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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Thursday, January 23, 2014 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 204

75¢ Tales from the Final Frontier
 The meaning of fear and freedom | p4
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Harvesters and Lady Harvesters in district play
 Former U.T. and NFL player files for bankruptcy | p11&12

Rigo murder trial begins next week

Amarillo man accused of killing Lefors resident Kristi Dawn Slatten.

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Jury selection for Joshua Keith Rigo, who is accused of killing Lefors resident Kristi Dawn Slatten on New Year's Day 2013, begins at 9 a.m. Monday at the Gray County Courthouse. Opening arguments could begin as early as late Monday.

Rigo, 30, of Amarillo, is charged with first-degree murder,



Joshua Rigo

of \$50,000 for other charges.

theft of a firearm and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and theft of property. He is being held at the Gray County Jail on a \$500,000 bond for the murder charge and bonds of \$50,000 for each of the three

If convicted on the murder charge, Rigo could face 99 years or life in prison.

Judge Steven R. Emmert of the 31st District Court will preside over the jury trial.

Gray County District Attorney Franklin McDonough is prosecuting the case, while Pampa attorney Harold Comer is Rigo's defense attorney.

Neither McDonough nor Comer were available for comment

Wednesday.

The murder was investigated by the Gray County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Rangers. Both agencies said they could not comment on the case.

The 42-year-old Slatten was found strangled to death in her home New Year's Day by the Gray County Sheriff's deputies after they received a 911 call. Investigators found evidence of foul play at the scene and determined Slatten's Chevrolet Avalanche was missing. A warrant

was issued for the stolen vehicle.

Not long after Slatten's body was discovered, officers with the Panhandle Police Department, Carson County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Highway Patrol stopped the vehicle on U.S. Highway 60 two miles west of Panhandle.

Rigo was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, and his passenger, Steve Preston Dean, 47, of Amarillo, was arrested on unrelated charges. Both

RIGO cont. on page 2



Submitted photo
 Front row from left, PHS choir members are Brooke Woelfle, Kindle Hunt, Emilee Frost, Mackenzie Parks, Macy Cochran and Tre Dildy. Back row, Kirsten Hood, Shattner Reeve, Chase Cree, Taylor Smith, Greg Smith, Anthony Villanueva, Ethan Hunt and Logan Turley. Not pictured is Josh Hernandez.

PHS choir dinner theater Jan. 28-30

STAFF REPORT

The Pampa High School Choir Department is preparing for its annual dinner theatre production titled "Evening on Broadway." The event will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 28-30 in the M.K. Brown Heritage Room.

There will be many performances from various students and groups from the high school choirs. Some of the musicals that will be featured are "Anything Goes," "Spamalot," "Phantom of the Opera," "The Sound of Music," "Les Miserables" and many more.

In addition to the student performances, guests will enjoy a dinner consisting of salad, smoked pork loin with cranberry-jalapeno relish, Italian green beans, mashed potatoes, dinner roll, dessert and a drink.

This is one of the choir department's largest fundraisers to help students fund their annual choir trip. This year the choir students will be traveling through the great state of Texas.

Reservations are \$25 per person and can be made through any choir student or assistant choir director Brianna Montgomery or director Fred Mays. Reservations also can be made by emailing Montgomery at brianna.montgomery@pampaisd.net or calling Julie Frost at 806-662-4111.

In addition to the show, the students will be holding a silent auction.

Report: Teacher salaries recovering from 2011 funding cuts

Pampa teachers received 4.5% increase over past 2 years.

STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN — More than 90 percent of Texas teachers received a base salary increase for 2013-14, according to the Salaries and Wages in Texas Public Schools Report recently released by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA).

In districts that gave raises (including step increases), the average pay increase for returning teachers was 2.9 percent. That is up more than half of a percent from 2012-13. Pay increases have climbed nearly 1 percent since

PAY cont. on page 2

Pampa man opens pest control business

BY LINDSEY TOMASCHIK
 LKTomaschik@thepampanews.com

Rick Pearson decided that he wanted to provide a service to the people of Pampa and on Feb. 11, 2013 All American Pest Control opened its doors.

Pearson had been in the pest control business for 10 years in the past. Although he has not always lived in Pampa, he chose to open his business here to give back to the town he has been blessed enough to live in.

"I grew up in Perryton and moved to Pampa in 1990," he said. Before opening his own business, Pearson worked at Halliburton.

"I love Pampa. The Lord has blessed me in this town," he said about why he wanted to open All American Control in Pampa rather than any other city. He added that Pampa has wonderful people, a great atmosphere and that he loves the area. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Pearson said he loves working in Pampa because he enjoys getting to know new people.

The people he serves are his favorite part of the job, he said.

All American Pest Control provides general pest control services to both commercial and residential areas throughout town. Pearson also treats yards for fleas, ticks and mosqui-



Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik

Rick Pearson wants to earn your business one treatment at a time.

toes. When it comes to his future goals for the business, Pearson says that he wants to continue to grow, learn new techniques and meet new people.

PEST cont. on page 2

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FIRST GOLD STAR WINNER



Photo by John Lee

Leah Pearson was the winner of The Pampa News' "Treasure Hunt" for this week. Pearson found the gold star and won the \$150 for this week. Check back in next Wednesday's publication for the next set of clues in The Pampa News' "Treasure Hunt." One day a week for four weeks there will be clues in the paper hinting to the location of the star. The first person to come to The Pampa News office by 4 p.m. the Tuesday following the contest with the star will receive \$150. The star will be engraved with the words "Pampa News Treasure Hunt" and there will be different clues in each ad in the campaign each week. Advertisements involved with the contest will have a special symbol on them, so participants can find them easily and read the clues.

LAX gunfire came while officers away

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Minutes before a gunman opened fire in a Los Angeles International Airport terminal last fall, killing a security screener and wounding three other people, the two armed officers assigned to the area left for breaks without informing a dispatcher as required.

The Los Angeles Airport Police Department officers were outside Terminal 3 when authorities say Paul Ciancia opened fire with an assault rifle in an attack targeting Transportation Security Administration officers, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press. The officials requested anonymity, saying they were briefed on the shooting but were not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing investigation.

As terrified travelers dived for cover, TSA officers — who are unarmed — fled the screening area without hitting a panic button or using a landline to call for help. It took a call from an airline contractor to a police dispatcher, who then alerted officers over the radio — a lag of nearly a minute and a half, the officials said.

Before officers could get to the scene, Ciancia fatally wounded TSA Officer Gerardo Hernandez and then headed to the screening area where he shot two more agents and a traveler, authorities said. Ciancia was subdued after being wounded by officers in the gate area of the terminal.

When the shooting started, the two officials say one of the armed officers assigned to the terminal was at or just outside an adjacent terminal. One of the officials said the officer was on a bathroom break and the other foot-beat officer was in a vehicle on the tarmac outside Terminal 3, headed for a meal break.

The new details about the whereabouts of the two officers come as authorities review the overall response, including whether emergency medical personnel were forced to wait longer than necessary to remove Hernandez so he could be taken to a hospital. The AP earlier reported that Hernandez did not receive medical care until 33 minutes after he was shot. A coroner's release said he was likely dead within two to five minutes.

Departmental procedures require that officers notify a dispatcher before going on break and leaving their patrol area in order

to ensure supervisors are aware of their absence and, if necessary, a relief unit can be brought in to cover their area.

Airport police union chief Marshall McClain said the two officers assigned to Terminal 3 still were in position to quickly respond to the shooting. He said he'd spoken with both and confirmed one was "going to the restroom or coming back from the restroom" and the other was headed out on a meal break but still within his patrol area.

"He hadn't gone on break yet. He was going to go on break," McClain said. What typically happens is, "if you're going to go on a lunch break, you get to your location and you tell them that you're there."

Officers often do this in order to maximize their lunch break so they don't lose time while traveling.

Within a minute of the dispatcher's call, that officer had stopped someone who ran out of the terminal and the other officer was heading toward the shooting, McClain said.

Mayor Eric Garcetti told the AP in an interview that he's watched surveillance video and received briefings on the investigation. While officers were able to take Ciancia into custody within five minutes of the shooting, he said, "It could have been a lot worse."

Whatever the investigation's conclusions, Garcetti said, "I want to make sure that in any terminal, there's always somebody there, that a bathroom break doesn't result in somebody, even for a few minutes, being out of the action."

