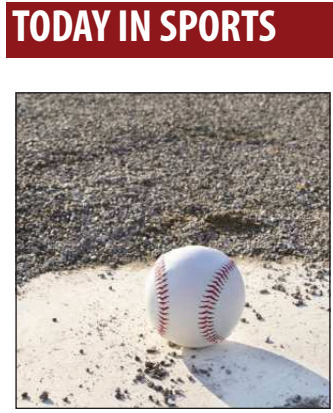


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The PAMPA NEWS



Friday, February 28, 2014 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 230

75¢ Viewpoints: This Land Is Our Land Letter to the Editor | **p4** FTP: The perks of being a multi-sport athlete OKC falls to the Cavs' | **p8**

91-year-old class ring returned to owner's son

BY LINDSEY TOMASCHIK
 LKTomaschik@thepampanews.com

A little more than a month ago, Paul Musgrave received an out-of-the-blue phone call from a woman in Virginia asking for the name of his parents. Musgrave thought nothing of it at first, giving her the names, and he was shocked at where the conversation went from there.

Caryn Waldroup was the woman on the other end of the phone, and she had finally gotten ahold of Musgrave after about a month of doing background research to find the owner of a rather peculiar belonging her grandfather had in his possession.

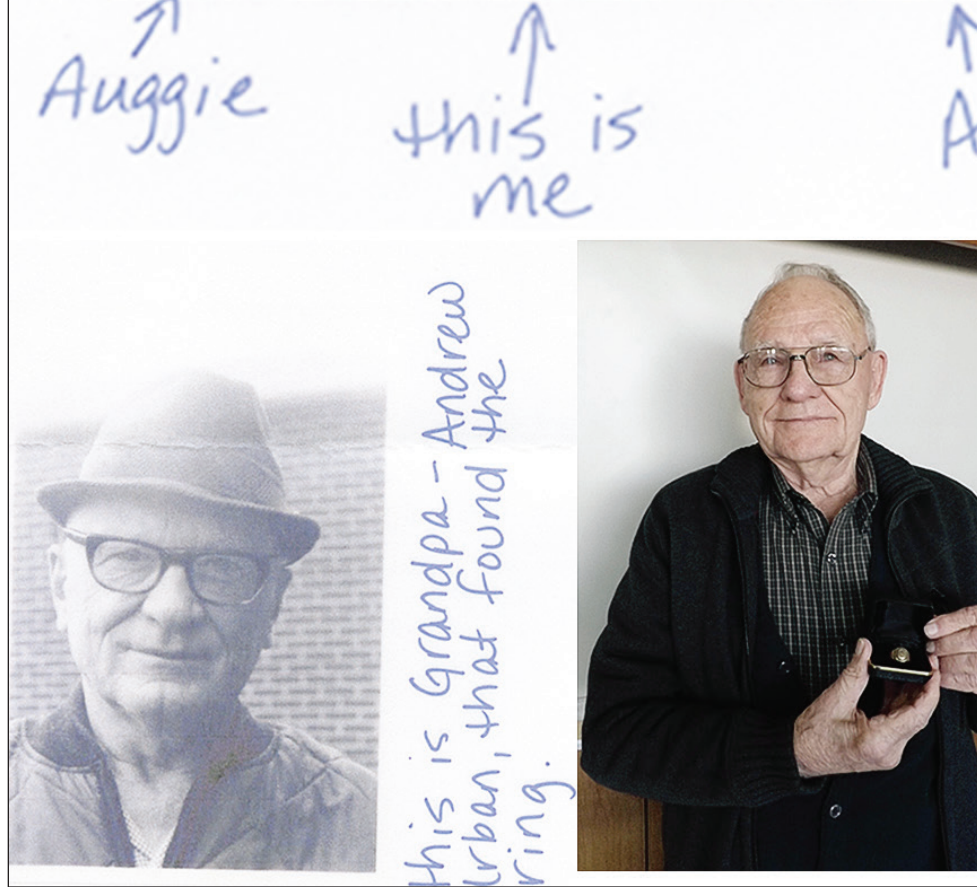


Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik and submitted
 Along with the letter and ring, Waldroup included a few pictures of her family, including she and her children as well as her grandfather, the one who found the ring. Paul Musgrave is pictured in the bottom right with his father's ring.

\$4,000 bonus offered to new prison workers

■ DOJ recruiting to replace employees lost to oil and gas.

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Private companies are now slowly bouncing back from the recession of the late 2000s and filling the positions they cut as they downsized. And with a lot of government employment — whether local, state or federal — jobs were likewise slashed as budgets were cut.

But there is one employer that has never laid off a single person, according to Randy Hendricks, who works as a training officer in Pampa for new corrections officers. That employer is the state's prison system.

Right now the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is offering a \$4,000 recruiting bonus at select units, including the Ruff Jordan and Baten units near Pampa.

Hendricks said the bonuses are paid out after someone has worked for the corrections system for about a year.

According to an Amarillo television news report, Texas state prisons are losing workers to the oil and gas industry. Hendricks said the report was accurate.

He said he understands why someone would want to work for an oil and gas company because of the high wages they are of-

PRISON cont. on page 2

Abbott-Davis race struggles still evident

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Reporting of this week's University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll can't help but present a simple story: Wendy Davis is down, Greg Abbott is up. The partisan responses to the poll results have been similarly predictable. The Republican chorus is singing I-told-you-so, chalking up Davis' position of the impact of the media pack reporting of her biographical fudges. The Democratic peanut gallery has pointed to the fact that the poll was in the field before Ted Nugent did a double live gonzo on Abbott's thus far business-as-usual campaign.

The partisan responses are simultaneously more or less plausible, but in both cases frequently overstated — not a shocking state of affairs since we are, after all, in the middle of an election year. But these latest results reflect factors that are much more deeply rooted than the low-hanging fruit making headlines and feeding campaign emails: Abbot's 11-point pre-Nugent advantage emerged from the relatively static underlying pattern of partisan identification in the state and the dynamics of candidate name recognition — both of which still

RACE cont. on page 2

KoC sausage dinner on Sunday



File photo
 The Knights of Columbus are at it again! They will hold their 62nd annual Polish sausage dinner from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, March 2. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. They may be purchased at the door. There will be plenty of food and all are welcome to come out for the feast. The sausage dinner will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 318 N. Cuyler St. This picture was taken at last year's sausage dinner, and this year's is sure to be just as much of a success. For more information on the event, contact St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church at 806-665-8933.



Gregg Abbott



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Ring

Continued From Page 1

listed. Waldroup did the math and figured that the ages matched up with the ring, and hit a bit of a dead end when she unsuccessfully plugged the names into Facebook. Most people may have given up at that point, but Waldroup spent the next couple hours after that on Google searching the name in West Virginia and then remembered that the

census had said something about the family living in Texas. With this information, Waldroup was able to find a phone number for Paul Musgrave on the White Pages website. She called and the two of them had a long conversation and Musgrave told Waldroup all about his father. Waldroup then mailed the ring to him with a long letter explaining how she was led to him. When Musgrave's father was younger, he worked on the family farm. He was a

strong, hard-working man, and these qualities got him a football scholarship for West Virginia University. He got a degree in mining engineering but then heard about the booming oil industry in the Texas panhandle, which motivated him to move here. Musgrave could not speak enough of Waldroup's honesty and perseverance when it came to pursuing him to return his father's ring. "She spent \$5.80 to ship this to me. I can't believe she took the time to do that," he said.

Prison

Continued From Page 1

fering. But the downside is the "boom and bust" nature of the industry. In contrast, Hendricks said, along with longterm job security, DOCJ offers outstanding retirement and health plans. After someone has worked for DOCJ for 10 years or more, or is "vested," then they are eligible for health benefits during retirement, Hendricks said. "It's a great job," Hendricks said. "When I first got into it I only planned to do it short-term but in Texas as the state takes care of its workers."

