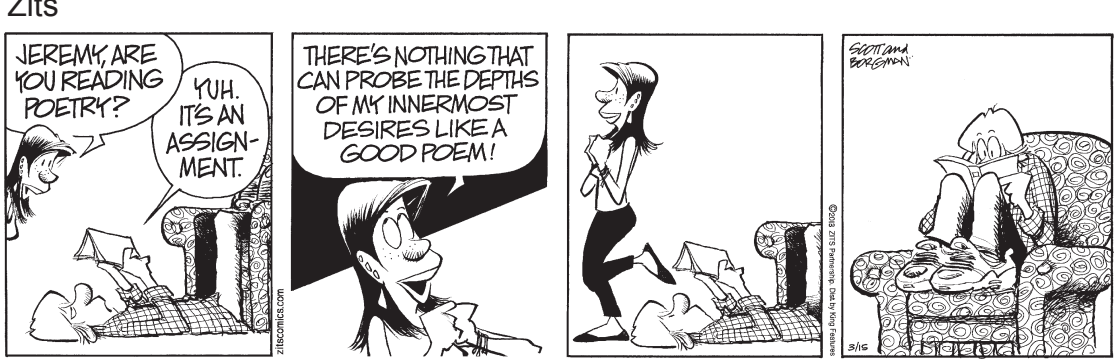
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