According to investigators, Ciancia, originally from Pennsville, N.J., arrived at the airport on Nov. 1 with the intention of killing TSA workers. Authorities have said Ciancia had a grudge against the agency, but they have not indicated what prompted it.

After entering the terminal, police say Ciancia pulled a semi-automatic rifle from a duffel bag and began spraying the area with gunfire. Hernandez was mortally wounded and became the first TSA agent to die in the line of duty.

The dispatcher's alert over police radio brought an officer on a Segway, another on a bike, one on a motorcycle, two in a patrol car and one on foot, said one of the law enforcement officials.

GO FIGURE: Alaska is warmer than Lower 48

WASHINGTON (AP) — The weather seems more than a bit upside down.

The average temperature for the Lower 48 states midmorning Wednesday was a chilly 22 degrees. The average temperature for the entire state of Alaska

at the same time was 24 degrees, according to calculations by Weather Bell Analytics meteorologist Ryan Maue.

Parts of Alaska were 30 degrees warmer than normal, southeastern Alaska hit 57 earlier in the week

and the forecast for the rest of the week was more unseasonable warmth, said National Weather Service climate science manager Rick Thoman in Fairbanks. He said it's possible that the state record January high of 62 could be broken later this week.

Atlanta dropped to 16, Washington, D.C., to 9 and Central Park in New York fell to 7 on Wednesday.

The jet stream is meandering again, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director at Weather Underground. So warm air is flowing from near Hawaii north to Alaska and from Canada south to the Lower 48.

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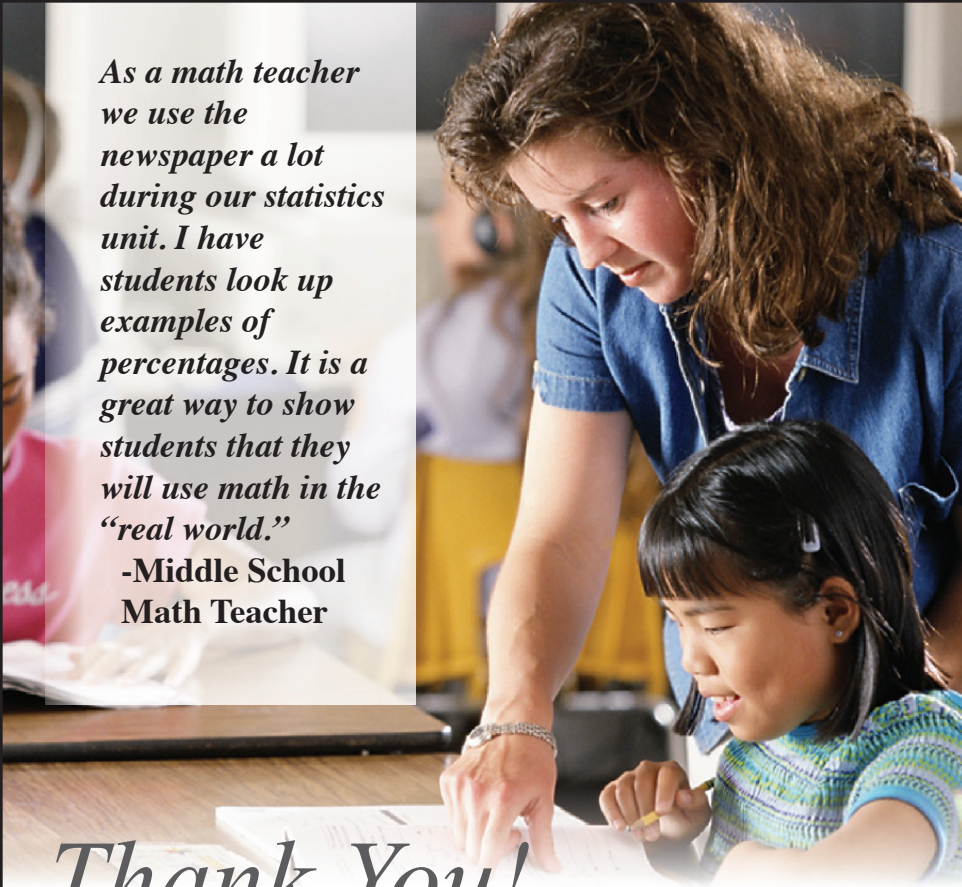
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Pest

Continued From Page 1

He lives by the motto: "Earning your business one treatment at a time."

His motto is one to live by because Pearson said

it reminds him to always give 100 percent and learn and grow from each treatment.

Pearson gives the credit of the success of his business to God.

"God has blessed me through this business by providing for my family.

I don't want to leave him out because I am nothing without him," he said.

All American Pest Control is located at 220 E. Francis Ave.

For more information call 806-440-6105 or visit www.all-americanpestcontrol.com.

Pay

Continued From Page 1

2011, when district concerns about school funding cuts dragged average pay increases to the lowest level in more than 10 years. From 2000 to 210, teacher pay increases averaged nearly 4 percent per year.

In the Pampa Independent School District, teachers received a 2-percent increase for the current school and a 2.5-percent increase for 2012-13, said Superintendent David Young.

Along with that, in 2012-13 the district increased the amount it pays toward

health insurance by about 11 percent, Young said.

"I suspect we are a little above average when compared to other districts," he said.

He added that most districts in Texas did not give pay raises in 2012-13, which could be the reason why some have given increases in the 3.5- to 4-percent range for 2013-14.

The average Texas teacher salary also saw a nearly 3 percent increase, climbing to \$50,166 this year compared to \$48,821 in 2012-13. After teacher salaries fell half of a percent to \$48,375 in 2011, districts are looking to get past previous funding shortfalls

to retain teachers in a more competitive market.

The TASB/TASA teacher salary survey is the second in a series of four that is the most definitive study of compensation and benefits practices in Texas. This information is used by policymakers at the local and state levels to make decisions about educator pay and benefits.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve approximately 5 million public school students.

Rigo

Continued From Page 1

men were taken to the Carrou County Jail.

Rigo was later transported to the Gray County Jail and served with an arrest warrant for murder.

In October 2008, Rigo was sentenced to 180 days in the Randall County Jail for theft of property by check.

Slatten had been the office manager at Dannie Hoover State Farm in Pampa for 15 years until her death and had worked part-time at Easy's Eastside Liquor Store on East Brown Street.

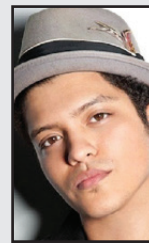
At the time of her death, Hoover said, "Kristi was a tremendous person. She was friendly and outgoing. You couldn't have asked for a better office manager."

Before Super Bowl, Bruno Mars heads to Grammys

NEW YORK (AP) — Wish Bruno Mars would write you a hit song? Keep dreaming.

The singer-songwriter-producer, who has penned hits like CeeLo Green's "Forget You!" and B.o.B's "Nothin' on You," says he's not interested in churning out tracks for other artists like he's done in the past.

"There's a piece of me that's no longer there — which was basically let me write a song and then sell it," Mars said in a recent interview. "That was back in the day when I was struggling and hustling to pay rent. I was selling songs for 250 bucks ... but now



Bruno Mars

that I'm OK, I shouldn't treat it like a sport."

The 28-year-old, who is one-third of the production trio The Smeezingtons, has produced for Alicia Keys, Justin Bieber, Lil Wayne and Flo Rida. Mars said he now wants

to collaborate organically with others — much like on his latest album, "Unorthodox Jukebox," which is nominated for four honors at Sunday's Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. His sophomore effort, released in late 2012, features Mark Ronson, Jeff Bhasker, Diplo and Paul Epworth. The album's lead single and No. 1 hit, "Locked Out of Heaven," is nominated for song and record of the year.

PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 24 Low 11	High 49 Low 31	High 62 Low 32

Today: Cloudy with a high of 24. Chance of snow: 10 percent. Winds northeast at 17 mph. Sunrise at 7:50 a.m.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a high of 11. Chance of snow: 10 percent. Winds northwest at 10 mph. Sunset at 6:02 p.m.

Friday: Sunny with a high of 49. Winds west-southwest at 19 mph. Sunrise at 7:49 a.m.

