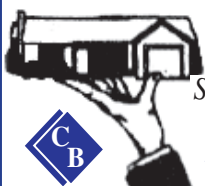


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Viewpoints: ‘Groused’ on the grouse
 President protects Hollywood | **p4**

Wheel Times event from Saturday
 Wrestling, soccer teams in weekend action | **p1B & 2B**

HEALTHY — BORN AT HOME



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Mercedes Larrazolo with her boyfriend, Alfonso Lopez, who is holding 4-day-old Maliah. Sitting on Larrazolo's lap is her daughter, Chloe, who will be 2 years old in February.

Grandma gets early morning surprise

By TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Pampa resident Lorraine Larrazolo got an unusual wakeup call — and a new granddaughter — all in the same morning.

Her daughter, Mercedes, was expecting to give birth to a daughter and deliver the baby in Amarillo. But that all changed in the wink of an eye.

On Friday, Larrazolo said she woke up at 5 a.m. barely hearing her phone ring.

She said there were five missed calls from her son as well as her daughter, who was expecting to have a baby.

“Not knowing what was happening I tried calling my daughter, Mercedes, but she never answered,” she said. “Then I called my son, Cris, who told me Mercedes was

on her way to his house to drop off her daughter, Chloe, because she was going to Amarillo to have her baby.”

Larrazolo called her daughter again, who answered and said she was down the street.

There were cries in her daughter’s voice.

Larrazolo said she looked outside, where Alfonso Lopez, Mercedes boyfriend, was bringing in Chloe.

“He said they were going to Amarillo and she (Mercedes) was having her baby,” Larrazolo said. “Just then Mercedes got out of the car and said she needed to use the bathroom.”

After a few minutes in the bathroom, her daughter said she was starting to bleed.

“I said, ‘Mercedes, you are not going to Amarillo, you’re having your baby here,’” Larrazolo said.

“Just then she screamed, ‘Alfonso, the baby is coming. I can feel its head.’”

At that point, Mercedes’ father, Lupe Larrazolo, said they should call an ambulance.

After that, Larrazolo said Lupe grabbed a blanket and laid it on the bathroom floor. Lopez took Mercedes off the toilet and then laid her on the floor.

“Lupe said, ‘You’re gonna have to push,’” Larrazolo said. “She was scared and her dad said, ‘Breathe, Mercedes, breathe.’ Then she started pushing and as we were looking Alfonso was delivering their daughter Maliah in the bathroom of our home.”

Larrazolo said she was frightened for her daughter, and what seemed to take like an eternity only took 20 minutes.

BABY cont. on page 3

Pampa man arrested for child porn

By SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

Department of Public Safety troopers on Friday arrested Juan Garcia Perez, 41, of Pampa, for possession of child pornography.



Texas Highway Patrol Public Information Officer Gabriel Medrano said Monday that the arrest is part of an ongoing investigation. As such, further details could not be released at this time.

Perez was released from the Gray County Sheriff’s Office on Saturday on a \$25,000 bond. The possession of child pornography charge is a third-degree felony and carries a prison sentence of no less than 2 years and no more than 10 years, as well as up to a \$10,000 fine.

City Commission to meet today

By SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

The Pampa City Commission will meet today at 4 p.m., to consider changing guidelines governing operation of the city’s Recreation Park, including the R.V. camping area, group shelter facility, lake, softball complex and concession building.

The Commission will also consider approving an amended agreement with Giffert Tuttle, who has been contracted to manage the R.V. park at Recreation Park. Terms of the three-year agreement include \$150 per week in compensation and 15 percent of all fees collected at the park up to a maximum of \$500 per month.

Also on Tuesday’s agenda are two items related to the mowing equipment at the Hidden Hills Public Golf Course.

Texans rally against more gun control

By TEXAS TRIBUNE

A self-proclaimed Paul Revere circled the state Capitol grounds on a bicycle Saturday at noon, ushering people to the north side of the building to join in a national day of protest against a renewed push for gun-control regulations.

The rally, organized by Guns Across America, a gun rights organization, was one of 49 protests occurring across the nation. It coincided with Gun Appreciation Day, a response to a national gun debate incited by the tragedy in Newtown, Conn., where 20 children and six staff members of Sandy Hook Elementary were killed by a gunman.

Roughly a thousand people attended the rally, and after a failed attempt to start a chant of “USA,” the crowd gathered together with shouts of “Texas!”

RALLY cont. on page 3

WHEEL TIMES IN PAMPA

A Wheel Times basketball game was held Saturday at Pampa High School. The mission of Wheel Times is to provide educational and recreational opportunities for children, young adults, and their families with mobility challenges.

Ryan Smith, left, helps wheel Lauren Pingel as she tries to pass to Jace Forward, far right. Also pictured are Jaycee Garth pushing Avery Ferguson and Kody Maddox helping Brody Gilbert. For more photos turn to page B1.



Photo by Diane Jennings

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Stars rub shoulders with politicians at inauguration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Beyonce drew a loud cheer from the audience Monday even before her impressive rendition of the national anthem.

The applause started when she took her place with Jay-Z at the Capitol to watch President Barack Obama take the oath for his second term in office. The two stopped to chat with the Rev. Al Sharpton.

James Taylor kicked off the musical performances, strumming his guitar and singing “America the Beautiful.” Kelly Clarkson followed with a different arrangement of “My Country ‘Tis of Thee.” Then Beyonce was introduced and the crowd again roared its approval.

Beyonce had a definite fan in Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who applauded eagerly after she finished singing the national anthem. She offered R&B-esque vocal riffs as she sang on and the crowd seemed to love it, cheering loudly as she finished. Clarkson, too, hit high notes.

Beyonce may have been the star musical attraction, but she had plenty of company from Hollywood at the Capitol on Monday. Katy Perry and John Mayer sat side-by-side, with Perry in an orange-striped coat and wide hat, and Mayer in dark sunglasses. Singer-songwriter Ke\$ha was there, too.

People flocked to the colorful pop star, snapping photos. And Perry did the same, taking shots of “Girls” actress and daughter of news anchor Brian Williams, Allison Williams.

Actress Eva Longoria was seated on the platform outside the Capitol after making an appearance at

a Kennedy Center performance Sunday night. Perry sang at the children’s concert the night before.

Former Boston Celtics great Bill Russell was in the crowd, too, along with actor Marlon Wayans.

Mexia man gets life in prison for killing father

GROESBECK, Texas (AP) — A Central Texas man has been sentenced to life in prison for the 2011 fatal shooting of his father at the home they shared.

A jury in Groesbeck convicted 28-year-old Chad Michael Musgrove of Mexia of capital murder in the slaying of 54-year-old William Doyle Patterson.

KWTX-TV reports a woman who also lived at the home told investigators she was abducted by Musgrove after the shooting. The woman says she was forced to accompany Musgrove to Montgomery County before she managed to flee and contacted officers.

Mexia police then discovered Patterson’s body. Musgrove was later captured at a residence in Panorama Village, about 40 miles north of Houston.

Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty so Musgrove received an automatic life prison term after being convicted last week.

Standoff in Killeen ends peacefully

KILLEEN, Texas (AP) — A standoff at a Central Texas residence has ended peacefully with an assault suspect caught and neighbors who evacuated during the more than 15-hour siege allowed to return home.

Killeen police say the

incident ended around 5 a.m. Monday. The man faces an assault charge against a woman from a domestic dispute Sunday afternoon. She managed to flee and call for help.

Police spokeswoman Carroll Smith says officers were speaking with the woman when the man threatened to harm himself. He allegedly had weapons and barricaded himself inside the residence. Neighbors were evacuated as a precaution.

Officers spoke with the suspect until he was taken into custody and transported to the Killeen City Jail. His name and further details on the woman weren’t immediately released.

Prince Harry returns from Afghanistan

LONDON (AP) — Capt. Wales is coming home to be Prince Harry once again.

The Ministry of Defense revealed Monday that the 28-year-old prince is returning from a 20-week deployment in Afghanistan, where he served as an Apache helicopter pilot with the Army Air Corps. It did not immediately divulge his exact whereabouts.

In interviews conducted in Afghanistan, the

third in line to the British throne described feeling boredom, frustration and satisfaction during a tour that saw him fire at Taliban fighters on missions in support of ground troops.

When asked whether he had killed from the cockpit, he said: “Yea, so lots of people have.”

He also spoke of his struggle to balance his job as an army officer with his royal role — and his relief at the chance to be “one of the guys.”

“My father’s always trying to remind me about who I am and stuff like that,” said Harry, the younger son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. “But it’s very easy to forget about who I am when I am in the army. Everyone’s wearing the same uniform and doing the same kind of thing.”

Stationed at Camp Bastion, a sprawling British base in the southern Afghan desert, the prince — known as Capt. Wales in the military — flew scores of missions as a co-pilot gunner, sometimes firing rockets and missiles at Taliban fighters. “Take a life to save a life. That’s what we revolve around, I suppose,” he said.

Both appropriations would be drawn from the city’s operating budget.

The Commission will also consider amending and renewing the city’s animal control agreements with the cities of Clarendon, Groom, Lefors, McLean, Skellytown and White Deer.

The Commission meets at Pampa City Hall, 201 W. Kingsmill St.

Baby

Continued From Page 1

The ambulance arrived and took Mercedes and the baby to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Maliah is a healthy girl weighing 5 pounds, 5 ounces and is 18 1/2 inches long.

Mercedes said Monday she was so frightened she thought she was going to die, but became calm when the baby came out.

Larrazolo said she now has a story to tell all her grandchildren.

“To us grandparents, this is a blessing from God and the baby and mother are doing fine,” she said.

Rally

Continued From Page 1

and “Freedom!” A large sign reading “Come and Take It” featuring a semi-automatic weapon where a cannon normally would sit loomed over the crowd as protesters waited for the event to begin.

Richard Mack, a former Arizona sheriff and failed

Texas congressional candidate, addressed the crowd, criticizing President Obama’s recent gun-related executive orders, calling them unconstitutional and “a joke.”

“If there was any good to gun control, it would be magic,” Mack said. “If you want magic, then go to Disneyland or see David Copperfield in Las Vegas.”

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President protects Hollywood

President Obama and Vice President Biden gathered their children for a photo-op as Obama showily signed executive orders to prevent future mass shootings. It quickly became obvious that regulating the entertainment media wasn't part of his solution. Politics once more trumped policy.

Hollywood not only went unregulated, it went unmentioned. Biden announced that he had met with "229 groups from law enforcement agencies to public health officials to gun officials to gun advocacy groups to sportsmen and hunters and religious leaders."

He also met with Hollywood lobbyists and video game manufacturers, but was there anyone really expecting those meetings to amount to anything? After all, Biden was reported to have "withheld judgment on whether graphic games fuel violence" when he met the game makers, but added, "you all know the judgment other people have made."

Translation: You media executives might have an image problem. But we're not here to worsen it.

Team Obama talked about a broad "national dialogue" about violence after Adam Lanza's suicidal shooting spree. Instead, they conducted a chummy off-the-record dialogue with their Hollywood and New York media-company campaign donors. The corporate flacks repeated all the usual moth-eaten lines to Biden about how parents can use their unreliable, self-evaluating ratings system.

These are lies. And that system has never worked and will never work so long as those responsible for producing this violence continue to be in charge of rating it.

Biden's meeting with the entertainment industry was a cozy D.C. lobbying confab. Guests included former Senator

Chris Dodd, now in Jack Valenti's place at the Motion Picture Association; former Senator Gordon Smith, now heading the National Association of Broadcasters; former FCC head Michael Powell, now chief lobbyist for cable TV; and an unnamed representative from Comcast. Let's just guess that's their chief lobbyist David Cohen who hosted a \$1.2 million fundraiser at his home with Obama in 2011.

Before he signed his executive orders on guns, Obama conducted his usual mudslinging in front of the children. "There will be pundits and politicians and special interest lobbyists publicly warning of a tyrannical, all-out assault on liberty," he warned. "Not because that's true, but because they want to gin up fear or higher ratings or revenue for themselves. And behind the scenes, they'll do everything they can to block any common-sense reform and make sure nothing changes whatsoever." He was, of course, referring to Fox News.

