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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Wednesday, December 18, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 180

75¢ Museum Musings: Pampa's first cars
 Children's Shopping Tour | **p4**
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription

Can Dez Bryant and the Cowboys bounce back?
 Tomorrow: The Harvesters basketball teams at Panhandle | **p8**

AG: Skinner case back in Pampa Feb. 3-4

District Court will hear results of DNA testing.

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

A hearing is scheduled Feb. 3 and 4 in Pampa on the Henry Watkins "Hank" Skinner case, a spokesman from the Texas Attorney General's Office said Tuesday. The hearing, to be held in the 31st Judi-



Hank Skinner

cial District Court of Gray County, is to consider the results of DNA testing in the case, said Tom Kelley with the AG's office.

Kelley provided no other details.

In 1995 Skinner was sentenced to death for murdering his live-in girlfriend, Twila Busby, and her sons, Randy and El-

win "Scooter" Caler.

The grizzly murders occurred in Pampa on New Year's Eve 1993. Skinner has always maintained his innocence, claiming he was unconscious from drugs and alcohol when the murders occurred. He also has claimed that Busby and her sons were killed by a disgruntled relative.

Now in his early 50s, Skinner has been on death row in Texas longer than any other inmate.

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court stayed

his execution less than an hour before he was scheduled to die.

In June 2012, Skinner and the state agreed to have his DNA tested. Those tests were performed at the Department of Safety Crime Lab in Lubbock.

Skinner believed the test results would prove his innocence. However, the tests did not work in Skinner's favor.

An advisory issued by the AG's office

SKINNER cont. on page 2

Trucker dies in 3-vehicle crash near Canadian

Female passenger in Suburban seriously injured.

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

A 48-year-old truck driver is dead after his vehicle caught fire in a collision that involved another semi truck and a Suburban near Canadian around 1:40 p.m. Monday.

Jarry Kelly was pronounced dead at the scene and three other victims were injured, one seriously, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The collision occurred during clear and dry weather conditions eight miles south of Canadian on U.S. Highway 83.

A 2005 Peterbilt truck towing a Vista trailer was on the shoulder of U.S. 83 facing north. A 2013 Chevrolet Suburban was stopped at the stop sign at the U.S. 83 and State Highway 33 intersection. A Mack truck driven by Kelly was towing a dump trailer and traveling north on U.S. 83 south of the intersection, according to the report.

The driver of the Suburban, John Dale Ramp, 75, failed to yield the right of way at the intersection to Kelly. The Mack truck

CRASH cont. on page 2



Photos by Joseph Love

A truck driver died after his vehicle caught fire in a three-vehicle crash Monday eight miles south of Canadian. A couple driving a Suburban were injured and were admitted to an Amarillo hospital for treatment, while another truck driver was treated and released from Hemphill County Hospital.



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Brittany Lang and Logan McClelland and two young people who may have struggled in the past but are now excelling at the Pampa Learning Center. They both said they now look forward to going to school.

Learning at your own pace

Students at Pampa Learning Center excel with smaller class sizes, home-like structure.

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

There are probably many people who have lived in Pampa all their lives who don't realize that there are actually two high schools operated by the Pampa Independent School district.

It's hard not to miss Pampa High School on Randy Matson Avenue and Duncan Street.

Nearly 1,000 students attend the school. There is a football field and field house. On the street corner is one of those digital marquis that displays upcoming events in sparkling lights. As outward appearances go, PHS is not unlike most other medium to

large public high school in these United States.

But tucked away in a modular building at the dead end of Frost Street and across from Central Park is the district's other high school.

About 50 students grades in 9-12 attend the Pampa Learning Center.

There are no sports teams, after-school clubs or extra-curricular activities.

But if you ask two of the students who attend there, Brittany Lang and Logan McClelland, that doesn't seem to matter much.

They are at the center because they want to buckle down and

learn.

"It's better here," said Brittany, a junior who has attended the center for two years. "It's self-paced and not as chaotic."

Logan, now a senior at PLC, attended Amarillo High School before coming to the center.

He said that before enrolling this year at PLC, he was so far behind in math he was in danger of not graduating.

Now he's not only caught up in math, but said he's moved ahead and may graduate early.

Principal Richard Steele said students at PLC learn at their own pace in classrooms that are more like a home environment than a traditional classroom.

"Six-week grading periods and semesters don't matter as much here," he said. "When a student

PLC cont. on page 2

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Crash

Continued From Page 1

struck the Suburban on the right side, causing the Suburban to spin around in the roadway. The Mack truck struck the Peterbilt, driven by Christopher Chance Walker, 29, on the left side. The Mack truck

overturned and caught fire, killing the driver. Ramp's wife, Alouise Suthers Ramp, 73, was a passenger in the Suburban. The couple, both from Canadian, were transported to Northwest Healthcare System in Amarillo. Walker was treated and released from Hemphill County Hospital.

PLC

Continued From Page 1

finishes a semester of English or algebra they go right into the next half of the course." Brittany also expects she may graduate early. "I will be graduating first semester next year if not this year," she said.

Oftentimes, there is a stigma that students placed in the smaller "alternative" school are there because of academic or behavior problems in the mainstream school.

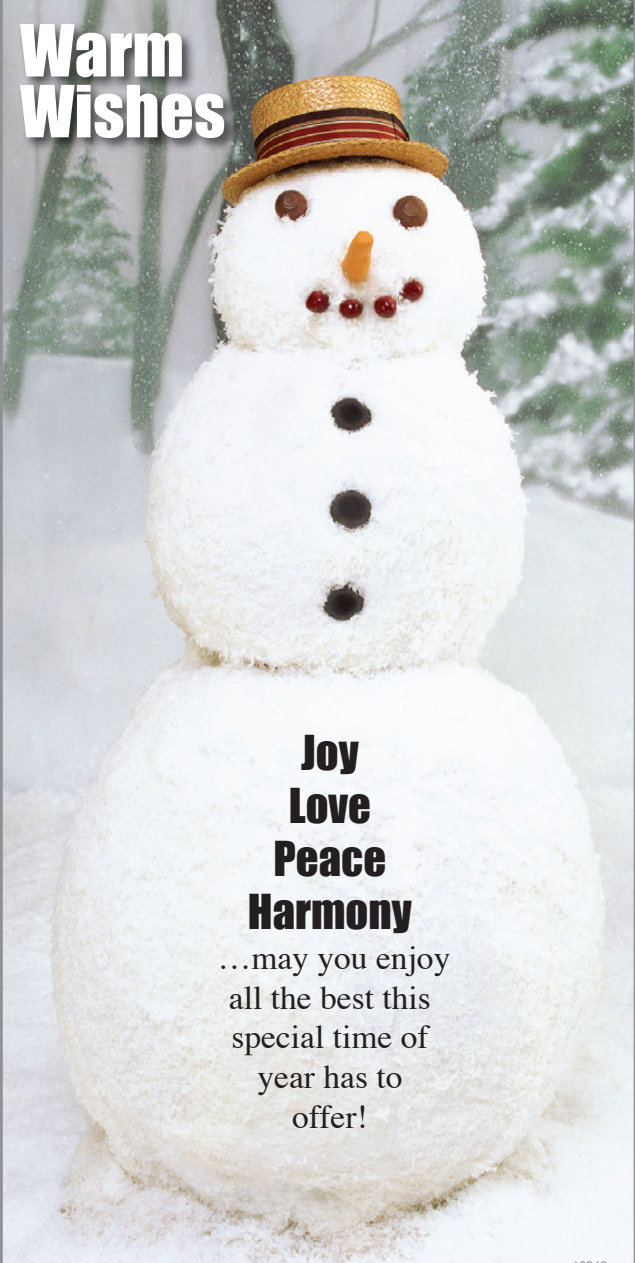
Both Logan and Brittany said they are there by choice, not because they were sent there as outcasts. "Some people think we are the bad kids, the kids who get in trouble," Brittany said. "We are actually the best kids because we never get in trouble, usu-