Friday night: Clear with a low of 31. Winds west at 10 mph. Sunset at 6:03 p.m.

Saturday: Sunny with a high of 62. Winds north-northwest at 11 mph. Sunrise at 7:49 a.m.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 32. Winds south-southwest at 8 mph. Sunset at 6:04 p.m.

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Obituaries

Bobby Eugene Holt

Bobby Eugene Holt, 65, passed away Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014 in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, 2014, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Herman Moore, pastor of Carter Chapel of Primitive Baptist Church of Amarillo, and Rev. Joe Coffey officiating. Entombment will follow in Memory Gardens Mausoleum under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.



Bobby Eugene Holt

Mr. Holt was born Aug. 6, 1948 in Pampa to Alex and Lillie B. Holt. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1967. He was employed by Panhandle Machine Shop and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Bobby was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include two brothers, Terry Holt and wife Denice and Edward Holt, all of Pampa; two stepsons, Greg Lewis and Donovan Lewis, both of Amarillo; a beloved aunt, Nannie B. Hickey of Dallas; his special cousins, Willie Hickey and wife Debra, Arron Hickey, Darlene Hickey McDuff and husband Roosevelt, Veleria Hickey, Kathy Hickey Lockett and husband Leonard, and Francetta Hickey Croomes and husband Cecil, all of Dallas; and a host of friends, family and loved ones.

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

Ron DeWitt, Sr.

Ron DeWitt, Sr., 63, died Jan. 22, 2014 in Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. DeWitt was born Feb. 26, 1950 in Wheeler. As a young boy, his family moved to Pampa where he attended school, and graduated from Pampa High School in 1969. Shortly after graduation, he went to work for the family business, retiring in 2008. He married Rosie Velasquez, and she preceded him in death on Aug. 3, 2008. In his spare time, Ron enjoyed being in the outdoors, especially riding motorcycles, but most of all, he loved spending time with his grandchildren. He will be remembered as a hardworking, independent man who loved his family greatly. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Marcela and J. W. "Smiley" DeWitt; a son, Phillip Daniel DeWitt; and a brother, Jimmy Wayne DeWitt.

Survivors include two sons, Ron DeWitt and wife Jamie of Perryton, and Billy DeWitt and wife Kara of Amarillo; four brothers, Mike DeWitt and wife Shirlon of Whitesboro, Calvin DeWitt and wife Diane of Clovis, N.M., J. W. DeWitt and wife Beth of Perryton, and Tim DeWitt and Thom DeWitt, both of Paris; six sisters, Virginia DeWitt of Carrollton, Kathy Reyes of Lantana, Venita Morehead and husband Bill of Ca-

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nadian, Dorothy Morgan and husband Dan of Fort Worth, Karen Rodgers and husband Brian of Cedar Park, and Vickie Lauer and husband Chris of Corinth; five grandchildren; Marcos, Camron, Erika, Austin, Mason and Jasper.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice or Olivia's Angels, c/o The Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Foundation, 1600 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, Texas 79106.

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

Larry Richard "Rich" Smith

Larry Richard "Rich" Smith, 47, died Jan. 18, 2014 in Newton County, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Smith was born Oct. 14, 1966 in Borger. He attended Miami High School and graduated from Lefors High School in 1985. Rich attended Frank Phillips College in Borger and graduated from Amarillo College in 1994. He was employed as an analytical technician for HORIBA in Houston at the time of his death. Rich was a team roper in his younger days, and was an avid fisherman, hunter and outdoorsman. He approached all hobbies and interests with wit, dedication and perseverance. No matter what he did, he did it with 100 percent passion and competence. He found humor in almost every situation. He will be sorely missed. He was preceded in death by his mother, Loretta Austin Smith, and a brother, Jeffrey Smith.

Survivors include his children, Savannah Kingkade and husband Eric of Tulsa, Okla., Haley Smith of Canyon, Graysen Smith and Braden Clay, both of White Deer; his father, Larry Smith of Fritch; two brothers, Glen Smith and wife Anita of Lefors and Dennis Smith of Centennial, Colo.; a sister, Desiree Hamil and husband Marc of Amarillo; his grandfather, Tommy Vehon of Amarillo; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and many long-time friends who are loved like family.

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

Morris Andrew Morgan

Morris Andrew Morgan, 79, died Jan. 22, 2014 in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Morgan was born May 4, 1934 in Kelton. He was a life-long resident of the Pampa area, graduating from Pampa High School in 1952. He was employed by The Pampa News as a composition room foreman, retiring in 1993. Morris married Marlene Schaffer on March 5, 1961 in Groom. He was active in the upkeep of Jericho Cemetery. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during peacetime.

Survivors include his wife: Marlene Morgan of the home; a sister, Ada Jean of Huntsville, Mo.; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Jericho Cemetery Association, 1933 Lynn, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

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Frozen 2D PG Fri - 2:00 4:30 Sat - 2:00 4:30 Sun - 2:00 4:30 Tue - 7:00 Thurs. 7:00	Frozen 2D PG Fri - 6:00 Sat - 2:00 4:00 6:00 Sun - 2:00 4:00 6:00 Mon - Wed - 6:00
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty - PG Fri/Sat - 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 Sun - 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon - Thurs. 7:00	Saving MR. Banks - PG-13 Fri - 7:00 9:45 Sat - 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45 Sun - 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon - Thurs. 7:00

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Viewpoints

The PAMPA NEWS
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Tales from the Final Frontier

Strategy guides, are they important?

Ah the joy of getting a brand spankin' new video game. There isn't much that can match it. I have two console games I buy brand new, Assassin's Creed and Madden. As far as hand-held? Mario, Zelda and Pokémon. But sometimes just as satisfying as opening up the game itself, is getting the strategy guide to go with it.



JOHN LEE

While these companions do come in handy I want to make a contradictory suggestion. Whether you're playing to beat the story, or discover all the secrets, play through the game without it first. I am just as guilty as others for using my strategy guide to play through Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword, but some-

times the time elapsed between play times makes me forget where I am in the story. Not to mention I find that game to be quite difficult at times.

But I have often found that playing many games without the strategy guide is MORE enjoyable than playing with your companion. Assassin's Creed is one of these games. I am playing through the fourth one still (I know, I'm slow, but it's the journey not the destination that is enjoyable) and there is just something about learning your own way to solve each mission on this game. It makes you a better gamer. Most of the time there are optional objectives that make each mission more difficult, especially if you want 100 percent completion on that mission.

Sometimes the best way to use these strategy guides is to refer to them after struggling for a long time on a mission. I was playing "Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds" on Nintendo 3DS and spent hours trying to retrieve the Pegasus Boots from the

thief in Kakariko Village. The only reason I knew the thief had them was because in "The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past" the thief had them, but in this reboot, I couldn't catch the thief.

Well, I referred to an online strategy guide and it told me how to get them. To me those are instances where it is OK to use the strategy guides.

Think of strategy guides as study companions to books. If you are reading a book that can sometimes have a chapter that is somewhat overwhelming, you may refer to a book companion. But you don't want that companion to spoil the next chapter for you, do you? That is how I treat my strategy guides.

I will always play through a dungeon or level on a game a few times before finally referring to the guide. I have done my fair share of face-palms in my gaming career; also, discovering things after referring to the guide.

So I leave you with this. Enjoy your game first. If you have video game OCD, then refer to your strategy guide after beating the dungeon or before the point of no return. It really makes the games more enjoyable.

John Lee is the sports editor of The Pampa News and a self-proclaimed nerd he can be reached at jlee@thepampanews.com.

Bridge to somewhere

There are legitimate reasons why we voters have been a lot more willing to trust the tough job of president to governors — 11 separate times, with Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush — rather than senators, which occurred only once in the 88 years between 1920 and 2008 with John F. Kennedy. Like mayors, governors actually do something. We hold them accountable for the decisions they make about how to spend taxpayer money. They decide through whose neighborhood the new highway will run, and whether to build a state hospital or community college.