Do you know who wants to make sure nothing changes forever, and "common sense reforms" never surface for their own financial gain and higher ratings? The makers of violent TV, movies, music and video games. And do you know who just won re-election by constantly soliciting these blood-and-gore producers like a 24-hour ATM? It's no wonder the NRA calls Obama an "elitist hypocrite."

Hollywood hasn't exactly enacted a violence moratorium since Newtown. Matthew Philbin of the Media Research Center reports last week-end's top five movies at the box office contained 65 scenes of violence, with 185 individual victims and 38 of the 65 scenes depicted gun violence. That's leaving out "Texas Chainsaw Massacre 3-D," which led the box office receipts the previous weekend.

How is this for Hollywood sensitivity: the most violent movie of the top five was "Gang-

BOZELL cont. on page 5

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Prairie Plains Perspective

Prairie chicken can do fine without feds protecting

After reading "Texas energy industry could be stymied by small grouse" (The Pampa News, Wednesday, Jan. 16), I came away rather groused (sorry, couldn't resist) over the misinformation given about the lesser prairie chicken. The article from The Texas Tribune made me wonder why the author wrote such, as if wanting the reader to come away with only a pro conservation stance regarding the little fowl?

What the article told me is the author and The Texas Tribune know diddly-squat about what has already taken place in the matter of conservation and protection for the bird. Come next September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will decide if the fowl is threatened to the point that it needs protecting, and, if so, place it on the endangered species list.

If such an act occurs, a whole boatload of energy and agriculture business on property where the bird is known to exist will come to a screeching halt.

One environmentalist per the article is proclaiming, "The chicken is in serious trouble without protection of the Endangered Species Act." Another statement attributed to federal Fish and Wildlife folks says, "The land area inhabited by chickens has shrunk by 84 percent over the last century."

Mind you, regarding lesser prairie chicken habitat, we're talking about not only the Texas Panhandle, but Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico and Colorado. Environmentalists are worried the area's growing wind energy and renewed oil and gas exploration/drilling will harm the chickens. They soapbox by stating a "key problem is that prairie chickens fear tall structures, where predators like hawks can perch and spot them" while adding "wind turbines, transmission towers and drilling rigs are generally the tallest things on the plains."

Since my childhood and unashamed to aver, I am a very experienced birder. I understand everything there is no know about the lesser prairie

chicken and raptors that prey upon the fowl. I can tell you unequivocally that a raptor will not be perching on a wind turbine or drilling rig. Indeed, a raptor will perch sometimes to use it's



DENNIS PALMITIER

also soar about in the sky to do the same, but I can also tell you that a raptor's kill ratio on it's prey is maybe one in five attempts, and lesser prairie chickens are not raptors sole diet. The environmentalists worry over raptors somehow getting an "edge" on the lesser prairie chicken because of our region's industry is pure bunk.

Another point grousing me about the article's inaccuracies is the following. Last spring 2012, a group calling themselves the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Grassland Initiative, which Texas Parks and Wildlife is a member, partnered with an environmental concern out of Wyoming called West EcoSystems to do a count of lesser prairie chickens in the bird's five state habitat. On Oct. 11 the group provided their tally, an estimated 37,170 birds.

Threatened, endangered? Hardly. This count was achieved by the use of low/slow flying aircraft over a gridded area covering some 300,000 square miles.

Of note, Texas Parks and Wildlife has a lesser prairie chicken conservation program called Candidate Conservation with Agreement Assurances, or CCAA. TP&W's mission is to sign up as many Panhandle landowners as possible where the lesser prairie chicken is known to

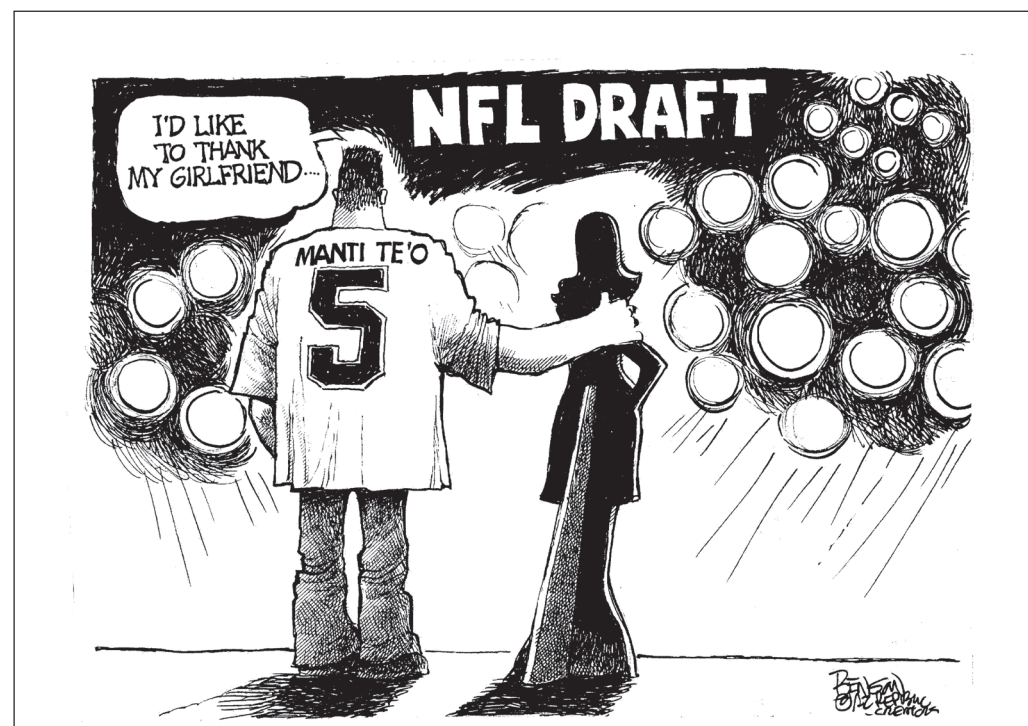
exist and contract with the farmer/rancher to set aside acreage for the fowl to continue thriving.

TP&W will provide all the necessary conservation tools free of charge to the landowner. I recommend any Panhandle farmer or rancher reading this article who has not signed up on TP&W's CCAA Program for the lesser prairie chicken to do so. Why? It would be a prudent move if the bird is listed as endangered because you will be working with Texas officials rather than those representing federal Fish and Wildlife. Prudent because while conserving the lesser prairie chicken on your property, you will still be able to perform your agriculture endeavor and reap the rewards of any energy royalties. Once the feds show up and step in, you will not...

What I can also tell you if the feds list the lesser prairie chicken as endangered will be a gradual decrease in Pampa, Wheeler, Perryton and Canadian of all the thriving energy related businesses building offices in our region, a reduction of energy related workers from afar renting hotel/motel space, dining at our restaurants, refueling at gas/diesel stations, purchasing items at retail stores — translated as sales tax revenue to our cities and counties.

Energy related royalties to landowners and investors will abate — all will die a slow death while those concerned wait for federal government studies to be completed where the agriculture and energy industry already coexist with the lesser prairie chicken. The Panhandle simply cannot afford for the lesser prairie chicken to be listed as endangered, and The Texas Tribune writer should have researched and been more accurate in presenting both sides of the issue.

Pampa resident Dennis Palmitier is a regular contributor to the opinion page on issues that affect Pampa and Gray County. He can be reached at denpalm1949@yahoo.com.



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Celebrating pot culture bad for society

If you have kids, you most likely prayed hard that they would avoid drugs and alcohol. Once a child becomes intoxicated, childhood is over. The young person will never be the same again.

Thus, a sane society discourages substance abuse if only to protect children. A sane society does not put a happy face on inebriation.

We are not a sane society.

With almost 30 million Americans currently categorized as "substance abusers," you would think that Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign, which launched in 1983, would be resurrected. But saying no is not what America in 2013 is all about. Saying yes to whatever you want to do is the rule of the day.

Washington State and Colorado have legalized the use of marijuana, and many Americans are celebrating. As Bob Dylan once sang: "Everybody

must get stoned!" The usual excuses are put forth: It's a freedom issue. We can tax the drug to generate revenue. It

will get the criminal element out of it.

But the truth is that legalized pot (or drugs of any kind) creates massive unintended

consequences.

—In Holland, so many problems arose from pot being sold in "coffee shops" that a law banning the sale of cannabis to "foreigners" was passed. It seems the streets of Amsterdam, in particular, have become saturated with stoned people doing things outside that should be done inside.

—The Netherlands recently passed a new law, forbidding children from

smoking pot in school.

That's right, some of the urchins were getting high between classes. One teacher told the press it's hard to stop that when pot is being sold legally across the street where hard-core drug addicts buy it and then sell it to the kids in order to get heroin money.

—In Portugal, they have legalized all drugs. The result: Drug-related homicides have increased by 40 percent. Drug overdoses are up by 30 percent.

—In Switzerland, drug-related deaths doubled and the health care system was overwhelmed after heroin was made legal in Zurich. The law was rescinded.

But here in the USA, we are now bullish on pot. Willie Nelson wrote a book glorifying the drug. Snoop Dogg says he wants to teach his kids how to smoke reefer. And the media in general see marijuana as a harmless diversion. If you are down on pot, you are decidedly

uncool.

Fine with me. I'll risk the stigma. According to the federal government, 8,400 Americans begin using drugs every day, half of them under the age of 18. And 68 percent of folks who become addicted to drugs begin with marijuana. Get the picture?

Celebrate the pot culture if you want. But know that you are not helping kids by taking the high road.

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

To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the website www.billoreilly.com.

Bozell

Continued From Page 4

ster Squad.” The ending scene was changed since the trailer originally showed the gangsters shooting up a theater, which became a no-no after the Aurora theater shooting. They just changed the massacre setting. The same hypocrisy was proven about violent TV. ABC Entertainment President Paul Lee proclaimed at TV’s winter press tour, “We are tremendously sensitive to this issue; we think about it and talk about it all the time. We are storytellers, but we want to make sure that the stories we tell are done with moral integrity.” On the very same day Hollywood’s lobbyists met with Biden,

the ABC drama “Scandal” carried a graphic three-minute torture-and-beating scene. Viewers saw a man being waterboarded, his nose being broken and his face pounded into a bloody mess, with blood spattering on the walls. This is ABC’s idea of “moral integrity.” They were so “tremendously sensitive” about it that they rated it TV-14 because eighth-graders apparently wouldn’t find this disturbing at all. Obama and Hollywood want you to know they care deeply about the children.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center.

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Ten most common misconceptions about SS

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

If I had the space, I probably could write a column called “The One Thousand Most Common Misconceptions About Social Security.” I see examples of them almost every day in the emails I get from my readers. Alas, I’ll barely have room to cover the top ten. This week, I’ll stick to the program side of Social Security. Next week, I’ll go over some of the most common policy and political misunderstandings.

Misconception One: Social Security retirement benefits are based on your last 10 years of earnings. Other misunderstandings say benefits are based on a “high five” or a “last three” base of earnings. None are true. All retirement benefits are based on a person’s highest 35 years of earnings -- with each year being adjusted for inflation.

Misconception Two: If you work after you start getting Social Security, the extra taxes you pay will automatically increase your Social Security check. You will only get such an automatic increase if your current income is higher than the lowest of the 35 inflation-adjusted years of earnings used in your original computation.

Misconception Three: You can take reduced benefits at 62 and later switch to full benefits on your own or a spouse’s record. With very few exceptions (the major one applying to widows), you simply can’t do that. If you apply for any kind of Social Security benefit before age 66, you must file for all other benefits you are due at the same time. But those rules change dramatically if

you wait until age 66 to file. To understand these rules, send me an email and ask for a free digital copy of my fact sheet, “When to Take Your Social Security Benefits.”

Misconception Four: Working women are cheated because they cannot get their own retirement benefit and a wife’s or widow’s benefit from their husband’s account. I get emails almost every day from women complaining about this issue. Interestingly, I’ve never once heard from a working man complaining that he can’t get a husband or widower’s benefit from his wife’s Social Security record. Simply put: As a general rule, if you are due two benefits (and any married person who works is potentially due benefits from his or her own record and from a spouse’s account), you only get the benefit that pays the higher rate. To clarify further, you should understand that spousal benefits are only due to financially dependent wives or husbands.

