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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, March 28, 2014

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This Land is Our Land

Brent Bozell and the shrinking Obamacare | **p4**

Junior varsity pictures from Tuesday

From the Press Box: New NFL rules | **p8-9**

Trains keep a rollin'



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Local railroad enthusiast Pat Stewart has organized a program at the library to help children learn about trains.

Children's program at library is all about locomotives.

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Just like playing with and learning about dinosaurs, most kids love trains.

While the days are long gone when a youngster could ride a train cross country to visit grandma and grandpa, children are nonetheless still fascinated with them.

And even today, if you ask a classroom full of kids what they want to be when they grow up, at least one or two will say train engineer.

For preschoolers, Thomas, the cuddly and cute cartoon train, is one of the most popular characters on

children's television.

Just ask Pat Stewart, a local railroad enthusiast who has put together a children's program about trains that is both fun and educational.

He uses the auditorium at the Lovett Memorial Library as his make-believe train station, where he keeps a Thomas and Friends train set, dozens of Thomas books, a variety of other books about trains and "official engineer" training folders.

Every kid who attends one of his train workshops gets an "official engineer" name badge. They also get an engineer's cap and a blue bandanna.

Stewart said he is working to get some inexpensive pocket watches to give to kids that look like the ones railroaders used in the glory days of the American rail-

TRAIN cont. on page 2

Prairie chicken listed as threatened

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is placing the lesser prairie chicken on a list of threatened species.

The decision could affect oil and gas drilling, wind farms and other activities in five central and southwestern states.

The announcement was expected on Monday but came today instead.

The decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is a step below "endangered" status and allows for more flexibility in how the protection of the bird will be carried out under the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered means any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened means any species that is likely to become an endangered spe-

CHICKEN cont. on page 2



File photo

Windows XP users no longer protected after April 8

BY JOHN LEE
 jlee@thepampanews.com

Microsoft has announced that after April 8 they will no longer support Windows XP.

In a statement on its website, the company said, "Microsoft has provided support for Windows XP for the past 12 years. But now the time has come for us, along with our hardware and software partners, to invest our resources toward supporting more recent technologies so that we can continue to deliver great new experiences."

What does this mean in layman's terms? "If you're running Windows XP after April 8, it will be usable for at least a little while," said Tim Free, owner of PC Dreams in Pampa. "Your XP computer will still work, but it will be vulnerable to different viruses and spyware. The best thing you can do is buy paid anti-virus such as Avast and AVG."

XP cont. on page 2



SugarSkullz to hold spring, summer style show

STAFF REPORT

SugarSkullz is having a style show to model new styles for the season. The show is from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 29 at The Pampa Mall with a silent auction taking place from noon-3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Booths will be available for rent for \$20, and vendors should be prepared to donate one item for the silent auction.

Proceeds from booth rentals will go toward getting a school bus full of desks to Haiti. There will also be video footage of where the school bus will be going.

Those interested in renting a booth or being part of the event are encouraged to send an email to sugarskullzjd@yahoo.com or stop by SugarSkullz in The Pampa Mall.

Submitted photos

Some of the fashions that will be shown Saturday at SugarSkullz.



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Train

Continued From Page 1

road. He's even got a few harmonicas kids can blow to make train whistle sounds. "The main rule is to make it fun," Stewart said. "This gives kids something fun to do besides playing computer games and blowing stuff up." Another important rule, Stewart said, is working and playing with others. "Safety and sharing are not options, they are mandatory," he stressed.

The train classes Stewart breaks the children into two age groups — 3-8 and 9-10.

The younger children must be accompanied with a parent. Besides playing with the toy train sets, they get to put together puzzles and fill up coloring books. They also have writing and spelling lessons in which they have to identify railroad cars, such as the caboose, and then spell them out.

For the younger kids, learning how to tell time is an important part of the class.

"For instance, if Thomas needs to get back to his make-believe home of Sodor and it takes three hours, what time does he need to leave?" Stewart said.

The older kids also have writing and spelling lessons. Along with that, they will actually get to put together an HO-scale train set.

Stewart said he had the train set stashed away in his closet but wasn't doing anything with it.

"Why not let the kids have fun with it?" he asked rhetorically.

The Thomas and Friends play sets and books were donated by a fellow train lover in Oklahoma, he said. "And I'm always checking on eBay to get more stuff," Stewart added.

Being a real engineer

Stewart has one DVD set called "I Wanna Be a Train Engineer" and another that covers the basics of setting up a working train set.

He pointed out that it's actually the conductor who's the big boss on a train, but the engineer gets to drive, which is the fun job.

One of his books explains train terminology and even the lingo passed along by lifers in the railroad industry.

For instance, a "redhot" was a train carrying fruits and potatoes from California or a train carrying potatoes from Idaho. The "redhots" were given right of way over other trains so that their cargo wouldn't spoil.

A "reefer" is not a funny cigarette to railroad people; it is a refrigerated car.

To "red light" is to throw a tramp off a train.

Hobos

In the early 20th century — and especially during the Depression — an entire culture evolved from hitching rides on trains. They called themselves hobos.

Stewart emphasized the railroad industry strongly discourages anyone from even getting close to a moving train, let alone jumping onto one.

But in days of yore, men without homes or regular jobs would travel the country in empty railroad cars, get off in towns across the American countryside and then knock on someone's back door for a meal. In return for food, hobos would often do odd jobs like chop wood.

They would even leave a little sign or mark on the back of a house to let other hobos know that house was "hobo friendly."

Stewart became so interested in the hobo culture that in 1999 he actually attended their annual convention, which is held in Britt, Iowa.

While there, Stewart said he was given his hobo name by Jefferson Davis, who for 50 years was the "King of the Hobos."

"You can only get your hobo name from another hobo," Stewart said.

So what is his hobo name? Music Man. Stewart plays guitar and sings. Davis' hobo name is Railroad Spike.

Davis enlightened Stewart on the all-important differences between a hobo, tramp and bum.

"A hobo travels and works, a tramp just travels and a bum doesn't do anything," he said.

The next session for Stewart's railroad club is at 4:30 p.m., May 3. There is no charge for the classes.

The library will be closed for a renovation in the upcoming weeks.

The Lovett Memorial Library is located at 111 N. Houston St. For more information, call 806-669-5780.

Schools on their own to avoid double-testing math

By MORGAN SMITH
The Texas Tribune

After some eighth-grade students in Texas public schools finish their state math exams in May, they could have to sit back down soon after and take another one.

Federal and state officials are in talks to work out a conflict between testing requirements under the state's new high school graduation standards and federal education law. Currently Texas school districts are left with two options for the roughly 23 percent of eighth-graders — about 86,000 students last school year — who take algebra I before they reach high school. The districts could either ignore federal law, which could subject them to penalties, or test them twice — once in algebra I to fulfill state requirements and once under the eighth-grade-level math assessment used for federal accountability purposes.

The 2013 Texas Legislature unanimously passed legislation reducing the number of state assessments students must take to graduate from 15 to five. Only one exam in math is required — algebra I, which many students take in ninth grade. That means if students take algebra I before they reach high school, they could graduate under Texas law without taking another a

state standardized test in math. But under federal accountability measures, a student must be tested in math every year from grades three through eight, as well as at least once in high school.

State efforts to reach an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education on aligning those two mandates have failed so far.

This month, the Texas Education Agency announced that the federal government had denied its request for a "double-testing" waiver for students who took algebra I in eighth grade. TEA Commissioner Michael Williams said he submitted the waiver because double-testing was not "instructionally appropriate" or a "valid evaluation of mathematics."

To keep districts from deciding against offering algebra at the middle school level to avoid testing-associated complications, he said this year the state would only count results of the algebra I exam in its calculations of ratings.

"Such a move would seriously disadvantage students who move quickly through the mathematics curriculum in grades K-8 and would benefit from taking advanced coursework in middle school," Williams said of middle schools potentially ending algebra I courses. "Should a Texas district or charter elect to make such a move, this stalls

students' academic progress and provides them with one less opportunity to take an advanced mathematics course or another relevant upper-division course in high school."

The TEA's March recommendation to not double-test students was a reversal of its instructions to school districts before the start of the school year, when Williams said he "reluctantly" recommended that they test students taking algebra I in eighth grade twice to fulfill the requirements — advising districts that they should either plan on administering multiple exams or "understand the potential federal accountability consequences of testing these students only on algebra I."

Further complicating the situation, shortly after the TEA said the federal government had rejected the state's waiver application, the U.S. Department of Education issued a statement clarifying that it had not actually denied it — and was working with the state to "find a solution" that would ensure "that Texas students taking Algebra in middle school are also being assessed on higher-level math content in high school to help prepare them for college and a career."

"There is certainly confusion among parents and even among students," said Drew Scheberle, the

senior vice president of education at the Austin Chamber of Commerce, who frequently testifies at state hearings on assessment and accountability issues. "I have friends and colleagues who tutor kids say, 'I am getting requests for students in algebra I to be tutored in eighth-grade math so that they can take a test.'"

The Austin Independent School District is among the school districts in the state, including its largest, Houston ISD, that have decided to follow the TEA's recommendation to only offer a state exam in algebra I for eighth-grade students taking the advanced math course.

When contacted by The Texas Tribune, TEA spokeswoman Lauren Callahan said in an email that state talks with federal officials were still underway.

She said the agency advised districts that the waiver would not be granted in March because they were preparing to begin testing in early April, but that to date, the federal education department had not provided a "formal declaration of approval" for the waiver.

Because the state had not received a formal response, Callahan said, there was also "no clear indication" of the consequences districts might face if they ignore federal testing requirements.

Chicken

Continued From Page 1

cies within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

USFWS Director Daniel Ashe, says he knows the decision will be unpopular with governors in the five affected states but that the bird is "in dire straits" and needs help.

The states are Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico.

Last Friday, two national conservation groups announced they work jointly to help preserve habitat for the reclusive grouse.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is partnering with Pheasants Forever, a national wildlife conservation organization, to jointly invest \$5 million over three years to support technical assistance, including hiring non-federal field conservationists, to help farmers and ranchers voluntarily maintain and improve lesser prairie chicken habitat in the Southern Great Plains.

In early March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it had signed an agreement with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) that will allow landowners to voluntarily

enroll their lands in conservation plans to conserve habitat for the lesser prairie chicken.

As of March 21, nearly 4 million acres of rangeland in the five states had been enrolled in the plan.

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry and several other congressmen from the five habitat states sent a letter to Ashe on Monday in a 11th-hour effort to keep the bird off the list.

The congressmen wrote that a listing would be to the detriment of the species, the businesses who volunteered to participate (in the voluntary agreement), and the communities and private property owners who will bear the brunt of the economic im-

pact.

"If the FWS finalizes a threatened listing determination of the lesser prairie chicken, despite the good faith efforts by so many groups and individuals to preclude a listing, we fear that a new model of species recovery will be irrevocably lost. A listing will send an unmistakable signal to stakeholders that cooperation is not worth their time, and it will result in reduced involvement and less funding from private industry and landowners towards the conservation of animals in the future," the congressmen wrote.

Pampa News editor Timothy P. Howsare contributed to this article.

XP

Continued From Page 1

Free said that about 35 percent of the population still uses XP, which is a staggering amount considering XP is three generations of operating systems old.

"About 10 percent of

the population uses Windows 8," Free said. "Microsoft is kind of forcing people into the upgrades. They are killing the security updates and the normal updates that come every couple weeks."

Free said that some of the computers that still use Windows XP can be upgraded, but then again, some computers are just

too old.

Despite this, Free said there is no reason to panic.

"There is not a whole lot to panic about right now," Free said. "It will be usable, but the security won't be there. It would be best if people get paid anti-virus software and be careful."

Free believes that software companies and third-party businesses will probably keep their

products compatible with Windows XP for another year, so there is no reason to hurry and buy a new computer. PC Dreams offers consumers paid anti-virus software, computer checks and even check for updates on the computer.

For more information on the Windows XP, visit windows.microsoft.com. For more information on PC dreams, www.mypc-dreams.com.



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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 66 Low 34	High 72 Low 42	High 80 Low 43

Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 66. Winds north-northeast at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:36 a.m.

Tonight: Clear with a low of 34. Winds north-northeast at 13 mph. Sunset at 8:02 p.m.

Saturday: Sunny with a high of 72. Winds south at 19 mph. Sunrise at 7:35 a.m.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 42. Winds south at 19 mph. Sunset at 8:03 p.m.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy and windy with a high of 80. Winds south-southwest at 25 mph. Sunrise at 7:33 a.m.

Sunday night: Clouds early clearing late with a low of 43. Winds west-southwest at 18 mph. Sunset at 8:04 p.m.

Obituaries

Jackie Reeves Sturgeon

Jackie Reeves Sturgeon, 77, of Pampa, died Monday, March 24, 2014, in Ft. Worth.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 29, 2014, at First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson St., in Pampa. Friends are invited to join the family for coffee and snacks in Fellowship Hall at the church immediately following the service. Arrangements are by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors, 2800 Paramount Blvd.



Jackie Sturgeon

Jackie was a true southern lady who lived her life full of love, compassion, gratitude, harmony, empathy and a care for others.

Jackie was born in Austin in 1937, but raised in Amarillo. She attended Amarillo High School and graduated in 1955. At Amarillo High School she was a member of the ROTC club and Secretary of the Student Council. She enrolled at Texas Tech University and joined Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She graduated from Tech in 1960 with a Bachelors Degree in Education. She began her teaching career in Amarillo in 1960 and taught first grade for 18 years. She helped launch the opening of Dillard's Department Store currently at Westgate Mall. She then went on to pursue a career in Real Estate sales and development in South-

ern California and was promoted to Project Manager for Lanron International Development Company which relocated her to Naples, Florida.

Jackie served on the board of Tralee Crisis Center for Women and was active in rescuing dogs through the non-profit organization PAWS. She was also a member of the First Christian Church of Pampa. She was active in Unity Christian Church in Cedar Hill, where she started a book store for the members and her husband Ben Sturgeon was a spiritual leader. She loved their dogs, Shadow, Lady, and Gabby. Her hobbies included arts, crafts, and home décor. She also loved to grow miniature roses for which she won several state competitions while residing in Southern California.

