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The PAMPA NEWS



Tuesday, April 1, 2014 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 252

75¢ Prairie Plains Perspective on prairie chicken Letter to the Editor | **p4**
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription
Hustlin' Harvesters flash back on season
 Baseball and softball took to the road this weekend | **pB2-4**

FLASH DANCE TO FASHION



Photos by Lindsey Tomaschik

SugarSkullz kicked off the spring season by hosting a style show in the Pampa Mall to show off the store's newer items. Proceeds from the booth rentals are going toward sending a school bus full of school desks to Haiti. The event raised \$1,176, which in addition to the \$300 saved from other donations almost gets them to the halfway point for the total cost of \$3,500 for the trip. The show had a great turnout and included not only a fashion show, but vendor booths and a Jazzercise show. There was also a silent auction at the show including items donated by vendors.



Three injured Saturday in crash near Lefors

STAFF REPORT

Three people were transported to the hospital Saturday night after two trucks collided on State Highway 273 near Lefors.

The crash occurred around 9 p.m. near Thut Creek bridge, said Chuck Williamson, director of Lefors EMS.

Williamson said one of the trucks was a larger one-ton truck while the other was a three-quarter ton pickup.

One truck was traveling south while the other was travel north when one truck T-boned the other, Williamson said.

He said he did not know which truck might have caused the collision.

Williamson said Lefors EMS extricated all three victims from their vehicles with the "jaws of life."

"Three people were trapped inside and we took a door off each one," he said.

The extrication took about 20 minutes, he said.

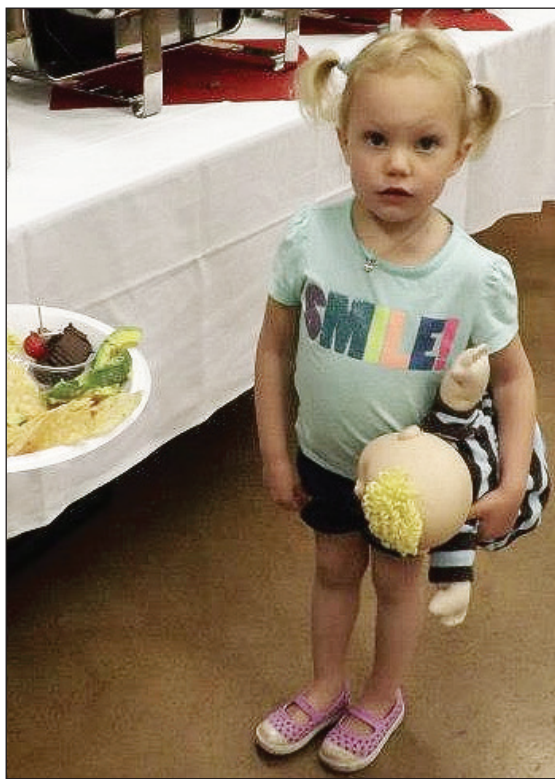
Two of the victims were transported to the hospital by Lefors EMS, while the third was transported by Pampa EMS.

Williamson said Lefors EMS responded with two fire trucks, one ambulance and seven personnel.

He said two Department of Public Safety units responded along with three or four units from the Gray County Sheriff's Office.

Williamson said the crash scene was cleared at 12:40 a.m. Sunday.

TASTE OF PAMPA



File photo

This young lady wasn't quite sure whether she could fit all that good food into her pint-sized stomach at last year's Taste of Pampa. This year the event will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21 at the M.K. Brown Heritage Room. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for children 6 to 12, and children 5 and under are free.

Former state legislator Hutchison dies at 81

By ROSS RAMSEY
 The Texas Tribune

Dallas attorney Ray Hutchison, a former legislator, gubernatorial candidate and husband of former U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, died Sunday afternoon, friends of the family said Monday morning. He was 81.

Elton Ray Hutchison was a state representative from Dallas from 1973 to 1977, a time when Republicans were rare birds in that body. He became chairman of the Republican Party of Texas in 1976, a job he left to run for governor in 1978.

The Republicans elected a governor that year, but it was Bill Clements, who had defeated Hutchison in the primary.

