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The PAMPA NEWS



Thursday, July 11, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 68

75¢ The 2nd coming of Ann Richards | The price of surveillance | p4
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription
 30 days until Lady Harvester volleyball | Two area men win marlin tournament | p10

Residents will be charged for euthanizing pets

ADA playground to be named after Pingel sisters.

By **TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE**
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

City residents will now have to pay \$15 to have their pets euthanized at the Pampa Animal Shelter. The Pampa City Com-

mission voted in favor of charging the fee at its regular meeting Tuesday.

Commissioner Robert Dixon cast the only nay vote, as he did when the new ordinance came up for vote during the first reading a month ago.

Commissioner John Studebaker and Mayor Brad Pingel were not present at the meeting.

"I'm still not in favor of this," Dixon said. "I feel like we have reached a point where we are charging for everything."

Dixon said city residents already pay for city services through their taxes. He said pet owners who have had a pet for 14 or 15 years shouldn't have to pay when the time comes to put the animal to sleep.

He did agree that there should be a charge for people who live outside of town, and that fee will be

\$30. Not every city resident will be required to pay the fee.

The fee for city residents will be waived if the owner of the animal is eligible for Social Security, has special needs, is 65 years of age or older or can provide proof of receiving financial assistance from the government

due to the owner being considered low-income.

Commissioner Karen McLain asked for an approximation of how many pets that have reached the end of their life spans are brought to the animal shelter a month to be euthanized.

Monty Montgomery, di-
CITY cont. on page 3

Pampa man killed in truck crash

STAFF REPORT

A 69-year-old Pampa man was killed Tuesday after the tractor trailer he was driving crashed into a concrete wall on a bridge in Bell County, five miles west of Temple.

Tracy Lee Meeks, a professional truck driver, was pronounced dead at the scene around 4:30 p.m., according to a collision report from the Department of Public Safety.

He was traveling west on State Highway 36, the report stated.

It was not known whether Meeks was wearing a seat belt and no other details on the crash were provided in the report.

He worked for Serfco, Caprock Trucking and Frank Johnson Trucking.

To read Meeks' obituary, see page 2.

Canadian ISD mulling concealed handgun carry for staff

Pampa school district has not considered concealed carry.

By **JOHN LEE**
 jlee@thepampanews.com

While the debates on gun control are ongoing both in the U.S. Supreme Court and among citizens debating on social media websites, the root of it all, school shootings, are causing school districts across the United States to strongly consider allowing select staff to carry concealed firearms on campus.

Nearby Canadian ISD is taking the controversial step in considering the action.

"We have been discussing this for almost two years now," said Larry Caitlin, vice president of the CISD school board. "It wasn't the Sandy Hook shooting (December 2012) that brought this along."

Caitlin also said that they have heard from the superintendent at Herald ISD, which was the first school district in Texas to allow concealed carry for select staff members. He came to Canadian ISD and shared what Herald ISD is doing to effectively secure their schools and also keep their students and staff safe with firearms in the building.

Caitlin said the staff and parents were all sent surveys and the approval of the deliberation is about 80 percent. The widespread announcing of Tuesday's public forum was to give citizens who have strong feelings about the tentative **GUNS** cont. on page 3

A GREAT GANG OF GALS



By Lindsey Tomaschik

From left are the officers and a long-time member of the 21st Century Club. Myrna Orr, treasurer; Dorothy Stowers, long-time member and previous officer; Nancy Coffee, secretary/reporter; Barbara Vanderpool, vice president and Mary McDaniel, president.

21st Century Club of Pampa has deep roots

Credited with helping establish city's library.

By **LINDSEY TOMASCHIK**
 lktomaschik@thepampanews.com

The 21st Century Club has deep roots in Pampa. The club, founded in 1928, has always been dedicated to improving the city.

The club recently changed its name from the 20th Century Club to the 21st Century Club in order to be more up to date.

At one time, the club had five different chapters: The Twentieth Century Club, The Twentieth Century Forum, The Twentieth Century Culture, The Twentieth Century Allegro and The Twentieth Century Cotillion.

Today, the club has three of these in existence: The Twentieth Century Club, The Twentieth Century Culture and The Twentieth Century Cotillion.

Membership for the club is limited to 20 members sometimes with

up to three inactives due to the fact that meetings are held in the home, and they would get too crowded if more people were in attendance.

The club meets twice a month from September through May on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The only exceptions to this are November and December, when there is only one meeting due to the holiday season.

Meetings used to start at 2:45 p.m., but now they start at 1:30 p.m. and end between 3:30 and 4 p.m. This started so that mothers could be home before the end of the school day to take care of their children.

Dress and environment for the meetings are now a bit more laid-back than they have been in previous years.

To kick off the year, there used to be a large meeting with all the

chapters that included a guest speaker and a program. Each year the program had a different theme, but after awhile, some of the other groups decided that they preferred a come and go environment for the opening meeting of the year, so the long meeting has appeared less and less.

The most recent big event the group has hosted was for the 70th anniversary. Members used to have to wear a hat and gloves to every meeting, so the club brought that back as a theme for the gathering.

In May, the 21st Century Club had a luncheon to wrap up meetings before summer. At the end of the year, the club picks one project as well.

The club met May 13 at the home of Pat Terry for the "end of the year" salad luncheon. Members in attendance were; Mary McDaniel, Myrna Orr, Lucille Merilatt, Ruth Riehart, Barbara Vanderpool and the hostess, Mrs. Terry.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today Friday Saturday



High 96 Low 70	High 97 Low 70	High 98 Low 69
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Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 96. Chance of rain: 20 percent. Winds south at 13 mph. Sunrise at 6:37 a.m.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low of 70. Chance of rain: 20 percent. Winds south southeast at 15 mph. Sunset at 9:01 p.m.

Friday: Sunny with a high of 97. Winds south at 17 mph. Sunrise at 6:38 a.m.

Friday night: Clear with a low of 70. Winds south at 13 mph. Sunset at 9:01 p.m.

Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high of 98. Winds south at 14 mph. Sunrise at 6:39 a.m.

Saturday night: Clear with a low of 69. Winds south southeast at 12 mph. Sunset at 9:00 p.m.

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Obituaries

Denver Moose

Denver Moose, 86, died July 7, 2013 in Lubbock. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 13, 2013 at Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Pampa, with Rev. Franklin Rigney officiating. Burial will follow in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Denver Moose

Mr. Moose was born December 5, 1926 in Woodsville, Ohio to John and Roxie Moose. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He married Marcella Arnold on April 1, 1947 in Gainesville. She preceded him in death on December 6, 2009. Denver had been a resident of Pampa and Lefors since 1950. He was employed by Sinclair Oil and Gas and later B & L Tank Trucks as a gang pusher. He was a member of the Moose Lodge in Pampa for many years. Denver was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter-in-law, Vickie Moose in 2012, a sister, Gladys, and three brothers, Lloyd, Ralph and Calvin.

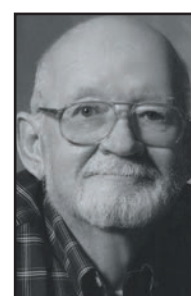
Survivors include his son, Perry Moose of Belton, a grandson, Perry Lee Moose and wife Teresa of Belton, three great-grandchildren, Matthew Moose of Dublin, Daniel Moose of Fort Worth, and Kristi Moose of Belton, and three great-great-grandchildren.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Bill and Jennifer Skully, Cathy Stubbs and her son Seth Skully, and Rachael Stubbs for their kindness to Denver.

Sign the on-line guest register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Billy Ray Greer

Billy Ray Greer, 75, died July 6, 2013 in Pampa.



Billy Greer

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, July 12, 2013, at First Baptist Church with Rev. Byron Williamson, pastor, officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Greer was born June 8, 1938 in Red Rock, Okla. where he graduated from high school. He

married Marcia Love on May 23, 1961, and she preceded him in death on January 7, 2009. Billy owned and operated B & R Motor Company for many years. He enjoyed being involved in stock shows, watching his grandchildren's sporting events and attending the Woody Guthrie singings. He was an active member of First Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by a sister, Nova Greer.

Survivors include two daughters, Christie Wall of Amarillo and Mistie West and husband Billy of Pampa, five grandchildren, Katelin Williams and husband Trenton, Coleby West, Cameron Wall, Brett West and Halie West.

Memorials may be made to a favorite charity. The family will receive friends Thursday and Friday at the West home at 367 Winter Quarters Road in Pampa.

