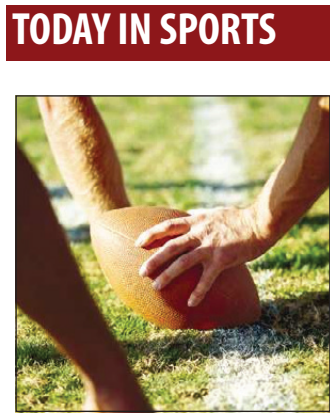


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The PAMPA NEWS



Friday, January 31, 2014 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 210

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Broncos practice at Jets complex
 OKC Thunder top Miami Heat | p9, 10

Defense lawyers: Skinner won't appear in Pampa

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Hank Skinner, the Texas death-row inmate convicted of murdering his live-in girlfriend, Twila Busby, and her sons, Randy and Elwin "Scooter" Caler, will not be attending an evidentiary hearing scheduled in Pampa Monday and Tuesday.



Hank Skinner

An employee who works for Skinner's defense attorneys, Douglas Robinson and Robert Owen, told The Pampa News that both the state and defense attorneys will offer witnesses and other evidence, such as laboratory reports, to show what results were produced by the DNA testing that has been performed in Skinner's case over the past 18 months. The attorneys will try to argue about what inferences can be drawn from those test results, she said.

A series of tests on DNA taken from the crime scene have been performed since June 2012, two by a Texas Department of Safety crime lab in Lubbock and one by an independent laboratory in Virginia.

The Texas Attorney General's Office, who is presenting the state's case to the court, claims the DNA tests overwhelmingly show that evidence collected at the crime scene consistently shows that Skinner is guilty of strangling and bludgeoning Busby in the living room of her home on New Year's Eve 1993.

The defense attorneys claim the DNA tests performed at the Virginia lab point to Robert Donnell, Twila Busby's deceased uncle, as the real killer in the triple homicide. The attorneys say it is well known that Donnell was making unwelcome advances to Busby on the night she was killed.

Judge Steven R. Emmert of the 31st District will not issue a definitive ruling at the conclusion of the hearing, the employee said.

Instead, the parties will have an opportunity to submit written arguments in late February, and the judge will issue a definitive ruling after considering those arguments.

A ruling in Skinner's favor in this proceeding would not automatically reverse his conviction.

Four workers injured in Enbridge fire

STAFF REPORT

Four Enbridge contract workers were injured in a flash fire late Wednesday near a Midcoast Energy Partner compression station in Wheeler County.

Terri Lawson, an Enbridge spokeswoman based in Houston, said 911 was immediately called and the contractors were transported to a hospital in Wheeler.

Two of the workers were transferred to a burn unit in Lubbock, while the two others were treated and released, she said.

Lawson said an investigation into the incident is underway and Enbridge will work closely with NTS, a local contractor, to determine what happened.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with these individuals, their families and co-workers," Lawson said. "Their well-being is our highest priority at this time."

Lawson did not know on Thursday the condition of the two men transported to the burn unit.

Any further updates on the condition of the individuals will be provided by NTS, she said.

In August, Enbridge dedicated a natural gas processing plant 10 miles east of Wheeler.

Rigo convicted for murder

Defendant gets 90-year sentence.

BY DENNIS PALMITIER AND TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 The Pampa News



Joshua Rigo

Wearing a pressed white shirt, tie and black slacks, Joshua Keith Rigo looked more like a young businessman than someone his sister said spent most of his adult life on the streets struggling to stay off drugs.

As the jury deliberated through the afternoon, Rigo, flanked by two Gray County sheriff's deputies, sat in the courtroom reading a paperback edition of the Bible. Throughout this week's court proceedings, Rigo was quiet

and poker faced. But when 31st District Judge Steven R. Emmert announced a guilty verdict, Rigo's head dropped and, as if saying no to himself, shook it twice.

Rigo is convicted for strangling to death Lefors resident Kristi Dawn Slatten on New Year's Day 2013. He has two previous felony convictions.

During questioning to determine his sentencing after the verdict, Rigo's younger sister, Tiffany Thomas, said Slatten was

RIGO cont. on page 2

Tales for the Top O' Texas



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

This week, The Pampa News is starting a new feature called "Tales from the Top O' Texas." Each week on the color back page, we will publish stories and pictures about special places and events in the Texas Panhandle. There will be plenty of stories about Pampa, but we will also include nearby communities in the Panhandle. This week's feature is the Charles Goodnight house near Claude. Built in 1887, the home has been beautifully restored. Goodnight was the first rancher in the Panhandle and is famous for work crossbreeding cattle with buffalo to produce an animal he called "cattalo." Above is a photo taken inside the house, which shows a cozy sitting area next to a fire place. For story and photos, see page 16.

Introducing the new Gray County Relay for Life chair

SUBMITTED

I am Chalenia Freeman and I am the new chair for Gray County Relay for Life. I have been involved with teams for Relay for Life since the early 1990s. This year I took on the job of chair to honor my sister's memory. Recently, I lost my sister Rahna Abernathy to colon cancer. I'm doing this in her memory and I want to do everything I can to prevent someone else from



Chalenia Freeman

going through the ordeal she went through while fighting a brave fight against cancer.

I remember when my daughters were in elementary and middle school and we would get a team of their friends together and do car washes, garage sales and other activities to raise money for the event. We made up names for our teams, got T-shirts, pup tents and camped out and had a wonderful time at the events. My daughters still talk of this. They love the good memories.

This year, the committee wants to do something different. Our vision is that the relay be a large community event. We want to see people walking on the

track at all times until we shut down. We want to see Relay bring together families, friends, businesses, the hospital, schools, churches...people from all walks of life to celebrate the lives of those who have had cancer and remember those who lost the battle, and fight back against the disease. We have recruited new people for the event and are working on recruiting some from previous events.

We would like to see old and new ideas. A few people cannot pull off an event like this. We need lots of volunteers and lots of teams to make this successful. We do not want it to be a

RELAY cont. on page 2

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Rigo

Continued From Page 1

Rigo's girlfriend and that she would frequently buy things for him.

The jury began deliberation at 11:30 a.m. Thursday. When they returned to the courtroom, family members of both Rigo and Slatten were there to hear the verdict.

Emmert warned that there be no emotional outbreaks, and there were none when the verdict was announced.

Rigo was sentenced to 90 years in a state penitentiary. He must serve 30 years be-

fore being eligible for parole.

Jury selection began on Monday and District Attorney Franklin McDonough gave his opening statement shortly after the jury was seated at 4:05 p.m.

In an emotional plea to the jury, McDonough said while everyone else was starting a new year on Jan. 1, 2013, Slatten's life was ending.

Throughout the trial, defense attorney Harold Comer grilled both Department of Public Safety officials and Gray County Sheriff's deputies on their collection and testing of DNA evi-



Kristi Slatten

in Pampa where he was staying, only 22 of those items were submitted to the DPS crime lab in Lubbock for DNA comparison.

In cross examination, DPS investigators told Comer department policy and the need to work quickly forces them to be selective in the items they

dence.

Though 77 pieces of evidence were collected from the crime scene, Rigo's person and the apartment

choose for testing.