Hutchison met his second

wife, then known as Kay Bailey, in the House, where both were Republican legislators. After ending his own political career with that 1978 race for governor, he concentrated on his legal work and served as political consigliere to his wife, who ran successfully for state treasurer in 1990 and then won a special election to the U.S. Senate in 1993, when Lloyd Bentsen resigned to become U.S. Treasury secretary. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who unsuccessfully challenged Gov. Rick Perry in the 2010 Republican primary, retired from the Senate in 2013.

He was senior counsel in the Dallas office of Bracewell Giuliani, well-known as a specialist in government bonding.

He worked on the deal to build what is now the Ballpark at Arlington and on various bond issues for school districts and other governments across North Texas.



Ray Hutchison

County Commissioners to meet

STAFF REPORT

The Gray County Commissioners Court will hold a special session at 9 a.m. today at the Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell St.

There is no old business on the courts' agenda. In new business the commissioners will consider:

- Bills and salaries as approved by the County Auditor.
- Line item transfers.
- A tax bid of \$850 by Johnny E. Lightfoot Jr. for 401 N. Roberta, Pampa.
- A tax bid of \$375 by W.A. Poteet for 732 Denver, Pampa.
- A request from the District Clerk to replace a part-time employee.
- A maintenance contract for Lifescan at the Gray County Sheriff's Office.
- The transfer of Perry Lefors Airport Hangar Lot 7 from Travis Tucker to Danny Lee Mahanay Family Trust.
- Declaring some county property surplus.
- The first quarter report from Constable Precinct 2.
- Recognizing Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 for continuing education.
- A memorandum of understanding between Gray County and the Bureau of Land Management.

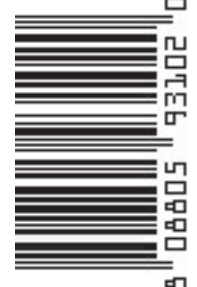
The commissioners will go into executive session to consider a lease agreement on Gray County School Lands in Gaines County.

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IN THIS ISSUE:
 Obituaries 3A
 Local Record 3A
 Weather 3A
 Viewpoints 4A
 Sports 2B-4B
 Comics 7B
 Classifieds 8B-11B
 Puzzles/Dear Abby . 10B



Pampa Fire Department call log — March 25-30

The Pampa Fire Department responded to these calls for the following dates. One unit with three personnel responded to each call, unless otherwise indicated.

March 25
 • At 12:54 p.m., to a medical call in the 1100 block of Starkweather.
 • At 9:31 p.m., to a medical call in the 1100 block of Terrace.

March 26
 • At 7:04 a.m., one unit and four personnel to a vehicle wreck at the intersection of Banks and Kentucky.
 • At 8:39 a.m., to a medical call in the 1100 block of Starkweather.
 • At 7:22 p.m., one unit and four personnel to a medical call in the 1000 block of North Hobart.

March 27
 • At 10:15, to a medical call in the 1000 block of North Wells.
 • At 10:56 a.m., to medical call in the 11000 block of U.S. Highway 60 West.
 • At 11:31 a.m., to a medical call in the 700 block of Nelson.
 • At 8:18 p.m., to a medical call in the 1000 block of Terry.
 • At 8:49 p.m., two units

and six personnel to a fire alarm in the 1200 block of North Wells.
 • At 11:10 p.m., one unit and four personnel to a medical call in the 1100 block of East Kingsmill.
March 28
 • At 4:41 a.m., to a lift assist in the 1000 block of Crane.
 • At 5:58 p.m., to a false alarm in the 2300 block of Evergreen.

• At 9:14 p.m., to a medical call in the 600 block of West Browning.
March 29
 • At 7:21 a.m., to a medical call in the 1400 block of North Hobart.
 • At 2:14 p.m., two units and six personnel to a smoke scare in the 2200 block of Zimmers.
 • At 7:32 p.m., to a medical call in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

March 30
 • At 3:03 a.m., to a motor-vehicle collision six miles west on U.S. Highway 60. Two patients transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.
 • At 10:58 a.m., to a medical call in the 400 block of Jupiter.
 • At 7:02 p.m., one unit and two personnel to a mutual-aid call on a grass fire in Lipscomb County.

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Prosecutor: Woman stabbed beau 25 times with heel

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston woman attacked her boyfriend in a fit of rage, sat on him after knocking him down and then stabbed him to death with the stiletto heel of her shoe, striking him at least 25 times in the face, a prosecutor told jurors Monday.

