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# 1PA

TODAY IN SPORTS

Thursday, March 21, 2013

www.thepampanews.com

Volume 108 • No. 265



My husband is prejudice How the feds are conning you | p4 Lady Harvesters roll to second district win Harvesters open district with loss | p1B & 2B

# New home construction in Pampa

By TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE

thowsare@thepampanews.com

It's been a few years since new houses have been built in Pampa, so the sights and sounds of heavy equipment breaking ground for new home sites within city limits is a bit of a phenomenon.

However, it's something Pampans could see more and more of as the energy industry continues to bring economic growth and new jobs to the area.

Right now, new home construction is exactly what's going on East Harvester Avenue near the Pampa Country Club. Work is under way for a new 17,500-squarefoot house that will sell for around \$175,000.

Also under construction is an all-weather alley

that will run behind that house and other new homes planned by Century 21 Pampa Realty.

Jim Davidson, broker/owner of Pampa Realty, said the time is ripe for new houses in Pampa.

"New people coming in to Pampa are used to new homes," he said. "We get lots of calls from people wanting new homes." Though there is a local market for used homes, Da-

vidson said that "relocation companies won't even accept homes if they're older than 10 years.'

The construction on East Harvester is a spec house to be built by Legacy Builders of Amarillo.

'They are building the pad to set the house on," Da-

HOUSING cont. on page 3



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

A crew from G.W. James Inc. was doing site work Wednesday for new housing construction on East Harvester Avenue near the Pampa Country Club.

# One-way ticket to adventure

#### ■ Lovett Memorial Library's Storytime keeps children learning while playing.

By Sasha Heller sheller@thepampanews.com

There's always time for a little "Cat in the Hat," or maybe some "Green Eggs and

If you're looking for something to do with the little ones during the mornings, Lovett Memorial Library offers Storytime, from 10 to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, as part of the library's ongoing efforts to improve child literacy.

Circulation clerk Barbara Craig leads the group of children in literary adventures penned by notable children's authors like Dr. Seuss, Eric Carle, Mo Willems, Don Freeman, Eric Litwin and Jonathan London.

On Wednesday, Craig read one of London's most popular stories, "Froggy Eats Out," which chronicles a night out at dinner with Froggy and his family.

"Froggy" is filled with important lessons like how to properly behave when eating out at a restaurant. Proper behavior is something

STORY cont. on page 8

## Bill in favor of Sunday liquor sales discussed

BY ELENA SCHNEIDER The Texas Tribune

As the House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee took up a bill that would allow liquor sales on Sundays, one committee member raised concerns about whether the legislation could make it easier for minors to access alcohol.

During Tuesday's hearing on House Bill 421, which would allow for Sunday liquor sales to be expanded beyond beer and wine, state Rep. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, grilled Distilled Spirits Council spokesman Dale Szyndrowski about the potential for expanding liquor sales to grocery stores. Some critics of the bill say that abolishing the restrictions on Sunday liquor sales lays the path for grocery stores to also begin sell-

"My concern is access to minors," Gutierrez said during the hearing. "It's a hell of lot easier to steal a little pint of alcohol, than a six-pack of beer."

Szyndrowski said that although "market BILL cont. on page 8

#### WHEN TIMES GET 'RUFF'

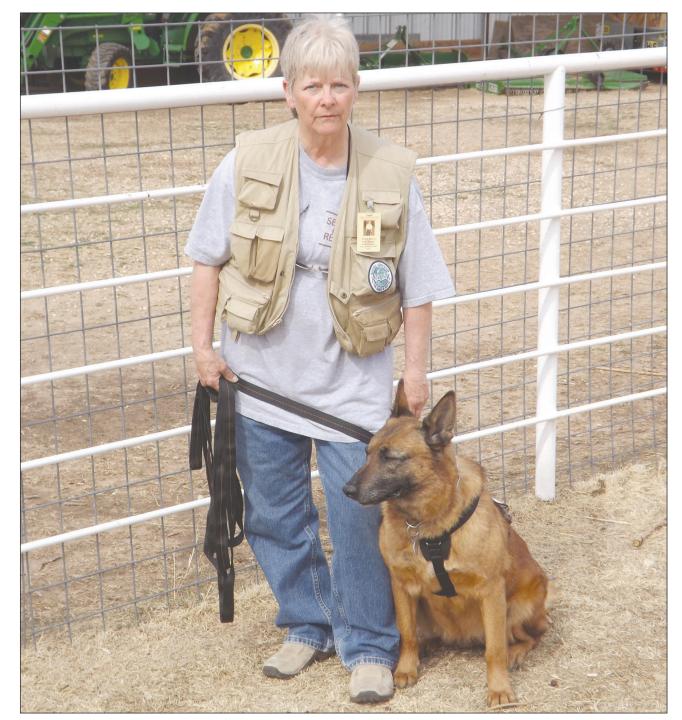


Photo by Zachary Green

Sandy Burns stands in her front yard with her dog, Fena. She has taken 14 calls for Fena to help find missing persons and actively searched on four of those calls. The other 10 were located before Burns was able to get Fena out on the search. Fena is a 7-year-old Belgian Malinois.

# Rescue dog can save lives

By Zachary Green

zgreen@thepampanews.com

Former Pampa Animal Shelter worker Sandy Burns owns a search and rescue dog named Fena, a 7-year-old Belgian Malinois, who has successfully located four individuals.

Burns retired from the shelter in 2009 after working there for 30 years. She now works at one of the state prison units on U.S. Highway 60.

Burns and Fena became partners in January 2005 when the Pampa City Commission approved use of a forensic search dog to locate missing individuals. Burns was Pampa's animal control supervisor at that time.

Fena was donated by the Team Amber Alert, a nation-

wide organization that helps find lost or missing children. The dog was to be cared for by the city's Animal Control Department.

Then-Pampa Police Department Chief Trevlyn Pitner said most communities would pay between \$10,000 to \$15,000 for an animal like Fena, so the city was fortunate to get one for free. Because Fena was the only forensic search dog in the Panhandle, the chief expected requests to come in from other communities to help track lost or missing children and adults.

Even though the dog was donated, Burns said, the city had to have a specific handler for the dog.

"It is important for a dog to keep the same handler because it trains with that handler and listens to that han-FENA cont. on page 3



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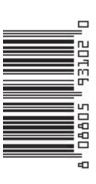




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#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

Obituaries2A	Sports 1B-2
Local Record 2A	Comics 3
Viewpoints4A	Classifieds4B-5
Kid's Scoop6A	Puzzles/Dear Abby 6



#### PAMPA FORECAST

Low 37

**Today** Friday Saturday High 49

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a high of 73. Twenty percent chance of rain. Wind west at 16 mph. Sunrise at 7:46 a.m.

Low 39

Low 24

Thursday night: Clear skies with a low of 37. Twenty percent chance of rain. Wind northeast at 14 mph. Sunset at 7:57 p.m.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a high of 61. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind east northeast at 13 mph. Sunrise at 7:44 a.m.

**Friday night**: Mostly cloudy with a low of 39. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind southeast at 12 mph. Sunset at 7:58 p.m.

percent chance of rain. Wind west southwest at 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:43 a.m. Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 24.

Saturday; Showers with a high of 49. Thirty

Ten percent chance of rain. Wind north northwest at 22 mph. Sunset at 7:58 p.m.

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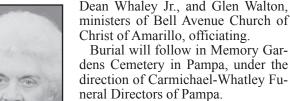
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# **Obituaries**

#### Clorene Moore

Clorene Moore, 94, died March 19, 2013 in Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m., Friday, March 22, 2013, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with



Clorene Moore

Burial will follow in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Fu-

Mrs. Moore was born April 9, 1918 in Forestburg, Texas to Author Moore and Nancy Hester Moore. She married Boyd Moore on Jan. 8, 1943 in Lincoln, Neb. After Boyd served in the U.S. Army during WWII, they settled in Pampa in 1949 where they

spent most of their lives. Clorene known to her family as "Granny" was a nurtur-

er to many. She loved to cook, sew and garden. Because of her love for sewing, she worked as a consultant at Sands Fabrics in Pampa for 17 years. She was a member of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ where she served on several church committees. In her later years, she moved to Amarillo to be closer to family, but always considered Pampa home. She was preceded in death by her husband Boyd Moore, her parents Author and Nancy Moore, a brother, six sisters and several nieces and neph-

Survivors include two daughters, Linda Bigham and her husband Don of Amarillo and Nancy Hardy of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Derek Bigham and wife Kim, Delinda McKee and husband Brian, Brenan Hardy, Erin Johnson and husband Paul, and Amanda Hardy; 12 greatgrandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Family will receive guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at

Carmichael-Whatley funeral home.

The family suggest memorials be made to a favorite

Sign the online register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

# For the record

#### Pampa teen arrested for burglary of a habitation · Eric Andrew Masias, 18, Pampa, was arrested • Albert Christopher Tambunga, 22, Pampa, was ar

Wednesday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for burglary of a habitation.

rested Wednesday by the GCSO for capias pro fine nonpayment of court costs/fees.