Comer asked investigators why they wouldn't gather as much evidence as possible in such an important case and not do testing on every single item.

To drive home his point, on Thursday morning Comer waived his opening statement and introduced Dr. Michael Spence of Spence Forensic Resources, an independent auditor of forensic crime labs in an attempt to refute the state's DNA collection method.

Spence testified that DNA testing must be a "100 percent comparison for all articles collected."

In particular, Spence emphasized that with such a violent struggle between Slatten and her attacker that much more DNA should have been transferred to Rigo's and Slatten's clothing.

At that point, Comer asked why the state didn't

use the YSTR test, a more advanced form of DNA testing that distinguishes between male and female subjects.

Three hair samples were found on Slatten and submitted as evidence but not tested. Spence said the YSTR test would have helped determine who the hairs belonged to.

The DPS crime lab in Lubbock, however, does not have a hair-testing expert, which was another one of Comer's objections.

In cross examination of Spence, the district attorney reminded the jury that Spence was not hired to run tests and did not run any tests, he only audited the reports on the behalf of the defense.

But despite all of Comer's skepticism on the validity of state's evidence against his client, it took only one drop of Slatten's blood to place Rigo at the crime scene.

Blood samples were collected from the Rigo's camo pants, his boot and the heel of one of his socks.

Only the blood sample from the sock was tested, but it proved positive with Slatten's DNA.

Countering Comer's claims of shoddy DNA testing, McDonough said that "the case didn't start at the DPS crime lab, the case started with the Gray County Sheriff's Office, five Texas Rangers, two GCSO investigators and three DPS crime specialists — the case began on January the 1st, 2013."

A confident McDonough to further drive home his point, posed the question: "How did Kristi Slatten's panties end up on Rigo's person?"

McDonough's last statement to the jury was "this case was never about DNA but all about Kristi Slatten."

GRASS FIRE BURNS SEVERAL ACRES



Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik

Wednesday afternoon at 2:56 p.m., the Pampa Fire Department responded to a grass fire at the intersection of U.S. Highway 60 and Loop 171. PFD, with the assistance of Hoover volunteer firefighters, had the burn under control 23 minutes after the call came in and the fire was completely terminated at 5:26 p.m. PFD had four units and seven personnel respond to the fire, and although one structure was threatened by the flames, there were no structures or equipment lost.

Relay

Continued From Page 1

stressful event. We would like to see the committees have more than one person heading them, so work with a team member and use that power to go the extra mile and have fun while doing it.

Teams do most of their fundraising before the event, but also hold creative fundraisers at their camp site during the event. For example, Pastor Ed Sattesahn from First

Assembly of God came up with a great idea to have a children's area. In this area will be activities for younger children such as bounce houses, crafts, snow cones, etc. There will be adults there to watch and direct the children and the parents can walk their laps while the kids play but can still keep an eye on their parents.

Relay for Life is a fundraiser that raises money to help improve survival from cancer, decrease the incidence of cancer, prevention programs, detection and treatment and improve quality of life for those diagnosed with cancer.

The planning committee for 2014 Relay for Life Gray County would like to invite members of the community to find out how they can assist in the fight against cancer by attending a complementary kickoff dinner. The dinner is being held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, at the First Assembly of God Annex at 500 S Cuyler St. There will be giveaways. We also are looking for cancer survivors to come

out and enjoy the event and learn some of the ways we will honor them at the Relay Event this year.

The Gray County Relay for Life is still looking for committee members to be a part of the 2014 Relay for Life. Volunteers are needed to organize and recruit teams, seek community support and underwriting, coordinate the survivor dinner, find refreshments and prizes, plan entertainment and much more. Find out how you can form a team at the Kickoff and what Relay is all about, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society.

To RSVP or for more information, call Chalenia Freeman at 806-886-1248, or email texasdreamer1@yahoo.com. You also can visit Facebook at Gray County Relay for Life 2014.

If you cannot attend the kickoff dinner, you can still sign up to help or get a team together for the event.

If you want to participate and do not have a team, let us know and we will find a team for you.

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Submitted photo

Malcolm Hinkle Refrigeration installed a roof top AC/heater unit for Elite Eye Care this week. Pictured is the view from the roof of the building.

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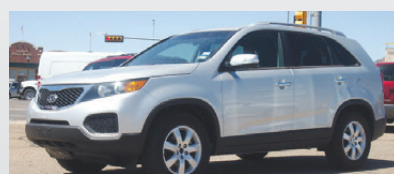
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Obituaries

Mary E. Byars Potter

Mary E. Byars Potter, 88, died Jan. 28, 2014 in Pampa. There are no services scheduled at this time. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Potter was born Jan. 16, 1926 in Tucumcari, N.M. She married William J. (Bill) Potter in 1943 in Fort Sumner, N.M. He preceded her in death on Feb. 2, 2008. She returned to Tucumcari in 1945 where she owned and operated Poston's Flowers for several years. Mary was a member of The Daughters of the American Revolution in

Tucumcari and Pampa.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to all the people at Coronado Healthcare Center for their love and care of Mary.

Survivors include her daughter, Carol Brown and husband Fred of Pampa; her son, Terry Potter and wife Sue of Clovis, N.M.; two granddaughters, Sandra Philley and husband Lane, and Rene Gisi, all of Canyon, one grandson, Tim Potter and wife Tommie of Canyon; and three great-grandchildren, Samantha Philley, Mark Gisi and Callie Potter, all of Canyon.

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

House passes farm bill, crop subsidies preserved

WASHINGTON (AP) — After more than two years of partisan squabbles over food and farm policy, the House passed and sent to the Senate Wednesday an almost \$100 billion-a-year, compromise farm bill containing a small cut in food stamps and preserving most crop subsidies.

White House spokesman

of the House's support."

The bill ultimately would cut about \$800 million a year from the \$80 billion-a-year food stamp program, or around 1 percent. The House had sought a 5 percent cut.

The legislation also would continue to heavily subsidize major crops for the nation's farmers while eliminating some subsidies and shifting them toward more politically defensible insurance programs.

House Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas, R-Okla., who has been working on the bill since 2011, called the compromise a "miracle" after years of setbacks. An early version of the legislation was defeated on the House floor last June after conservatives said the food stamp cuts were too modest and liberal Democrats said they were too steep.

The House later passed a bill with a higher, \$4 billion cut, arguing at the time that the program had spiraled out of control after costs doubled in the last five years. But cuts that high were ultimately not possible after the Senate balked and the White House threatened a veto. The Senate had sought a

cut of \$400 million annually.

Many House conservatives still voted against the bill — 63 Republicans opposed it, one more than June.

View gallery
FILE - This Dec. 4, 2013 file photo shows Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D...

One of those conservative opponents was Indiana Rep. Marlin Stutzman. "It spends money we simply don't have," he said.

But 89 Democrats supported it, bolstered by the lower cut in food stamps and money for fruit, vegetable and organic programs.

The final savings in the cost of the food stamp program would be generated by cracking down on some states that seek to boost individual food stamp benefits by giving people small amounts of federal heating assistance that they don't need. That heating assistance, sometimes as low as \$1 per person, triggers higher benefits, and some critics see that practice as circumventing the law. The bill that was passed Wednesday would require states to give individual recipients at least \$20 in heating assistance before a higher food stamp benefit could be authorized.