What is the pay? A correctional officer I starts at \$2,435 a month, which is nearly \$30,000 per year. After 91 months, someone can move up to correctional officer V, which pays \$3,240 per month. That's around \$38,000 a year. Warden Norris Jackson said there also are opportunities for promotions up the ranks — sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major, assistant warden and warden. Hendricks said being a corrections officer is not a physically demanding job, and that a lot of people become officers after they retire from another job. "You do have to be able to stand for long periods and walk long ways," he said.

The job, however, requires one to be mentally alert and always aware of your surroundings. As a trainer, Hendricks said he sees newbies with the "deer in the headlights" look while with others their facial expressions are, "Yes, I can do it." Hendricks teaches a class for beginning officers every quarter at the Clarendon College in Pampa. The next class starts on March 26. Along with teaching the entry-level class, Hendricks and fellow training officer Yvette Quintana also conduct ongoing training for officers already employed. For information on how to apply and/or salaries and benefits, visit www.tdcj.state.tx.us/tab2_emp.html.

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Race

Continued From Page 1

add up to a significant disadvantage for Democrats. None of which is to say that Davis' campaign has collapsed, as some critics, both friendly and hostile, have suggested. These new numbers are less a sign of the decay of the Davis candidacy than a reversion toward the mean — that is, a return to the expected steady state. Davis' 6-point deficit in the October 2013 UT/TT poll reflected the final dance of her very public coming-out party as the excitement that propelled her into the race in the first place receded into the realities of day-to-day campaigning.

At the time, Davis was in a unique position for a Texas Democrat, known by a greater share of the electorate than her Republican counterpart. Davis now finds herself trailing by 11 points, but this current state reflects the underlying partisan composition of the electorate — not some major, event-driven shift in sentiment. These partisan dynamics should be familiar: In the February 2010 UT/TT Poll, Gov. Rick Perry led Bill White by 9 points and eventually went on to win by 13. As the campaign begins in earnest, it's not that Davis is captaining a sinking ship — it's that she's setting sail from a port familiar to the Democrats that have come before her. While the importance of

partisan dynamics can't be understated, and thus might bolster the Davis campaign's resolve — at least they're doing no worse than any other recent Democratic candidates — it's also the case that these results reveal a lost opportunity for the Davis campaign. We wrote in September of last year that Abbott's greatest weakness was his relatively low name identification among the Texas electorate. This presented Davis with an opportunity to define Abbott to a large swath of the electorate in whatever manner would most benefit her campaign (e.g., Abbott as the defender of education cuts, Abbott as a fighter in the War on Women, Abbott as out of touch with the mainstream, etc.).

same period. Davis' absence left a vacuum for Abbott to fill, and he surely did, burnishing his name ID in an almost uniformly positive manner. On the other side of the ledger, attitudes toward Davis went basically unmoved, except for the roughly 4 percent of Texans who moved from having no opinion to having a negative one. The last few months thus represent a lost opportunity for the Davis campaign and a major win for Abbott. While Davis needs to both mobilize large groups of Democratic voters in an off-year election and persuade no small number of Republicans to defect, the task is becoming harder by the day. Among key groups that Davis might hope to court, Abbott looks stronger — at least so far. On the trial ballot, Abbott leads Davis 42 percent to 40 percent among suburban women; among Hispanics, favorable attitudes toward Abbott have increased from 21 percent in June 2013 to 30 percent in October to 39 percent in our most recent poll. Add to this that most of the Texas electorate, especially in non-presidential years, tends to be white — where Abbott leads Davis 57 percent to 32 percent — and Davis' challenge only grows.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 68 Low 33	High 60 Low 20	High 31 Low 10

Today: Sunny with a high of 68. Winds north-west at 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:15 a.m.

Tonight: Mostly clear with a low of 33. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds east at 12 mph. Sunset at 6:38 p.m.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high of 60. Winds south-southeast at 17 mph. Sunrise at 7:14 a.m.

Saturday night: Cloudy with a low of 20. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds east at 14 mph. Sunset at 6:39 p.m.

Sunday: Cloudy with a high of 31. Chance of precipitation: 10 percent. Winds north-northeast at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:12 a.m.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 10. Chance of precipitation: 20 percent. Winds north-northeast at 11 mph. Sunset at 6:40 p.m.

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Obituaries

Edrie Ailene Morrison Jones

Edrie Ailene Morrison Jones, 83, died Feb. 26, 2014 in Amarillo.



Edrie Ailene Jones

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 1, 2014, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Jim Medley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Spearman, officiating. Burial will follow in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Jones was born Sept. 20, 1930 in Pampa. She married Sammy Don Jones on May 28, 1955 in Pampa. He preceded her in death on Aug. 8,

2009. She had been a resident of Spearman since 1959, moving to Pampa in 2012. Edrie taught an Adult Women's Sunday school class at First Baptist Church in Spearman for over fifteen years. She enjoyed reading, riding horses and spending time with her family. She was also preceded in death by a brother, Billy Ed Morrison.

Survivors include a daughter, Wanda Adams of Pampa; a son, William A. Jones and wife Dianne of Odessa; three grandchildren, Michael Adams and fiancé Amelia Dejong of Shattuck, Okla., Daniel Adams of Pampa, and Travis Jones of Odessa.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Building Fund, 123 S. Bernice, Spearman, Texas 79081, or Hansford Hospice, 707 S. Roland, Spearman, Texas 79081.

Sign the online guest register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

For the record

Pampa woman arrested for drug possession, warrants

STAFF REPORT

• Angel Renee Whinery, 24, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the

Gray County Sheriff's Office for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, two capias pro

fine — nonpayment of court fees offenses, bond surrender — engaging in an organized crime act — Hutchison County, bond surrender — burglary of

a habitation — Hutchison County.

• Ricardo Contreras, 40, Garland, was arrested Tuesday by the Department of Public Safety for driving while his license is invalid.

• Pete Vargas Perez, 35, Amarillo, was arrested Tuesday by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Rodney Allen Mendoza, 32, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by DPS for theft by check.

• Jairo Hernandez, 24, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by DPS for driving while intoxicated.

• Autumn Garza, 25, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by GCSO for evading arrest or detention.

• Joshua Cade Seymour, 26, Pampa, was arrested Thursday by the Pampa Police Department for a blue warrant.

CITY BRIEFS

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58TH ANNUAL Pancake & Bacon Supper, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 727 W. Browning, Tues., Mar. 4th, 5-8pm. Tickets-\$5, pre-schoolers-free. Proceeds go to Day School Scholarship Program. Day School Support Group will have a Bake Sale & Scholastic Book Fair.

BENEFIT GARAGE Sale, for Bullies2Buddies of Pampa. Sat Mar. 1, 8am-noon, 535 N. Nelson-garage in back. This sale will help with advertising supplies. Our Mission is to raise awareness of Bullying as a serious problem of school-age children & to support the implementation of successful bullying prevention in the community. Lots of great prices!!

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IN THE NEXT American Profile



Old Fashioned Oatmeal

Bob Moore, the founder of Bob's Red Mill foods, offers recipes featuring stone-gilled whole grains, the way he still makes them in his store in Portland, Ore.

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Viewpoints

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This Land Is Our Land Stop the press! Arizona governor saves Texas from being part of Canada!

On Wednesday, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer single-handedly resolved the conflict between good and evil.



BRUNO BALTODANO

Well, maybe I exaggerate a bit but don't take my word for it. Supporters of bill SB 1062, the one she vetoed, called it a fight for "freedom," opponents call it "oppression."

Freedom vs. oppression. Talk about a Gordian knot...

The legislation would have allowed a business owner the right to refuse service to someone when the owner believed doing so would have violated his or her practice and observance of religion.

The astute reader of The Pampa News is asking him/herself: Why in God's good earth should we, Texans, care about what Arizonans

do or say? And, did it specify which religion?

If we are serious about protecting "freedoms," the answer to the first is: "Yes, we should care."

The answer to the last question is: "No."

Opponents of the bill argued that it would have legalized discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender customers on the basis of religious beliefs. Supporters argued that the bill was, in fact, needed to protect the freedom of the business owners to practice their freedom of religion.

Brewer had promised to weigh both sides of the argument. And, finally, decided to go against it.