# Both sides agree on tough new fracking standards

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH (AP) — In an unlikely partnership between longtime adversaries, some of the nation's biggest energy companies and environmental groups have agreed on a voluntary set of standards for gas and oil fracking in the Northeast that appear to go further than existing state and federal pollution regulations. The program announced Wednesday will work a lot

like Underwriters Laboratories, which puts its UL seal of approval on electrical appliances that meet its standards. In this case, drilling and pipeline companies will be encouraged to submit to an independent review of their operations, and if they are found to be taking certain steps to protect the air and water, they will receive the blessing of the brand-new Pittsburgh-based Center for Sustainable Shale Development. If the project succeeds, it could have far-reaching

implications for both the industry and environmental groups. A nationwide boom in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has unleashed huge new energy reserves but also led to fears of pollution and climate change. Shell Oil Vice President Paul Goodfellow said this is

the first time the company and environmental groups have reached agreement to create an entire system for reducing the effects of shale drilling. "This is something new," said Bruce Niemeyer, presi-

dent of Chevron Appalachia. "This is a bit of a unique coming-together of a variety of different interests." In addition to Shell and Chevron, the participants include the Environmental Defense Fund, the Clean Air

Task Force, the Heinz Endowments, EQT Corp., Consol Energy and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. and the organizers hope to recruit others. It may be part of a trend. Earlier this month a coalition of industry and environmental groups in Illinois an-

nounced that they worked together on drilling legislation now pending there. But the Pittsburgh project, which has been in the works for nearly two years, would be volun-"We believe it does send a signal to the federal govern-

ment and other states," said Armand Cohen, the director of the Boston-based Clean Air Task Force. "There's no reason why anyone should be operating at standards less than these.'

The new standards include limits on emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and the flaring, or burning off, of unwanted gas; reductions in engine emissions; groundwater monitoring and protection; improved well designs; stricter wastewater disposal; the use of less toxic fracking fluids; and seismic monitoring before drilling begins.

The project will cover Pennsylvania, West Virginia and - where a frenzy of drilling is under way in the huge, gas-rich Marcellus and Utica Shale formations as well as New York and other states in the East that have put a hold on new drilling.

Shell said it hopes to be one of the first companies to volunteer to have its operations in Appalachia go through the independent review. Chevron said it expects to apply for certification, too, when the process is ready to start later this year.

Mark Brownstein, an associate vice president with the Environmental Defense Fund, said many oil and gas companies claim to be leaders in protecting the environment, and "this can be one opportunity for them to demonstrate that leadership" by submitting to an audit.

"Anyone who claims to be placing a priority on good management practice" should be rushing to sign up, he

The project will be overseen by a 12-member board consisting of four seats for environmentalists, four for industry and four for independent figures: former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill; Christine Todd Whitman, the former New Jersey governor and Environmental Protection Agency chief; Carnegie Mellon University President Jared Cohon; and Jane Long, former associate director at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The center's proposed 2013 budget is \$800,000, with the two sides expected to contribute equal amounts, said Andrew Place, the project's interim leader and director of energy and environmental policy at EQT, an Appalachian energy company.

Mark Frankel, an expert on ethics and law at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, said the idea sounds promising, but it remains to be seen if the new standards are a significant improvement over existing laws. He said there are also ethical and policy questions.

"What does it mean to have an independent board? Who's on it? How do they get on it?" he asked.

George Jugovic, president of the environmental group PennFuture, one of the participants, said the industry's involvement makes this different from past debates over

"Buy-in from them is huge. That provides leadership from within," Jugovic said. "It's very different from someone from the outside saying, 'You can do better.'

### Summer youth work program at Lake Meredith

#### SUBMITTED

Fritch, Texas — Lake Meredith National Recreation Area will conduct a summer youth work program under the authority of the Youth Conservation Corps through the National Park Service.

Lake Meredith will hire five youth enrollees between the ages of 15-18. The eight-week program will run from June 3 to July 26, and enrollees must be available to work for the entire time.

Enrollees will be paid \$7.25 per hour and will work a 40-hour week. National Park Service maintenance personnel will supervise the work crew and manage the

Work to be accomplished includes roadside maintenance and removal of brush and debris, cleaning and rehabilitation of front and backcountry campsites, trail maintenance, rehabilitation and painting of picnic shelters and other park facilities, and clerical and other sup-Outdoor enrollees will be required to provide their

own leather work boots with an eight-inch-high top, jeans, and work shirt. Clerical enrollees will be required to wear office-appropriate clothing, preferably business casual. Hard hats and necessary safety equipment will

Youth may apply from March 15-25. Applications may be picked up at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area headquarters, 419 E. Broadway, Fritch, next to the Pantex Credit Union building. Park headquarters is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A resume may also be submitted along with the application if it is attached to the application.

Applications must be completed and returned by close of business March 25. Successful applicants will be notified by mail no later than April 19.

# 2013 Bike Rodeo set for May 11

#### SUBMITTED

The Pampa Police Department along with the Pampa Fire Department, Pampa EMS, and Gray County Sheriff's Office is gearing up for the Annual Bike Rodeo

The rodeo is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 11, at

In a press release sent to The Pampa News, PPD said they are excited about having their Emergency Responders sponsor this year's bike rodeo.

The bike rodeo is a good opportunity for children in our community to learn the safety skills needed to stay safe. In the past, the event has grown in numbers of children that attend and this year it is expected to grow

As a result, PPD is always needing help in three main

One area and most important is time. Putting on a program needs volunteers to make it run smoothly.

The second area is donations for a child. When someone donates a gift to a child an announcement will be given stating where the gift came from, which will give that person advertisement for their business.

The third area where help is needed is booths. There will only be one main food booth, but PPD is open to other foods such as ice cream, cookies and cakes.

PPD does not ask for profit from what somone makes; the only thing they require is that a gift donation to a child is made during the event. In past years, PPD has not allowed adults to win

prizes, and that is still the case. But if a booth wants to have a drawing, PPD is allowing that this year. Please pass this on to business and non-profits that might want to have a good fundraiser for their orga-

If you are interested in helping in one of these areas, please contact Officer Stormy McCullar prior to April 19 at 806-669-5700.



#### Fena

#### **Continued From Page 1**

dler's calls," Burns said.

The dog was in Burlington, N.C., so Burns had to travel there to train with the dog for two weeks to learn how to become a service handler.

"I have been around dogs my whole life and wanted to train to learn how to become a service handler," she said. "Culberson-Stowers donated a vehicle for her to drive to North Carolina to get the dog."

Part of Burns' training with Fena was to track through a busy Raleigh, N.C., mall to find a child. In another part of the training, Burns had to track a child 10 miles, and the scent track was laid 24 hours before she went to track with Fena.

Originally, Fena was trained for seven months to be a drug-search dog, but Burns said Fena was more interested in the people carrying the drugs than the drugs themselves.

"She didn't like being a drug dog so her training was changed to teach her to find missing persons, which she enjoys,"

Rurns said

Burns said that she learned to say Fena's commands in a foreign language to prevent others from commanding the dog. She added Fena can distinguish a fresh scent from an old one.

She said there are several types of search and rescue dogs, and that Fena is the sense-specific type. That means the dog will follow a specific human scent from a shoe or a shirt. Prison dogs track prison

scents in search of escapees. Fear-scent-trained dogs follow the scent of someone who is afraid. Cadaver dogs search only for people that are dead. Burns said that both fear-scent and cadaver dogs were used in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City.

"You can just about scent-train a dog for anything these days," Burns said. "Dogs can be trained to find bombs, drugs, money, certain minerals, or pipeline leaks. There is just no end to what scent dogs can do, their noses are so sensitive."

Burns continued, "We all make a cloud that we cannot see. We are constantly dumping hair and skin cells. Each person's scent is unique and that is what the dog tracks off of.

"The wind makes it harder to track as the scent gets blown around. The dog can track through water, snow and even rain."

Burns added a person's scent can remain on an object for up to a month if it is not washed away.

She said that downtown areas when it is

windy are a challenge for her dog. "The big buildings create a swirling wind that sometimes confuses Fena."

Burns added that she can freeze and store human scents on a device called a

store human scents on a device called a scent transfer unit. This mechanism can help police to track escapees, but can also help have a scent of a child in case the child were to go missing.

Fena has responded to 14 calls since Burns got her.

"We have had four successful finds, the other 10 we were unable to work the call or the missing person was found before we got out there," Burns said. "All 14

calls were either children or Alzheimer patients. The longest I have tracked someone is two miles."

Burns said she has done all of this as a volunteer because she wants to help people.

"If I am in a position where I can get free from work, I will respond to a call," she said. "But if I can't get off work, or it is too far away I have resources I can give people information about a rescue dog in their area."

Burns wanted to stress that the quicker Fena gets to a scene, the better the chances of her finding the missing person.

Some police departments have policies that specify a minimum number of hours elapsed before they can begin a search for someone reported missing. However, Stormy McCullar of the Pampa Police Department said Pampa police do not require a waiting period prior to accepting a missing person report.

"Each case is different," she said. "A lot of it depends on the circumstances. Obviously if a child, an elderly with Alzheimer's or a suicidal person is missing we will act on those cases immediately."

McCullar said officers will try to collect as much information as possible on scene. "For adults, is the person missing because of a medical problem or are they just mad or upset and left to isolate themselves? Those are two completely different scenarios we have to be aware of."

McCullar said the sooner a child or elderly person is reported missing by a relative or friend, the sooner the police can start looking.

"There are Amber Alerts and Silver

Alerts we can send out throughout the state if a child or elderly person is missing," she said.

Burns and Fena can head out as soon as they are contacted to start searching.

Burns said Fena's body language will change when she gets close to finding someone.

"Her tail starts wagging and will get faster and faster the closer she gets. When she finds someone she 'tags' them by jumping on their chest," she said

Fena is trained to try and comfort someone until Burns can get to the victim. She does this by nuzzling and licking their hand, wagging her tail and using other friendly body language.