She was preceded in death by her son, Greg Fouts, and her parents, Jack and Mildred Reeves.

Jackie is survived by her husband Ben, daughter Karla Kay Fouts Hilton, son-in-law Tim Hilton, brother, Eddie Reeves, and the following stepsons and their wives: John and Kim Sturgeon, Britt and Beth Sturgeon, Scott and Stacie Sturgeon and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to Tralee Crisis Center for Women, P.O. Box 2880, Pampa, Texas 79066, Telephone: (806) 669-1131 or PAWS, P.O. Box 2095, Pampa, Texas 79065, Telephone: (806) 669-5775.

Sign the online guestbook at www.boxwellbrothers.com.

For the record

Skellytown man arrested for driving while intoxicated

STAFF REPORT

Bradley Lee Davis, 21, Skellytown, was arrested Wednesday by the Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated

with a passenger under the age of 15.

James Victor Hathaway, 20, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for violation of

probation — burglary of a building.

Jacob Coby Woodruff, 31, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by the Pampa Police Department for violation of probation —

possession of marijuana, *capias pro fine* — no driver's license.

Robert Quilmaco, Jr., 40, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by DPS for theft of property.

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George H.W. Bush

George H.W. Bush to get Profile in Courage Award

BOSTON (AP)—Former President George H.W. Bush has been named a recipient of the 2014 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for the political courage he showed when he agreed to a 1990 budget compromise that jeopardized his re-election bid by violating his 1988 campaign promise not to raise taxes.

Paul W. Bridges, the former mayor of Uvalda, Ga., was

also named a recipient for risking his mayoral career by publicly opposing a controversial immigration law.

The recipients were announced Thursday by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. The awards will be presented by Jack Schlossberg, President Kennedy's

grandson, on May 4 at the library.

The award is named for Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage," which tells the stories of eight U.S. senators who risked their careers by taking stands for unpopular positions.

Police probe baggage thefts at L.A. airport

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police served more than two dozen search warrants and made six arrests in an investigation targeting the theft of baggage by handlers at Los Angeles International Airport, authorities said.

Detectives and officers from the city and airport also seized jewelry, electronics, clothing and other personal belongings on Wednesday night at 25 locations in the region, including the airport, airport police Assistant Chief Michael Hyams said.

"We believe that there has been a culture of being able to take property that wasn't theirs, and that's what we want to be able to put a stop to," Los Angeles Police Department Capt. Ray Maltez told KABC-TV.

The people arrested were primarily employees or ex-employees of companies contracted to handle luggage and did not work directly for the airport, Hyams said.

Some of the suspects worked for Menzies Aviation, which has an office at the airport. The alleged crimes "were limited to a handful of employees, acting independently," the company said in a statement Tuesday.

"Menzies supports this enforcement action and pledges its complete cooperation with the police investigation," the statement said.

The undercover investigation came in response to a string of theft reports from planes, terminals and runways, police said.

Four suspects were taken into custody on suspicion of receiving stolen property and two for outstanding warrants. A total of 14 people were detained for questioning. More arrests were expected.

The suspects had undergone employment and criminal background checks before they were authorized to work at the airport, said officials, who will attempt to return the seized items to owners.

Most of the police activity was at the Tom Bradley International Terminal and at Terminal 4, which handles American Airlines, American Eagle and some Qantas flights.

Television news showed police raiding airport terminals and leading out people in handcuffs, with several wearing yellow reflective safety vests.

The raids were first reported by KNBC-TV.

Every year about 55 million pieces of luggage are checked at LAX, which served nearly 67 million passengers last year.

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Viewpoints

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This Land is Our Land The college sports gods aren't laughing

Somewhere in heaven Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher famous for stating that change is the only constant in life, must be laughing.



BRUNO BALTODANO

This past Wednesday, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that a group of Northwestern University football players have, as a point in fact, the right to form a union and bargain collectively because, "it cannot longer be said that [Northwestern] scholarship players are 'primarily students.'"

That loud "thump" you just heard was the NCAA falling on their collective hineys in shock and awe.

For as long as the NCAA has been around, college sports have functioned on the bedrock foundation of the "student-athlete," with players receiving scholarships and a free college education in exchange for their hours of practicing and play for the glory of their schools. The ruling from the NLRB destroyed that foundation faster than I go through a bag of Doritos while watching the Mighty Gators play on my TV.

To be clear, the fact that Northwestern football team can bargain with the school as employees represented by a union may not by itself change the way amateur sports operate. But it is likely to put pressure on the NCAA to give something back to the players to justify the crazy amount of money the players bring in, money that they never see.

And it is BIG MONEY. According to reports from the Associated Press nearly \$18 billion alone are generated just in televi-

sion rights for the NCAA basketball tournament and bowl games. Even for those of us who value amateurism, it has gotten harder to sympathize with the NCAA's claims that everything it does is for the benefit of athletes, especially when you hear about insane and embarrassing revelations like the \$18,000 bonus that Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith was awarded this year because one of his school's wrestlers, Logan Stieber, won the 141-pound weight class NCAA championship. Smith already makes \$940,484 a year, but if the athletes at Ohio State continue to win championships, he could earn more than \$1.5 million a year under a sweetheart contract that runs through 2020.

And the players? They get three square meals a day and, in the case of New Mexico State last week, a 2 a.m. flight home out of Spokane, Wash. the night after an emotional overtime loss. And, when they arrived in El Paso, Texas, around 5:48 a.m., they didn't have enough buses to take everyone back to campus so half of the students had to wait three hours for the bus to make the roundtrip back.

"We frequently hear from student-athletes, across all sports, that they participate to enhance their overall college experience and for the love of their sport, not to be paid," the NCAA said in a statement after the NLRB ruling.

Maybe, but to me, it's looking like the term "student athlete" is finally being exposed for the oxymoron that it has always been.

Details from the Northwestern case described how the life of a Northwestern football player is far more regimented than that of a typical college student, down to "requirements about what they can eat and whether

they can live off campus or purchase a car...at times, players put 50 or 60 hours a week into football, qualifying them to be treated as employees of the university and eligible for a union."

Coupled with other recent court cases, the NLRB ruling is a slam dunk for "student-athletes." One of those lawsuits, filed by former UCLA basketball star Ed O'Bannon, is scheduled for a June trial in California and is being carefully watched by those on both sides of the issue. O'Bannon, who led his team to the national championship in 1995, sued after seeing his likeness in a video game licensed by the NCAA without his permission.

"The older I get the harder it is to understand how this has gone on as long as it has," said O'Bannon for an article written by Tim Dahlberg. "It's just unbelievable to me," he added.

By the way, the A.D. from Ohio State is not alone in drafting sweetheart deals into their contracts. Arizona State's A.D. Ray Anderson gets one week pay for any individual top-five finish and two weeks for a champion. Oregon's Rob Mullens gets \$50,000 if the Ducks football team gets into even the lowliest of bowl games.

One can argue, well, that's America, good for them.

Maybe, but for as long as it has been around, college sports have functioned in a rather un-American model.

The time has come. NCAA, let me introduce you to Heraclitus. Heraclitus, do your thing.

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.

Incredible, shrinking Obamacare

Obamacare is a fiasco. Why don't the media acknowledge that? And it's fair to ask: Why don't they ridicule it? After all, in the Bush years, the press reran President George W. Bush in front of the "Mission Accomplished" banner time and again, did they not? Perhaps Joe Biden at the signing ceremony saying into an open mic that this was a "big (blinking) deal" would suffice.

How do we know Obamacare is failing? Ironically, because those very same "reporters" are doing the opposite of the Bush years. They're burying the story. They aren't in denial. They know the truth. They're just choosing to ignore it. They are pretending there are no broken promises about keeping your insurance plan, or keeping your doctor, or lowering your premium by \$2,500 a year. They are pretending, like Ellen DeGeneres told the president, that "everyone" in America loves Obamacare.

Just how much coverage have they given to this, the most important domestic issue since Ronald Reagan's economic recovery plan? A Media Research Center analysis of the three network evening news broadcasts in 2014 found only 12 full stories on three networks in almost three months. "NBC Nightly News" has broadcast one story on Obamacare in this calendar year. That was a piece on Jan. 1 marking the start of what fill-in anchor Lester Holt called "a new era in health care in this country." Including that piece, "Nightly News" has only offered five minutes and five seconds of evening-news coverage of the health care law in 2014.

ABC's "World News" wasn't much better, offering only six minutes and 58 seconds on Obamacare in 2014. And the tone? On Jan. 2, ABC's Jonathan Karl relayed the story of Maggie Fernandez, saying how "for her, the dawn of Obamacare means better health coverage, money saved, and a chance to make her first doctor's appointment in nearly a year."

The "CBS Evening News" was the least embarrassing program, yet it managed only 19 minutes and 17 seconds of

coverage over almost three months.

Compare that to its coverage of that jet. CBS was also the only network to locate a victim of Obamacare. On Feb. 8 — a lower-rated Saturday night newscast — CBS correspondent Carter Evans told viewers about a 4-year-old girl sent to Seattle Children's Hospital by her family doctor, only to be told later that the hospital has been deemed "out of network" by the Obamacare policy.

One of the doctors said, "We're seeing denials of care, disruptions in care. We're seeing a great deal of confusion and, at times, anger and frustration on the part of these families who bought insurance thinking that their children were going to be covered, and they've, in fact, found that it's a false promise."

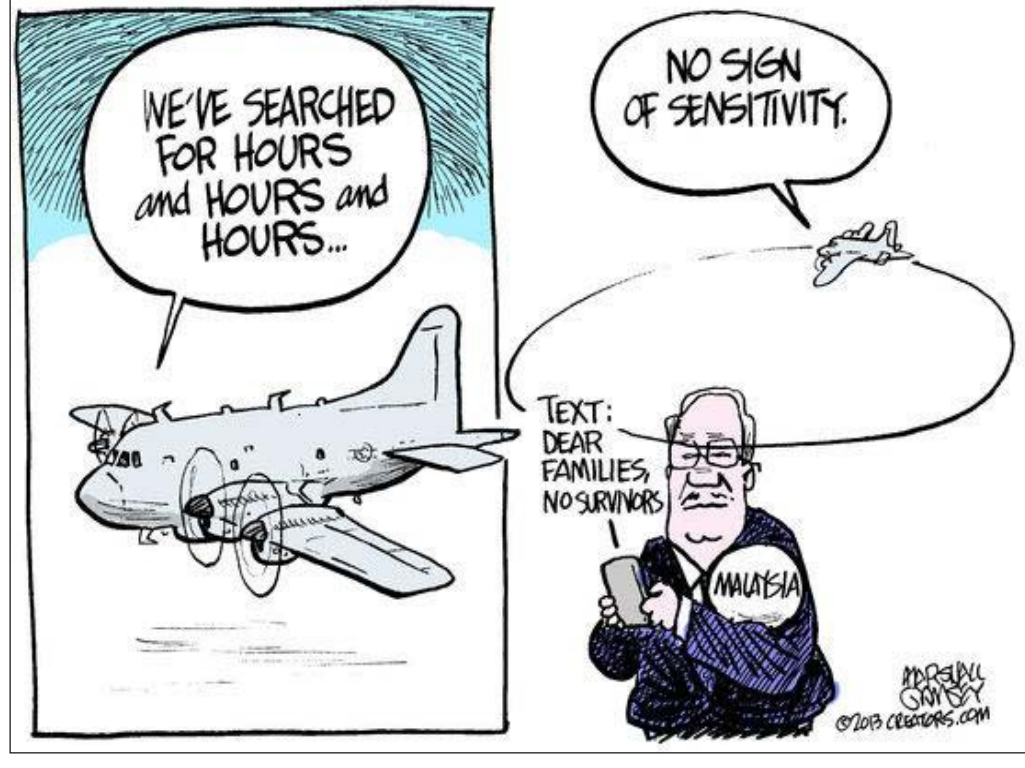
CBS also aired a Jan. 2 report by Sharyl Attkisson who revealed a study that found previously uninsured individuals actually used emergency rooms more once they enrolled in Medicaid and showed "no measurable improvement in physical health, such as blood pressure or cholesterol." But CBS's lack of interest in these stories led her to resign.

Unlike their appetite for Iraq polling, none of the networks dared to report the ongoing opposition of the American people to Obamacare in 2014, even when they were the ones doing the polling. In early March, NBC's pollsters found 49 percent of adults opposed Obamacare versus only 35 percent who supported it. But "NBC Nightly News" would not even touch its own poll.

Last September, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius calmly told Dr. Nancy Snyderman on "NBC Nightly News," "I think success looks like at least 7 million people having signed up by the end of March 2014." Now, Team Obama claims they have 5 million — if you flagrantly ignore whether the sign-ups have actually paid for their policy, which is the only way to "get covered." And when you consider the 5 million who have lost their policy, you stand at zero.

The failure of Obamacare is a big (blinking) deal. As is the media cover-up.

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.



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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Taking direct action in support of religious freedom

SUBMITTED BY LOBBYING FOR FREEDOM

With the United States Supreme Court having heard arguments yesterday in the "Obamacare Abortion Mandate" case brought by the founders and owners of Hobby Lobby and the Green family, religious freedom and pro-life groups are banding together in unison to let their voices be heard with a powerful and unique direct, mail-in Campaign.

Built on the foundation of the largest mail-in campaign since the Vietnam War (the "Red Envelope Day" campaign in which over two million empty red envelopes were mailed to the White House) the new "Lobbying for Freedom" campaign gives individual Americans the opportunity to send FedEx-delivered cards of thanks and support directly to the Green family by visiting the "Lobbying For Freedom" website at www.lobbyingforfreedom.com.

At the website, they can also send mail to President Obama, the Supreme Court Justices and their Representatives in a statement of opposition to the abortion mandate.

For many Americans, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or "Obamacare" and the abortion mandate does stand at the edge of a historic loss of religious freedoms in America.