Ana Trujillo's lawyer, though, said it was she who was attacked, and she defended herself from 59-year-old Alf Stefan Andersson using the only weapon she had available.

Testimony began Monday in Trujillo's murder trial.

Prosecutors say she killed Andersson, who was a University of Houston professor and researcher, during an argu-

ment at his condominium in June. She is currently free on a \$100,000 bond.

During opening statements, prosecutor Sarah Mickelson said Trujillo had a history of being angry and aggressive in her contentious on-again, off-again relationship with Andersson, a native of Sweden who became a U.S. citizen.

Mickelson said that earlier in June, Andersson and Trujillo, 45, a native of Mexico, had reconciled.

The prosecutor described Andersson as mild-mannered and quiet, and Trujillo as hot-tempered.

On the night of the slaying, the couple was out drinking before they returned to Andersson's

apartment. Mickelson said Trujillo got angry after arriving home and that the two began arguing.

Mickelson told jurors that during the confrontation, Andersson was injured and fell on his back. Trujillo sat on Andersson, preventing him from getting up, and repeatedly struck him in the face and head with her shoe, she said.

"The one thing we can be sure of in this case is that Ana Trujillo is not a victim. Ana Trujillo struck Stefan Andersson 25 times with the heel of her shoe while he lay on the floor and bled out," Mickelson said.

Trujillo's attorney, John Carroll, described Andersson as an alcoholic who would become violent to-

ward Trujillo.

He said on the night of Andersson's death, Trujillo planned to leave him and go to a friend's house, but Andersson slammed her against a wall, grabbed her and threw her over a couch.

"She couldn't breathe. And she was begging and begging (Andersson) to let her go ... He started suffocating her ... She did the only thing she could do, take a weapon at her disposal, which was a shoe, and started hitting him," Carroll said.

The first few witnesses for prosecutors described Andersson as a kind, polite man who did have a drinking problem.

The trial was expected to last at least a week.

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Office for iPad is pretty and functional

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft Office fans who've spent the last nine months using the software's suite of apps on their tiny smartphone screens are probably thrilled that they can finally create and update documents on the iPad's significantly bigger display surface.

The new version of Office for Apple's tablet is not likely to be a big deal for anyone else. While the apps are beautiful, intuitive and include many familiar functions from the popular desktop version of Office, typing and maneuvering the cursor within documents remains awkward and inefficient.

Microsoft released Office for the iPad on Thursday; nearly four years after Apple launched the groundbreaking tablet. It includes the Word, Excel and PowerPoint apps that will be familiar to both business and everyday people.

Up until now, Office users had to make due with a very basic version designed for smartphones that first launched in June 2013. Competitors like Apple and Google also

created similar software for the iPad, but those apps have very basic features and don't always mesh perfectly with Microsoft documents.

Microsoft's new apps are free, but you need an annual subscription to Microsoft's Office 365, which costs between \$70 and \$100 depending on the version, to do more than just read documents.

By Friday afternoon, the trio of apps occupied the top three spots on the App Store's real time list of most downloaded free apps.

Honestly, the free versions may meet the needs of a lot of people, because displaying documents is one of the most useful functions of the apps.

Pulling up documents is quick and easy, especially if they're stored on a user's OneDrive account, which comes with 20 gigabytes of cloud storage space as part of the Office 365 subscription.

You can shrink or enlarge the type to fit as much or as little of it as you like on your screen. I could fit my entire one-page resume, which is largely written in an eight-point font, on the iPad's screen and still easily read it.

But the iPad Air's super-clear retina display prob-

ably helped. And it's worth mentioning that I don't wear glasses. People with impaired vision might have a tougher time. Either way, it's still a big upgrade from looking at the same document on an iPhone screen.

Excel spreadsheets, especially the large ones I viewed, required a little more pinching and stretching to view, because of their larger size, but were still fairly easy to scroll through.

For people who want to take notes or presentation materials into a meeting without dragging along a stack of printouts or a laptop, this is going to be really handy. And if you use OneDrive, it's nice to know you can always have access to your files on a relatively compact and lightweight device.

Unfortunately, other cloud-based services like Dropbox aren't compatible.

But is it worth the effort to try to create or edit Office documents on an iPad?