"Let's turn the ugliness of the debate into a search for greater respect and understanding for Arizonans and Americans," she said.

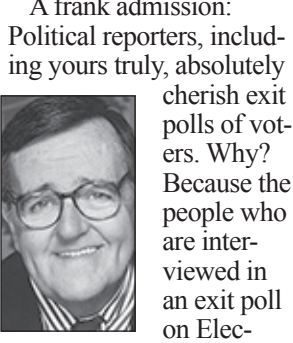
So the question then becomes, was this bill a good or a bad thing?

The answer, of course is... it depends. If we are serious, as a nation, in protecting the freedom of religion then, yes, that bill was a bad thing.

Let me tell you why. If passed, SB 1602 would have legalized all kinds of bigotry, prejudice and other flimflam, not just against gays, lesbians and transgender citizens but against, well, whomever. A gynecologist who thinks that biracial marriage is a sin could have refused service to a mixed-race couple. A Pashtun hotel owner could have refused a room to a woman who does not cover herself with a burqa. In what would have been, to me, one of the most amusing encounters in the history of America, a Digambar tailor could have refused to fit you for a new pair of pants unless you first took off all your clothes before you walked into his shop.

PRESS cont. on page 5

Why minimum wage threatens Republicans



MARK SHIELDS

A frank admission: Political reporters, including yours truly, absolutely cherish exit polls of voters. Why? Because the people who are interviewed in an exit poll on Election Day have just voted and, because the voting is still going on, they obviously have no idea whether their preferred candidate has won or lost.

Plus, the sheer number of voters interviewed in a presidential election day exit poll — 26,565 by actual count in 2012 — provides a sample size so large you can, if you're so obsessed, find how virtually every subgroup of voters — from formerly married Hispanic agnostics on Medicare to pro-environment, main-line Protestants who oppose legalizing the sale of small quantities of marijuana — voted.

Here is one gem from the last presidential election that really surprised me. Voters were asked, in making your presidential choice, "which one of these four qualities mattered most in deciding how you voted?" The four qualities listed were: "shares my values," named by 27 percent of voters as most important, "strong leader," chosen by 18 percent, "vision for the future," which mattered most to 29 percent of the electorate, and the quality "cares about people like me," which was most important to 21 percent.

Among the three out of four voters for whom "shares my values," "strong leader" and "vision for the future" mattered most, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won solid majorities — ranging between 54-61 percent — in each of the three.

But here's where President Barack Obama won and Romney lost: Among the just over one in five voters who answered "cares about people like me" as their most important quality in picking a president, Obama crushed Romney by 81 percent to 18 percent. Voters saw empathy in the president

but not in his challenger. The danger for Republicans is that this compassion deficit and perceived hard-heartedness could extend to the entire party. Over a 25-year period, from Ronald Reagan's presidency to Obama's, the Pew Research professionals have asked voters to agree or disagree that "it is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who cannot take care for themselves."

When Reagan was president, 79 percent of Americans — including 62 percent of Republicans — agreed we had a responsibility, through the government, to take care of those unable to care of themselves. By 2012, three out of five Americans and, not surprisingly, 75 percent of Democrats, still recognized a collective responsibility to care for the less fortunate. But only 42 percent of those belonging to the party of Abraham Lincoln — a steep 20 percent drop from 1987 — acknowledged the U.S. responsibility to the least of these.

This brings us to the current debate over whether Congress should vote to raise the nation's minimum wage from the current \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10.

While press attention has focused recently on the Congressional Budget Office analysis that predicted the proposed increase would lift 900,000 workers out of poverty and increase the pay of more than 16 million workers, but cost 500,000 low-paid workers their jobs, over 70 percent of Americans — including a majority of Republicans — in the most recent national Pew poll endorse giving minimum-wage workers a raise to \$10.10 an hour. But the Republican House majority is loudly and proudly on the other side, unmoved by public opinion, in opposition to raising the minimum wage.

You couldn't blame voters if, given what the GOP fights against tooth and toenail, they conclude that Republicans have become the political version of the tin man, without a heart.

To find out more about Mark Shields and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.



How To Write Us

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

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

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Letter to the Editor Blacks want equality, not acceptance into certain groups

I feel as if I should address an issue that is near and dear to my heart, and I couldn't think of a better time to express myself than during Black History Month.

Ninety-five percent of the people I come in contact with who are of non-black/African-American heritage seem to have a misconception of the black culture. I believe it's mostly due to lack of education of the culture or a strong resistance to the truth, and I find it both frightening and angering.

The simple truth is that equal rights have always been what we as black people wanted. It wasn't to be accepted into a certain group.

It wasn't so that we could fit in. It wasn't a matter of feeling ashamed of who we are. And as hard as this may be for some to believe, it wasn't to be integrated.

I wouldn't want to lie in any other country at this time, but what I would like to see in as an understanding of who we are and what it has always been about

for us as a black people — equality.

Now I'd like to share one very important characteristic about the black culture — we are a very proud people. I would challenge anyone who looks upon black/African-Americans to look not in judgment based upon our skin color, because we wouldn't want to change that if our lives depended on it.

Rather, I ask you to try seeing someone who is proud of every single accomplishment of those who

have gone before us, from the voice of one crying out for civil rights, to educators, doctors, politicians, inventors and the list goes on.

We are proud of our individual accomplishments and we will forever be a proud people, make no mistake.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to voice the facts of who we are as black people living in America.

**Cathy L Williams
Amarillo**

Jimmy Fallon, Democrat political asset

The Obamas have had few more obsequious media allies than NBC's Jimmy Fallon.



BRENT BOZELL

Now that he's taken over the hallowed ground of "The Tonight Show," Fallon's proven ability to spread his reach into viral videos on YouTube promises to become even more politically potent.

Fallon's Obama-friendly sketches and interviews have become immediate "news" grist for the Comcast corps at NBC and MSNBC. The same sensation happens when Fallon is ripping into a Republican. Just as NBC and MSNBC were tearing Gov.

Chris Christie apart over "Bridgegate," Fallon joined this political crusade by bringing on liberal rock star Bruce Springsteen for a jokey version of the hit "Born to Run."

Fallon and Springsteen sang clumsy lyrics that Christie was "killing the working man who is stuck in Governor Chris Christie's Fort Lee, New Jersey traffic jam." The YouTube video went viral, while the media played it up as another nail in the coffin they were building for Christie's career.

The NBC press agents are trying to paper over Fallon's political tilt. A Parade Magazine profile on Feb. 16 oozed that Fallon "persuaded Brad Pitt to yodel, President Obama and Mitt Romney to 'slow jam the news,' and Tom Cruise to crack raw eggs

on his noggin." But why pretend?

In 2012, Fallon's "slow jam" with Obama featured the president trying to sell his allegedly wonderful plans for college loans, and Fallon followed up by uttering in a low voice, "Awww yeah. You should listen to the president. Or as I like to call him, the Preezy of the United Steezy."

After Obama trotted out campaign attacks against Republicans, accusing them for raising interest rates on students to keep taxes low for billionaires, Fallon added: "Mmm, mmm, mmm. The Barack Ness Monster ain't buying it." Singer Tariq Trotter then sang in tribute: "He's the POTUS with the most-est!"

Fallon ended this spectacle later by stating the

ridiculous: "We don't take sides politically on this show." It's worse than that. Obama excited himself. Fallon invited described on "Today" afterward how "the White House called us" about doing the skit. Matt Lauer asked: "He booked himself on your show?" Fallon gushed: "The president booked himself."

Try to imagine a conservative Republican attempting to pull this off.

Fallon has been especially eager to help Michelle Obama promote her image. On Feb. 7, 2012, he aired a "Let's Move" video in the East Room of the White House, featuring a slow-motion potato sack race with the first lady to the soundtrack of "Chariots of Fire." (She won, of

FALLON cont. on page 6

Press

Continued From Page 4

In this I am not exaggerating. Don't take my word for it; pick your nearest copy of the U.S. Constitution. Under its jurisdiction (namely: all of America), if a law serves to protect one group it protects them all.

