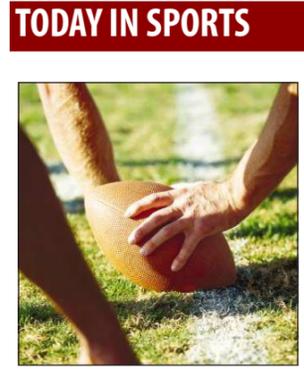


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The PAMPA NEWS



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March into hell

White Deer resident is one of few who survived a massacre of 400-plus American prisoners during Korean War.



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare
 Sherman Jones with his wife Nelda at their home in White Deer.

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Just 10 hours after beginning his deployment in North Korea in June of 1950, Sherman Jones said he was one of hundreds of American GIs capture by enemy troops and forced to march 600 miles in over several months.

They criss-crossed through the Korean country side to avoid detection.

Along the march, the Americans who didn't die suffered from malnutrition, thirst, sun burn and diseases, but little did they know the fate at the end of march would be even worse.

Those men were herded into a tunnel and then fired upon by their captors. The mass shooting occurred on Oct. 30, 1950.

More than 400 men were killed. Only 28 men, including Jones, survived. Sixty-four years later, he is now one of only five men still living who survived what is called the Sunchon Tunnel Massacre. The most recent survivor to die was in January and another passed away in June, Sherman said.

Jones, now 81, said he wanted to fly in the Air Force, but ended up in the Army. "I carried machine gun rounds," Jones said. "I carried 250 rounds with each arm."

Jones said he was shot multiple times in the tunnel before he passed out, and was apparently mistaken for dead by the North Koreans.

"I was shot in the foot three times, on my shin, shoulder, face and behind my ear," he said.

He said his wounded foot was amputated in 1957, and since that fateful day in the Korean countryside he has had 128 surgeries.

Many were to remove skin cancers, he said, from the extreme exposure to the sun from the death march.

Jones now lives with his wife Nelda near the White Deer United Methodist Church.

Nelda said they have lived there for two years, but plan to move back to Amarillo, where Jones will be closer to his doctors and the Veterans Affairs hospital, she said.

Both widowed from their first marriages, Sherman and Nelda tied the knot five years ago.

"My sister's husband worked for Sherman,"

JONES cont. on page 2

A NEW TALL TOWER



Photos by Timothy P. Howsare

On a cold, windy day in December 2012, hundreds of Pampans watched from their cars as the 300-foot tall coal stack at the old Celanese Chemical Plant was destroyed in a matter of seconds with explosions. The old chemical plant was purchased by the Pampa Economic Development Corp. and is now called the Pampa Energy Center. Now, a new tower with a new purpose is being erected at the site. Construction is about half completed on the G2X Pampa Fuels facility, which will convert natural gas into methanol. The plant is expected to open later this year and employ about 35 people full time. The new Pampa Fuels plant and the history of the Celanese plant will be featured in the Pampa Pride, which will be published at the end of the month.



States' plan to save rare bird stirs debate in Texas

BY NEENA SATIJA
 The Texas Tribune

Environmental officials in five states, including Texas, say surging interest in a conservation plan to save the quickly disappearing lesser prairie chicken should persuade the federal government not to list the bird as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

The wide-ranging plan aims to help energy companies, developers and landowners, who say such a designation could threaten their activities in areas where the chicken roams, which include West Texas and the Panhandle. If the bird is listed, penalties for harming it could include heavy fines and even jail time.

As of this week, 17 major companies that operate in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado have agreed to pay \$15 million over the next three years into a conservation fund and to commit land to the program. The money would go to landowners, who could be paid



File photo

A pair of lesser prairie chickens, which live throughout the High Plains.

as much as \$47 per acre per year to conserve prairie habitat for the bird. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which is in charge of the effort, is trying to sign up several more companies before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes its decision, which is expected by the end of the month.

"It's a race to the finish line right now," said Bill Van Pelt, the association's grasslands coordinator. He

added that even if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the species, participants in the plan would be protected from any penalties.

But wildlife advocates are skeptical that the plan would help the species recover from a steep decline. The population of the iconic bird, known for its elaborate mating ritual, was cut in half last year amid the drought and the continuing eradication of the bird's prairie grassland habitat in the western and midwestern U.S.

"We think that the species must be listed," said Ya-Wei Li, an attorney with the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Defenders of Wildlife. Li said the plan requires only short-term conservation actions by landowners and might not help the bird's population in the long run.

No matter how many companies or landowners agree to participate, he said, "you need more chickens on the landscape." Given that just 17,000 of the birds exist nationwide today, Li said, the prospects for its recovery

BIRD cont. on page 2

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Jones

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Nelda said. "One day they said they were going out on a Sunday with Sherman and asked if I wanted to come along. From that day we both knew we wanted to be together."

A book published in 2007, "Suncheon Tunnel Massacre Survivors," tells the little-known story in detail.

The book is written by Pat McGrath and Joyce Faulkner and is available on Amazon.com.

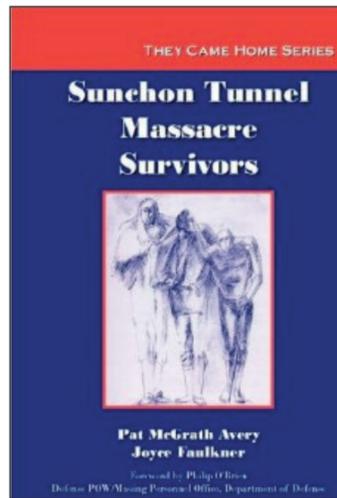
A synopsis of the story follows.

In the early days of the Korean War, the Americans were totally outnumbered. The North Koreans, with enough men to blanket the countryside surrounded the Allied Forces and took captives. As the men were captured, they were marched north. Zigzagged across the country, they were used by the North Koreans for

propaganda opportunities.

As they marched, new prisoners were added. Many old prisoners began dying of disease, wounds and abuse. Bodies littered the march's path. They marched through Taejon and prisoners were picked up following the defeat of Maj. Gen. Dean's troops. Taejon had been held for 25 days before the troops were forced to retreat. One of the survivors, Valdor John, participated in that battle, and was captured there.

Bayonets, rice balls, lice, thirst, lack of bathing, the smells, decaying bodies and buddies dying — these are the memories of the march. Most were wounded when they were captured. They may or may not have received any medical treatment. If they did, it was minimal. They talked about the maggots in their wounds. It was so gross, but they later learned the maggots kept the wounds clean. Many had their boots taken by the guards, and they wrapped their feet in anything they could find to give them some covering.



"Suncheon Tunnel Massacre Survivors" is part of the They Came Home Series and available on Amazon.com.

They all suffered from malnutrition, beri-beri and other diseases.

Jones said when he pulled out the countless thorns that punctured his skin, puss would ooze

out from the infections.

If someone fell behind, he was shot or bayoneted. As in many other death marches, they helped each other, keeping the wounded on foot as long as possible.

They arrived in Seoul just before Gen. Eugene MacArthur landed the Marines at Inchon. Estimates of the numbers vary, but by the time they reached Seoul there were over three hundred prisoners still alive. As they huddled in their quarters, they could hear distant gunfire. They would later learn that it was the American troops.

As the troops headed toward Seoul, the North Koreans marched the prisoners to Pyongyang where they were paraded through the streets. By day, they huddled in an old building. It was bitterly cold.

From Pyongyang, they marched to a train depot where they were loaded into boxcars. By this time the American planes were closing in. After a few days the train entered the Suncheon Tunnel and

stopped. The prisoners were told they couldn't leave in the daylight because of the Americans. The guards said they would take one car at a time, and feed the prisoners. Among the first group to leave was Major William Tom McDaniel. He had been the group's leader and they all felt that he had kept them alive. They never saw him again.

Car by car, they were unloaded, shot, bayoneted and finally left for dead. From this massacre, 28 men survived.

Jones said it all started when one of the North Koreans, who spoke English, told the GIs to put their hands behind their heads.

"They tied us up and started beating us," he said.

Jones broke down in tears two or three times while giving his account of the story.

But a hard life has not hardened his heart.

He gave The Pampa News reporter a big hug at the end of the interview.

Bird

Continued From Page 1

without significant action are grim.

While the birds are believed to roam on more than 3.5 million acres in Texas alone, companies have only committed 2.5 million acres of land to the program across the five states, and fewer than 700,000 of the acres are in Texas. Texas landowners have only offered up about 75,000 acres of habitat that they would be willing to conserve in exchange for pay. Van Pelt said those numbers would grow significantly and that dozens of other landowners participate in separate conservation plans for the bird.

Along with wildlife advocates, another dissenter also happens to be a powerful state official:

Comptroller Susan Combs, who nearly derailed Texas' participation in the effort last fall. Combs has complained that there wasn't enough public input in developing the plan and expressed suspicion about working with other states.

"How can four other states make important land use control decisions for landowners and industries in Texas?" Combs wrote in a letter last year to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Proponents of the plan say it is a historic agreement that would preserve both wildlife and economic growth. The conservation effort, known as the Range Wide Plan because it spans the entire five-state range of the bird's known home, aims to offset damage to the bird's habitat in one area by preserving or restoring habitat elsewhere. If participating companies harm undisturbed prairie chicken

habitat, they will have to pay extra money into the conservation fund. For instance, if an oil driller decides to put a well in the middle of undisturbed habitat, Van Pelt said, that could cost the company an extra \$150,000. Companies can avoid activity that would result in more fees by using a mapping tool created by Van Pelt's organization that shows where prime habitat still exists.

"This is really making our facilities guys and our operational engineers and our drillers try to look ahead," said Matt Thompson, director of governmental affairs for Apache Corporation, which will pay more than \$1 million to participate in the program. "If we want to go and site our wells along some place where there are transmission lines already, or where there's degraded habitat, then we can save ourselves a lot of money."

Some of the other companies

that have agreed to participate include Continental Resources, Devon Energy, ConocoPhillips and the Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

Noticeably absent from that list are oil giants like Exxon-Mobil, Chevron, SandRidge, BP and Chesapeake Energy, which have signed on to a different plan that the federal government recently began to evaluate. Backed by the Environmental Defense Fund and Katharine Armstrong, an environmental consultant and lobbyist for the Texas Oil and Gas Association, that plan also calls for companies to effectively pay landowners to conserve habitat, but the fees would fluctuate based on market demand. The program would be overseen by a non-profit called the American Habitat Center, which was set up by ExxonMobil lobbyists.