Sign the on-line guest register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Tracy Lee Meeks

Tracy Lee Meeks, 69, died July 9, 2013 in Temple. Memorial services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Tracy Meeks

Mr. Meeks was born November 12, 1943 in Quitaque. He married Rose Riley on June 15, 1964 in Gray County. She preceded him in death in October of 1990. Tracy had been a resident of Pampa since the early 1960's. He worked for Serfco, Caprock Trucking and Frank Johnson Trucking. He loved the outdoors where he liked to fish and camp. Tracy will be remembered as a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include two sons, Robert Meeks and wife Cynthia of Amarillo, and Troy Meeks, a daughter, Ann Price and husband David of Pampa, a sister, Mary Ann Gifford of McLean, three granddaughters, Malicia Fortner and husband Jeffrey of Canyon, Bridget Rex of Pampa, and Deanna Vargas of Amarillo, a grandson, Pete Vargas of Amarillo, two great-granddaughters, Malee Williams of Louisiana, and Mylah Lopez of Pampa, two great-grandsons, Joshua Lopez and Desiet Lopez, both of Pampa, and a special friend, Glenda Applegate of Pampa.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

For the record

Pampa resident arrested by GCSO with intent to harm family member

Leslie Alexander, 50, Pampa, was arrested Monday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for violation of probation — second driving while intoxicated offense.

Christine Marie Bered-ryman, 28, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Pampa Police Department for two counts of capias pro fine — expired registration, capias pro fine — failure to appear, capias pro fine — disorderly conduct, language, capias pro fine — assault.

Jody Don Leffew, 43, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by GCSO for assault with intent to cause bodily injury to a family member.

Pampa Fire Department call log — July 8-9

The Pampa Fire Department responded to these calls for the following dates. One unit with three personnel responded to each call, unless otherwise indicated.

July 8

- At 7:28 a.m., to medical assist in the 200 block Tignor
- At 10:09 a.m., to a lift assist in the 2700 block of Hobart
- At 7:11 p.m., five units and nine personnel to a structure fire with no injuries in the 300 block of Baer

At 8:01, one unit two personnel 500 block of Nelson, medical assist

July 9

- At 5:04, to a lift assist in the 700 block of Murphy
- At 8:49, two units and six personnel to a false fire alarm in the 1500 block of Zimmers
- At 2:27, to a medical assist in the 1200 block of White Acres

TWC swears in new human rights commissioner

SUBMITTED BY TWC

Sharon Breckenridge Thomas of San Antonio will be sworn in to the Texas Workforce Commission on Human Rights on July 11 at the TWC main building located at 101 E. 15th Street in Austin. The commission provides oversight to TWC's Civil Rights Division, which investigates statewide employment and housing discrimination. Appointed by Gov. Rick Perry, Thomas' term to the

commission will expire on Feb. 1, 2015.

Thomas is a visiting associate professor of law at Liberty University School of Law, and a board-certified attorney in labor and employment law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, International Bar Association and the Center for International Legal Studies Congress of Fellows. She is past chair of the State Bar

of Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Labor and Employment Law Exam Commission, past president of the St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association and a past member of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees. Thomas served the U.S. Air Force as a civilian Judge Advocate General (JAG). She received a bachelor's degree and a law degree from St. Mary's University.

For more information on

TWC's Civil Rights Division, visit www.texasworkforce.org/crd/civil-rights-program-overview.html.

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

Tri-State Oil and Gas Convention fueling the future

SUBMITTED

WOODWARD, Okla. — The second annual Tri-State Oil and Gas Convention is just around the corner.

The convention will be held Aug. 7-9 at the Woodward Conference Center. This year the theme of the convention is "Fueling our Future — Focus on Markets and Technology." Registration for the convention and the 2nd Annual Bobby Joe Cudd Legacy Golf Tournament is now available online. Check-in will begin Aug. 7 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Vapor recovery and flash gas, CNG technology and

artificial lift will be the discussion for the breakout sessions on Wednesday. Wednesday's lunch will feature keynote speaker Dana Murphy, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner.

Thursday morning, a panel discussion will take place from 8:30 a.m.-noon. State Sen. Bryce Marlatt of Oklahoma will act as moderator to following panel members:

- James Roller — director of corporate development, Chesapeake Energy
- Frank Young — senior vice president, Unit Petroleum

Darren Smith — environmental manager, Devon Energy

Dana Murphy — Oklahoma Corporation commissioner

Rob Johnston — regional vice president, Apache Corp.

The second annual Bobby Joe Cudd Legacy Golf Tournament will be held at the newly renovated Boiling Springs Golf Course beginning Friday morning. Teams and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Junior Long, TSOGC committee chair, is excited to have the convention for a second year.

"We had a great inaugural year in 2012, so we are looking forward to a bigger and better year in 2013. Woodward is the ideal location to hold this event and our committee hopes to be here for many more years," Long said.

To register for the convention, visit <http://tsogc.com/register.htm>. To register for the golf tournament, visit <http://tsogc.com/survey.htm>. For more information, contact Tri-State Oil and Gas Convention planner, Sandi Liles, at 580-571-6108 or committee chair, Junior Long, at 580-370-0886.

UNITED WAY GIFT BASKET DRAWING



Submitted photo

Melissa Schroeder, right, with Executive Administrator Jana Gregory of the Pampa United Way during the weekly basket drawing at First State Bank of Miami-Pampa branch. The chances are \$1 each and the next basket drawings will be held at: No. 6 Pampa Regional Medical Center, No. 7 First Convenience Bank, No. 8 Happy State Bank, No. 9 Beauty 200 — small side, No. 10 Plaza Restaurant, No. 11 Dyer's BBQ, No. 12 Dixie's Cafe and No.13 is at Elite Eye Care. For more information, call 806-669-1001 or visit the United Way office at 200 N. Ballard St.

City

Continued From Page 1

rector of Animal Control, said they get about one or two a month. He added they also get animals that are too sick for the owners to treat.

The commission also approved adoption of the 2012 edition of the International Building Code.

The adoption of the code facilitates regulation and governing of the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures within the corporate limits of the city.

Dixon asked city building official Doug Stawaski why the name of the code book has the word "international" in it, which implies that the document's scope extends outside the country.

Stawaski replied that at one time there were several different building codes used throughout the country, depending on where you live. But the trend in the past 10 years or so has been for municipalities across the nation to move closer to using one standardized code, so whether

you build in Vermont or Texas the standards are generally the same.

Stawaski said there was already a copyright for the name "National Building Code" and that what is called the "International Building Code" is used in some countries outside the United States.

In another action, the commission held a public hearing on the Consumer Confidence Report for the city's 2012 Water Quality Report.

The CCR summarizes information regarding sources used, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs or aquifers, any detected contaminants, compliance and educational information.

The reports are due to customers by July 1 of each year and have been required by the federal government since 1974.

In the past, thousands of copies of the report were mailed out to city residents, said Donny Hooper, public works director.

This year, the reports were hand-delivered to residents of nursing homes and copies of the flier can be picked up City Hall.

Hooper said the city

saved about \$2,500 by posting the report online and printing a limited number of hard copies.

The report can be downloaded as a PDF by visiting pampaccr.com.

Before approving the consent agenda, commissioners approved naming of the new ADA-accessible playground north of the H2O Aquatic Center as the "Pingel Playground."

Public Works Director Donny Hooper received a request from Lynn Hancock, pastor of Briarwood Church, to name the new playground to honor Lauren and Jodi Pingel for their efforts in raising more than \$40,000 toward the playground equipment for the ADA accessible playground. Lauren and Jodi are the daughters of Mayor Brad Pingel.

The city will only rename the new playground within the existing park, and not the park itself.

Hooper praised the Pingel sisters for the efforts.

"It's a good idea to name it after them," he said. "It's been a long time since anyone has come up with a check this size, especially anyone that young."

Guns

Continued From Page 1

policy a platform to share their concerns. In all there were roughly 15-20 people who came to the public forum.

"One of the reasons we held this public forum was in hopes that the citizens would give us a concern or scenario that we haven't thought of yet," Caitlin said. "But mainly the concerns were the location of the gun, on the staff members' bodies or in a safe, and if a student gets their hands on it. There were only three people who spoke strongly against it."

A factor that came into Canadian ISD's decision to act on this is the fact that there is not an in-town police department, but only a sheriff's office that covers the entire county in its

jurisdiction. That makes their situation different than here in Pampa, where the topic of concealed carry has not been discussed at length among the Pampa ISD's board.

But PISD superintendent Dr. David Young wants to assure the community that they are constantly looking at ways to keep the students and staff safe.

"The safety of our students and staff is 'Job No. 1' every day," Young said. "We are deeply committed to the safety and security of our students and staff."

Those feelings were echoed by PISD school

board president and spokesman, Lee Porter.

"In PISD, we have a police officer stationed at both the junior high school and the high school," Porter said. "We are looking at beefing up security at the elementary schools. Right now the only way in and out of the schools is through the front office."

Porter also said that while PISD is very interested in how other schools handle issues such as gun control with staff, their situation is very unique and is examined thoroughly before any actions are taken or decisions are made.

Young murderers await Legislature's punishment decision

BY BRANDI GRISSOM
The Texas Tribune

NEW BOSTON — Scottie Forcey nervously drummed his fingers behind the thick glass in the Telford Unit's visiting room as the camera shutter snapped, capturing images of the 21-year-old convicted murderer.

"I want some pictures. I ain't seen myself in like," he paused to count on his fingers, "five years. I know I look different. Check it out." He pressed his prison ID card against the glass. In the photo, a plumper, baby-faced 17-year-old stared at the camera.