This friendliness might be helpful if the victim is a frightened child or might not know what the dog's intentions are.
Fena is rewarded with a treat every time

she finds a missing person. Burns always

tracks 20 feet behind the dog. She is certified through Canines for Kids, which is now called Public Safety Dogs. Burns is also certified through a national registry. She said that she has to continually re-certify by training with Public Safety Dogs every few years.

Anyone who wishes to contact Burns about a possible search can email her at

about a possible search can email her at sburns@79065@yahoo.com with the subject line "Fena." Burns said one can also find her on Facebook by searching for "Sandy Burns."

Burns said she doesn't want her phone number known to the public, so interested persons can contact The Pampa News at 669-2525. Someone on the staff will put you in touch with Burns.

# Housing

#### Continued From Page 1

vidson said. "Legacy has the permit and is ready to go."

The site work that can be

seen from East Harvester is being done by G W James Inc. of Pampa. Gene James, company

president, said they would be finished by Wednesday evening.

Although the house hasn't been sold yet, Davidson said he expects a family will buy it before construction is finished.

The development has 56 home sites in an existing subdivision called Country Club Heights on the south side of East Harvester.

New houses in the development will be advertised in the \$150,000 to \$200.000 range.

Most of the lots are 100 by 67 feet, Davidson said, and the new houses will be

Senate.

completely electric.

He said along with sites in Country Club Heights, Pampa Realty also has new home sites available in Chaumont, a subdivision off Loop 171.

Public Works Director Donny Hooper said he is encouraged "by the stirring that's going on right now."

Hooper said along with the start of development on East Harvester, there is the redevelopment of the old middle school and the Pampa Mall.

"We see a lot of interest in things that mean better days are coming," he said.

In the last three years, 2010-12, only six new houses were built, Hooper said.

In 2009, 76 houses were built in the Hampton Village on Alcock Road along with two others not in that subdivision.

In 2008, 21 homes were built in the Northcrest subdivision west of North Hobart Street not far from the Pampa Mall, he said.

# Medical marijuana facility partners with rapper

Associated Press

OTISVILLE, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan medical marijuana facility is partnering with a member of the Grammywinning rap group Bone Thugs-N-Harmony to cultivate and distribute a new strain of medical marijuana.

The Green Oasis and Stanley "Flesh-N-Bone" Howse have agreed to work together on "Phifty Caliber Kush," which they say has a noticeable floral taste and is an effective pain reliever.

The Flint-area dispensary's owner, Anthony Butler, calls the new pot strain "the best of the best."

Flesh-n-Bone Global executive Michael "Tony B." Bernardi tells The Flint Journal that Howse hopes the product can provide relief for any qualified, verified patient.

Besides distributing "Phifty Caliber Kush," The Green Oasis could begin selling merchandise and possibly host a visit from Howse.

Michigan voters approved marijuana for some chronic medical conditions in 2008.

### Thieves target Maine trees for sap

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Thieves are illegally tapping maple trees on private property in Maine and stealing sap that is used to make maple syrup.

Forest Ranger Jeff Currier says the Maine Forest Service has gotten a dozen complaints from landowners finding taps in their trees with buckets or jugs underneath to collect the sap.

Currier says he first started getting sap theft reports about five years ago, but says the number of complaints is up this year. No arrests have been made, but the culprits could face theft, malicious mischief and trespassing charges.

A typical tap produces enough sap to yield about a quarter-gallon of syrup.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says a gallon of Maine syrup has sold for about \$50 a gallon on average at retail in recent years.

### Deer bolts from car past stunned officer

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — Talk about junk in the trunk.

A public safety officer checking a suspicious car parked behind a southwestern Michigan motel early Tuesday was more than a little surprised when a deer climbed out of the trunk, stumbled onto the road and bolted into nearby woods.

TV stations WWMT, WZZM and WOOD report that the driver told Kalamazoo officer David Miller he hit the deer on the road — thought he had killed it — and was taking it home for his family to eat.

Squad car dashboard camera footage shows Miller opening the trunk, then quickly trying to close it as he spots the deer. The animal escapes from the trunk, rear first,

stumbles and rolls, then dashes off.

Lt. Stoom Coils and Portland On and So

Lt. Stacey Geik says the collision probably just stunned the deer.

# Wal-Mart expands test of mobile checkouts NEW YORK (AP) —

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is expanding a test of a new checkout program that allows shoppers to scan items with their smartphones and then pay at self-checkout terminals.

The world's largest retailer launched what it calls its "Scan & Go" program late last year in about 70 stores in the Bentonville, Ark., area, where the retailer is based, as well as Atlanta. It is now testing the program in more than 200 stores. The new markets

Austin, Texas; Denver, Portland, Ore., and Seattle.

It works like this: customers scan bar codes of the different products using the retailer's Scan & Go app on Apple Inc.'s iPads, iPhones or iPod Touch devices. The app generates a code, which can be scanned at the self-checkout terminals.



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Texas Senate passes \$195B

two-year budget plan

BY PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A new state budget plan has

cleared the first major vote in the Texas Legislature with

passage of a \$195.5 billion two-year spending bill in the

The budget approved Wednesday by the full chamber

reflects a 7.7 percent increase in general revenue spend-

ing over the current budget that lawmakers cut to the

bone in 2011. Following three hours of discussion on the

Republican leaders in the Senate lauded the 2014-15

budget proposal as making the best of sunnier economic

fortunes than two years ago. Public schools gutted of

\$5.4 billion two years ago would win back about one-

Republican say the bill also leaves room for tax relief.

fourth of those historic cuts under the Senate bill.

Senate floor, the bill passed 29-2.

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# Viewpoints

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# How the feds are conning you

This week President Obama told ABC News that the current national debt, which is approaching \$17 trillion,

feel the to balbudget.

O'REILLY

is "sustainable," and he does not need to try ance the Where

> is Herbert Hoover when we need an economic genius?

about every honest economist knows that running up massive debt without an effective strategy to improve the economy is flat-out dangerous. If the U.S. dollar collapses, there will be a worldwide depression that will make the recent recession look like an after-party at George Clooney's house.

In the meantime, I can report the following federal expenditures that the president apparently has no problem overseeing:

—\$27 million to the country of Morocco to teach the folks over there how to make pottery. I guess the Moroccan government is not capable of pottery instruction. This con is courtesy of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which now has the nerve to tell us that the pottery project is "not on track to achieve its goals." Translation, the dollars we sent were likely stolen.

-\$1.5 million to the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston to study why many American lesbians are overweight.

The National Institutes of Health calls the situation "an issue of high public-health significance." Sure. Everybody's talking about it.

-\$947,000 to research a "Mars menu." This would determine what astronauts could eat on the planet Mars if they ever get there. NASA says it will send six volunteers into a barren Hawaiian landscape to eat stuff so it can figure out what tastes good on Mars. I am NOT making this up — with apologies

to Dave Barry. -\$325,000 to develop a robotic squirrel. The National Science Foundation wants the robots to scare rattlesnakes. The agency also says the robosquirrels will help in "public outreach." Does anyone know what that means? Rocky? Bullwinkle?

-The National Science Foundation strikes again by funding a New York City theater company called The Civilians. They got nearly \$700,000 in tax money to put on a play about "climate change and biodiversity." Have you seen that play? No? That might be because it only played in Kansas City. Even Al Gore hasn't

Finally, if you check out the Alabama Watermelon Queen tour this year, know that you paid for some of it. If you visit Nebraska. you should know that your tax dollars funded a company that makes shampoo and toothpaste for pets. And if you like caviar, well, you paid for a website designed to bring those exotic fish eggs to "the masses.

These expenditures are so stupid it hurts. But I also think they are a criminal misuse of our tax dollars. It is estimated that the federal government could save \$400 billion a year by eliminating wasteful and redundant programs.

There comes a point when folks get the government they deserve. The American people reelected Barack Obama knowing that he is the biggest spender of all American presidents to

In fact, Obama has spent more federal money than every president combined up until George W. Bush's second year in office. And to this day, Obama and the Democratic Party are proud of their spending record.

The donkey is the symbol of the Democratic Party. It should be the robosquirrel.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show 'The O'Reilly Factor' and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama.'

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# My husband is prejudice

Dear John, My husband and I have been together for 17 years, although we've been married for only four. I have

**GRAY** 

two children from a previous marriage, ages 22 and 23. I also have a 2-year-old grandson from my daughter's biracial relationship. My husband is a very prejudiced man. I was also raised with racial

prejudices. In fact, I had a problem with my daughter's relationship until my grandson was born. Still, my husband gives me a hard time about her choice.

Now we've separated because of the animosity this has caused. I will always be there for my children regardless of this or any other issue.

This bothers the man I married. I can't live with the fact that every day he has something negative to say about it. —Seeking Equality in Gainesville, Fla.

**Dear Seeking**, The birth of this child has liberated you from many of your own prejudices. It may take your husband longer to feel the way that you do about your grandson. In fact, he may never feel the same way.

However, to move beyond this emotional issue, make it clear to your husband that he has a right to his perspective.

Then, ask him to honor your wish that you not hear these comments anymore. If he persists, simply ignore him and walk out of the room. By letting go of any reaction, you reduce the tension between the two of you.