The Obama administration believes that since Hobby Lobby is a for-profit company, the corporation has no religious rights under the First Amendment. The U.S. government, via the Department of Justice, believes that exempting Hobby Lobby from paying for abortive devices and drugs, to which the Greens vehemently object, would amount to an imposition of the Green family's faith upon their employees. While having exempted millions of others from the Affordable Care Act, the Federal Government is insisting on imposing

the controversial abortion mandate on the Green family and their business.

And many Americans object to the imposition of the mandate as well, citing the Constitution and the words of President Thomas Jefferson: "No provision in our constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of civil authority." — President Thomas Jefferson

Hobby Lobby has now made it clear that should they lose the case, they are prepared to shut down their successful business (with nearly 400 retail stores) based on their faith and their firm belief in the Constitutional principle of religious freedom.

Lobbying For Freedom, Team Leader, Rich Lepoutre, couldn't help but be struck by the Green family's stand on that principle: "In this day and age, we hear all kinds of claims and declarations made by politicians, pop

culture types and others. Most of it is pure puffery and slight of words. Here on the other hand, is an American family, running an American success story and they are willing to stand in the gap for this important freedom to the point of sacrificing their well-known and reputable business. That is leadership. That's standing up and being counted. At Lobbying For Freedom, we are giving freedom-loving Americans who are equally concerned, the opportunity to thank the Green family directly and to make it clear to the President and their Representatives just what they think of this threat to the Constitution and the Nation."

The mail-in campaign began and will run until the Supreme Court decision is rendered in either June or October 2014.

More information and comments by visiting: www.lobbyingforfreedom.com or call Rich Lepoutre at 860-857-9000 cell or email to: rich@causeaction.com

Community Calendar

City Commission meetings

The Pampa City Commission meets at 4 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held on the third floor of City Hall.

School board meetings

The Pampa Independent School District board meets at 5:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at the new administration building on North Hobart Street.

PAWS meets first Tuesdays

Pampa Animal Welfare Society meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Pampa Animal Shelter, 811 S. Hobart St. The meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. There is a desperate need

for more members. PAWS members are needed to work at the shelter from 3 to 5:30 p.m. each day and to work adoption days or take animals to the vets when needed, but mostly people are needed to love and work with the animals where they will be more adoptable.

For more information, call the shelter after 3 p.m. at 669-5775 and ask for the PAWS volunteer.

Monday night dance club

The Monday night dance club meets from 7 to 9 p.m., each Monday, in the Pampa Chamber of Commerce building on the corner of Ballard and Kingsmill. Admission is \$3.50. Cold drinks and coffee are offered. The club plays country music. For more information, call

Della at 806-663-1136.

County Commission meetings

The Gray County Commission meets at 9 a.m. on the first and 15th of each month. If the date falls on a Saturday, the meeting will be held on Friday. If the date falls on a Sunday, the meeting will be held on Monday. The meetings are held on the second floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

Immunization clinic 3 times a month

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

10 people in line for the morning and first 10 in the afternoon will always receive shots. However, if there are more than 10, they still may be able to accommodate the patients, or ask them to come back at another time. For more information, call 665-4752 or 806-874-3211. The clinic is located at 736 S. Cuyler St.

TOT Republican Women's Club

Top O' Texas Republican Women's Club meets at noon on the third Wednesday of every month at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis St. For more information call 806-669-1990.

Jam sessions every Friday night

The Woody Guthrie

Folk Music Center has a jam session every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to play or listen. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler St. For more information, call 806-664-0824.

Meredith House presents live music

Meredith House, an assisted-living facility at 812 W. 25th Ave., has a band performing at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday night. Join them for Western music, gospel and the classics. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

PPQG Meets fourth Thursdays

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets the fourth Thursday of each

month, January through October, at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center at 500 W. Francis St.

The meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. and membership is open to adult quilters of all ages. Dues are \$15 annually. Meetings consist of a short business discussion followed by a program featuring quilting techniques. For more information, call 806-662-2909.

Editor's note: Email submissions to thowsare@thepampanews.com. Submissions should be 100 words or less and written in the third person. Please include the title of the event, the date and time, physical address, the admission cost or whether it is a free event and a contact number and/or email address for the public.

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Area support groups

The following is a list of support groups that meet regularly each week in Pampa. Information for each meeting is submitted to The Pampa News office and may not be completely updated or accurate. Please notify the newsroom if a change is necessary. The Pampa News welcomes all submitted materials for area support groups. Please include the meeting time, date and location and, if applicable, provide a contact number for each group.

■ **Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault**, meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursdays, and at 2 p.m., Fridays, at the Tralee Crisis Center, 308 S. Cuyler St. For more info, call the Center at 806-669-1131.

■ **Narcotics Anonymous — The Pampa Group** meets at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, and at 6 p.m., Saturdays, at 805 N. Gray St. **Narcotics Anonymous — Rufe Jordan Unit** also meets at 6 p.m., Mondays, and at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, at 1992 Hilton Road.

■ **Cancer Support** meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the

Pampa Regional Medical Center cafeteria. For more info, contact Beth Kean at 806-359-4673. Ext. 235.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** Open Door Club meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky Ave. **Al-Anon** meets at noon on Mondays. For more information, call 665-9072.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** Primary Purpose meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at 112 W. Foster Ave.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** Keep It Simple meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Methodist church in White Deer.

■ **Pampa Caregiver Support** meets at the Pampa Nursing Center on 1321 W. Kentucky Ave. at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information call 806-669-2551.

■ **Accolade Home Care** sponsors a **Parkinson's Support Group** the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The group meets at Accolade at 1313 N. Hobart St. For more information, call Lindsey Been at 806-665-9700 or 806-324-3230.

Scrap dealer's bargain turns out to be Faberge egg

LONDON (AP) — There is good luck, outrageous good fortune — and now there is the case of the scrap metal dealer who found one of the eight missing Faberge imperial eggs at a flea market in the American Midwest.

A London antique dealer said Wednesday that that the scrap metal entrepreneur bought the egg for about \$14,000, thinking he could make a small profit by reselling the piece for its gold content.

It turned out the jewel-

encrusted piece was worth millions.

Kieran McCarthy of Wartski, which specializes in Russian artifacts, said the scrap metal dealer began to suspect he was holding a rare piece after seeing an article online about an imperial Faberge Easter egg made for Russian royalty. The dealer contacted McCarthy, who verified the egg as genuine and negotiated its sale to a collector.

"The second I saw it, my spine was shivering," said McCarthy, calling the

piece a "Holy Grail" for collectors.

Both buyer and seller want to remain anonymous, and McCarthy did not disclose the sale price — but experts note that a non-imperial Faberge egg sold at Christie's for \$18.5 million in 2007.

Independent Faberge expert Geza von Habsburg said the egg is "absolutely genuine" and matches the one-line description found in records kept by Russia's Imperial Cabinet.

The egg, which contains

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Taco Bell's ads star real-life Ronald McDonalds

NEW YORK (AP) — Taco Bell is name-dropping an unlikely clown to promote its new breakfast menu — Ronald McDonald. The fast-food chain will begin airing ads Thursday that feature everyday men who happen to have the same name as the McDonald's mascot known for his bright red hair and yellow jumpsuit. The marketing campaign is intended to promote Taco Bell's new breakfast menu, which features novelties like a waffle taco.

The chain, owned by Yum Brands Inc. of Louisville, Ky., is looking to boost sales by opening most of its roughly 6,000 U.S. stores a few hours earlier at 7 a.m. starting this week. But Taco Bell has a long way to go to catch up with McDonald's, the No. 1 player in breakfast with 31 percent of the category, according to market researcher Technomic. Egg McMuffins and other items have been consistent sellers for McDonald's over the years, with

breakfast accounting for about 20 percent of the company's U.S. sales. By comparison, a Yum executive has said breakfast accounted for just 4 percent of sales when it was being tested at Taco Bell stores in select markets. That was before national marketing began, however, and Taco Bell President Brian Niccol said in a phone interview that the goal was to get the figure to a level "much greater than that." Niccol concedes that the real-life Ronald McDonalds were paid for their appearances in the ads, but insists their enthusiastic reactions to the food were real. "All of them resoundingly loved the food," he said. Taco Bell's ad agency, Deutsch LA, found around 400 men and women with the name Ronald McDonald, Ronnie McDonald or some variation, Niccol said. A couple of dozen were selected to represent different regions around the country including Bossier City, La.; Chicago; Dubuque, Iowa; Kane, Pa.; and Worcester, Ma.

The men show their approval of the food with comments like, "It's not messy" and "Mmm, wow" and "Mmm, real good" and "It has everything I like." In case it wasn't clear, tiny print at the end of the ad notes that, "These Ronald McDonalds are not affiliated with McDonald's Corporation and were individually selected as paid endorsers of Taco Bell Breakfast." "We like to do things

with a wink and smile," Niccol said. "We have a sense of humor." As for Ronald McDonald the fast-food clown, the character was first played by Willard Scott in 1963. He was initially depicted as a character that magically pulled hamburgers out of his belt. But the mascot eventually became a target of critics who say McDonald's uses him to market to kids. A representative for McDonald's Corp. did not respond to a request for comment.

As for Ronald McDonald the fast-food clown, the character was first played by Willard Scott in 1963. He was initially depicted as a character that magically pulled hamburgers out of his belt. But the mascot eventually became a target of critics who say McDonald's uses him to market to kids. A representative for McDonald's Corp. did not respond to a request for comment.

\$1 trillion student loan debt widens US wealth gap

Every month that Gregory Zbylut pays \$1,300 toward his law school loans is another month of not qualifying for a decent mortgage. Every payment toward their student loans is \$900 Dr. Nida Degeys and her husband aren't putting in their retirement savings account.

They believe they'll eventually climb from debt and begin using their earnings to build assets rather than fill holes. But, like the roughly 37 million others in the U.S. saddled with \$1 trillion in student debt, they may never catch up with wealthy peers who began life after college free from the burden.

The disparity, experts say, is contributing to the widening of the gap between rich and everyone else in the country. "If you graduate with a B.A. or doctorate and you get the same job at the same place, you make the same amount of money," said William Elliott III, director of the Assets and Education Initiative at the University of Kansas. "But that money will actually mean less to you in the sense of accumulating assets in the long term." Graduates who can immediately begin building equity in housing or stocks and bonds get more time to see their investments grow, while indebted graduates spend years paying principal and interest on loans. The standard student loan repayment schedule is 10 years but can be much longer.

The median 2009 net worth for a household without outstanding student debt was \$117,700, nearly three times the \$42,800 worth in a household with outstanding student debt, according to a report co-written by Elliott last November. About 40 percent of households led by someone 35 or younger have student loan debt, a 2012 Pew Research Center analysis of government data found.

Allen Aston is one of the lucky ones, having landed a full academic and financial-need scholarship at Ohio State University. The 22-year-old software engineer from Columbus estimates it let him avoid about \$100,000 in debt. Without loans to repay, Aston is already contributing 6 percent of his salary to a retirement fund that is matched in part by his employer and doesn't have the same financial concerns his

friends do. "I'm making the same money as them, but they have student loans they're paying back that I don't. So, it definitely seems noticeable," he said. At the other end of the spectrum is Zbylut, an accountant-turned-attorney in Glendale, Calif. He's been chipping away at nearly \$160,000 in student debt since graduating in 2005 from law school at Loyola University in Chicago. Now 48, the tax attorney estimates he could have \$150,000 to \$200,000 in a 401(k) had the money he's paid toward loans gone there. "I'm sitting here in traffic. I've got a Mercedes behind me and an Audi in front of me and I'm thinking, 'What did they do that I didn't do?'" Zbylut said by cellphone from his Chevrolet. He's been turned down twice for the type of mortgage he needs to buy a home big enough for himself, the fiancée he would have married already if not for his debts and her 10-year-old son.

Student debt is the only kind of household debt that rose through the Great Recession and now totals more than either credit card

or auto loan debt, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Both the number of borrowers and amount borrowed ballooned by 70 percent from 2004 to 2012. Of the nearly 20 million Americans who attend college each year, about 12 million borrow, according to the Almanac of Higher Education. Estimates show that the average four-year graduate accumulates \$26,000 to \$29,000 in loans, and some leave college with six figures worth of debt. The increases have been driven in part by rising tuition, resulting from reduced state funding and costlier campus facilities and amenities.

Compounding the problem has been a trend toward merit-based, rather than need-based, grants as institutions seek to attract the higher-achieving students who will boost their standings. "Because there's a strong correlation in this country between things like SAT scores or ACT scores and wealth or income, the (grant) money ends up going disproportionately to students from wealthier families" who tend to perform better on those tests, said Donald Heller, dean of the Michigan State University College of Education. Those factors, along with stagnating family incomes and declining savings, have

made student loans a much bigger part of funding higher education, Elliott said. Harvard Business School's Michael Norton wonders whether greater public awareness of the widening wealth gap in the United States would hasten policy change. Norton conducted a 2011 survey that found that people tend to think wealth is more equally distributed than it is. But with elected officials from President Barack Obama on down now talking about the wealth gap as an urgent public problem, a more complete picture seems to be emerging, he said. "Both parties are now saying, perhaps inequality has gotten to the point where it's not fair when people don't have a chance to rise, and we need to do something about it," Norton said.

Targeting the soaring cost of higher education, Obama in August proposed the most sweeping changes to the federal student aid program in decades. His plan would link federal money to new college ratings and reward schools if they help low-income students, keep costs low and have large numbers of students earn degrees. Lawmakers in Congress also are debating how to address the issue, including proposals to allow graduates with high-interest loans to refinance at lower

rates. The American Medical Student Association supports expanding the National Health Services Corps, which provides loan forgiveness in exchange for service in underserved areas. Nida Degeys, AMSA's president, graduated in May 2013 from Northeast Ohio Medical University with about \$180,000 in loans. The amount has already swelled with interest to about \$220,000. "There were times where this would make me stay up at night," Degeys said. "The principal alone is a problem, but the interest is staggering." Yet, as costly as medical school was, Degeys sees it as an investment in herself and her career, one she thinks will pay off with a higher earning potential. College degrees can pay off. College graduates ages 25 to 32 working full time earn \$45,500, about \$17,500 more than their peers with just a high school diploma, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of census data. Elliott says the country needs to re-think college financing options to bring debt down and graduation rates up. "We can't," he said, "let debt hinder a whole generation of people from beginning to accumulate wealth soon after graduating college."