Forcey was convicted in 2009 of fatally shooting Karen Burke, a 52-year-old Alvarado convenience store clerk. He is the youngest of 23 Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmates who were younger than 18 when they were convicted of capital murder and received mandatory sentences of life without parole. Those inmates could get the chance to be parole eligible after serving 40 years in prison as legislators work to comply with a U.S.

Supreme Court ruling.

Last year, the Supreme Court ruled that sentences of life without parole for 17-year-old murderers violate the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Either the courts or Gov. Rick Perry could change such sentences in Texas. Both are waiting for legislators to decide what punishment juveniles like Forcey should face. Lawmakers, who failed to pass legislation in two sessions this year, are trying now for a third time.

In Texas, 17-year-olds have faced the same sentencing options as adults convicted of capital murder: the death penalty and life without parole. In 2005, the Supreme Court prohibited the death penalty for anyone younger than 18, deciding that less-developed brains of juveniles rendered them less culpable. That left only life without parole as punishment for 17-year-olds.

After last year's Miller v. Alabama ruling, prosecutors said they had no

sentencing options for 17-year-old killers. They have asked lawmakers to make them subject to the same punishment that Texas law requires for 14- to 16-year-old capital murderers: life with parole eligibility after 40 years.

Harris County Assistant District Attorney Lance Long recently told lawmakers that until they decide on a sentencing option, such murder trials across Texas are on hold.

"None of these cases are anything but very, very, very serious," he said.

Correction

An article in the July 9 edition, "Pampa teen preparing to compete in Denver rodeo next week," should have stated that Keenan Hughes will be competing in Rock Springs, Wyo. The National High School Rodeo Association was started in Denver, but the finals are held in Rock Springs. The newspaper apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

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Viewpoints

With Democrats on defensive, GOP has chance to recapture Senate

What's the outlook for the 2014 Senate elections? The Republicans once



MICHAEL BARONE

again have a chance to overturn the Democrats' majority, as they did in 2010 and 2012. Much attention has been focused on whether Republicans this time will nominate candidates capable of winning key races, as they failed to do in those two elections. But another interesting question is how Democrats will try to hold onto seats in Republican-leaning states even as Barack Obama maintains his strong tilt to the political left.

The lineup is certainly favorable to Republicans. Assuming the New Jersey seat now held by Republican appointee Jeff Chiesa goes Democratic in the October special election, only 14 Republican seats will be up in 2014, as against 21 Democratic seats.

Only one of those Republican seats is in a state carried by Barack Obama, Maine (56 percent Obama), and three-term incumbent Susan Collins looks unbeatable.

In contrast, Democrats have to defend seats in seven states carried by Mitt Romney and in four states that were target states in the 2012 presidential election.

Republicans seem sure to win open seats in South Dakota (58 percent Rom-

ney) and West Virginia (62 percent Romney). Well-known Democrats are avoiding both races, and they look like certain Republican pickups.

The scene is a bit different in Montana (55 percent Romney), where Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus is retiring after 36 years. The strongest possible Democrat is folksy former Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who takes populist stands on economics and has backed the Keystone pipeline, which Barack Obama has so far refused to approve.

Two seats in the Deep South held by Democrats with locally famous names are in peril, and the two incumbents seem to have different strategies.

In Louisiana (58 percent Romney), Mary Landrieu,

daughter and sister of New Orleans mayors, seems to be running as a proud Obama Democrat. Her state has the second largest black percentage in the union, and evidently she's hoping for high black turnout and just enough white votes to give her a fourth narrow majority.

In Arkansas (61 percent Romney), Mark Pryor, son of David Pryor, the representative, governor and senator whose election wins date back to 1966, seems to be running as a moderate in tune with local values. He was re-elected unopposed in 2008, but Republicans have since captured all the state's U.S. House seats and majorities in the state legislature. And Arkansas

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The second coming of Ann Richards

Gone is Ann Richards, the late, leathery, white-haired feminist champion whose life was celebrated in a Broadway play — “Ann,” starring Holland Taylor. The play is closing prematurely since there is insufficient



WILLIAM MURCHISON

demand for white-haired feminist champions. Never mind that for now. We've got a second Ann, it would appear. She is a fellow Texan, to boot: State Sen. Wendy Davis, who just talked to death a bill meant to tighten abortion restrictions. The betting around the nation has been that Wendy Davis was sure looking like a prospective governor, if not, according to some of the more excited acolytes, a president of the United States.

Oh, the lengths to which the abortion debate, 40 years old now, still drives us!

The set-to between Davis and pro-life Governor Rick Perry has proven especially engaging.

Perry backed the bill, which would have forbidden abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy and required abortion clinics the same sanitary and clinical standards that apply to conventional surgical centers.

Well! Sen. Davis wasn't having any of that. She laced up her pink sneakers and began to talk. Free speech fans in the Senate balcony shouted so loudly they drowned out the proceedings as adjournment time approached. The bill died. Perry called a special session — at taxpayer expense — to clean up the mess that fidelity to the Ann Richards canon had left lying around the Capitol. He took time to note that Sen. Davis seemed willing to “say that children born into the worst of circumstances” — women like herself, the daughter of a single mother — “can't grow to live successful lives.” The implication: It's morally OK just to let such children slide away into oblivion, unborn,

untested.

Who's ahead then? That's the question after the emotional comments, the sanguine predictions of glory and Ann-hood for Davis, have faded.

Looks as if there won't be a head-to-head matchup, Perry having announced this week his intention not to seek the governorship again. Davis for her part could be forgiven for needing time to rearrange on her shoulders the Richards mantel laid thereupon.

The political reality is that in a 2016 Perry-Davis match-up, the governor would have beaten the senator all hollow. It would have been a treat to watch them put their differing premises on the table for all to see. For this reason alone — certainly not for the reason that Wendy Davis could, theoretically, have won the governorship — there is reason to regret the impossibility of such a race.

The Davis position in a nutshell: The choice to end most pregnancies (save very late ones, I imagine she would add) is the mother's, and the mother's alone. The Davis position is mainstream, of course, in feminist circles, where no challenge to maternal privilege can be admitted, never mind the effect on child who would otherwise have come forth.

The Perry position, in a nutshell: Life trumps competing considerations, such as convenience or desire. That's to say, look, people, it's a real-live human being, not just some mass of “tissues,” whose existence or non-existence is at stake. Some basic care, enforced by the state, seems indicated. Or, if not, why not?

I've never laid eyes on Sen. Davis. The fact is, her biography impresses. As Manny Fernandez recounts it in *The New York Times*, “She was a teenager when her first child was born but managed as a single mother to pull herself from a trailer park to Harvard Law School to a hard-fought seat in the Texas Senate, a rare liberal representing conservative Tarrant County.”

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The price of surveillance: Gov't pays to snoop

WASHINGTON (AP) — How much are your private conversations worth to the government? Turns out, it can be a lot, depending on the technology.

In the era of intense government surveillance and secret court orders, a murky multimillion-dollar market has emerged. Paid for by U.S. tax dollars, but with little public scrutiny, surveillance fees charged in secret by technology and phone companies can vary wildly.

AT&T, for example, imposes a \$325 “activation fee” for each wiretap and \$10 a day to maintain it. Smaller carriers Cricket and U.S. Cellular charge only about \$250 per wiretap. But snoop on a Verizon customer? That costs the government \$775 for the first month and \$500 each month after that, according to industry disclosures made last year to Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.

Meanwhile, email records like those amassed by the National Security Agency through a program revealed by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden probably were collected for free or very cheaply. Facebook says it doesn't charge the government for access. And while Microsoft, Yahoo and Google won't say how much they charge, the American Civil Liberties Union found that email records can be turned over for as little as \$25.

Industry says it doesn't profit from the hundreds of thousands of government eavesdropping requests it receives each

year, and civil liberties groups want businesses to charge. They worry that government surveillance will become too cheap as companies automate their responses. And if companies gave away customer records for free, wouldn't that encourage uncalled-for surveillance?

But privacy advocates also want companies to be upfront about what they charge and alert customers after an investigation has concluded that their communications were monitored. “What we don't want is surveillance to become a profit center,” said Christopher Soghoian, the ACLU's principal technologist. But “it's always better to charge \$1. It creates friction, and it creates transparency” because it generates a paper trail that can be tracked.

Regardless of price, the surveillance business is growing. The U.S. government long has enjoyed access to phone networks and high-speed Internet traffic under the U.S. Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act to catch suspected criminals and terrorists. More recently, the FBI has pushed technology companies like Google and Skype to guarantee access to real-time communications on their services. And, as shown by recent disclosures about the NSA's surveillance practices, the U.S. intelligence community has an intense interest in analyzing data and content that flow through American technology companies to gather foreign intelligence.

The FBI said it could not say how much it spends on industry reimbursements because payments are made through a variety of programs, field offices and case funds. In an emailed statement, the agency said when charges are questionable, it requests an explanation and tries to work with the carrier to understand its cost structure.