Your grandchild is blessed to have two loving parents and a devoted grandmother. Your open heart is the example your grandson (and husband) needs to stay on the right course for a wonderful life

Dear John, I'm in love with my best friend, a guy. I never really expected that I would fall in love with him! I even

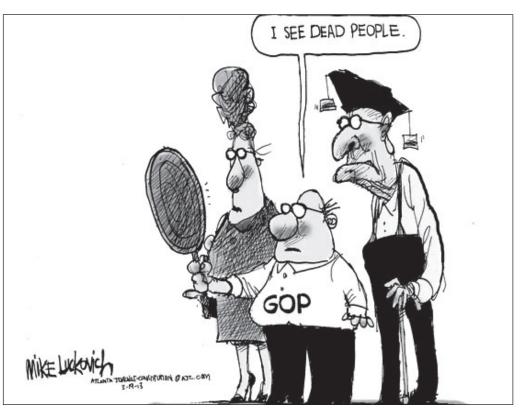
tried to set aside my feelings by setting him up with other women. Well, things are different now because he is now in love with another girl.

I know the girl, and she is really nice, unlike some of the women he dated previously. I can see that things between them seem serious. What can I do before it's too late? —Feeling Desperate in Denver, Colo.

Dear Desperate, You may have missed the boat on divulging your secret. If you tell him now, you will certainly change the whole dynamic of the relationship: He will see you differently, which means he won't confide in you as a friend since he now knows he may hurt your feelings.

My advice: Wait and see where this new love leads. If it turns out to be a dead end, then tell him how you feel — and he may surprise you with similar feelings of his own.

John Gray is the author of "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus."



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

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By U.S. mail: Letters

The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa, Texas 79065

By E-mail: thowsare@thepam-

panews.com

# The GOP is far from a dead party

If you listen to the group-think-echochamber-know-it-alls in Washington, D.C., the Republican Party has been



**MARTIN** 

decimated, destroyed, is discombobulated and utterly distressed to the point

of putting a "going out of business" sign out front and

closing up shop for good. Yet reality says that's ridiculous.

On the national level, the GOP controls the U.S. House of Representatives while Democrats control the U.S. Senate and the Oval Office.

Republicans control the governor's mansion in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming The GOP controls the

legislature in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan Mississippi, Missouri,

Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Count 'em up and that's 26. The Democrats control 18 legislatures. The remaining six are either split by both chambers or have a non-partisan legislature.

So much of the national media attention is always focused on what's happening in Washington, D.C., but that is a common mistake that the political boss hogs keep making. Every Sunday show on broadcast and cable networks try to one up each other with the usual suspects from the U.S. Senate and sometimes a few influential U.S. House members. However, it makes far more sense to talk to governors, key state officials and mayors to get a real understanding of what's happening in America.

The GOP is doing a lot of soul-searching and head-scratching about how Mitt Romney was pummeled by President Barack Obama in November. Republican Party leaders are told they must soften their stance on gay and lesbian issues; flip the script on immigration reform; stop dissing women at every turn; and become more compassionate, like then-Texas Gov. George

W. Bush sold himself as

Democrats, on the other hand, are giddy, believing they have found a winning formula for the next generation by turning out young folks, gay and lesbian folks, black folks, Latino folks and lots of women. Sure, that coalition worked well for President Obama, but there is no guarantee it will be the key to success for the next Democratic

presidential candidate. So while Democrats salivate at winning the White House in 2016, Republicans continue to lay the groundwork for taking over the state house and gubernatorial mansions, and building a formidable team of next generation politicians to run for statewide office and the White House.

In fact, many Republicans have told me they couldn't care less about Washington, D.C. because impactful legislation is being proposed and passed on the statewide level. That's why you've seen groups silently back initiatives on the state level and bypass the hot lights and screaming media in Washington, D.C.

The real battles on same-sex marriage, abortion, education, spending, labor unions and yes, the Affordable Care Act, are happening state by state. And Democrats are being caught flat-footed because

they ignored the admonition of former DNC Chairman Howard Dean to create a 50-state party and instead created a party that cared more about Congress and the White

Think about it: President Obama won Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and Nevada, all states with GOP governors. So clearly voters in those states chose the Republican alternative in statewide elections, but when it came to the presidency said, "No, thanks."

I'm not buying for a second this silly notion that the GOP will have a Damascus Road experience and drastically change. There will be some movement on the national level, but Republican grassroots organizers are very well aware that the message the GOP is selling statewide is a winning formula.

Trust me, Republicans are concocting other pieces of legislation to affect change on the state level, regardless of what's happening in Washington,

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."



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# Colo. Corrections Dept. chief shot, killed at home

MONUMENT, Colo. (AP) — Colorado's top state prison official was shot and killed when he



Clements

with his position.

answered the front door of his house, and police are searching for the gunman and trying

to figure out if the attack had anything to do

Authorities are also looking for a dark-colored "boxy" car seen near the house of Iom Clements, 58, when he was shot around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Monument, north of Colorado Springs. The vehicle's engine was running and a witness reported seeing one person driving away in the car.

Lt. Jeff Kramer, of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, said investigators have not ruled anything out, but the shooting could have been related to Clements' job as executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections.

"As the director of the Department of Corrections or any similar type position, it could in fact open someone up to be a target of a crime such as this. Although we remain sensitive to that, we also want to make sure that we remain open-minded to other possibilities as well," Kramer said.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper appointed Clements to the post in 2011 after he served for more than three decades in the Missouri Department of Corrections. He replaced Ari Zavaras, a former Denver police chief who led the department under two governors. The department operates 20 adult prisons and a juvenile detainment

system. Hickenlooper was redeyed and somber and spoke haltingly Wednesday morning at a news conference in which he said he doesn't think the killing was part of any larger attack against his cabinet, members of which stood behind him,

several of them crying. Others dabbed their eyes.

"Corrections is a very different job. You make difficult decisions every time that affect different people," Hickenlooper said, calling Clements dedicated, funny, caring and an expert on the latest and best methods in his field who chose the Colorado job over retirement.

"Tom Clements dedicated his life to being a public servant, to making our state a better place and he is going to be deeply, deeply missed."

Hickenlooper planned to go to Monument to meet with Clements' family after signing gun-con-

A family member called 911 to report the shooting. Search dogs were called in to comb through a wooded area around Clements' home, and authorities were going house to house trying to find out what neighbors heard and saw.

Clements lived in a wooded neighborhood of large, two-story houses on expansive 2-acre lots dotted with evergreen trees in an area known as the Black Forest. Long driveways connect the homes to narrow, winding roads that thread the hills. Clements' home was out of view, behind a barricaded of crime-scene tape in the road.

It would have been simple to find where Clements lived. It took two clicks to get his correct street address through a publicly available internet locator service Wednesday morning. The listing also included his previous home address in Missouri.

After Clements was appointed, Hickenlooper praised Clements for his approach to incarceration, saying he relied on proven methods to improve prison safety inside and programs that have been shown to improve successful outcomes after offenders are released from prison.

While Clements generally kept a low profile, his killing comes a week after he denied a request by a Saudi national, Homaidan al-Turki, to serve

out the remainder of a Colorado prison sentence in Saudi Arabia. He cited al-Turki's refusal to undergo sex offender treatment in his denial.

Al-Turki, a well-known member of Denver's Muslim community, was convicted in state court in 2006 of unlawful sexual contact by use of force, theft and extortion and sentenced to 28 years to life in prison. Prosecutors said al-Turki kept a housekeeper a virtual slave for four years in his home and sexually assaulted her. A judge reduced the sentence to eight years to life. Al-Turki insisted the case was politically motivated. He owned a company that some years ago sold CDs of sermons recorded by Anwar al-Awlaki, killed in a drone strike in Yemen in 2011.

Al-Turki's conviction angered Saudi officials and prompted the U.S. State Department to send Colorado Attorney General John Suthers to Saudi Arabia to meet with King Abdullah, Crown Prince Sultan and al-Turki's family.

After Clements' shooting, someone with the State Department called the Colorado Corrections Department.

Prisons spokeswoman Alison Morgan said she had no details on the call other than to say it wasn't connected to the shooting investigation and may have been a simple cour-

"They called us because we have a cooperative international program with them," she said.

Hickenlooper ordered flags lowered to half-staff at public buildings until the day after Clements' Arrangements are pending.

Clements is survived by his wife, Lisa, and two daughters, Rachel and

Clements received a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri. He started with the Missouri Department of Corrections in 1979 and over his 31 years there worked in

prisons as well as probation and parole services. He was director of adult institutions when he left.

Missouri leaders also mourned his death. George Lombardi, director of Missouri's Department of Corrections,

said Clements was "just a very good, decent per-Missouri Gov. Jav Nixon said in an emailed statement that Clements "dedicated his professional life and his consid-

erable skills to public ser-

vice and protection, and the citizens of Missouri join the people of Colorado in mourning this tremendous loss." Clements is at least the second state prisons chief killed in office. Michael Francke, director of the Oregon Department of Corrections, was stabbed to death outside his office in 1989 in what prosecutors described as a bungled car burglary. A convicted drug dealer, Frank

Gable, was found guilty

of aggravated murder in

1991 and sentenced to

life in prison. He and sup-

porters contend he was

wrongly convicted. Clements' slaying was reminiscent of the 2008 killing of Adams County prosecutor Sean May. His wife was six months pregnant when he was shot and killed as he returned from work to his home in northwest Denver. His killer was never found.

#### 'Texas 7' escapee on death row loses appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals rejected an appeal Wednesday from Randy Halprin, one of the remaining "Texas 7" gang members on death row.

The seven escaped from the Connally Unit prison, about 60 miles southeast of San Antonio, in December 2000 and two weeks later were involved in a sporting goods store robbery in which a police officer was killed on Christmas Eve.

Halprin, then 23, was the youngest member of the gang and is one of four still on death row. He does not yet have an execution

Halprin's attorneys had

raised 31 claims challenging the validity of his 2003 conviction and death sentence from Dallas County. Among them were arguments his trial lawyers were deficient.