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Tentative deal reached in wrong house demolition

FORT WORTH (AP) — The city of Fort Worth has reached a tentative \$102,500 settlement with a property owner whose three-bedroom house was mistakenly torn down last year. City spokesman Bill

Begley told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that subject to City Council approval, the city has agreed to pay \$62,500, the contractor agreed to \$15,000, and the contractor's insurer agreed to pay \$25,000.

The potential settlement will go before the council in about two weeks. The home near the shore of Lake Worth was torn down on July 12 after a city crew marked the wrong house for demolition. It

should have marked the house next door. The day before, the same city-hired contractor incorrectly tore down two homes on a lot instead of, per its work order, only the fire-damaged one.

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Lawyers: Texas should reveal execution drug source

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys for two Texas inmates who would be the first executed with a replenished stockpile of execution drugs are challenging the prison agency's position that the supplier of the new batch should be kept secret.

An emergency hearing was set before a state judge in Austin on Thursday, a day after attorneys for convicted killers Tommy Lynn Sells and Ramiro Hernandez-Llanas filed a lawsuit demanding the Texas Department of Criminal Justice name the provider of the pentobarbital, the sedative the state uses for lethal injections.

Sells and Hernandez-Llanas are scheduled to die April 3 and 9 respectively. Sells was condemned for slashing two girls' throats in 1999 at a home near Del Rio; one girl died. Hernan-

dez-Llanas was condemned for the 1997 beating death of a man who owned a ranch where Hernandez worked near Kerrville.

"Time is truly of the essence," the inmates' lawyers said in their lawsuit. "Without information about where the drugs come from, and the purity, potency and integrity of those drugs, neither Mr. Hernandez-Llanas nor Mr. Sells can evaluate the risk that their executions will subject them to cruel and unusual pain in violation of the Eighth Amendment."

The current supply of pentobarbital used for lethal injections in Texas expires April 1. Prison officials said last week they have a new supply but cited security reasons for declining to disclose the supplier's name.

The state attorney general's office previously has

said the information should be public and is waiting for arguments from the agency on why the policy should be changed.

Attorneys from the office's civil branch will represent the prison agency at Thursday's hearing, but this will not create a conflict with the attorney general's upcoming review of the agency's policy since the issue will be handled by its open records attorneys, said attorney general spokeswoman Lauren Bean.

The dispute in the state that executes more inmates than any other comes as major drugmakers, many based in Europe, have stopped selling pentobarbital and other substances used in lethal injections to U.S. corrections agencies because they oppose the death penalty.

Texas only had enough

pentobarbital to continue carrying out executions through the end of March until it obtained its new supply from the unknown provider. An inmate set to die Thursday would be using the sedative from that supply.

Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark declined to comment Wednesday on the lawsuit, saying the agency "doesn't comment on pending litigation."

Last week, he said department officials "are not disclosing the identity of the pharmacy because of previous, specific threats of serious physical harm made against businesses and their employees that have provided drugs used in the lethal injection process."

The inmates' lawyers said their filing compels Texas' corrections department to

comply with the state's Public Information Act, adding that the deadline for the agency to submit its request for an attorney general's opinion regarding the new secrecy is April 1.

"Even if (prison officials) expedited the filing of that request — which they have not said they will do — the attorney general will not be able to write an opinion before Mr. Sells' April 3rd scheduled execution," attorneys Maurie Levin, Naomi Terr and Hilary Sheard wrote.

On Wednesday, an Oklahoma judge voided that state's execution law, agreeing with inmates that a "veil of secrecy" preventing them from seeking information about the drugs used in lethal injections violated their rights under the state constitution. Oklahoma officials plan to appeal. Oklahoma is among the

states that have promised companies confidentiality if they will provide the sedatives or paralyzing agents used to execute condemned prisoners, and went beyond that to prevent information from being revealed even in court.

Arkansas and Missouri keep execution information secret.

While Texas prison officials haven't indicated they want to go to the extent those states have, they are seeking to at least keep the name of their lethal drug source from being revealed.

"We're not in conflict with the law," Clark, the Department of Criminal Justice spokesman, said last week. "We plan to seek an AG's opinion, which is appropriate in a situation like this, and the AG's office will determine whether it's releasable."

Commanders fired in nuke missile cheating scandal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force fired nine mid-level nuclear commanders Thursday and will discipline dozens of junior officers at a nuclear missile base in response to an exam-cheating scandal that spanned a far longer period than originally reported.

Air Force officials called the moves unprecedented in the history of the intercontinental ballistic missile force, which has been rocked by a string of security lapses over the past year, including a failed safety and security inspection last summer at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., where the cheating happened.

In a bid to correct root causes of the missile corps' failings — including low morale and weak management — the Air Force also announced a series of new or expanded programs to improve leadership development, to modernize the three ICBM bases and to reinforce "core values" including integrity.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, the service's top civilian official, had promised to hold officers at Malmstrom accountable once the cheating investigation was completed and the scope of the scandal was clear. None of the nine fired commanders was directly involved in

the cheating, but each was determined to have failed in his or her leadership responsibilities.

Investigators determined that the cheating, which officials originally said happened in August or September last year, began as early as November 2011 and continued until November 2013, according to a defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to reveal details before James' announcement. It involved unauthorized passing of answers to exams designed to test missile launch officers' proficiency in handling "emergency war orders," which are messages involving the targeting and launching of missiles.

When the cheating was first revealed, Air Force leaders condemned it as violating the most basic Air Force values. They also suggested that it reflected an unhealthy pressure from commanders to achieve perfect test scores. The tests are one part of a training and evaluation system that is supposed to ensure that every one of the more than 500 missile launch officers is fully proficient.

The most senior person touched directly by the cheating scandal was the commander of Malmstrom's 341st Missile

Wing, Col. Robert Stanley. He was permitted to resign, according to a defense official. The official described the Air Force actions on condition of anonymity before they were announced.

Nine key commanders below Stanley were fired, including the commanders of the 341st Wing's three missile squadrons, each of which is responsible for 50 Minuteman three nuclear missiles.

Also sacked were the commander and deputy commander of the 341st Operations Group, which oversees all three missile squadrons as well as a helicopter unit and a support squadron responsible for administering monthly proficiency tests to Malmstrom's launch crews and evaluating their performance.

Members of all three missile squadrons were implicated in the cheating, either by providing or receiving test answers or knowing about the cheating and not reporting it.

No generals are being

punished. Maj. Gen. Michael Carey, who was fired last October as commander of the 20th Air Force, which is responsible for all three 150-missile wings of the ICBM force, is still on duty as a staff officer at Air Force Space Command but has requested retirement; his request is being reviewed.

Carey was fired after a military investigation determined that he had engaged in inappropriate behavior while leading a U.S. government delegation to a nuclear security exercise in Russia last summer. He was replaced by Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein.

The cheating at Malmstrom was discovered in early January during the course of an unrelated drug investigation that included two launch officers at Malmstrom and others at several other bases; the drug probe is continuing.

A total of 100 missile launch crew members at Malmstrom were identified as potentially involved in the cheating, but nine were

cleared by investigators. Another nine of the 100 are being handled separately by the Air Force Office of Special Investigation; eight of those nine involve possible criminal charges stemming from the alleged mishandling of classified information.

Of the remaining 82 officers, an estimated 30 to 40 are eligible to be retrained and returned to duty on the missile force; the rest face unspecified disciplinary ac-

tion that could include dismissal from the Air Force, officials said.

After the cheating was announced in January, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel launched a pair of in-depth reviews of the nuclear forces to determine why the ICBM force has suffered so many setbacks over the past year.

Hagel said he his goal was to restore public confidence in the nuclear force.

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MLB's high-tech replay room opens Sunday

NEW YORK (AP) — After deciding close calls on the field since 1876, baseball opens a high-tech control room this weekend where the fates of batters, pitchers, runners and fielders will be decided by umpires up to 2,600 miles away in the building where the Oreo cookie was invented.

Starting with the Los Angeles Dodgers' game at the San Diego Padres on Sunday night, the U.S. opener of the 2014 season, players, managers and fans will turn their attention to the ROC — the Replay Operations Center.

In a dimly lit room of just under 1,000 square feet in the Chelsea Market in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, umpires and

technicians will make the decisions that could decide games and championships.

More than \$10 million has been spent wiring the 30 big league ballparks with Fiberlink cable that will transmit the images from at least 12 cameras at every site, and Major League Baseball says it will take just 400 milliseconds for each image to arrive at the command center.

All in an effort to prevent the type of botched calls that cost Detroit's Armando Galarraga a perfect game in 2010.

"I'm happy for the managers," said Joe Torre, an MLB executive vice president overseeing the new system. "Maybe it will keep them from having one or two more sleepless

nights if they are able to grab one and overturn it."

Inside the sliding glass doors at the offices of Major League Baseball Advanced Media, the room has its own power supply in case of a blackout — with batteries as a second auxiliary — and a stand-alone heating, ventilation and air conditioning system that keeps the temperature at 72 degrees. Cell phones don't have reception.

There are dozens of televisions, more than enough to make it resemble NASA's Mission Control. Outside the room, next to a modernist black sofa, is a 55-inch NEC screen, with another just inside the entrance. Walk in, and there's 65-inch Pentus TV to your left.

On each side are three stations, each to be staffed with a technician on the left and a major league umpire on the right. Three more "floater" stations stretch across the back wall.

Every station has four 46-inch screens — three Planars for each pod, with a higher-quality Sony directly in front of each umpire's seat. The umps will wear headsets and can push a button to speak with their colleagues at any stadium.

Fifteen Asus computer monitors are scattered about, four on a wavy table in the center where supervisors will monitor the review umpires and up to 15 simultaneous games (there would only be the maximum if weather delays the action in the eastern half of

North America).

The nine circular overhead lights are kept low, the walls are gray and the carpeting is dark — all so that the televised images will stand out more for the umpires. There is a sink and a microwave — the food court on the first floor is filled with dozens of options.

"I'll see more games than the Fan Cave," quipped Justin Klemm, a former minor league umpire and big league fill-in who was hired last month as MLB's director of instant replay.

Baseball ignored replay even as it was first used by the NFL in 1986, the NHL in 1991, the NBA in 2002 and the Little League World Series in 2008.

MLB took a tenta-

tive step toward replay in August 2008, when it first used video to decide boundary calls such as home runs at the top of fences or near foul poles.

Torre long opposed video review but changed his mind in October 2012, when umpire Jeff Nelson missed a call on Robinson Cano's two-out tag of Omar Infante at second base in the AL championship series, calling the runner safe. Detroit went on to win Game 2 and sweep the New York Yankees.

"That's when I realized that we certainly can't ignore the technology and the fact that this seemed to be what the people want or think they want," Torre said.

UEFA countries vote for Nations League event

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

Seeking to bolster national team football amid the rampant success of club competitions, UEFA's 54 member countries voted Thursday to create the Nations League.

The competition will replace most continental international friendlies — long unpopular with club coaches — when it kicks off in September 2018.

UEFA boosted the new event by guaranteeing it would feed into qualifying for the 2020 European Championship. It could later be incorporated into Euro-

pean qualifying for the 2022 World Cup.

"This is a very important decision for the future of football at the level of national teams," UEFA President Michel Platini said Thursday after the unanimous vote at European football's annual congress.

Platini had pledged to raise the status and commercial value of international football. It has struggled against competition from popular and lucrative European domestic leagues and UEFA's own Champions League.

The European Club Association representing more

than 200 clubs said it "has taken note" of the announcement which could fuel club vs. country tensions.

It requires them to release their players for extra competitive fixtures.

"The European clubs do not oppose such project, as the number of international matches in the calendar remains unchanged," said the ECA, which campaigned to remove the February and August dates once set aside for friendlies. "Once more details concerning the competition format are available, ECA will analyze the possible impact on club football."

Platini acknowledged that national team friendlies "really don't interest anybody."

"Neither the audience at large, neither the journalists nor the players," he said later at a news conference.

The Nations League tournament format is yet to be finalized, although it foresees 54 teams ranked in four divisions playing from September to November 2018.

The 12 highest-ranked teams would play in four three-team groups in Division A. Those group winners would advance to a "final four" tournament in June 2019. Teams could be pro-

moted or relegated through the divisions.

All 54 teams would still play in traditional Euro 2020 qualifying groups, which would be played March-November 2019.

The qualifying playoffs for Euro 2020 would then be scheduled in March 2020. That lineup would be decided by Nations League results of teams which did not qualify directly for the tournament.

Platini confirmed that each of the four divisions, including the lowest-ranked, should send one team to Euro 2020. That would offer

teams such as the Faeroe Islands, Gibraltar or San Marino a chance to debut at a major event.

Euro 2020 will be played across Europe in 13 different host cities which will be picked in September.

UEFA will likely try to include the subsequent Nations League in the European qualifying program for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. FIFA is considering redrawing football's international calendar to play that tournament in November-December 2022 to avoid the desert heat of Qatar's summer.



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Police: Colts owner had \$29K in cash when arrested

CARMEL, Ind. (AP) — Police say Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay had \$29,000 in cash with him when he was arrested last week on suspicion of intoxicated driving.



The Indianapolis Star reports it obtained the Carmel police documents on Irsay's March 16 arrest through a public records request.

An officer writes that he stopped Irsay's SUV after it twice stopped on a city street for no apparent reason.

The officer wrote Irsay appeared disoriented and said he was trying to find his house. Much of the cash was found in a briefcase and bags on the passenger's side floorboard.

Prosecutors haven't decided whether to charge Irsay over the numerous prescription drugs that officers found in his vehicle.

Irsay attorney James Voyles didn't immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

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From the Press Box

The goods and bads of new NFL rules.

It's that time of year again. As free agency's big moves finish happening and teams start gearing up for the NFL draft, the owners are meeting and the competition committee are putting into place the rules that will ultimately affect the next NFL season.