Combs spokeswoman Lauren Willis said the comptroller sup-

ports that plan. Combs and Armstrong were also instrumental in setting up a similar conservation plan for the dunes sagebrush lizard. Combs' office oversees the effort, which has been widely criticized by wildlife groups and Texas Republican lawmakers, like state Sen. Kel Seliger of Amarillo, who say it lacks transparency.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided last year not to list the dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act, prompting a lawsuit from Defenders of Wildlife. Should the agency make the same decision for the lesser prairie chicken, another lawsuit could be coming.

"There's a very, very strong likelihood that at least one environmental NGO will challenge any decision not to list the species," said Li, the group's attorney. "It is something that we would certainly consider."

Former Obama adviser: Build Keystone XL pipeline

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's former national security adviser said Thursday that Obama should approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline to send Russian President Vladimir Putin a message that "international bullies" cannot use energy security as a weapon.

The comments by retired Gen. James Jones came as Democrats grappled with the election-year dilemma

that the pipeline poses for them. Wealthy Democratic donors are funding candidates who oppose the project — a high-profile symbol of the political debate over climate change. But other Democrats are boosters of the pipeline, and the party's control of the Senate after the 2014 midterm elections may hinge on them.

Jones told the Senate Foreign Relations Commit-



James Jones

tee that the C a n a d a - T e x a s pipeline is a litmus test of whether the U.S. is serious about national and global energy security. Approval of the pipeline would help ensure that North America becomes a global energy hub and a reliable energy source to the U.S. and its allies, Jones said. Rrejecting the pipeline would "make Mr. Putin's day and strengthen his hand."

Jones, who left the Obama administration in 2010, now heads a consulting firm that has done work for the American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's chief trade group, and the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce. Both groups support the pipeline, which is backed by a number of Senate Democrats facing tight re-election races, including Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Mark Begich of Alaska and Mark Pryor of Arkansas.

Landrieu, who chairs the Senate Energy Committee, pressed Secretary of State John Kerry on the pipeline issue Thursday at an appropriations hearing. Landrieu called approval of the pipeline "critical" to the national interest and said that in Louisiana, "it's hard for us to even understand why there is a question" whether it should be approved. The State Department has jurisdiction over the pipeline because it crosses a U.S. border.

Kerry told Landrieu he was "not at liberty to go into my thinking at this

point," but added: "I'm going to look at all the arguments, both sides, all sides, whatever, evaluate them and make the best judgment I can about what is in the national interest."

Meanwhile, a top Democratic donor again urged that the pipeline be rejected.

Tom Steyer, a billionaire environmentalist, has vowed to spend \$100 million — \$50 million of his own money and \$50 million from other donors — to make climate change a top-tier issue in the 2014 elections.

Steyer, who spent more than \$10 million to help elect Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., last year, declined to comment on where his advocacy group, Next Gen Climate Action, would spend money this fall. But in a conference call with reporters Thursday, he noted the views of Landrieu and other endangered Democratic incumbents were well known.

"I think those senators voted on this long before

2014," he said, "so I don't think there's any real change here."

Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist who advises Steyer, has said the group would not go after Democrats, even those who support the pipeline.

"We're certainly not subscribing to what I would call the tea party theory of politics," Lehane said. "We do think it's really, really important from a climate perspective that we maintain control of the Senate for Democrats."

Steyer said Thursday he has not decided whether to spend money in Colorado, where Democratic Sen. Mark Udall is likely to be challenged by GOP Rep. Cory Gardner. Udall was among more than 30 Democratic senators who engaged in a talkathon urging action on climate change this week, but he has largely stayed out of the Keystone fight. Udall voted against budget amendments urging both support and rejection of the pipeline, arguing that they injected politics into a process that should remain at the State Department.

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Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 65 Low 39	High 63 Low 33	High 56 Low 32

Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 65. Winds north-northeast at 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:56 a.m.

Tonight: Showers late with a low of 39. Chance of rain: 40 percent. Winds east at 13 mph. Sunset at 7:51 p.m.

Saturday: Thunder showers with a high of 63. Chance of rain: 40 percent. Winds east at 12 mph. Sunrise at 7:55 a.m.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 33. Chance of rain: 20 percent. Winds northeast at 19 mph. Sunset at 7:52 p.m.

Sunday: Partly cloudy and windy with a high of 56. Chance of rain: 20 percent. Winds north at 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:53 a.m.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 32. Winds west at 10 mph. Sunset at 7:52 p.m.

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Obituaries

Joyce Levada Frazier (nee Ragsdale)

Joyce Levada Frazier (nee Ragsdale), a model member of "The Greatest Generation," passed away Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at the age of 85 in the Meredith House of Pampa.



Joyce Levada Frazier

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 15, 2014, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor of Central Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Frazier was born May 13, 1928 in Shawnee, Okla. and moved to Pampa in 1947. Joyce was a long time member of the First Assembly of God Church and was an active "Keenager" (church activity group for seniors) for years. In her younger days, besides being an admirable mom and efficient homemaker, Joyce was a member of a Pam-

pa ladies club known as The Gingham Girls, worked as assistant manager of the Blue Stamp redemption store, and looked after her elderly parents after they moved to Pampa following retirement. In recent years, Joyce has lived at the Meredith House where the staff worked with healthcare professionals, friends, and family to help her deal with the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. She was the devoted wife of Leroy Wayne Frazier for 67 years before he passed in 2011 and the loving sister of LaDawn Ragsdale Wallis for nearly 80 years before she passed in 2012.

She is survived by her three sons, Rick Frazier of Kingwood, Terry Frazier of Ocala, Fla., and Chris Frazier of Frisco; eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Alzheimer's Foundation of America (online at www.alzfdn.org; by phone 1-866-232-8484; or by mail to 322 Eighth Ave., 7th Fl., New York, NY 10001) or to any deserving charity of the donor's choice.

The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whately Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m. Friday, March 14, 2014.
Sign the online guest register at www.carmichael-whately.com.

For the record

Pampa woman arrested for theft

STAFF REPORT

• Kenzie Lashae Cain, 23, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by the Pampa Police Department for theft between \$50 and \$500.

• Leslie Lambright, 46, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Department of Public Safety for second driving while intoxicated offense, driving while license is invalid with a previous conviction.

• Marcus Deshawn Jernigan, 18, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by PPD for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
• Lawrence Stephen Dav-

is, Jr., 29, Jonesboro, Ga., was arrested Thursday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for bond surrender — possession of marijuana — between five and 50 pounds.

Pampa Art Club holds meeting

SUBMITTED

The Pampa Art Club met March 4 at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce Building. Pat Kindle was hostess. Norma Hinkle stated that Jon Birdsong, artist from Portales,

would be willing to give a workshop in Pampa if there were at least 10 students. Madeline Gawthrop moved that the club pursue him to come in June.

We chose to have a zect-angle display for the annual show. Each member will contribute a drawing.

President Carol Peet led a discussion about ways to promote the annual art show.

It was agreed that the club would have a showing on Monday night, May 5 and all day Tuesday, May 6 and will continue through the rest of

the week at the White Deer Land Museum. People will be invited to attend either time. The community will soon see advertisements of the club exhibit.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Crude oil shipments up 83 percent on US railroads

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The number of carloads of crude oil U.S. railroads delivered last year surged 83 percent over 2012 as concerns about the shipments grow.

The Association of American Railroads said Thursday the major U.S. railroads delivered 434,042 carloads of crude oil in 2013.

That's well above the 236,556 carloads of crude oil railroads delivered in 2012. Crude oil shipments

remain a relatively small part of rail traffic, but they have grown significantly since 2008 when 9,344 carloads were delivered.

Three fiery derailments involving crude oil in the past year led to increased concerns about the ship-

ments even though railroads' overall safety record remains good. The worst of those killed 47 people in Lac-Megantic, Quebec.

Federal regulators are also considering requiring upgrades to the tank cars railroads use.



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7 NM, Texas counties get disaster designations

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is designating six New Mexico counties and one in Texas as natural disaster areas due to drought.

The designations of Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero and Sierra counties in New Mexico and Texas' El

Paso County means farmers and ranchers in those counties are eligible for natural disaster assistance.

That aid primarily consists of low-interest loans from the Farm Service Agency.

The federal drought map released Thursday shows nearly two-thirds of New

Mexico are dealing with severe drought conditions or worse. The northeastern corner of the state and an area in the Bootheel have been hit the hardest.

Still, conditions aren't as bad as they were at this time last year, when extreme to exceptional drought covered about half of the state.

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Viewpoints

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This Land is Our Land And the prize for the vilest presidential lie goes to....Barack Obama

For many years, I thought the biggest whopper in the history of American presidents was Bill Clinton's claim that he'd never, um, you know, had intimate relations with Monica Lewinsky.

But, today, Slick Bill has moved down to número dos in my infamous List of Presidential Lies. The current number one is none other than Barack Obama.

For the past two years, President Obama has said, to anyone who'd care to listen, "I ended the war in Iraq."

Over and over he has done this. (Word has it that when Girl Scouts came and rang the bell at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Obama paid for three boxes of Thin Mints, two Samoas and a Peanut Butter Patties and, just as the girls were walking away, exclaimed, "Oh, I almost forgot, tell your parents I ended the war on Iraq.")

This is, of course, a statement whose validity depends on what the meaning of the word "is," is.

What Obama actually did was end American military presence in Iraq in 2011. But the war did not end; it simply stopped being a daily concern for us in the U.S.

While the president focused elsewhere, the war raged on and has now escalated to its most violent since 2004. This is to me, yet, further evidence of a U.S. President who is ill-prepared to deal with the complicated demands of foreign policy in a world where the U.S. is the sole remaining super-power.

Fighting is raging between al-Qaeda-backed militants and government security forces for control of two key cities, Fallujah and Ramadi, in the embattled al-Anbar province in western Iraq.

Let me make something clear. There is nothing surprising about the reappearance of al-Qaeda in Iraq. If Obama had been able to coerce Prime Minister Maliki to pursue more inclusive policies toward the Sunni population in Iraq, al-Qaida would have never had the opportunity to arise again in the country. It was all but completely eradicated by late 2009.

In 2010, two of my colleagues at Washington State University and I

worked for the United States Department of Defense. We were tasked into researching the so-called "Sunni Awakening in al Anbar Province" the decision by some Sunni tribes in al-Anbar to switch allegiance against al-Qaeda and join forces with American and Coalition forces. They were instrumental in the success of the U.S. troop "surge" of 2007.

In the report we submitted to the DoD, after spending a year interviewing U.S. military leaders and former Sunni insurgents from al-Anbar, we stated that the main reasons why al-Qaida was able to gain a foothold in Iraq in 2004 were due to the ethno-politics of the de-Ba'athification program, the perception of a Shiite-government in Baghdad as a puppet of Iran and the capacity of extremists to present themselves as a legitimate armed force during the U.S-led occupation.