ally." Steele, who has been principal for 20 years, provided some insight into the kinds of students who attend PLC. "Many of our young people have a lot stress in their lives and need a secure, inviting atmosphere so we try to provide a 'No Drama Zone,'" he said. I have hired every teacher on this campus and most of them have been here a long time. Of course, I'm looking for good teachers but there have to be other qualities, too. "They need to really like nontraditional kids and they have to have a great sense of humor. Without humor and the ability to work well with other people this could be a stressful place to work. Our teachers say that they look forward to coming to work here." Steele said a self-paced environment requires good

attendance and a lot of self-discipline. "If we accept a person who is too immature to handle this style of learning then they will return to the high school," he said. Steele added that teen pregnancy is a big problem in Pampa, so many of those teenage girls want to attend PLC. "After the baby is born they can have free day care next door at Bright Beginnings Day Care," he said. "It is a top-rated facility and helps get mothers and babies off to a good start in this new life." There are only seven teachers, but since there also are only about 50 students, close knit bonds between faculty and students are the norm. "It's hard not to make friends here," Logan said. "I love the teachers here," Brittany said. "They really want you to

graduate," Logan chimed in. Though PLC has graduation ceremonies of its own in the education building of First United Methodist Church, students at the center can walk with PHS students during their graduation if they choose to do so. After graduation, Brittany said she plans to attend college and study audio engineering. A guitar player, she likes to work with music. Logan said he wants to go to Amarillo College and study diesel mechanics. Both students said they have struggled in the past with school and gloomy attitudes. But now that's all changed. "When I wake up in the morning for school I don't hate life," he said. Brittany agreed. "I'm actually excited about coming to school this year."

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Skinner

Continued From Page 1

in October 2012 stated the tests overwhelming show that evidence collected at the crime scene consistently indicates Skinner is guilty of strangling and bludgeoning Busby in the living room of her home on New Year's Eve 1993. During the trial, the state proved Skinner's bloody hand prints were found throughout Busby's house. Skinner admitted he was in the home during the murders but failed to call police or seek help for the victims. Skinner chose instead to flee to a friend's house wearing clothes soaked with the victims' blood. He was hiding in a closet still wearing the bloody clothing when police arrived and arrested him a few hours after the triple

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 66 Low 45	High 71 Low 24	High 46 Low 36

Today: Mostly sunny with a high of 66. Winds south-southwest at 22 mph. Sunrise at 7:48 a.m.

Tonight: Cloudy with a low of 45. Winds southwest at 17 mph. Sunset at 5:34 p.m.

Thursday: Morning clouds and afternoon sun with a high of 71. Winds west-southwest at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:49 a.m.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 24. Winds north-northwest at 14 mph. Sunset at 5:34 p.m.

Friday: Mostly cloudy with a high of 46. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds north-northeast at 19 mph. Sunrise at 7:49 a.m.

Friday night: Cloudy with a low of 36. Chance of rain: 20 percent. Winds northeast at 10 mph. Sunset at 5:35 p.m.

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Obituaries

Eldon E. "Widge" Lash

Eldon E. "Widge" Lash, 92, died Monday, Dec. 16, 2013 in Amarillo.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Byron Williamson, pastor of First Baptist Church, and Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow in Memory Gardens Cemetery with military honors courtesy of U. S. Army, Fort Hood, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Eldon Lash

Mr. Lash was born June 10, 1921 in Hagerstown, Ill., and graduated from Mulberry Grove High School in Mulberry Grove, Ill. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving with the 12th Armored Division in Germany during World War II. Eldon married Betty Jean White on Feb. 26, 1944 in Vandalia, Ill. She preceded him in death on Jan. 25, 2005.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Parlor Sunday School class. He was a diesel mechanic for Finger Motor Company and Johnston Motor Company in Borger, retiring in 1983. Eldon was preceded in death by two daughters, Patricia Jean Baggett on Nov. 16, 2003 and Vickie M. Dawson on June 22, 2011; three brothers, one sister and his parents.

Survivors include a son, Stephen E. Lash and wife Pamela of Pampa; two grandsons, Ricky D. Cloud of Borger and Jason Don Baggett of Pampa; a granddaughter, Mandy Sherman of Amarillo; two great-grandsons, Race Ryan Cloud and Tyler Jaxon Baggett; three great-granddaughters, Bailey Erin Cloud, McKenzie Elizabeth Cloud and Madison Jean Baggett.

Memorials may be made to Pampa Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 939, Pampa, Texas 79066-0939.

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

Ferline Calvert

Ferline Calvert, 92, of Hico, formerly of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 16, 2013 in Hico. Services pending.

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DPS trooper seizes more than 50 pounds of marijuana

SUBMITTED BY DPS

AMARILLO — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) conducted a traffic stop Monday on Interstate 40, yielding 50 pounds of marijuana valued at more than \$221,000.

At approximately 9:52 a.m., a DPS trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2012 Ford F-350 pickup traveling eastbound on I-40 for a traffic violation, near Conway in Carson County.

The driver of the pickup was identified as Suzanne Joan Mayner, 57, of Fort Bragg, Calif. During the traffic stop, the trooper discovered seven bundles of marijuana in the vehicle.

Mayner was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance, a second-degree felony, and booked into the Carson County Jail. The illegal drugs were allegedly being transported from Fort Bragg, Calif., to Charleston, S.C.

Celebrate Christmas at Guthrie Center

STAFF REPORT

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center is holding a Christmas party/Christmas sing-along during its regular Friday jam session.

The jam, session starts at 6:30 p.m. and there will be cookies and drinks available. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler St. and the public is invited.

GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



Submitted photo

Recently, employees of the Jordan and Baten prison units teamed up with the Gray County Child Welfare Board to make Christmas possible for children in foster care in Gray County. This is the 11th year that the prison employees have been involved and this year they bought Christmas gifts for 28 of the foster children of Gray County. Standing with the gifts before they were delivered are from left Carla Robinson, Linda Searl, Capt. Timothy Washington, Candid Howell, Capt. Gorgena Clower and Officer Tommy Ray.

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Viewpoints



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Museum Musings

Auto beginnings in Pampa

The first car in Pampa was owned by Dr. V.E. von Brunow who came in the fall of 1903 to be the town's first doctor.



COURTNEY OXLEY

The car, a beautiful red Velie, was a one-cylinder job guided with a steering bar instead of a wheel. When the car was in running condition, Dr. Brunow tore over the rough wagon paths and frightened most horses within range of hearing or sight.

The doctor, being German, could not say the letter "V." One day Beryl Wynne Vicars saw him working on his car and asked what he was doing. Dr. Brunow replied, "I'm putting vaseline on the walves of the Wealie."

The second car in Pampa was purchased in 1906 by Charles L. Thomas, who with his brother Sam, drilled many of the early water wells in and around Pampa. C.L. and S.S. Thomas were brothers of John V. Thomas who taught school in Pampa (1905-06 and 1906-07) and of Josephine Thomas, long-time principal (1928-1952) of Horace Mann Elementary School.

The Pampa Press, May 28, 1936, gave an account of the Thomas vehicle which had two cylinders but was still guided by a bar.

"If the Zeppelin Hindenberg were to land at the Pampa airport tomorrow and a thousand Pampans have the opportunity to enjoy a flight, the occasion would probably not supply half as many thrills for Pampans of 1936, as did C.L. Thomas' black five-passenger Knox in 1907. On the memorable Fourth of July of that year, more than 500 citizens had their first automobile ride back in the days when cars 'buttoned in the back' as did the vehicle of Mr. Thomas', which he purchased at Higgins."