This was why, in 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court protected the right of Santeria priests to conduct animal sacrifices in Florida, a ruling that was also applied in 2009 to the Texas Religious Freedom and Restoration Act (TRFRA) — the city of Euless, Texas was trying to stop Jose Merced from sacrificing assorted goats, hens, quails, turtles and ducks at the altar of Olofi, Santeria's supreme god, in order to heal the ills of his congregation. I swear I am not making that up. Go ahead, google it.

In all seriousness now, this type of legislation is not only short-sighted but is designed to take us back in time to the Jim Crow

Era of legal and institutionalized discrimination.

To begin with, the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act banned, among other things, discrimination in "public accommodations." That was the venue to finally end racial discrimination in the United States and was certain to kill the Arizona legislation if Brewer didn't.

Moreover, yes, many religions see homosexuality as a sin, but the proposed Arizona legislation did not directly address this issue. Instead, it simply attempted to create a broader definition of the exercise of religion and expand the protections of anyone practicing religion, ANY religion.

The relevant portion of the two-page bill read: "Exercise of religion" means the PRACTICE OR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGION, INCLUDING THE ability to act or refusal to act in a manner substantially motivated by a religious belief whether or not the exercise is compulsory or central to a larger system of religious belief."

According to the Ameri-

can Religious Identification Survey from 2013, 76 percent of Americans identified themselves as Christians but, as a nation, we do not have an official religion, not one established by the government anyway.

While the IDEA of the bill might have seemed attractive to those who oppose homosexuality based on their religious beliefs, the CONSEQUENCES of the bills should give pause to the faithful, especially Christians.

This past Sunday, Nick Matthews, the pastor from my church, delivered one of the best sermons I've heard in a long time. Amongst other things, he reminded us that Christianity is founded on the basis of biblical justice — Do unto others as you will have done to you. Indeed it is.

Well, the smart reader of The Pampa News can take it from there.

Bruno Baltodano, a resident of Pampa, is a faculty adjunct at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. He teaches college courses on Global Politics and Terrorism.

Fallon

Continued From Page 4

course.) On Feb. 22, 2013, Fallon dressed as a woman to dance with Michelle and illustrate "The Evolution of Mom Dancing." That video went viral. During that show, Fallon even asked if Michelle would run with Hillary Clinton for president. "Can I ask you another thing to think about — I said it here first — Dream Team, Michelle and Hillary '16."

That suggestion actually isn't new. As the Democratic convention closed in 2012, he performed a James Taylor impression on his show, singing the hit "Fire and Rain" with the joke title "Romney and Bain." The Huffington Post boasted: "It's also a pretty explicit endorsement of the

Obama campaign, with the lyric, 'So I'll prob'ly vote Obama again,' right there in the refrain." Not only that, but Fallon sang that in 2016, he'd vote for "the Dream Team, Michelle and Hillary."

When Romney appeared to "slow jam the news" a few weeks ago, Fallon just "had" to make fun of his gaffes. Romney explained: "I'm not running again. There are a lot of great candidates for 2016, and I'll be supporting the Republican nominee 100 percent." Fallon shot back: "Don't you mean 47 percent?" Romney replied, "That's a low blow — but it's pretty funny." Fallon said, "I had to do it."

He's right. That's what comedians do. So why can't he do likewise with Obama?

Romney's response was classy and brings up the

obvious point just made in a New York magazine interview by longtime "Saturday Night Live" boss Lorne Michaels, who is helping to run both the Fallon show and the new Seth Meyers show after him on NBC. When asked about the rules for political satire, Michaels replied: "Republicans are easier for us than Democrats. Democrats tend to take it personally; Republicans think it's funny."

Republicans can laugh at themselves, even when they're being mocked. Not Democrats. They have thin skin because they expect every comedian to fall at their feet — like Fallon does with the Obamas.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center. Tim Graham is director of media analysis at the Media Research Center and executive editor of the blog NewsBusters.org.

Teen didn't know she was pregnant

HOUSTON (AP) — A Child Protective Services caseworker has testified that a 16-year-old girl accused of putting her newborn in a Houston trash bin this week didn't know she was pregnant and thought the baby was dead after giving birth in a bathtub.

The Houston Chronicle

reports the caseworker testified Wednesday during an emergency custody hearing for the boy. A judge gave CPS temporary custody.

A maintenance worker discovered the infant Tuesday in an apartment complex trash bin.

Police say that once the

girl has been released from the hospital, investigators will speak with prosecutors to determine if any charges will be referred to Harris County Juvenile Probation.

CPS officials are trying to determine if there are family members who can care for the boy when he's released from the hospital.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 45 years is having an on-line affair with a man who is a former business client. I found out when she inadvertently left an email message open on her laptop. Her phone records confirm daily long-distance conversations, as well. Although I know they have never met personally, they plan to meet during a weekend convention at a hotel in his hometown next month.

Despite problems in our marriage, neither of us has strayed, and I'm confident she doesn't want to lose me nor do I want to lose her. My dilemma is whether to tell her I know what's going on prior to her trip, or confront her when she returns with pictures taken by a private investigator. I can't let her betrayal continue. — CONFLICTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CONFLICTED: Tell her sooner rather than later, so she can cancel her trip to the convention. If she's willing to do that and work on repairing your marriage, there is a chance that your problems are fixable. If she isn't, then face it — your stressed marriage is over. Photos from a private investigator are beside the point. The email you read is proof enough.

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my friend went to a wake and told me the person in the casket was holding a fork. My friend told me there is a story behind this custom. Can you tell me what it is? — DAILY READER IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

DEAR DAILY READER: The story, titled "Keep Your Fork," has been widely shared on the Internet. It appeared in "A Third Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul" and was authored by Roger William Thomas.

woman who had been given only a short time to live, and who instructed her pastor that she would like to be buried with a fork in her right hand. She went on to say, "In all my years of attending church potluck dinners, when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would say, 'Keep your fork.'"

She said the main course was her favorite part of the meal because she knew "something better was coming ... something wonderful, and with substance." What she wanted was to convey to her loved ones at her funeral her belief that something better was to come.

DEAR ABBY: I have reconnected with my high school sweetheart. We plan to be married late this summer. My problem is she wants to keep her ex-husband's name as her middle name for the sake of her kids.

I feel she shouldn't have

another man's name if she's married to someone else. I have explained that it upsets me, but she doesn't care. What are your thoughts? — TRADITIONAL MAN

DEAR TRADITIONAL: I think her reason for wanting to retain her married name (and probably hyphenate it with yours) is a valid one. It will prevent confusion for her children at school.

However, one line in your letter concerns me. It's the one in which you say it upsets you, "but she doesn't care." If she didn't care about you, she wouldn't be marrying you. But her children MUST come first, and unless you can accept that fact, you shouldn't marry her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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A B I N R S T
[] [] M I L [] []

A D E I L M T
[] [] M O R [] []

A C D E I R T
[] [] N E T [] []

B C E E H L O
[] [] N O R [] []

A B I I M R S
[] [] N U T [] []

Yesterday's Answer: LANOLIN

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Quilt fill
- 5 Hound's hands
- 9 Had longings
- 11 Earthy color
- 13 "Keen!"
- 14 Head out
- 15 Burmese, for one
- 16 Electra's brother
- 18 Supplied with funding
- 20 Dr. of rap
- 21 Sinful city
- 22 Frost, for one
- 23 Puppy sound
- 24 Cow chow
- 25 Night sight
- 27 Camp craft
- 29 Outback bird
- 30 Diplomatic group
- 32 Migrating rodent
- 34 Crazy —
- 35 Minister to
- 36 Bert's buddy
- 38 Hackneyed
- 39 River of Provence
- 40 Colony members
- 41 Had obligations**
- DOWN**
- 1 School event
- 2 Globe features
- 3 Statement of disbelief
- 4 Court divider
- 5 Moved a raft
- 6 High pair
- 7 Statement of surprise
- 8 Stringent item
- 10 1950s singing style
- 12 Stopwatch button
- 17 "Stand" band
- 19 Valhalla VIP
- 22 Scathing reviews
- 24 Closet item
- 25 Tuna sandwiches

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

- Yesterday's answer**
- 12 Stopwatch
- 26 Mario Puzo book
- 27 Take in
- 28 Broadway's
- 30 Refers to
- 31 Spirited horse
- 33 Fountain order
- 37 Letter after pi

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Texas AG promises appeal to gay marriage ruling

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office was working on an appeal Thursday of a federal judge's decision to lift the state's ban on gay marriage.