To borrow the words of the immortal Yogi Berra, now it's déjà vu all over again.

Almost from the moment that Obama "ended the war in Iraq" and the last U.S. troops left the country in late 2011, Maliki has consolidated

PRIZE cont. on page 13

CBS allows a real journalist to resign

After months of pressing the CBS News brass to get out of her contract, reporter Sharyl Attkisson was finally granted her request. While that is good for her, it ought to underline how CBS has abandoned hard-hitting reporting in the Obama era.

Politico's Attkisson headline was "The right loses its hero at CBS," and liberal blogs tried to guess how long it would take for her to sign up with Fox News Channel. That might happen. Roger Ailes loves scooping up talent from other networks. That's meant as an insult, of course. Only those dreadful right-wing propagandists challenge Team Obama.

But it's insulting on a different level altogether. I do now know Attkisson, but I suspect she'd be insulted to be viewed as any partisan group's "hero." She would not have been employed by CBS for more than 20 years if she had been a Democrat-wrecking right-winger. She's merely a "polarizing figure" for failing to do what Dan Rather called "kiss ass, move with the mass."

Remember this the next time a pompous liberal anchorman like Brian Williams laments that "politics is broken." Journalism is broken. There is no such thing as journalistic independence. When a veteran reporter stands out like a sore thumb by merely trying to get answers for the American people on how a fiasco like Benghazi happened, she is not the issue. Her network purporting to be in the news business is.

Attkisson had every reason to want out of her contract. According to the Tyndall Report, in 2007, she was the 18th most-used reporter in major network nightly news, with 160 minutes on the evening newscast. In 2008, she held steady at 18th, with 145 minutes, and in 2009, she was 19th, with 152 minutes. She hasn't landed in the top 20 since ... Barack Obama scandals bubbled up, and she started covering them.

In 2013, Tyndall found Attkisson was granted only 54 minutes on the "CBS Evening News," a third of her previous average, and 78th among

network news reporters. "She was obviously being sidelined," says Tyndall.

She is planning a new book for HarperCollins (a Rupert Murdoch company) with the depressing title "Stonewalled: One Reporter's Fight for Truth in Obama's Washington." The record speaks for itself. This was a woman trying to report news — big, big news — but because it might reflect badly on Obama, first the journalism was stifled, and then the journalist was smeared.

Attkisson's reports on Benghazi were routinely left for the CBS News website. We found she wasn't allowed to air a Benghazi report for a five-month-plus period between Nov. 23, 2012, and May 8, 2013. After one May story, her next report on the issue didn't come until Sept. 16, 2013 — almost four months later. CBS also ignored Attkisson's scoop at that time on Secretary of State John Kerry's refusal to let the Benghazi survivors testify before Congress.

But the CBS elites needed to address the growing outrage over this news censorship, so they began the whisper campaign against her. When Dylan Byers of Politico reported struggles inside CBS last May over stories on Benghazi, he wrote "CBS News executives see Attkisson wading dangerously close to advocacy on the issue."

It's somehow never "dangerously close to advocacy" when Steve Kroft of that supposed CBS hardball show "60 Minutes" has offered a dozen tongue-bath interviews to the president. It's not a sign of advocacy when CBS hires Oprah Winfrey's best friend Gayle King to host their morning show despite (because of?) her close relationship with the Obamas. King attended a 2009 private inauguration party for their "closest friends and allies." Michelle Obama just extended her Hawaii vacation into January 2014 in a "girls getaway" with Winfrey and her best buddy, the CBS "News" employee.

King coming and Attkisson going tell you everything you need to know about the direction of CBS.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center. Tim Graham is director of media analysis at the Media Research Center and executive editor of the blog News-Busters.org.



BRUNO BALTODANO

Barack Obama.

This is, of course, a statement whose validity depends on what the meaning of the word "is," is.



Cat Traps Family in Bedroom, Father Calls 911 — News Item

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To defeat GOP's restrictive voting laws, debunk 'voter fraud'

Growing up in Jim Crow Arkansas, Bill Clinton saw how the state's dominant political and racial elite maintained power by suppressing the rights of minority voters who threatened its authority — and as a young



JOE CONASON

activist, worked to bring down that illegitimate power structure. So when Clinton says, "There is no greater assault on our core values than the rampant efforts to restrict the right to vote" — as he does in a new video released by the Democratic National Committee — the former president knows of what he speaks.

In the segregationist South of Clinton's youth, the enemies of the universal franchise were Democrats, but times have changed. Not just below the Mason-Dixon Line but across the country, it is Republicans who have sought to limit ballot access and discourage participation by minorities, the poor, the young and anyone else who might vote for a Democratic candidate.

No doubt this is why, at long last, the Democratic Party has launched a national organizing project, spearheaded by Clinton,

to educate voters, demand reforms, and push back against restrictive laws. Returning to his role as the nation's "explainer-in-chief," Clinton may be able to draw public attention to the travesty of voter ID requirements and all the other tactics of suppression used by Republicans to shrink the electorate.

His first task is to debunk the claims of "voter fraud," fabricated by Republican legislators and right-wing media outlets, as the rationale for restrictive laws.

Lent a spurious credibility by the legendary abuses of old-time political machines, those claims make voter suppression seem respectable and even virtuous.

Some years ago, the Brennan Center for Justice, based at New York University and led by former Clinton speechwriter Michael Waldman, issued a 45-page report on voter fraud that remains definitive. "There have been a handful of substantiated cases of individual ineligible voters attempting to defraud the election system," the report noted. "But by any measure, voter fraud is extraordinarily rare." And because fraud is so unusual, GOP countermeasures, such as voter ID, do much more harm than good.

As the Brennan Center study noted, even some Republicans know their leaders

have exaggerated stories of fraud for partisan advantage.

In 2007, the Houston Chronicle quoted Royal Masset, the former political director of the Texas Republican Party, who observed that among Republicans, it is "an article of religious faith that voter fraud is causing us to lose elections." Masset admitted that suspicion is false but said he believed that requiring voters to provide photo ID could sufficiently reduce participation by legitimate Democratic voters and add 3 percent to Republican tallies.

More recently, one of the dimmer lights in the Pennsylvania Republican Party — the majority leader of the state House of Representatives, in fact — boasted that the voter ID statute he had rammed through the legislature would "allow Governor Romney to win the election" in November 2012.

Although Mike Turzai later insisted that "there has been a history of voter fraud in Pennsylvania," the state government conceded in court that it could cite no evidence showing that "in-person voter fraud has in fact occurred in Pennsylvania or elsewhere."

Clinton can also consult the President's Commission on Election Administration, a bipartisan panel appointed by President Barack Obama

to improve the country's voting systems. In its final report issued last January, the commission forthrightly acknowledged that true voter fraud is "rare." It was a singular admission by a group whose co-chairs included Benjamin Ginsberg, an aggressive Republican election attorney who bears the burden of responsibility for the outcome of Bush-Gore 2000.

If he is in a bipartisan mood, as he often is, Clinton would surely find the commission's report uplifting — especially its recommendations to make voting more modern, more efficient, and above all, more accessible. For both parties to improve and expand, the democratic rights of citizens would be uplifting indeed.

But Clinton is more likely to find himself feeling less kindly toward the Republicans, as they continue to promote outrageous suppression while feigning outrage over "fraud."

The Democrats may be equally motivated by partisan self-interest — but so long as they defend the rights of the intimidated and the disenfranchised, their moral force will be undiminished.

To find out more about Joe Conason, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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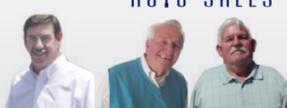
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PampaSports

From the Press Box

Sympathy for the NFL athlete.

Earlier this week, the Dallas Cowboys released their long-time defensive end and fan-favorite DeMarcus Ware.

Cowboy fans are heartbroken over the move and casual fans are wondering why it happened.

Ware was faced with the choice of taking a pay cut from the Cowboys or getting released.

This is not an uncommon thing. Many players take pay cuts to allow more space for the team on the salary cap.

A couple years ago, before the NFL lockout in 2011, the league was in an uncapped year. This means there was no salary cap, so the Cowboys paid many of their players with large contracts.

Miles Austin, who also is cut as of June 1, and DeMarcus Ware were both paid with pretty large contracts. Personally, DeMarcus Ware's was the only one that made sense to me. Ware didn't want to take the pay cut, so Dallas cut him.

This would make someone like you and me scoff at the notion that the player wouldn't help his team out by taking the pay-cut. After all, Tony Romo restructured his contract to help the Cowboys, why not Ware. This makes Ware look selfish. I am going to fight the uphill battle of defending DeMarcus Ware. Just for the record, Romo's restructuring does not make Romo take less, it just back-loads his contract, he will get his money.

The NFL is a funny organization. If a team is unhappy with a player, they will trade him, like he is a comic book or something. If the team doesn't want to pay a huge contract to a player, but doesn't want him to go to a different

team, they will use a franchise tag, which keeps the player on their team.

Let's pretend I am under contract at The Pampa News and they work like an NFL team. If they are unhappy with me, they would just trade me to the Borger News Herald. Or if I wanted to go work for the Denver Post or Dallas Morning-Star, The Pampa News could slap a tag on me saying that one of the other papers has to give them something in return. Or, like in Ware's case, what if the paper came up to me and said, "John, we are over our budget, we need to pay you for 11 months instead of 12."

Just picture the same scenario at your work. You and I would find this situation to be awful and not like it.

Now put ourselves in DeMarcus Ware's shoes. Yes, we are dealing with millions upon millions of dollars. But by asking DeMarcus Ware to take a pay cut is basically a spit in the face. Ware did so much for the Cowboys and that organization and even the city of Dallas.

He is one of the most respected players not just in Dallas but in the NFL. Teams don't just acknowledge his presence, but gameplan around him. Teams may decide to keep a running back in the back field or a tight end on the edge to keep Ware from getting to their quarterback, but he did, 117 times in his time in Dallas.

Ultimately these players make more money than I could ever dream of. They also know what they are getting into when they join the NFL. It's a business. That doesn't mean they have to like it though.

But I hope that I at least made you realize why a player may get upset about a team making them take a pay cut.

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



JOHN LEE

Wed: Cowboys-Jayhawks highlights Big 12 quarterfinals

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — It's the marquee matchup that everyone figured would happen in the Big 12 tournament: Kansas against Oklahoma State, featuring Andrew Wiggins and Marcus Smart.

Not many people thought it would be happening in the quarterfinals.

The top-seeded Jayhawks earned a bye into Thursday's showdown with their 10th consecutive regular-season title, but the eighth-seeded Cowboys — who at one point lost seven straight league games — needed to beat Texas Tech in a first-round matchup just to get the opportunity.