The one that stirred up the most attention, but arguably the dumbest yet least impacting rule, will be enforced on touchdown celebrations.

It will now be illegal for a player to jump and dunk the football over the goal post.

New Orleans Saints' tight end Jimmy Graham tweeted that he will have to lead the league in penalties. My response to him? Well your team is also going to lead the league in worst starting field position in the NFL.

I am not for this rule at all. But this attitude toward the league and their decisions is a primary reason why I can't stand the Baltimore Ravens' defensive players. Many of them have this nasty attitude that should be left on the football field.

Moving on to another rule that is being changed is the uprights of the goal post are going to be increased five feet. This is because the NFL had a number of field goals go over the upright and they were ruled successful. For all we know the ball would have hit the upright and bounced down, or in or out. We don't know because the upright wasn't there. I think this is a good move and I like it.

Another good rule is the allowance of the referee to consult with members of the officiating department during replay reviews. Some plays have so much gray area that it may be easier to hear it from the officiating depart-

ment. My only problem with the rule is it makes it seem like the referees aren't doing their job right. Some referees have bad calls, but that's part of the sport.

I am not okay with allowing the recovery of a loose ball in the field of play re-viewable. I know there are some plays where the offense clearly recovers a fumble but the wind blows the wrong way, a gremlin pops out of the turf and hands it to the defense and then the officials for whatever reason say it belongs to the offense again.

The Broncos were burned by one or two of these and were also the beneficiaries, but this seems like a black or white rule. Plain and simple, if you are down and the ball is under you, or you stand up with the ball and take two steps, it belongs to your team. This rule allows for too much gray area.

They also had other rules that were passed. Reducing the time of roster reduction after the fourth preseason game from 6 p.m. Eastern to 4 p.m. Eastern.

Defensive fouls are enforced from behind the line of scrimmage rather than the end of the run or the spot of the foul.

They also decided to keep the clock running after a sack and protect players from getting hit from the sides of their legs.

Some rules got tabled. The notables, modify pass interference so that it can be called within one yard of the line of scrimmage, putting six cameras on all boundary lines for improved review and moving the line of scrimmage for a one-point extra point. This will actually be experimented with during the preseason, if you needed a reason to watch the exhibition games, here you go.

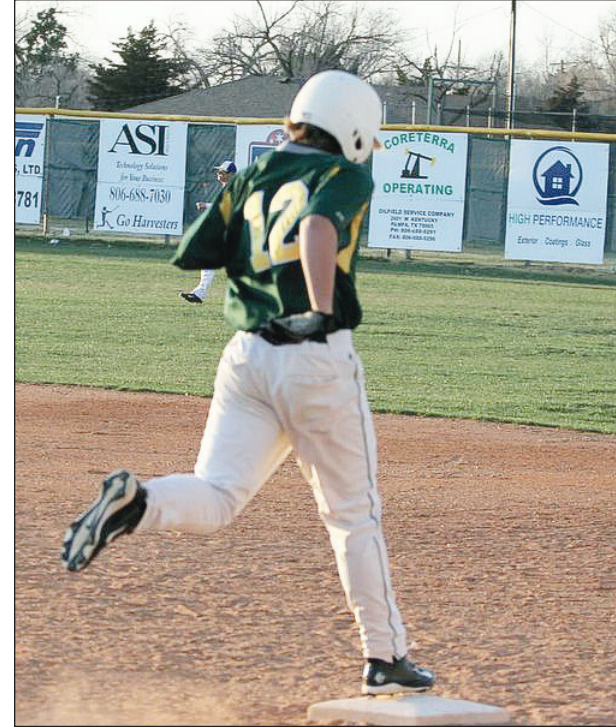
What are your thoughts on the rule changes?

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



JOHN LEE

JV BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SWEEPS DALHART



Above left, freshman Brandt Logan lands on first base after hitting a single. Above right, sophomore Ryan Lee pitches during Tuesday's game. Below left, sophomore Kendra McIntyre slides onto base. Below right, the team gathers for a rally during Tuesday's game. Both the baseball and softball teams dominated their opponents, Dalhart Golden Wolves and Lady Wolves, Tuesday. The baseball team won 15-4, the softball team won 15-0.



Big news yet to come from owners

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — NFL owners made plenty of news at their annual meetings, from shifting some video review oversight to the officiating headquarters to experimenting in the preseason with extra-point kicks from the 20-yard line.

They also vowed to clamp down on unsportsmanlike conduct and verbal abuse.

A significant item they didn't vote on, but discussed at length, was expanding the playoffs.

Though the move wasn't adopted in Orlando, it soon will be.

It could even be approved at the owners' May gathering in Atlanta and be implemented for the 2014 season.

Commissioner Roger Goodell was hesitant to predict that. He also wasn't exactly shooting down the idea of going from 12 to 14 postseason qualifiers, add-

ing one in each conference, next season.

"It's not out of the question," Goodell said about two more wild-card games next January. "We have more work. I wouldn't rule it out, but I wouldn't say that's the direction we're heading."

The NFL definitely is heading toward bigger playoffs, even if the new setup occurs in 2015. Although the owners have struck out with the players union about stretching the regular season to 18 games — new NFL Players Association President Eric Winston has called the issue "dead in the water" — more teams in the postseason isn't likely to be opposed by the union.

For one, it means more money in the pockets of the players on the qualifying teams. For another, it really means more money in the pockets of every player.

Baylor, Badgers try to build on postseason success

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Baylor and Wisconsin have never met in a men's basketball game, and the unpredictable Bears have little in common with the disciplined Badgers at first glance.

Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan and Baylor's Scott Drew both recognized one big similarity as their teams prepared for their matchup just down the street from Disneyland.

Although they arrive from different directions, they both know what to do when they get to March.

Sixth-seeded Baylor (26-11) and second-seeded Wisconsin (28-7) went through workouts Wednesday at Honda Center before they play Thursday for a spot in the West Regional final.

While the building is unfamiliar, the stakes are

not: The Badgers are in the Sweet 16 for the third time in four years, while the Bears have made it three times in the last five. Those are remarkable runs of consistency for any program, let alone two teams without huge national profiles and the resulting recruiting advantages.

Past postseason success is fine, but the coaches know it could fade in the face of Baylor's baffling zone defense or Wisconsin's famed intensity.

"I think every coach would tell you they would rather have that experience than not have it," Drew said. "But it doesn't guarantee you anything. That's what makes March Madness. Even if you play well, it might be your last game because there are so many great teams and great play-

ers."

The teams studied their unfamiliar opponents during the break and emerged with mutual respect. The Bears admire the tenacity displayed all winter by Wisconsin, which beat five of its seven Top-25 opponents while playing one of the NCAA's toughest schedules.

They also believe the Badgers' reputation as a walk-it-up team is woefully inaccurate.

"Just because of how they play in the half-court, using the whole clock, you would think that they wouldn't score a lot of points in transition," said Baylor guard Sean Franklin, an Inglewood native and California transfer.

"But when you see them on film and see how fast they get out, you can tell

they want to score right away."

Wisconsin is similarly impressed by Baylor's athleticism and offensive balance. While knocking off Nebraska and third-seeded Creighton last weekend, Baylor also deployed a matchup zone that flummoxed both opponents and limited Creighton star Doug McDermott.

With most of a week to prepare, it's likely Ryan has cooked up a way to penetrate the scheme.

"You have to probe," Ryan said. "But I've seen the way they're playing it. Attacking it and getting people to move a certain direction, and using your angles and misdirection and different things that good zone offensive teams use, we're going to have to put all those together."

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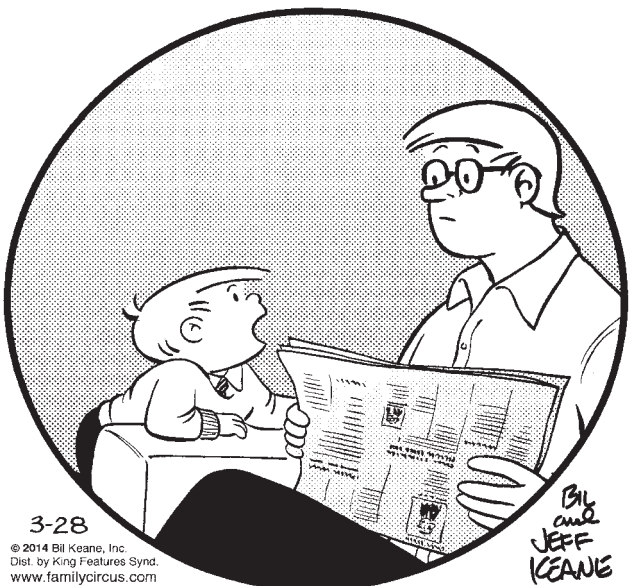


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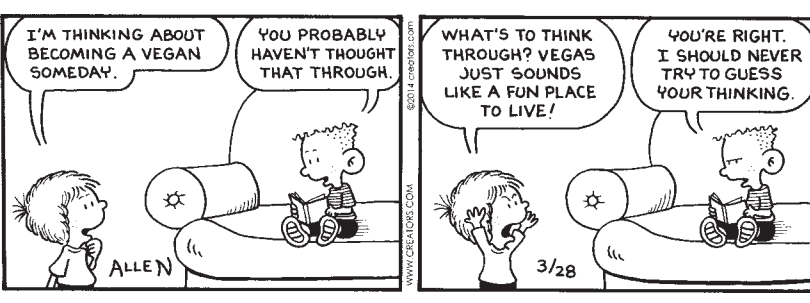
"Daddy, was there ever a time when people thought you were cool?"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



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daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 29, 2014:
This year you often clash with close associates and partners. Understand that they are more likely to be the agitators in these scenarios. Still, you will need to deal with their discontent on some level. If you are single, you will know when you meet Mr. or Ms. Right, as the connection will be instantaneous. The most likely period for this encounter will be after spring 2014. If you are attached, the two of you often find yourselves in heated discussions. Make sure to respect each other's views. Summer could be memorable and passionate for you as a couple. Do not test the limits of another ARIES.
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)
★★★ Read between the lines if someone is hemming and hawing. Some people just get shy; others become nervous. You will want to see more of what is happening, and you finally might be able to stabilize the situation. Tonight: Choose to do something rewarding.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ This is the perfect day to meet up with friends and make the most of what is happening. Letting off steam and dissolving some stress will become fun. Make the most out of the moment. A key person could become very uptight at the last moment. Tonight: Nap, then decide.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Friendships determine your decisions. You know what is needed to make an important person in your life feel special. You will have a much easier time with this person if you do. Note the need to slow down. Tonight: Let your wild side emerge.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to make time to have some relaxing moments today. Choose a type of entertainment that allows your mind to drift, and let go of any tension. A new romance could be difficult at the moment. Just stay clearheaded. Tonight: Happiest at home.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Defer to someone else in order to come to a better understanding of what needs to happen. Follow through on an offer that really might be too good to refuse. Determine what needs to happen with a person at a dis-

ance. Is it time for a trip? Tonight: Be forthright about your desires.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Someone will want to bridge an emotional gap between the two of you. You have your limits, and you might feel like stating your boundaries. Work on adding in a touch of diplomacy. Make it OK to respect different views. Tonight: How about a good old-fashioned date?
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Decide to get your errands done before leaping into a fun happening with friends and a loved one. You might find that you need to use a good part of the day for a project. Make plans with others for later in the evening. Tonight: Where you are, the action is.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be in touch with many people, but you will be happiest today with one person whom you really care about. Together you will conjure up some fun plans. Understand that you don't need anything or anyone, just each other to have a good time. Tonight: Play the night away.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to put a difficult situation behind you, but a knee-jerk reaction could prevent it. Work on responding to situations and not reacting. Once you achieve that self-control, you will create more of what you desire. Tonight: Make it a party with friends.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Examine a personal matter in order to root out an issue. Consider changing your plans, if need be, though you might want to be wary of disappointing a friend. Look at the situation from a different perspective, but make the necessary choices. Tonight: The action is at your place.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Understand that you might need to handle a personal matter. Recognize what is happening with your finances, as you could feel as though they are dwindling. Explore opportunities openly, and get others' feedback. Tonight: Have dinner with friends.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You will want to be where your friends are; however, news might cause you to rethink your plans. You could discover the power of excellent communication as you discuss your options with a loved one. Tonight: This is the first day of the rest of your life.