Mr. Thomas' car had the air-cooled principle, later sky-rocketed by Frank-

lin. To get in the car, one had to step through a door at the back. The car displayed the No. 2, it being the second in Pampa.

No licenses were required for the registration of automobiles when Mr. Thomas registered his car, back in 1906. All that was needed was to report ownership of an automobile at the courthouse, pay a fee of 50 cents and receive a number to be displayed on the car.

The third car in Pampa probably belonged to S.S. Thomas. A record of disbursements of White Deer Lands shows that on March 18, 1908, a payment of \$10 was made to S.S. Thomas for the use of two autos during an election. The previous day an election had been held to consider "location of county seat." The vote was Lefors — 245; Alanreed — 63; McLean — 187.

On March 22, 1908, White Deer Lands paid \$1,203.83 to Buick Auto Company, Kansas City, Mo., for a Model F touring car ordered by T. D. Hobart. On his order dated March 9, Hobart requested wine color, glass folding front, Atwood generator, red running gears, one extra outside tire with two extra inner tubes, one extra spark plug and one pair of tire chains.

Because of the peculiar arrangement of the chain high on the sides of the front, the car was called "the manure spreader" by early residents.

Siler Faulkner, County and District Clerk of Gray County, wrote to Hobart on March 25, 1908:

"I got the data for the registration of the auto but did not have to have the number of the machine. Use No. '4,' which number you will display in a conspicuous place on the machine so that the registered number shows who violates the speed law or rate."

Popular makes of cars in the early days were the Velie and the Reo. Some residents of the early 1920s had Franklins with glass curtains which were

secured with toggle fasteners in times of bad weather.

Early cars were started with hand-cranked. Dr. Walter Purviance, who came to Pampa in 1910 and was a colleague of Dr. Brunow for a time, said he was once called to help get the older doctors's car started for a call on a patient. The car, Dr. Purviance said, required a lot of doctoring, too.

Even with cars, travel was limited in those days. Ungraded roads with chugholes and high centers were prohibitive to any sort of comfortable driving. The road situation was so provoking that Dr. Brunow acquired a grader from some source and graded his own road, the first in the county. On March 3, 1908, White Deer Lands paid him \$127.20 for grading streets in Pampa.

In Gray County Heritage Edwin S. Vicars recalled an unusual occurrence. Brady Cobb, who lived near White Deer, became impatient because Dr. Brunow had not come promptly to attend to his ailing wife. He got in his new Oldsmobile and started toward Pampa. At the same time, late in the afternoon, Dr. Brunow in his sporty Velie was hurrying toward the home of Brady Cobb. On the narrow road, near Kingsmill, the only two cars on the road in Gray County had a head-on collision.

The White Deer Land Museum would like to invite you to come by the museum and family photos in front of our Christmas trees in the Annex Building. Hours are from 1-4 Tuesday – Saturday or call 806-669-8041.

To learn more about Pampa and the Gray County area, visit the White Deer Land Museum in downtown Pampa. Regular tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday from 1-4 pm. If you would like to schedule a special or group tour, please call or email the museum at 806-669-8041 or courtney.oxley@graych.com. Credits: White Deer Land Museum archives, Eloise Lane.

How To Write Us

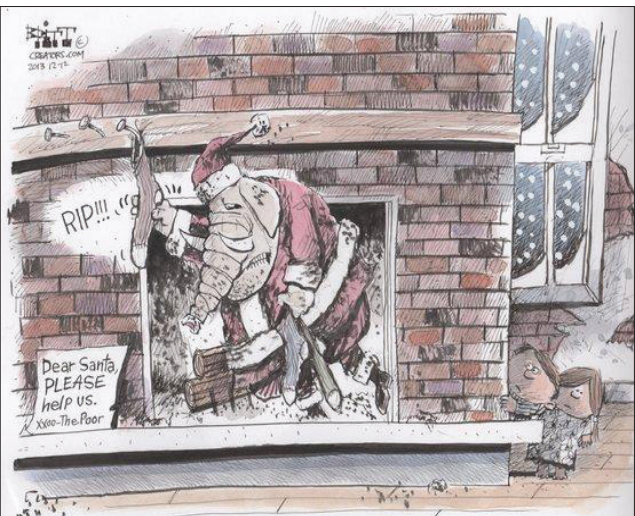
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Children's Shopping Tour: A successful mob of happy children and volunteers

SUBMITTED

The Bible in Ecclesiastes teaches that there is a time for everything. The 51st Annual Children's Shopping Tour this past Saturday was a great time for all who participated, and indeed, was an event of many "times."

It was a time for excitement: "One little boy who came through the checkout line showed us what he bought and told us who each present was for," said Robert Jacob of the Downtown Kiwanis Club. "He was really excited to be able to give presents to his family at Christmas."

Saturday morning, the energy at Walmart was palpable, as kids with volunteers in tow raced aisle to aisle, row to row, toy to toy, bathrobe to tie, excited at their chance to buy Christmas gifts for their family.

It was a time for joy: "We were helping our little boy take his packages into his home," said Sandy Carr, one of the volunteers who drove from Miami to take a child shopping. "His little brothers asked if they could help. With the temperature below freezing, they ran outside in shorts and bare feet to help bring the packages in from the car."

The Optimists Club gymnasium was a sea of joy, resplendent in reds, greens, golds, silvers and all colors of wrapping paper and ribbons, and vibrant in energy as the kids and volunteers happily wrapped all 941 total presents the children purchased at Walmart.

It was a time for renewal: A large number of Pampa High School students, as well as a vanload of Miami High School students, excitedly participated in an act of kindness, just as many of their parents and grandparents once did, with no expectation except to bring others a measure of happiness.

It was a time to break bread. "Our little guy ate three hamburgers," said Melanie Warner, a volunteer who returned to Pampa



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Volunteers help wrap presents Saturday at the Pampa Optimist Gym during the Children's Shopping Tour.

from Fresno, Calif. to help. "He did not have breakfast and was really hungry."

Hundreds packed the Optimists dining hall, leaving no empty seats as they feasted on cheeseburgers and chips, while enjoying Santa's visit.

It was a time to think of others: "The children were not buying any presents for themselves," said General Chair Tom Kokoska. "They were buying gifts for everyone in their home. Many have never experienced the joy of giving at Christmas before."

Volunteers pitched in to help with all manner of necessities for the day, and some made particularly great effort: Billy West and his family drove 90 miles round trip to pick up some children from Wheeler whose family car had broken down, because he wanted to make sure they could have Christmas too. Because of his special effort, those boys were able to shop and buy Christmas presents for their entire family, while sharing in the fun of the day.

It was a time to give back in service: Hever and Diana Arellanes were particularly special volunteers. The Arellanes family moved to Pampa last year and found themselves in tough

times, with limited income until Hever found a job. His own family never had a Christmas, so he was unaware of the feeling of the season. His children participated in the program last year and bought gifts for the entire family for the first time ever. "It was so wonderful and such a special time for our family last year," said Hever. "And through the Children's Shopping Tour we started our own family Christmas tradition. We are so grateful, we want to give back and become a part of this for others."

It was a time for sharing: "We had 150 volunteers this year," said Sandra McKinney of the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, who was in charge of registration. "They each gave half a day of their lives to make Christmas for 248 people who otherwise might not have Christmas this year."

"This year's efforts raised over \$19,000. That's more than \$1 from every person in Pampa," said John Warner, one of the founders and organizers of the event. "The dedication and commitment of this program demonstrates the spirit of the entire Pampa community, which always takes care of its own, and others, too."

It was a time for music: Herb Smith, Carolyn Shelby, Bob Connor and Ben Howard provided live Christmas music for all to enjoy, and then five members of the Pampa High School choir accompanied them to lead the children in singing Christmas carols.

It was a time to remember the "Reason for the Season." Joshua Mayhew of the First Baptist Church explained that candy canes are colored white for Christ's purity, red for his blood and shaped like a shepherd's crook because He is the Good Shepherd of all people.