None of that matters now. The two teams picked as favorites to win the Big 12 title last fall will meet at the Sprint Center for a spot in the tournament semifinals.

"We understand the challenge. It's going to be an incredible challenge," Oklahoma State coach Travis Ford said. "We have a lot of respect for Kansas, and we understand how good they are."

In the other quarterfinals, second-seeded Oklahoma will play seventh-seeded Baylor, which didn't put away pesky TCU until late in their game Wednesday night. No. 3 seed Texas will play No. 6 seed West Virginia, and fourth-seeded Iowa State will play fifth-seeded Kansas State.

The game that's sure to draw the most interest, though, is Kansas-Oklahoma State.

The Jayhawks have the star freshman in Wiggins, while the Cowboys

have arguably the league's most dynamic player in Smart, who had 18 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and six steals in an 80-62 victory over Texas Tech on Wednesday night.

Neither player was particularly good in their first meeting — Smart was 3 for 14 from the field and 0 for 6 from beyond the arc, while Wiggins scored just three points. And they played to a virtual draw when the teams met in Stillwater earlier this month.

So maybe the game will be decided by their supporting casts.

The Jayhawks will be without star center Joel Embiid, who has been ruled out indefinitely with a stress fracture in his back. The 7-foot shot-blocker participated in a light shoot-around at the Sprint Center on Wednesday, but Kansas coach Bill Self said he was just "jacking around."

"He's not playing this week, at all," Self said. "The thing about it is, we'll play him whenever the doctors and Joel's body say he's ready to play, and I'm confident — and others are — that it's going to happen. But

to be real candid, we may have to advance for it to happen."

Self means the No. 10 Jayhawks would have to advance past the first weekend of the NCAA tournament. But that doesn't mean he's not thinking about advancing at least one more day in the Big 12 tournament, where his Jayhawks are the defending champions.

"We practiced well this week and I anticipate us playing well," Self said. "I can't imagine there being a stronger field in America for the postseason tournament. It'll be fun, it'll be interesting and whoever comes out of it will have earned it."

The Jayhawks and Cowboys will take the court about 30 minutes after Iowa State and Kansas State kick off the four-game quarterfinal slate on Thursday.

The Cyclones, who are firmly in the NCAA tournament, beat the Wildcats in Ames earlier this season, but fell in Manhattan just over a week ago. Kansas State is trying to take any drama out of Selection Sunday with at least one victory in the conference tournament.

Another team trying to play its way into the NCAA tournament is West Virginia, which is just 17-14 but is carrying momentum from a victory over the Jayhawks. The Mountaineers will face a Texas team that has lost four of its last six games.

"I think if we won two we'd be in great shape," said Mountaineers coach Bob Huggins, "but I think if we can win that first one that we would be pretty good."

One more win would also make Baylor coach Scott Drew rest a little easier.

After knocking off TCU 76-68 on Wednesday night, the Bears have won eight of their past nine games, and believe they have done enough to slip into the NCAA tournament. But beating the Sooners would almost certainly seal the deal, even if it's something they've yet to do this season.

"It's going to be another Big 12 battle," said the Bears' Cory Jefferson, who scored 20 points against the Horned Frogs. "Both teams are going to be ready."

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The Pampa Rockets participated in a U-10 competitive league in Amarillo. The Pampa Rockets would like to thank Eagle Rock for their support. Front row from left, Aubrey Dorn, Leslie Salazar, Amanda Rios, Kaitlyn Steen and Maribelle Gamez. Back row, Marisol Lacher (coach), Gracie Covil, Sierra Rodriguez, Laney Shipman, Ariel Lacher, Kayleigh Steen, Dallas Vaughn and Josh Steen (coach).

Wednesday: Mills, Duncan lead, Spurs roll past Blazers 103-90

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs continued rolling against the elite teams they struggled against early in the season, using a balanced attack to beat the Portland Trail Blazers for their eighth straight victory. Patty Mills scored 15 points, Tim Duncan had 10 points and 11 rebounds in limited minutes, and San Antonio trailed for only 11 seconds late in the first quarter of a 103-90 victory over Portland on Wednesday night.

Since the All-Star break, the Spurs (48-16) have beaten the Trail Blazers twice and also defeated

the Los Angeles Clippers, Chicago and Miami. They were 1-11 in the season's first half against the East's top two teams and remaining top five in the West.

"We're getting a rhythm," San Antonio point guard Tony Parker said. "You don't want to peak too early, but we're playing good basketball. Hopefully we can keep it going and stay healthy. The most important, like everybody knows, is the playoffs."

Damian Lillard had 23 points for Portland (42-23), which lost LaMarcus Aldridge to a bruised back early in the second half.

Aldridge's status is unknown after X-rays on his back were negative. He was taken to the locker room and X-ray room in a wheelchair.

San Antonio's bench outscored Portland's 46-23, enabling coach Gregg Popovich to limit Duncan, Parker and Manu Ginobili to less than 30 minutes.

The Spurs' Big 3 tied Magic Johnson, Michael Cooper and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers for second all-time as a trio in total victories (490) and games played (663) as a trio.

Watch the Pros

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Valspar Championship.....GOLF 2 p.m.
Toshiba Championship.....GOLF 5:30 p.m.

Hockey
Nashville Predators at Chicago Blackhawks.....NHLN 7 p.m.

Basketball
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“Don't worry, Mommy. I wouldn't talk to a wolf even if he wasn't a stranger.”

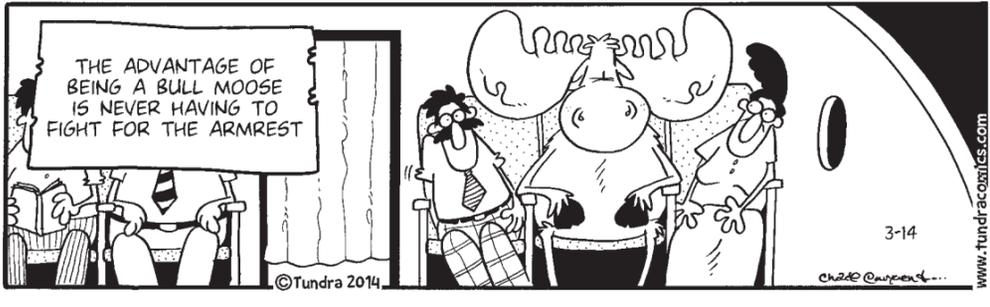
Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



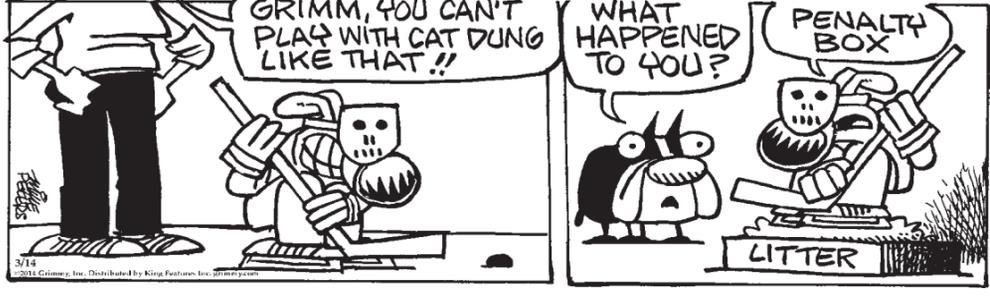
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



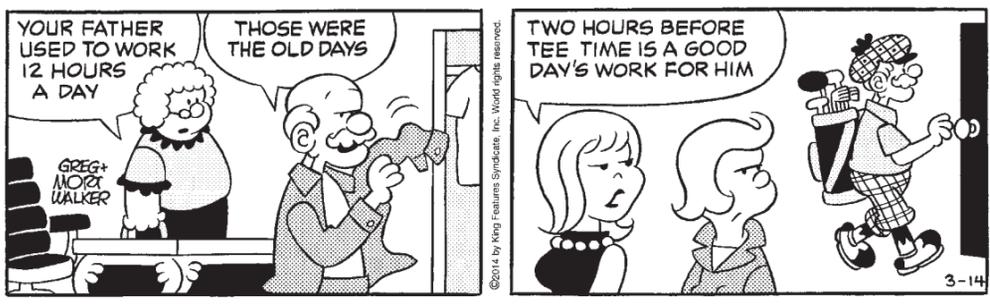
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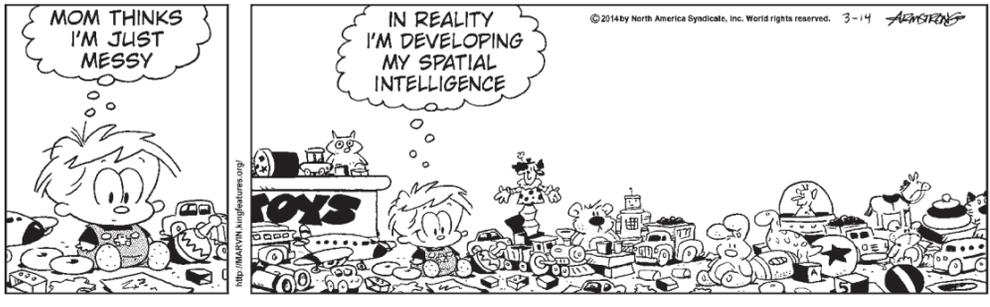
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 15, 2014:

This year you head in a new direction and add to your life possibilities. Be willing to take a well-thought-out risk or two, but curb an impulsive streak. If you follow your emotional and intuitive thoughts, you will land well. If you are single, you could meet someone of life significance in the next five months. The less you think about this encounter, the better off you will be. Take your time getting to know this person. If you are attached, you are in one of the warmer periods of your relationship. Schedule plenty of one-on-one time. **VIRGO** challenges you a bit too often for your taste.

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)
★★★ You might experience a lot of optimism throughout the day. You'll feel good about those in your immediate circle, as you know full well what will happen during your interactions. You could feel inspired to head in your own direction. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your romantic nature emerges. You also might have the energy to do your taxes or some spring cleaning. You will head in a direction where you feel comfortable to enjoy those you love. You could be shocked by someone's reaction. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will be much happier dealing with a family member than you have been in a while, as this person seems to be extra attentive, caring and open. A friend could have a strong reaction to this person, but don't let it bother you. Tonight: Invite others over for a fun evening.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You'll speak your mind loud and clear. Others will hear you and respond. You could be shocked by someone who you look up to. You might not like what you hear, but your smile, positive attitude and a touch of sorrow will win the day. Tonight: Out and about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Curb a need to be self-indulgent. Today you will be able to back away from a touchy situation. You might have to contend with a family member or someone in your personal life who

decides to show you how powerful he or she is. Tonight: Enjoy your friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Good luck, logic and compassion seem to surround you today. This is not surprising, as you tend to be sincere and modest. Sometimes people don't get to see the big picture or who you really are because of your demeanor. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might be uncomfortable with someone's rash actions. The closer this person is to you, the more discomfort you will experience. A family member could try to show you who is in control, but you will show this person that he or she is in for a shock. Tonight: Not to be found.