Some Democrats said the food stamp cut still is too high.

Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, one of the states that has boosted benefits through heating assistance, said the cut will be harmful on top of automatic food stamp cuts that already went into place in November.

"I don't know where they are going to make that up,"

McGovern said.

To pass the bill, Lucas and his Senate counterpart, Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, found ways to entice many potential naysayers. They spent more than two years crafting the bill to appeal to members from all regions of the country, including a boost in money for crop insurance popular in the Midwest; higher rice and peanut subsidies for Southern farmers; and renewal of federal land payments for Western states. The food stamp cut was low enough that 89 Democrats voted for the bill.

They also backed away from repealing a catfish program — a move that would have angered Mississippi lawmakers — and dropped language that would have thwarted a California law requiring all eggs sold in the state to come from hens living in larger cages. Striking out that provision was a priority for California lawmakers who did not want to see the state law changed.

For those seeking reform of farm programs, the legislation would eliminate a \$4.5 billion-a-year farm subsidy called direct payments, which are paid to farmers whether they farm or not. But the bill nonetheless would continue to heavily subsidize major crops — corn, soybeans, wheat, rice and cotton — while shifting many of those subsidies toward more politically defensible insurance programs. That means farmers would have to incur losses before they could get a payout.

The bill would save around \$1.65 billion annually overall, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 42 Low 25	High 41 Low 17	High 30 Low 18

Today: Cloudy with a high of 42. Winds north-east at 11 mph. Sunrise at 7:45 a.m.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a low of 25. Winds northeast at 11 mph. Sunset at 6:11 p.m.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a high of 41. Winds north-northeast at 12 mph. Sunrise at 7:44 a.m.

Saturday night: Mostly cloudy with a low of 17. Winds east at 7 mph. Sunset at 6:12 p.m.

Sunday: Morning clouds and afternoon sun with a high of 30. Chance of precipitation: 10 percent. Winds east at 10 mph. Sunrise at 7:43 a.m.

Sunday night: Mostly clear with a low of 18. Winds south-southeast at 7 mph. Sunset at 6:13 p.m.

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Seeger

Continued From Page 4

young people. Pete knew this. In his blacklist years, after he was brought in to answer questions from members of the House un-American Affairs Committee, Pete sang to any small groups that would have him, especially the young. As his friend Moe Asch recalled to Rolling Stones this week, "Pete kept joking that all these kids would be adults someday. Then he'd be popular — and that's just what happened."

This Olive Oyl-thin old man, a friend of Pampa and an inspiration to lovers of folk music and of political activism, was one of the

best talents that American music has ever seen. And he had cojones made of steel. In 1955, he told then U.S. Sen. Joseph McCarthy, "I love my country very dearly, and I greatly resent this implication that some of the places that I have sung and some of the people who I have known, and some of my opinions, whether they are religious or philosophical, or I might be a vegetarian, make me any less of an American." He didn't plead the Fifth and declined to name the names of other suspected communists, refusing to assist McCarthy in his witch hunt. Pete was more than a folk singer, of course. He was a warrior against hate and injustice. Just like Woody Guthrie, Pete was a living embodi-

ment of the connection between folk songs and politics. Throughout his career, he participated in pro-union and civil rights events, protested wars and environmental damage. In homage to Woody, he wrote "this machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender" on his banjo. For some of our most tumultuous times as a nation, the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement, our nation resounded with songs by Pete Seeger. During a concert in South Africa last Wednesday, Bruce Springsteen said, "I lost a great friend and a great hero last night," and dedicated a rendition of "We Shall Overcome" to his friend and fellow activist. "Once you heard this song, you were prepared to march into hell's fire,"

Springsteen said. Pete was a Harvard drop out, a traveling puppeteer and a consummate artist who helped not only to popularize folk music but also shape the perceptions of some of the biggest crises of our history and helped move a generation into action. To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven... a time to weep... a time to mourn. This is a time to dance in thanksgiving for the life of the humble folk singer.

Bruno Baltodano, a resident of Pampa, is a faculty adjunct at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho and at Clarendon College in Pampa and the host of "Revolutionary Hour," a radio show about political songs on High Plains Public Radio. He teaches college courses on Global Politics, Government and Terrorism.

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Exxon's 4Q profit dips 16 percent to \$8.35 billion

Exxon Mobil's fourth-quarter profit fell 16 percent as the company produced slightly less oil and gas and its refining business weakened. Exxon has been criticized for failing to boost production, but the CEO says that new projects now in the works will produce profits and lift the business. Exxon Mobil Corp. said Thursday that fourth-quarter net income was \$8.35 billion, or \$1.91 per share, matching Wall Street's forecast. That compares with profit of \$9.95 billion, or \$2.20 per share, a year earlier. Revenue fell 3.3 percent to \$110.86 billion, below the \$114.51 billion that analysts were expecting, according to a FactSet survey. Production of oil and gas dropped 1.8 percent. In a statement, Chairman and CEO Rex Tillerson said disciplined investing and new projects were putting the company in position for sustained big profits. "Over the next two years, ExxonMobil will start up numerous major projects delivering profitable new supplies of oil and natural gas while strengthening our refining and chemicals businesses," he said. The Irving, Texas-based company spent \$26 billion last year on dividends and buybacks that reduced the number of shares — moves designed to please shareholders. As oil prices were stabilizing, Exxon's shares gained nearly 15 percent during 2013, about on par with Chevron Corp. but trailing the broader indexes, including the Dow Jones industrial average. In trading before Thursday's opening bell, Exxon

shares were down \$1.18 to \$93.93. Exxon is the world's biggest publicly traded oil company. It became the largest producer of U.S. natural gas with the 2010 acquisition of XTO Energy, a deal that has failed to produce immediate results due to stubbornly low gas prices amid a surge in drilling. In the fourth quarter, Exxon's earnings from oil and gas production in the U.S. fell 26 percent to

\$1.19 billion; outside the U.S. — easily the company's most profitable business — earnings dipped 9 percent to \$5.6 billion. The sharpest decline came in refining and selling petroleum products, where earnings plunged 48 percent to \$916 million on weaker refining margins. Exxon said it paid \$23.11 billion in income, sales and other taxes, a decrease of 4.2 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012.