Rather than stripping down Office to a super-basic version, like it did with the smartphone software, Microsoft created a version of Office that's customized for the tablet user and includes many of the bells and whistles of the desktop version.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 73 Low 50	High 83 Low 44	High 67 Low 31

Today: Sunny with a high of 73. Winds south-east at 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:31 a.m.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low of 50. Winds south-southwest at 20 mph. Sunset at 8:05 p.m.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a high of 83. Winds west-southwest at 18 mph. Sunrise at 7:29 a.m.

Wednesday night: Clear with a low of 44. Winds southwest at 14 mph. Sunset at 8:06 p.m.

Thursday: Sunny and windy with a high of 67. Winds west-southwest at 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:28 a.m.

Thursday night: Clear with a low of 31. Winds northwest at 17 mph. Sunset at 8:07 p.m.

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Obituaries

Tommy Jack Parks

Tommy Jack Parks, 46, died March 25, 2014 in Pampa. There are no services scheduled. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Tommy Jack Parks

Mr. Parks was born Jan. 26, 1968 in Pampa. He graduated from Lefors High School in 1986. He married Sherry Ray on July 24, 1993 in Pampa. Tommy worked for Pantex for 10 years until he retired in 2005. He enjoyed the outdoors, including hunting and fishing. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Parks, and Iris Jean Parks in 2013.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry Parks of Pampa; a son, Cody Parks of Pampa; a daughter, Carlee Parks of Pampa; two brothers, John Parks of Skellytown and Timmy Parks of Amarillo; and a sister, Angie Simmons of Pampa.

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

Miriam Schmidt Secrest

Miriam Schmidt Secrest, 91, of Round Rock, formerly of Pampa, went to her heavenly home on Friday, March 28, 2014 in Round Rock.



Miriam Secrest

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa with military honors accorded by the U.S. Navy.

A celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church in Pampa with Rev. Jim Friedewald, pastor, officiating. A reception will follow the service in the church parlor. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Secrest was born Miriam Mathilde Esther Schmidt on July 16, 1922, in Merrill, Wis., to Rev. Max M. and Alma Roloff Schmidt. She graduated from Merrill High School and attended a business college in Milwaukee. She served as a WAVE in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

After marrying Newt Secrest on Jan. 1, 1947, in Milwaukee, Wis., they moved to Pampa in 1951, where she made her home until moving to Round Rock in 2008.


Known affectionately as "Mim," she was a devoted homemaker and mother, serving as homeroom mother, Girl Scout leader, and softball coach. She was also secretary and bookkeeper for Newt Secrest Insurance.

Mim was a lifetime and charter member of the Pampa Opti-Mrs. Club in which she served as every officer and helped start the girls' softball program in Pampa. Mim's faith was very important to her, and she served the First Presbyterian Church in many capacities during her time in Pampa.


Survivors include her three daughters, Renee Steele and husband Mark of Gladewater, Becky Secrest and husband John Bouley of Bethel, Maine, and Stephanie Hazlewood and husband Chuck of Round Rock; a stepson, Richard Secrest and wife Donna of Salem, Ore.; seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives. She was preceded in death by her husband, Newt, in 2006, her parents, and by three brothers and two sisters.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that me-

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morials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church Book of Remembrance, 525 N. Gray, Pampa, TX 79065 or the Pampa Opti-Mrs. Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 802, Pampa, TX 79066-0802.

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

Monica C. Leonard

Monica C. Leonard, 73, of Pampa, died Sunday, March 30, 2014, in Pampa.

Mass will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with Rev. Christopher Schwind, associate pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Leonard was born May 7, 1940 in Seymour to Tracy and Eugene Marak. She moved to Pampa at age four and a half and was a 1958 graduate of Pampa High School. She married A.L. "Chunky" Leonard on Sept. 7, 1963 in Pampa. She was a bookkeeper for many years. Monica was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Chunky, of the home; a daughter, Judy Williams of Pampa; a son, Chris Leonard and wife Kim of Hereford; a daughter-in-law, Donna Leonard of Odessa; five brothers, Clarence Marak and wife Betty Lou and Lynn Marak and wife Renee, all of Pampa; Eugene Marak, Jr. of Guymon, Okla.; David Marak and wife Kathy of Twitty; and Jimmy Marak and wife Doris of Euleess; three sisters, Theresa Coll and husband Jon of Roswell, N.M.; and Caroline LaGrone and Patricia Wilson, both of Amarillo; seven grandchildren, Kayla Leonard of Canyon, Ryan Leonard of Lubbock, Jason Leonard of Hereford, Jennifer Williams of Hudson, Fla., Dennis L. Williams and wife Yvonne of Oceanside, Calif.; Aaron Leonard and wife Heather and Steven Leonard, all of Odessa; four great grandchildren, Dillon Helfer of Pampa; Madison and Isabella Williams, both of Oceanside, Calif.; and Jonah Leonard of Odessa; and by numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 810 W. 23rd, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Howard Qualls