Technology companies have been a focus of law enforcement and the intelligence community since 1994, when Congress allotted \$500 million to reimburse phone companies to retrofit their equipment to accommodate wiretaps on the new digital networks.

But as the number of law enforcement requests for data grew and carriers upgraded their technology, the cost of accommodating government surveillance requests increased. AT&T, for example, said it devotes roughly 100 employees to review each request and hand over data. Likewise, Verizon said its team of 70 employees works around the clock, seven days a week to handle the quarter-million requests it gets each year.

To discourage gratuitous requests and to prevent losing money, industry turned to a section of federal law that allows companies to be reimbursed for the cost of “searching for, assembling, reproducing and otherwise providing” communications content or records on behalf of the government. The costs must be “reasonably necessary” and “mutually

agreed” upon with the government.

From there, phone companies developed detailed fee schedules and began billing law enforcement much as they do customers. In its letter to Markey, AT&T estimated that it collected \$24 million in government reimbursements between 2007 and 2011. Verizon, which had the highest fees but says it doesn't charge in every case, reported a similar amount, collecting between \$3 million and \$5 million a year during the same period.

Companies also began to automate their systems to make it easier. The ACLU's Soghoian found in 2009 that Sprint had created a website allowing law enforcement to track the location data of its wireless customers for only \$30 a month to accommodate the approximately 8 million requests it received in one year.

Most companies agree not to charge in emergency cases like tracking an abducted child. They aren't allowed to charge for phone logs that reveal who called a line and how long they talked — such as the documents the Justice Department obtained about phones at *The Associated Press* during a leaks investigation — because that information is easily generated from automated billing systems.

Still, the fees can add up quickly. The average wiretap is estimated to cost \$50,000, a figure that includes reimbursements as well as other opera-

SNOOP cont. on page 8

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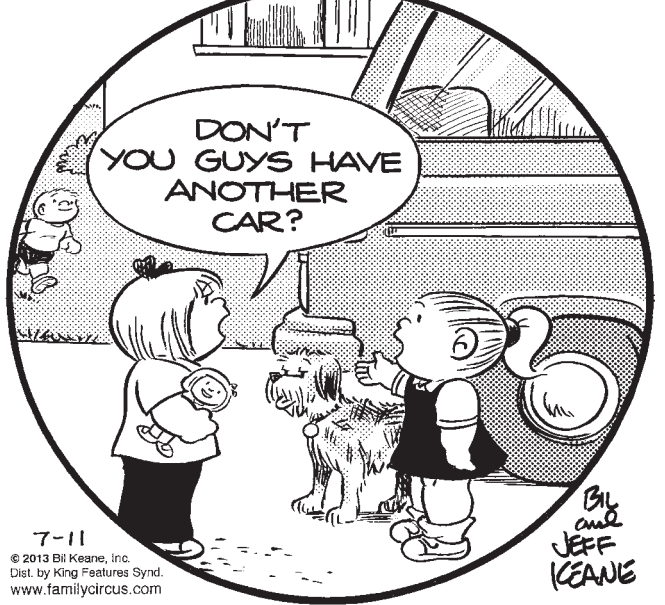
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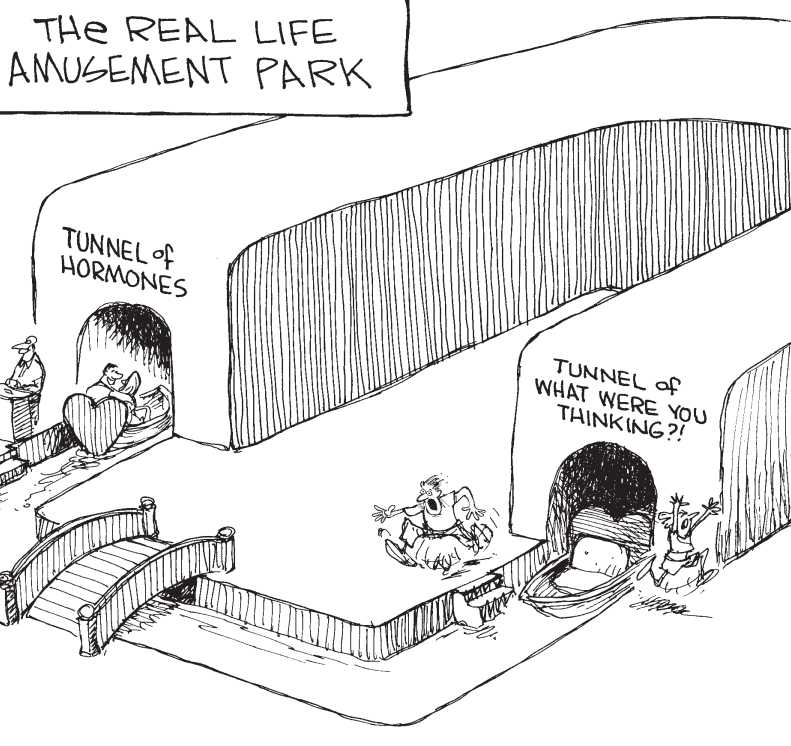
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Non Sequitur



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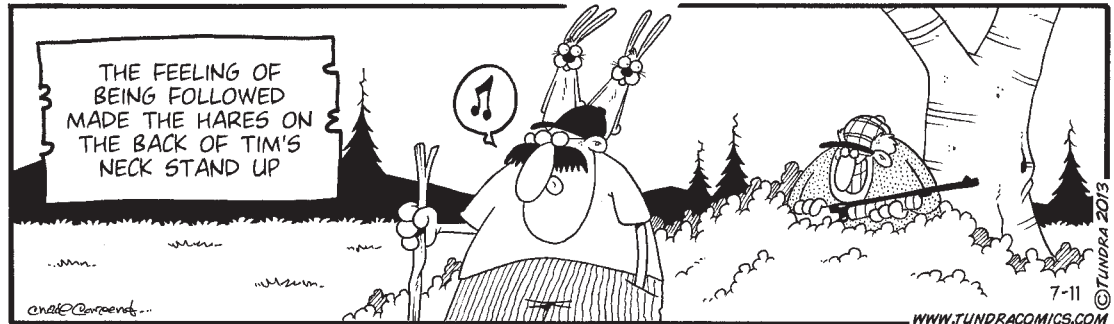
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daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, July 12, 2013:
This year you might opt to head in a new direction. The path you choose could be as simple as a change in attitude or as major as a career change. You will be entering the first year of a 12-year luck cycle. You'll know when this phase is active. If you are single, you could date many people or meet one special person who seems as if he or she is "the one." If you are attached, the two of you might choose to go down your new pathway together, and you'll enter a very exciting period in your bond as a result. **VIRGO** can be your biggest critic.
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Last-minute details keep messing up your schedule and/or plans. Confusion could be part of the problem, especially if messages are not received or are not as clear as you might like them to be. Do not hold on to any rigidity. Go with the flow. Tonight: Run errands first, then decide.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your ingenuity and attention to detail will come into play. You have a lot of ground to cover, and you might not be sure about what to take care of first. A meeting just would confuse you. Make a to-do list, and decide what needs to happen. Tonight: Keep the moment light.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Your intentions might be good, but others are not on the same page as you. You could encounter a misunderstanding as a result. Consider the ways you could have prevented what occurs as you slough through various obstacles. Tonight: Meet friends at your favorite haunt.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could go overboard when trying to eliminate a problem involving your finances. You won't be able to convince the other party of his or her error. At the same time, you also could be at fault. Try revising your thinking in order to find some middle ground. Tonight: Opt for easy.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You'll experience a lack of

understanding, but it could point you to a different solution. Be careful in a situation where you and the other party do not see each other clearly. Some deception might be involved in this interaction. Tonight: Do you dare take off your rose-colored shades?
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You will want to regain more balance in your daily life. An element of confusion might cause you to adjust your plans. How you feel about a certain situation will make you more receptive to a better sense of direction. Tonight: Vanish, and do some soul-searching.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to reconsider a choice you have made. You could feel as if you have little control over a personal matter, partially because someone involved seems to be misrepresenting a certain situation. You will sense that something is off. Tonight: Meet up with a dear friend.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Step up to the plate. Be aware that there are problems even you won't be able to eliminate. Consider how a boss would feel in a similar situation. You, as well as others, might not have been getting a clear picture. Tonight: Listen to someone's sharing and invite this person out. TGIF!
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You'll see a situation in a new light. You might wonder where others are coming from. If you feel lucky, take on a low-key risk. Do not invest heavily in the situation. You need to revive your memory of a loved one's advice. Tonight: Be present, and enjoy the person you are with.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might want to reassess a personal situation. Unfortunately, you are not in a powerful position right now. You can let someone play out his or her agenda without participating. This person might see the issue more clearly than you do. Tonight: Hang with your best friend.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others will find you vague, but you'll think you are being perfectly clear. Pressure builds, as a friend or loved one makes a difficult request. You need to be true to yourself without creating uproar. You will gain depth and insight. Tonight: Do your normal Friday night activity.