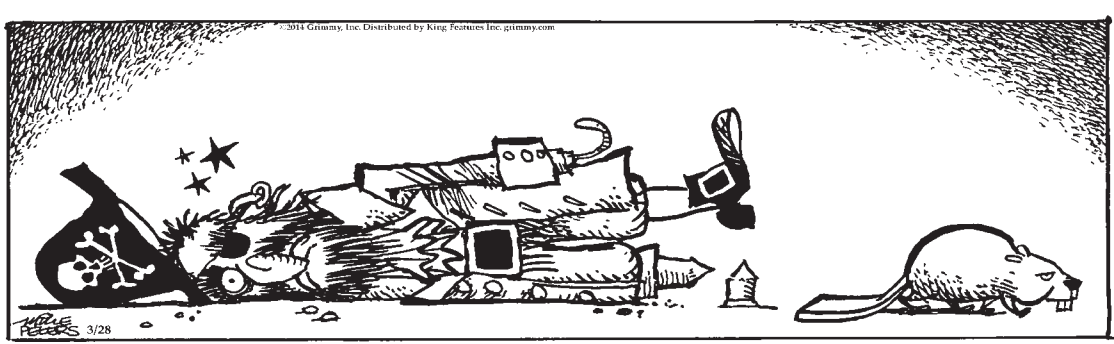
Tundra



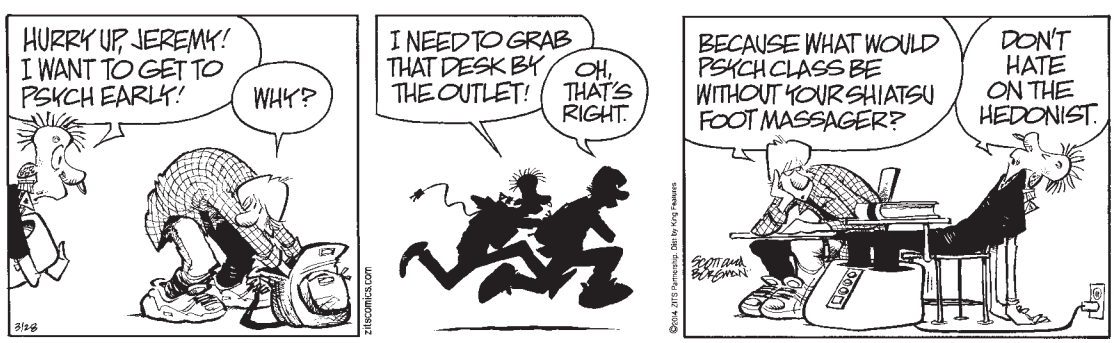
Shoe



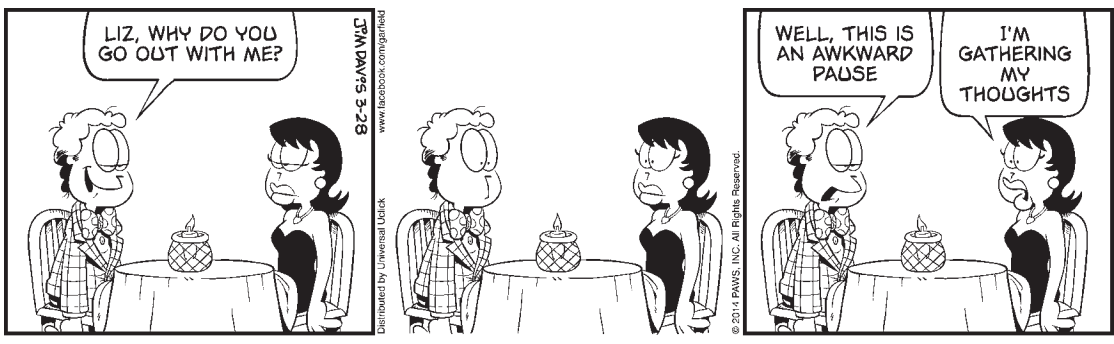
Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



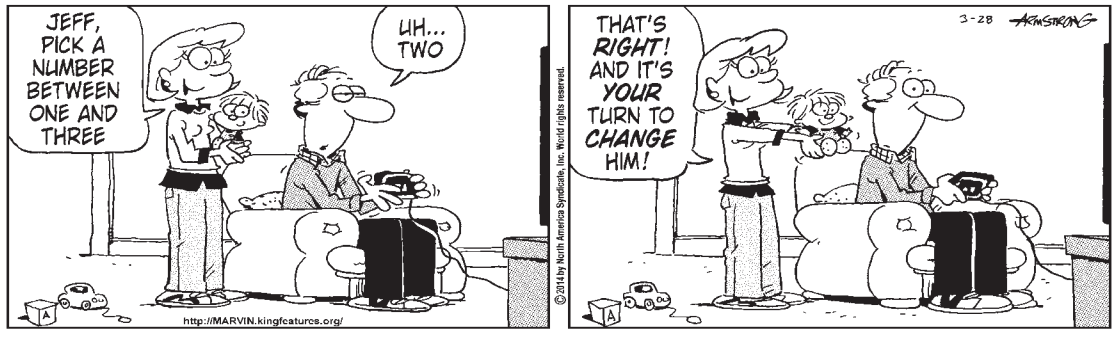
Garfield



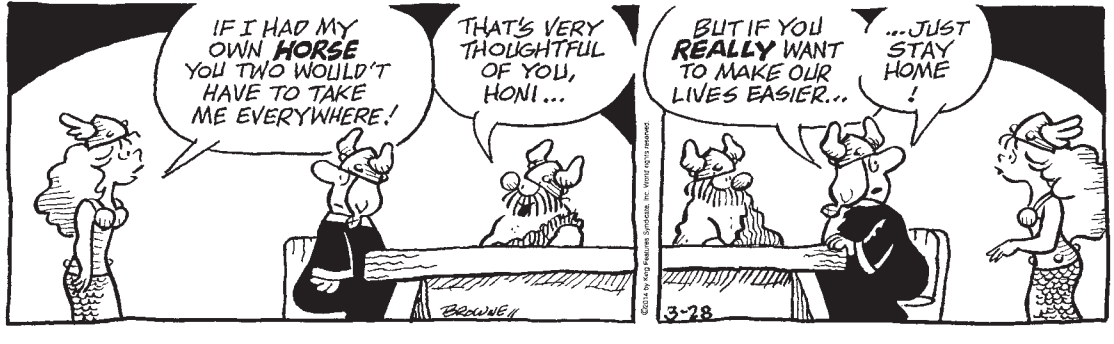
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible

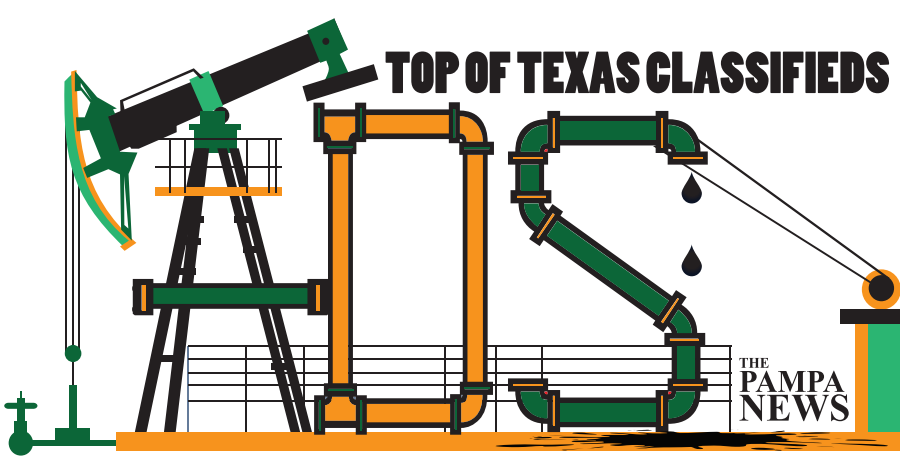


Peanuts



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JIMENEZ Multi-service. Yard work, leaf clean-up, cut trees, tree trim, gardening work, fertilizer. Call 669-2618, 886-2027 or 662-3998. Laura

Help Wanted

ASSISTANT Supervisor needed for local landscape company. Estimate exp. req. Contact Brian at 669-0158.

DOCTOR'S Office expanding team. FT Computer literate, love numbers. On the job training. Fax resume to 665-0537

EAMH has openings for LVNs and CNAs. Competitive wages and benefits. Apply at 803 Birch Street, Canadian or call Lucy at 806-323-6453, ext 111.

Help Wanted

EXPANDING in Pampa! Full & Part time. Personalized training, flexible schedules, unlimited earning potential. 806-355-9007 for appt.

HELP Needed in Pampa at Oil & Gas Supply Store. Oil field knowledge preferred. Must pass drug test and have good driving record, be dependable & able to lift up to 50 lbs. Able to drive forklift & be mechanically inclined plus. Strong customer service skills required. Call 806-665-0947

Help Wanted

Looking for P-T Mgr for new self storage in Pampa. To apply go online: pampastoragespot.com/manager.

MAINTENANCE HELPER/LABORER Needed for a 150 unit Apt. Community. Salary DOE. Apply 1601 W. Somerville, or call 665-7149.

McLEAN Care Center is hiring CNAs with a \$3000 Sign-On Bonus, and part-time LVNs. Please contact Maxine or Jenifer, 806-779-2469

Help Wanted

PART-TIME help needed 5pm-8pm Mon. thru Fri. Apply in person at Hoagies Deli, 1201 N. Hobart.

SEEKING a committed, honest and reliable individual to do general housekeeping for traveling businessmen. Pay is negotiable. Contact Ray at 432.661.3556

TEXAS Rose Steakhouse is hiring Hostesses, Servers & Cooks. No phone calls. Apply at 2841 Perryton Pkwy.

Help Wanted

THE Pampa News is accepting applications for an inserter. The job will require varied night time hours. Duties include inserting advertisements and multiple sections into the newspaper, delivering copies to news racks and dealers. Must be able to drive a standard transmission. This is a part time position. \$8.00 per hour. Please come by 403 W. Atchison to fill out application. Ask for Chico Ramirez. NO phone calls! EOE We are a drug-free workplace.

GARAGE Sale 1318 W. Kentucky. Fri & Sat. 9am-4pm. LOTS of stuff!

HUGE Moving Sale! Friday & Saturday from 8am-2pm. Refrigerator, antique hutch & cabinet, brand new car ramps, work bench, steel cabinet, big table, tools, car stuff, knickknacks, queen size bedspread, sheets, something for every room, crafts, outside stuff, lots of EVERYTHING. 7142 Hwy 70. 13-1/4 miles south from bowling alley on Hwy 70. 806-440-6888.

Miscellaneous

FOR SALE: Double Lawn Crypt in Memory Gardens. Call 806-898-2451

NEW Queen Mattress Set \$246. All sizes on sale. Red Barn 1424 S. Barnes. 665-2767.

Garage Sale

GARAGE Sale - 2101 Chestnut. Saturday 3/29/14 from 8am-2pm.

Feed & Seeds

HAY FOR SALE. Wheat hay \$75/bale; Love grass \$65/bale. Discount on 16+ bales. 669-9532 or 664-1900

Pets & Supplies

FOUND near Osborne & McCullough intersection: Full-grown but young Husky-looking female. Call 663-0018 please!

Furnished Apts.

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

EVERGREEN ST. 1465 sq ft, fireplace, NEEDS WORK. 3/1.75/2 Motivated seller. 806-440-4153 LREA HouseHunters Realtor, Linda Laycock-Broker 806-662-1312

FOR Sale RV PARK Small RV park on city water & sewer. Endless possibilities. Low Lefors Taxes. 806-440-4153 LREA HouseHunters Realtor Linda Laycock-Broker. 806-662-1312

MOVE IN READY CORNER LOT 3/1.75/2 car garage \$115,000 806-440-4153 LREA HouseHunters Realtor Linda Laycock-Broker. 806-662-1312

Now Accepting Applications!

PAMPA MANOR APARTMENTS TDD: 1-800-735-2989 Elderly (62 years of age) Handicapped/ Disabled of any age Some Rental Assistance Is Available. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Apply Today! 2700 N. Hobart Street 806-665-2828

Commercial Property

OFFICE BUILDING Big lot with room to build. Completely remodeled. 806-440-4153 LREA HouseHunters Realtor Linda Laycock-Broker. 806-662-1312

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2012 32 ft. travel trailer. Self contained, 2 elec. slides, washer/dryer, king bed. Extras + Extras! Must sell before Mar. 31. \$21,500 obso. 806-678-7985

FOR SALE IN WHITE DEER, TX:

2007 32 ft. Hitchhiker 5th wheel with 3 slide outs. To see call (806) 670-5207 or (806) 670-5208. \$28,000

Trailer Parks

Tumbleweed Acres: storm shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 886-2230

Autos

IDEAL FOR COLLECTORS! 1979 Pontiac TransAm. White / blue, lrg bird on hood. One owner! 24,500 actual miles, 6.6 L, 403 eng. Auto transmission. All original. Good price \$21,900. Call 806-665-4836.

TRM M&S Auto

for all your auto repair needs. Call Ray or Mike, 1201 N. Gray, 669-6990.

AXYDLBAA XR is LONG FELLOW

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.

3-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

WRK'M WM KWON MT MLWKB
MLYM MTSTZZTD WR Y KND
UYC DWML KT SWRM YBNR WK

WM CNM? — Q.S. STKMHTSNZC

Yesterday's Cryptquote: HAPPINESS IS WHEN WHAT YOU THINK, WHAT YOU SAY AND WHAT YOU DO ARE IN HARMONY. — MAHATMA GANDHI

McLEAN CARE Center

now offering CNA classes. No Charge to applicants with 6 month agreement of employment. Dewayne Atwood, 806-779-2469.

NEED kitchen & catering help.

Must have a driver's license to apply. Apply in person Dyer's BBQ.

PAMPA ISD

is now accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Sub drivers. Please apply online at www.pampaisd.net or come by 1233 N. Hobart to pick up an application. Pampa ISD is an EOE.

The Gray/Roberts County Farm Service Agency (FSA)

is seeking applicants for the position of Full-Time, Temporary Program Technician. All candidates must be U.S. citizens, high school graduates or the equivalent. Basic requirements include general office clerical work, record keeping, computer ability, organizational skills and good public relation skills are a must. Basic Farm Knowledge is a plus. All applicants must undergo a background investigation. Applications (FSA-675) may be obtained at the USDA Gray/Roberts County Service Center, 12125 Frederic, Pampa, Texas. Applications must be delivered no later than close of business on March 31, 2014. For more information, contact Leasha Hobbs, Program Technician at (806) 665-6561. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CUSTOMER Service Representative position:

DFB Insurance group is looking for a person with property and casualty insurance experience. DFB is a regional insurance agency headquartered in Pampa. Excellent pay and benefits for the right person. If you are looking for a great career in a family oriented atmosphere, please send your resume to 117 East Kingsmill Ave., Pampa, TX 79065

TOP PAY For Maintenance Man.

Must have valid Driver's License. Apply at 800 N. Nelson. 665-1875

WAIT Staff AND Dishwasher/Prep needed.

Drug free work environment. Apply in person Pampa Country Club, 1765 E. Harvester. NO phone calls, please!