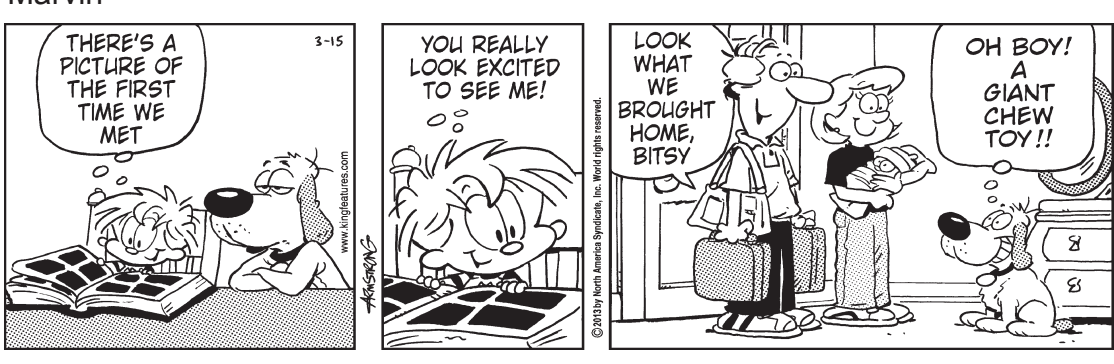
Garfield



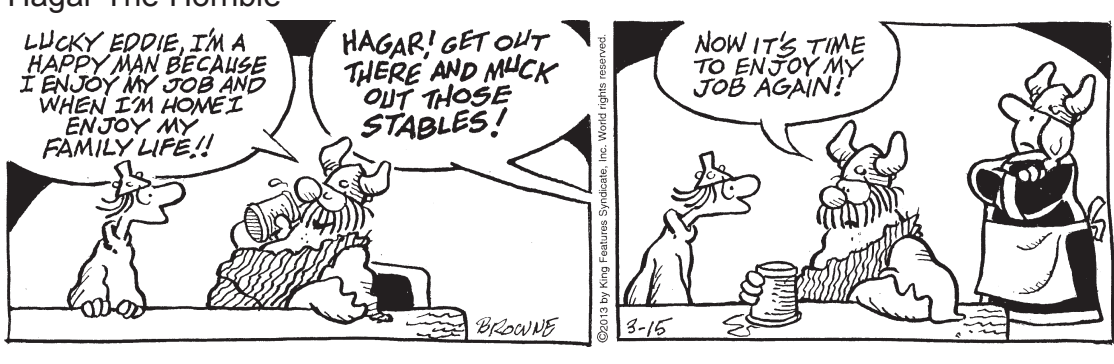
Beetle Bailey



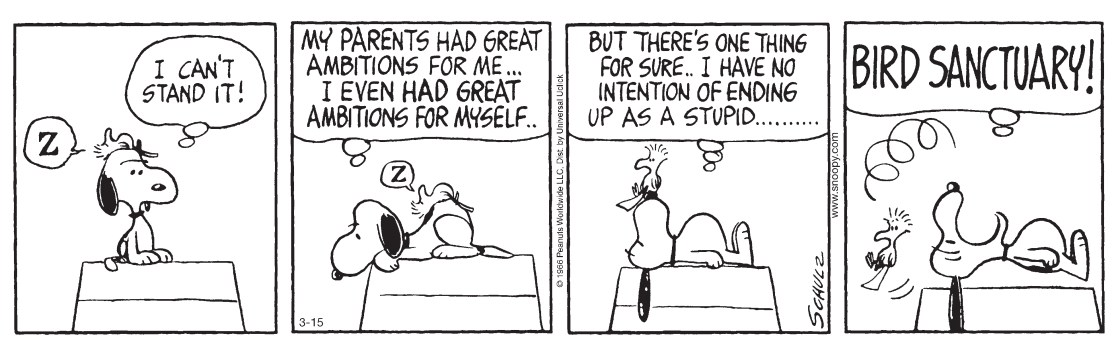
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible