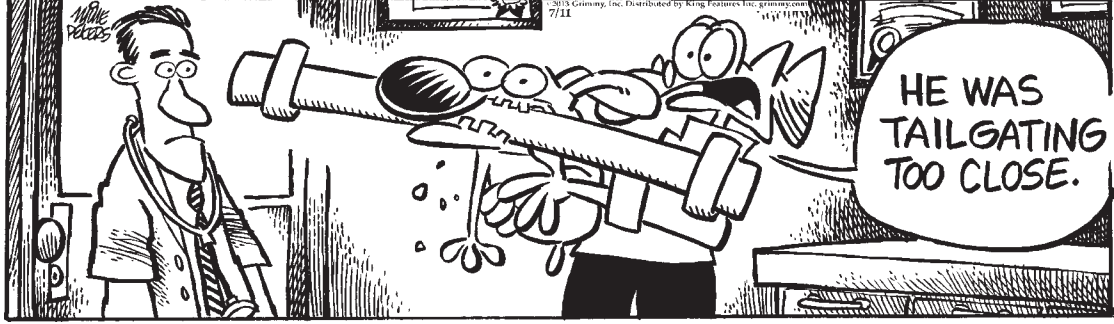
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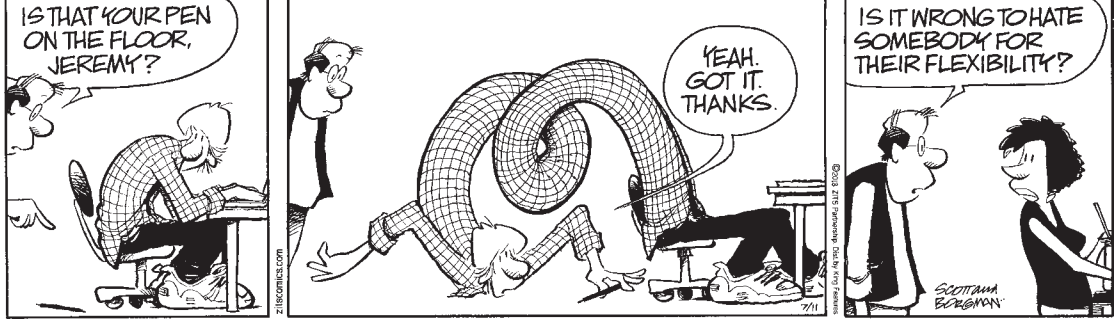
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



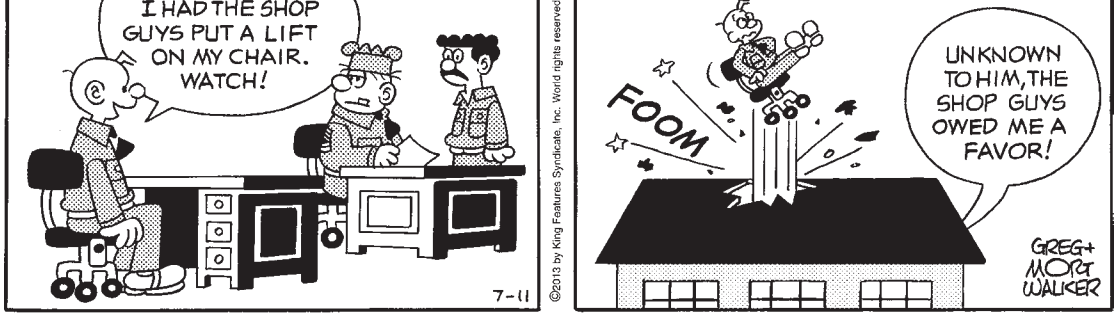
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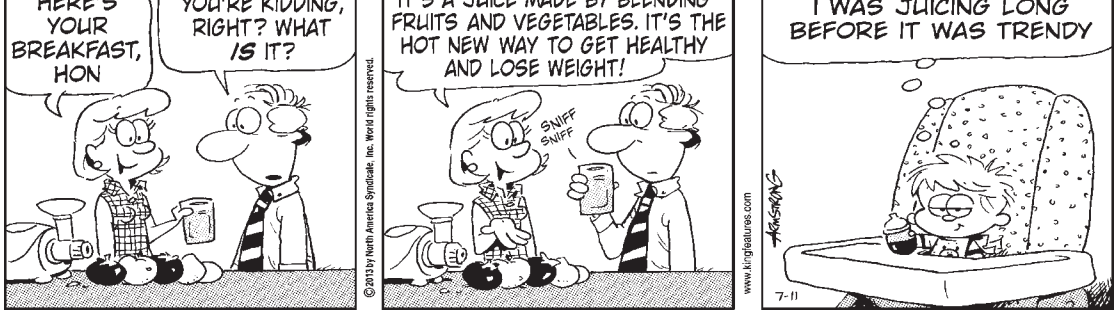
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



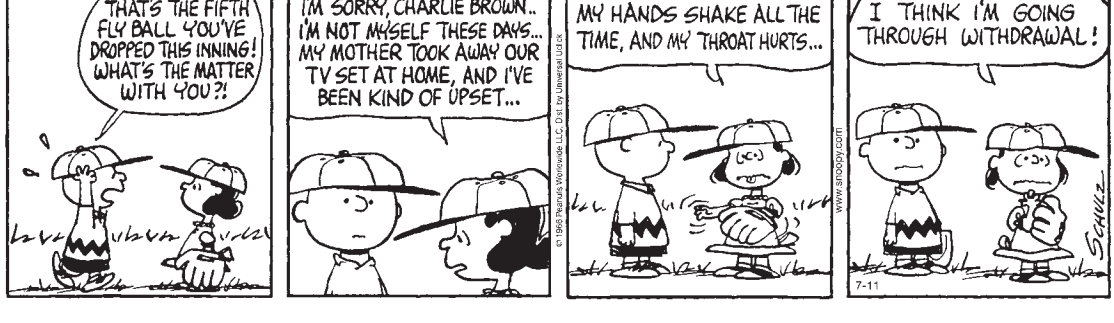
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Hagar The Horrible

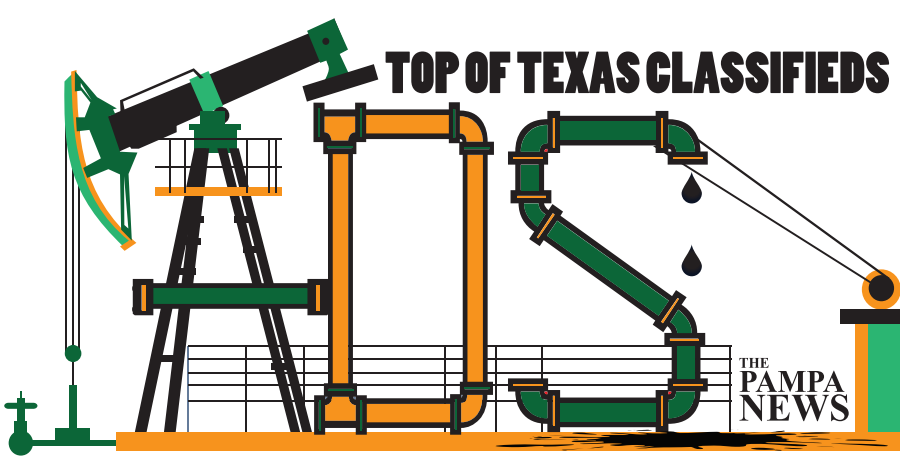


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CRYPTOQUOTE
 One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-11 CRYPTOQUOTE
 D Q H Q T K N V G B P W V R M U G M
 R Q L V E V Q E B V V J E V D T
 M N V L V D T Q S R V D V N X K
 L V N V B K M Q H V D Q N L G B .

— G B H V N M Z G L S R
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MOST PEOPLE SELL THEIR SOULS AND LIVE WITH A GOOD CONSCIENCE ON THE PROCEEDS. — LOGAN PEARSALL SMITH

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 2011 Dodge VIN 1D7RB1GP4B5635536 TAG DV3RNN
 1994 Nissan VIN JN1HO1F7RT243452 TAG BLD8225
 1999 Toyota VIN JT2BF28K5X00227700 Tag AGK2580 E-32 7/11/13

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DON CHARLES HICKMAN, Deceased, were issued on July 8, 2013, in Docket No. 10,043, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: EDNA RHE HICKMAN. The residence of the Independent Executor is in Gray County, Texas. The post office address is: 1122 Mary Ellen, Pampa, Texas, 79065. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 8th day of July, 2013. By: Harold L. Comer State Bar Card No. 04641000 P.O. Box 1058 Pampa, Texas 79066-1058 (806) 665-8495 FAX (806) 669-0553 E-32 7/11/13



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Legal marijuana is making my best friend stupid, boring and insipid. "Susan" and I are in our 50s and have been best friends off and on since childhood. A decade ago, we started taking better care of our friendship because so few longtime friends were still in our lives. Since then, I have been careful not to be judgmental or condescending because it was the source of past friction.