Misconception Five: You must be married for at least 10 years to qualify for spousal benefits from Social Security. That 10-year duration of marriage rule applies only to divorced spouses.

Misconception Six: Any benefits paid to a divorced spouse offset payments due to a current spouse. That is simply wrong. Social Security checks paid to an ex-spouse have no impact on benefits payable to a current spouse. They each can receive whatever spousal benefits they are due.

Misconception Seven:

Abortion back on Texas Legislature’s agenda

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Legislature is back, and so are more proposals to restrict abortions.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry has told lawmakers that he expects more anti-abortion laws during the 2013 session to work toward his goal “to make abortion at any stage a thing of the past.” Anti-abortion activists have pledged to use every legal means possible to make obtaining abortions difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

Last session Perry signed into law two measures, one requiring doctors to conduct trans-vaginal sonograms before performing an abortion, and another banning groups that support abortion rights from participating in state-funded health programs. This year he wants to further curtail when a woman can have an abortion, a law that courts have blocked in Georgia,

Oklahoma and Arizona.

“We ... need to better protect our most vulnerable citizens, the unborn, by expanding the ban on abortion to any baby that can feel the pain of the procedure, and putting in place common-sense oversights on clinics and physicians involved,” Perry told lawmakers on the opening day of the 2013 legislative session.

The so-called fetal pain bill relies on controversial claims that a fetus can feel pain after 20 weeks of gestation. Under current law, states can only ban abortions after 24 weeks. Women’s rights activists point to scientific studies that find no evidence to support the claim. Tarrant County Sen. Wendy Davis opposes the effort to “chip away” at a woman’s right to choose. “This bill, which is not grounded in sound science, represents just one more effort to intercede in decisions best

made by a woman and her doctor,” Davis said. “Because these so-called small government advocates won’t acknowledge that a woman’s right to choose is the law of the land, they’re reduced to expanding government into women’s health care decisions.”

Lawmakers have passed similar bills in Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana, Idaho, Alabama and Nebraska. But the Oklahoma Supreme Court overturned the law and federal judges in Georgia and Arizona have blocked enforcement of the measure there. The courts determined the laws infringe on a woman’s civil rights.

Janet Crepps, an attorney for the Center for Reproductive Rights, said the laws are part of a national anti-abortion strategy.



Teachers are cheated out of Social Security benefits on a spouse’s record. This fallacy grows out of a misunderstanding of a law called the “government pension offset.” That law simply says that teacher’s pensions (received by teachers in jobs not covered by Social Security) will be treated like a Social Security retirement benefit. Social Security retirement benefits have always offset any spousal benefits a person might be due. The GPO law simply says that teacher’s retirement pensions will also offset any spousal benefits due. To understand this better, send me an email and ask for a free digital copy of my fact sheet, “Pension Offsets and Social Security.”

Misconception Eight: Social Security disability benefits are welfare. Where does this idea come from? (Actually, I think I know, and it’s explained in the next paragraph.) Let’s look at two people. Joe has worked and paid Social Security taxes all his life. He retires at age 62 and gets Social Security retirement benefits. Jack has also worked and paid Social Security taxes all his life. Unfortunately, he comes down with prostate cancer at age 58 and starts getting Social Security disability benefits. Why do so many people think Joe is getting a benefit he earned while Jack is getting some form of welfare? They are both getting Social Security benefits for which they have worked

and paid taxes.

Misconception Nine: SSI is some kind of Social Security benefit. Supplemental Security Income is a federal welfare program that has nothing at all to do with Social Security other than the fact that it is managed by the Social Security Administration. SSI benefits are funded by general tax revenues, not by Social Security taxes. SSI pays a very small monthly stipend to poor people who are over age 65 or who are under 65 but disabled. Unfortunately, many people confuse SSI disability payments with Social Security disability benefits. They are two distinct programs. The former is a welfare payment. The latter is an earned benefit.

Misconception Ten: Medicaid is part of the Medicare program. Just like SSI and Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare are two separate government programs. Simply put, Medicaid is welfare and Medicare is not. To qualify for Part A, or hospital coverage, under Medicare, you generally must work and pay Medicare taxes for at least 10 years. And anyone over 65 or getting Social Security disability benefits can buy Part B Medicare coverage. Part B pays for doctor’s visits, lab tests, outpatient hospital services and other medical costs. You qualify for Medicaid, which is as comprehensive as both parts of Medicare, not because you’ve worked and paid taxes, but only because you are poor.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

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Superstorm challenges definition of basement in NJ

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP) — Irene Sobolov believes the first floor of her house is just that. The federal government and her insurance company say it's a basement.

The semantics, Sobolov has learned, are very expensive.

Sobolov and others whose lower-level apartments or businesses sustained water damage during Superstorm Sandy say the property they own is being classified as a basement, severely limiting what is covered under the National Flood Insurance Program.

"It's the battle of the definitions," said Sobolov, standing on concrete that a wood floor once covered. She says the damage to her home came when the sewer overflowed, sending a repellent brew of sewage, condoms and garbage water up through her toilet and drain. "No one told us about this basement thing."

The basement classification has become a point of contention in Hoboken, a city of 50,000 across the Hudson River from Manhattan. Hoboken sustained major flooding when the Hudson jumped its banks and roared into the city during Superstorm Sandy, one of the strongest storms to ever hit the area.

It is one of the densest cities in the country, and there are about 1,700 below-ground units that house people or businesses, according to Mayor Dawn Zimmer.

People whose homes or businesses were classified as a basement are eligible for grants that are part of the \$50.7 billion Sandy aid package approved by the House of Representatives last week, a spokesman for Senator Frank Lautenberg said. It is unclear how much will be allocated or what the rules will be.

While there may be some relief coming, the classification is leading some to call for changes to the National Flood Insurance Program, saying the basement definition unfairly punishes people who own property in cities.

The flood insurance rules "do not reflect the reality" of urban living, Zimmer told Congress last month.

"A store or apartment that requires you to walk down one or two steps is plain and simply not a basement," Zimmer told the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. "For many people, that's their primary residence. It's where they have the kitchen, the bedroom," Zimmer said in an interview. "It's their home."

A basement is classified as "any area of the building, including any sunken room or sunken portion of a room, having its floor below ground level (subgrade) on all sides," according to a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Basement flood coverage is limited to items including central air conditioners, hot water heaters and "cisterns and the water in them," according to the program's website.

Floors, paneling and most personal property in buildings classified as basements are not covered.

Jersey City resident Patrick Donnelly is suing a number of insurance companies, saying he and others were denied damage claims after Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Sandy. A judge will decide if the suit can move forward as a class action.

"We're seeing situations where the insurance company is denying claims in buildings we do not believe met the definition of a basement," said Jeffrey A. Bronster, Donnelly's lawyer.

Jersey City mayor Jerramiah Healy said he thinks the lawsuit is a "valid argument."

Elsewhere, "traditionally

a basement is where you throw stuff. It's 8 to 10 feet below the ground," Healy said. "Here in Jersey City we have a lot of places that are ground level or 3 feet below. It's living space."

Property owners with a mortgage are required to have federal flood insurance. The policies are issued by private insurance companies.

Robert Hunter, director of insurance for the Consumer Federation of America and former federal insurance administrator, said insurance is typically calculated on the ground level of a structure. Anything below that is typically classified as a basement, he said.

The basement issue rarely came up after Hurricane Katrina, Hunter said, because so many Gulf Coast homes were built on slabs.

"I've been fighting this battle for a long time," Hunter said. "I think they're too stringent in how they interpreted those basement rules."

Sitting at her kitchen table recently, Sobolov looked at a bathroom that no longer had walls, a sink or a toilet. Its door was propped up against a wall in her living room, a decades-old brown sign reading "please keep this door closed at all times" in both English and Spanish hanging from a nail. Previous owners put the sign on the door and added on the living room, which was deemed a porch by the insurance company.

The floors and bottom of the walls are ripped up. The back door opens onto a few steps up into the backyard.

Sobolov said she is challenging the assertion that her home was flooded because of her claim that what came up through the toilet and drain damaged her home. But because the insurance company declared her home flooded, she is also fighting the basement classification. There was

about a foot of water and sludge in her home.

She and her husband have owned the home for 12 years and pay about \$2,500 a year in flood insurance, Sobolov said.

"They collect our money for 12 years and only now it's, 'Oh, I forgot to tell you, we don't cover you?'" she asked.

Sobolov received \$5,000 from FEMA, she said, and is supposed to get another \$6,000 under her flood insurance. She said she has a \$250,000 flood insurance policy. Contractors estimated the damage will cost \$60,000 to \$80,000 to fix. Additionally, many of the family's possessions, including the stove, dishwasher and furniture, were destroyed.

A basement, Sobolov said, would be an amenity in cramped Hoboken.

"How many people in Hoboken," Sobolov asked, "have the luxury of having a basement in their house?"

Explorer's rare Scotch returned to stash

SCOTTBASE, Antarctica (AP) — Talk about whisky on ice: Three bottles of rare, 19th century Scotch found beneath the floor boards of Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton's abandoned expedition base were returned to the polar continent Saturday after a distiller flew them to Scotland to recreate the long-lost recipe.

But not even New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, who personally returned the stash, got a taste of the contents of the bottles of Mackinlay's whisky, which were rediscovered 102 years after the explorer was forced to leave them behind.

"I think we're all tempted to crack it open and have a little drink ourselves now," Key joked at a ceremony handing over the bottles to Antarctic Heritage Trust

officials at New Zealand's Antarctic base on Ross Island.

The whisky will be transferred by March from Ross Island to Shackleton's desolate hut at Cape Royds and replaced beneath the restored hut as part of a program to protect the legacy of the so-called heroic era of Antarctic exploration from 1898 to 1915.

Bottled in 1898 after the blend was aged 15 years, the Mackinlay bottles were among three crates of Scotch and two of brandy buried beneath a basic hut Shackleton had used during his dramatic 1907 Nimrod excursion to the Antarctic. The expedition failed to reach the South Pole but set a record at the time for reaching the farthest southern latitude. Shackleton was knighted after his return to Great Britain.

Shackleton's stash was discovered frozen in ice by conservationists in 2010. The crates were frozen solid after more than a century beneath the Antarctic surface.

But the bottles were found intact — and researchers could hear the whisky sloshing around inside. Antarctica's minus 22 Fahrenheit (-30 Celsius) temperature was not enough to freeze the liquor.

The bottles remained unopened as they were returned Saturday — if Shackleton couldn't have a dram, no one could — but their contents nevertheless formed the basis for a revival of the blend.

Distiller Whyte & Mackay, which now owns the Mackinlay brand, chartered a private jet to take the bottles from the Antarctic operations headquarters in the New Zealand city of Christchurch to Scotland for analysis in 2011.

Pampa woman arrested for DWI 3rd charge or more

■ 51-year-old Tracy Renee Evans, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by the DPS for driving while intoxicated — third charge or more.

■ 28-year-old Jessica Lizette Avon, Delano, Calif., was arrested Friday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for bond forfeiture — possession of controlled substance with intent to delivery.

■ 19-year-old Jacob Aaron Johnson, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by the Pampa Police Department for capias pro fine — speeding and failure to appear.

■ 32-year-old Joshua Adam Ramos, Waynoka, Okla., was arrested Sat-

urday by the DPS for bond forfeiture — failure to appear, possession of marijuana under 2 ounces.

■ 34-year-old Christina Maria Carbajal, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by the PPD for capias pro fine — no drivers license.

■ 26-year-old Tracy Michelle Sherman, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by the PPD for capias pro fine — no drivers license and displaying expired registration.

■ 43-year-old Kermit Kenneth Hartley, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by the Pampa Fire Marshal for criminal mischief over \$50 and under \$500.

Nominations for
Citizen of The Year
 and
Business of The Year
 have begun

Forms may be picked up at the Chamber Office

Nominations are due by January 31, 2013

Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet
Citizen & Business of The Year
 Tuesday, February 26, 2013
 7:00 pm
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Community Calendar

City Commission meetings

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

School board meetings

The Pampa Independent School District board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Check The Pampa News for meeting locations.