It was a time for reflection: At the end of the day, with the kids happily ensconced back at their homes, and the Optimist's gym and dining room all picked up, tired but happy long-time volunteers and organizers marveled at the outcome of this event. What started in 1963 as a small act of grace to care for six children has grown into thousands of volunteers through the years helping thousands of kids to buy gifts for thousands of family members.

Last but not least, it was a time to be grateful: "For all that the volunteers gave to bring happiness to these children, I think each in their hearts also felt that 'There, but for the grace of God, go I,'

and we reflect in giving upon how fortunate we are to be able to help make a difference, however small." Kokoska said. "God bless us one and all."

The Children's Shopping Tour was a joint project of nearly 40 organizations and multiple donors including the Kiwanis Club, Pampa Optimist Youth Club, The Salvation Army, Altrusa International of Pampa, Pampa Chamber of Commerce, Pampa Goldcoats, The Pampa News, KGRO and KMOX Radio, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Opti-Mrs. Club, Tralee Crisis Center, Pampa High School Soccer team, Austin Elementary School, P.H.S. Student Council, Astra, Miami High School National Honor Society, Miami Area Youth Organization (MAYO), Miami High School Girls' Basketball, Pampa High School Cheerleaders, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), PHS Football Team, PHS Choir, P. H. S. National Honor Society, Junior National Honor Society, Grace Baptist Church, Church of Latter Day Saints, First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, Aldersgate Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Gideon Society, Gray County Constable's Office, Pampa Police Department, 31st District Attorney's Office, Edward Jones, Duncan, Frasier & Bishop Insurance, Hunting Titan, Pampa Regional Medical Center, One Stop Flooring, Eagle Rock Engineering, Excel Energy, Prime Healthcare, The Morgan Company, Fran Morrison, Dr. W. Ford, Jr. and Glenda Ford, Doug and Ephra Cates, Chuck Cota, Kent and Michelle Dyson, Drs. Fred and Diane Simmons, Drs. Laxmichand and Nirmala Kamnani, John and Judy Warner,

Mary Fatheree, John and Faustine Curry, Rob and Barbara Benyshek, David Smith, CPA, National Bank of Commerce, Katherine Reeve, Dr. Jay Johnson, Jeff Skinner, Clarence and Betty Marak, J&J Karts and Toyota, and numerous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Pampa Faith

Grandma's free lunch

This is kind of a "part 2" article. Part I was a story about my Grandpa Sublett. This is about my Grandma Sublett who was the typical grandma of the era of the 1950s and 1960s. Her name was Ruby



**MIKE
SUBLETT**

Pearl, she had a million-dollar smile, was a little pudgy, had a double chin and no kid ever had a better/prettier grandma.

Nothing that happened in Pampa was as exciting as everything that happened at grandma's house in Bridgeport, Texas. I might have chosen to live there had I been given that option. Even as I write this article I choke up, remembering all of the wonderful times I had with her there. Ruby Pearl was full of love, fabulous in the kitchen, always thinking of ways to make treats for me and not a harsh bone in her body. Well, there was one exception on that harshness; 12:30pm every day Monday through Friday. If you were alive in that era you will probably know what happened at that time - AS THE WORLD TURNS. Grandma Sublett was an "addict" of that soap opera. And the only times I ever saw her angry or harsh was if I disturbed her soap opera time. So since she was always the one doing super fine things for me, I rarely ever disturbed even a moment of her special time with Bob, Kim and Lisa.

For several years during my growing-up years, Grandma took a job at a local café as the short order cook. That made perfect sense to me. What a master she was in any kitchen. When I got old enough to walk to town by myself, I would spruce up and head for her place for lunch. It wasn't actually her place, but in my mind she was the boss there. I would enter the café with head high and shoulders back because my grandma was the cook. I'd proudly take my seat on one

of the stools at the counter. The waitress would then take my order (always the same hamburger, fries, soft drink), tell my grandma I was there and then she would stroll out and give me my extra special hug. I never was embarrassed about her hugs.

The lunch was always the best, even better than hamburgers at her house. I never did understand why, just knew that that's what my taste buds told me. After I finished lunch I would ask for the bill and almost every time the waitress would say, "Your lunch is free because your grandma is the cook." That would always make me lift my head a little higher and my chest would always inflate a little more. A free lunch because grandma was the boss.

Years later my grandma passed away. One time when visiting my aunt Mary, grandma's daughter, we were reliving old times and telling stories. What a special night that was. I brought up how special the lunch times were and how I always got a free lunch because grandma was the boss. My aunt Mary just smiled. I asked her why she was smiling.

"You never knew, did you? You got a free lunch because grandma didn't eat her free lunch. She got a free lunch every day as a benefit of the job, but just one free lunch. On the days you came to eat there, she gladly gave you her lunch. And don't you feel bad about that. She never saw it as a sacrifice, but as a privilege. It made her day to be able to give you that free lunch."

Now do you see why she was the "bestest" grandma EVER! So why am I sharing this story? Hopefully to prompt every grandparent to live that kind of selfless life for others in their family. Those precious souls need stories like this to remember too. Be that story. God bless.

Mike Sublett is a pastor at Hi-Land Christian Church, 1615 N. Banks St., Pampa, Texas 79065. Email him at pawdad@nts-online.net.

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

The KID's of Cornerstone Baptist



Submitted photo

The Team KID's of Cornerstone Baptist Church are working on their Christmas program that will be presented Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m., Dec. 22, at 2410 W. 23rd Ave. The children have been learning about Lottie Moon and her mission work to China. They colored "Flat Lotties," which are paper dolls that represent that Lottie's work is still continuing today. Children ages 4 years through 5th grade are invited to Cornerstone's Team KID's which meets Wednesday nights at 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information call 669-6509.

Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The ages for the children's ministry are nursery through fifth grade. The church is located at the intersection of state Highway 273 and Interstate 40 in McLean. For more information, call 806-779-0260.

Southside Church of Christ

Southside Church of Christ is located at 11923 W. McCullough Ave. in Pampa. The church extends an open invitation to all to come and worship where the gospel, "God's Word," is always taught and preached.

Regular worship services are: Sunday morning Bible study, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; morning worship begins at 10:45 a.m. to noon; Wednesday night Bible study is from 5 to 6 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Mass Vigil Mass will be at 5:30 p.m., with the midnight Mass to follow later that night. The English Christmas Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. with the Spanish Mass at noon. On Dec. 31, Spanish Mass will be at 7 p.m. and Jan. 31 Mass will be at 10 a.m. in English.

Church Calendar

Christmas Eve service at Pampa Nazarene

Join The Pampa Church of the Nazarene for a Christmas Eve service from 6-7 p.m.

This will be no ordinary service, but rather an opportunity to hear stories of hope, redemption and forgiveness, all because Jesus Christ was born.

As the church transforms its sanctuary for what promises to be a memorable evening, they are trusting that God will be transforming lives as they take an authentic look at the

story of Christmas like never before told.

Join them as they create new memories and traditions with family and friends this Christmas Eve.

The church is located at 500 N. West St. and the phone number is 806-669-3144.

McLean Cowboy Church

McLean Cowboy Church is a non-denominational spirit-filled Christian church. The pastor is Ronnie Ferguson.