But the state's highest criminal appeals court, with no dissents, said the trial court in Dallas held five evidentiary hearings in his case and recommended his appeals be rejected. The appeals court agreed with the lower court's findings.

Halprin, now 35, could continue his appeals in the federal courts although court records show none have been filed yet. Gary Udashen, listed on state court documents as Halprin's appeals attorney, did not immediately respond to a call Wednesday from The Associated Press.

Halprin was convicted in the death of Aubrey Hawkins, a 29-year-old police officer in the Dallas suburb of Irving, who was gunned down when he interrupted the gang's sporting goods store robbery.

Rewards for information leading to the gang's capture reached \$500,000. A tip led authorities in January 2001 to a trailer park outside Colorado Springs, Colo., where Halprin and three partners were caught. A fifth gang member, Larry Harper, committed suicide as police closed in. The two remaining fugitives were caught two days later about 20 miles away.

Two of the gang members have been executed, one in 2008 and one last

Along with Halprin, those still on death row are Patrick Murphy Jr., 51; Joseph Garcia, 41; and Donald Newbury, 50. Newbury was set for injection a year ago when he received a reprieve from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Halprin was serving a 30-year-sentence Tarrant County for injury to a child when he escaped.

He contended at his trial that he didn't participate in shooting Hawkins. In a prison interview with the AP in 2003, he called the officer's slaying "beyond

In other rulings Wednesday, the court rejected appeals from two inmates on death row for Harris County slayings.

William Michael Mason, 59, was condemned for the abduction and beating death of his wife in 1991. Ray McArthur Freeney, 39, received the death penalty for killing two prostitutes in 2002. Neither has an execution date.

#### 12-year-old arrested in Minn. school lockdown

NEW PRAGUE, Minn. A Minnesota (AP) school district locked down several buildings Wednesday after a 911 call that authorities later said was a prank, and a 12-year-old boy suspected of making the call was ar-

The 8 a.m. emergency call prompted a lockdown at the middle school, high school and Central Education Campus buildings in New Prague, 45 miles southwest of Minneapolis. The male caller said he was inside one of the school buildings, Scott County Sheriff Kevin Studnicka said.

"He claimed he needed help because there was a shooter in the building with an AK-47 and that there were a couple of victims," Studnicka said. When dispatchers asked for the caller's cellphone number, he claimed it was a new phone and he didn't know the number, the sheriff said.

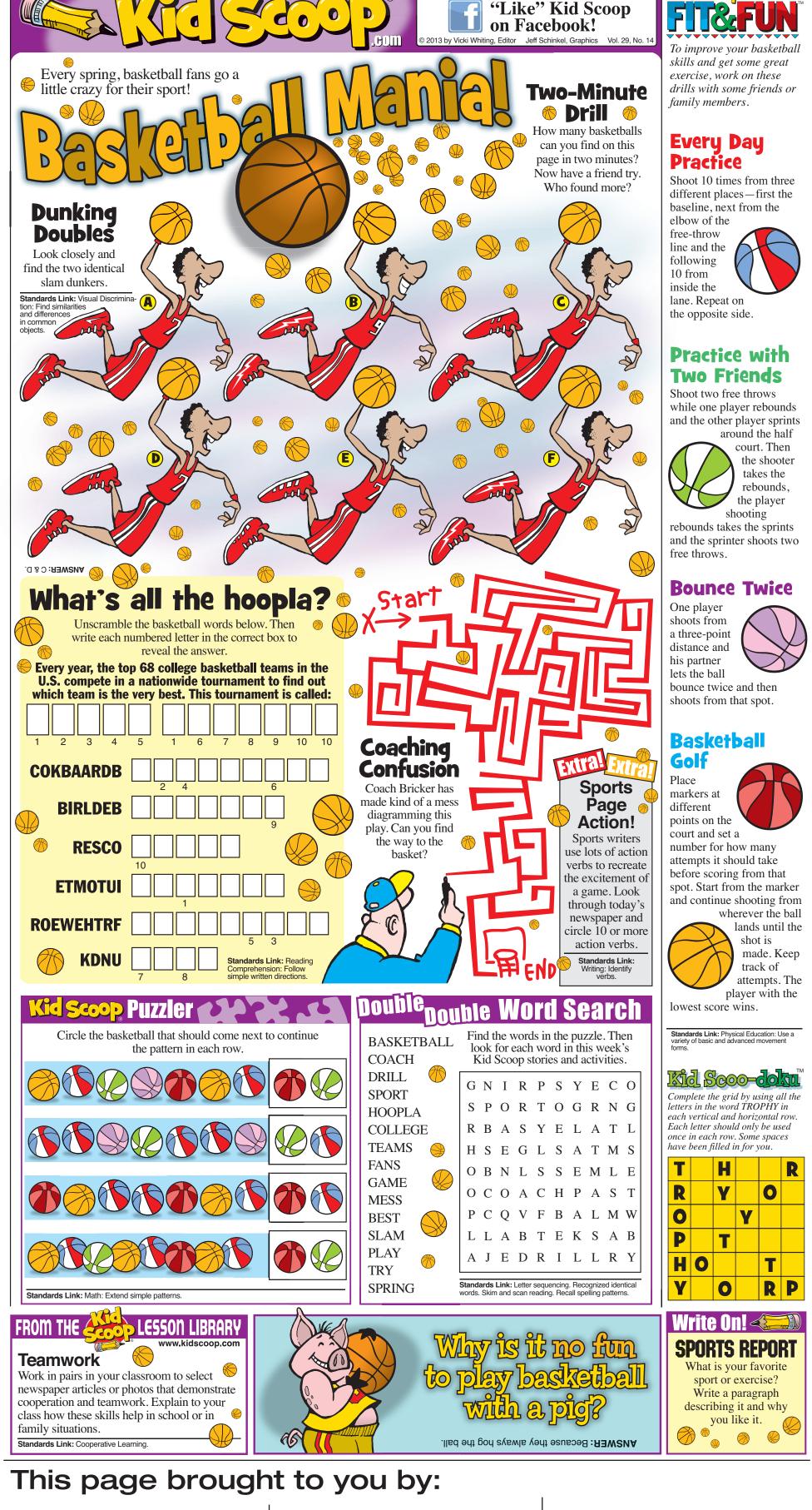
Police Chief Mark Vosejpka said police and deputies quickly determined no one was hurt and zeroed in on the 12-year-old boy. Vosejpka didn't explain what led them to suspect

Parents rushing to the scene were directed to a nearby church. Students were dismissed from the schools by late morning. Classes were canceled for the rest of the day but were expected to resume Thurs-

The middle and high schools have a combined enrollment of 2,067.

It was the second such disruption in the district this year. Two months ago, a student phoned in a bomb threat, Superintendent Larry Kauzlarich

That student was ex-



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# Health officials: 1 in 50 children have autism

A government survey of parents says 1 in 50 U.S. schoolchildren has autism, surpassing another federal estimate for the disorder.

Health officials say the new number doesn't mean autism is occurring more often. But it does suggest that doctors are diagnosing autism more frequently, especially in children with milder problems.

The earlier government estimate of 1 in 88 comes from a study that many consider more rigorous. It looks at medical and school records instead of relying on parents.

For decades, autism meant kids with severe language, intellectual and social impairments and unusual, repetitious behaviors. But the definition has gradually expanded and now includes milder, related conditions.

The new estimate released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would mean at least 1 million children have autism.

The number is important government officials look at how common each illness or disorder is when weighing how to spend limited public health

It's also controversial.

The new statistic comes from a national phone survey of more than 95,000 parents in 2011 and 2012. Less than a quarter of the parents contacted agreed to answer questions, and it's likely that those with autistic kids were more interested than other parents in participating in a survey on children's health, CDC officials said.

Still, CDC officials believe the survey provides a valid snapshot of how many families are affected by autism, said Stephen Blumberg, the CDC report's lead author.

The study that came up with the 1-in-88 estimate had its own limitations. It focused on 14 states, only on children 8 years old, and the data came from 2008. Updated figures based on medical and school records are expected next year.

"We've been underestimating" how common autism is, said Michael Rosanoff of Autism Speaks, an advocacy group. He believes the figure is at least

There are no blood or biologic tests for autism, so diagnosis is not an exact science. It's identified by making judgments about a child's behavior.

Doctors have been looking for autism at younger and younger ages, and experts have tended to believe most diagnoses are made in children by age 8.

However, the new study found significant proportions of children were diagnosed at older ages.

Dr. Roula Choueiri, a neurodevelopmental pediatrician at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, said she's seen that happening at her clinic. Those kids "tend to be the mild ones, who may have had some speech delays, some social difficulties," she wrote in an email. But they have more problems as school becomes more demanding and social situations grow more complex, she added.



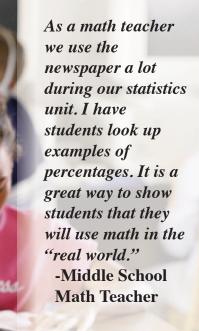
# are around the corner.

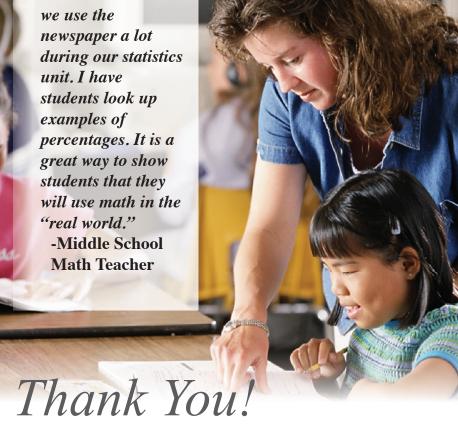


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# Mass. sheriff defends Obama assassination joke

is "absurd."

PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP) — A Republican sheriff in Massachusetts is defending a joke he told at a St. Patrick's Day breakfast in which Abraham Lincoln visits President Barack Obama in a dream and suggests he go to the theater.

Lincoln was assassinated in a theater and Democratic critics say even a joke suggesting the current president might get shot was inappropriate, especially from a public safety official. Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph D.

Teen sentenced

to not say 'bingo'

for 6 months

COVINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Calling

out "bingo" when you don't have one

can get you in trouble in northern Ken-

The 18-year-old man was recently sentenced to refrain from saying "bin-

go" for six months. That's because he

and several other teens did that at a

An off-duty police officer working

The affidavit stated the prank dis-

Kenton District Judge Douglas Gro-

thaus didn't send Whaley to jail, but

told him to not even use the word for

Grothaus told The Kentucky Enquir-

er Whaley was a good kid who hadn't

rupted the game for several minutes

security cited Whaley for second-de-

Ask Austin Whaley.

Covington bingo hall.

gree disorderly conduct.

and alarmed patrons.

tucky.

#### **School tells** students 'too much body spray'

McDonald Jr. made the joke Sunday at the

He told the Patriot Ledger of Quincy

He says it was no different than Dem-

ocrats joking about former President

George W. Bush going hunting with for-

mer Vice President Dick Cheney, who ac-

cidentally wounded a hunting partner in

on Tuesday the uproar over an old joke

heavily Republican breakfast.

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania high school wants its students to cut back on the body spray.

Freedom High School in Bethlehem says one of its students was recently hospitalized for exposure to Axe Body

Now, officials are asking students to stop using it as a cologne or fragrance while attending the school.

In a statement posted on the school website Tuesday, officials say the affected student is severely allergic to the spray and recently had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance after being exposed to it.

It wasn't immediately clear what type of reaction the student had, or what chemical in the spray may have caused the problem.



#### been in trouble before. He said the court must also have a sense of humor.

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# Story

Continued From Page 1

Craig teaches the children during each session while still making time for some good ole' fashioned

"We just want them to have fun but also be respectful," Craig said.

Craig, along with children's library director Tonie Bolin, strives to instill in the young readers a sense of library etiquette, including how to take care of the books.

"I want the kids to come in and I want them to feel like they want to come back," Craig said.

Craig is no stranger to Storytime. She served as the library's children's director for 11 years from the 1970s to the mid-80s.

"I try to involve them in

my stories," Craig said.
As such, Storytime is not just limited to reading books to the children.

"Barbara does music days on Wednesdays because they love that," Bolin said of the children. Bolin added that the group will create arts and crafts one day per week on alternating weeks. "We do still do a craft, just not every

Bolin said she's excited about the library's upcoming summer reading program. However, details are still being hashed out and will be publicized when they are made available.

Continued From Page 1

conditions may change in 15 or 20 years," he does

not see liquor expansion to

grocery stores happening

HB 421, filed by Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-

Houston, would abolish

the state's "blue laws"

limiting alcohol sales on

Sundays and extend liquor

sales by an hour both in the

morning and the evening

on Monday through Thurs-

day, allowing sales from 9

soon in Texas.

a.m. to 10 p.m.

"We're really looking forward to it," Bolin said.

Other upcoming events at the library, both special and recurring, include:

• Storytime Egg Hunt: 10 a.m., March 28

• Tea & Talk Book Club: meets on the third Tuesday each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Hampton Village Christian Fiction Book Club meets once per month at Hampton Village; for more info, contact Skyla Bryant at the library

• Computer classes are taught on an individual basis by Tyler Hooper; call 806-669-5780 to make a reservation

• Clarendon College Pampa Center will host a college prep session at the library pertaining to admissions, registration, advising, financial assistance and general questions from 5 to 7 p.m., March 27-28

• Friends of the Library book sale will be from April 5-7

Pampa Independent School District's Tots'n'Training will present a program from 3:30 to 5 p.m., April 18; the children will create a book, have story time and a snack; for more info, contact Sabrina East at 806-661-3426 or email Sabrina. east@pampaisd.net.

For a complete calendar of events at Lovett Memorial Library, visit Pampalovettmemorial.org. The library is located at 111 N. Houston St. at the intersection of Foster Avenue.

from the Texas Hospital-

ity Association and Total

Wine and More testified Tuesday in favor of the bill. The Package Store As-

sociation testified against the bill, arguing that the

cost of staying open on

Sunday would eat up any

sales and push out mom-

and-pop liquor stores.

Kevin Sanders, owner of

Paradise Liquors in Denton County, spoke against

the bill, arguing that it does

not protect small business-

es but instead "supports

out of state and interna-

The bill was left pending

tional companies."

rowski,

representatives

Photo by Sasha Heller Circulation clerk Barbara Craig reads, "Froggy Eats Out,' Lovett to one of Memorial Library's younger patrons dur-Storytime Wednesday. The library offers Storytime from 10 to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday.

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SUBMITTED

AMARILLO — "Growing the business is good for everyone" was the message from the Panhandle-Plains Land Bank Board of Directors at their winter meetings. In a review of 2012 end-of-year financial reports, the board recognized loan volume of \$382.7 million, and a very respectable 96.5 percent acceptable credit quality.

As a member-owned cooperative, Panhandle-Plains Land Bank shares its profits through its patronage program, and strong financials equate to a strong patronage payment. This year, the board approved a \$4.25 million cash payment, which will be distributed to member-borrowers based on how much interest they paid on their loans in 2012. Checks will be distributed at the annual stockholder's meetings on April 9 and 11.

"This year's patronage payment marks the ninth consecutive year that the association has shared profits with its members," said Chairman Steve Rader. "And the 2013 patronage payment sets a record high for the association."

Rader put this year's

patronage in perspective: 'The numbers are pretty outstanding. Across the association, our average interest rate for retail loans is 5 percent. Over the past nine years, patronage payments have returned an average 19 percent of the interest our borrowers have paid. Because of our patronage program, the average cost of borrowing for our customers is just over 4 percent.'

Association CEO Gregg Lloyd explained that the record patronage payment reflects financial strength for the association, excellent performance on loans by member-borrowers, and another critical component.

"This bank can continue a high level of reward for its members only if strong financials and growth continues," Lloyd said. "Quite simply, when Panhandle-Plains grows, our borrowers benefit."

Part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, Panhandle-Plains Land Bank provides long-term credit to farmers, ranchers and agribusiness in 17 counties of the Panhandle and South Plains.

It has offices in Amarillo, Pampa, Perryton and Plainview.

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# PampaSports

# Lady Harvesters maul Lady Wildcats 24-1

By Zachary Green

zgreen@thepampanews.com

The softball Lady Harvesters traveled to Amarillo on Tuesday night to face the Lady Wildcats in hopes of moving to 2-0 in district play.

Claire Hopkins wasted no time as she started the game off with a bunt. The pitcher overthrew the first baseman, which allowed Hopkins to come all the way around and score. Bailey Beck and Tiffany Britton both reached on an error as well. When Britton reached base, she scored Beck.

Bailey Dixon was up next and hit a single. Mattie Eldridge came in to run for her. Next up was Bailey Wichert and she singled to score Britton and Eldridge.

Alexa O'Brien reached on an error. Kassie Jerome grounded out but got an RBI in the process as O'Brien came in to score. Wichert also scored during Jerome's at-bat on a passed ball.

Brittney Gonzalez came up and hit a single to center. Martecia Alexander reached on an error. The score was now 6-0 in Pampa's favor with still only one out in the top of the first inning. The Lady Harvesters had also batted around at this

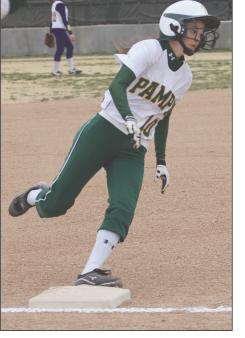
Hopkins was up for her second at-bat of the game and she lined a single to centerfield, scoring Gonzalez in the process. Beck grounded out to short, but picked up an RBI as Alexander came in to score.

Britton hit a double to center that scored Hopkins. Bailey Dixon reached on an error and scored Britton in the process. Wichert lined out to end the inning. After the top of the first, Pampa led 10-0.

In the top of the second, O'Brien reached on an error, Jerome walked and Alexander walked. Hopkins then came to bat and reached on an error that scored

Beck reached on a fielder's choice as Jerome was thrown out at home. Britton had a bunt single in her next at-bat that scored Alexander. Bailey Dixon then singled to right and scored Hopkins. The score was 13-0 in Pampa's favor after the top of the second inning.







Left, Sanya Couts rounding first base. Center, Claire Hopkins rounds third to open the game. Right, Jessie Dixon sets up behind the plate.

Jerome walked and Gonzalez reached on an error to start things off for Pampa in the top of the third. Alexander then singled to center on a hard ground ball, which brought home Jerome and Gonza-

The score after the top of the third was Pampa 15-0.

Although River Road did not record a hit in the ballgame, they scored one run in the bottom of the third inning on an error.

Jessie Dixon started the top of the fourth for Pampa by getting on base the hard way as she was hit by the pitch. Wichert walked and Isabella Wilson singled to short, which loaded the bases for Jerome.

Jerome grounded out but scored Jessie Dixon in the process. Gonzalez singled to short, which scored Wichert. Alexander singled to short, scoring Wilson. That brought the score to 18-1 after the top of the fourth inning.

In the top of the fifth, Jessie Dixon got on base with a hard grounder to left field. Wichert followed with a walk and Wilson singled to centerfield.