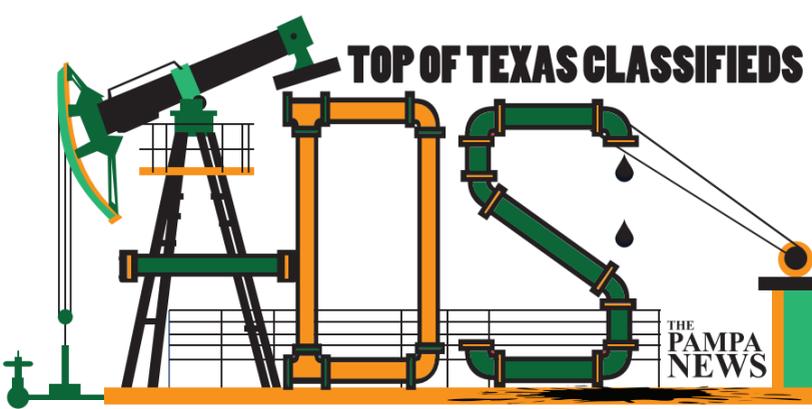
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You will succeed, especially if you are involved in an important engagement or project. Worry less and just be yourself. Your friends support you far more than you might realize, so be sure to join them later on in the day. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You are full of energy and dynamic ideas; however, you might feel as if someone is raining on your parade by mentioning what you must do. Do what you want, and try not to take this person to heart. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might want to defer plans to take off spontaneously. You know what is good for you. A change in scenery can revive you and give you a fresh perspective on nearly any life matter. Make a call to a loved one, and ask him or her to join you. Tonight: Follow the music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Understand what a partner wants from you. Ask questions -- don't make assumptions. You will be very uncomfortable if you make judgments before you get the facts. It will be your pleasure to follow through on a request. Tonight: Stop and enjoy the person you are with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others come toward you. Touch base with a loved one, even if he or she seems off-kilter. You can show caring without supporting behavior that does not work for you. Use care when taking any risks, especially with your finances. Tonight: Do not stand on ceremony.



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Light Tower Rentals is hiring for multiple positions in our Canadian, TX location as well as fifteen (15) other locations around the country. We offer an excellent compensation package to include Paid Holidays, Paid Time Off, Medical, Vision, Dental, Life Insurance, Short-term and Long-term Disability, and a 401(k) with matching contributions. All potential employees must pass a criminal background check and drug test. Qualified applicants can apply in person at 11195 S. Highway 83, Canadian, TX 79014, online at www.LTRJobs.com or email your resume to kcorbell@ltr.com

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OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR. Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.

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ACCEPTING applications for full-time teacher & classroom aide. No previous experience necessary. Must be willing to submit to a pre-employment drug test, fingerprint & background check. Serious applicants only! Call For Heavens Sake Daycare and Preschool at 665-5758 for more information.

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CALL BEVERLY 806-669-2525

Help Wanted

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

CHURCH Office Administrator. Computer literate incl. Word & Quickbooks, general office skills. Email resume with references to pampapcusa@gmail.com

CLARENDON Community Center hiring LVN's \$15-16.36/hr and CNA's \$8.50-9.59/hr based on exp. & shift. Call 806-874-5221

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

Help Wanted

GRAY County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for part-time shift cook. Pick up & return application to the sheriff's office. NO phone calls!

HAMPTON Inn is hiring FT and PT night audit, front desk & housekeeping. MUST be dependable and customer service oriented. Apply in person only at 2820 N. Perryton Parkway

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

Help Wanted

HEMPHILL County Hospital EMS in Canadian, TX is seeking qualified EMT-Basic and EMT-Paramedic applicants (full-time Paramedic wage: \$60,000+ plus benefits). Credentialed individuals with outstanding work history and team spirit please apply today to HCH's HR Office via dtroublefield@hchdst.org or 1020 S. 4th Street, Canadian. For more information, phone 806-323-1117. HCH is an equal Opportunity Employer.

I AM LOOKING FOR two men or women with a high level of integrity that I will train to assist me in my business in Pampa. If you have a sales personality and desire an above avg. income, we need to talk. For a confidential interview call 806-669-7605.

KITCHEN help, Wait Staff and Catering person needed. MUST have driver's license and be 18. Apply in person at Dyers Bar-B-Que.

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

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

Help Wanted

MCLEAN Care Center is hiring CNAs with a \$2000 Sign-On Bonus, and part-time LVNs. Please contact Maxine or Jenifer, 806-779-2469

MECHANIC Needed: CoreTerra Operating is looking to fill a mechanic's position. Must have experience in truck, rig and heavy equipment repair. Welding and electrical experience is preferred. Employee medical paid after 90 days. Apply in person at 2601 W. Kentucky, Pampa, TX. (806) 688-9291

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE is looking for a Loan Processor/New Accounts secretary. Bank/Office experience is required. Good personality is a must. Good benefits include Insurance, Personal days, Vacation, Bonuses, 401K Plan. Please apply at 1224 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX.

NEEDED Immediately: Full-time Drug Screener. Will train/certify. Experience a plus. Fax resume: 806-665-0537

NEEDED: employees w/a good driving record, preferably over 21, DOT physical req. Poly pipe exp helpful. C&W Const, Mobeetie, TX, 662-4035 or 669-8708

NEEDED: Experienced Pipeline Operators. Call 806-665-4336

NEEDED: Friendly, people oriented multi-tasker who is good with finances and computers. Fax your resume to: 806-665-0537

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Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

NURSES Unlimited, Inc. is seeking enthusiastic attendants to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep and light housekeeping, P-T. E.O.E. Call 1-888-859-0631

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PART Time Grounds-keeper/Rest Area Attendant positions avail. I-40/Alanreed, \$8/hr. Call 817-757-3495.

PHARMACY Tech - must be good at math, have exc. 10 key & key-board skills. Reply to Box 49 c/o Pampa News, PO Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

TOP PAY For Maintenance Man. Must have valid Driver's License. Apply at 800 N. Nelson. 665-1875

TRALEE Crisis Center seeks a victim advocate and LSW or LPC. Bilingual and/or victim service exp a plus. Contact Dee Dee Laramore, 806-669-1131

WE'RE Hiring for all positions. Must be 18 or older and willing to work days and nights. Come apply in person at Pak-A-Burger, 1608 N. Hobart in Pampa.

Household

TAN Microfiber 2-recliner loveseat w/console. Good condition. \$300. Call 806-595-0763

WHIRLPOOL washer & dryer in excellent condition. \$100 for pair. Call 806-664-0054.

Miscellaneous

2 Cemetery Lots at Memory Gardens, close to Price Rd. & south of entrance. \$1200 for both. 663-6471

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

NEW Queen mattress set. Save \$200. On sale \$246. King set sale \$426. Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes, 665-2767.

Garage Sale

GARAGE Sale - Sat. & Sun. 8:30 - ? 1028 S. Dwight. LOTS of furniture.

GARAGE Sale - Saturday 8am-? Toys & lots of misc. 1728 Grape

GARAGE Sale Friday & Saturday 8am-5pm. LOTS to go!! 2101 Duncan

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Apply in person
100 N. Price Road
Pampa, Texas

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

3-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

UDPVB, DHLS AJUV, QPXUJKSU
ZMUVSA VBMX DMEPA YSMAU,
YBHDS VBS JUSG LSO HU
MDYMOU EAHWBV. — ESX
ZAMXLDHX
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NOT THE CRY, BUT THE FLIGHT OF THE WILD DUCK, LEADS THE FLOCK TO FLY AND FOLLOW. — CHINESE PROVERB

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

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

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

3-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

UDPVB, DHLS AJUV, QPXUJKSU
ZMUVSA VBMX DMEPA YSMAU,
YBHDS VBS JUSG LSO HU
MDYMOU EAHWBV. — ESX
ZAMXLDHX
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NOT THE CRY, BUT THE FLIGHT OF THE WILD DUCK, LEADS THE FLOCK TO FLY AND FOLLOW. — CHINESE PROVERB

"Forever Friends" Looking For A Second Chance

FOUND	FOUND	DONATED	DONATED	FOUND	DONATED
"Oscar" Heeler Male #12509	"Buddy" Terrier Mix Male #12482	"Sophia" Aussie Female, 11 months #12469	"Charlie" Pit Bull Male #12364	"Molly" Lab/Shepherd Mix Female, Pup #12192	"Mickey" Shepherd Mix Female, Young #12113

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FOUND	FOUND	DONATED
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Furnished Apts.

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

Unfurnished Apts.

APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386

CAPROCK APTS. 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms with rent starting as low as \$445/mo. Pool and on-site laundry. W/D hookups in all 2 and 3 bdrms. 665-7149.

Schneider Apartments: Call for special rates. Short term lease. Business people welcome. 665-0415

TEXAS SIZE APTS.

1 and 2 bdr. apts. Largest in Pampa. Plus Homes too! Great Value! 665-1875 or 881-8518

Unfurnished Houses

2 & 3 BEDROOM Houses for rent. Great value! 665-1875 or 881-8518

3 BEDROOM/1 bath house, detached 2 car garage \$775 rent/\$600 dep. Call DON'T TEXT! 663-6121 to see.

PICK up rental list in the Black Box at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

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DOWNTOWN Properties: Service Station, Retail, Restaurant / Bar, etc. 665-1875, 881-8518

DOWNTOWN office space for rent.

Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking 669-6823

OFFICE space for rent.

Ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841

Homes for Sale

3 bdr. brick, dbl gar., 1 3/4 ba. 1525 sq. ft. Lrg. stor. bldg. \$91,500. 1933 N. Sumner. No owner fin. 663-6062

3 BEDROOM / 2 Bath.

Central heat, 2309 Rosewood. \$50,000 cash only. Call Joel 505-974-8195

3 BEDROOM / 3 Bath

in White Deer, 821 Jordan. Single garage, fenced backyard. Call 806-340-2576

EVERGREEN ST.

1465 sq ft, fireplace, NEEDS WORK. 3/1.75/2 Motivated seller. 806-440-4153 LREA

HouseHunters Realtor,

Linda Laycock-Broker 806-662-1312

FOR Sale RV PARK

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

MOVE IN READY CORNER LOT

3/1.75/2 car garage \$115,000 806-440-4153 LREA HouseHunters Realtor Linda Laycock-Broker, 806-662-1312

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Nicely updated 4 bdrm home in nice neighborhood. Too many updates to list. Call 806-662-3808 or 662-0328 for information. NO owner finance.