County Commission meetings

The Gray County Commission meets at 9 a.m. on the 15th and 30th 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.

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.

Jam sessions every Friday night

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

Pampa Pride religion section

The Pampa News will publish multiple special sections in the paper on March 29. One of those sections is the religion section. To have your church featured, please contact the paper.

Send us a story and/or picture about your church or bring it by the paper. Submissions must be received by Jan. 31. For more information, call 669-2525.

Pampa Pride

The Pampa News will publish multiple special sections in a paper on March 29. Send us a story and/or picture you want featured.



You may also bring the story to the paper. Submissions deadlines vary by section. Please get the stories in ASAP to increase the chances of the story being included. For more information, call 669-2525.

Desk & Derrick Club to meet tonight

The Desk & Derrick Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight at the Pampa Country Club. The speaker for the dinner meeting is Keith Demetriades, financial advisor with Edward Jones. The cost of the meal is \$15 and guests are welcome. Reservations should be made with Carol Cofer at 669-3108 or bcdc2527@sbcglobal.net by noon, Monday. The met recently to elect officers for 2013. They are: President Teresa Snow, Vice-President Linda Slaybaugh, Secretary Carol Cofer, Treasurer Esther McAdoo, Directors Norma Briden and Elaine McDowell and Immediate Past President Rae Bagley.

Clarendon enrollment open until Jan. 25

Enrollment to Clarendon College is open until Jan. 25. To enroll visit the college or contact Aaron Lopez. For more information or to enroll contact Lopez at 665-8801 ext. 2007 or email him at aaron.lopez@clarendon-college.edu.

Poetry reading Jan. 26

Local area poets will hold an open Poetry Reading at Lovett Memorial Library on Jan. 26. The following poets will be reading: Virginia Yates, Panhandle; Gaye Robinson, Pampa; and Gloria G.

Bowen, Pampa. Any other poets who wish to read, please contact Bowen at 669-1942 or 663-0448.

Chamber citizen, business of year nominations

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce is now seeking nominations for the Pampa Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year for 2012. Forms may be picked up at the chamber office, 200 N. Ballard St., or by sending an email to admin@pampachamber.com. Nominations must be in to the chamber office by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31.

The winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet at 7 p.m., Tuesday Feb. 26, at the M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium Heritage Room. The cost is \$25 per person and tickets can be purchased at the chamber.

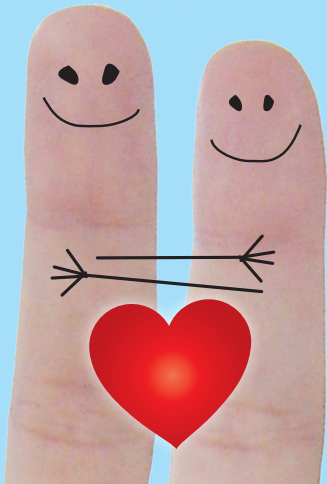
Sweetheart Social planned on Valentine's Day

The Meredith House is celebrating its community sweethearts at 2 p.m. on Valentine's Day. All visitors will have a chance to win a grand prize and join them as they crown the Meredith House King and Queen. RSVP by Feb. 11 by calling 665-5668.

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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Juice bar taxes liberals \$1 extra

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A juice bar that charges liberals \$1 more than conservatives says those on the political left are happy to oblige in the Utah oil town of Vernal — “all three of them,” the owner jokes.

But wait. Do conservatives favor almond milk with blended avocado?

Yes, says George Burnett, a conservative who happens to be a fitness nut and a fan of healthy food. Weeks after he opened the I Love Drilling Smoothie & Juice Bar, he's listing one price for conservatives and \$1 more for liberals, whom he blames for many of the country's problems.

“At my prices, it's still a good deal. But those who believe in big government and reckless spending cost all of us. So I should charge them more,” Burnett said Wednesday.

Skeptics on the shop's Facebook page point out that Vernal, population around 9,000, has few liberals, so Burnett has little to lose by charging them more, winning the loyalty of roughnecks and

“raking in the dough.” The shop was devoid Wednesday of any liberal customers who could offer a rebuttal. Burnett and a son acknowledged they were stripping comments by liberals from their shop's Facebook page.

“Isn't this a form of

discrimination — what if they charged Asians or Indians more?” Stephen Borton, one of Vernal's few Democrats, told The Associated Press. “This is dinosaur land. We get people from all over the world, and this is the wrong kind of publicity.”

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CULBERSON's Hometown Spotlight

Jonathon Taylor

Culberson Stowers is proud to welcome Jonathan Taylor. He is a 2011 Pampa High School Graduate. His parents are Michael Taylor that works at National Oil Well-Varco and Tabitha Mathias who works at Amarillo College.

Jonathan has been at Culberson for 4 months. He will begin his ASEP program (automotive service educational program) at New Mexico Jr. College in Hobbs, NM. After completion of this program, he will have received an Associate Degree in Applied Science and will be GM Certified & ASE Certified. When asked why he chose this career, he said, “I am good at working with my hands. I enjoy taking things apart and putting it back together.”

“We are really excited about Jonathon starting here. He is a local young man with a lot of enthusiasm. He seems to be a hard worker and willing to learn. He is a great addition to our technician crew” says Richard Stowers, owner of the Culberson Stowers.

When you bring in your vehicle, be sure to look for Jonathon, he just might be working on your car or truck.

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Interviews will be at the Jordan Unit on January 17th and 31st at 7:30 am. The Training Academy is scheduled to begin in February at Clarendon College Pampa Center.

To schedule an interview (screening), please call Christy at 806-665-8801.



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Obits

Continued From Page 2

W. A. "Bill" Smith

W. A. "Bill" Smith, 82, died Jan. 18, 2013 in Pampa. Services were at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, 2013 at First Baptist Church, with the Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

W.A. Smith



Mr. Smith was born Oct. 3, 1930 in Seminole County, Okla. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving during the Korean Conflict. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1952. He married Sue Coleman on March 12, 1955. He worked for Celanese Chemical Co. in the accounting department for 35 years. He retired in 1992 as senior payroll clerk. Bill was a longtime member of First Baptist Church and was the chairman of the counting committee. He was an avid golfer and hunter. One of his special memories

was when he went to Russia on a mission trip with First Baptist Church. He was a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and he will be missed. Bill was preceded in death by his parents: Edmond A. Smith and Rose L. Griffin. Survivors include a daughter: Julie Collins and husband Bruce of Amarillo; three sons: Terry Smith and wife Liz of Amarillo, Steve Smith of Pampa, and Chris Smith of Arlington; seven grandchildren: April Ward and husband Dane, Adam Rodgers, Andy Rodgers, Riordan Hill, Alex Collins and Matthew Collins, all of Amarillo, and Nathan Smith of Pampa; two great-grandchildren: Presley Jade Ward and Jackson Dane Ward, both of Amarillo; three sisters: Florence Farriell, Edna Dudley and Estella Dalrymple; and a brother: Bob Smith. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, Texas 79066-0621. The family will be at 2721 Navajo in Pampa.

Sign the online register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

Virginia Lee Tabor

Virginia Lee Tabor, 84, of Amarillo died Jan. 19, 2013. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013 at Hillside Amarillo South, 6901 South Bell with Pastor Craig Al-

bracht and Roger Arnold officiating. Interment will be in Llano Cemetery. Arrangements are by Schooler Funeral Home, 4100 S. Georgia.

Virginia was born Dec. 30, 1928 in Blackwell, Okla. to Edgar and Alma Giddens. She and her family moved to Pampa in 1932 where she grew up and graduated from Pampa High School. Virginia married Jackie Tabor on Feb. 28, 1948, they made Pampa their home until 1967 when they moved to Perryton. She and Jackie moved to Amarillo in 2009. Virginia loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was a member at Hillside Amarillo South, where she loved to sing, see her church friends, and

praise her Lord. Virginia was a loving mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother, and a friend who was loved by all and will be dearly missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jackie Tabor, a son in law, Larry Bailey, a grandson, Travis Kuykendall, and three brothers, Eddie Giddens, Jimmy Giddens, and Wayne Giddens.

Virginia is survived by her daughters, Susan Bailey of Amarillo, Cindy Lewis and husband Richard of Amarillo, and Carol Anderson and husband Daric of San Angelo, a son, Gary Don Tabor and wife Sheila of Pampa, a sister, Sarah McKee and husband Roy of Midland, and her sister in law June Hendrickson of Fritch, and her grandchildren, Laura Weddle and husband Bryan, Chad Padgett and wife Debbie, Ashley Pshigoda, Austin Pshigoda and Felicia Walton, Jason Pshigoda and wife Barb, Cody Gift, Justin Pshigoda and wife Jessica, Blake Gift and wife Cristina, Joshua Tabor and wife Jahz, Jessica Tabor, James Tabor, Tracie Lewis, Chris Lewis and wife Jamie, and Scott Lewis and wife Yvonne. Her Great Grandchildren, Erin Weddle, Everett Weddle, Meagon Reynolds, Braden Padgett, Ashton Padgett, Sheridan Padgett, Jordyn Pshigoda, Grant Pshigoda, Averi Pshigoda, Sydney Walton, Sean Walton, Savanna Pshigoda, Laila Pshigoda, Ellie Pshigoda, Gabriel Lewis, Jacob Lewis, Jetta Lewis, Talon Lewis, Eryn Calderon, Isis Kuykendall, Bradley Kuykendall, Hanna Kuykendall, Zachary Gift, Madison Gift, and Phillip Gift, One great-great-grandchild Sammy Calderon and several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends Monday, Jan. 21, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Family suggests memorials be made to Hillside Amarillo South, 6901 South Bell, Amarillo, Texas 79109.

Please sign our online guest register at Schoolerfuneral-home.com.

Mona Marie Yearwood

Mona Marie Yearwood, 86, died Jan. 19, 2013 in Amarillo, Texas. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, 2013 at Memory Gardens Cemetery, with the Rev. Jim Fox, IntegraCare Hospice Chaplain, officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Yearwood was born Sept. 22, 1926 in Newalla, Okla. Mona married Ferrell Yearwood on June 28, 1949 in Pampa. He preceded her in death on Nov. 23, 2006. Mona

has been a resident of Pampa since 1949. She was a member of the Hobart Baptist Church. Survivors include her daughter: Carol Elaine Carroll of Amarillo; three grandchildren: Shonda Steward and husband Jeff of Amarillo, Bobby Carroll and wife Melissa of Perryton and Lindsay Lopez and husband Juan of Amarillo; and six great-

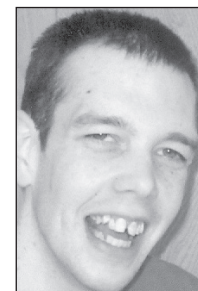
grandchildren: Landen Turner, Christian Turner, Baileigh Lopez and Jeremiah Lopez all of Amarillo, Macey Carroll and Riley Carroll both of Perryton; and a special friend whom she loved as a daughter: Lana Vencill of Amarillo.

Memorials may be made to IntegraCare Hospice, 2007 S. Coulter St., Amarillo, Texas 79106 or Hobart Baptist Church, 1100 W. Crawford, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online register at Cww.carmichael-whatley.com.

Ridge Allen Clay

Ridge Allen Clay, 25 of Kingston, Okla., passed away Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 in the Brookside Nursing Center, Madill, Okla. He was born on Sept. 13, 1987 in Pampa to JoAnna Russell Slatton. Ridge was



Ridge Clay

raised in Borger, Texas, and the surrounding areas. In 2001 he moved to Kingston where he attended the Kingston school.

Ridge was a member of the Enos Baptist Church and he enjoyed listening to country music, loved his sisters and rocking in his rocking chair.

He is survived by his mother: JoAnna (Jodie) and step dad, Chris Slatton, Kingston, Okla.

Sisters: Sabrina and Macy Slatton, Kingston, Okla. Grandparents: Mark and Laqueta Russell, Skellytown, Texas. Uncles: Matt Russell, Stinnett, Texas; Darin Russell, Denton, Texas, and several cousins.

Ridge was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Visitation will be Sunday at Watts Funeral Home, Kingston from 1 to 9 p.m. with a family hour from 6 to 8 p.m. Services will be Monday, Jan. 21, 2012, at 2 p.m. at the Enos Baptist Church, Enos, Okla. Ronny White will officiate the services. Interment will be at the Willis Cemetery, Willis, Okla.