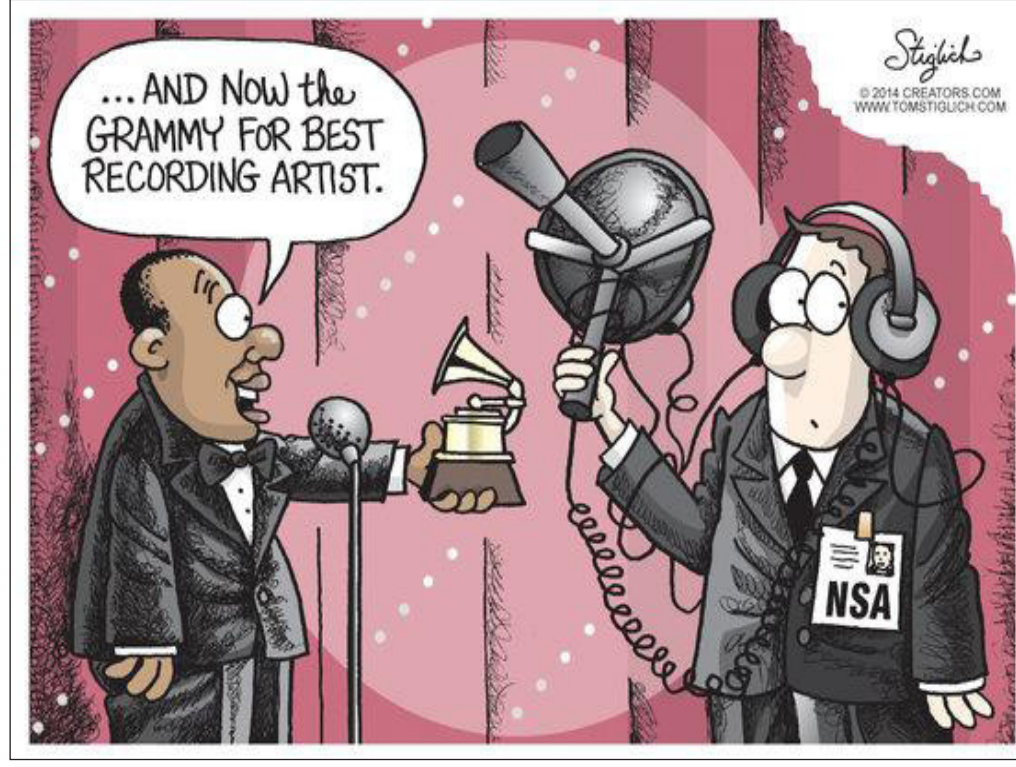
MARK SHIELDS

to own up to them and take the action necessary to remediate them. Remediate? That's not how the original Christie talked. "I am stunned by the abject stupidity that was shown here." Abject stupidity? No. What "was shown here" was nothing less, by the closest and most trusted of Christie's personal and political intimates, than the cold-blooded, vindictive abuse of power.

For several days in September, during Christie's triumphant reelection campaign, these governor appointees — reportedly in bare-knuckles retaliation against the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee who had refused to endorse Christie's candidacy — closed the lanes out of Fort Lee leading to the George Washington Bridge. At least four times, paramedics were unable to reach people needing emergency care, including four injured in a car accident and an unconscious 91-year-old woman, who later succumbed to cardiac arrest. Ordinary Americans missed meetings, interviews and reunions because some bullies from the Christie camp wanted to punish the mayor of a town of 35,000 people.

True, the governor did publicly apologize. True, he did take action by firing (after they were incriminated by their own emails) his deputy chief of staff — the inconveniently named Bridget Anne Kelly — and his closest political adviser. But, in my experience, it is rare for devoted political allies of any candidate to deliberately do something that would not please the candidate, should he or she learn about it. Christie not knowing the character of the people he most trusts and not being curious about what they are doing hardly constitutes a recommendation for higher office.

The George Washington wrongdoing will eventually be a bridge to somewhere when we find out what the governor knew and when he knew it.



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

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The meanings of fear and freedom

The day after 9/11, I called one of my friends and said we should write a "quickie" book on civil liberties in times of terror. We both knew what was about to happen; any half-serious student of constitutional law could figure it out. We, as a nation, were about to crack down.



SUSAN ESTRICH

And we did. Just as we did at the height of the Cold War. Just as we did during the first wave of anti-Communist frenzy, with the Alien and Sedition Acts. To be sure, there were limits. There was the wonderful story of White House counsel Alberto Gonzales rushing to the hospital bed of the ailing attorney general to try (and fail) to get him to sign off on an expansive surveillance program. There were limits, but not many.

Of course, that was the George W. Bush administration.

Barack Obama, himself a former professor of constitutional law, like my friend and me, was certainly familiar with the lessons of history. Candidate Obama pledged to close Guantanamo and protect civil liberties.

President Obama, it turned out, continued most of the policies of the Bush administration. Even now, even in the wake of all the news about the full extent of the NSA's data collection program, the changes being proposed are far more modest than many of the president's supporters would like.

What has happened to Obama? Has he forgotten all of those old cases he used to teach that remind us of the dangers and excesses that fear can produce?

I don't think so. What has happened to Obama is simple. He became the president. He started getting the daily briefings. A guy on an airplane tried to detonate a bomb in 2009.

The basic "rule" for civil libertarians is not to ask whether you are comfortable with the decisions being made by the person making them now, but whether you would be comfortable if that power were in the hands of someone else. If Bush were still president, would Congress be holding impeachment hearings?

There is no question that the protests would be louder if a conservative Republican rather than a liberal Democrat were sitting in the Oval Office. The very fact that Obama is the one defending the NSA and rejecting drastic overhauls to its surveillance program, that it is the Obama Justice Department that is pursuing Edward Snowden and not the Bush appointees, gives some of us pause.

My students ask me: What should we do?

If I were a first-year teacher trying to prove I belonged in front of the classroom, I probably would have some kind of detailed answer. But I've been doing this for decades, and I know what I know — and what I don't.

What should we do? I don't know.

Has the NSA overreached? Almost certainly. Have these surveillance programs saved lives? So we are told. Between the risk of overreaching and the risk of terrorism, which is worse? Easy.

Not long ago, a new exercise studio opened in my neighborhood, promising new techniques for tightening and toning and a free 30-minute massage,

to boot. I got a flier under my door. I checked out the website. Once.

Ever since, almost daily, an ad pops up advertising the studio. Of course it's not a coincidence. And the ad doesn't just pop up on my home computer; somehow, someone has figured out that my phone and my tablet are connected to me. Somebody's watching me, and not because they're trying to save me from terror attacks. If I'm not troubled by that, why should I be troubled by the government's collecting data on whom I telephone?

When I first started teaching the old anti-Communist cases, I used to wonder why people didn't see that the government was going too far. Now I understand. Fear.

I yearn for the day when we are no longer afraid, when I can look back and say of course the government shouldn't be spying on its citizens. I yearn for the day when we feel safe enough to worry more about freedom than terror.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Federal jury convicts husband, wife on conspiracy and health care fraud charges

SUBMITTED BY TEXAS AG'S OFFICE

DALLAS — Following a one-week trial before U.S. District Judge Jorge A. Solis, a federal jury has convicted Pamela Adenuga, 39, and her husband, Kehinde (Kenny) Adenuga, 46, both of Arlington on all counts of a superseding indictment charging them with one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and seven substantive health care fraud counts, announced U.S. Attorney Sarah R. Saldaña of the Northern District of Texas.

Judge Solis remanded the defendants into custody. Each defendant faces a maximum statutory pen-

alty of 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count; restitution could also be ordered. A sentencing date was not set.

Since approximately 2007, the Adenugas were the co-owners and operators of His Grace Medical Supply & More (HGMS), located in Arlington. The business also consisted of a lab component that drew and tested blood for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. The defen-

dants' business was primarily adult incontinence supplies (diapers, wipes, cream, etc.). In fact, 98 percent of their business was billing Medicaid for these supplies.

Evidence revealed that several Medicaid beneficiaries, who HGMS billed for incontinence supplies, did not need them or they were never delivered the supplies. HGMS falsified files with forged prescriptions from doctors and forged delivery receipts

of beneficiaries. The investigation revealed that HGMS billed in excess of \$2 million solely for adult incontinence supplies.

During trial, the government called doctors and Medicaid beneficiaries to testify that the documents found at HGMS during a search were false and fraudulent. The government also introduced evidence that HGMS billed these Medicaid beneficiaries 96 times for adult incontinence supplies — each

and every billing was false and fraudulent.