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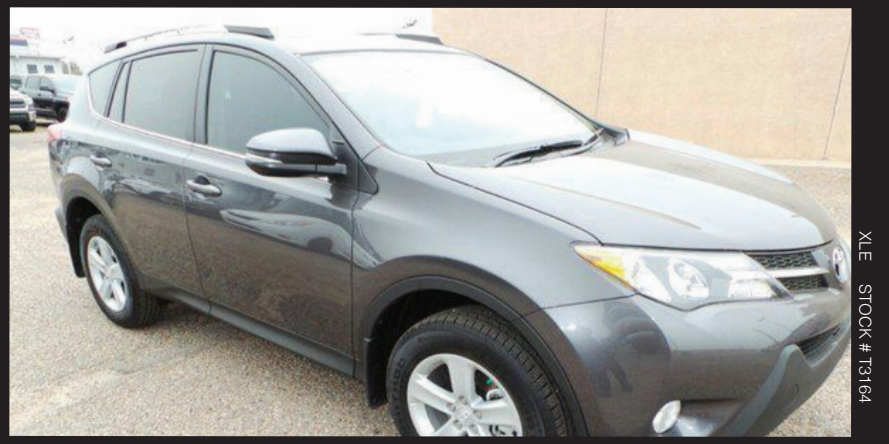


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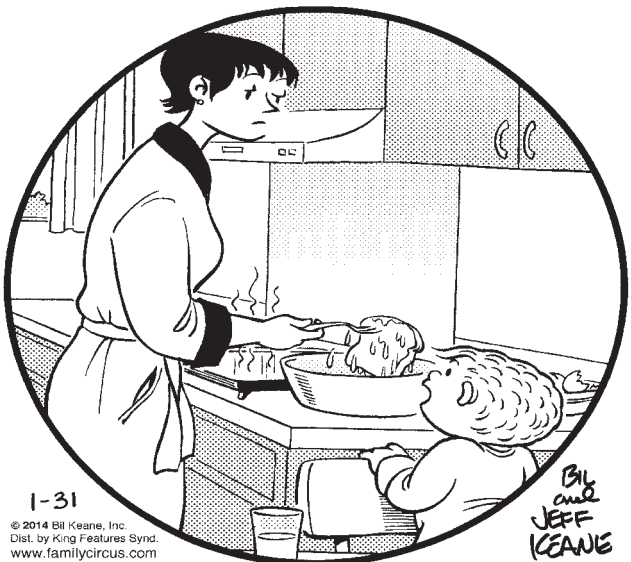


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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



1-31

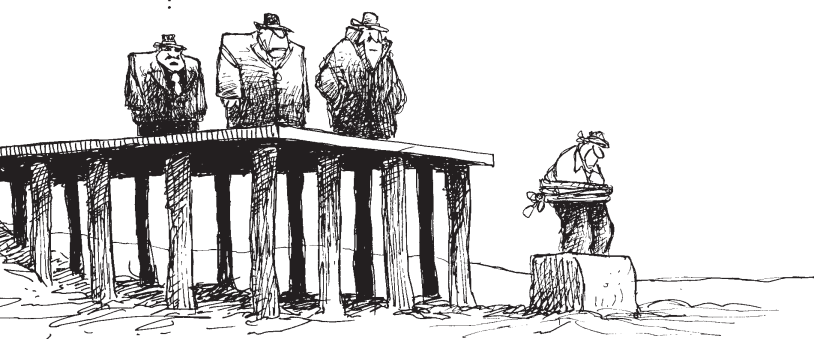
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"How 'bout we cook up some American toast this morning 'stead of French toast? Okay, Mommy?"

Non Sequitur

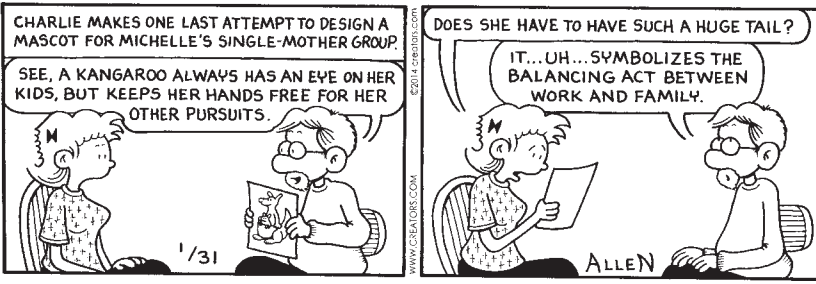
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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014:

This year you have an opportunity to develop a long-term interest or talent. You most likely will be rewarded by financial compensation. As a result, you'll feel appreciated. If you are single, you have a unique quality that draws others to you. Know what kind of relationship you desire when deciding which person to date. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy a common venture, study or hobby. You also are changing; what bothered you about your sweetie in the past no longer is an issue. PISCES often is emotional.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Use your imagination to push a project forward. Emphasis will be on both your personal and professional lives. You also might be looking at a change with your home or a real-estate investment. You will make an adjustment if necessary. Tonight: Not to be found.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You'll zero in on your long-term goals professionally and within your community. Be responsive to calls, as a lot of friends and associates could be looking for you. Make plans that involve being around crowds, and you will be happier as a result. Tonight: Where the gang is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You could become more involved in a situation that has to do with a parent or loved one. This person most likely is older and can cause you a lot of problems. Your perspective about this person could change enormously in the next few days. Tonight: Up till the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to rethink a personal matter involving someone at a distance. You could be overtired and withdrawn from a recent upset, which will force you to make an even stronger impression. Your creativity flourishes when you are with others. Tonight: Use your imagination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your contentment comes from the company around you. You will be happiest with one special person, so plan your day accordingly. Your sense of connection is already tight, and it only can grow from here. Be careful

about changing plans. Tonight: Go with someone's request.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Defer to someone whom you care a lot about. You will get an invitation involving a party or get-together. You tend to enjoy one-on-one interactions, yet you'll discover how much friends can bring to your life and the moment. Go for the healthy mix. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might be more concerned with a project than you are with having a fun day. In fact, until you complete it, you won't be able to relax. Allow greater give-and-take between you and a loved one. This person might volunteer to pitch in. Why not? Tonight: Relax when you are done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your imagination will travel around some wild corners, and it could surprise you. Realize that you don't need to indulge every fantasy, but giving in to one or two might be fun, depending on who you choose to join you. Communication sizzles. Tonight: Opt for something different.

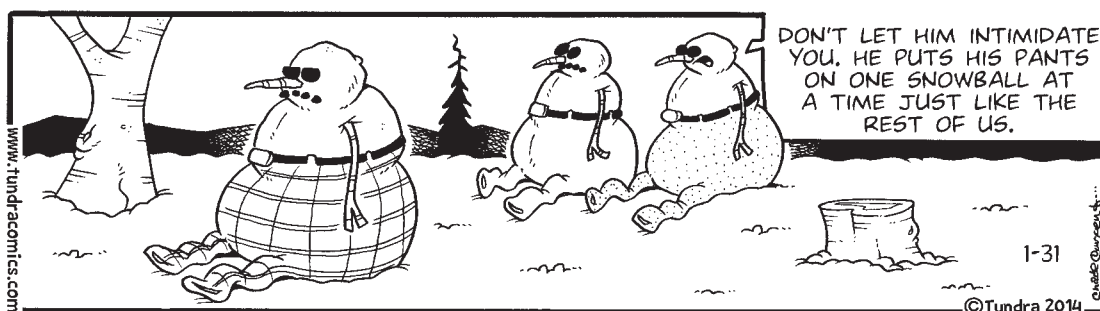
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Pressure builds within your immediate circle. Listen to your inner voice about how to release tension. Once you do, you might choose to deal with the problem, but it will be in a way you might not had thought of. Use care with your finances. Tonight: At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Pick up the phone and call a dear friend to catch up on his or her news. You might think of this person often, but you don't act on it. Consider changing that pattern, and you both will be a lot happier. Once you decide to make a change, it is as good as done. Tonight: Hang with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Watch a tendency to overindulge and get a little wild. You might want to let off some steam, so choose a favorite winter sport. You'll be surprised at how good you feel afterward. Buy a token of affection for a loved one when you get a chance. Tonight: Your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ All eyes turn to you, as you seem to be a people magnet today! You might want to choose your company with care; realize that you have many choices. You like to be around people who inspire you or help you to relax. Tonight: Be imaginative.