Services will be under the direction of Watts Funeral Home, Madill, Okla. Condolences may be sent to wattsfuneralhome.com.

Casket Bearers: Darin Russell, Matt Russell, Luke Russell, Kurt Russell, Eric Pershica and Sonny Pershica. Honorary Bearers: Kingston High School girls basketball and softball teams.

Dallas Museum of Art begins free admission

DALLAS (AP) — While viewing artwork can be culturally enriching, one Dallas museum is making sure the experience doesn't cost people a thing.

The Dallas Museum of Art on Monday is rolling out a new program that will offer free general admission as well as free memberships.

Texas couple with 2 kids on old bus make progress

SPLENDORA, Texas (AP) — Home for a Southeast Texas family is still an old school bus with no engine and no front wheels.

But child welfare officials are delighted with the commitment the parents have shown since their two young kids were discovered living there virtually unsupervised almost a year ago while their father and mother were in federal prison.

Child Protective Services officials are expected to recommend a judge dismiss the welfare agency's case against Mark and Sherrie Shorten in court Tuesday, allowing the couple to regain full custody of their 12-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son.

"That's what I've been targeting all along," Mark Shorten said.

The children are in school and the parents have complied with CPS care plans, evaluations and therapy, agency spokeswoman Gwen Carter said.

"They're doing really well and the family is doing really well," she said. "The staff is very proud of them."

Last March, a postal worker, after repeatedly spotting two disheveled children in the Montgomery County neighborhood about 35 miles northeast of Houston, became concerned and notified authorities. Welfare officials quickly arrived and placed the kids in foster care while media coverage led with images of the outwardly dilapidated bus on a trash-littered lot.

Carter said officials are accustomed to poor families living in tough conditions and while it's not illegal to live in a bus, "sadly, that was the sensational part, the condition of their living environment and they were left there all day."

"Let's be blunt," Mark Shorten said. "Once I saw pictures on the news and read the full story, I was glad somebody pulled my children out of that mess. Both of them suffered through that mess."

At the time, Shorten and his wife were in separate federal prisons both serving 18 months for convictions for conspiracy to embezzle money from victims of Hurricane Ike, which struck in 2008. They had arranged for their children to be supervised by an aunt, who told authorities she became overwhelmed between working 12-hour days and trying to care for them.

"There was a lot of emotional and mental anguish put on the kids," said Sherrie Shorten, who was released from prison several weeks after the children were removed. "And that's what we were upset about."

Her husband was released in July and their children were returned to them, under CPS supervision, in September.

"My main focus when I got home was getting my kids back home," Mark Shorten said. "And I did that. Life's as good as it's going to get at the moment but we're trying to make it better."

Despite its worn appearance, the bus inside had been renovated, furnished, had hot and cold water and a bathroom, and was air-conditioned. The family moved it from Louisiana after their home there was flooded from Hurricane Ike. It was intended as a temporary home until they could build on the lot, where the trash has been cleared and items outside, like a lumber pile, are neatly stacked.

"We'd still like to (build), but we have some restrictions," said Sherrie Shorten, who with her husband is on supervised federal release for three years and also looking at more than \$100,000 in court-ordered restitution. "We have a lot of issues rebuilding our lives and getting back on track."

Mark Shorten maintains neither he nor his wife, an accountant, were guilty.

"I don't want to sound like somebody who is bitter and mad, because I'm not," he said. "We're trying to move forward."

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Seven state parks could close under proposed budget

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department would close seven state parks during the 2014-2015 biennium under preliminary budget proposals from the House and Senate, and at least one group is ready to fight to keep them open.

In discussions before the legislative session began, the parks and wildlife department requested that the Legislative Budget Board allocate an additional \$18.9 million from the sporting goods sales tax to keep all parks operational. The preliminary House and Senate budgets, released last Tuesday, call for only an additional \$6.9 million over the next biennium from that tax.

Ian Davis, the director of Keep Texas Parks Open, said parks improve Texans' quality of life and stimulate local economies, especially in smaller counties. His organization will hold town hall meetings around the state and organize Texans online to advocate for additional funds so the department can keep all its parks open. "We are trying to mobilize people across the state so they understand that it could be their park that closes," Davis said.

John Barton, spokesman for the budget board, said specific parks have not been identified for potential closure and that the budget is subject to change as legislators deliberate over the coming months.

Arizona to tax hospitals for Medicaid

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has built a political career in standing up to the federal government over everything from immigration to health care. So she surprised almost everyone when she announced last week that she not only plans to push for an expansion of the state's Medicaid program under the federal health care law — she plans to fund it by raising taxes.

A conservative Republican, Brewer is believed to be the first governor to publicly come up with a way to fund the controversial Medicaid expansion. Not even California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat in a state that largely supports the new federal health plan, has figured out how to pay for a boosted Medicaid plan.

Her proposal to add about 300,000 low-income Arizonans to her state's Medicaid plan relies on funding from hospitals through a so-called provider tax. The idea is already used to fund some Medicaid plans in 39 states, but none have tapped it to pay for the federal expansion and many have at least some room to expand their hospital taxes.

The Medicaid expansion is intended to cover about half of the 30 million uninsured people expected to eventually gain coverage under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. The law expanded Medicaid to cover low-income people making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$15,400 a year for a single person. That provision will mainly benefit low-income childless adults, who currently can't get Medicaid in most states. Separately, the overhaul provides subsidized private insurance for middle-class households.

Washington, D.C., and 17 states have opted to expand their Medicaid rolls, but few have been explicit in how they'll pay for it, according to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Some GOP governors, including Rick Perry in Texas, Bobby Jindal in Louisiana, and Nikki Haley in South Carolina, have opted out, citing philosophical differences as well as worries about costs.

Under the federal legislation, Washington would pay the entire cost of the Medicaid expansion for the first three years, gradually phasing down to 90 percent of the cost after that. It's a far more generous matching rate than the federal government provides for other parts of the Medicaid program that's designed to get states to sign on.

But Arizona appears to be unique in that it will see large costs immediately because of how its existing plan is arranged. So it needs to come up with new funding by January, while other states don't.

Brewer is bucking party and philosophical lines and blazing a unique path in the health care debate. Time will tell if others follow her lead.

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But Arizona appears to be unique in that it will see large costs immediately because of how its existing plan is arranged. So it needs to come up with new funding by January, while other states don't.

Brewer is already facing opposition from budget hawks in her own party on the issue. Two bills have already been introduced that would essentially block her efforts.

She has found supporters, however, among many Arizona hospital executives and business groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, a leading oppo-

nent of raising taxes.

For hospitals stuck with millions of dollars in uncompensated care each year, agreeing to be taxed makes sense. They pay 6 percent of their revenues and get a much larger amount back from Medicaid from the newly insured.

Among the supporters of a tax is Dignity Health, which has three Phoenix-area hospitals, including one of the biggest in the state, St. Joseph's Hospital. Suzanne Pfister, Dignity's vice president for external affairs, said St. Joseph's alone has seen a tidal wave of uncompensated care since 2010, rising from an average of \$8 million a month to an "unsustainable" \$17 million a month now.

Others, like the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, are opposed to the taxes. Mayo argues it provides specialized care for cancers and transplants and shouldn't have to pay to support general care hospitals with high numbers of indigent patients.

Mayo CEO Dr. Wyatt Decker said it would be extremely difficult if the not-for-profit had to pay the tax, which a 2009 state study estimated at about \$38 million for his hospital.

"We do applaud the governor's commitment to helping provide access to health care for more Arizonans. It's a good thing," Decker said Thursday. "But we, in general, do not support provider taxes as a solution because it is ultimately a tax on patients."

Virtually all states are looking at ways to pay their share of the expansion, said Dr. Daniel Derksen, a University of Arizona public health policy and management professor who helped design New Mexico's health insurance exchanges in 2011. Many have looked at provider taxes in recent years, he said, and they could again.

Provider taxes aren't new. Thirty-nine states already use some form of hospital provider taxes to help cover their share of Medicaid costs, according to the

Kaiser Commission. And all but Alaska have taxes on nursing homes or other providers to help pay for required state matches to qualify for federal cash.

But Brewer is the first governor to propose a stand-alone hospital tax designed specifically to fund the Medicaid expansion.

The federal government puts a cap of 6 percent of hospital revenues on those taxes, and the 11 states without hospital taxes can put them in place. Most of the 39 already imposing hospital taxes have room to boost them.

California does not. It initiated a hospital provider tax in 2009 that is used to cover uncompensated care. The state might be able to redirect some of the estimated \$2 billion in yearly revenues to its Medicaid program, called Medi-Cal, if uncompensated care drops. But shifting the funding is a complicated act, as complex as other aspects of federal health care funding, said Dylan Roby, an assistant professor and researcher at UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

Such taxes can be compelling to lawmakers because the economics means health care providers are more willing to sign on.

"If the folks that are going to be taxed say, 'Well, we really need to do this,' that's a lot easier lift legislatively than trying to force something on a reluctant group," Derksen said.

Arizona began covering many low-income childless adults after voters required it in 2000, but Brewer trimmed the ranks covered by the state plan, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, or AHCCCS, when the Great Recession hammered state revenues. She proposes restoring that coverage as part of the expansion.

But there are costs to states, even at first, depending on their current plan. In Arizona, the state expects to be on the hook for \$256 million by 2016, when its expansion if fully rolled out.

Ble Goude charged with war crimes

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Ivory Coast's state television says former youth leader Charles Ble Goude has been charged with war crimes over his alleged role in violence linked to the West African country's disputed presidential election two years ago.

RTI television said Monday that Ble Goude also faces charges of murder and theft of public funds. He was arrested in neighboring Ghana last week and extradited to Ivory Coast.

Ble Goude was a youth minister under President Laurent Gbagbo. Gbagbo's refusal to cede office despite losing the 2010 presidential election vote to current President Alassane Ouattara sparked five months of violence that claimed at least 3,000 lives.

Human Rights Watch says the ultranationalist group that Ble Goude headed killed hundreds of Ivorians and West Afri-

can immigrants during the conflict.

Man who skipped prison caught in Houston

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A former Texas Tech student who failed to show up for prison to serve 15 years for a fatality alcohol-related wreck has been captured in Houston.

Lubbock police say 23-year-old Jeena Roberts of The Woodlands was caught Monday. She'll face a bail jumping charge.

A tip helped lead t Roberts, who in late November pleaded guilty to intoxication manslaughter and intoxication assault over a 2010 accident. A vehicle driven by Roberts rear-ended an SUV in Lubbock. The crash killed one SUV passenger, 54-year-old Linda Smaltz, and critically injured another.

The plea deal meant 15 years in prison for intoxication manslaughter and eight years for assault, to be served concurrently. Roberts was ordered to report to prison Jan. 7.

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Bee Cave students make snowflakes for Conn. school

BEE CAVE, Texas (AP) — Students at Bee Cave Elementary School recently lent a little holiday cheer to students at Sandy Hook Elementary.

The Snowflake Project, an initiative started by the Connecticut Parent Teacher Student Association, requested that students across the country create and decorate snowflakes to deck the halls of the new Sandy Hook Elementary School. The Connecticut PTSA hoped that students of the former Sandy Hook Elementary — now shrouded in tragedy after the shooting last year — will feel more welcomed into their new school by the cheery decorations.

Once Bee Cave Elementary principal Janie Braxdale heard about the project, she emailed her teachers, giving them the option to participate.

“Some teachers were looking for something for their kids to do on the last day of school, and a lot of teachers wanted to do something to show they care,” Braxdale said.

Participating classrooms cut white paper into snowflakes and glued tissue paper onto them. Braxdale said the younger students made snowflakes out of pipe cleaners and Popsicle sticks, though many of the first-graders thought the project was just for fun.

“I think with the younger kids, the teachers tried to be a little more protective of it,” she said.

Fourth-grade teacher McKenzie Childress said the older students in her two classes knew why they were making snowflakes.

“They all had some idea that something bad happened,” Childress said of the days following the tragedy in Sandy Hook. She added that she had a few discussions with her students in which she quashed rumors and eased their concerns about their safety.