Dozens of other doctor forgeries were found at HGMS. These forgeries were accompanied by affidavits prepared by the defendants to attest to the accuracy of patient files that were the subject of a Medicaid audit. Medicaid had identified some issues with HGMS billing in 2010, and asked HGMS to substantiate its claims with proper documentation. This documentation was forged and

false. More than 100 of those affidavits were prepared on the same day and notarized by a parent of one of the defendants.

The investigation was conducted by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Office of Inspector General, the FBI and the Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mindy Sauter and Michael C. Elliott are in charge of the prosecution.

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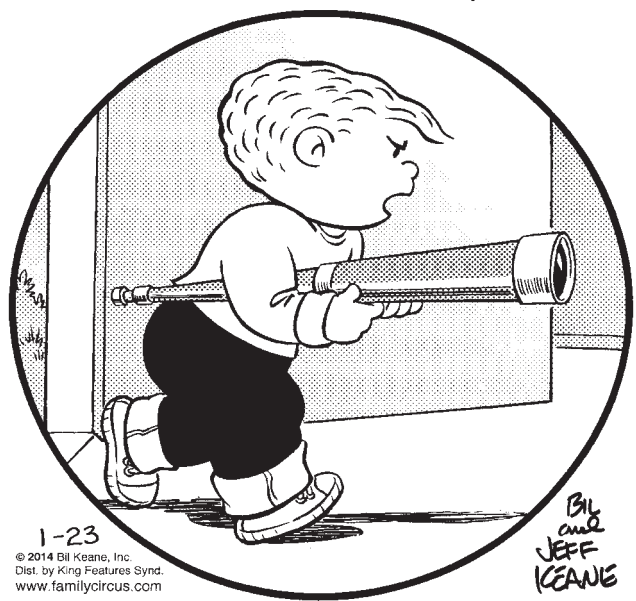
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\$1000 REWARD

comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



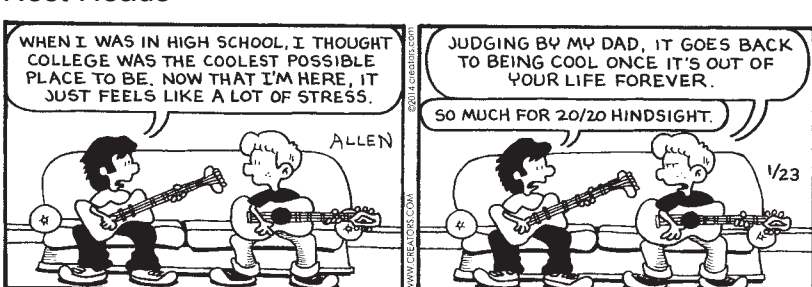
1-23
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"I sure wish God had never invented clouds."

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads

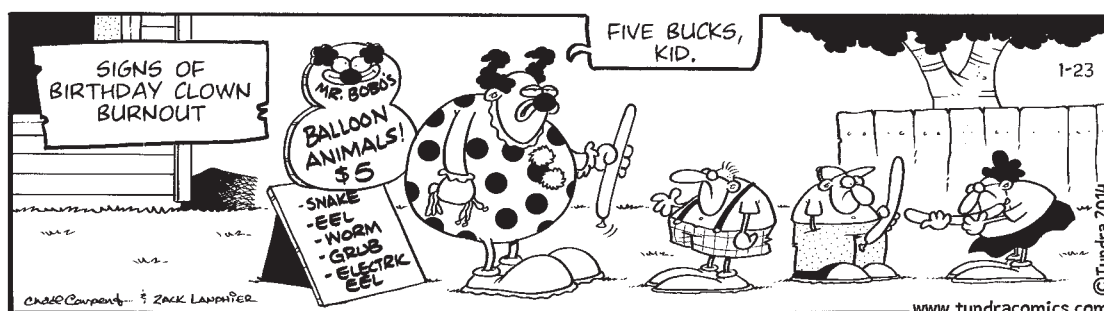


daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 24, 2014:
This year you feel connected to someone in your day-to-day life. You often offer a new perspective, which this person enjoys. A good friendship could develop between you. Your image and commitments evolve and become more important than before. If you are single, come summertime, you could meet a heartthrob who you will put in your memory books. Needless to say, a lot of excitement surrounds this bond. If you are attached, you often can be seen with your significant other on your arm. You like showing off your sweetie. **SCORPIO** pushes you hard.
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)
★★★★ No one questions your drive or energy right now. A friend might be delighted by your company, especially as the two of you head off on an adventure of some sort. You also could choose to get involved in a project with a loved one. Tonight: You're best on a one-on-one basis.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others keep piling more on your plate, but only because they want to spend more time with you. Make plans to head off to a flea market, movie, game -- you name it! Make yourself more available to someone. Tonight: Go along with someone else's plans.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Make a point to tackle your to-do list, which hopefully involves a little exercise. You seem to be a whirlwind of activity as of late, so be sure to accomplish as much as you can. Invite a child or dear friend to join you and to visit with you at the same time. Tonight: Tired yet?
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ How you handle a loved one could bring him or her much closer. If you have a criticism, step back and think about where you are coming from before you say anything. If you are single, you easily could meet someone of significance in the next few days. Tonight: Let the good times in.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You are full of energy, especially in regard to a family member. You seem to draw many people to you, so be willing to listen to their

perspectives. Stay close to home, and enjoy what is happening around you.
Tonight: In the middle of the action.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to return some calls and initiate some of your own before solidifying your plans. You could change your mind at the last minute. Finances also could play a role in your decision. A friendship will prove to be lucky for you once again. Tonight: Hang out with friends.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could become more argumentative than you have been. In fact, if you notice others backing away, you will know why. A call from a neighbor or relative could catch you off guard. You might be forced to deal with a difficult situation. Tonight: Treat time.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your personality is on full display. Resist expressing any negativity for now, as it might stem from you and how you are seeing a situation. Keep it light and nonjudgmental, and others will be delighted. News from a distance will please you. Tonight: In the midst of the action.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Remain sensitive to your needs. You are often so busy running around, you let your needs go. Eventually, this lack of attention will catch up with you. Just wait and see. It would be a good idea to take some time just for you. Tonight: Screen calls. Keep it low-key.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You will be pleased that your friends made plans around you; however, it might appear as though you have not been informed of some sort of change. An older relative or friend could become demanding. Tonight: Among others. Don't be alone.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You won't be able to escape a previously agreed-upon commitment. This activity involves a certain amount of responsibility, which could take away from the fun spirit of the weekend. Just clear up this task, and you will free yourself up. Tonight: Leader of the gang.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your mind seems to drift to someone at a distance whom you care about. You could be tired and need a break. Why not meet this person halfway? Your sense of humor emerges with a child or loved one. Tonight: Tap into your imagination.