Howard Qualls, 86, of Dumas, died Sunday, March 30, 2014, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at First Christian Church in Dumas with Rev. Darrell Wait, pastor, officiating. Private burial will be in Dumas Cemetery. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Howard Qualls

Mr. Qualls was born May 30, 1927 in Littlefield to Leonard Charles and Dovie Lee Hawkins Qualls. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He married his wife, Thelma Perley, in Taos, N.M., and she preceded him in death in 1996. He had been a resident of Dumas since 1956.

Howard was a photographer since 1950 and was the owner and operator of Howard's Studio in Dumas. He was a member of First Christian Church in Dumas.

Survivors include a son, Howard Qualls, Jr. of Pampa; a brother, Odis Qualls of Pampa; two sisters, Doris Jean Foster of Pampa and Bess Haiduk of Arlington; and by several grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church, 423 S. Maddox, Dumas, TX 79029, Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation for BSA Hospice, 1600 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, TX 79106, or a favorite charity.

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

For the record

McLean woman arrested for driving while intoxicated

STAFF REPORT

- Lyndsey Renee Ellis, 22, McLean, was arrested Sunday by the Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated.
- Christopher Katara

Jackson, 23, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the Pampa Police Department for assault to cause bodily injury to a family or house member impeding breathing.

- Sylvia Ree Brock, 45, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for possession of a controlled substance — between one and four grams.
- Teddy Dubose, 27, Pampa, was arrested Friday by DPS for motion for enforcement — child support — Taylor County.
- Amanda Nicole Barnes, 32, Pampa, was arrested Friday by DPS for driving while intoxicated with a passenger under the age of 15.
- Nathaniel Martin Ervin, II, 43, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance — less than one gram.
- Tyler Carol Gormley, 23, Okemah, Okla., was arrested Saturday by

GCSO for possession of marijuana — greater than four ounces, less than five pounds.

- Montana Allen Gormley, 19, Okemah, Okla., was arrested Saturday by GCSO for possession of marijuana — greater than four ounces, less than five pounds.
- Almendra Hernandez, 22, Lefors, was arrested Sunday by DPS for assault with intent to cause bodily injury.
- Courtney Ann Kane, 26, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by DPS for assault with intent to cause bodily injury, driving while intoxicated.
- Donald Privitt, 25, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by PPD for four capias pro fine charges.
- Keith Helfer, 46, Pampa, was arrested Monday by GCSO for four charges of bond surrender — possession of a controlled substance, bond surrender — theft between fifty and \$500.



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Viewpoints

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Prairie Plains Perspective

Feds: Prairie chicken is now higher than humans in proverbial food chain

Why did the lesser prairie chicken hen cross the road only half way? She wanted to lay it on the line.



DENNIS PALMITIER

Last Thursday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, operating in its full overreach mode, placed the lesser prairie chicken on that proverbial line. Come May 1, in its known five-state habitat of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico and Colorado, the little fowl's well being is now threatened, and will be closely monitored more by the Feds.

The new listing places an altogether different perspective on agribusiness landowners, the oil and gas industry and the wind industry. The listing places a damper on the Panhandle's two most important drivers of our economy, agribusiness and oil and gas. I don't care diddly squat what this does to the wind industry! In fact, I think I'll go round up a few lesser prairie chickens and release them on the nearest wind farm. Remember folks, agribusiness and oil and gas drive our economy — not the wind! Yes, 'twas somewhat of a slight digression.