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. and children's ministry is Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and

Pampa Church Directory

Bible Baptist Church
500 E. Kingsmill Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-7830

Briarwood Full Gospel Church
1800 W. Harvester Avenue
Pampa TX 79065
665-7201

Calvary Assembly of God Church
1030 Love Street
Pampa TX 79065
669-7207

Calvary Baptist
900 E. 23rd Street
Pampa TX 79065
665-0842

Carpenter's Church
639 S. Barnes
Pampa TX 79065
669-2720

Central Baptist Church
513 E. Francis
Pampa TX 79065
665-1631

Church of Christ
1342 Mary Ellen
Pampa TX 79065
665-0031

Church of Christ Somerville
500 N. Somerville
Pampa TX 79065
665-0004

Church of God
Gwendolen & Sumner
Pampa TX 79065
669-6372

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints
411 East 29th Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-2967

Church of the Nazarene
500 N. West
Pampa TX 79065
669-3144

Community Christian School
409 N. Frost
Pampa, TX 79065
665-3393

Cornerstone Baptist Church
2410 W. 23rd Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-6509

Crosspointe
711 E. Harvester
Pampa TX 79065
665-2480

Faith Bible Church
110 W. Kingsmill
Pampa TX 79065
668-9266

Faith Tabernacle UPC
610 Naida
Pampa TX 79065
665-3676

Fellowship Baptist Church
1936 N. Wells
Pampa TX 79065
665-2747

Fellowship Baptist Church
622 E. Francis
Pampa TX 79065
665-5976

First Assembly of God
500 S. Cuyler
Pampa TX 79065
665-5941

First Baptist Church
203 N. West
Pampa TX 79065
669-1155

First Christian Church
1633 N. Nelson
Pampa TX 79065
669-3225

First Freewill Baptist Church
731 Sloan St.
Pampa TX 79065
665-2545

First Pentecostal Holiness
1700 Alcock
Pampa TX 79065
665-8192

First Presbyterian
525 N. Gray
Pampa TX 79065
665-1031

First United Methodist
Foster & Ballard
Pampa TX 79065
669-7411

Grace Baptist Church
824 S. Barnes
Pampa TX 79065
669-7967

Harvest Fellowship Baptist Church
2700 W. Kentucky Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
665-4922

Harvest Bible Church
300 W. Browning Avenue
Pampa TX 79065
669-2923

Hobart Baptist Church
1100 W. Crawford
Pampa TX 79065
669-3212

Hi-land Christian Church
1615 N. Banks
Pampa TX 79065
669-6700

Highland Baptist Church
1301 N. Banks
Pampa TX 79065
665-3300

Iglesia Bautista Emanuel
1021 S. Barnes
Pampa TX 79065
665-4330

Iglesia Casa Del Alfarero
500 N. Duncan
Pampa TX 79065
665-5898

Iglesia Cristiana Canaan
905 E. Beryl St.
Pampa TX 79065
669-3330

Iglesia Nueva Vida
New Life Church
1200 S. Sumner
Pampa, TX 79065
665-8331

Jehovah's Witnesses
1701 Coffee
Pampa TX 79065
669-9355

Kentucky Ave. Church of Christ
1612 W. Kentucky
Pampa TX 79065
665-2572

Lighthouse Baptist Church
725 W. Brown
Pampa TX 79065
665-0262

Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship
1733 N. Banks St.
Pampa TX 79065
669-6915

Macedonia Baptist Church
441 Elm
Pampa TX 79065
665-4926

New Hope Baptist Church
404 Harlem
Pampa TX 79065
665-4044

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
912 S. Gray St.
Pampa TX 79065
665-4044

New Life Assembly of God
1435 N. Sumner
Pampa TX 79065
665-0804

Open Door Church of God in Christ
402 Oklahoma
Pampa TX 79065
665-6132

Priest Park Church of God
731 N. Faulkner
Pampa TX 79065
688-0174

Primeria Iglesia Bautista Mexicana
541 Hamilton
Pampa TX 79065
665-8347

Redeemer Pampa
225 N. Cuyler
Pampa, TX 79065
Salvation Army

701 S. Cuyler
Pampa TX 79065
665-7233

Seventh Day Adventist Church
421 N. Ward
Pampa TX 79065
665-4492

Southside Church of Christ
11927 McCullough
Pampa TX 79065
665-2183

St. Paul United Methodist Church
511 N. Hobart
Pampa TX 79065
665-8951

St. Mark CME Church
406 Elm Ave
Pampa TX 79065
665-6743

St. Matthews Episcopal Church
727 W. Browning
Pampa TX 79065
665-0701

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
810 W. 23rd Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
665-8933

Straight-Up Fellowship
400 N. Wells
Pampa TX 79065
664-0096

Trinity Fellowship Church
2225 N. Hobart
Pampa TX 79065
665-3255

United Methodist Church
201 E. Foster
Pampa TX 79065
669-9371

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1200 Duncan
Pampa TX 79065
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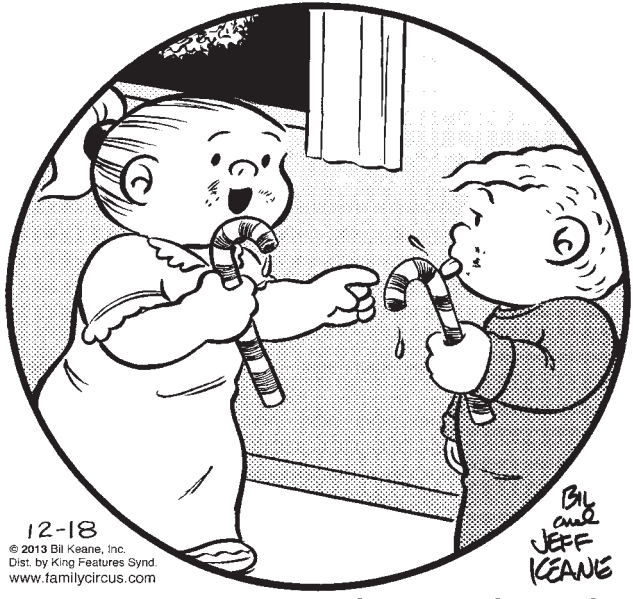
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