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

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Centrally located. Great value! 665-1875 or 881-8518.

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Legals / Pubic Notice

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF LEFORS INVITATION TO SUBMIT SEALED PROPOSAL FOR BANK SERVICES. The City of Lefors will receive sealed PROPOSALS at City Hall, 101 N. Court, Lefors, TX, or by mail to Lefors City Hall, PO Box 383, Lefors, TX 79054, until April 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. The responsibility for submitting a proposal to the City of Lefors on or before the stated date and time is solely and strictly the responsibility of the Proposer. No Proposals will be accepted after that time. Request for Proposals may be obtained from City Secretary. The selected Contractor will be awarded the Contract and approved by City Council on April 14, 2014. The defined

Legals / Pubic Notice

terms appearing in the General Specifications apply to all Contract Documents. Proposals must be made on forms furnished. Seven (7) copies of proposals must be delivered on or before April 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. The envelope containing the Proposal must be sealed and plainly marked "DEPOSITORY PROPOSAL". All questions related to this Proposal information and specifications should be directed to Lindy Forsyth, City Secretary, at 806-835-2200. F-72 3/14-15/2014

ORDINANCE NO. 1613

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PAMPA, TEXAS, PROVIDING THAT ITS CODE OF ORDINANCES BE AMENDED BY REVISING SECTION 3.08.009(a) OF SAID CODE TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED MINIMUM CHARGE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR BUILDING DEMOLITION, AND BY REVISING SECTION 6.04.008(a) OF SAID CODE TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGE FOR ABATEMENT, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THIS ORDINANCE BECOMES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2014.

F-69 3/14, 21/14



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Keith Taylor Home 874-1779 lv. msg.

SUDOKUS

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Advanced



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My sister has children younger than mine, but the kids all play together frequently. She recently caught them involved in a game of "truth or dare" and a couple of the kids had no clothes on.

While I was surprised to hear it and have spoken to my children about it, it seems to me to be one of those games that kids play. My sister insists it's about dominance and sex and refuses to let my kids play with hers any longer.

I'm heartbroken over her reaction and don't know how to respond. We barely speak anymore. What do you think? — **JUST A GAME? IN IOWA**

DEAR JUST A GAME: Whether what happened was because of natural curiosity or about "dominance" would depend on the ages of the children involved. Not allowing the children to play together again seems like an overreaction, but a serious discussion about boundaries should certainly have taken place after the incident.

DEAR ABBY: I started dating my childhood sweetheart when we were in high school. I'm now in college.

My dreams and goals have always been to move from our small town to a big city in another state. The problem is my boyfriend, "Clay," never wants to leave here. He isn't even interested in travel, which is something I would love to do.

I have stayed in our hometown for him. Everyone in my family thinks he's holding me back and isn't being fair. He may not be perfect, but he does make me happy.

I now have an opportunity to move, but Clay refuses to go. Should I go anyway, regardless of what it does to our relationship?

Do I take the risk of being happy in a new city by myself, or stay where I know what the ending will be? — **STUCK IN SMALLTOWN, U.S.A.**

DEAR STUCK: All of life is a risk. Please listen to your family. I think you know in your heart that you need to experience a little independence. If you don't take advantage of the opportunity you have been given, you will indeed be "Stuck in Smalltown, U.S.A." Forever.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 10 years. She is a Realtor and I'm a maintenance worker. I work eight hours a day, five days a week and sometimes on week-ends and overtime when needed.

My wife thinks that when I'm off on weekends I should be working around the house. I have tried telling her that those are my days off to do what I prefer or just relax. I do maintenance work all week, and then she expects me to do it on weekends, too? I don't

mind it occasionally, but with her it's every weekend. I feel like getting a divorce because of her never-ending demands.

I also play in a band with my friends on Sunday evenings. It's only once a week, but she gives me flak about that, too. I'm at work 40 hours a week and with her every evening except Sunday. I don't fish, play golf, hang out at bars, chase women or have any other hobbies. How can I get her to understand? — **WANTS TO RELAX**

DEAR WANTS: Have you told your wife you feel like divorcing her because of her never-ending demands? It might be a way to get her attention.

Tell her that you're willing to fix things around the house one or two days a month, but if her punch list requires more than that, she should hire someone.

And as to your playing in the band — invite her to come and listen if she wants, but make it plain that you don't intend to stop.

BANANAGRAMS!

Rearrange the letters of each word below and place them in the blanks so that, together with the two letters that have already been placed, they form a new word.

LEVEL

Y E A R S
G [] [] [] [] T

A G I N G
S [] [] [] [] E

P A T I O N
C [] [] [] [] N

Yesterday's Answer: BONFIRE

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Baja "Bye!"
- 6 Carrying out
- 11 Summer of song
- 12 Personal
- 13 Landing pier
- 14 Paris subway
- 15 Party holder
- 17 Eats
- 18 Dance move
- 20 "A Death in the Family" writer
- 22 Squeak stopper
- 23 Consults
- 26 Hilo hello
- 28 Patriot Allen
- 29 Fine
- 31 Be decisive
- 32 Merriment
- 33 Approximating phrase
- 34 Colony members
- 36 Cousin's mother
- 38 Meter pros
- 40 Begets
- 43 Fielder's goof
- 44 Hop atop
- 45 Denounces strongly
- 46 Bother

DOWN

- 1 Descriptive wd.
- 2 Female rabbit
- 3 Over much time
- 4 Victorious
- 5 Declares
- 6 Slow-witted
- 7 Penny words
- 8 Over little time
- 9 Infamous emperor
- 10 Expand
- 16 Letter after sigma
- 18 Shower need
- 19 Shower square
- 21 Dreary shade
- 23 Yarn music
- 24 Night music
- 25 Aware of
- 27 American fashion designer
- 30 Caffeine source
- 33 Gibson garnish

A	P	S	E		M	A	S	H	U	P	
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Amazon hikes Prime membership to \$99 per year

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is betting that shoppers will pay \$20 more for its popular Prime two-day free shipping and video streaming service of movies and TV shows.

The mega online retailer said Thursday that it is raising the price of Prime to \$99 a year as it seeks to offset rising costs of fuel and transportation. It's the first price hike since Amazon rolled out the service in 2005.

The move could please investors at a time when Amazon continues to face pressure to boost its bottom line after years of furious growth. As more Americans shop online, Amazon has spent heavily to expand its business into new areas — from movie streaming to e-readers and groceries — often at the

expense of its profit.

But the price increase also threatens to scare away online shoppers who tend to resist fee hikes. The company, which warned it would probably raise the price of Prime by \$20 to \$40 in January, is bolstering the membership program by adding more items available for two-day shipping and rolling out a greater selection of streaming TV shows and movies.

Still, online shoppers don't always react favorably to price hikes. For example, when Netflix tried to raise its annual subscription fee in 2011. But it did an about-face after widespread customer backlash and a jarring stock plunge of 80 percent from its highs.

Social media was buzzing on Thursday after

Amazon announced the price hike. Many Prime users' comments fell equally on either side of the fence between those who didn't mind the increase and those who planned to stop using the program.

Nick Begley ordered from Amazon 53 times last year, everything from Curious George books for his toddler to a car phone charger. Begley, 33, says he shops at Amazon more since joining Prime in 2012 and is hooked on the convenience.

"It's my go-to retail site," says the resident of Salisbury Mills, N.Y. "\$79 was a great price, but \$99 is not enough for me to give it up."

Rick Valente, who lives in Boston, felt the complete opposite way. After learning of the increase, he

checked how much he actually uses Amazon: He realized Prime wasn't worth it for him.

"It was never worth it to begin with and it definitely isn't worth it with the price increase," Valente, 25, says.

Amazon stressed in an email to members Thursday that it has not raised the price on Prime in nine years even though shipping costs have increased, it's added new services and the number of products available for two-day shipping has grown to 20 million from 1 million. The company doesn't disclose how many Prime members it has, but said in December that it has "tens of millions" of members worldwide.

Analysts say that if Prime users are turned off by the

increase, it could have a significant impact on Amazon's business. Since it was introduced, Prime has increased customers' appetite for speedy and reliable service, said Jordy Leiser, CEO of StellaService, which tracks customer service. Although Amazon doesn't release data, analysts say Prime members are more loyal and spend more money on the site than non-Prime subscribers.

"The intersection of consistency and convenience for these customers has attracted so many people," Leiser says. "It shaped the expectations of everyone in the industry."

Cowen & Co. analyst John Blackledge, who estimates there are about 23 million U.S. prime members, says he doesn't ex-

pect the continued growth of Prime members to slow down despite the price increase.

Investors, who along with analysts have been split on whether heavy investment at the expense of profit is the best strategy for Amazon, seemed to like the news. Amazon shares rose \$5.74, or 1.6 percent, to \$376.38. The stock is down 7 percent since the beginning of the year.

"Some investors will continue to voice concern about Amazon's seemingly endless appetite for investment," said Citi Investment Research analyst Mark May in a client note. "We, on the other hand, continue to believe these investments make sense of driving long-term growth and greater absolute profits ... over time."

Phyllis Schlafly family in beer trademark dispute

ST. LOUIS (AP) — To many older Americans, the Schlafly name is most closely associated with Phyllis Schlafly, the conservative commentator known for her campaign to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s.

A younger generation knows Schlafly as the brand of an up-and-coming St. Louis brewery co-founded by Schlafly's nephew.

Now the federal agency that oversees trademarks is being asked to wade into a dispute within the prominent family and decide whether Schlafly is primarily a last name or a commercial brand that deserves legal protection.

With a growing national profile and new owners who might want to expand,

the brewery started by Tom Schlafly more than two decades ago is seeking a trademark that would give it the exclusive right to use the Schlafly name to sell craft beer. But Phyllis Schlafly has asked the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to deny the request, lest any implied association with beer sully her 60-year political career.

"There are tens of millions of Americans who oppose alcohol," said Andrew Schlafly, a New Jersey lawyer who represents his mother in the matter. "Certainly alcohol has a connotation that is the opposite of conservative values."

Phyllis Schlafly, now 89, lives in a St. Louis suburb and continues to lead the Eagle Forum, the group she created to prevent ratification of the proposed constitutional amendment on women's rights. These days, the forum fights issues such as same-sex marriage and federal education standards.

Her official biography touts Schlafly as a "leader of the pro-family movement" and "successful opponent of the radical feminist movement." Her daily, syndicated radio commentaries are heard on more than 500 stations. She's written 20 books and continues to produce a monthly newsletter and a syndicated newspaper column.