“Some felt sad; some felt confused,” Childress said. “They were all very overwhelmed.”

She said making the snowflakes helped her students get past the events of Sandy Hook.

“They were asking me things like, ‘Are they going to go in a classroom? Are they going to go in the hallway?’” she said. “They were enjoying getting to send stuff to other students and putting work into something.”

Fourth grader Jillian Glubke, 10, said she had a hard time sleeping for a few nights after the tragedy. “Really I was kind of shocked and sad and mad.”

Jillian said she and her classmates made two snowflakes each.

“That way, the kids that went through that feel loved after what happened,” she said.

Jillian’s classmate Riley Henry, 10, has become much more conscious of safety procedures.

“I’m always looking down hallways and stuff,” Riley said, “and we’re not allowed to open doors to people.”

The snowflakes were gathered in the principal’s office, and Braxdale boxed them up and mailed them earlier this month. Other Lake Travis elementary schools also created snowflakes.

Riley said she hoped that the snowflakes she made helped the new Sandy Hook Elementary look nice so the students “feel better, and so they feel like they’ve been cared for and we’re with them.”

Pirates seize oil tanker in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Armed men have hijacked a tanker carrying 5,000 tons of oil from an Ivory Coast port and taken it off the coast of Ghana, though its precise

whereabouts are unknown, government authorities and maritime officials said Monday.

The Panamanian-flagged vessel ITRI was first seized Wednesday as the tanker was preparing to deposit oil at the port of Abidjan, Ivory Coast’s commercial capital, said a statement from the Ivory Coast government — communicating for the first time on the case only Monday.

The statement said officials located the vessel off neighboring Ghana, and that authorities were mobilized.

The tanker, with 16 crew members aboard, was listed as missing, said Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau’s pirate reporting center in Malaysia. He could not release information about the nationalities of the crew, but said in many previous cases, the pirates released the crew after they had siphoned out the oil and obtained any valuable cargo.

The ship initially had trouble docking because a sand storm reduced visibility, a government statement said. Later, the ship’s captain radioed the port manager to report difficulty maneuvering. Shortly afterward, contact was lost with the vessel. Then ship consignee Koda Maritime informed port officials that armed men had taken control of the tanker.

Most hijackings in the region occur near oil-rich Nigeria. The first recorded vessel hijacking off Ivory Coast was in October when 14 men armed with knives and AK-47s boarded a tanker carrying 30,000 tons of gasoline.

The crew was later released unharmed.

Theater reopens, months after shooting

AURORA, Colo. (AP) — One survivor had to pause on his way into the theater and pray. Another braced for flashbacks as he entered the auditorium where 12 people died and dozens were injured during a massacre six months earlier. Others refused to come, viewing the reopening of the multiplex as insensitive.

The former Century 16, now renovated and renamed the Century Aurora, opened its doors to victims of the July 20 attack on Thursday night with a somber remembrance ceremony and a special showing of “The Hobbit.”

Theater 9, where neuroscience graduate student James Holmes allegedly opened fire on a midnight screening of “The Dark Knight Returns,” is now an XD theater with a wall-to-wall screen and stadium seating.

“We as a community have not been defeated,” Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan told victims, officials, and dozens of police officers and other first responders who filled half the theater’s seats at the ceremony.

“We are a community of survivors,” Hogan declared. “We will not let this tragedy define us.”

Pierce O’Farrill, who was wounded three times in the shooting, made a point of finding his old seat in the second row of the theater. “It was just a part of closure, just going back to that spot where, obviously, I was in the most pain I’d ever felt in my life,” said O’Farrill, who was hit three times

and had to be carried out by the SWAT team, past the shooter’s discarded rifle.

Holmes is charged with 166 felony counts, mostly murder and attempted murder for the shooting. A judge has ordered him to stand trial, but he won’t enter a plea until March.

The reopening comes nearly six months after the attack and a week after many victims sat through a three-day hearing at which prosecutors described the attack in excruciating detail.

Several families boycotted what they called a callous public relations ploy

by the theater’s owner, Cinemark. They claimed the Texas-based company didn’t ask them what should happen to the theater.

They said Cinemark emailed them an invitation to Thursday’s reopening just two days after they struggled through Christmas without their loved ones.

“It was boilerplate Hollywood — ‘Come to our movie screening,’” said Anita Busch, whose cousin, 23-year-old college student Micayla Medek, died at the theater.

Victims have filed at least three federal lawsuits

against Cinemark Holdings Inc., alleging it should have provided security for the July 20 midnight showing of “The Dark Knight Rises,” and that the exit door used by the gunman to get his weapons and re-enter should have had an alarm. In court papers, Cinemark says the tragedy was “unforeseeable and random.”

“We certainly recognize all the different paths that people take to mourn, the different paths that people take to recover from unimaginable, incomprehensible loss,” Gov. John Hickenlooper said at the ceremony.

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Photos by Diane Jennings
Above, Brandon Neil wheels the American flag to begin the Wheel Times event on Saturday.



Top center, Tad Smith throws the ball up to get the game underway. Above, athletes and volunteers celebrating.



Above, Brandon Stokes help Sammy Watson during the game. Kody Maddox pushes Brody Gilbert. Below, Oliver Cabrales gives Parker Swinny a push.

Above, Wheel Times athletes participating in the Wheel Times event on Saturday. Below, a basket is made by a Wheel Times athlete with help from volunteers.



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Above, Jaycee Garth helping Avery Ferguson shoot a basket.



SPORTS Briefs

For the full schedule and latest updates visit Pampaids.net, then click on "District" and then click on "Athletics Department."

TODAY JAN. 22

- V Boys Basketball @ Perryton 7:30 p.m.
- V Girls Basketball @ Perryton 6 p.m.
- JV Boys Basketball @ Perryton 4:30 p.m.
- JV Girls Basketball @ Perryton 4:30 p.m.
- 9th Boys Basketball @ Perryton 6 p.m.
- 9th Girls Basketball @ Perryton 7:30 p.m.
- Boys Soccer @ Borger 7 p.m.
- Girls Soccer @ Borger 5 p.m.

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WRESTLING AT VERNON



Photo by Chuck Cryer

Back row from left, Isidro Estrada, first place; Shalor Sokolosky, third place; Isabella Wilson, second place; Dinah Radke, fourth place; Chris Garcia, third place and John Cryer, third place. Front row, Niki Poland, Sierra Sieber, third place; Ericka Spence, fourth place; and Miranda Foreman, fourth place. As a team the girls placed fourth out of 14 teams and the boys placed ninth out of 18 teams.

FIRST DEER



Submitted photo

Kameron Parks recently shot his first deer while hunting in Roberts County with his Dad, Karl, and a family friend. The deer was an eight point. He made a nice shot with his .243 from about 60 yards.

Harvester soccer at the Burkburnett Tournament

By ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

In the first game of the Burkburnett Tournament, Pampa lost to Burkburnett 3-0.

Burkburnett scored in the 13th, 58th and 63rd minutes.

In game two, Pampa lost to WF Rider JV.

In game three, Pampa lost to Abilene Wylie 5-0. Coach Byron May said there were good performances in the tournament from Miguel Blanco and Jose Copado.

With the losses, Pampa falls to 0-4 on the season. The Harvesters will be in action tonight at 7 p.m. in Borger.

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Maloofs agree to sell NBA's Kings to Seattle

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The only thing stopping the Sacramento Kings from a sale and move to Seattle is approval by NBA owners.

The Maloof family has agreed to sell the Kings to a Seattle group led by investor Chris Hansen, the league confirmed in a statement Monday morning. The deal is still pending a vote by the NBA Board of Governors.

A person familiar with the decision said that Hansen's group will buy 65 percent of the franchise for \$525 million, move the team to Seattle and restore the SuperSonics name. The Maloofs will have no stake in the team.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal was waiting approval.

The sale figure is a total valuation of the franchise, which includes relocation fees. Hansen's group also is hoping to buy out other minority investors.

The Maloofs will get a \$30 million non-refundable down payment by Feb. 1, according to the deal, one person said. They will still be allowed to receive other offers until the league approves the sale.

The plan by Hansen's group is to have the team play at least the next two seasons in KeyArena before moving into a new facility in downtown Seattle. The deadline for teams to apply for a move for next season is March 1.

"We have always appreciated and treasured our ownership of the Kings and have had a great admiration for the fans and our team members. We would also like to thank Chris Hansen for his professionalism during our negotiation. Chris will be a great steward for the franchise," Kings co-owner Gavin Maloof said in a statement on behalf of the family.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson said last week he had received permission from NBA Commissioner David Stern to present a counteroffer to league owners from buyers who would keep the Kings in Sacramento.

Johnson, himself a former All-Star point guard in the NBA, said in a statement that the city remained undeterred despite the agreement with the Seattle group.

"Sacramento has proven that it is a strong NBA market with a fan base that year in and year out has demonstrated a commitment to the Kings by selling out 19 of 27 seasons in a top 20 market and owning two of the longest sellout streaks in NBA history," Johnson said.

"When it comes to keeping the team in our community, Sacramento is playing to win. In particular, we have been focused like a laser on identifying an ownership group that will both have the financial resources desired by the NBA and the vision to make the Kings the NBA equivalent of what the Green Bay Packers have been in the NFL."

In a saga that has dragged on for

nearly three years, Johnson and Sacramento appear to be facing their most daunting challenge yet.

Hansen, a Seattle native and San Francisco-based investor, reached agreement with local governments in Seattle last October on plans to build a \$490 million arena near the city's other stadiums, CenturyLink Field and Safeco Field.

As part of the agreement, no construction will begin until all environmental reviews are completed and a team has been secured.

Hansen's group is expected to pitch in \$290 million in private investment toward the arena, along with helping to pay for transportation improvements in the area around the stadiums.

The plans also call for the arena to be able to handle a future NHL franchise.

The remaining \$200 million in public financing would be paid back with rent money and admissions taxes from the arena, and if that money falls short, Hansen would be responsible for making up the rest.

Other investors in the proposed arena include Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer and two members of the Nordstrom department store family.

Hansen's goal has been to return the SuperSonics to the Puget Sound after they were moved from Seattle to Oklahoma City in 2008. Asked in September if he could envision a team being in Seattle for the 2013 season, Hansen was cautious about finding an option that quickly.

The Kings' sale price would top the NBA-record \$450 million the Golden State Warriors sold for in July 2010.

"While we are not at liberty to discuss the terms of the transaction or our plans for the franchise given the confidential nature of the agreement and NBA regulations regarding public comments during a pending transaction, we would just like to extend our sincerest compliments and gratitude toward the Maloof family," Hansen said in a statement.

"Our negotiations with the family were handled with the utmost honor and professionalism and we hope to continue their legacy and be great stewards of this NBA franchise in the coming years and decades."

Brothers Joe, Gavin and George Maloof bought controlling interests in the franchise from Los Angeles-based developer Jim Thomas in 1999. The Maloofs, who have long waited for an upgrade to the team's outdated arena, backed out of a tentative \$391 million deal for a new downtown building with Sacramento last year, reigniting fears the franchise could relocate.

Johnson and the Kings broke off all negotiations in the summer, with the team's owners saying the deal didn't make financial sense for the franchise.

In 2011, the Kings appeared determined to move to Anaheim before Johnson convinced the NBA to give the city one last chance to help finance an arena.

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Submitted photos

On Thursday, Jan. 10, selected fourth-grade students from each elementary school were treated to lunch at Pizza Hut. Sponsors and drivers were members of Altrusa International, Inc. and the Top of Texas Republican Women's Club. The fourth-graders were then taken on a tour of Gray County Veterinary Clinic owned by Dr. Bryan Gordzelik, and his wife, DeLynn, a member and past-president of Altrusa. Clockwise from top left (above four photos): Dr. Bryan Gordzelik shows students an X-ray of dog's broken leg. Girls from Travis, Marcie Troxell, Marcie Boss and Daylee Carson. Students from Lamar, Carlos Soliz, Eric Cabrales, Valerie Hernandez and Jacqu Chavez. Students from Austin, Leah Blackburn, Mia McCracken, Nataleigh Phillips and Hayley Brook. Left, boys from Wilson, Michael Keating, Adam Saucedo and Ulysses Berrero. Below left, Gordzelik explains some of his equipment and health care for pets.