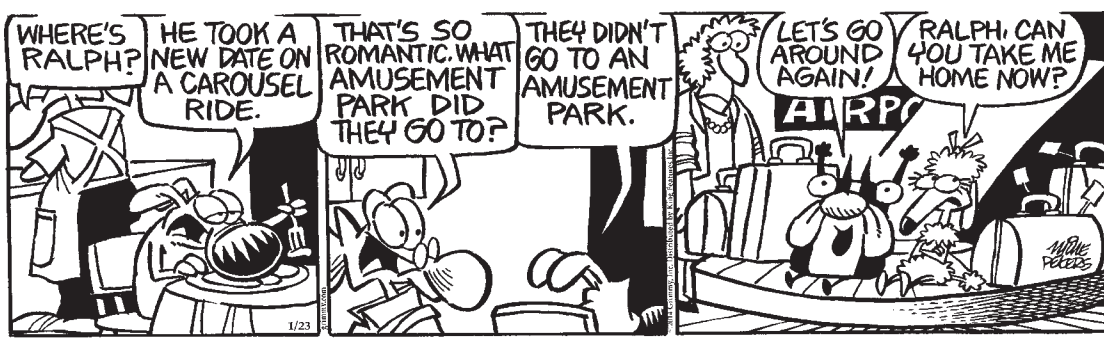
Tundra



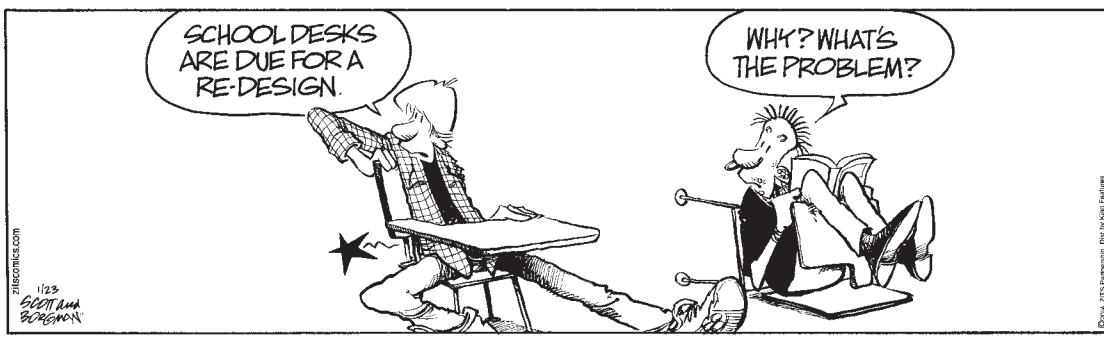
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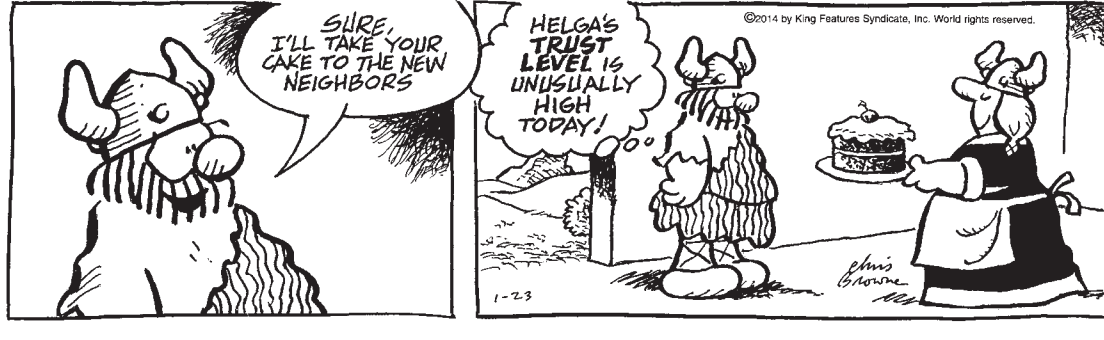
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



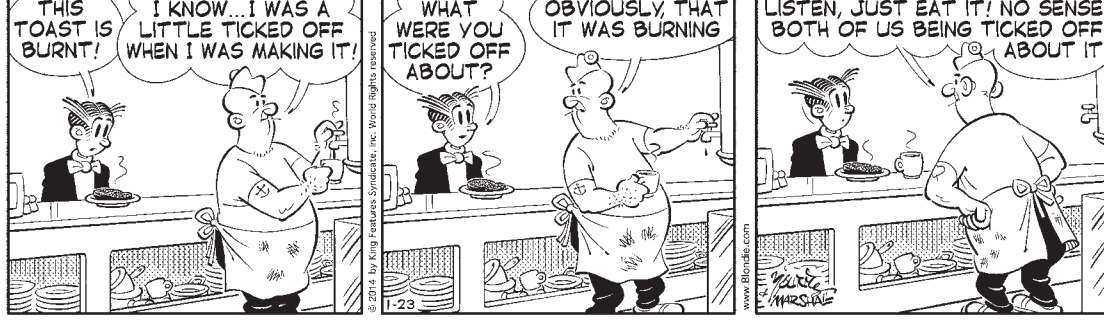
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A XYDLBAAXR
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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each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

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D C B K A L B K D J C O Z K A

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PampaSports

Junior High girls takes on River Road

SUBMITTED

Pampa's seventh grade girls took on River Road Monday night. The A team won 36-6. Top scorers were Natalie Winbourne with 16 points and Madison Davis with seven points.

The B team won 17-6. Top scorers were Remi Didway with 10 points and Lexi Didway with six points.

The eighth grade girls' basketball teams traveled to River Road Monday night.

The B team won 19-10. The top scorers were Megan Dickenson with nine points and Aspen Sullivan with six points. Their record is 3-4 with 2 games and a tournament left.

The A team won 31-13. The top scorers were Gracee Gill with nine points and Tya Hayes with seven points. Iyanna Clarida led the team in steals with solid defense. The entire team hustled and displayed great teamwork by passing the ball up the court.

Harvesters soccer takes on Canyon

SUBMITTED

The Harvesters' soccer team lost 7-0 Monday to Canyon, one of the top teams in the district.

The game was scoreless until the 20-minute mark, when an Eagle forward was tripped in the penalty box. Canyon put away the penalty kick for the 1-0 lead, and never looked back after that.

"We couldn't match Canyon's speed, and neither will many other schools in our district," head coach Byron May said.

"This may be the year that Canyon finally beats Amarillo High, that usually goes undefeated in district play. We have to play smarter against speed, or we will suffer the consequences.

"I'm confident that the boys can use this as a learning experience, rather than a demoralizing one. As surprising as it may sound, our goalkeeper probably had the best game on the team. He was a monster out there, taking several one-on-ones, and coming out on top. I'm very proud of the way he (Cesar Garcia) fought."

The Lady Harvesters lost 5-0 on Monday in a tough loss.

"The girls are improving every game we play," head coach Hugo Aguilon said. "I'm positive we will get our victory soon for district. We continue to work hard; however, due to injuries and illnesses, we have had to adapt to different formations and playing strategies. The JV girls did win yesterday 9-0."

The JV will play on Friday at 5 p.m. and the Varsity girls will play Saturday at 10 a.m. against Borger.

Lady Harvesters swept by Perryton

By JOHN LEE
jlee@thepampanews.com

The Lady Harvesters (2-3 District) fell to the Perryton Rangerettes (3-2 District) 65-42 Tuesday night at McNeely Field House. The win over the Lady Harvesters finishes a season sweep for the Perryton Rangerettes.

The Lady Harvesters opened up the scoring with a 2-pointer inside the paint from junior Madison Brown. Brown answered another score to put the Lady Harvesters up 4-2 in the first quarter before Perryton went on a 7-0 scoring run to take the 9-4 lead. Junior Raven Neal and sophomore Reata Collins kept the Lady Harvesters in it, however, and answered scores on a 7-4 scor-

ing run for the Rangerettes. The Rangerettes led 17-8.

The scoring onslaught from the Rangerettes continued in the second quarter as they went on another 7-0 run putting them up 24-10 before junior Caragan Niccum hit a 3-pointer from the right perimeter to make the score 24-13.

Pampa continued to fight in the quarter, but was outscored 19-13 in the quarter, despite Brown sinking three more 2-pointers.

Burnett didn't score her first points until the third quarter, where she scored five points off a 3-pointer and 2-pointer. Collins added another 2-pointer in the quarter. But Perryton had 20 points in the quarter compared to the Lady Harvesters 11.

The Lady Harvesters went on to lose 65-42. The Lady Harvesters fell to 2-3 in District 1-3A play. River Road (1-4) lost to Dalhart (5-0) and Borger (1-3) had an open date.

The Lady Harvesters' bench had a relatively good game in relief of the starters. Junior Raven Neal filled in for Madison Brown and Caragan Niccum fairly well, hitting several rebounds and scoring three points in the process. Reata Collins overcame a couple of traveling penalties with six points and two rebounds.

The Lady Harvesters return to action in Amarillo when they take on the Lady Cats of River Road Friday at 6 p.m.



Photo by McKinley Hancox
Raven Neal takes the ball across the court during Tuesday's game versus the Rangerettes. Neal had two rebounds and three points in the contest.

Danica gets buff in GoDaddy Super Bowl spot

PHOENIX (AP) — Danica Patrick has ditched sexy strip downs for bulked up bodybuilders in her latest GoDaddy Super Bowl spot.



Danica Patrick

Patrick made her mark with GoDaddy in a series of risqué ads that capitalized on her sex appeal. Her 13th Super Bowl commercial for the website do-

main provider is her tamest one yet. Patrick is as ripped as a Hollywood action star as she leads a pack of bronzed bodybuilders to a spray-tan business.

Don't expect Patrick to take her clothes off or kiss a girl in spots for the Feb. 2 game. Patrick was stuffed into a muscle suit made by a company that created special effects for movies like "Iron Man 3."