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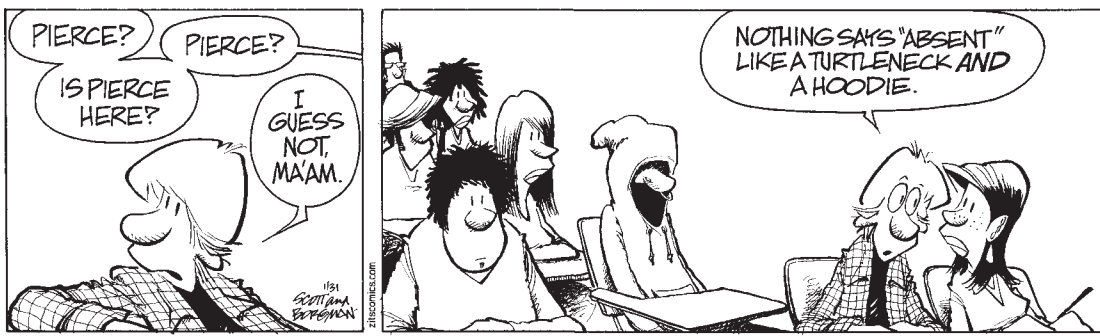
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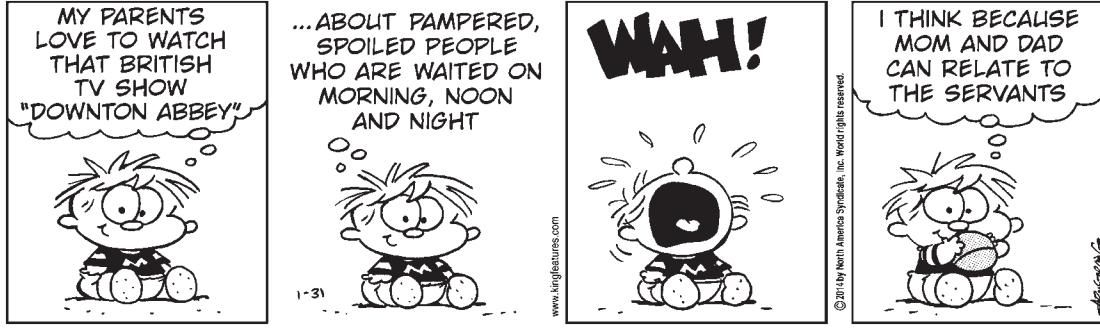
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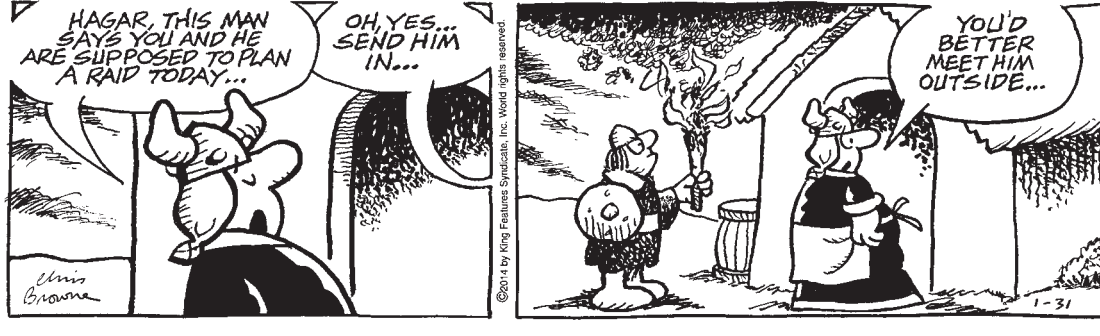
Beetle Bailey



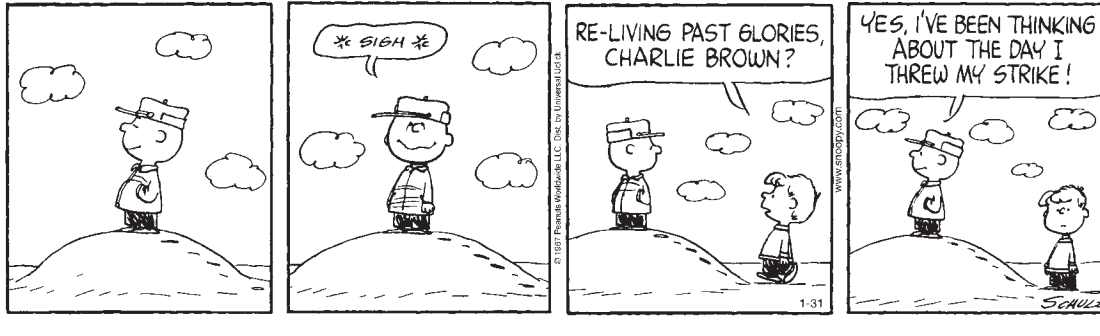
Marvin



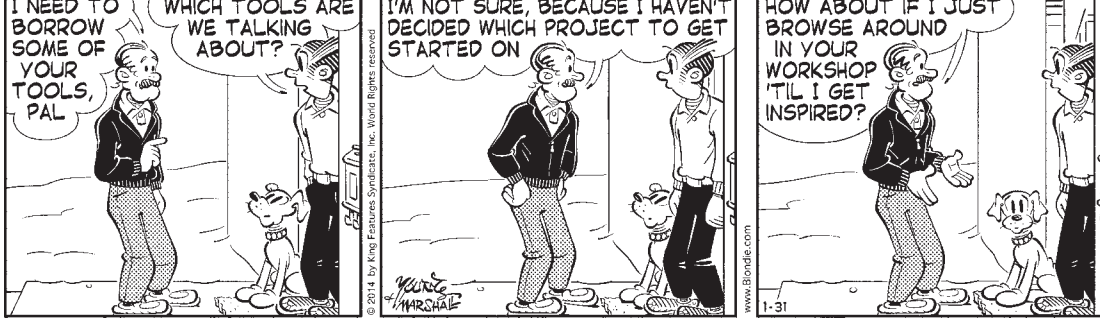
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Broncos get to work at Jets complex

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — The Broncos braved the cold for their first full practice of Super Bowl week, working in pads for nearly two hours after a 30-minute walk-through session Wednesday.

Denver practiced on the synthetic turf outdoor field at the New York Jets training facility. By the end of practice, the temperature dipped to 21 degrees.

"It was great," Broncos coach John Fox said after practice. "We're pretty much weather-proof. We practice in this stuff all the time. Being in Denver, we've played in a few dif-

ferent elements. We practiced numerous times in single digit, played in wind. We've practiced in snow many times. We're pretty much ready for anything."

Fox has chosen not to use the indoor field at the Jets plush headquarters for practices this week, opting for the type of natural elements that will greet his team at Met Life Stadium on Super Sunday.