Susan is a regular marijuana user, which has sapped away all of her ambition and curiosity. Even when she isn't actually high, she lacks the cleverness and mental acuity I have always treasured about her. Otherwise, her life is functional. She's in a good marriage, loves her pets and enjoys her job. I think if I said anything, it would cause a major rift.

Should I just limit our time together and accept this is how things are going to be from now on? I'm a widow who has lost my parents and others to illness. I have other friends and family, but I don't want to lose my old chum, even though being around her is starting to make me sad. — FRIENDSHIP GOING TO POT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR F.G.T.P.: As people grow older, long and well-established relationships become more precious. But much as we might wish otherwise, relationships do not always remain the same.

Because you are no longer receiving what you need from your interactions with Susan, I agree you may need to see her less often.

In light of your long relationship, I don't think it would be offensive to tell her you have noticed a change in her and you miss the person she used to be. However, are you absolutely certain that what you have observed is caused by marijuana? If you're not, then consider sharing your observation with Susan's husband, in case her lack of sharpness could be the result of another medication she's using or a neurological problem.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for one year. Yesterday I put all the pieces together and realized he's been cheating on me. I called the other woman, and after she regained her composure and heard she is a mistress, she told me everything. She gave me the answers I desperately needed, and I am thankful for her honesty and — surprisingly —

her compassion.

Now I need to move forward. I am crushed, and even though he can't explain why he cheated, I still want to know why. He says he's going to counseling, which is something I have been begging him to do since I had a miscarriage last summer.

Will he change? Or should I continue to pack the house and move on? — CRUSHED IN CHICAGO

DEAR CRUSHED: Much depends upon the reason your husband started cheating. If it was a way to

avoid experiencing the pain of the loss of the baby, it's possible that with counseling the two of you can get beyond this.

I suggest you ask to be included in one or more of the counseling sessions. If he agrees, at least you will know he is seeing a therapist. If not, you will have to decide whether you have had enough loss in one year to last you a lifetime, and whether you still have a future together.

BANANAGRAMS!

Each set of 11 tiles below contains one common five-letter word and one common six-letter word. The letters of the five-letter word are adjacent, but not in order. Find them and rearrange them to spell a word. Rearrange the six remaining letters to spell the second word.

LEVEL

ETODYPTEVLI

HOTYCELNUPR

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 Yesterday's Answer: 1-4; 2-8; 3-6; 5-7

SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 2 Niger neighbor
 - 1 In the center of
 - 5 Rivera work
 - 10 Indy event
 - 11 Forensic contest
 - 12 Obi-Wan's portrayer
 - 13 Wore away
 - 14 South American lake
 - 16 North American lake
 - 20 Asparagus units
 - 23 Obtain
 - 24 Makes sound
 - 25 Witch trial town
 - 27 Mess up
 - 28 Apartment rule
 - 29 North American lake
 - 32 African lake
 - 36 Statue setting
 - 39 Spot for laps
 - 40 Lab vessel
 - 41 Director Preminger
 - 42 Astronomer's find
 - 43 Pants part
- DOWN**
- 1 "I smell — !"
 - 3 "Law & Order: SVU"
 - 4 It has a point
 - 5 French thanks
 - 6 Wolf pack member
 - 7 "Gnarly!"
 - 8 Chowd down
 - 9 Was in front
 - 11 College heads
 - 15 2006 Pixar film
 - 17 Eyeball
 - 18 Red veggie
 - 19 Money machines
 - 20 "— a Lady"
 - 21 Lima's land
 - 22 Tombstone name
 - 25 Flue filth
 - 26 Fitting
 - 28 More polite
 - 30 Conjure up
 - 31 Metal fastener
 - 33 Learning method
 - 34 Tiny amount
 - 35 Large amount
 - 36 Jackson 5 hit
 - 37 Composer Delibes
 - 38 Engine part

M	O	N	A			P	A	S	T				
A	P	O	R	T		M	I	C	A	H			
T	E	N	T	H		O	C	A	L	A			
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R	A	M	R	O	D	S		I	R	K			
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							D	E	L	T	A		
			R	H	O				L	O	V	E	D
B	O	A			R	A	M	A	D	A	S		
R	A	M	P	A	R	T			I	R	A		
A	D	M	I	T					O	R	B	I	T
S	I	E	G	E					M	I	L	N	E
H	E	R	S						B	E	G	S	

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
					11				
					13				
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				16			17	18	19
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36	37	38					39		
40							41		
42							43		

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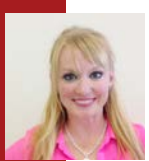
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Many colleges offering more help with career prep

NEW YORK (AP) — When Kitty Wo's eldest daughter started at Scripps College in California in 2002, "we thought a liberal arts education would be a wonderful thing," she said. "There was no pressure."

Her two younger daughters graduated from Scripps in 2008 and 2012, and "with each successive child, we've thought more about their career path and what field of study would be best," said Wo, who lives in Honolulu. "Each girl's experience led the next one to being a lot more proactive," with internships and other job-related experiences.

Wo's middle daughter, an economics major, even worried that her younger sister's media studies major wasn't practical. "Her sister was thinking, 'Oh my God, you're watching movies?'"

Wo recalled with a laugh. All of Wo's daughters landed jobs, but their shift in attitudes tells a bigger story. While some top-tier schools can still attract students by promising self-discovery and intellectual pursuits, many colleges

have changed their emphasis in the years since the recession hit. Instead of "Follow your passion," the mantra has become more like, "We'll help you get a job."

Schools have revamped career centers, expanded internship programs and pushed alumni to serve as mentors. The changes are not only in response to a tough job market, but because parents are demanding that graduates be prepared for the workplace.

"Parents and students' questions and concerns have changed just as much as society has changed," said John Fraire, vice president for student affairs and enrollment at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash. "Questions about job security, income, graduation rates — it's to be expected."

When Stephanie Albano worked as a student tour guide at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., she was equipped with a fact sheet on job placement rates, average salaries for graduates and other statistics. High school kids on the tours

didn't ask about jobs, said Albano, who's now in law school, "but parents always did. It was the first question out there from parents. They want to make sure their kids are not going to end up moving back into their basements."

Between 1966 and 2010, bachelor's degrees in the humanities halved, from 14 percent of all degrees awarded to 7 percent, according to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Sally Rubenstone, who writes CollegeConfidential.com's "Ask the Dean" column, says "there is certainly concern, particularly at the liberal arts schools where they're worried that they're not going to be perceived as pragmatic in a competitive job market."

But a few colleges have benefited from the shift in values. "Colleges like Northeastern and Drexel are really coming up in the world because they offer co-op programs," where students spend several semesters in full-time jobs related to their studies, usually with pay, Rubenstone

noted. In the last six years, Northeastern University's ranking on U.S. News & World Report's college survey has soared from 98 to 56. And even though Northeastern's tuition now tops \$40,000 a year, applications have increased more than 40 percent since 2009, while SAT scores of incoming students have steadily risen.

Spokeswoman Renata Nyul says Northeastern's co-op program is a "huge reason" for its popularity. "Our mission is to provide a real-world experience and an education that's rooted in the integration of rigorous classroom learning and real-world professional experience," she said. "That's been the ethos of this place for a long time, but lately it seems to really resonate."

Co-ops can also pave the way for permanent employment, Nyul says: "Ninety percent of our graduates are employed full-time and 87 percent are doing something related to what they majored in."

While Northeastern's co-op model is a century old,

many other schools proudly point to career prep programs they've created since the recession began at the end of 2007.

—Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., "totally revamped" its career services this past year, according to Beth Throne, who heads the school's new Office of Student and Post-Graduate Development, with life skills workshops on public speaking, social media, etiquette and even the art of the business meal; job-search boot camp for seniors and recent grads; and more on-campus recruiting. The school also created a database of alumni and willing parents in various fields, and students are aggressively matched to opportunities, resulting "in increased rates of employment."

—At Washington College in Chestertown, Md., a "first-year career awareness" program opened for freshmen in 2009; a new externship program was launched this year; and a Wall Street program began in 2011 to connect students with alumni and others

working in financial services.

—At Otterbein University, in Westerville, Ohio, "5 Cardinal Experiences" was launched three years ago to connect students with internships, research and other opportunities. This fall, a job shadow program will match students with local alumni.

—At Davidson College in Davidson, N.C., the Davidson Internship Challenge began three years ago, asking alumni to help students find and secure internships; it surpassed its goal of 100 internships in its first year by 17.

—McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., started its Center for Experience and Opportunity in 2012 to "help prepare students for life after college," according to spokeswoman Cheryl Knauer, by helping them find internships, volunteering and service projects.

—York College of Pennsylvania in 2009 opened the Center for Professional Excellence, where, according to a video shown on tours, students can learn everything from social skills to public speaking.

Barone

Continued From Page 04

has a much lower black percentage than Louisiana.

Both Landrieu and Pryor have run under 50 percent in recent polls against Reps. John Fleming and Tom Cotton, with Pryor a statistically insignificant 1 percent ahead of the Republican.