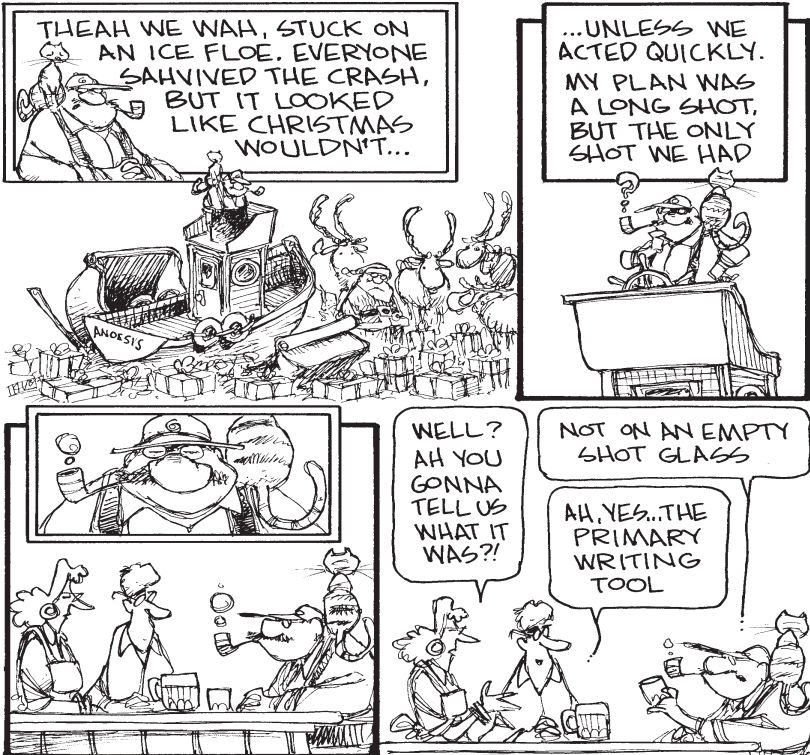


12-18
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Bil and Jeff Keane

"Which do you like best — the red stripes or the white stripes?"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013:
This year you will feel as if the wind is at your back, as so much seems to flow in your life. The only person who can stop you is you. Sometimes your fears and insecurities prevent you from being as dynamic as possible. You might decide to do some personal work to release any issues that limit you. As a result, you could become more relaxed and confident. If you are single, you will attract someone of interest just by being yourself. If you are attached, the bond that exists between you becomes more intense. LEO always encourages you to take the next step.
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)
★★★★ Your optimism and enjoyment of your personal life come out, even when dealing with a difficult associate. Questions might arise in a meeting or in a discussion involving a friend. Listen carefully and observe. Indulge an important child in your life. Tonight: In weekend mode.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You will speak and be heard; the modulation of your voice says it all. You would prefer to indulge a loved one rather than have to put restrictions on him or her. You will hear positive news, but recognize that you might not have all the facts. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Before you go out to complete any holiday shopping or other matters related to the next few weeks, balance your checkbook and take a hard look at your finances. Everyone loves to give gifts, including you, but creating situations that will be damaging later should be avoided. Tonight: Out late.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ A gesture to those in your daily life will mean a lot, and it doesn't need to cost a lot. A loved one might feel a bit down, as you seem to be everywhere but with him or her. This person will understand your actions, but know that he or she misses you. Tonight: It is your call.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Know when to pull back and find out what is happening. You might not understand the whole story, so speak to a friend or loved one who could give you a different perspective. Have a difficult conversation, and fig-

ure out what you want. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ A meeting will be more important than you realize. Push could come to shove, whether you like it or not. Your seriousness will help you communicate how important an appropriate response might be. Get as much information as possible. Tonight: Listen to your instincts.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Step up to the plate and assume your responsibilities. Your finances could stress you out inordinately, especially as you might be facing big bills and also coveting a special item for yourself or a loved one. Tonight: Join friends. Let go of the issue.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to a relative at a distance. A situation could trigger you, but the matter at hand will transform soon enough. Let others' opinions filter in. At the end of the day, it will be you who has the final opinion. Tonight: Indulge in some lighthearted holiday fun.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Deal with a loved one directly. You might feel as if you are carrying a burden that is hard to discuss; however, you must open up in order to release this weight. One-on-one conversations could help the situation considerably. Tonight: Go out and finish up your shopping.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Listen to answers and defer to someone else. Allow greater flexibility. Going with the flow could be a lot easier than you originally might have thought. In the past few weeks, if you have managed to relax, you have experienced more freedom. Tonight: Join friends for some munchies.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Pace yourself, and know full well what you need to do. A boss or higher-up could be on your case because he or she needs you to do more. You are in the holiday spirit. Therefore, you will try to meet all of your demands, and you might even succeed. Tonight: Take a nap.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Allow greater creativity to flourish. You have many ideas that could help you shorten your to-do list. Take the time to add some of the extra flourishes that represent the winter holidays. Tonight: Move quickly through your errands.

Tundra



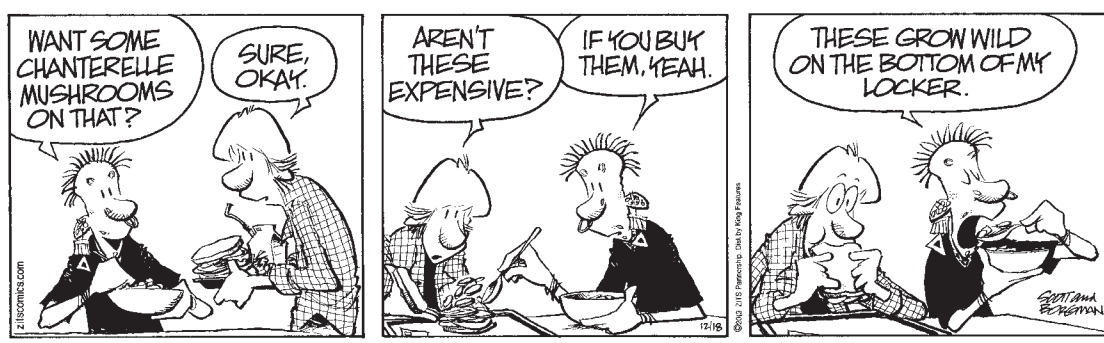
Shoe



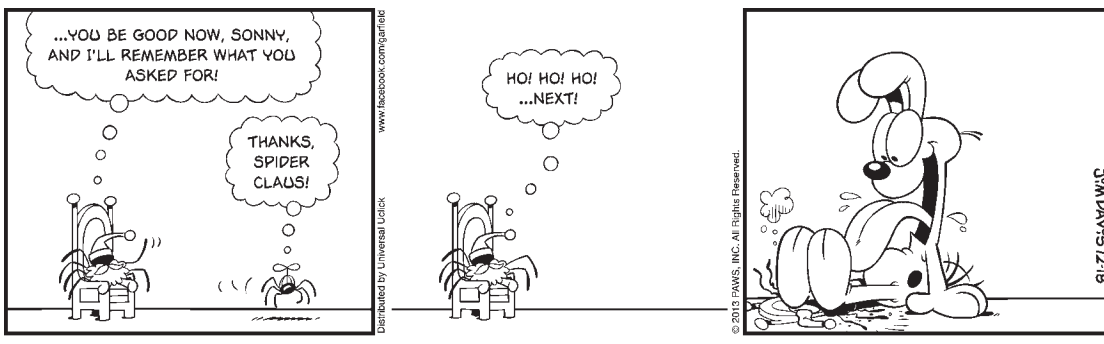
Mother Goose and Grim



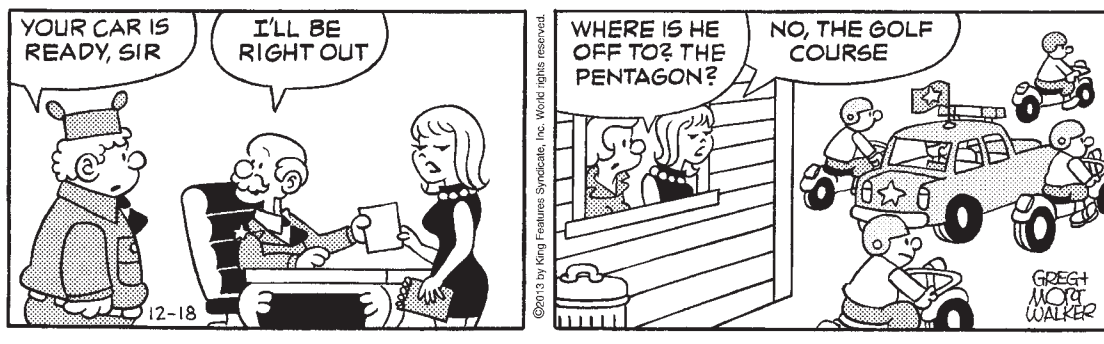
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible

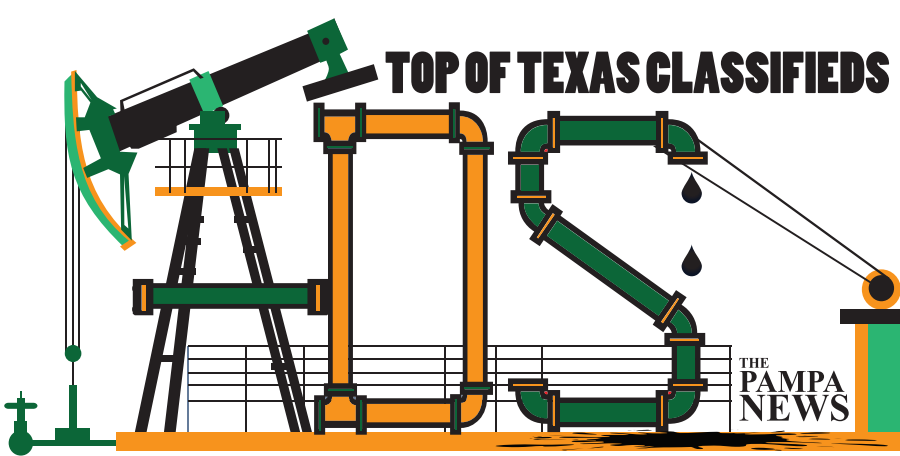


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OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR. Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.	Help Wanted BODY SHOP Estimator/Accessory Sales. Must be good with people and have phone skills. Vacation & retirement. Apply in person at 101 S. Hobart.	CLASS A Tanker Driver needed for Pampa area. Must have Hazmat & good MVR. Home nightly. 620-899-0838 or 620-899-0837.	PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES/ ADMIN ASSISTANT/ SECRET SHOPPER CANDIDATES International Education Research Foundation (IERF) is seeking a customer service representative/administrative assistant to serve as a liaison between IERF and its applicants, counseling them through the evaluation report process. Duties include, but are not limited to: handling phone calls, responding to emails, processing applications and payments, and maintaining a client record database. There is potential for growth within the company for qualified candidates.	
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AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