Fox was pleased with the flow after the travel and various commitments connected to playing in a Super Bowl. Wednesday is typically when the focus toward the game increases, given the full-

scale practices.

"I wanted to see how well they would re-boot, get re-charged and practice what we've put in," Fox said. "They recalled it and it went very well. We had a very good practice."

The Broncos had a sense of normalcy on a few levels.

Peyton Manning, as usual, was in command and precise with his throws. He seemed unaffected by the elements.

"Very sharp," Fox said. "What I've noticed, he had to get used to weather over the past two years. I think he's done an unbelievable job, which I think people forget."

Top defenses have best Super Bowls

WASHINGTON (AP) — In big money Super Bowls it pays far more to be stingy.

Statistical history favors the tightest defenses in the Super Bowl over the most prolific offenses, something that might hearten Seattle Seahawks fans.

In the 48 year history of the Super Bowl, this is only the second time the No. 1 team in total yards and total passing offense — Denver — has faced the No. 1 defensive team in total yards and passing yards given up: Seattle.

The Broncos averaged 457.3 yards in total offense, including 340.2 passing yards, both way outpacing No. 2 teams. The Seahawks only allowed 273.6 total yards and 172 passing yards, both way outpacing the No. 2 defensive teams.

The only other time this happened, in Super Bowl XXXVII in 2003, defensive titan Tampa Bay swamped offensive powerhouse Oakland 48-21.

But the defensive advantage goes far beyond that.

Eleven times top defensive leaders went into the Super Bowl, nine of those times they won. The only defensive power losers were the 1982-83 Miami Dolphins, who were tops in overall defense and passing yards, and the 1976-77 Minnesota Vikings who were the best past defenders.

Offensive leaders went into the Super Bowl a dozen times and won seven of those time, barely more than half. And the Broncos have some recent teams that they don't want to emulate. The 2007-08 New England Patriots, 2002-03 Oakland Raiders and 2000-01 St. Louis Rams all lost despite having both the best total and passing offenses.

Of course, the best guarantee is to be No. 1 in both defense and offense. The undefeated 1972-73 Miami Dolphins and the 1977-78 Dallas Cowboys both were tops in total offense and defense. And both won the Super Bowl.

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Wednesday: Thunder erase early 18-point hole, top Heat 112-95

MIAMI (AP) — Down by 18 points midway through the opening quarter, Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder looked well on their way to witnessing a rout.

That's exactly what happened. And they enjoyed every moment.

Durant remained sizzling with 33 points, Serge Ibaka added 22 and the Thunder roared back from an abysmal start — they trailed 22-4 early — to embarrass the Miami Heat 112-95 on Wednesday night, erasing that big deficit out of the gate by outscoring the two-time defending champions by 43 points over a 33-minute span.

"They were ready for us to come in and play," Durant said. "They hit some tough shots early on, a few 3's, and we didn't panic. We just tried to stay together and that's what we did. Our bench was great in getting us back in that game."

The Thunder led by as many as 25, and shot 16 for 27 from 3-point range. Miami was 3 for 19 from be-

yond the arc.

Durant has now scored at least 30 points in 12 straight games, matching the league's longest such streak since Tracy McGrady did it in 14 consecutive outings in the 2002-03 season. The Thunder extended their winning streak to nine, inching them closer to Indiana in the race for the league's best record. And the Oklahoma City bench outscored Miami's reserves 39-21, with Jeremy Lamb scoring 18 and Derek Fisher going 5 for 5 from 3-point range for his 15 points.

"There's no running away from it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Other than the first eight minutes of the game they outclassed us tonight. They absolutely deserved this win."

LeBron James scored 34 points for Miami, his 1-on-1 duel with Durant not really amounting to much on a night where the Heat allowed 25 points off turnovers and blew an 18-point lead for just the fourth time since he, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh became teammates nearly four years ago.

Bosh scored 18 points and Wade added 15 for Miami.

"We played well to start the game," James said. "We played well all the way until like the second quarter. From that point on they did what they want to do."

Much of the buzz going into the night was about the MVP race, and how this might be the season that Durant finally catches James for the league's top individual award.

Head-to-head, they weren't separated by much. But for just the fourth time in 17 meetings between their teams, Durant came out on top.

"It would have been fun to clear the court and watch them go 1-on-1," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

Ibaka opened the scoring

with a jumper, and the Heat answered with an immediate 18-0 run, not even needing 5 minutes to get what appeared to be complete control. With 6:20 left in the opening quarter, Bosh made a pair of free throws to make it 22-4.

That pretty much ended the Heat highlights for the evening.

By the end of the first, the Thunder were within nine. Lamb scored 13 in the second quarter alone, helping Oklahoma City take a 55-50 lead into the break, with the Thunder already having scored 19 points off turnovers.

The third quarter, Durant and the Thunder put it away.

Durant and James seemed to be playing a little game of 'Can you top this?' in that period, both finishing with 12 points in the 12 minutes. The

difference was, Durant was getting plenty of help, and James wasn't getting much.

"Rucker Park, that's what was going through my head," Durant said, referring to the New York basketball landmark where he scored 66 points in a game during the summer of 2011. "It was fun. ... I'm sure the fans got what they wanted to see with that one."

Said James: "It's fun competition. It's been a while

since I was able to do something like that."

Fisher connected on a 3-pointer to end the quarter, pushing Oklahoma City's margin to 16, and the Heat had no answers in the fourth.

"We have some work to do," Spoelstra said. "We're like everybody else in the league. Nobody is infallible. We have some things to improve on. We know the things we have to improve on. We're not there yet."

US figure skaters will do some training in Austria

The U.S. figure skaters will do some of their training for the Sochi Olympics in Austria.

Barbara Reichert, the spokeswoman for U.S. Figure Skating, says the organization secured ice time two years ago at a training facility in Europe "to allow additional practice time for American athletes to prepare for the Olympic Winter Games. This is a very common practice at the Olympics and is not in response to any security issues."

The athletes will still practice during their regular time slots in Sochi, with additional skating to be done in Austria. Reichert says this has been done before: At the 2002 Salt Lake City

Games, the team trained outside of Utah. Same thing at the 2006 Turin Olympics and four years ago in Vancouver.

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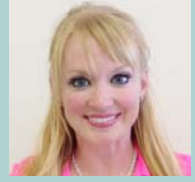


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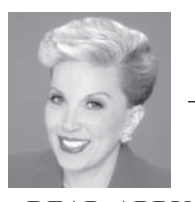
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: My husband is a hard worker, a good provider and a good dad. However, he's angry all the time. It has been this way for as long as I can remember. He is aware of it, and always promises me that when this or that settles down, things will get better, but they never do. When he sees something on TV or reads something in the paper that upsets him, he can say really vile and violent things. Often when he thinks things the kids and I do are not good enough, he borders on being verbally abusive. His friends say I'm a "saint" for putting up with him, but lately all I feel is tired out and worn down by it. I have spoken to him about this numerous times, and it improves for a few days, then it starts all over. I'm not sure how much longer I can last. He reads your column, and I'm hoping he'll see this and realize how bad things really are. I have asked him to go to counseling, but he hasn't been willing. Do you think there's anything I can do besides leaving that will make him see what he is doing to me and the kids? — **READY TO LEAVE**

DEAR READY TO LEAVE: Your husband may be a good provider and a hard worker, but I seriously question whether he is as good a dad as you would like to think. Children need their parents' encouragement and approval, as well as their patience and counsel. When they are given a constant barrage of angry putdowns from a parent, they begin to internalize it. They think such behavior is normal, which means they will repeat it in their relationships when they are older. Or, they may think they deserve to be treated that way and choose mates who treat them like Dad did. Kids with low self-esteem also tend to choose friends who are like themselves, which can cause even more problems. There is something you can do besides leave right now. Make an appointment for YOURSELF with a licensed

psychotherapist and take the children with you. That way, your husband can foot the bill while all of you get your heads straight and you make up your mind if you're serious about leaving. (Alternatively, he can finally admit he needs help with his anger issues and schedule an appointment for himself.)

DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged to be married soon, and I'm concerned about a commitment my fiance, "Jeff," made to his older sister "Beth." Beth is planning on having a child through a sperm donor and has asked Jeff to be a "father figure" once the child is born. He has doubts about the wisdom of her plan to parent a child alone, but he doesn't want to hurt her feelings and is flattered to have been asked to fulfill such an important task. He agreed to do it without discussing it with me. Beth is very nice, and Jeff's family has embraced me and I don't want to cause trouble. Jeff and I plan on having several children of our own, and we also plan to move out of state in the next few years. I am wondering how this commitment will affect that possibility. I am uncomfortable with Jeff making a lifelong commitment to serve as a father figure to another

person's child, especially when he hasn't established what it entails. I'm worried that this will cause conflict in our marriage if he goes through with it. Am I overreacting? I know I need to discuss this with my fiance. How do you suggest I proceed? — **UNSURE IN THE MIDWEST**

DEAR UNSURE: You're not overreacting, and I agree that before this goes any further, you and Jeff need to talk. Open the discussion by telling him that you're not comfortable and why. Suggest he talk to his sister and find out EXACTLY what she meant when she asked him to be a father figure. He also needs to tell her he may have spoken too soon when he agreed, because he had not first discussed it with you and that the two of you plan to leave the state in the next few years. She needs that important information because it may alter her choice about who should fill that important role. **TO MY ASIAN FRIENDS:** Today marks the first day of the Lunar New Year. It's the Year of the Horse. The horse is a symbol of traveling, competition and victory. May it be a winning year! — **Love, ABBY**

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There is one letter that, when added to all of the seven-letter words below, can be used to form new eight-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.

C A R B I N E
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C O N C E A L
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L I M E A D E
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B R O I L E D
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Silver-tongued
 - 5 Faux pas
 - 9 Airport aid
 - 11 "The Taming of the Shrew" city
 - 13 Make amends
 - 14 Clickable pictures
 - 15 Sewing aid
 - 16 Inventor's protection
 - 18 Snares
 - 20 Hot brew
 - 21 Past plump
 - 22 Mayberry sheriff
 - 23 Rent out
 - 24 Verb for you
 - 25 Diploma holder
 - 27 More enormous
 - 29 Brink
 - 30 Eastern temples
 - 32 Mean
 - 34 Tango quorum
 - 35 City leader
 - 36 "My Name is — Lev"
 - 38 Skier's place
 - 39 Sleep disturber
- DOWN**
- 40 Takes to court
 - 41 Swift jets
 - 1 Potential raisin
 - 2 Barrio resident
 - 3 Understanding utterance
 - 4 Outlaw fellow
 - 5 Rotisserie parts
 - 6 Valentine trim
 - 7 Annoyed utterance
 - 8 Did a fourth down job
 - 10 Meal
 - 12 Test for purity
 - 17 Clumsy fellow
 - 19 Bassoon part
 - 22 Oscar-winning film
 - 24 Like the stables cleaned by Hercules
 - 25 Mass units
 - 26 Foes
 - 27 Witch
 - 28 Most chilly
 - 30 Reduces
 - 31 Tender areas
 - 33 Tug-of-war need
 - 37 Sinking signal

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F	A	R	E	S					M	E	L	T

Yesterday's answer

- 12 Test for purity
- 17 Clumsy fellow
- 19 Bassoon part
- 22 Oscar-winning film
- 24 Like the stables cleaned by Hercules
- 25 Mass units
- 26 Foes
- 27 Witch
- 28 Most chilly
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	40						41		

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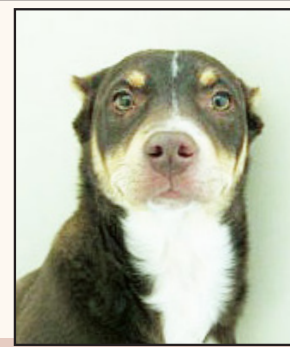
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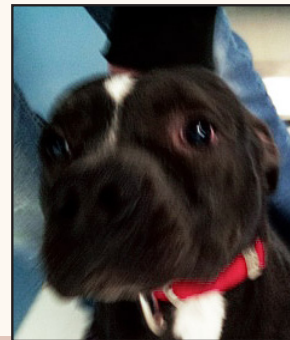
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Texas Board of Ed yet to OK dropping algebra II

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Board of Education on Wednesday moved a step closer to dropping algebra II as a requirement for high school graduation as the members began to finalize an academic curriculum overhaul that could reshape public classrooms statewide.

Its unanimous vote to move the issue forward sets up a second vote on Friday to finalize the decision.

Dialing back the algebra II standard was part of a sweeping law approved overwhelmingly in May by the state Legislature that scrapped many course requirements in advanced math and science while cutting the number of standardized tests high school graduates must pass from 15 to five.

The changes were meant to give students more flexibility to focus on career and vocational training — not just college prep courses — but critics accuse Texas of dumbing-down its graduation standards.

The board's 10 Republicans and five Democrats are charged with implementing the overhaul and they upheld the changes to the algebra II mandate in November. Wednesday's vote approved much of the rest of the new curriculum, but delayed action on some math requirements.

Members will reconvene

to consider final approval on Friday. Discussions on last-minute changes will continue until then, and large modifications are still possible.

The new graduation rules take effect in September.

Just eight years ago, Texas became the first state to require that most of its high school students pass algebra II, and nearly 20 states have since followed suit. Now Texas is bucking the trend it started.

Board member Ken Mercer, R-San Antonio, said in an interview that he hoped to include an "applied algebra" course among those classes that students pursuing a variety of high school diploma plans could take, suggesting it would teach algebra skills in real-world situations such as accounting.

"I don't want to water down the curriculum. I want there to be rigor there," Mercer said, noting that the skills learned in algebra II are vital for the SAT and ACT college entry exams. "But I want it to have things (students) can use."

The board's latest vote didn't include an applied algebra course, but there is still time to include it before final approval Friday.

Many experts say algebra II is a key prerequisite for success both in college and life beyond. But supporters of the new law noted that

even the curriculum standards being replaced had allowed students to forgo the current requirement by earning a high school diploma on the minimum plan — and about 20 percent of young Texans did so.

Meanwhile, a coalition of industry and trade groups argued that plenty of high-paying jobs are available without a college degree, but that algebra II is so difficult that it was forcing many students to drop out before finishing high school.