NEW/USED CAR LOT PORTER

Culberson Stowers INC. is seeking a customer focused professional for new/used car lot porter.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- ★ Move vehicles and properly display them on the new/used car lot
- ★ Maintain cleanliness of new/used car building/lot space
- ★ Organize the set up and take down of events
- ★ Make sure all vehicles are clean on the lot and in working order
- ★ Verify all vehicles have proper stickers as required by management and state law
- ★ Transport vehicles, customers, or employees to necessary locations
- ★ Assist new/used car department where needed

REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Candidate must be 21 or over
- ★ A high school diploma or equivalent
- ★ Know how to drive a manual transmission vehicle
- ★ Must have the ability to multi-task
- ★ Have a valid driver's license and good driving record
- ★ Must be able to pass a drug test and background check

BENEFITS

- ★ Opportunities for advancement
- ★ Quality training
- ★ Medical insurance
- ★ 401K
- ★ Flexible schedules & More

Log on to CulbersonAutos.com and follow the NOW HIRING tab to apply. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

CULBERSON-STOWERS
805 North Hobart Street • 806-665-1665

BANANAGRAMS!

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

LEVEL

A D E E I O Q
R R R S T T U W

BANANA BITE: One word is part of a checkerboard.

BANANA BITE: One word means "twisting force."

Yesterday's Answer: GRANULE 3.28

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Advanced



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1974 ELECTRA GLIDE
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806-661-8285

2006 Harley Ultra Classic, 7,400 original miles, factory Big Boar, Screaming Eagle pipes, two tone paint, garage kept. \$13,500, 806-662-3660.

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2004 EXPRESS Hyperlift bass boat. 17' in good shape. '06 50hp Yamaha. Stainless prop, runs good. New tires on trailer. fish finder, trolling. Lots of space. \$6000 OBO. 806-662-9803

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CERAMIC tile work, stucco, cement, remodeling, floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free estimate. New # 440-0239, leave msg, Jesus Baraza.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769

HOUSE cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563.

Ogle Fence Company Free Estimates Repair & New Const. 665-1712

Legals / Pubic Notice

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 1233 N. Hobart Street, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 11, 2014 for Band Equipment & Supplies. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806) 669-4700. F-75 3/28-29/14

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marvin Donaldson Fletcher, Deceased, were issued on March 24, 2014, in Cause No. 10101, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: Alan Fletcher.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Alan Fletcher
c/o: J.A. Martindale
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1017
114 West Kingsmill Avenue
Pampa, TX 79065
DATED the 24th day of March, 2014.

J.A. Martindale
Attorney for Alan Fletcher
State Bar No.: 13127000
P.O. Box 1017
114 West Kingsmill Avenue
Pampa, TX 79065
Telephone: (806) 665-0714
Facsimile: (806) 665-2915
E-mail: jam@nts-online.net
F-77 3/28/2014

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 1233 N. Hobart Street, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:30 p.m., Friday, April 11, 2014 for Custodial Supplies and Equipment. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806) 669-4700. F-76 3/28-29/14

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Keith Taylor Home 874-1779 W. msg



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been married almost four years. Recently I had some medical problems that were my wake-up call. I'm fine now, but I no longer am willing to wait for "someday."

I decided to try some new hobbies, one of which is skydiving. I had said for years I'd never do it because I'm afraid of heights. But I have changed my mind, and for me, this is a big deal.

When I asked my husband what he thought, his response was, "I'm not spending the day just to see you jump out of an airplane." Talk about disappointing!

I have always "gone with the flow" when he has wanted to do something. I know he doesn't want to go skydiving, but all I wanted was his support, and maybe someone to take a video or pictures.

His response has left me wondering about a lot of things. I have

had enough of his negativity. He doesn't do anything except stay home. I guess I expected him to be excited for me, or to say he didn't want me doing it. The first is what I would have preferred. Now I'm not sure where I go from here. — DISAPPOINTED IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I hope you realize this letter isn't about skydiving, but your husband's refusal to help you celebrate your new lease on life.

A successful marriage is one in which a couple ideally grows TOGETHER. If your husband is unwilling or unable to do that, then "where you go from here" is to first ask him if he's willing to talk to a marriage counselor with you. If he's not, then schedule some sessions for yourself with a licensed professional and discuss the circumstances that led

to your "wake-up call." It will help you rationally — and unemotionally — decide how best to enjoy this gift of life you have been given.

DEAR ABBY: You have addressed cellphone etiquette in your column before, but in this day and age it bears repeating.

We attended a meeting for parents and students last night at our child's high school. Inevitably, a cellphone rang, which can happen to anyone. The ring was quickly silenced.

A few minutes later, another cellphone started ringing. Rather than mute it, the parent answered it and proceeded to have a conversation during the meeting while a school staff person was making a presentation. It wasn't a long conversation, but it wasn't quiet either. The parent was sitting in the back row — he could have easily slipped out to

have this "important" conversation.

Thanks for letting me vent. It was extremely annoying and rude. Now I know why his son has no common sense. — ANNOYED IN IOWA

DEAR ANNOYED: At most events an announcement is made beforehand that cellphones should be

turned off. If there is an interruption, an experienced speaker will pause until the interruption ceases. From your letter, I assume that isn't what happened last night.

Children learn manners and common sense by watching their parents. If consideration for others isn't modeled

for them, they don't learn it.

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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OPEN HOUSES

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BEAUTIFUL VIEWS

117 Walnut 13-81246

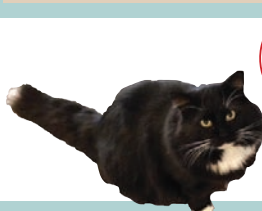
CHECK THIS OUT — Walnut Creek Estates with beautiful views! This home features 5 or 6 bed-rooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 living areas and 2 car garage. There's also a small front office and formal dining room. The isolated master bedroom has a private deck. Brick shop/storage. Sprinkler system in front and back yards.



LOTS AND LOTS OF CABINETS

1535 N. Russell 13-9952

CUTE 2 bedroom, OPEN Floor Plan Living Area, Dining to Kitchen with a large Back Den with Fireplace that could easily be a 3rd Bedroom, Large Closets, Large Kitchen with Lots and Lots of Cabinets.



PAWS weekly picks

NEW ARRIVAL



STORM CELLAR



804 N. Wells 14-10016

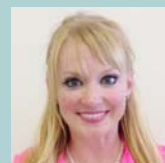
This 3 Bedroom 1 Bath Brick Home is MOVE IN READY, New Plumbing. It has many features such as Open Floor Plan, NEW Paint, Flooring, Patio, LOTS of Back Yard Storage Buildings, Storm Cellar-Come See Today.

HOUSEHUNTERS Realtor

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Linda Laycock
Broker
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(806) 662-1312



Tisha Holman
Associate
(806) 440-4153



Larry Hadley
Associate
(806) 662-2779

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Petrichio's town
 - 40 Iowa city
 - 41 Departed
 - 1 "Yeah, right!"
 - 5 Alley prowlers
 - 9 Tier
 - 11 Grate stuff
 - 13 Dancer Castle
 - 14 Fine flour maker
 - 15 In the past
 - 16 Fear-inducing
 - 18 Mars
 - 20 Work unit
 - 21 Bra part
 - 22 Diamond corner
 - 23 Holster's place
 - 24 Young one
 - 25 Like the piper
 - 27 Wood strips
 - 29 "— Not Unusual"
 - 30 Pizza slices, often
 - 32 Indigenous group
 - 34 Join the crew
 - 35 In proximity
 - 36 Grammar topic
 - 38 Personnel worker

S	T	A	B		A	B	A	S	H			
H	A	N	O	I		M	A	L	T	A		
A	H	E	A	D		A	L	I	E	N		
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R	E	I	N	S		S	N	A	R	E		
S	O	L	E	S				E	N	D	S	

Yesterday's answer

- 12 Grassy plant
- 17 Gym unit
- 19 Parched
- 22 One and the other
- 24 Touches base
- 25 Recipe amount
- 26 Venezia setting
- 27 Golf position
- 28 James Clavell novel
- 30 Civil rights leader
- 31 Worry
- 33 Under-standing words
- 37 Carpentry tool

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9				10		11			12
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19					20	
	21							22	
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35						36	37		
38						39			
	40							41	

Home demolitions turn Detroit into blank canvas

DETROIT (AP) — The families of Detroit's Brightmoor area are delighted that the day is finally approaching when bulldozers will arrive to level more of their neighborhood. After that, their community's future will be like the cleared landscape — a blank canvas.

For years, Brightmoor residents pleaded with the city to demolish vacant homes that scavengers had stripped of wiring and plumbing and anything of value. Some structures are already gone, and snow officials aim to do much more, possibly tearing down as many as 450 empty houses each week across more than 20 square miles of this bankrupt city — a vast patchwork of rotting homes comparable to the size of Manhattan.

The huge demolition project holds the potential to transform large parts of Detroit into an urban-redevelopment laboratory like the nation has never seen. But community leaders here and in cities that have attempted similar transformations say Detroit's best efforts could still wither from lack of money, lack of commitment or harsh economic realities.

"What's the plan for lots to keep them from becoming a different type of blight?" asked Tom Goddeeris, executive director of Grandmont Rosedale Development Corp.,

a nonprofit community improvement group representing a cluster of five Detroit neighborhoods.

The ambitious demolition schedule was formally presented last month as part of the city's plans to emerge from bankruptcy.

The changes could be far-reaching: Unlike other cities where building space is almost always limited, Detroit will offer urban planners a rare chance to experiment with wide-open land. Neighborhood advocates are talking excitedly about creating urban gardens, farms, forests and other types of "green space." Brightmoor already has the Lyndon Greenway, which connects two large parks with smaller parks and bike paths.

No other American city has as many abandoned properties as Detroit. But smaller-scale successes with similar green initiatives have been engineered in places such as Philadelphia and Cleveland.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philly Green program has converted roughly 10,000 vacant lots over the last two decades, making it the "gold standard," said Joe Schilling, who directs the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech.

Having a non-governmental organization manage and design the effort, is a huge advantage, Schilling said.

"To use a military metaphor, if you go in with your demolition forces and you're trying to get a stronghold in a particular strategic place, you have to be able to stabilize it before you keep moving on in your campaign," he said. "Otherwise, you're going to go back in ... five years and removing all the trash."

An overall "urban greening" effort for Detroit would be costly, probably requiring money from both public and private sources. Philadelphia benefited from a \$250 million bond issue that included about \$12 million for greening efforts.

Detroit is not in a financial position to issue bonds while in bankruptcy, Schilling said, but it could find other ways to offer an "infusion of resources."

The city proposes to tear down as many homes every week as were demolished in all of 2012 in Youngstown, Ohio, another city marred by abandoned buildings because of dwindling population and industry.

Youngstown received many accolades for the plan it launched in 2005 to retool itself into a smaller, greener city. But John Russo, co-author of "Steel-town U.S.A.," a book about Youngstown and co-founder of the Center for Working-Class Studies at Youngstown State Univer-

sity, said the plan "promised much more than it delivered."

The project inflated the number of jobs it created, did "ad-hoc" demolition and "reinforced the types of economic polarization and inequalities that already existed in the area," Russo said.

"What they wound up creating were just islands in a landscape of disinvestments, blight and instability," said Russo, now a visiting professor at the Metropolitan Institute. "If you go to urban gardens three to four years after, they're vacant lots again."

He says lasting solutions "are much more complicated than urban farms and demolitions," adding that they create "a diversion from much more serious economic decisions that have been made."

Detroit's plan intentionally avoids spelling out what happens after the bulldozers leave. A spokesman for Detroit's emergency manager, Kevin Orr, said that's outside the scope of the bankruptcy case. Advocates believe those decisions are best left to neighborhoods.

That underscores Detroit's greatest challenge: Except for the city's rebounding downtown and midtown districts, most residential neighborhoods aren't attracting developers. If the vacant land had commercial potential, re-

development would have happened long ago.

"Just clearing these properties is not going to do anything in the long run in returning Detroit to a new vibrant, wonderful city," said Robert Inman, a professor of finance, economics and public policy at University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Demolitions are an "important first step," Inman added, but "no city can survive without a really vibrant private economy." A realistic model for Detroit's future, he said, is Pittsburgh, which went from a "steel town to an idea town" between 1960 and 1990 and shed half its population.

Even if Detroit succeeds in attracting new businesses that might bring technology, education and medical jobs, those projects are geared mainly toward the business and entertainment districts.

"That's wonderful," said Maggie DeSantis, president of the Warren Conner Development Coalition and a longtime community redevelopment advocate. "But ... it's not going to make use of all the open space."

She's also interested in gardens, hydroponic farms and other food-related businesses. For example, a shuttered east-side high school is being turned into a 27-acre farm with a food-processing facility

and greenhouse-like structures to get an early start on spring crops.

But she acknowledges the many unknowns that loom over the process.

"Real Estate 101 says cleared land has inherently more value than land with a blighted structure on it. That would be great in a city that's normal and has conventional real estate market turnover," DeSantis said. "Detroit, right now, is down the rabbit hole — nothing about it is normal."

The city has plenty of organizations involved in reclamation efforts. Still, Schilling said, the greatest challenge will be "connecting the dots," and real results might not be seen for a decade, he said.

"It's going to be more of an incremental transformation," he said. Any reuse is welcome for Ray Johnson, a 30-year resident of the North Rosedale Park neighborhood and retired Chrysler worker. He mows the lawns of a couple of vacant properties as he awaits the wrecking crews.

"My house will be paid for next year. My plan is to stay here," said Johnson, talking in front of a community tree nursery where homes once stood. "I was going to move, but my wife talked me out of it."

"She said it's going to improve," he added. "We'll see."

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WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM GETS NEW HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING UNIT



Submitted photo

Malcolm Hinkle installed the new rooftop air conditioner and heating system Tuesday at the White Deer Land Museum for a bid of \$5,749. The unit was installed over the archive room, which has to maintain a certain temperature in order to keep items in tip-top shape. Dicky McCarn, left, and Carl Atwood, right, are pictured installing the unit.

Local judge attends seminar

SUBMITTED

Judge Kurt R. Curfman was certified at the recent



Judge Kurt Curfman

Twenty-Hour Justice of the Peace Seminar held March 9-12 in Rockwall. The seminar was sponsored

by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Texas State University, with offices in Austin.

The seminar is held for elected Justices of the Peace so they can fulfill their Continuing Judicial Education Requirements as set forth in Article 27.005 of the Texas Government Code.