Jerome walked and scored Jessie Dixon in the process. Gonzalez singled to right, scoring Wichert on the play. Alexander walked and scored Wilson on her bases loaded walk. Eldridge grounded out but scored Jerome on her ground out. Sanya Couts reached on an error. Gonzalez and Alexander scored thanks to the error.

The score after the top of the fifth, and your final, was 24-1 in favor of the Lady Harvesters. The game was called after the bottom of the fifth due to the run-rule.

Hopkins went 1-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored. Beck went 0-3 but recorded an RBI and a run. Britton went 3-6 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Bailey Dixon went 2-3 with an RBI. Wichert went 1-3 with two walks, one RBI and three runs scored. O'Brien went 0-3 but scored two runs. Eldridge went 0-2 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Jerome finished 0-2 with three walks, three RBIs and two runs scored. Gonzalez went 3-5 with two RBIs and three runs scored. Alexander finished 2-3 with two walks, four RBIs and three runs scored. Couts went 0-3 but recorded an RBI. Jessie Dixon went 1-1 and scored two runs. Wilson went 2-2 with two runs scored. Beck, Wichert, Eldridge and Gonzalez all recorded steals.

Britton struck out four in one inning pitched and allowed one unearned run on no hits. Gonzalez pitched 3 2/3 innings and struck out 10 batters. She allowed no hits as well.

'It was a good offensive performance. The girls did a good job of adjusting to the changes we asked them to make. Brittney threw well on the mound," said Pampa coach Bobbi Gill. "You can't ask for more than that. Any win you get you appreciate. We gotta keep working hard, keep making our offensive performances better and keep executing the things we need to execute. Overall, I think we are on a good track.'

The Lady Harvesters improved to 16-7 on the season and 2-0 in district. They will be back in action at 4:30 p.m., Friday, here in Pampa as they host the Borger Lady Bulldogs.

# Pampa Harvesters fall in district opener to River Road 9-3

By Zachary Green

zgreen@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvester baseball team traveled to River Road on Tuesday for their district opener. Riding a three-game winning streak, the Harvesters hoped to build off that momentum as district play began.

It was all quiet until the bottom of the second when a routine doubleplay ball was bobbled that could have helped Ethan Hunt out of a jam. More miscues were made by Pampa after that error and they quickly found themselves down 5-0 after two innings of play.

River Road scored another in the bottom of the third inning to make it 6-0.

Pampa scored a run in the top of the fourth when Jordan Lemons doubled to left field. Lemons was brought home on a Hunt single to right.

The Wildcats added three more runs in the bottom of the fourth to make the score 9-1 in favor of River Road after four innings.

In the top of the ninth. Taylor Woods walked and Chris Howard walked. Both walked with two outs, trying to start a twoout rally.

Cade Engle then hit a double to center and scored Woods and Howard on the play.

Engle finished with two RBIs. James Thompson went 2-3. Lemons went 2-3 with one run scored. Hunt went 1-3 with an RBI. Riley Douglas went 1-3. Woods and Howard both scored a run on one walk each.

Hunt struck out two batters over 1 2/3 innings. Tyler Powell struck out three batters over 1 2/3 innings. Ryan Powell struck out two over 2 2/3 innings.

The Harvesters would

ultimately come up short

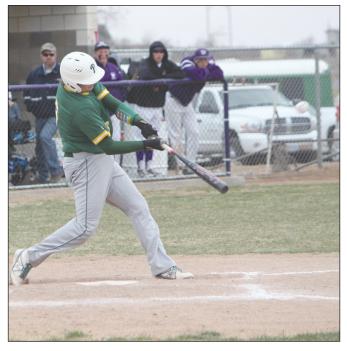
Following the game Tuesday, Pampa's coach gave credit to River Road and insight on what Pampa will do going forward.

"We wanted to go 8-0 in district this season. Now our goal is to try and go 7-1, but to do that we have to be 1-1 first," said Pampa coach Kaleb Snelgrooes. "Our pitchers have kept us in some games all year, but we kind of struggled a little bit today.

'We put the ball in play, but they made plays behind their pitcher. They did a good job. Credit goes to River Road. Anytime you play a district game on the road, it's tough — tough to win on the road. We will refocus and come out Friday against Borger."

The Harvesters fell to 6-8 overall and 0-1 in district play. They will be back in action at 4:30 p.m., Friday, when they host Borger.







Photos by Zachary Green

Left, Jordan Lemons mid-swing as he blasts a double in the ballgame Tuesday. Right, Tyler Powell squeezes the ball for an out at first base.







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# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Brittney Gonzalez** 

# PampaSports

# Boys soccer falls to Randall

By Zachary Green

zgreen@thepampanews.com

The Pampa boys soccer team traveled to Canyon for a game against Randall on Tuesday night.

Randall scored in the 25th and 34th minutes to win the game 2-0.

"Improvement seems to be the story of our season. Last time we played these guys, we gave up three goals. Tuesday, we were playing them without two starters (due to illness) — and we held them to only two goals," said Pampa coach Byron May. "My hat's off to Randall. They've also improved considerably. We spent

much of the first half just trying to sort out their formation, and how we needed to match up. They present a unique set of problems to an opponent."

Coach May credited Saul Villapando with a good game. "Saul Villapando continues to improve with every game. He's become a very important role player off the bench, and has provided the depth that keeps our outside mids fresh throughout the game. I'm excited to see what the future holds for him."

The team finishes their season at 7 p.m. Friday when they host Amarillo High.

#### CINDY COOPER GOLF SCRAMBLE IS APRIL 13



Submitted photo

Amy Hammer and volunteer Pat Stewart get ready for the Seventh Annual Cindy Cooper Golf Scramble which will be held at Hidden Hills on April 13. It will be a four person scramble. The entry fee is \$50 per person. Only one player with an eight handicap or less will be allowed. Shotgun start will be at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided for participants. Prizes will be given for first, second and third place teams. A majority of proceeds from the tournament go to support Special Olympics. For more information call David Teichmann at 669-5866.

# Yankees, Red Sox to honor Newtown

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox will honor the community of Newtown and the memory of those killed in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School when the teams play opening day April 1 at Yankee Stadium.

Pregame ceremonies include a joint honor guard of Newtown police and firefighters, and a moment of silence at which time a list of the victims' names will be recognized on the centerfield scoreboard.

"On opening day, we will reflect upon more important things and the play the game to honor the community of Newtown," Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner said in a statement. "Since the day of the tragedy, our hearts and thoughts have been with those who were affected."

The Yankees and Red Sox will wear a special ribbon on their uniforms. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig has asked that all other 28 major league teams wear the ribbon during their opening games.

"Months have passed, yet we are still trying to come to grips with this incomprehensible tragedy," Red Sox principal owner John Henry said in a statement. "As our teams look to face each other on opening day, we will stand united in support of the families affected as we remember and honor those who

Approximately 3,000 people from Newtown will be invited to the ballpark for New York's July 7th game against Baltimore on "Newtown Day at Yankee Stadium."

#### Obama picks Indiana to win NCAA title BRISTOL, Conn. (AP)

— President Barack
Obama is picking Indiana
to go all the way in the
NCAA men's basketball
tournament.
ESPN revealed

ESPN revealed Wednesday that Obama picked the Hoosiers to win it all in his 2013 bracket. He predicted Louisville, Ohio State and Florida would round out the Final Four.

Obama has made an annual tradition of giving his bracket predictions to ESPN but only correctly picked the winner once

North Carolina in

2009. He says he thinks he can do better in his second term.

This time, Obama repeatedly advanced teams from the Big Ten. But he said "I think this is Indiana's year."

Obama filled out the bracket Tuesday at the White House, before departing on a trip to the Middle East.

On the women's side, Obama selected Baylor, California, UConn and Notre Dame to advance to New Orleans. Baylor, UConn and Notre Dame are all No. 1 seeds and California is a No. 2 seed.

#### Conn. players accused of sexual assault

TORRINGTON, Conn. (AP) — Two members of the Torrington High School football team have been charged with sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl, who has been taunted on social media sites in recent weeks by dozens of classmates upset at the allegations.

The Register Citizen reports the two 18-year-old football players, Edgar Gonzalez and Joan Toribio, have been charged with felony second-degree sexual assault and other crimes in an investigation that began last month. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Details of the allegations have been sealed from public view.

The newspaper reports social media posts by classmates taunting the accuser have included vulgar language and have blamed her for ruining the players' lives.

The case mirrors one in Steubenville, Ohio, where two football players were convicted this week of raping a girl who was later threatened online.

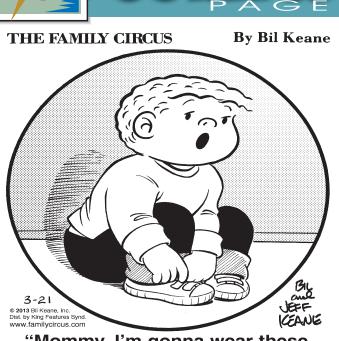




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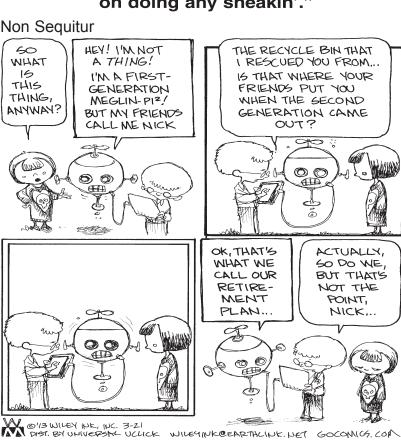
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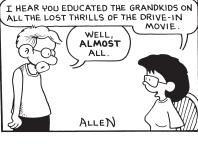


"Mommy, I'm gonna wear these even though I'm not plannin' on doing any sneakin'."