In North Carolina (50 percent Romney), Democrat Kay Hagan faces a different battleground. The Obama campaign vastly increased turnout in 2008 and won the state then with high black turnout and support from high-education whites.

But that coalition failed

to prevail in 2012, when Romney narrowly carried the state and Republicans captured the governorship and won large majorities in the state legislature.

Incumbent Hagan won the seat in 2008 largely because of slipups by Republican Elizabeth Dole. She has come out for same-sex marriage and isn't denouncing Obamacare. Evidently she's hoping to reassemble the 2008 Obama majority.

Another Democratic surprise winner in 2008 was Mark Begich of Alaska (55 percent Romney). He won by 1 percent after incumbent Ted Stevens was convicted on federal charges in October. That conviction was reversed in 2009, but Begich was

positioned to cast what can legitimately be called the deciding vote for Obamacare that year.

If Democrats lose all seven of these seats in Romney states, and if Republicans avoid nominating candidates who manage to lose seats that currently seem unloseable, Republicans will have at least a 52-48 Senate majority.

And they have at least an outside chance of winning seats in 2012 target states Colorado, Iowa and New Hampshire, plus Michigan.

Well, you might ask, isn't it unusual for parties to sweep all the close races? Actually, sometimes they do. Republicans did in 1980 and Democrats did in 1986 — and those were

the same seats.

Republicans won the bulk of close races in 2002, and Democrats won the bulk of close races in 2008 — the same seats again and the ones up next year.

A sweep is by no means certain this time. But if the Obamacare rollout is a "train wreck," as Baucus feared, the odds get better.

Michael Barone, senior political analyst for The Washington Examiner (www.washingtonexaminer.com), is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a Fox News Channel contributor and a co-author of The Almanac of American Politics. To find out more about Michael Barone, and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

UConn, Cal headline eighth Maggie Dixon Classic

NEW YORK (AP) — The last time UConn played in the Maggie Dixon Classic, the Huskies tied UCLA for the longest winning streak in NCAA college basketball history.

Defending national champion Connecticut will make its return to Madison Square Garden to play California on Dec. 22 in the eighth annual women's basketball doubleheader, which honors the late Army women's basketball coach. Dixon died in April 2006 of arrhythmia, probably caused by an enlarged heart. Her death came three weeks after her first season as a head coach, when she led Army to its first NCAA berth.

Texas A&M will face St. John's in the first game. UConn met Ohio State in the 2010 Classic and beat the Buckeyes for the

Huskies' 88th straight victory to match the Bruins' vaunted streak. Connecticut went on to win a record 90 consecutive games before losing at Stanford.

The Huskies are coming off their eighth national championship in April and return most of the team, including the most outstanding player of the NCAA tournament, Breanna Stewart. Geno Auriemma's squad will face Cal, which had the best season in school history. The Golden Bears reached the Final Four for the first time before falling to Louisville.

"The opportunity to play UConn in a marquee matchup at the world's best known arena, Madison Square Garden, is an exciting step for our program," Cal coach Lindsay Gottlieb said.

Snoop

Continued From Page 4

tional costs. One narcotics case in New York in 2011 cost the government \$2.9 million alone.

The system is not a true market-based solution, said Al Gidari, a partner at the law firm Perkins Coie who represents technology and telecommunications companies on privacy and security issues. If the FBI or NSA needs data, those agencies would pay whatever it takes. But Gidari said it's likely that phone and technology companies undercharge

because they don't want to risk being accused of making a false claim against the government, which carries stiff penalties.

Online companies in particular tend to undercharge because they don't have established accounting systems, and hiring staff to track costs is more expensive than not charging the government at all, he said.

"Government doesn't have the manpower to wade through irrelevant material any more than providers have the bandwidth to bury them in records," Gidari said. "In reality, there is a pretty good equilibrium and balance, with the exception of phone records," which

are free.

Not everyone agrees.

In 2009, then-New York criminal prosecutor John Prather sued several major telecommunications carriers in federal court in Northern California in 2009, including AT&T, Verizon and Sprint, for overcharging federal and state police agencies. In his complaint, Prather said phone companies have the technical ability to turn on a switch, duplicate call information and pass it along to law enforcement with little effort. Instead, Prather says his staff, while he was working as a city prosecutor, would receive convoluted bills with extraneous fees. The

case is pending.

"They were monstrously more than what the telecoms could ever hope to charge for similar services in an open, competitive market, and the costs charged to the governments by telecoms did not represent reasonable prices as defined in the code of federal regulations," the lawsuit said.

The phone companies have asked the judge to dismiss the case. Prather's lawsuit claims whistle-blower status. If he wins, he stands to collect a percentage — estimated anywhere from 12 percent to 25 percent — of the money recovered from the companies.

Ann

Continued From Page 04

This is of no consequence in the matter of appraising abortion's moral and practical consequences? It would be, ah, provocative to hear her say why, when challenged by Gov. Rick Perry or his like. We all could learn something

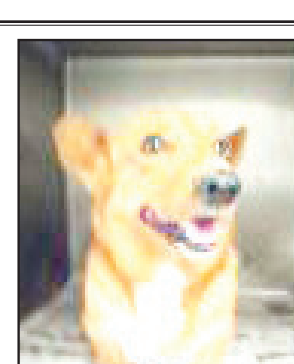
from such an engagement. Maybe we yet will. The Richards set wants her for president. Perry himself is known to have yearned for the office. Interesting.

William Murchison writes from Dallas. To find out more about William Murchison, and to see features by other Creators Syndicate columnists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.Creators.com.

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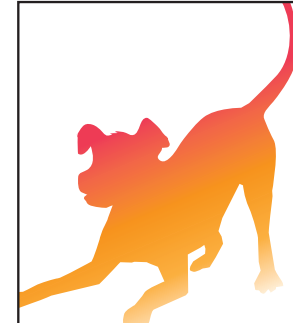
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Firefighter camaraderie draws thousands to Arizona

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. (AP) — Firefighters William Benitez and Lou Larosa were fresh out of the New York City Fire Department when terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people, including hundreds of first responders.

The days ahead were tough as the two rookies and their colleagues attended dozens of funerals, while thousands of their fellow firefighters came from around the country to show support.

It's that camaraderie among firefighters that drew Benitez, Larosa and nearly a dozen others from their department, including the chief, to a massive memorial service in Arizona honoring 19 members of the Prescott-based Granite Mountain Hotshots. The elite crew died June 30 when a wind-fueled, out-of-control fire overran them as they tried to protect a former gold-mining town from the inferno.

"It's very important to have a big showing ... show the family there are people there for them," Benitez said Tuesday after the service that drew some 8,000 people to the minor league hockey arena.

"I always feel like the best part of it is when wives, siblings, get to see the amount of people showing up," Larosa added.

The day was filled with speeches from dignitaries including Vice President Joe Biden and Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer. The memorial in Prescott Valley began with a choir singing "On Eagle's Wings" as Biden sang the words alongside Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Sen. John McCain and other members of the state's congressional delegation.

But the words of the lone survivor of the Hotshot fire crew resonated deepest in the packed arena. Brendan McDonough, who was serving as the lookout for his 19 teammates on that fateful afternoon, notified the crew of the rapidly changing weather that sent winds swirling and caused the blaze to cut off his firefighters' escape route, then swiftly left his post for safety.

Prescott Fire Department spokesman Wade Ward said it's been tough on McDonough, but that "he did exactly what he was supposed to."

McDonough walked onto the stage Tuesday and offered what's called "The Hot Shot's Prayer," calmly reciting the words: "For if this day on the line I should answer death's call, Lord, bless my Hotshot crew, my family, one and all."

He concluded by telling the crowd: "Thank you. And I miss my brothers."

Biden called them "men of uncommon valor."

"There's an old saying: All men are created equal, and then a few became firefighters," the vice president

said. "Thank God for you all. Thank God for your willingness to take the risks you do."

The event was marked by an outpouring of support from several thousand firefighters from across the country.

Many talked about the brotherhood — and sisterhood — of the profession, a bond even among strangers in a job fraught with danger and adrenaline.

"When you hear of a death, especially a group of firefighters, and there's 19 that we're here to mourn, there's no question that at the drop of a hat you do what you can to go and support the fire service and their families," said Capt. Steve Brown of the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District, who brought 17 others in his department from California.

Gov. Jan Brewer praised people for responding as she hoped they would — with candlelight vigils, financial contributions, prayers, and flowers and notes placed at makeshift memorials.

"Of course our hearts are filled with profound sadness today, but they're also filled with great pride," Brewer said. "How wonderful is it to know that Arizona was home to 19 men like those we honor today."

Alumni of the Granite Mountain Hotshots sat in the front rows, with about 1,000 members of the fallen firefighters' families surrounding them in seats on the floor of the arena. Those who first responded to the Yarnell Hill Fire sat in the rows behind them.

Outside the arena, where several thousand people who couldn't fit inside watched the service on jumbo screens, a bronze statue of a firefighter stood with an ax in hand. A granite marker read, "In honor and recognition of all wild-land firefighters across this great nation. Duty - Respect - Integrity."