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

12-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

SWDX DX SWH RDVXS SHXS
FR L ZHISYHQLI: WDX VHXNHPS
RFV SWFXH OWF PLI GH FR
IF NFXXDGYH ALYTH SF WDQ.

— ODDYDLQ YKFI NWHYNX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE GREATEST GOOD YOU CAN DO FOR ANOTHER IS NOT JUST TO SHARE YOUR RICHES BUT TO REVEAL TO HIM HIS OWN. — BENJAMIN DISRAELI

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808 E Locust St MLS# 13-9858 1,248 sqft - 3 bed, 1 ba	513 N Powell MLS# 13-9870 1,917 sqft - 3 bed, 1.75 ba	441 W Brown St MLS# 12-9327 Commercial 24,075 sqft - 1 ba
1044 W Crane Rd MLS# 13-9811 1,379 sqft - 3 bed, 1.75 ba PENDING	931 N Christine St MLS# 13-9817 2,311 sqft - 4 bed, 1.75 ba	2122 W Alcock St MLS# 13-9847 Commercial 1,584 sqft - 1 ba
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8601 W Cemetery Rd Amarillo, TX MLS# 13-9845 1,064 sqft - 3 bed 2 ba	525 N Powell MLS# 13-9825 927 sqft - 2 bed, 1 ba SOLD	Burdett/Arrington Ave Skellytown, TX MLS# 11-9135, Commercial Lots
	737 N Bradley Dr MLS# 13-9825 1,918 sqft - 4 bed, 2 ba PENDING	400 S Talley St White Deer, TX MLS# 12-9447, Residential Lots

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If you need</p>	<p>Legals / Pubic Notice</p> <p>more information call 855-222-5366. F-23 12/18/2013</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICE: These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on February 19, 2014. You have until August 18, 2014 to redeem any ticket for these games: #1532 Lady Bucks (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.18, #1533 Cash 2 Go (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.72, #1541 Find the 9's (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 3.76, #1457 Kiss@ (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.18, #1474 Veterans Cash (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.14, #1494 Wild Card (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.21, #1518 Cash Bam Boom (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.73, #1506 Star Trek™ (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.77, #1539 Bonus Ball Bingo (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.93, #1456 Diamonds & Gold (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.33, #1505 Mucho Cash Fiesta (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.82, #1508 Money Mania (\$5) overall odds</p>	<p>Legals / Pubic Notice</p> <p>are 1 in 3.82, #1519 Stacks of Cash (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.83. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$1,000,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters and final decisions</p>	<p>Legals / Pubic Notice</p> <p>of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2013 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved. F-22 12/18/2013</p> <p>HERBS • VITAMINS • WEIGHT LOSS • ENERGY Herbs Etc. 109 W Kingsmill, Pampa (806) 665-4883 www.pampanadirect.com</p>	<p>Legals / Pubic Notice</p> <p>of the Executive Director. 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SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS.....



TO BE LOVED

Could You Love Me?

I don't have a name.
I am a -Shepherd Mix Male
#11142

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: A couple of years ago, my husband informed me that he likes to dress in women's clothing. Since then he has read books, is seeing a counselor, and the reality is, he is transgender. He now wears his hair long and has long fingernails.

I have tried to be understanding and have gone places with him when he is dressed as a woman. He has met other transgender people who have either made the full transition or are content without it. I allow my husband time with these new friends without me. I did feel weird that he was clothes shopping and going to movies with his new friends.

I have reconciled with these activities and I'm OK with them so far. But I have told him that if he decides to change his gender to female, I will not be able to be married to him. He's on hormones at the moment and has told me he plans to start testosterone blockers.

I love him, Abby, but NOT the woman side of him. Am I unreasonable to put a boundary on my marriage? He thinks if he slowly eases me into the idea that it will be OK. He says I am his "world" and I should love him no matter what gender he is. Am I being selfish? — **SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTHWEST**

DEAR SOMEWHERE: You appear to be a loving and accepting wife. You may be your husband's world, but his world is changing — and along with it, so is yours. It is not selfish to take care of yourself. You did not enter your marriage to be partnered with another woman, and you should not be made to feel guilty remaining with one if it's not what you want. Some spouses stay together; others just can't.

If you haven't heard of

the **Straight Spouse Network**, it is a confidential support network of current or former heterosexual spouses or partners of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender mates. It was founded in 1991, and its mission is to help straight spouses or partners cope with coming-out issues, and help mixed-orientation couples and their children build bridges of understanding. To learn more about it and find a support group near you, visit www.straightspouse.org.

DEAR ABBY: I have always had an extremely close relationship with my little sister. Last year, I graduated from high school and left for university. It was hard for both of us. My college is an hour away from where my family lives, so even though I live on campus, I try to come home whenever I can to visit on weekends.

Lately it seems like my little sister has emotionally distanced herself from me. She doesn't confide in me anymore, shows little interest in my life, and it has got-

ten to the point where she barely acknowledges me in public. I have tried talking to her about it and telling her how much it hurts me, but she tells me I'm overreacting and to stop being stupid.

My mom says she does this with everyone and that this is typical for a 14-year-old teenager, but it breaks my heart to be so excluded from her life. Is this just a phase I have to learn to deal with and accept? What should I do? — **SAD BIG SISTER IN SWITZERLAND**

DEAR BIG SISTER: Your sister is growing up, and part of that process means becoming an individual. Right now she is trying to figure out who she is, apart from the family she loves — including you. I'm sure she isn't intentionally trying to hurt your feelings. Because you were so close, she may have felt abandoned when you left for college. Your mother is right about this. Let your sister evolve. She'll be back. Accept it for now.

BANANAGRAMS!