GoDaddy has purchased two 30-second spots, one for each half of the championship game between Seattle

and Denver.

Patrick's latest ads are a makeover for GoDaddy. Since Blake Irving took over as CEO last January, he's tried to shift GoDaddy's advertising focus toward its actual company message.

The theme for this year's spot — "It's Go Time" — is focused on how GoDaddy helps small businesses get found online. This time, the women in the ads are smart, successful, small-business owners.

The first commercial released Wednesday starts with

bodybuilders jogging down a street before Patrick — looking more like The Rock than a stock car driver — joins them and leads the pack to a female spray tanner.

GoDaddy teased last year that it might be dropping Patrick from its campaign, only to use her in both Super Bowl spots. Her most prolific appearance came in a commercial starring supermodel Bar Refaeli, who made out on screen with a nerd. The ad ranked last in USA Today's annual Super Bowl ad meter.

Patrick made a cameo as

a pilot in the second spot, which didn't score much higher in USA Today's poll.

Patrick's first Super Bowl spot was in 2007, but GoDaddy first began using the Super Bowl to advertise in 2005 when it spoofed Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" in its commercial. Although consumers often had no idea what GoDaddy was or offered, and the ads generally tanked in polls, they always had television viewers talking during the biggest advertising night of the year.

Threat about Sochi attacks considered a hoax

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — An email in Russian and English threatening national Olympic delegations and athletes with terrorist attacks at the Sochi Winter Games is a hoax, not a real danger, officials said Wednesday.

Hungarian sports officials, who first reported the email, said they have received assurances from the International Olympic Committee and from the Sochi organizers that the email had no merit. In light of that, the Hungarian Olympic Committee said it will still take part in the Winter Games, which run from Feb. 7-23.

Olympic committees from several other European countries, including Germany, Britain and Austria, said they had also received a similar message. None would share them with The Associated Press.

Wolfgang Eichler, spokesman for the Austrian National Olympic Committee, said the email was a hoax that officials had seen before.

"It's a fake mail from a sender in Israel, who has been active with various threats for a few years," Eichler told Austrian news agency APA. "It's been checked out because it also arrived two years ago."

The IOC repeated its stance that it "takes security very seriously."

"(We will) pass on any credible information to the relevant security services," the IOC said in a statement. "However, in this case it seems like the email sent to the Hungarian Olympic Committee contains no threat and appears to be a random message from a member of the public."

Security is a major concern at all Olympics but especially in Sochi, which is in southern Rus-

sia just a few hundred miles (kilometers) away a simmering Islamic insurgency in the North Caucasus. One Islamic militant warlord has urged his followers to attack the Sochi Olympics, Russian President Vladimir Putin's pet project.

Earlier, Bence Szabo, secretary general of the Hungarian Olympic committee, told the sports daily Nemzeti Sport that the message included threats about a terrorist attack in Sochi and urged the Hungarian delegation to stay away from the Winter Games.

Germany's national Olympic association, the DOSB, also said it had received "several times the same mail with un-specific, general warnings" and it had sent it onto security officials.

Many officials said national committees get Olympic threats fairly often.

"We are not aware of any threats that have been deemed as credible being directed toward our delegation," British Olympic Association spokesman Darryl Seibel told the AP. "Organizations such as ours receive email correspondence all the time — some of which seem to lack credibility."

A spokeswoman for the Switzerland's Olympic committee said similar threats were common so close to the Winter Games and athletes and officials would base their travel plans instead on the assessment of security officials. "This is kind of an everyday mail. This is normal before every Olympics," Martina Gasner told the AP.

"If they (security officials) say you can go to Sochi, we will go. And if one day they say it's too dangerous and we command you not to go, then we will change our plans," she added.

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PampaSports

Harvesters never trail Perryton for second district win

By JOHN LEE
jcleee@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters (3-1 in District) defeated the Perryton Rangers (2-1) 45-31. The game was an uncharacteristic low-scoring affair, but head coach Matt Embry said that it went as the Harvesters expected.

“We knew that was going to happen, they take so much time every possession so it limits possessions in a game and really slows the game,” Embry said.

“What we really focused on was taking away their passing angles so they couldn’t move the ball so quickly and our guards did a really good job of taking them away.”

The Harvesters immediately started pouring points on Perryton, with sophomore Cade Engle scoring the first four points of the game. Not to be out done by Engle, senior Cory Ponce scored two more of his own, plus

a free throw to put the Harvesters up 9-2.

With a 9-4 lead at the half, sophomore Kambrin Scott hit a 2-pointer to send the Harvesters on a 7-3 scoring run that included an Engle 3-pointer and a 2-pointer from senior Brandon Stokes to put the Harvesters up 16-7. Senior Cory Ponce hit a 2-pointer that sent the Harvesters into the half leading 21-18.

“We are (evenly matched), they really packed the paint, so they wouldn’t allow Cory (Ponce) and Gabe (Garcia) and Trey (Miller) and Jonathan (Stevens) to get going as much,” Embry said.

“So the guards had to step up and make some shots to spread out that defense.”

Scott scored the first points of the quarter with a 3-pointer, followed by a 2-pointer and 3-pointer from Engle to put the Harvesters up 27-20. After Perryton shot two free

throws, Pampa went on another 7-0 scoring run, with a 3-pointer from Cade Engle and 2-pointers from Ponce and Stokes to put the Harvesters up 34-22.

With a healthy fourth quarter lead, the Harvesters out-scored the Rangers 11-9 to secure the 45-29 win.

Engle led the Harvesters in scoring with 18 points, followed by Ponce with 10 points. The Harvesters were perfect in free throws, with two from Engle, two from senior Ryan Powell and one from Ponce. Embry was pleased with the efforts from his guards, even those who had a quiet night like Powell, who had four 3-pointers just a week ago.

“I don’t know if he (Ryan Powell) scored tonight but he controlled the ball game,” Embry said.

“Defensively they were not able to get anything going in the middle be-



Photo by McKinley Hancock
Jonathan Stevens (15) works his way around a defender Tuesday night. The Harvesters won 45-31.

cause of his work ethic and what he was able to do out there. He executed the game plan very well.”

The Harvesters return to action in Amarillo when they take on the Wildcats at River Road following the Lady Harvesters who play at 6 p.m.

“You can’t overlook a district opponent no matter who they are,” Embry said.

“They are not as good a team as Perryton or Dalhart but you go into someone else’s building, anything can happen. We are going to be ready.”

Murray’s out of Australian Open but proud of comeback

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Andy Murray can’t think of anyone who has come back from surgery to win a Grand Slam.



Andy Murray

Though that was clearly what he was hoping for.

“I was proud of the way I fought,” the No. 4-seeded Murray said after losing to Roger Federer in the Australian Open quarterfinals Wednesday. “Hopefully I’ll be back playing my best tennis soon.”

Murray battled for 3 hours, 20 minutes against Federer, not ever looking like a man who underwent back surgery four months

ago — but also not looking like the nimble, speedy, supremely confident player who won Wimbledon last year.

After the match, Murray repeatedly said that he knew he should be happy with his performance, mostly trying to convince himself.

“I’ve come a long way in four months,” he said. “I don’t know how many players have come back from surgery and won the first Grand Slam back.”

A three-time Australian Open runner-up, Murray said that physically he felt fine during the match.

“My back was OK,” he said.

Part of the problem for Murray was Federer, who advanced to his 11th consecutive Australian Open semifinal with the 6-3, 6-4,

6-7 (6), 6-3 win.

The 32-year-old Swiss star is trying to win his 18th major in Melbourne, where he rekindled his dominance over Murray in Grand Slam matches. Murray has an 11-10 edge over Federer in head-to-head matches and won their last match in five sets in the Australian Open semifinals last year, but Federer has won four of five matches in majors.

Part of the problem for Murray was what he has spoken about repeatedly since the tournament started — the mental challenge of returning from surgery and after having been away from competition and big arenas for so long.

“The first couple times I stepped on the court after surgery was pretty challenging,” Murray said

earlier in the tournament. “Mentally it was quite stressful.”

Managing his nerves and building his confidence have always been Murray’s main opponent, but he conquered his demons and won his first Grand Slam at the 2012 U.S. Open, a career breakthrough that he followed up with a gold medal at the London Olympics.