Greg Abbott

U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ruled a day earlier that the ban was unconstitutional. But the judge is allowing the law to remain in place to give Abbot time to appeal to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, noting that the issue will likely end up at the U.S. Supreme Court. Abbott, the leading candidate to replace Republican Gov. Rick Perry, took a conciliatory tone after the ruling. He said "there are good, well-meaning people on both sides" of the same-sex marriage debate, but he insisted that states have the right to set their own marriage laws. He said Texas voters did just that in 2005, by passing a constitutional

amendment that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. "As the lower court acknowledged today, it's an issue that will ultimately be resolved by a higher court," Abbott said, adding that Texas would begin that process by appealing to the 5th Circuit. In his ruling, Garcia said marriage was an individual right that a voter-approved constitutional amendment couldn't deny. He said his decision was not made "in defiance of the great people of Texas or the Texas Legislature," but in compliance with the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedent. "Without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuge in our United States Constitution," he wrote. Garcia's ruling added to a tangled web of court rulings, state laws and legal opinions across the country that is expected to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. There are civil rights lawsuits in 24 states asking courts to

overturn bans on state gay marriage bans, and gay rights groups have won recent victories in other conservative states, including Utah and Oklahoma. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said this week that state attorneys general were not obligated to defend local laws if they believed the laws violated the U.S. Constitution. Democratic attorneys general in at least six states — Virginia, Pennsylvania, California, Illinois, Oregon and Nevada — have declined to defend same-sex-marriage bans that have been challenged in court by gay couples. "It's really a dizzying pace," said Linda McClain, a constitutional law professor at Boston University. She said most judges declaring bans unconstitutional have relied on a U.S. Supreme Court decision in June that overturned much of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, ruling that it failed to recognize legal same-sex marriages. But she also noted that both sides of the debate are using that 5-4 ruling, which

called the failure to recognize gay marriage demeaning to homosexuals but also reinforced the principle that states set marriage laws. Gay rights groups across the country have filed lawsuits using the first part of the ruling. In Texas, Abbott bases his argument on the second. The Utah case is now before the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, but Texas falls under the conservative 5th Circuit based in New Orleans. "I think it's pretty clear

to see there may be multiple rulings by multiple circuits that will force this issue back to the Supreme Court," Abbott said. "We all think this is an issue that will be decided by the Supreme Court." The two couples who brought the case in San Antonio celebrated their victory Wednesday, but acknowledged it was only a first step. Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes filed a lawsuit arguing that Texas' ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. They denied

them the fundamental right to marry because of their sexual orientation. Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman filed a lawsuit saying Texas officials violated their rights by not recognizing their marriage conducted in a state where gay marriage is legal. "Growing up with my mom and dad, I envied their marriage because I really didn't think I'd have something like that," Phariss said. "Reading that decision, it was the first time I realized, yes I can get married."

'Son of God' takes different tack than 'Passion'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ten years after "The Passion of the Christ," Jesus is returning to movie theatres with a gentler, more inclusive approach. "Son of God," spun out of the hugely successful "The Bible" miniseries, plays up the political maneuvering that led to the crucifixion. It won an endorsement from the Anti-Defamation League's Abraham Foxman, one of the Jewish leaders who denounced Mel Gibson's 2004 blockbuster "Passion."

"Clearly we were aware of the controversy that had been created around that film," actress and executive producer Roma Downey said in a recent interview. "If everything begins with intention, our heart on 'Son of God' was to find the places that we could bring people together." Gibson famously self-financed and distributed his ultra-violent "Passion" in 2004. It became a box office hit but was criticized by some reviewers and religious leaders for its depiction of Jews. Downey's husband, "The Voice" and "Survivor" producer Mark Burnett, said the Christian filmmaking team reached out specifically to other faiths to tell the story of the life of Jesus — played with an air of bemused digni-

ty by Portuguese actor Diogo Morgado — without causing offense. "It just took a lot of work and a lot of time and a lot of listening over a number of years to see everybody's point of view and how to not take the teeth out of the story — the dynamic drama from the story — but be sensitive across groups," Burnett said. "Because there's very different interpretations across the Catholic faith and the Protestant faith and the Jewish faith." Using footage shot during production of History Channel's ten-part miniseries "The Bible," the film being released Friday spends much of its final half examining maneuvering by Jerusalem's military governor, Pontius Pilate, and Judean high priest Caiaphas. "It's like 'House of Cards' in many ways," Burnett said. "They're all humans living their lives ... Pilate is scared of Caesar and what Rome might do. Caiaphas is scared of Pilate and losing the whole temple and their faith. It's a real political thriller with tension which explodes at Passover in Jerusalem." Burnett credits his miniseries, which garnered strong ratings and broke DVD and Blu-ray sales records last

year, with this year's flurry of biblical films from major Hollywood studios. Darren Aronofsky's take on "Noah," starring Russell Crowe, is coming next month, and Ridley Scott's "Exodus," with Christian Bale, is due out in December.

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PampaSports

From the Press Box

■ It is best for athletes to be open to multiple sports.

It was announced this week that Seahawks Super Bowl-winning quarterback Russell Wilson plans to suit up Monday for the first Texas Rangers Spring Training game.

The Texas Rangers selected Wilson in the Rule 5 draft in December. The Rule 5 draft aims to keep MLB teams from stockpiling too many young players in their minor-league affiliates. Wilson had been in the Colorado Rockies' farm system and played in 2010 and 2011.

Wilson could join the ranks of Deion Sanders and Bo Jackson by being a baseball player and a football player.

Based on the simple fact that Wilson does not plan to bat on Monday, because the team doesn't want to risk injury, shows that he is clearly going to stay a football guy, but wants to keep himself busy in the offseason.

Wilson's multi-sport ability teaches a lesson that children should learn at an early age. Play mul-

multiple sports. Look at the NFL alone, and several of their quarterbacks played multiple sports. Denver Broncos legendary quarterback John Elway actually threatened to play baseball if the team who drafted him, the Baltimore Colts, didn't trade him. New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady almost played catcher for the Montreal Expos. Miami Heat star LeBron James has repeatedly joked that he would love to play wide receiver (a position he played in high school) for the Dallas Cowboys.

While both baseball players and football players who play in high school have slim-to-no odds of making it to the big leagues, playing multiple sports has so many benefits.

According to a report on Gill St. Bernard's School says that youngsters taking part in multiple sports, "leads to better conditioning, better balance, and better coordination while generally making the child a better athlete."

Also, skills could transfer from one sport to another. I am not just talking about a great pitcher who can be a great quarterback. LeBron James was

a standout wide receiver and basketball player. Of course, look at his size, six ft. eight inches and 250 pounds, that's a pretty big boy.

Another benefit that no student wants to be faced with at an early age is learning that you can't always be great at everything. This, while it sounds like a fall back, is a benefit because it teaches a student-athlete humility.

Microsoft executive Lisa Brummel said, "Athletes in companies are universally respected as high performers. Playing on a team, the understanding of team dynamics and roles, knowing when to step up or when to let someone else step up, and collaboration...if you come from sports, you know these things already."

So as a dad, if you dream for your son to be the star quarterback, as most red-blooded American men do, look at this benefit. Wouldn't it be better having the star quarterback who also helped his basketball team win a state title?

John Lee is the sports editor of The Pampa News. He can be reached at jlee@thepampanews.com.

Wednesday: 'Cavs stun OKC Thunder

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Thunder coach Scott Brooks joked during pregame that he didn't like what he saw from Kyrie Irving at the All-Star game. Brooks coached the West and watched as Irving led the East to a comeback win on his way to earning MVP honors.

Brooks didn't like what he saw from Irving on Wednesday night, and it was no joke this time.