The highly specialized Granite Mountain crew was part of a small community of Hotshots nationwide. There are only about 110 of the 20-person teams, mostly stationed west of the Mississippi River.

Prescott Fire Chief Dan Fraijo gave firefighting tools to the deceased men's families, along with flags that had been flown in their honor.

The memorial was the last of a handful of vigils for the men before the first of 19 funerals begin later in the week.

Biden offered the families some solace as he wrapped up his remarks.

"As unbelievable as it is to even fathom ... the day will come when the memory of your husband, your son, or your dad or your brother will bring a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye," he said. "My prayer for all of you is that that day will come sooner than later, but I promise you as unbelievable as it is, it will come."

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Vehicle with mounted 'gun' panics Detroit suburb

SHELBY TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — A man driving an armor-plated military-type vehicle and firing what appeared to be a machine gun mounted on top caused a ripple of panic in suburban Detroit on the Fourth of July.

It turned out the weapon was a modified World War II .50-caliber machine gun that had been converted to fire compressed gas. It produced bright flashes and loud gunfire sounds

as the driver, a man in his 40s, drove around Shelby Township.

Recordings of a series of 911 calls capture the fear of residents whose reports of the imposing sight sent officers swarming late Thursday. In one call, bangs similar to the sound of gunshots can be heard.

Police say they arrested the driver and confiscated his vehicle. He was released Friday. Charges are pending.

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Team Bandit placed 3rd in Texas Billfish Championship Marlin Tournament.

From left, John Jernigan, Lefors, Ryan Minchew, Midland, Bruce Hall, Lake Jackson, Doug Johnston, Oyster Creek, Raymond Henry, Lefors, Quent Harris, Paducah Ky.

According to the Texas Billfish Championship website: "The TBC is a tournament by fishermen for fishermen. The rules of the tournament are designed to maximize fishing time and add simplicity to the tournament. With an entry fee of only \$750 (that's 80% less than other Texas tournaments), our goal is to host a minimal entry fee tournament with maximum payback to the winners. So instead of steaks and wine at the Calcutta we will have crawfish and beer (and a bit more), and the winners will take home the money. While the TBC strives to be Texas' premier Marlin tournament, we haven't forgotten about yellowfin tuna, dorado and wahoo. There will be side pots to cover these species. There are more big marlin caught in June than any other month on the gulf coast, so the time for this tournament is right." For more information on the TBC, readers can visit www.texasbillfishchampionship.com, or check out their Facebook page www.facebook.com/TexasBillfishChampionship.

AP source: Lions, Stafford agree to \$53M extension

DETROIT (AP) — Matthew Stafford's career with the Detroit Lions just got longer. Stafford and the Lions have agreed to terms on a \$53 million, three-year extension to keep him under contract through 2017, according to a person familiar with the deal. The person, who spoke Tuesday to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the agreement has not been announced, said Stafford will make \$41.5 million in guarantees as part of a new contract. Detroit drafted Stafford No. 1 overall in 2009 and signed him to a six-year contract worth as much as \$78 million with \$41.7 million in guarantees. After two injury-shortened seasons, he helped the franchise reach the playoffs two years ago for the first

time in more than a decade. A month ago, Stafford vowed that he would focus on football while his agent and the team negotiated. "I don't play this game to get contracts," he said in June. "I play this game to win games." The Lions didn't do much of that last year, losing their last eight games to flop to a 4-12 record after a 10-win season. Stafford threw more interceptions and had less than half as many touchdown passes in 2012 as he did the previous year. After playing in just 13 games over two seasons, he flourished in his first full year with 41 TD passes while completing 64 percent of his attempts and throwing 16 touchdowns. He stayed on the field last season, but his passing percentage dipped as did his TD passes (20) while he

threw one more interception. "Matt's not happy with last year," Lions coach Jim Schwartz said during last month's minicamp. "None of us were happy with last year, but you also can't overreact." Stafford has spent much of this offseason splitting time between his home in suburban Detroit and team headquarters, after working out and rehabilitating injuries elsewhere in previous years. He has looked back to analyze the previous season, seeing when it was good to take chances with passes and when it wasn't while the losses piled up after climbing to .500 midway through the season. "It was a total, learning experience just because it was a tough year," Stafford said. "You have to find a way to battle through it."

Phil Mickelson looking to finally conquer links golf

INVERNESS, Scotland (AP) — Just when he thought he'd finally understood the unique nature of links golf, Phil Mickelson arrived at last year's British Open and missed the cut for the first time at a major in five years. "I don't know what to say," Mickelson repeated as he prepared to leave Lytham two days earlier than expected. Fresh off another disappointment — a sixth second-place finish at the U.S. Open last month — the American is back for another go on a links course as he plays the Scottish Open starting Thursday, a week before the British Open at

Muirfield. "It's still a challenge for me, still not something I grew up doing, still something I'm trying to learn as I continue through my career," Mickelson said Wednesday. "So I'm always cautiously optimistic." Any self-belief must be in short supply whenever he flies to Europe — he hasn't won here in 20 years, since a victory in a second-tier Challenge Tour event in Paris in which he narrowly beat Steve Elkington. But links golf is something that continues to appeal to Mickelson. And while Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and the rest of the world's top

seven have headed to courses across Britain to prepare for the British Open in non-competitive conditions, the eighth-ranked Mickelson will be at Castle Stuart this week practicing his bump-and-runs and low drives into the wind with a title and prize money at stake. Mickelson is a regular at the Scottish Open and came closest to winning it in 2007 when he lost a playoff to Gregory Havret. "I think everybody has to find out what works for them to get ready for the big events," said Mickelson, one of only four Americans in the Scottish Open field.

30 DAYS until Lady Harvester Volleyball

2013 PAMPA LADY HARVESTER VOLLEYBALL						
Date	Opponent	9th	JV	Varsity	Site	Time
August 10	Bushland Scrimmage	X	X	X	Bushland	12:15
August 13	Tulia/Lubbock Cooper	X	X	X	Plainview	TBA
August 16 & 17	Randall Tournament			X	Randall	TBA
August 20	Randall	X	X	X	Pampa	5:00
August 23 & 24	Graham Tournament			X	Graham	TBA
August 27	Dumas	X	X	X	Pampa	TBA
August 30 & 31	Frenship Tournament			X	Lubbock Frenship	TBA
August 31	Dumas J.V. Tournament		X		Dumas	TBA
September 3	Fort Elliott			X	Pampa	6:00
September 3	OPEN	X	X			
September 6 & 7	9th Canyon Tournament	X			Canyon	TBA
September 7	Bushland/Lubbock High	X	X	X	Bushland	TBA
September 10	Lubbock Monterey	X	X	X	Pampa	5:00
September 14	Tulia			X	Tulia	10:00
September 14	Pampa 9th & JV Tournament	X	X		Pampa	TBA
September 17	Highland Park	X	X	X	Highland Park	5:00
September 21	Palo Duro/Plainview	X	X	X	Pampa	10:00
September 24	OPEN	X	X	X		
September 28	Perryton*	X	X	X	Perryton	2:00
October 1	River Road*	X	X	X	Pampa	5:00
October 5	Borger*	X	X	X	Borger	2:00
October 8	Dalhart*	X	X	X	Pampa	5:00
October 12	OPEN	X	X	X		
October 15	Perryton*	X	X	X	Pampa	5:00
October 19	River Road*	X	X	X	River Road	2:00
October 22	Borger*	X	X	X	Pampa	5:00
October 26	Dalhart*	X	X	X	Dalhart	2:00
October 28	West Texas	X	X	X	Pampa	4:00
November 2	DISTRICT CERTIFICATION					
November 4-5	BI-DISTRICT					
November 7-9	AREA					
November 11-12	REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS					
November 15-16	REGIONAL TOURNAMENT					
November 21-23	STATE TOURNAMENT					

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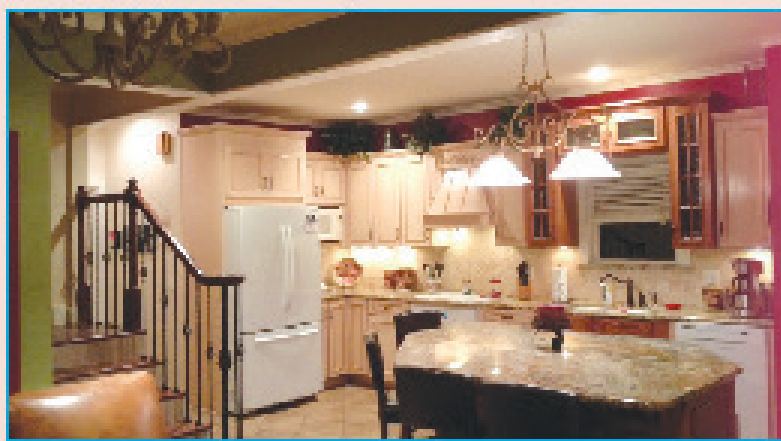
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