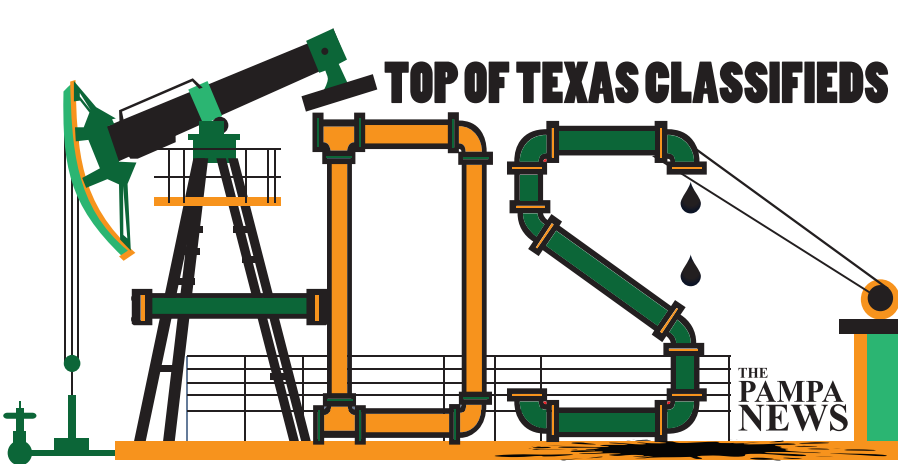


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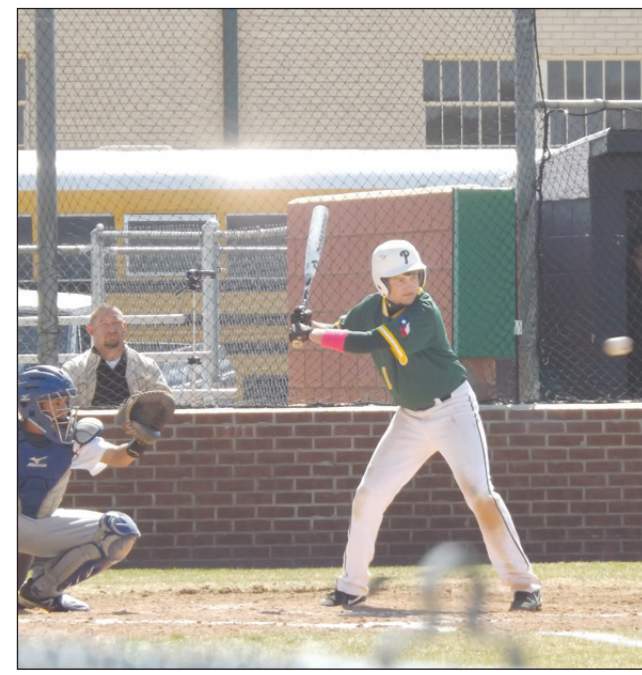
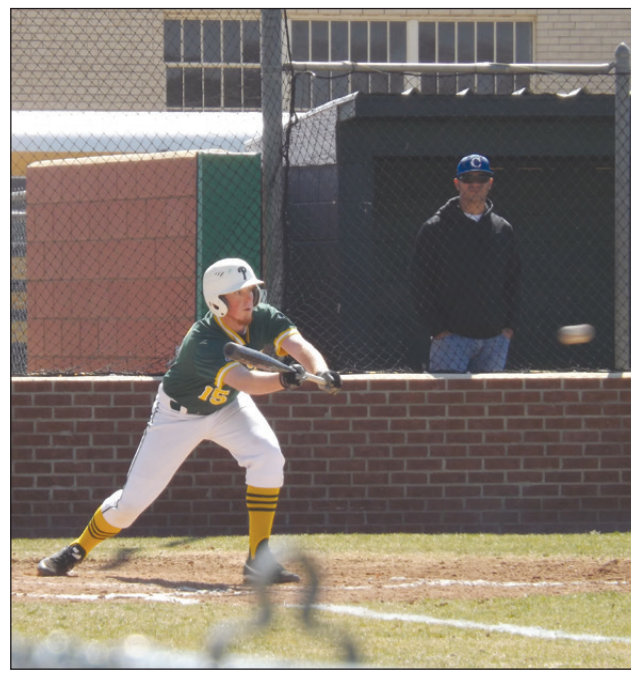
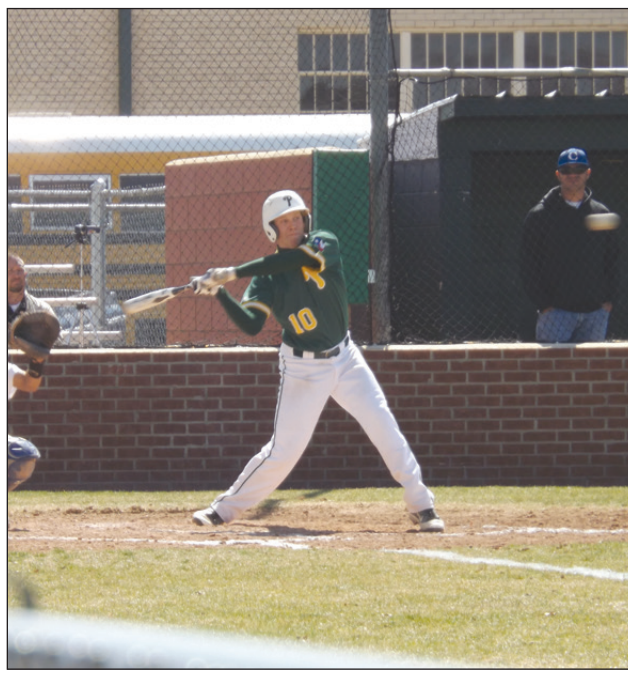
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HARVESTERS WIN 9-8 AGAINST CHILDRESS



Photos by Zachary Green

HOME OPENER WIN. Left, Tyler Powell takes a hack at an incoming pitch. Center, Riley Douglas prepares to lay down a bunt in the game. Right, Taylor Woods lines up a swing. Pampa won the game 9-8 after falling behind twice and coming back to edge out the Childress Bobcats Wednesday.

Heat streak at 20 games after 98-94 win over 76ers

By DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — With LeBron James by his side in the locker room, Dwyane Wade took a moment to admire Miami's streak.



Dwyane Wade

"Twenty is special," Wade said. "Win 20 games in a row, it's awesome. You can't get around it. We're going to try to go for the next one."

James and Wade have an NBA championship together, and now they're chasing history.

James scored 27 points and the Miami Heat became the fourth team to win at least 20 consecutive games in a season, beating the Philadelphia 76ers 98-94 on Wednesday night.

"Wherever the game takes us in those 48 minutes, we're ready for it," James said.

For win No. 20, the game took the Heat down to the wire.

All of Miami's talent wasn't enough put away a Sixers team revved up like it was a playoff game. The Heat had a 10-point lead early in the fourth, but it wasn't enough, at least not yet.

Jrue Holiday, the 76ers' All-Star point guard, showed no fear of the moment when he dunked on a leaping James for the tying bucket.

James came right back and made one of two free throws for a 92-91 lead. Holiday dribbled the ball into Chris Bosh's leg, then off his own foot, leading to Wade's tip for a three-point lead after James

missed twice at the rim. James drove from beyond the arc and missed from the right side, he put up his own rebound off the back of the rim, and Wade slid in underneath two Sixers defenders for the bucket.

"I miss two gimmes and D-Wade was able to tip 'em home," James said. "It was just great of him not giving up on the play and putting us up."