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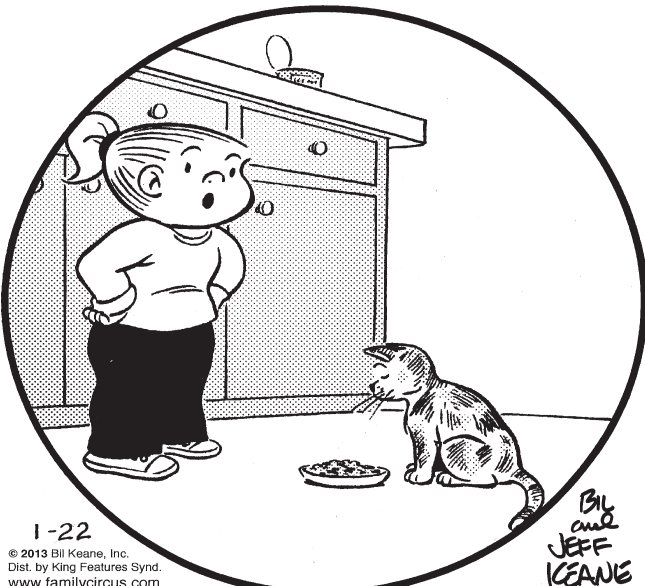


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By Bil Keane



1-22

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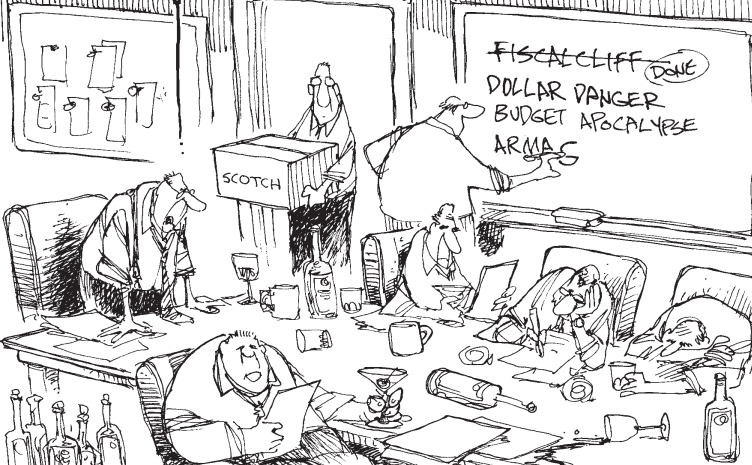
Bil Keane

JEFF KEANE

“Not yet, Mommy. She’s still thinking about it.”

Non Sequitur

OK, GENTLEMEN...YOU ALL KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE HERE IF WE DON'T DISTRACT THE MEDIA WITH A NEW OMINOUS ECONOMIC EUPHEMISM



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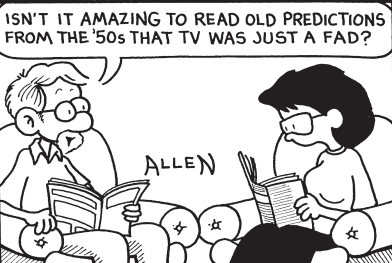
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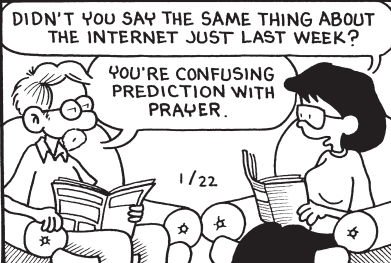
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Nest Heads

ISN'T IT AMAZING TO READ OLD PREDICTIONS FROM THE '50s THAT TV WAS JUST A FAD?



DIDN'T YOU SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT THE INTERNET JUST LAST WEEK?



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daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013:

This year you often might be inclined to risk. What you take chances on will define how you feel about success and failure. A new talent emerges that might be worthy of developing. The artist or business person within you emerges, which adds a great dimension to your life. If you are single, you could meet someone through your day-to-day life. You do not have to go hunting. If you are attached, the two of you might decide to splurge on a long-desired trip. **CANCER** might come in a little too close for your personal comfort.

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)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You can get a lot done, and a lot faster than you think. Make calls, but postpone reaching out to someone important until you are relaxed. Listen to your intuitive senses, as they do come through for you. Tonight: Happily head home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Deal with a money matter early on. That way, you won't need to worry or even think about it the rest of the day. Your energy could cause some friction with those around you. Be aware that they are not seeing you as the laidback Bull. Tonight: Dinner at a favorite haunt.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Move quickly, and get as much done as possible. If you are considering going on a trip, there is no time like the present to start deciding when or where. Get more opinions and feedback regarding a problematic situation; there is a solution to be found. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Be honest with yourself — you cannot get past your curiosity involving a matter that is hush-hush. By late afternoon, you might not even care, as you toss yourself into a project or hobby. News from a distance puts a smile on your face. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Even if a partner is pushing you hard, you seem to be able to handle the pressure. In fact, you use it to energize. You might wonder when enough is enough. Postpone a discussion until later. A loved one might share an intuitive

hunch. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Accepting responsibility is fine, but adding to a personal problem because you don't want to say no is a separate issue. You have too much energy for your own good. Rather than snap at someone, move through your feelings and deal with your stress. Tonight: Dance stress away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You'll want to resolve a problem, which means finding the other person involved. A loved one could be unusually aggressive. Pull back, and let this person have some space. Tonight: Probably a very late night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You can't seem to help yourself when dealing with a partner. This person has been unusually lucky with funds lately. Later on, make calls to someone at a distance whom you care about. Follow your psychic inclination. Tonight: Break past any self-imposed barriers.

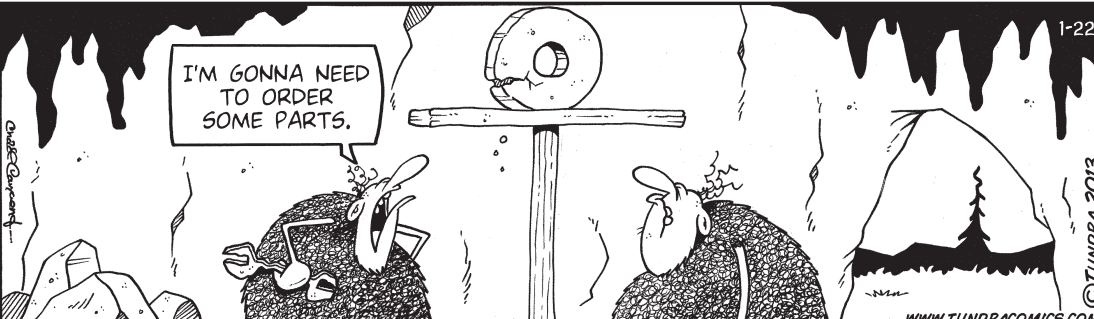
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Question your alternatives rather than rush into the first option that heads your way. You will be much happier as a result. Your ability to act and understand will increase with more information. Listen to a family member's suggestions. Tonight: Head home early.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Attempt to get as much done as possible by putting off a meeting until later. This gathering easily could develop into a social happening. Why fight the inevitable? Plan ahead accordingly. Return calls as promptly as you can. Tonight: Let someone else make the choice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ At times, you can be so rebellious that you cause yourself a problem. Fortunately, this behavior most likely will happen at the beginning of the day. You'll want to fix this issue, and you will have plenty of time to do just that. Tonight: Make it early, if possible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Getting going right now could be a major issue. You know full well that this type of fatigue is there to tell you to slow down. News from a distance causes a last-minute snafu. Try to define what is going on with this person before making adjustments. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

Tundra



1-22

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Shoe

I DON'T GET IT, ROZ... WHY DO WOMEN TAKE AN INSTANT DISLIKE TO ME?



PROBABLY BECAUSE IT SAVES TIME.



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Mother Goose and Grim

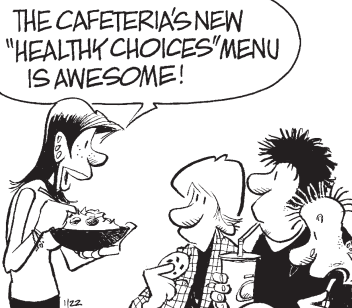


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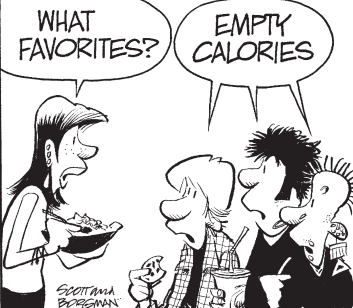
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Garfield

GARFIELD, I LOST MY PHONE!



I FEEL SO ISOLATED...



AND I LIKE IT!



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Beetle Bailey

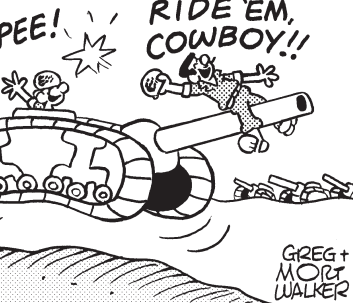
WELL, YOU TOLD THE MEN TO ENJOY THE WAR GAMES



I KNOW



BUT IT'S NOT VERY MILITARY TO HAVE THAT MUCH FUN

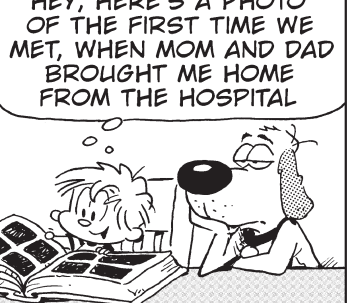


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Marvin

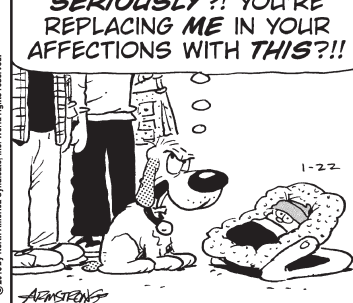
HEY, HERE'S A PHOTO OF THE FIRST TIME WE MET, WHEN MOM AND DAD BROUGHT ME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL



I'LL BET THAT WAS A HIGHLY EMOTIONAL MOMENT FOR YOU!



SERIOUSLY?! YOU'RE REPLACING ME IN YOUR AFFECTIONS WITH THIS?!!



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Hagar The Horrible



HE SAYS WE MIGHT WANT TO POSTPONE OUR RAID...

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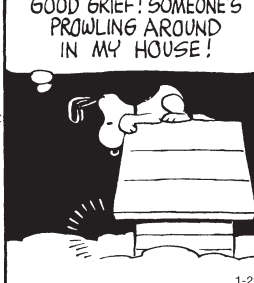
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Peanuts

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING



GOOD GRIEF! SOMEONE'S PROWLING AROUND IN MY HOUSE!



WHAT IF IT'S A...A...



CAT BURGLAR?!

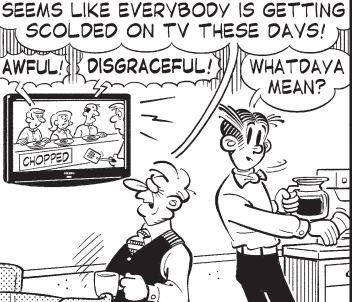


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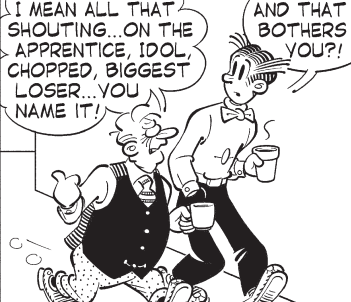
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Blondie

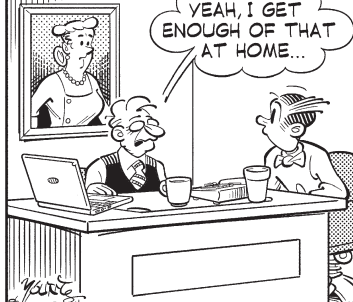
SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY IS GETTING SCOLDED ON TV THESE DAYS!