The point guard made it look like All-Star weekend again, scoring 14 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter to help the Cleveland Cavaliers beat Oklahoma City 114-104.

Irving also had nine assists, five rebounds and four steals.

"Kyrie had a huge performance for us," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said. "He was very efficient in the 43 minutes that he played tonight, I thought offensively, especially."

Hidden hills seniors 4-man scramble

EVENT PLAYED FEB. 24.	3rd – 64	DD Lofton John McCall Bob Henderson Irvin Hall
1st – 60		
Jerry Walling OK Lee Rodney Winborne JG Davis		
2nd – 63		
Bill Hammer RD Stephens Dick Dunham Melvin Ball		
4th – 64		Jerry Dorman John Hervey Leroy Morris Travis Johnston Howard Musgrave

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Campbell at High Point.....	ESPNU 6 p.m.
Iona at Manhattan.....	ESPN2 6 p.m.
Providence at Seton Hall.....	CBSSN 6 p.m.
Canisius at Rider.....	ESPNU 8 p.m.
Brown at Pennsylvania.....	NBCSN 6:30 p.m.

Golf	
The Honda Classic.....	GOLF 1 p.m.
LPGA Tour: HSBC Champions.....	GOLF 9:30 p.m.

Basketball	
Golden State Warriors at New York Knicks.....	ESPN 7 p.m.
Charlotte Bobcats at San Antonio Spurs.....	FSSW 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans Pelicans at Phoenix Suns.....	ESPN 9:30 p.m.

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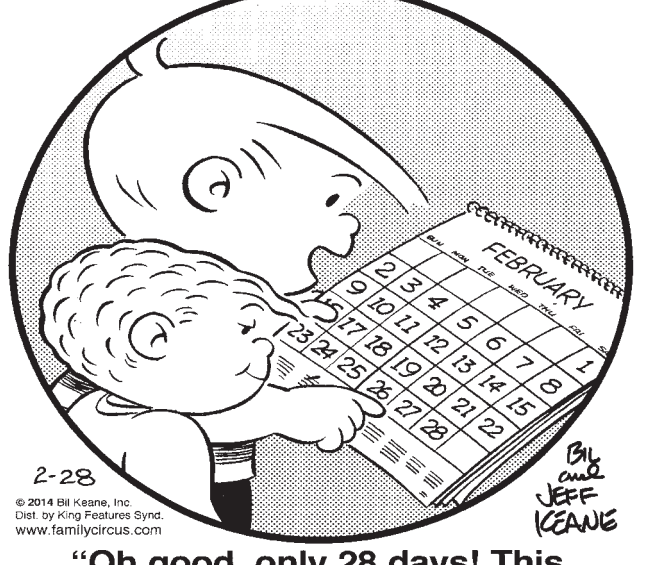


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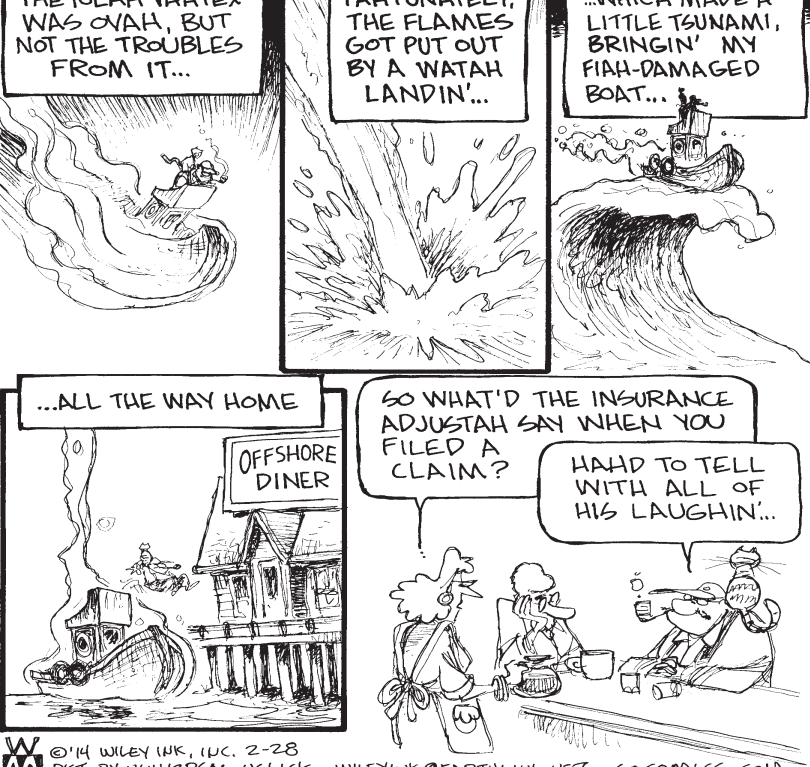
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



2-28
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"Oh good, only 28 days! This year summer gets here one day quicker."
By Bil Keane
JEFF KEANE

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 1, 2014:

This year you have a New Moon on your birthday, which points to an exciting, dynamic year, where new beginnings become possible. Creativity marks your actions. Remember to be sensitive to those around you. If you are single, your magnetism attracts many people. You might choose to date a lot, or perhaps you will focus your attention on one person. If you are attached, remember that a relationship is about two people. As excited as you might be about your life this year, remember to make time for your significant other. A fellow PISCES is as emotional as you are, but he or she expresses it differently.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could be out of sorts. Your ruling planet, Mars, goes retrograde today for several months. At the moment, you could feel as though you're experiencing a bad hair day. Do whatever you need to do in order to feel better, even if you choose to be alone. Tonight: Close to home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on making a situation better. This even might result in a new beginning for a key relationship or friendship. You'll need to revise your opinions, which sometimes border on rigidity. A key person in your life could be hostile or difficult. Tonight: Defer to someone else.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Pressure builds, and you'll need to deal with a loved one. Your ability to get past a problem will be emphasized. Take your time in making a decision. A friend could become difficult at best. Consider postponing your plans for a little while. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ News from a distance heralds a new beginning or possibility. You will see what is happening from a different point of view. You might decide to schedule a trip in the near future, and a close friend might want to join you. Tonight: Music sets the tone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You could decide to head in a new direction because of a partner's feelings. Do not push if you have difficulty grasping the totality of a certain situation.

Asking questions at this time could result in a disagreement. Tonight: Go along with a family member's plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You'll get a different perspective and a sense of commitment from a key person in your life. You could have an opportunity for a new beginning, but not as quickly as you might think. A conversation has a serious undertone that needs to be honored. Tonight: Dinner at a favorite spot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You could have a project in mind that you feel you must follow through on. Recognize someone's frustration, as this person might have hoped to get together for a fun happening. Do a better job of listening. Tonight: If you want to keep the peace, adjust your plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You can't stop your innate creativity from flowing, nor will you want to. A loved one enjoys it when you express this quality. Make a point of getting some exercise to help you relax, so that you will be able to enjoy your loved ones. Tonight: Add some spice to the moment.

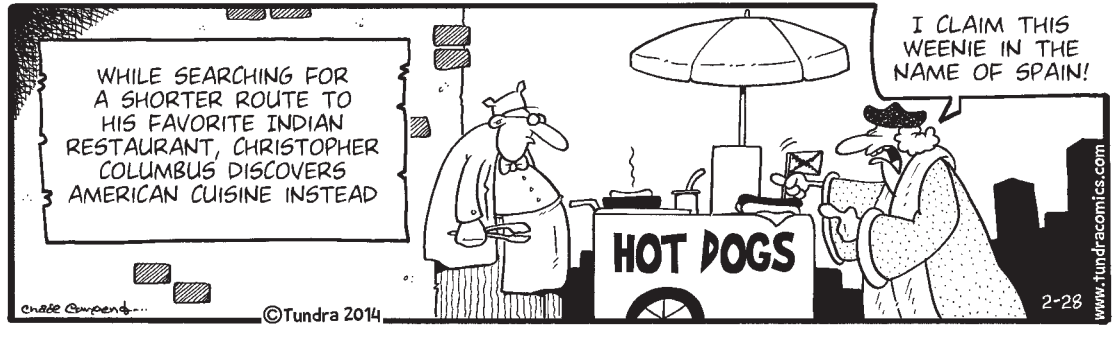
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ A new beginning will become possible. You might want to head in a new direction and do something totally different. You could be taken aback by how irritated a friend becomes as a result. Be sensitive about a changing financial situation. Tonight: Entertain at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You could make a big difference with a friend who often resents you, yet also admires you. A new beginning in how you communicate might become possible. A friend, parent or older relative will challenge your limits. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Be aware of how you are spending your money and why. For some of you, a long-term goal might be in mind, whereas others' reasons might not be so grounded. Greet a new beginning financially. You will have some tough choices to make. Tonight: Your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ A new beginning could create a lot of happiness and excitement. You might wonder what would be best for a friend. Make decisions only for you, and try not to get caught up in the moment. Avoid an argument with a loved one. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.