The seminar addressed topics such as the new rules of Justice court, deferred disposition and D.S.C., ju-

venile criminal cases, failure to attend school cases, enforcement of civil judgments, tenants' remedies, new legal and Attorney General opinions, family violence, commercial motor vehicle offenses, video magistration, specialized eviction issues, the Justice of the Peace's role in preventing DWI offenses, record management, legal research, inquests, magistration and enforcing criminal judgments.

Statewide gas price average increases 2 cents

SUBMITTED BY AAA TEXAS

The statewide average for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel in Texas is now \$3.36, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. That price is two cents more than one week ago and 18 cents less per gallon than one year ago. Of the major metropolitan areas surveyed in Texas, drivers in Ft. Worth are paying the most at \$3.47, and drivers in San Antonio are paying the least at \$3.25 per gallon. Drivers in the Lone Star State are paying an average of 18 cents less per gallon than drivers na-

tionwide. The national gas price average sits at \$3.54.

AAA analysts expect prices will peak in the coming weeks. How much more prices rise will likely be dictated by the impact of seasonal refinery maintenance and any disruptions to production or distribution. As is the case each spring, refiners are required to switch over to producing summer-blend gasoline by May 1. The maintenance that refineries undertake in advance of the switch over and the actual switch itself increases the chance of disruptions to production, which can send prices higher in the area that is

normally supplied by a limited or offline facility. While refinery issues have thus far been minimal this spring, the next several weeks will bear close attention.

"Pump prices in most states moved higher over the last week," said AAA Texas/New Mexico Representative Doug Shupe. "It now costs a driver in Texas about \$47 to fill up the typical 14-gallon size fuel tank."

AAA Texas can be visited on the Internet at www.AAA.com. Follow AAA Texas on Twitter: @AAA-Texas and Facebook: www.facebook.com/AAATexas.

UN General Assembly votes 'yes' on Ukraine unity

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — In a sweeping rebuke of Moscow, the U.N. General Assembly on Thursday overwhelmingly affirmed Ukraine's territorial integrity and deemed the referendum that led to Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula illegal.

The vote on the Ukraine-sponsored resolution was 100 countries in favor, 11 opposed and 58 abstentions. While Ukraine has a lot of sympathy among the 193 U.N. member states, Russia has a lot of clout.

Both sides lobbied hard ahead of the vote, and diplomats had predicted a significant number of abstentions and a maximum 80 to 90 countries supporting the resolution.

So the high number of "yes" votes, representing more than half the 193 U.N. member states, was a sign of international anger at Moscow's slow-motion military invasion of Crimea.

"This support has come from all corners of the world which shows that this (is) not only a regional matter but a global one," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchysia told reporters after the vote.

Russia was only able to muster 10 other "no" votes — Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, North Korea, Nicaragua, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Unlike the more powerful Security Council, resolutions in the General Assembly cannot be vetoed but are not legally binding.

Russia has blocked action in the Security Council where they have veto

power as one its five permanent members. Even so, the 15-member council has held eight meetings on Ukraine, as Western powers strive to keep up the pressure on Moscow.

Before the vote, Ukraine's Deshchysia told the assembly that his country's territorial integrity and unity had been "ruthlessly trampled" by Russia, a permanent member of the Security Council entrusted to maintain international peace and security, and in direct violation of the U.N. Charter.

"This text is all about respect for territorial integrity and non-use of force to settle disputes," he said.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin urged a "no" vote, saying a historic injustice in Crimea has been corrected and its people had expressed their right to self-determination in wanting to join Russia.

He called the resolution "confrontational in nature" and said it would be "counterproductive" to challenge the results of the referendum.

Over the past week, Churkin mounted a campaign against the resolution, claiming the dispute is an East-West issue. Ukraine's U.N. Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev countered in meetings with regional groups that Russia violated the U.N. Charter and stressed that the country is not a member of any bloc.

"The international community has sent a strong message through the passing of this resolution that Russia cannot simply trample over international law,"

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a statement after the vote.

U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power, in urging a "yes" vote, stressed its call for a diplomatic, not a military solution, to the crisis and the need to de-escalate tensions and an electoral process that allows all Ukrainians to choose their leaders freely and without coercion.

"We have always said that Russia has legitimate interests in Ukraine," Power said. "It has been disheartening in the extreme to see Russia carry on as if Ukrainians have no legitimate interests in Crimea."

Crimea has been at the center of Europe's greatest geopolitical crisis since the end of the Cold War. Russian troops took over the Ukrainian peninsula, where Russia's Black Sea fleet is based, and Moscow officially annexed Crimea following a referendum last week.

The upheaval in Crimea is the fallout of months of anti-government protests and outbursts of violence that led to the ouster of Ukraine's pro-Russia president, Viktor Yanukovich, who fled last month.

The resolution adopted Thursday says the referendum on Crimea has "no validity" and calls on all countries and organizations not to recognize Russia's annexation.

It also calls on all parties to immediately pursue a peaceful resolution of the situation in Ukraine "through direct political dialogue" and to refrain from "inflammatory rhetoric that may increase tensions."

Energy boom spurs growth west of the Mississippi

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's cities are still growing, with the population boom fueled by people picking up and moving to find jobs in energy production across the oil- and gas-rich areas west of the Mississippi River.

New 2013 census information released Thursday shows that cities are the fastest-growing parts of the United States, and a majority of the metro areas showing that growth are located in or near the oil- and gas-rich fields of the Great Plains and Mountain West.

Neighboring cities Odessa and Midland, Texas, show up as the second and third fastest-growing metro areas in the country. Sara Higgins, the Midland public information officer, has a simple explanation: oil. "They're coming here to work," Higgins said.

Energy production is one of the fastest-growing industries in the United States, the Census Bureau said. The boom in the U.S. follows the use of new technologies, such as hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, to tap oil and gas reserves.

"Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industries were the most rapidly growing part of our nation's economy over the last several years," Census Bureau Director John H. Thompson said.

According to its data, revenue for mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction grew 34.2 percent to \$555.2 billion from 2007 to 2012. It also was among the fastest growers in employment as the number of employees rose 23.3 percent to 903,641.

The population boom does come with some challenges, said Andrea

Goodson, the public information coordinator in Odessa, including the need for quick improvements to city infrastructure and housing to deal with the influx of new people.

With the population increase "comes a unique set of circumstances to deal with, so it's been a double-edged sword," Goodson said.

While energy exploration is drawing people to the Great Plains and Mountain West, Florida is still the one of the top destinations in the country, as it shows up again and again in census data for population growth.

Fueled by an increasing number of retirees, the fastest-growing metro area in the country was The Villages, boasting a 5.2 percent increase in population between 2012 and 2013. Its surrounding county, Sumter County, also shows up as one of the fastest-growing counties in the country with a 5.2 percent increase during the time period.

Gary Lester, vice president for community relations at The Villages, said Friday it draws retirees and people from all 50 states to their communities, which were designed with the influx of people in mind. "It's all about the active lifestyle we offer," Lester said.

Following The Villages, Odessa and Midland were Fargo, N.D.-Minn. (3.1 percent); Bismarck, N.D. (3.1 percent); Casper, Wyo. (2.9 percent); Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, S.C.-N.C. (2.7 percent); Austin-Round Rock, Texas (2.6 percent); Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, Ala. (2.6 percent); and Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Fla. (2.5 per-

cent).

The fastest-growing counties were Williams County, N.D. (10.7 percent increase from 2013); Duchesne County, Utah (5.5 percent increase); Sumter County, Fla. (5.2 percent); Stark County, N.D. (5.0 percent); Kendall County, Texas (5.0 percent); St. Bernard Parish, La. (4.6 percent); Wasatch County, Utah (4.4 percent); Meade County, S.D. (4.3 percent); Fort Bend County, Texas (4.2 percent) and Hays County, Texas (4.1 percent).

The Census Bureau also found:

— Metro areas grew faster than the United States as a whole (0.9 percent compared with 0.7 percent).

— Metro areas with populations of 1 million or more in 2012 grew 1.0 percent, compared with 0.5 percent for those with populations of less than 250,000.

—The nation's fastest-growing city by number of people was Houston, which gained 138,000 people between 2012 and 2013. The surrounding county, Harris County, also showed the fastest numerical population increase at almost 83,000 people.

—New York was the nation's largest metropolitan area, with 19.9 million residents.

—Los Angeles was once again the nation's most populous county, with a population of more than 10 million.

The census estimates are based on local records of births and deaths, Internal Revenue Service records of people moving within the United States and census statistics on immigrants.

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TALLES from the TOP OF TEXAS



Texas hand-crafted for all



Photo courtesy of Bobby Lee
The original location of the Big Texan on Amarillo Boulevard until 1970.

By JOHN LEE
jlee@thepampanews.com

If you're from Texas, there is a stereotype that follows you around when you leave the state. The stereotype that we ride our horses to work, drink Lone Star Beer and all talk with an accent is wrong; we have cars and trucks now.

All joking aside, when you are across the border in what the rest of the country refers to as the United States, Americans think that Texans suffer from scorching hot weather, wear cowboys boots and hats and eat barbecue and drink beer. While anyone who lives here knows this stereotype to be just that, a stereotype, it is something Texans should wear with a badge of honor. When Bobby Lee's father, R.J. Lee, came to Texas and opened The Big Texan in 1960, nobody knew it would become the global icon that it has become.

"In 1960 it opened and was originally located on Route 66, the building is still over there," Lee said. "My dad had opened it as a western-style cafeteria. He was a Yankee from the North so he probably knew as much about Texas and the western cowboy-style as anybody else but he was fascinated by it because there wasn't anything else like it. He looked around (after Marriott had moved him to Amarillo) and said 'where are the cowboys?' Because he was from up North and they all thought we rode our horses to work. So he put in the western-style cafeteria.



Photo courtesy of Bobby Lee
The present location of The Big Texan before the new building was built in 1970.

"It was western-style, but what really made The Big Texan at its original location was the cowboys, when they would get off from the stockyards he would sell them 25-cent beer, and if it was payday he would cash their paychecks and he would have this center table for them to sit at and the tourists would come see these cowboys drinking this 25-cent beer, carousing and trying to outdo each other. That's what built this persona of The Big Texan."

Texas, which is larger than many countries on foreign continents has one of the largest U.S. highways, Interstate 40, running through the Texas Panhandle. Upon the completion of the interstate system, R.J. Lee moved the restaurant to its present location because the business on Route 66 and Amarillo Boulevard dropped. He moved it to the present location in 1970 where it continues to grow even after his death in 1990. But that wasn't the only reason he moved it.

"Route 66 got by-passed by I-40 and my dad had this little six acres here, and he bought it because you couldn't buy beer on Sundays in Amarillo because it was inside city limits," Lee said. "So he bought this little shack when it was just the two-lane road going to Dallas so he could sell beer on Sundays.

There are many traditions that have come out of The Big Texan over the last 50 years. The 72-ounce steak-eating competition is probably the most popular. Lee said The Big Texan has had about 140,000 people attempt to eat it, and the average is about one out of six people to complete it, for women it is one out of two. He also said they serve about three a day. There is no profile to a person who eats it. Some do it for tradition of the family, some just want to do it for bragging

rights. "It developed from these cowboys showing off in front of each other who can eat the most and my dad said 'this next Friday I am going to bring out one pound steaks and I want whoever wants to eat to put five dollars up, and I am I going to bring out one pound steaks and I want whoever can eat the most to show it,'" Lee said.

"One cowboy had eaten four and shown that he had ate mashed potatoes, a shrimp cocktail and a roll with butter and my dad said 'You ate four one-pound steaks and that's 72 ounces, from this day forward whoever eats what this man ate gets it for free,' because they figured that's the most anybody can eat, and that's how the promotion came to be."

The Big Texan serves about half a million guests a year, including approximately five international tourists a day. If some of The Big Texan's servers can convince folks to stay in Texas another day, they can stay in The Big Texan Motel (which also has a horse motel and a Texas-shaped pool) and they can be informed on checking out about Palo Duro Canyon, the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum or the many heritage sites between the Texas borders and Amarillo.



"We've got a responsibility to the travelers coming through here to present Texas to them," Lee said. "We also have a responsibility to the Texas Panhandle and Amarillo to make sure when they stop here, that we have a chance to convert them over to stay one extra day. Tell them about Palo Duro Canyon, tell them about the XIT Rodeo, tell them about Shamrock. That's why, when they stop one extra day in Amarillo, that's a huge economic boost for the entire area and it lets people know that there is more to the Texas Panhandle besides this long road you can blaze through here in a three-hour period of time."

When a guest enters The Big Texan through their main entrance, it instantly feels like a step through the Wild West Corridor. The west wing is a gift shop which even houses a rattlesnake. The east wing takes you into the dining room which makes one feel like they are in a saloon, only without the bar fights and piano. The middle wing has a bar where guests can sit and have a cold one, and if they would like, try some of The Big Texan's house-brewed beer served in a pint, or in a growler to go. The Big Texan was also featured in "Draft Magazine's" "Top 10 places to drink a beer."



"We have been working on the brewery for three years," Lee said. "I wish I could take credit for that but my brother is the beer enthusiast. I thought I'd let him try it and we have restaurants and convenience stores trying to buy some from us. We barely make enough for ourselves much less sell it elsewhere. We are such a small batch operations. That's one of those projects we are looking to expand."

All of the food that The Big Texan serves is made from scratch in-house. Bobby Lee said this stems from his father's beliefs in customer service. Some of the dining room's tables are actually the same tables that were in the original Big Texan.

"The biggest thing that we keep from my dad is food and service," Lee said. "He said 'you got to have good food and good service.' That's why all of our food is made from scratch. These are all the original recipes my dad used in the 1960s. Our salad dressings, our steak sauce, our sour creams, everything we make here is made from scratch. We cut and age all of our meat, even our hamburger meat. We make everything from scratch here, which is so different from your franchises or chains where everything is heat and serve. There is no adventure to it there. When you come to The Big Texan the flavor is good."

Whether in town for a day, a week or a lifetime, The Big Texan should be on the bucket list of all. For more information on The Big Texan, visit www.bigtexan.com or call 806-372-6000.