Schlafly, who is not involved in the beer company, did not respond to several telephone messages seeking comment. Andrew Schlafly said his mother, who like her beer-making nephew is a lawyer, was speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference last week and was not available for an interview. She is a Schlafly by marriage, not birth: Her late husband was a brother of Tom Schlafly's father.

Andrew Schlafly has filed his own papers opposing the trademark. So has brother Bruce, an orthopedic surgeon in St. Louis. Each petition asserts that

the word Schlafly when standing alone "has no usage or meaning other than as a surname."

Phyllis Schlafly's petition says supporters commonly assume she's connected to the beer company. Dr. Bruce Schlafly says his patients make the same mistake.

Nearly 18 months after Phyllis Schlafly filed her complaint, settlement talks continue. The brewery filed its application in 2011, not long before Schlafly and his partner, Dan Kopman, sold a majority of the brewery to Sage Capital LLC, a local private equity firm.

"I would like to get this settled and move on with selling beer," said Tom Schlafly, who remains the company's largest shareholder and its board chairman.

Schlafly beer is brewed in downtown St. Louis and in suburban Maplewood by the St. Louis Brewery Inc. The company produced 56,000 barrels of beer in 2013, making it the 44th

largest craft brewery in the country, according to industry tallies.

As the company explores entry into new markets, the new ownership group decided to take steps to protect its brand.

"If we're going to make a significant investment and build the brewery, we want to add this," Tom Schlafly said in an interview at his downtown law office overlooking the Gateway Arch. "The bigger you are, the more likely you are to have other people copy you."

Opposition to the trademark may not be limited to members of Schlafly family. Anheuser-Busch has been given an extension through early April to file its own protest. Spokeswoman Lisa Weser said the makers of Budweiser have yet to decide on the issue but are keeping their options open.

"As the largest St. Louis brewery with more than 150 years of heritage in the city, we believe 'The Saint Louis Brewery' should not

be trademarked by any one brewer," she said in a written statement.

Tom Schlafly declined to discuss the legal issues raised in the trademark dispute. He said the flap has not spilled over into a full-blown family feud and that he remains friendly with his aunt and cousins, whom he typically sees once or twice a year at holiday gatherings or weddings.

He also pointed out that the Eagle Forum and the brewery both oppose proposed changes to Missouri's liquor-franchise laws sought by distillers. That, he said, is evidence that the two sides can work together on some alcohol issues.

Nor does Schlafly want to insert his business into a political squabble.

"She has fans and critics," he said. "I want to sell to both of them. The last thing I want to do is antagonize her followers because I hope they drink Schlafly beer, too."



Phyllis Schlafly

Cuddlers soothe babies too sick, tiny to go home

CHICAGO (AP) — A volunteer slips her arms into a gauzy yellow hospital gown and approaches a medical crib holding a tiny newborn hooked up to noisy machines.

"OK," she says, with a smile. "Baby time."

That means cuddle time in the neonatal intensive care unit at the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital. Here, at several other hospitals around the country, strangers offer a simple yet powerful service for newborns too tiny or sick to go home.

When nurses are swamped with other patients and parents cannot make it to the hospital, grandmas, empty-nesters, college students and other volunteers step in. They hold the babies, swaddle them, sing and soothe them, rock them, and treat them as if they were their own.

A plaintive cry signals time to get to work.

"You can see them calm, you can see their heart rate drop, you can see their little brows relax," said Kathleen Jones, 52, a cuddler at the Chicago hospital. "They're fighting so hard and they're undergoing all this medical drama and trauma. My heart breaks for them a little bit."

Newborn intensive care units are noisy, stressful environments. There are babies born extremely prematurely, or with birth defects and other illnesses. Some are too sick to be held — but not too sick to touch. Cuddlers reach a finger inside their incubators

and stroke tiny bare bellies.

Scientific evidence on benefits of cuddling programs is scarce, but the benefits of human touch are well-known. In one study, gentle caressing or placing a hand on preterm infants reduced levels of stress hormones. Other recent studies have suggested touch may benefit preemies' heart rates and sleep and perhaps even shorten their hospital stays.

Studies also suggest that early negative experiences — including pain, stress and separation from other humans — may hamper brain development, while research in animals shows that positive interactions enhance brain growth, said Dr. Jerry Schwartz, medical director of medical neonatology at Torrance Memorial Medical Center near Los Angeles.

The benefit "at the most superficial level" is obvious, he said. "A baby is crying, mom's not there, the nurse is busy with other sick babies, and it's an unpleasant life experience to be crying and unattended to, and, voila! A cuddler comes over and the baby stops crying."

Nancy Salcido has been a cuddler at Torrance for a year. Her two daughters are grown, and she considers her three-hour cuddling shifts good practice for any potential grandchildren.

"I just kind of hold them close to me ... and talk to them, sharing my day, or give them little pep talks," Salcido said. "One of the nurses has nicknamed me

the baby whisperer."

Parents typically must consent for their babies to be part of cuddling programs, and cuddlers must undergo background checks and training before starting the job. At Chicago's Comer hospital, that includes lessons in how to swaddle babies tight to make them feel safe and how to maneuver around intravenous lines, as well as instruction in hygiene including frequent hand-washing.

At the Golisano Children's Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., one cuddler is a young man born there prematurely long ago. He "just wants to come and give back," said Chris Tryon, a child life specialist at the hospital, part of the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Comer's cuddlers include 74-year-old Frank Dertz, a retired carpenter who heard about the program from his daughter, a Comer nurse.

"It's quite a blessing for me. I get more out of it than the babies, I think," Dertz said.

Kathleen Jones says the same thing. A mother of three grown daughters and grandmother of two little girls, she joined Comer's program in 2012, working a couple afternoons a week or sometimes at night.

"They say that I look so in love with them when I'm there, but I cannot NOT crack an ear-to-ear smile whenever I pick that little guy or girl up."

Her love seems obvious as she rocks a stranger's

newborn, the baby girl's tiny hand gripping Jones' finger.

"Ooh, I want to take you home," Jones coos. "You're so brave ... you're going to be feisty, aren't you?"

Jones used to wonder why parents or other relatives aren't comforting their own babies. But then, in August, her youngest grandchild was born deaf, with brain damage doctors say was caused by a virus her mom contracted before birth. Evelyn Steadman spent her first three weeks at Comer, and got cuddling care while she was there.

While family members visited often, "life happens and you can't sit by a bedside for three weeks," Jones said.

Erica Steadman had had a C-section, and already had her hands full with a toddler at home.

"She was being held and loved and watched over," she said. "I felt a great sense of relief from that."

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Continued From Page 4

power to the Shiite majority, abandoned serious attempts at power-sharing with the Sunnis, used brutality to maintain power and wedged a chasm between the tribes in al-Anbar and the government in Baghdad. It is in that chasm where al-Qaida has gained control, just like it did back in 2004.

Following its success in Syria, al-Qaida has not only returned but seems to be stronger than before the Awakening.

So, it will have to be fought, yet again. But, this time, it will not be the U.S. Marines who will be confronting al-Qaida but the Iraqi Army, a group that is already deeply distrusted as illegitimate

in al-Anbar.

The (ongoing) war in Iraq is a result of problems that go deeper than Obama's foreign policy shortcomings or Maliki's idiocy. But it is made worse by trusting (and now supporting) Maliki's ethno-sectarian concept of politics.

As it is, Obama and his foreign policy team left themselves no option but to continue to support Maliki, a leader who is not only despised by most Sunnis but has shown little capability, or even willingness, to foster a democratic system.

One thing is certain; al-Qaida must not be allowed to flourish. That is why the Obama administration has provided not only Apache attack helicopters but also Drones to Maliki's government. But that is an indication of

how few options Obama left for himself in this ongoing war, a war which he claims to have ended.

The problem, not only for the people of al-Anbar but also for you, me and all the service men and women (and their families) who sacrificed so much already in Iraq, is that if Maliki escalates violence against the Sunni tribes of Anbar, who are already flirting with the prospect of an armed revolution, it could ignite the ethnic war that the United States never wanted.

If that happens, Obama may have the opportunity to move up in my list of infamous presidential lies by stating that the crisis in Iraq was not his fault.

Bruno Baltodano, a resident of Pampa, is a faculty adjunct at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. He teaches college courses on Global Politics and Terrorism.

Capital farm credit distributes largest ever cash patronage refund

SUBMITTED

PAMPA — Capital Farm Credit stockholders will soon receive an all-time record \$65 million cash patronage payment this spring.

The customer-owned lending cooperative continued its track record of strong earnings in 2013, enabling it to maintain its long tradition of returning profits to stockholders through its patronage program. Since 2006, Capital Farm Credit has returned over \$385 million to its stockholders — equating to an effective annual rate reduction of 1.10 percent on an average loan.

“Capital Farm Credit is committed to the cooperative principle of managing our capital, and our business in general, for the benefit of our customers,” said Ben Novosad, chief executive officer. “Our ability to return patronage each year sets us apart from other financial institutions. We believe this is a benefit that strengthens customer relations and reinforces our mission to provide financing and related services to support Texas agriculture — while affording our membership lower net borrowing costs.”

Capital Farm Credit has provided financing to Texas farmers, ranchers and rural property owners for nearly a century. Headquartered in Bryan, it has nearly 70 offices spanning most of Texas. For more information about Capital Farm Credit and its patronage program, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.CapitalFarmCredit.com"](http://www.CapitalFarmCredit.com) CapitalFarmCredit.com.

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Missing jet creates legion of armchair sleuths

NEW YORK (AP) — There aren't supposed to be any mysteries in the Digital Age. The answers to most questions, it seems, can be found using Google or Twitter. So, maybe that's why the world is captivated by the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and why it has created a legion of armchair sleuths, spouting theories in some cases so strange they belong in science-fiction films. Casual conversations in supermarket aisles, barbershop chairs and office building cafeterias have centered on the mystery and how much we don't know. With the search for the missing Boeing 777 entering its seventh day, the passengers' families are left without closure while the intrigue — and hypotheses — continue to grow for the rest of us. "We're fascinated by it. We don't know what happened and we hope for a miracle," says John DiScala, who runs the travel advice site JohnnyJet.com.

"People want an answer and the suspense is killing them." Normally, travelers turn to DiScala for the latest deals on flights. But this week, he says, a page on his website dedicated to the latest news about the flight has received most of the attention. The pros are just as perplexed. On TV and in online forums, aviation experts are more measured and analytical than the amateurs but in the end can't say with any certainty what happened. With no distress call, no sign of wreckage and very few answers, the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines plane is turning into one of the biggest aviation mysteries since Amelia Earhart vanished over the Pacific Ocean in 1937. "Anybody who travels is intrigued with this story. How can a plane disappear? We've got satellites beaming down on everybody ..." says Andrea Richard, a French-American in Paris who travels widely, including to Asia.