Tundra



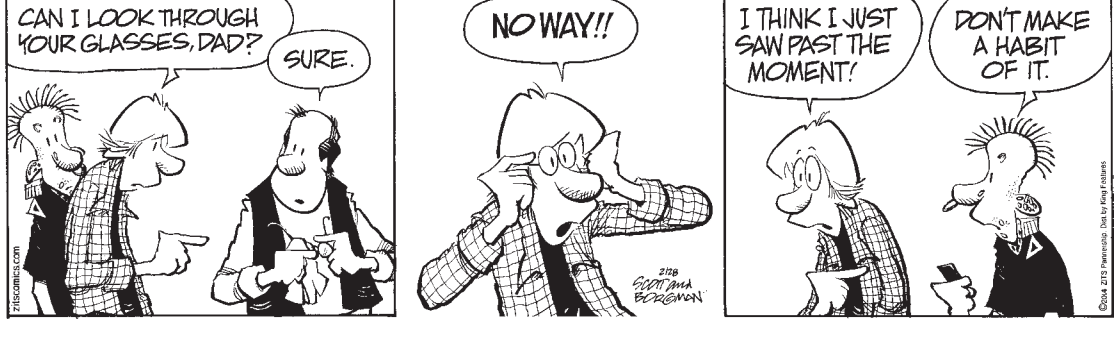
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Mother Goose and Grim



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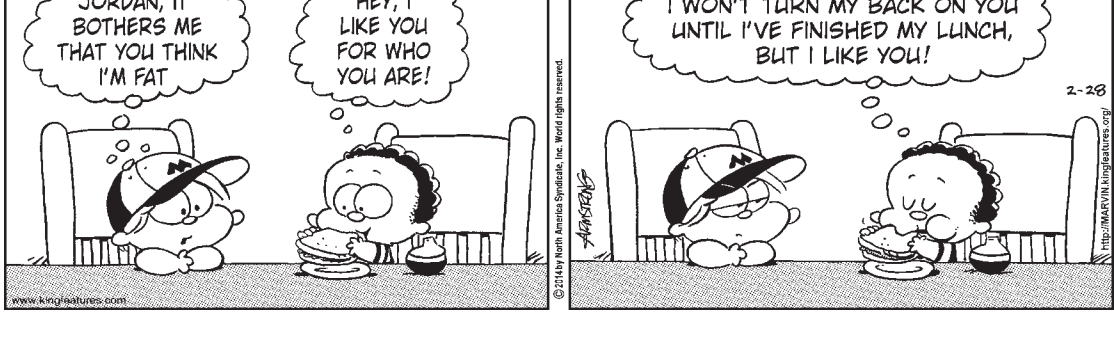
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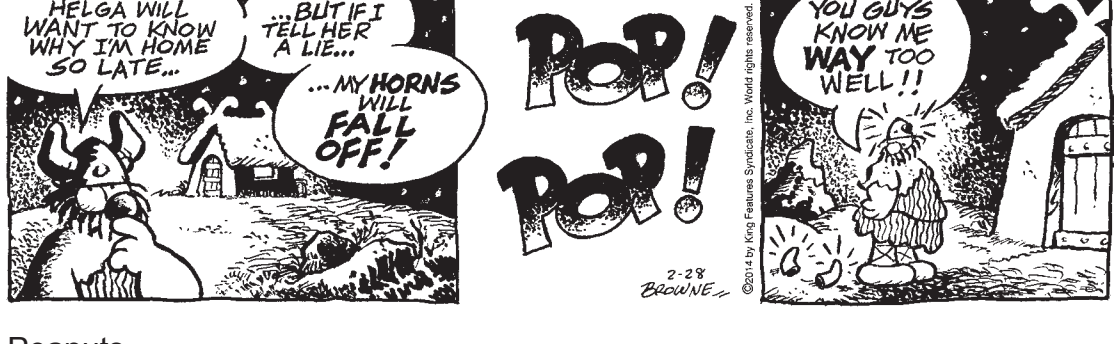
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



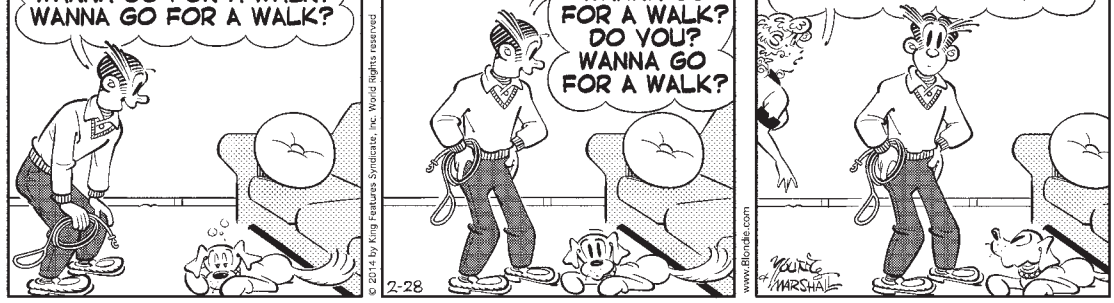
Hagar The Horrible

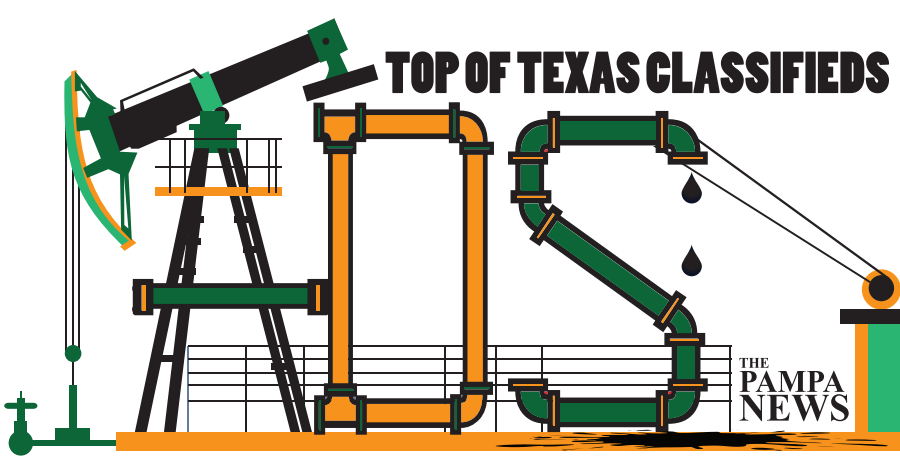


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SY FZOLVWJC AIOA DSHB
XGA ZOAIBZ AIB OZA SY
DSHBDBWAC AIOA OZB
FZOLW. — WSZDOW DPUOZBW
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6	8	7	2	1	5	9	4	3
4	6	3	1	2	8	7	9	5
1	9	8	5	6	7	3	2	4
7	5	2	3	9	4	1	6	8
9	7	5	4	8	1	2	3	6
2	1	4	6	7	3	8	5	9
8	3	6	9	5	2	4	1	7

				4		6	5	
		1	6	8		7		
9	7				2			
			4	5	8			
3	4			6			8	
				4				
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Arizona governor's veto aimed at own party's right

PHOENIX (AP) — Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer slapped down the right wing of her own party, vetoing a bill pushed by social conservatives that would have allowed people with sincerely held religious beliefs to refuse to serve gays.