The Heat escaped with a scare — and No. 20.

"When you have a streak like this, you have to have some luck," James said.

Only three teams have won at least 20 consecutive games in the same season: the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers (33), the 2007-08 Houston Rockets (22) and the 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks (20).

The Washington Capitals also won 20 straight, spanning the end of the 1947-48 season and the start of the 1948-49 campaign.

Unless they wear down, there's no reason to think the Heat can't keep the streak going toward 33.

The rest of the road trip includes games at Milwaukee, Toronto, Boston and Cleveland.

Up ahead: Friday night against the Bucks.

"We just think about winning the next game and we'll see where it takes us," James said.

Wade scored 21 as the Heat needed big baskets over the final 2 minutes to top the Sixers for the milestone win. He stuck with the ball on James' misses and scored the clutch tip that made it a three-point

lead with 29 seconds left that squashed the Sixers' upset bid.

"It shows you he, like many of our guys, are just willing to make winning plays at the end," coach Erik Spoelstra said.

James and the Heat have started to acknowledge just how special this winning streak is in a season that has them running away with the Eastern Conference.

They opened a five-game road trip as 8-point favorites over the slumping Sixers, a team they've defeated three times during the streak. They beat Atlanta on Tuesday for streak win No. 19, then made the flight to Philadelphia that put them in just before dawn.

"You get sleep when you can and do your job," center Chris Bosh said.

Maybe fatigue played a bit of a role in Miami's inability to truly put away the Sixers. Led by Thaddeus Young, the Sixers opened the third quarter on a 16-8 run that helped slice the lead to four. Miami led 71-66 at the end of the quarter.

The Sixers hung around in the fourth, too. Dorell Wright hit a 3-pointer to make it a six-point game and he followed with a steal and fast-break dunk to cut it 82-78. Sixers fans coming to see a slice of history were suddenly rooting for history denied. Philadelphia's fans started going wild to the "Make Some Noise!" sign on the video board and started singing the catchy anthem, "1-2-3-4-5-Sixers!"

In the end, it was more, 18, 19, 20 and counting for the Heat.

Young had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Sixers. Holiday had 21 points and Evan Turner scored 15.

"At the end, we just couldn't come up with that one rebound," coach Doug Collins said. "I thought we executed, got

some shots at the end, and just couldn't quite find a way to get over the top."

Fans in Heat jerseys dotted the arena and dozens packed the baseline three rows deep snapping pictures of Miami's pregame drills. James wowed them with some around-the-back reverses that served as a sneak peek for what was ahead.

James, the reigning MVP, turned the second quarter into his own dunk contest. It helped that he didn't have any competition.

With flair, James threw down thunderous dunks about every time he touched the ball. His best came on a reverse he brought between the legs that had the sellout crowd of 20,398 "Oooohhhh!" in amazement. His dunk capped a 17-2 run that put the Heat up 10 and helped them cruise toward a 51-39 halftime lead.

But the first half wasn't all about James' dazzling dunks. The Heat had 14 assists on 19 baskets and Shane Battier came off the bench to hit a pair of lead-stretching 3-pointers. It's the kind of teamwork that has the Heat rolling.

"You have to have a unique group that are willing to sacrifice, a unique group willing to keep perspective of what we're playing for and not get caught up in all the noise outside," Spoelstra said. "There are so many distractions, not only in this league, but everyday life."

Notes: New Eagles coach Chip Kelly had a lengthy chat outside the locker room with Spoelstra before the game. Kelly had previously made a pregame visit with Collins. ... The Heat have beat the 76ers 14 straight times. ... The Heat missed 15 of 20 3-pointers.

Putin indicates support for Olympic wrestling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW (AP) — Dropping wrestling from the Olympics would not sit well with Vladimir Putin.

Putin was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying Wednesday "the removal from the Olympic program of traditional forms of sports, which

were its basis from the beginning and were in the program of the Olympic Games even in the time of ancient Greece ... is unjustified."

Putin says he hopes Russia will discuss the issue with the IOC. Wrestling is one of Russia's strongest Olympic events, and sports officials have been

upset by the IOC executive board's vote last month to drop the sport from the 2020 Games.

Wrestling's governing body will meet in Moscow

on May 18 to elect a new president and make rules changes.

The final IOC decision on sports will be in September.

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