A little tidbit of misinformation came from the Associated Press in its news flash about the listing, and I quote, "The Obama administration is placing the lesser prairie chicken on the list of threatened species." Before I delve further into this essay, I want to say a word, OK, a paragraph in regard to the Obama administration's role in this listing. As much as I despise Obama and his ilk and would immensely enjoy tagging this malfeasance onto his list of many, Obama actually had zilch to do with this action.

Federal government agencies over the years, enjoying very little control placed upon them by Congress, have grown more and more powerful. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a classic example of federal government obesity, overreach and power made all the more despicable by employing individuals with agendas contrary to

the actual well being of the taxpayer, their true employer.

Sitting presidents of any political persuasion have very little, if any, direct play in the decisions these agencies hands down, but that is not to say politics did not play a role in this decision. I bet if someone today asks Obama what he thinks of the lesser prairie chicken, his answer would probably be, "Tasted great!" This lesser prairie chicken business has been a front-and-center issue here well before President Obama came to be such. So, don't blame this bit of government overreach on our hapless president, but by all means do keep all of Obama's transgressions in memory, especially come this November.

Our elected pols, the oil and gas industry and agribusinesses have hammered the federal fish and wildlife folks over the listing, as well they should, considering the millions of dollars spent in the last few years and the man hours spent on a conservation plan designed specifically for the lesser prairie chicken's habitat. On the other side we have the conservationists crying that the listing should have been listed as endangered, that the ongoing conservation programs provide "loop-holes" for industry to abuse the lesser prairie chicken. Pesky conservation folks, they're never happy. That is, they won't be happy until America is driven back to pre-Industrial Revolution days and eating nothing but roughage.

Of particular note with their decision is what the federal fish and wildlife folks failed to consider. The primary reason for the lesser prairie chicken's demise has not been due to man rather than Mother Nature. Remember the wind induced prairie fires of April 2006?

Those horrific fires barreled directly through the fowl's habitat. Not one month after the fires, a successive series of huge hail storms followed the same path. And thirdly, the drought. The impact this drought has had upon ALL fauna and flora has been nothing but tragic. Per continuation of this drought, I look for the fowl's numbers to decrease even more and with that

will come the "endangered" tag.

I keep looking over my shoulder for the 800-pound gorilla that has replaced mankind atop the food chain.

Instead I see first the spotted owl, whose endangered listing destroyed the timber industry of the Pacific Northwest. Behind the owl I see the snail-darter minnow whose endangered listing ceased construction of a dam meant to provide hydroelectricity to areas in Tennessee. There's a lizard, the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, that is threatening the oil gas redevelopment of Texas' Permian Basin.

Now, the lesser prairie chicken, the latest more-important-than-people critter that will be used to lock up resources in the name of planet Earth, has been added to the list. Think I'm embellishing? For accidentally killing — or if the federal fish and wildlife folks come onto your property (they can without asking) happen to find a dead by whatever reason a threatened or endangered animal — the fine can be as much as \$100,000 per animal. In contrast, OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, is another bloated federal government overreach program. If an OSHA investigation proves fault (The Pampa News, Dec. 2, 2013), it will fine a company where a loss of human life has occurred \$2,800.

I seem to recall The Lord our God didn't put humankind on this great earth to fall victim to any fauna, but rather to hold dominion over such. Trouble is, by our own device the federal government can and will destroy an economy, and worse, rain the havoc of financial ruin and even loss of property down upon a landowner over the loss of a threatened or endangered animal. Something is inherently wrong when an animal's well-being is more important than humankind's.

Pampa resident Dennis Palmitier is a regular contributor to the opinion page on issues that affect Pampa and Gray County. He can be reached at denpalm1949@yahoo.com. Anyone wishing to respond to Palmitier's viewpoints in the form of a letter to the editor can email editor Timothy P. Howsare at thowsare@thepampanews.com.

Twilight of the gods

What a joy to find the New York Times editorial page staff on duty whenever a tough moral question arises, such as, "Can the U.S. government require business owners claiming religious liberty privileges to fund contraceptive care for employees?"



WILLIAM MURCHISON

Sure, natch, you bet, returns the Times, doubtless to the relief of the U.S. Supreme Court, which takes up the question formally this week in yet another suit stemming from Obamacare.

Owners who "personally disapprove of certain contraceptives ... are wrong," asserts the Times, "and the Supreme Court's task is to issue a decisive ruling saying so. The real threat to religious liberty comes from the owners trying to impose their religious beliefs on thousands of employees." Get those employers and their stale convictions outta here!