I MEAN ALL THAT SHOUTING...ON THE APPRENTICE, IDOL, CHOPPED, BIGGEST LOSER...YOU NAME IT!

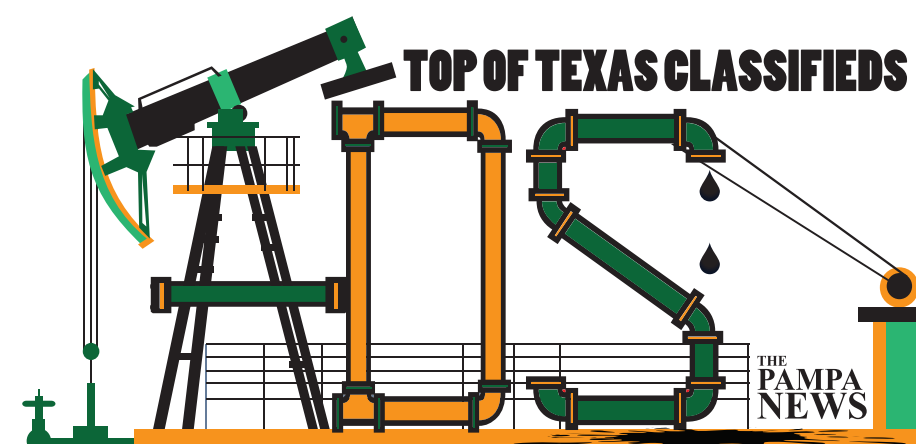


AND THAT BOTHERS YOU?!



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ces. 1913 Zimmers Call
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dep. Ref. required 514
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 Notice is given that
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 mentary for the Estate
 of Bryant Flowers, De-
 ceased, were issued on
 January 16, 2013 under
 Docket No. 9988, pend-
 ing in the County Court
 of Gray County, Texas,
 to JO LYNN ROW-
 LAND, TIMOTHY
 EARL FLOWERS, and
 JAMES ROY FLOW-
 ERS.
 Claims may be present-
 ed in care of the attor-
 ney for this estate, ad-
 dressed as follows:
 Estate of Bryant
 Flowers, Deceased
 c/o Garland Sell
 504 S. Polk Ste. 101
 Amarillo, TX
 79101-2318
 All persons having
 claims against this es-
 tate, which is currently
 being administered, are
 required to present them
 within the time prescri-
 bed by law.
 Sell Griffin McLain PC
 504 S. Polk, Ste. 101
 Amarillo, TX
 79101-2318

Public Notice
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

 Notice is given that
 original Letters Testa-
 mentary for the Estate
 of Bryant Flowers, De-
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 January 16, 2013 under
 Docket No. 9988, pend-
 ing in the County Court
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to “Still Grieving in Arkansas” (Nov. 20), who was upset that he didn’t get a response to a note he sent to his wife’s treating physician after her death.

As an RN, my mom had a tendency to become very close to patients who required long-term care in the hospital. It seemed that she never had any “emotional detachment” from her patients, but instead formed an “emotional attachment.”

I recall many times during the convalescence or death of these patients, Mom would come home from work and go to bed

and cry from her own bereavement. As her son, I grieved, too, because it hurt me to see Mom hurting. As a young child, my father, siblings and I could have done without these periods of unnecessary emotional pain.

Therefore, Dear Abby, I think you were right to say, “Please forgive them” when doctors and nurses don’t exhibit public remorse during times of grief. — RN’S SON IN GEORGIA

DEAR RN’S SON: Thank you for describing your mother’s response to a patient’s passing and how it affected the family. However, I also heard from many health care

providers who said that it IS their duty to acknowledge the passing of one of their patients, and it should be considered part of the healing process for both the patient’s family and the health care provider. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a hematologist-oncologist. I try to send a sympathy card to each family after the death of their relative. If I receive a note or a copy of an obituary, I try to call the person to thank them for taking the time to contact me.

After seeing “Grieving’s” letter, I took an informal poll of my colleagues and was gratified that many DO send notes. I was surprised that some do not extend sympathies. After hearing it, I encouraged them all to do so. It’s the least we can do to promote healing among the survivors. —

OHIO ONCOLOGIST

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired medical oncologist. Early in my career, a grieving patient’s husband berated me for not contacting the family after his wife died. It was then that I realized that despite my excellent care, the family needed something more — closure. For 30 years, until I retired, I sent a personal sympathy card and message to each family concerning their loss. Sharing these thoughts also gave ME closure. — DOCTOR JACK IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: Please let “Grieving” know that one reason the health care professionals did not acknowledge his wife’s death may have been they were instructed by the hospital/treatment center not to do so. In this day and age, when doctors are sued for malpractice, these types

of sympathy notes can be used in court. — YVONNE IN AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

DEAR ABBY: I am at an age when I have lost many family members. NOT ONCE has the doctor sent a condolence card or letter to any family member. On the other hand, I have also lost many pets. Each time, the veterinarian sent a card or note, personally signed

and often with the signatures of the entire office staff. I do not believe medical doctors care less for their patients than veterinary doctors care for family pets, but that vets have made sending condolences part of their office protocol. Medical doctors might well consider adding that protocol to their practices. — MARY IN VIRGINIA

BANANAGRAMS!

Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, one path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

TURN HALF
SOME PORT

Yesterday’s Answer: CYNICISM, TITANIUM, MAGICIAN, MITIGATE

BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, a few tiles from the bunch have been placed, and the BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles in the bunch for each grid.

AMEIRTE
DHANELXY
BANANA BITE: Built
E A
E D
T
BANANA BITE: Look at
M E
T

Yesterday’s Answer: TURN, TRUE, ROTE, TOME, SOME; HALF, HALO, OPAL, ATOP, PORT

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Fails miserably
- 6 Track events
- 11 Love to pieces
- 12 Put on a pedestal
- 13 Sioux shelter
- 14 Dixie damsel
- 15 Caesar’s question
- 17 Travel aid
- 18 Old oath
- 22 “I cannot tell —”
- 23 Schoolbag item
- 27 Merchandise
- 29 Low card
- 30 Disrobes
- 32 School on the Thames
- 33 Chat room participants
- 35 Dramatist Jonson
- 38 Harp’s kin
- 39 Perfect
- 41 Modify
- 45 Scoundrel
- 46 Check the flavor of
- 47 Diner
- 48 Hawke of Hollywood

DOWN

- 1 Baseball need
- 2 Poem of praise
- 3 Janitor’s tool
- 4 Arrived jauntily
- 5 Take care of
- 6 Dressed down
- 7 Chopping tool
- 8 Peaceful
- 9 Singer Fitzgerald
- 10 Dance move
- 16 Summit
- 18 Jokes
- 19 Heaps
- 20 Designer Christian
- 21 Scorned
- 24 Darling
- 25 Clickable picture
- 26 Camera part
- 28 School primer
- 31 Pig’s place
- 34 Steaming
- 35 Tour de France vehicle
- 36 Writer Ferber
- 37 Orderly
- 40 Broad st.
- 42 Cigar bit
- 43 School org.
- 44 Kayo count

S	P	E	A	R		S	H	A	R	E
C	R	A	N	E		P	A	C	E	R
H	A	R	T	S		A	L	A	M	O
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S	U	E			O	L	D	L	I	N
T	E	D			R	E	R	E	A	D
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			J	O	I	N	T	S		C
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			R	A	G	E	D		U	P
			S	N	E	R	D		P	E

Saturday’s answer

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Insertion marks
- 7 Antlered animal
- 11 Cochise’s people
- 12 Musical close
- 13 Amsterdam setting
- 15 Hold out
- 16 Couplet creator
- 18 Sound of surprise
- 21 Praise
- 22 Rope parts
- 24 Tavern
- 25 Nursery occupant
- 26 By way of
- 27 Edict
- 29 Yard parts
- 30 Blacken
- 31 Sewing aids
- 32 Daniel of “Skyfall”
- 34 Native countries
- 40 Lotion additive
- 41 Reduced to shreds
- 42 Lively folk dance
- 43 Old fogyish

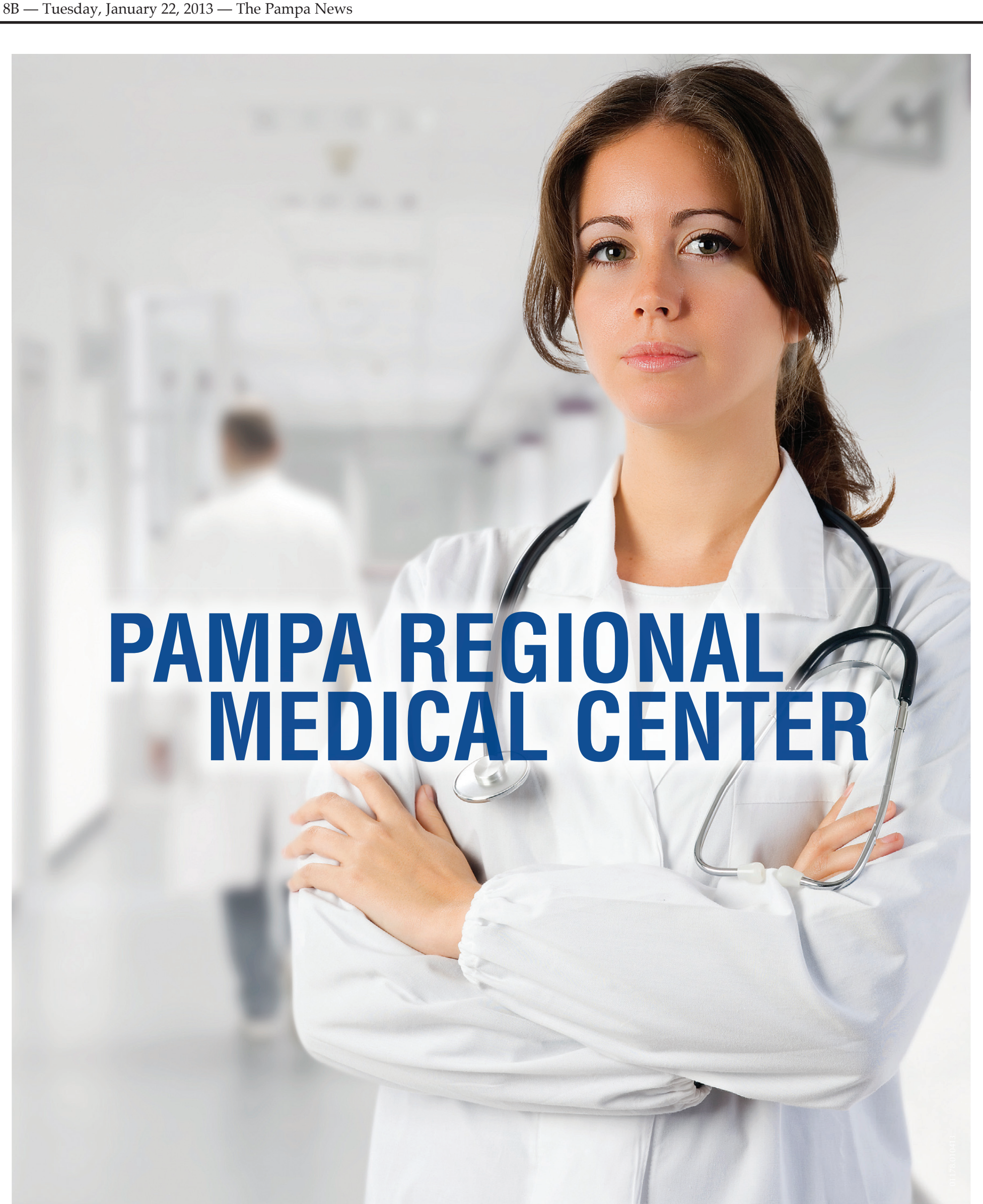
DOWN

- 1 Beans buy

- 2 Gorilla or gibbon
- 3 Scoundrel
- 4 Reverberated
- 5 Larceny
- 6 Feudal farmer
- 7 Sacred beetle
- 8 Cargo unit
- 9 Tack on
- 10 Oven fuel
- 14 Authentic
- 16 Window sections
- 17 Pound part
- 19 Craps “natural”
- 20 Uses a crowbar

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