There is one letter, that when added to all of the five-letter words below, can be used to form new six-letter words. Find the letter that works for all four words, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

LEVEL

ROUGE REUSE

SOARS LOANS

COMMON LETTER

Yesterday's Answer: REROUTE, GUST, GLUMOR, STATURE

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 45 Spot
- 1 Dogsled command
 - 5 Winter dripper
 - 11 Last Stuart ruler
 - 12 Realm
 - 13 Put in the overhead rack
 - 14 Cut off
 - 15 Road rescue
 - 16 Salon offerings
 - 17 Ice skate part
 - 19 Down in the dumps
 - 22 Profit
 - 24 Tango or twist
 - 26 Con quarters
 - 27 Folk learning
 - 28 Valletta's island
 - 30 Outlet output
 - 31 Overhead trains
 - 32 Nerdy guy
 - 34 Clock reading
 - 35 Memorable time
 - 38 Horse operas
 - 41 Baldwin of "Beetle-juice"
 - 42 Warning lights
 - 43 Lackluster
 - 44 Light snowstorm
- DOWN**
- 1 Schooner part
 - 2 "Do — others ..."
 - 3 Grows rapidly
 - 4 Cut down
 - 5 Did nothing
 - 6 Put in the fridge
 - 7 Little devils
 - 8 Beanie or beret
 - 9 Tell tales
 - 10 Break off
 - 16 Guy's friend
 - 18 Bouncy tune
 - 19 European flowers
 - 20 Plot unit
 - 21 Forest grazer
 - 22 High point
 - 23 Schnitzel base
 - 25 Soothing plant
 - 29 Fond fellow
 - 30 According to
 - 33 Weak-willed
 - 34 Munich mister
 - 36 Gather
 - 37 Needing aspirin
 - 38 Not working
 - 39 Totality
 - 40 Letter after sigma
 - 41 Presidential nickname

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

- Yesterday's answer**
- 21 Forest grazer
 - 22 High point
 - 23 Schnitzel base
 - 25 Soothing plant
 - 29 Fond fellow
 - 30 According to
 - 33 Weak-willed
 - 34 Munich mister
 - 36 Gather
 - 37 Needing aspirin
 - 38 Not working
 - 39 Totality
 - 40 Letter after sigma
 - 41 Presidential nickname

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
					12					
13					14					
15				16						
			17	18				19	20	21
22	23					24	25			
26							27			
28				29		30				
31				32	33					
				34				35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

12-18

PampaSports

Labonte to enter Daytona 500

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) — Bobby Labonte will attempt to qualify for the Daytona 500 for Phoenix Racing.

The 2000 NASCAR champion will be making his attempt in a second entry for the team recently acquired by Harry Scott from long-time owner James Finch. Scott is fielding one full-time car for Justin Allgaier.

No car number was announced for the Labonte entry. Finch made a deal with Scott to get Labonte into the second car for the February season-opening race.

Labonte is not guaranteed a spot in the Daytona 500 field. But he's eligible to use a past champion's provisional if he is slow in single-lap qualifying and then does not finish high enough in qualifying races.

QB Russell Wilson on board with Alaska Airlines

SEATTLE (AP) — Alaska Airlines has announced a marketing partnership with Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson.

The Seattle-based airline said Tuesday that Wilson would appear at events, take part in marketing activities and support youth and education programs.

Bryant, Cowboys must bounce back again

IRVING (AP) — Dez Bryant made the rounds Monday trying to explain why he left the field early in Dallas' crushing loss to Green Bay.

The emotional receiver just couldn't watch the Packers take a knee three times for a 37-36 victory after the Cowboys led 26-3 at halftime. He was afraid he was going to cry in front of the cameras, so he says he took the tears to the locker room.

Now it's time for a two-game test for the Cowboys' biggest playmaker and the resolve of Tony Romo after his latest failure in key moments.

Beat Washington and Philadelphia to finish the season, and Dallas (7-7) ends a three-year playoff drought. Lose to the freefalling Redskins on Sunday, and the Cowboys might be eliminated before they

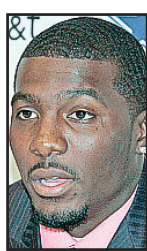
even play their final game.

All this after they had a near-certain victory in hand against the Packers that would have pulled them even with the Eagles atop the NFC East and given them a chance to wrap up a playoff berth at Washington.

"The trend's not going to continue because we're going to do what we need to do," Bryant said Monday in a mostly empty locker room at the team's training facility. "This whole group in this locker room, we believe and we're going to keep working."

Bryant, who made similar headlines earlier in the season with a sideline rant during another deflating defeat at Detroit, was waiting for reporters so he could tell them that leaving with time still on the clock "was absolutely not right."

That was essentially the



Dez Bryant

message in his conversation with coach Jason Garrett, who said his star receiver wasn't disciplined. "It's difficult for everybody when things don't go well and he needs to understand how to handle that," Garrett said. "I think he'll handle that better in the future. He was very apologetic to me and was concerned about the situation."

Bryant's latest sideline moment didn't face as much scrutiny Monday as Romo's decision to check out of a running play before throwing an interception that gave Green Bay another chance down 36-31 with less than 3 minutes to go.

The Cowboys were in po-

sition to force the Packers to go most of the field in less than 2 minutes even if they didn't get a first down. Instead, Matt Flynn took over for Green Bay at midfield and led a scoring drive.

Another interception from Romo completed the collapse.

"I think in hindsight you would say that was the wrong decision, and Tony would be the first to tell you that," Garrett said of the first interception.

"Sometimes it's OK on second-and-6 to hand the ball off, take your lumps, and deal with the third down, force them to use another timeout, and then just work that situation out."

Now Romo has to find a way to lead a team that has given away two games, been blown out of two others and has a personal history of late-game and late-season failures.

The latest left tight end Jason Witten with nothing much to say beyond "words can't really describe it" after the game.

"If you have the right kind of guys on your team, you handle the inevitable adversities of the season better than if you don't," Garrett said.

"If you put emotion into something, passion into something and it doesn't work out, sometimes that's hard to swallow. But again, you have to regroup."

The challenge for Bryant might be the biggest.

"I know for me it's very, very, very hard to swallow," said Bryant, who had 153 yards and a touchdown that put Dallas up 12 midway through the fourth quarter.

"That kind of stuff leaves scars. It brings pain. I know that's what it brought to me."

Tuesday: Clippers beat Spurs 115-92 behind Griffin and Paul

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Clippers told themselves they couldn't make any excuses. Didn't matter



Blake Griffin

how physically tired or mentally drained they were from a seven-game trip. They had to find a way to win, just like San Antonio — a team Doc Rivers calls "the gold standard" — typically does.

And the Clippers did, notching their largest margin of victory ever against the Spurs.

Blake Griffin scored 27 points, hitting 11 of 15 free

throws, in the 115-92 win Monday night, 48 hours after returning to Los Angeles.

"The best part about this game was we knew what we had to do," Griffin said.

"We executed our game plan. Even when they made runs nobody got down. That positive attitude is big."

Chris Paul added 23 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Jamal Crawford had 17 points in his second straight start for the Clippers, who repelled several threats in the third quarter to maintain their lead.

"Another good win for us coming off the road trip," said Paul, who won't be dwelling on it. "We got to get past it."

Tim Duncan had 17

points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, whose four-game winning streak ended. Tony Parker limped off the court with a right shin contusion with 5:09 left in the third.

He finished with eight points and six assists in 26 minutes, and didn't speak with reporters afterward.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Parker was in pain and having trouble walking on it, so he had to be taken out of the game.

"He has the ball in his hands for a long time, especially when it counts the most," Manu Ginobili said about Parker.

"So we couldn't adjust to it and it was hard, especially against a team that is aggressive."

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San Francisco at St. John's.....FOX5 7 p.m.
Stanford at (10) Connecticut.....ESPN2 8 p.m.
LSU at Texas Tech.....ESPNU 8 p.m.
Houston Baptist at DePaul.....FS2 8 p.m.

Hockey
Pittsburgh Penguins at New York Rangers.....NBCSN 7 p.m.

Basketball
Indiana Pacers at Miami Heat.....ESPN 6 p.m.
Chicago Bulls at Houston Rockets.....ESPN 8:30 p.m.

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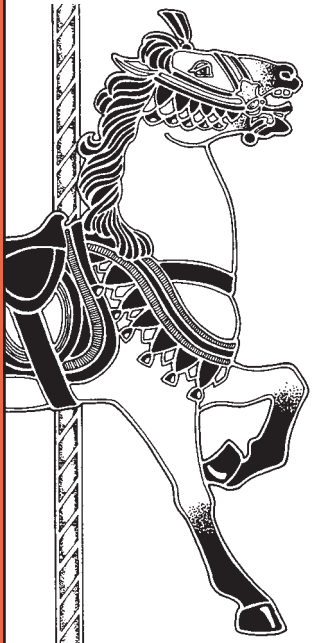


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