Algebra II would still be required of students who want "distinguished" high school diplomas that allow them to qualify for automatic admission to any state public university in Texas. It will also be mandated for those who choose coursework focusing on science, technology, engineering and math.

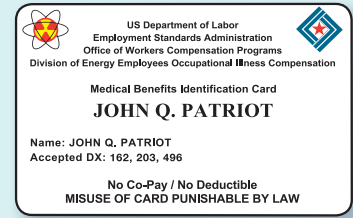
But the algebra II requirement would no longer exist for students who choose diploma paths focusing on arts and humanities, business and industry, multidisciplinary studies or public service, unless a change Friday means it lives on in a hybrid course such as the one backed by Mercer.

The new rules also would let students earn "foundation" diplomas that don't include higher math or science requirements and don't focus on a particular discipline.

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TALES from the TOP OF TEXAS

BIG HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

■ Charles Goodnight Historical Center near Claude preserves history of Panhandle's first rancher.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
thowsare@thepampanews.com

While most of the American West was settled by the 1880s — more than a decade after the end of the Civil War — the Texas Panhandle was virtually uninhabited by folks of European descent.

Then along came a tall-drink of a man from Illinois named Charles Goodnight, who with his wife Mary Ann Dyer Goodnight brought “civilization to the Panhandle.”

The couple first lived in a tiny dugout in Palo Duro Canyon. Their living quarters were upgraded considerably when in 1887 Mr. Goodnight built a stately two-story home about a half mile north of the canyon. The frame house has stood the harsh elements of the Panhandle for 127 years, and was recently restored to near-original condition in an effort spearheaded by the Armstrong County Museum.

The 2,900-square-foot house is located on State Highway 287 between Claude, the county seat of Armstrong County, and Clarendon, which is large enough to have restaurants and hotels.

This area of the Panhandle is so rural that it didn't have telephone service until the 1950s.

For decades the exterior of the house was painted white, but now the original three-color paint scheme of off-white, light brown and dark brown has been reinstated.

Inside, each room has been meticulously restored to look as if the Goodnights are still living in the house.

The \$3.5 million restoration project was funded with donations from more than a dozen contributors, including the Pampa-based M.K. Brown Foundation.

But the money paid for much more than just the restoration of an old house. The entire grounds have been renovated, including a small building behind the house where Goodnight would work on crossbreeding bison with cattle. He called the animals “cattalo.”

There's also a good-as-new chuckwagon on the property. All that's missing is the chow.

“Mr. Goodnight developed the chuckwagon as a way to take food into the canyon for his cowboys,” said Janeane White, museum coordinator. Google it: Charles Goodnight really did invent the chuckwagon.

With a matching grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, The Charles Goodnight Historical Center was constructed. It is a small museum and visitors center that brings the Goodnights' story to life in photographs, text and video. Visitors can watch a short video on the history of the house, another on the personal history of the Goodnights and yet another on Mr. Goodnight's efforts to save the South Plains American Bison, which were nearly obliterated by the white man during the Westward Expansion.

The restoration project took six years to complete and was finished in April 2013.

A lovely house

White described a few of the features of the Goodnight house.

“All of the stained glass is from England and the large, weight-supporting boards came from wood in Palo Duro Canyon,” White said.

Most of the house is built from cypress and pine. Along with timbers from the canyon, wood was shipped in from Louisiana and Trinidad, Colo., White said.

Between most of the rooms on the first floor are “pocket doors” that slide in and out of the walls.

There are three, triangle-shaped fire boxes on the first floor with each having its own flue but sharing a common chimney.

Upstairs, Mrs. Goodnight had a sewing room where all the ladies in the community would gather to sew quilts, White said.

You won't find any bathrooms in the house, because back in those days folks used either outhouses or chamber pots.

Mr. Goodnight, given the honorary

title of “Colonel” by the Texas Rangers, owned 2 million acres, White said.

“He owned everything as far as you can see in every direction,” she said.

Though the Colonel was obviously as intelligent as he was hardy, he had no formal education.

“He didn't finish the second grade but taught himself to read and write later on in life,” White said, adding that he likely had help from his devoted wife, nicknamed Molly, who was a school teacher.

Cattle ranching

Charles Goodnight established the first permanent cattle raising operation in the Texas Panhandle, the JA Ranch, in 1876. Today it is the oldest ranch and the oldest enterprise in the Panhandle. In 1887, Goodnight did not renew his contract with Cornelia Adair, a matriarch from Ireland who grazed cattle in Palo Duro Canyon, and established his Goodnight Ranch in Armstrong and Donley counties, where he moved the herd of bison and later conducted his famous cattalo experiments.

The Goodnights lived in the house until the mid-1920s.

During the next four decades, the Goodnight Buffalo Ranch became a nationally known destination for scientists as well as tourists, and the Goodnights entertained thousands of people in their home.

By proving the economic value of buffalo, Colonel Goodnight was able to preserve the species even to this day.

In 1919, the Goodnights sold the house and ranch with the provision that they could live there for the rest of their lives. Mrs. Goodnight died in April 1926. Colonel Goodnight lived in the house until the end of 1926 when he moved to Clarendon, but many of his and Mary Ann Dyer Goodnight's possessions remained in the house when he died in December 1929 and many of these items have survived in the hands of various family members and institutions.

The Goodnights are buried in a small cemetery across the highway from the historical center, White said.

In 2005, Mr. and Mrs. Brent Caviness and Mr. and Mrs. Marsh Pitman donated the home and 30 acres of land with an initial investment toward preservation. Since that time, a \$3 million-plus campaign has been underway to restore the homestead and furnishings, build a visitor's center and raise an operation endowment.

Realizing that this project has a broad appeal to all Texans, the Texas Historical Foundation's Board of Directors chose the Goodnight House Restoration as their project for the year 2007.

The Goodnight House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as an America's Treasure.

Bringing in visitors

Though the visitor center and restored house have been open less than a year, White said it has steadily become a popular tourist destination.

Though January has been a slow month, White said during warmer months the center gets lots of school children.

The Armstrong County Museum works tirelessly to bring in visitors every way they can — from contacting bus tour companies, to social media to advertisements in state and national tourism magazines.

While a tourist may not spend a whole day only at the center, White said, there are plenty of other attractions in the Panhandle within driving distance of the center — Palo Duro Canyon, Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument and Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.

She is hopeful travel to the center will give the tiny town of Claude an economic boost.

“I'd like to see some bed and breakfasts open there,” she said.

The Charles Goodnight Historical Center and J. Evetts Haley Visitor and Education Center is located at 4901 County Road 25, Goodnight, Texas. For more information, call 806-944-5591.



Clockwise from top, the Goodnight house has been restored with its original color scheme. The architectural style is called “folk Victorian.” The house is about a 50-mile drive from Pampa. The desk and typewriter in Charles Goodnight's office. A herd of bison still roam on a ranch not far from the house. A chamber pot and a pair of women's shoes in one of the bedrooms. Chances are pretty good the electrical outlet was added during the restoration. Janeane White, coordinator of the Charles Goodnight Historical Center, talks about the history of the Goodnights. Stained glass imported from England.