Jan Brewer

The conservative governor said she could not sign a bill that was not only unneeded but would damage the state's improving business environment and divide its citizens. Senate Bill 1062 had set off a national debate over gay rights, religion and discrimination and subjected Arizona to blistering criticism from major corporations and political leaders from both parties. Loud cheers erupted out-

side the Capitol building immediately after Brewer made her announcement Wednesday night. Brewer pushed back hard against the GOP conservatives who forced the bill forward by citing examples of religious rights infringements in other states. "I have not heard one example in Arizona where a business owner's religious liberty has been violated," Brewer said. "The bill is broadly worded and could result in unintended and negative consequences."

And she chastised the GOP-controlled state Legislature for sending her a divisive bill instead of working on a state budget that continues her economic expansion policies or an overhaul of Arizona's broken child welfare system, her top priorities. In a reference to the gay marriage debate that has expanded across the nation, she reached out to the

religious right with sympathy but said 1062 was not the solution. "Our society is undergoing many dramatic changes," she said. "However, I sincerely believe that Senate Bill 1062 has the potential to create more problems than it purports to solve. It could divide Arizona in ways we cannot even imagine and nobody could ever want."

The bill was designed to give added protection from lawsuits to people who assert their religious beliefs in refusing service to gays or others who offend their beliefs. But opponents called it an open attack on gays that invited discrimination. Arizona was thrust into the national spotlight last week after both chambers of the state legislature approved it. As the days passed, more and more groups, politicians and average citizens weighed in against Senate Bill 1062.

Many took to social media to criticize the bill. Prominent business groups said it would be another black eye for the state that saw a national backlash over its 2010 immigration-crackdown law, SB1070, and warned that businesses looking to expand into the state may not do so if bill became law. Companies such as Apple Inc. and American Airlines and politicians including GOP Sen. John McCain and former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney were among those who urged Brewer to veto the legislation. The Hispanic National Bar Association cancelled its 2015 convention in Phoenix.

In addition, three Republicans who had voted for the bill reversed course and two said it was a mistake. They said in a letter to Brewer that while the intent of their vote "was to create a shield for all citi-

zens' religious liberties, the bill has been mischaracterized by its opponents as a sword for religious intolerance." Enough lawmakers have said they're against the bill to ensure there will be no override of the governor's veto. SB 1062 allows people to claim their religious beliefs as a defense against claims of discrimination. Backers cite a New Mexico Supreme Court decision that allowed a gay couple to sue a photographer who refused to document their wedding, even though the law that allowed that suit doesn't exist in Arizona.

Sen. Al Melvin, a Republican who is running for governor and voted for the bill, said he was disappointed by the veto. "I am sorry to hear that Governor Brewer has vetoed this bill. I'm sure it was a difficult choice for her, but it is a sad day when protecting liberty is

considered controversial," Melvin said. Democrats said it was a veiled attempt to legally discriminate against gay people. Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Phoenix, said he would remain vigilant of other legislation that could also target gays. "The effect is that again we got a black eye," Gallego said. "But it also shows that Arizona can stand united"

The Center for Arizona Policy helped write the bill and argued it was needed to protect against increasingly activist federal courts and simply clarifies existing state law. It accused opponents of mischaracterizing the bill and threatening boycotts of Arizona. "It is truly a disappointing day in our state and nation when lies and personal attacks can overshadow the truth," said Cathi Herrod, the leader of the group.

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Tales from the Top of TEXAS

Historic DC-3 now showcased at Texas Air & Space Museum



Top, the majestic DC-3 is serviced on the tarmac shortly after it landed at Rick Husband International Airport in Amarillo on Feb. 13. It will stay permanently in Amarillo and is one of three movable items on the nation's National Register of Historic Places. Clockwise from left excluding composite at bottom of page, a North American P-51C Mustang that shot down German planes during World War II. One of several model aircraft built by WWII veteran Jack Rude that hangs from the ceiling inside the museum's indoor exhibit hall. English Field and Aviation is host to the museum, which last year acquired 20 acres of land adjacent to the airport for a future "home of its own." A C-7A Caribou with a 6,000-pound payload that was flown during Vietnam.



Bottom three photos from left. Pampa resident and pilot Ron Fernuik is president of the Texas Air & Space Museum. He is among 30 volunteers who guides tours, plans events and takes care of the day-to-day operations of the museum. The cockpit of Bobby Speed's "Bearcat" Reno Racer. Speed (his actual last name) was an Amarillo crop duster during the 1960s and raced his small, hand-built bi-plane in the National Championship Air Races. His motto was similar to that of NASCAR drivers: "Fly low, fly fast and turn left." The NASA shuttle flight trainer piloted 49 times by astronaut Rick Husband, an Amarillo native who was killed in 2003 when the Columbia shuttle disintegrated after reentry into the Earth's atmosphere. Fernuik said the shuttle pilots would glide the craft to earth for landing. The trainer was a converted corporate jet that astronauts would fly up to 35,000 feet. Once up in the stratosphere, they'd shut the engines off and glide home in a spiral. An on-board computer and special instrument panel simulated the flight characteristics of the shuttles.

By TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
thowsare@thepampanews.com

On their drives to Amarillo, Pampans pass by Rick Husband International Airport, make a quick glance to the left to see if a plane might be taking off, and then continue on their ways for business or pleasure in the big town. Even those who've actually been to the airport may not realize that in one of those large hangar buildings before you reach the terminal is the Texas Air & Space Museum. It's a small museum staffed entirely by volunteers. The president is Pampa resident and pilot Ron Fernuik, who seems to spend every free minute that he's not airborne either at the museum or talking on the phone to anyone who has an interest in aviation, or the museum in particular. Fernuik has been like a kid in a candy store since the museum's latest acquisition, a DC-3 built in 1945, landed at the museum in mid February. Restored at several points in its life by the Federal Aviation Administration, the agency no longer had space to store the plane in Oklahoma City and placed it on permanent loan to the museum. Tomorrow, March 1, the plane will become available for public viewing.

The DC-3 was a workhorse of a plane and was used extensively by the commercial airline industry previous to World War II. In the early days of commercial flight, a passenger had to be pretty hardcore to fly instead of ride cross country in a comfortable railroad car. The DC-3s were among the first aircraft that provided any degree of passenger comfort. Then the war came. This particular bird, Number 34, spent its first decade flying worldwide as a transport plane for the U.S. Navy. N34 may have been flown during the Berlin Airlift after WWII, because it was in the right place at the right time, Fernuik said. Though it has reached the venerable age of nearly 70, the plane's aluminum skin still glistens like new. And although it will likely never fly again, it will be maintained in flying condition, Fernuik said. Right now, N34 is being kept in a hangar operated by English Field Aviation, who leases space to the museum. Fernuik said the museum is a grateful tenant, but is excited about the day when it

will have a permanent location.

In March 2013, the museum acquired ownership of 20 acres of land adjacent to the airport. The property includes eight large, hangar-sized, structurally-excellent buildings that, after renovation, will provide more than five acres (enough space for 250 aircraft) of indoor aircraft display space. Preparation of the property for occupancy, and relocation of existing museum artifacts and aircraft, will require around \$430,000. Renovation costs for individual buildings will range from \$450,000 to \$1 million each.

Anybody wishing to help out with the cause can visit buildtheDC3athome.org or call the museum at 806-335-9159. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday or by appointment and the address is 10001 American Drive, Amarillo.

The airport's namesake, Rick Husband, was a Space Shuttle astronaut born in Amarillo in 1957. Husband died on Feb. 1, 2003 over the southern United States when Space Shuttle Columbia and the crew perished during entry, 16 minutes prior to their scheduled landing. He graduated from Amarillo High School in 1975. Husband's presence is felt throughout the museum, whether at the museum's indoor exhibit dedicated to the late astronaut or the NASA training aircraft on the hangar grounds, which Fernuik said Husband flew 49 times.

English Field Aviation