His victory at Wimbledon in July made Murray the first British man to earn that title since Fred Perry in 1936.

In September, he decided to tend to a back problem and have surgery that was described as minor but, nonetheless, kept him out of competition for the rest of the year.

Murray’s first tournament back was at Doha

where he lost in the second round on New Year’s Day.

On Wednesday, Murray indicated that staying out of competition for so long might have been the wrong strategy.

“This time, I had a long time to prepare, maybe just not enough matches,” he said. “There’s maybe some things, I would have done a bit differently.”

His next challenge will be switching from hard courts to clay for the Davis Cup later this month in San Diego against the United States. “It’s not perfect for rehabbing a back surgery,” Murray said. “Ideally I’d stay on the same surface.”

“I need to use this as, I guess, a stepping stone to getting better — and be happy that I’ve got through five matches,” Murray said.

Rangers’ Ron Washington not worried about contract

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington says he isn’t concerned that his contract hasn’t been extended past the upcoming season.



Ron Washington

“I’m not worried about that. What I’m worried about right now is trying to help these young infielders I have here get acclimated,” Washington said Tuesday during a winter camp for young players at Rangers Ballpark. “(The contract) will take care of

itself.”

Washington is the team’s winningest manager with 611 victories over his seven seasons. He took Texas to its only two World Series in 2010 and 2011.

Texas last extended his deal in January 2012, when two years were added through 2014.

The Rangers have averaged more than 91 wins over the last five seasons. They won 91 games last season, but missed the playoffs for the first time in four years after losing the AL wild-card tiebreaker game to Tampa Bay.

General manager Jon Daniels said in October, a few days after the

season ended, that he felt “as strong” as ever about Washington. The manager was hired after the 2006 season, when Daniels completed his first year as GM by firing manager Buck Showalter.

Asked in October if was a fair assumption Washington would get a contract extension, Daniels replied, “That

would be my preference.” He said then he hadn’t yet had an opportunity to speak with ownership about that.

When asked for an update Tuesday on a possible extension, Daniels again provided no specifics while indicating that he expected Washington to remain longer than this season.

“Same as the last 19

times you guys asked me about it. I just don’t like commenting on anybody’s contract status,” Daniels said.

“That’s not any sort of commentary on Washington other than he’s been a huge part of what we’ve done here. It’s been a partnership from Day One, and I expect that to continue going forward.”

Former NFL, UT QB Vince Young files for bankruptcy

HOUSTON (AP) — Former NFL and University of Texas quarterback Vince Young has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.



Vince Young

The petition was filed last week in a Houston federal bankruptcy court, listing Young with estimated assets between \$500,001 and \$1 million and liabilities between \$1,001,000 and \$10 million. The Houston Chronicle reports no specific details on Young’s assets and liabilities were immediately available.

The 30-year-old Young is fighting a pair of lawsuits stemming from a \$1.8 million loan obtained in his name during the 2011 NFL lockout.

A court has granted a judgment against Young to Pro Player Funding, a New York company that made the loan.

Pro Player Funding has made several efforts in a Harris County state district court to enforce collection of the judgment, but those efforts remain pending.

Falcons hire Scott Pioli as assistant GM

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Falcons hired Scott Pioli as assistant general manager on Wednesday, reuniting him with GM Thomas Dimitroff.



Scott Pioli

Pioli was director of player personnel for the New England Patriots from 2000-08, including six seasons with Dimitroff, who directed college scouting. He was the Kansas City Chiefs’ general manager for four years before leaving by mutual agreement in January 2013.

Pioli, 48, will join the Falcons on Feb. 3, after he completes his contract with NBC Sports and SiriusXM Radio.

Pioli began his NFL career in 1992, when he was hired by Bill Belichick as a scouting assistant for the Cleveland Browns. Pioli was made the New York Jets’ director of pro personnel in 1997 before joining Belichick in New England.

Falcons owner Arthur Blank said Dimitroff initiated the push to bring in Pioli.

“This move was made as a result of Thomas’ competitive drive to build the best personnel team in the NFL, and the addition of Scott to his team certainly reflects that,” Blank said.

Dimitroff said Pioli is “one of the most respected and adept talent evaluators in the NFL.”

“We have worked together well in the past and been friends for more than 20 years,” Dimitroff said. “We have had the opportunity to experience a lot of success together, and I am very pleased that he has agreed to join our personnel team so we can work together again.”

The Falcons were 4-12 in 2013 after five straight winning seasons.

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Target hackers will be tough to find

NEW YORK (AP) — It doesn't surprise experts that some debit and credit card numbers stolen from Target's computer systems may have surfaced among nearly 100 fake credit cards seized by police in Texas this week.

Even so, they say the bust is unlikely to lead authorities directly to the hackers behind the breach, given the vast, labyrinthine nature of the global market for stolen data.

According to police in McAllen, Texas, two Mexican citizens arrested at the border used account information stolen during the pre-Christmas Target breach to buy tens of thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise.

But the U.S. Secret Service said Tuesday its investigation into the possibility of a link between the Target data theft and the arrests remains ongoing.

Target says hackers stole about 40 million debit and credit card numbers from cards swiped at its stores between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15.

The thieves also took personal information — including email addresses, phone numbers, names and home addresses — for another 70 million people.

In the aftermath of the breach, millions of Americans have been left to wonder what's become of their precious personal information.

Chester Wisniewski, senior security adviser for the computer security firm Sophos, says in cases where such a massive amount of information is stolen, criminals generally divide the data into chunks and sell the parcels in online black markets.

In many ways, those markets behave much like any legitimate marketplace ruled by the forces of supply and demand. Groups of higher-end cards are worth significantly more than those with lower credit limits and so are cards tied to additional personal information, such as names, addresses and zip codes, which make them easier to use.

After thieves purchase the numbers, they can encode the data onto new, blank cards with an inexpensive, easy-to-use gadget. Or they can skip the card-writing process and simply use the card numbers online.

Crooks often have the option to buy cards last used in their area. That way, Wis-

niewski says, the cards attract less attention from the banks that issued them.

According to police, the pair arrested at the U.S.-Mexican border used cards containing the account information of Target shoppers from South Texas.

Police say the two used fraudulent cards to purchase numerous items at national retailers in the area.

The underground markets always have a steady supply of card numbers on sale and their locations are always moving as they try to elude law enforcement, says Daniel Ingevaldson, chief technology officer at Easy Solutions Inc., a firm that sells anti-fraud products and tracks the activity of the online black markets.

A big jump in inventory usually indicates there's been a breach of a major retailer.

That's what Ingevaldson's firm saw in the cases of both Target and Neiman Marcus, which also recently reported a breach.

While many of these online bazaars and forums are based in Russia and Eastern Europe, much of the chatter is in English and appears to have been written by Americans, Ingevaldson says.

The types of criminals who buy the card numbers run the gamut, ranging from purely online white-collar crooks to street gangs.

"In reality, card numbers can be bought by anybody with access to the forums and a few Bitcoins in their pocket," Ingevaldson says.

Wisniewski says the people who buy card numbers online and produce the fake cards aren't the ones who try to use them.

Using the cards is the riskiest part of the fraud scheme, so the task is usually farmed out to others who are often recruited through spam emails.

The recruiters then send them fraudulent debit and credit cards and instruct them to buy large quantities of expensive merchandise or gift cards in exchange for a small percentage of their value.

Card users, once caught, often only have a handler's email address to share with police, making it nearly impossible to find the recruiters, Wisniewski says.

Both analysts say Russia and former Soviet countries are a hotbed for hackers behind these kinds of schemes.

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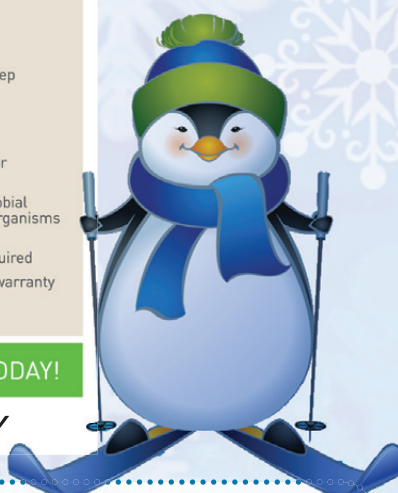
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