#### Non Sequitur



#### Nest Heads







HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 22, 2013:

This year you will kick back and enjoy yourself more. Lately, you have been too focused on your many different responsibilities. Nearly any project can be fun, as long as you keep an open mind and maintain a sense of humor. If you are single, romance builds, which adds to your overall happiness. If you are attached, you will make a point to focus on each other much more. Plan on taking that special, long-desired trip together. LEO

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; ebration. Tonight: Follow the crowds. 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

can be quite demanding.

enthusiastic than you already are. Your fiery personality mixes well with the present moment, and your creativity reaches a new level. Your interest in a situation adds an element of curiosity and possibly some mischief. Tonight: Only what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

edge that keeps you alert. You simply don't know what's going to happen next. Cheer up an overserious partner who cares a lot about you. You might find that again. Tonight: Close to home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Use your excellent skills as element of surprise runs through your dealings, particularly those with authority figures. You might not want to discuss an issue in the same way with the same person. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Recognize the importance of indulging a loved one. Your positive attitude, coupled with the fact that it is Friday, helps you create the optimism and cheerful attitude you like to exude and also receive. Choose the right invitation for you. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ As you probably already know, there is no other sign like Leo when it comes to living the good life. The Moon in your sign brightens up your Friday and gives you plenty of possible plans to consider. The unexpected lurks, and it promises some wild moments. To-

night: Just let it be. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Take your time making decisions right now. There is an element of the unexpected on the loose, so make sure to buckle your seat belt. A partner enjoys surprising you. Even if it doesn't feel like a surprise, show this person your appreciation with a smile. Tonight: To

the wee hours. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Go where your friends are. You will have a good time, even if you must do some work. You can't suppress your playful energy, but you can justify it because of the impending weekend. Schedule a late lunch, and factor in a cel-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to check in \*\*\*\* You can't possibly be more with a parent or an older friend before making weekend plans. Catch up on news with this person over munchies. Cut out early in the afternoon if possible. Know that you will be the leader of the gang, no matter where you are. Tonight: In the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Distant drumming beckons \*\* Friends have an unpredictable you, and you will want to follow. Make calls early, clear your desk and head out the door as soon as possible. You are on the path of adventure. Be an explorer, and try out a new, offbeat spot. Confirm you are at the beginning of a project once meeting times and places. Tonight: Play out a dream.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

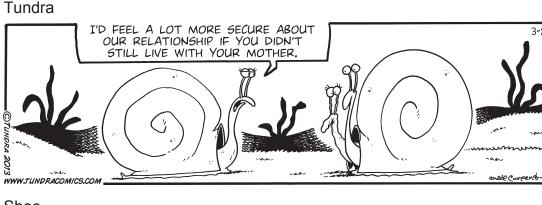
★★★★ Listen to your instincts a communicator. You will find that an when following through with a partner. An investment might fall in your lap. Know that you don't need to answer immediately, as you might want to weigh the pros and cons. Bring in an expert if need be. Tonight: Count your change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your unpredictability emerges when dealing with money. You might want to figure out how to stop this pattern. Seek out good advice, even if it means listening to something you might not like to hear. If you really do feel lucky, buy a lottery ticket. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Often when people come toward you, they find you to be rather spontaneous. In fact, they never seem to know what to expect when they are with you. You could be experiencing a rollercoaster ride of emotions. Reach out to a close friend for his or her advice or feedback. Tonight: Where there is music.



#### Shoe



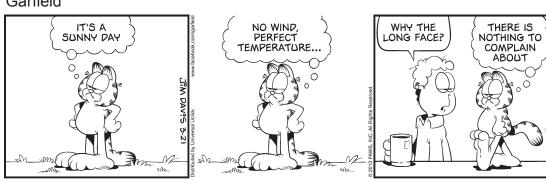
Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



#### Garfield

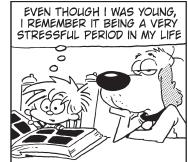


#### Beetle Bailey



#### Marvin





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

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 

JTUZZ O V V O J O R Y V U C V

MVLLVC LGUY FCVUL

OVVOJ QZUYYVO. - QVLVC

TUCJGUZZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WAS TRAINING TO BE AN ELECTRICIAN. I SUPPOSE I GOT WIRED THE WRONG WAY ROUND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE. — ELVIS PRESLEY

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## Pentagon bans 60mm mortar round after deaths

 A mortar shell explosion killed at least seven Marines and injured several more during mountain warfare training in Nevada's high desert, prompting the Pentagon to immediately halt the use of the weapons until an investigation can determine their safety, officials said Tuesday. The explosion occurred

Monday night at the Hawthorne Army Depot, a sprawling facility used by troops heading overseas, during an exercise involving the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Several Marines from the unit were injured in the blast, authorities said. The mortar round exploded in its firing tube during the exercise, Brig. Gen. Jim Lukeman said at a news conference at Camp Lejeune.

He said investigators were trying to determine the cause of the malfunc-

The Pentagon expanded a temporary ban to prohibit the military from firing any 60 mm mortar rounds until the results of the investigation. The Marine Corps said Tuesday a "blanket suspension" of 60 mm mortars and associated firing tubes is in effect.

The Pentagon earlier had suspended use of all highexplosive and illumination mortar rounds that were in the same manufacturing lots as ones fired in Nevada. It was not immediately clear whether more than a single round exploded, a Marine Corps official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak about an ongoing investigation.

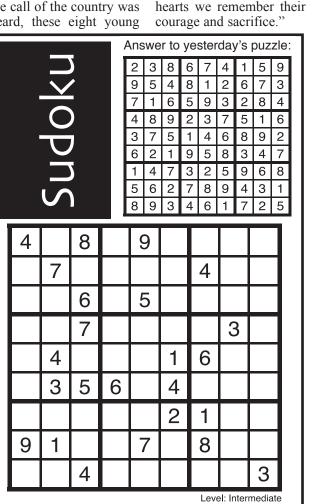
The Marine Corps said early Tuesday that seven Marines were killed. But John Stroud, national junior vice commander in chief for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, began a memorial event in Hawthorne on Tuesday night by saying "one of the critical has passed," bringing the death toll to eight.

Members of the women's Auxiliary of VFW 231 then laid a wreath and eight individual floral arrangements at a park where a flag flew at halfstaff within sight of the Hawthorne depot's bound-

"We honor the eight brave Marines who gave their lives to their country," Stroud said. "When the call of the country was heard, these eight young

Stroud said he spoke with Marine officers from Camp Lejeune who told him about the eighth death before the ceremony. Capt. Binford R. Strickland, a spokesman at Camp Lejeune, said in an email late Tuesday that he could only confirm that seven were killed and eight were injured. The identities of those killed won't be released until 24 hours after their families are notified.

"We send our prayers and condolences to the families of Marines involved in this tragic incident," said the force's commander, Maj. Gen. Raymond C. Fox. "We mourn their loss, and it is with heavy courage and sacrifice.'



#### **CROSSWORD** By THOMAS JOSEPH

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

ABBY: My wondering what she was lady. going to do, she decided that terminating her pregnancy was the best thing to do considering she has limited income and still lives with me. I, however, am pro-life, although I do feel that in cases of rape or incest it is acceptable. My daughter knows how I feel about this. I supported her in her decision, but did not

agree with it. Abby, I have taken this really hard. I have cried every day since she had the abortion, and I'm torturing myself thinking this is my fault because I went against everything I believe in when I supported her in her decision.

Why am I beating myself up about this? Is it because she's my daughter, because I am pro-life or both? How can I stop blaming myself for her decision? TORTURED IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR TORTURED:** The decision about whether or not to terminate the pregnancy wasn't yours to make; it was your daughter's. Being prolife, you have your own convictions, but you acted as a loving parent should you supported your child. If you feel you could benefit from counseling to help you through this, ask your doctor for a referral.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are having a disagreement and I'm wondering if you could weigh in. We keep a handgun hidden in a locked safe in our bedroom. (An access code is required to open it.) We also have a 1 1/2-year-old

daughter of a co-worker, we recently ing what should have been became pregnant from hired a baby sitter whom we confidential information. a guy she had dated only used for an evening while DEAR ABBY: My cola few months, but never we attended a party. She leagues and I are concerned seriously. After weeks of seemed like a nice young

My problem is, when she arrived, my husband immeread books while driving. diately announced that we He says he does it only on had a gun upstairs. He felt highways because everyone it was her "right" to know. I is going the same speed and think, because the gun isn't direction and you only need accessible, the information was useless to her and actually may have put our fam- of his life, this man folily in danger. How do we lows the rules to the letter know she won't mention it and is a highly respected to someone who will target teacher. Is it true that this us for a break-in in order to steal it?

having a me, (SECURED) firearm in our Of course not! A dishouse is no one else's busi- tracted driver who is ness but ours. What do you reading books is at least think? — NOT THE WILD

NOT WILD WEST: I think talking on a cellphone. you are correct. This is a This "highly respected" subject that should have teacher doesn't have my been discussed before the respect; he's a menace on young woman was hired. the highway. Your husband exhibited

On the recommendations poor judgment by shar-

about a close friend and co-worker. He insists that it's not against the law to peripheral vision.

In every other aspect is legal? — CONCERNED IN OHIO

**DEAR CONCERNED:** as dangerous as one who is eating, texting, apply-THE ing makeup, shaving or