Theories abound. Some are serious: there was a catastrophic failure in the airframe or engines or there might have been a pilot error. Other ideas are the kinds to be found in science fiction movies: a new Bermuda Triangle, an alien abduction or something out of the Twilight Zone. Terrorism isn't suspected but hasn't been ruled out either. But some people have come up with elaborate plots worthy of a James Bond villain where the plane is hijacked and lands on a remote island, undetected by radar. Others have sat in their homes or offices scouring new commercial satellite images of the ocean, looking for any debris from the plane. False leads and conflicting information have only added to the mystery, the speculation and the frustration. It's still unclear how far the plane may have flown after losing contact with civilian radar — and in which direction. On Thursday, planes were

sent to search an area off the southern tip of Vietnam where Chinese satellite images released by the Chinese government reportedly showed floating objects believed to be part of the plane. Nothing turned up. Even if the plane is found soon, the speculation likely won't fade. It can take months, if not years, after a plane crash to learn definitively what happened. That's an anomaly in an age of instant answers. If something isn't known, we just Google it. If we are lost, we use the GPS on our smartphones to find our location. And if our flight is delayed, even five minutes, the airline sends us a text message. In this situation — to everybody's frustration — we still don't have a conclusion. Popular TV shows like "Lost," or movies like "Alive" or "Castaway," where people survive a plane crash only to have the rest of the world give up on them, just feed the curiosity. (Note: It was

a Boeing 777 that disappeared over the Pacific in "Lost.") "This feeds into everyone's fear of flying. It's one thing for people to have a fear of dying in a plane crash. It's another one to die in a plane crash and never be found," says Phil Derner, founder of the aviation enthusiast website NYC Aviation. Those within the aviation industry are enthralled with the mystery too, but from a much more methodical, scientific viewpoint. "There's a lot of head scratching going on," says Daniel O. Rose, a partner with the aviation accident law firm Kreindler & Kreindler LLP, which is representing the survivors and victims' families of July's Asiana Airlines crash in San Francisco. "It becomes like a murder mystery almost, these clues that you're getting and trying to piece it together in a way that makes technical and logical sense." Airlines and their employees don't like to talk

about crashes. It's not in their nature. Instead, they defer to the crash investigators. Part of it is that they have nothing to gain by speaking and part of it is superstition. Jason Rabinowitz, a self-proclaimed aviation geek whose hobby includes snapping photographs of airplanes taking off and landing, said those within the industry are bringing up previous incidents and previous searches "rather than clinging to straws." Normally, aviation experts have their theories and stick to their guns. This time, he said, people are throwing out theories left and right only to have other experts shoot them down. "The aviation community is more puzzled than the general population because we know more of what would cause an accident and we still have no clue," Rabinowitz says. "I keep going to sleep every night and hoping that I wake up with some shred of good news but it isn't happening."

Cameron Mackintosh credo: 'It will be done right'

NEW YORK (AP) — By all rights, Cameron Mackintosh should be on a beach right now. The British producer behind such megahits as "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Miss Saigon" has every right to be enjoying warm breezes and sipping something with a little umbrella in it. Instead, he's in chilly New York, his sleeves rolled up, tinkering with a new version of "Les Miserables" that opens on Broadway this month. And when he returns to London, there's a May revival of "Miss Saigon" that needs his attention. Mackintosh, one of the richest men in the world, keeps finding himself in the strange position of returning to former triumphs, stripping them down and then building them up again. Lesser men would stay on the beach. "It's very easy for me. I love it," he says in an interview at his Times Square office. "I consider myself uniquely lucky to

have the opportunity to reinvent these great shows in my own lifetime. Normally it's someone else. Normally I'm dead and someone else does it." Mackintosh is a cheerful man with energy to spare. His snug corner office is bursting with awards, but the winner of them seems nonplussed. "All they are tributes to a long age," he says, laughing. He has made himself the world's most successful musical impresario with a not-so-simple formula: Take a great existing work by, say, Charles Dickens, Victor Hugo, Giacomo Puccini, P.L. Travers or Gaston Leroux. Add a soaring score. And give it an element of spectacle — a helicopter lands in "Miss Saigon" and barricades fall in "Les Miserables." "Even if I don't have a big success, people coming to my shows go, 'It will be done right,'" he says. "You can't say it will be a success, but I will have made sure that it couldn't be better."

Since he became assistant stage manager — and understudied Phil Collins — in a touring company of "Oliver!" in 1965, Mackintosh has realized a childhood dream of being part of the theater. He's had failures — including a disastrous "Moby Dick" and a middling "Martin Guerre" — but hits steadily came, from a Stephen Sondheim revue to "Little Shop of Horrors" to "Mary Poppins." "I've had a charmed career so far. I didn't get lucky or successful too early in my life," he says. He was in debt for his first 15 years as a producer and had "to make every penny look like a fiver." The show "Cats" — produced when he was in his mid-30s — erased the debt, but not its memory. "I know the value of money," he says. He didn't expect to be producing at age 67, and so he slowly built a portfolio of seven West End theaters in London as a

retirement plan of sorts. That way, he'd be able to keep his foot in the door. "I thought I'd have an excuse to go to the theater, an excuse to chat with people about this show or that show," he says. Over the years, he's seen the audience for Broadway and the West End change, thanks in part to the legacy he and Andrew Lloyd Webber have built. "Kids are brought up now to embrace musicals, which they weren't in my day," he says. "Now, they really enjoy it. And not only enjoy it, they see it as a great career. Live entertainment generally is a synonym for a career." Producer Thomas Schumacher, president of Disney Theatrical Group who worked with Mackintosh on "Mary Poppins," recalls the first time then-Disney CEO Michael Eisner met Mackintosh. It was to work on "Mary Poppins," and on his way home, Eisner turned to Schumacher and said, "His success is no accident."

"It's true. If your success is an accident, then you don't know how it happened and therefore you should just go lie down on a beach and be happy you were so lucky," says Schumacher. "But if your success is not an accident, it's because you are an activator to the process. You are an element of the process, you are valuable to the process, and you should keep working on it." Mackintosh certainly is doing that. These days, if he's not reimagining a previous hit, he's making sure the existing one is taken care of. That means checking on the new U.S. tour of "The Phantom of the Opera" or "Barnum" on its U.K. tour or "Les Miserables" in Spain. "I think one of the biggest things I've done for the theater is ensure a show that's in its 10th or 20th year is as humanly possible fresh as it was when it was written about on its opening night." Mackintosh can usu-

ally be found at a theater, checking scenery or nooding with the orchestration. "There's about 30 or 40 productions in my head at any one time," he says. A self-described "technophobe," he prefers to send texts rather than use email and relies on a time-tested creative team. He'd love to bring back "My Fair Lady" ("One day," he says.) He'd also love to revisit "Oliver!" but the role of Fagin is notoriously hard to cast and it needs some 30 actors. "If it's meant to be, it's meant to be," he says. A movie version of "Miss Saigon" — on the heels of his successful translation of "Les Miserables" to the big screen — is likely, too. The list is long but the excitement in Mackintosh's voice is evident. "I'm extremely lucky but I obviously have got a bit of a gift for it as well. It's what I was meant to do. It's what I dreamt of doing and it's what I was obviously meant to be."

Gaza militants offer rocket cease-fire with Israel

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad said Thursday it had agreed to halt a wave of rocket fire on Israel, signaling an end to the heaviest fighting between the sides since 2012. But Israeli officials refused to confirm any deal was in place. In two days of violence, militants fired more than 600 rockets into Israel, while Israel has carried out a series of airstrikes in Gaza. No serious casualties have been reported. Islamic Jihad leader Khaled al-Batch announced Thursday that this group had accepted an Egyptian-brokered plan to stop its attacks, if Israel agreed to a truce as well. "After the Egyptian brothers initiated contacts with us in the past few hours, we agreed to restore

the calm," said Khaled al-Batch, the group's leader in Gaza. "As long as the occupation (Israel) honors the calm, we will honor the calm and instructions are being given right now to al-Quds brigades, our military wing, about this understanding." A senior security official in Egypt, which has brokered similar truces in the past, said Egyptian intelligence officials had been in touch with the sides and brokered an agreement. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists. Israeli officials declined to comment. Earlier Thursday, the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad resumed rocket fire toward Israel, striking the outskirts of two major cities.

A day earlier, it fired dozens of rockets in the largest barrage on Israel since an eight-day Israeli offensive in late 2012. The Israeli military said it retaliated with renewed airstrikes on "seven terror sites" in southern Gaza. In all, it said some 65 rockets had been fired into Israel over the past two days. "Since yesterday, there has been a substantial deterioration in the safety of the residents in southern Israel. We have responded and will continue to do so in order to eliminate threats as they develop," said Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a military spokesman. The early morning rocket attacks from Gaza set off air-raid sirens in the southern cities of Ashdod and Ashkelon. The rockets landed in open areas, but flew deeper into Israel

than Wednesday's attacks, which struck southern Israeli border towns. Islamic Jihad said it resumed their rocket fire in response to what they say are Israeli violations of a cease-fire, including an airstrike that killed three Islamic Jihad militants earlier this week. Until this week, both sides largely observed a cease-fire that ended the Israeli offensive against rocket launchers in November 2012. At a meeting Thursday with the visiting British Prime Minister David Cameron, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to step up the pressure on the militants. He was to meet with his Security Cabinet to discuss a further response, though expectations were that tensions would ease.

"Our policy in the south is clear. We harm those who try to harm us and respond fiercely to any attack," Netanyahu said. "The terrorist groups in Gaza need to understand that they are dealing with a very determined government and a very strong army." Cameron has condemned the rocket fire. Gaza's ruling Hamas movement has not been involved in the latest fighting. But Israeli leaders say they hold the Islamic militant group responsible because it rules the coastal Palestinian territory. Daoud Shihab, a spokesman for Islamic Jihad, said implied that Hamas had given at least tacit approval for the group's activities, saying "the response of yesterday was blessed by all the factions." Sami Abu Zuhri, a

Hamas spokesman, said Israel "bears full responsibility" for the escalation. Hamas has controlled Gaza since overrunning the forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007. Abbas now governs in the West Bank, located on the opposite side of Israel. At a meeting Cameron in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Abbas called for an end to the violence. "We condemn the aggression and all forms of military escalation, including the rockets," he said. Gaza militants have fired thousands of rockets and mortar rounds at Israel over the past decade. Attacks have significantly declined since the 2012 offensive, though Israeli aircraft periodically strike militants who launch rockets.



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