Because, look — and one does need to look, though the Times omits the point from formal consideration — America just isn't the kind of country anymore where religious convictions hold much water in the establishment and maintenance of ideals.

The U.S. today is in fact a pretty secular outfit, the Times all but whispers behind its hand; a place fairly well, and rightly, denuded of arguable notions stemming from some kind of "faith" consensus, be it ever so ancient.

Mumble your prayers if you like, according to this view of things; just don't get to thinking that beliefs formed outside the civic sphere have relevance to civic purposes. Dearly does the Times hope the high court will dismantle the pulpit from which the owners of Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. and Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. claim legal standing for non-secular ideas.

There is a sense in which the government's, and the Times', counter-claim gee-haws with reality. Religion? We've got lots of that around here. What if the Quakers tried to put the military out of business? Until recent years, we sidestepped such questions by working out accommodations that honored religious thinking without impeaching certain public necessities. That was when religion was seen as a different kind of necessity: reflecting truth and reality, shaping conscience, giving

form to public institutions. Such as marriage.

Such as marriage. Ah, yes. Recent court decisions on same-sex unions tend to push away religious understandings of marriage — universal as they have been — from consideration of what marriage ought to be. On the federal courts' current logic, marriage ought to be whatever its participants want it to be — never mind ancient teachings (which we've Gotten Past, right?) on the union of man and woman and the attendant duties of procreation and child rearing.

Sex is the realm in which the secular spirit, seeking satisfaction, collides hardest and most often with religion. Religion, with both eyes on some divine personage no telescope has ever revealed, lays down understandings, formulates rules it commends in one form or another to everyone. Secularism says in response, hey, you can't talk to me like that! I'll call the government in!

The government duly comes in, with guarantees, formulated to suit the occasion, of the American right to do pretty much what an American desires to do with his body. Or hers. The secular understanding of what you ought to be allowed to do pretty well trumps the religious understanding — as old as civilization itself — that there are certain things you ought to want to do, and other things you ought not to want to do. All you have to prove in federal court these days, seemingly, is that you reject someone's attempt to regulate your instincts out of deference to some old book or religious code.

The religious understanding that the Hobby Lobby and Conestoga companies advance before the Supreme Court is pretty much — sad to say — the understanding to which courts these days display cool indifference. Maybe particular birth control devices, as alleged, do cause abortion. So what? That's a religious scruple the Supreme Court generally shoves aside in behalf of the secular claim that, hey, it's my body we're talking about! Which it isn't: not when a second body figures prominently in the case. But that's Religion, right? We don't do that stuff around here much anymore.

William Murchison's latest book is "The Cost of Liberty: The Life of John Dickinson." To find out more about William Murchison, and to see features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.Creators.com.



How To Write Us

The Pampa News welcomes letters to the editor. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and signatures.

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Letter to the Editor

Local producer clarifies inaccuracies in prairie chicken article

I appreciate you covering this important subject (on Saturday, March 29).

There are a couple of inaccuracies which I feel need to be clarified. I'm sure this was unintentional and understand this can be confusing.

First, you stated that during the restricted time period, ONLY emergency and cleaning operations could be performed. It is expected that normal daily operations AND emergency and cleaning operations of already existing wells will be allowed, but that recompletions and workovers of existing wells may not be allowed during the seasonal

restrictions (depending on where you are located). Drilling, seismic activity, surveying, etc., in areas of high habitat impact are not expected to be allowed during seasonal restrictions.

I think some clarification regarding signing up for CCAAs would be helpful, also. Most of what was attributed to me and stated about "landowners" signing up was actually in regard to the producers/lease owners (which might or might not be the landowner). Oil and gas producers are able to enroll their leases into a CCAA at the cost of \$2.25 per acre. I stated that I had walked away from an

area of production because it was located in a high impact habitat area, not because they didn't have a CCAA.

Finally, your quotation, "I tell them I am a mother and live on a farm and drink the water that comes from our land" is inaccurate. I stated, as I have several times before, "I tell them that I am a mother and a nurse, I have a farm from which we produce oil and gas. I drink the water." I believe I told you that our company has a water well at our field office from which we drink water. (We also produce oil and gas from the that same section.)

I have never lived on a farm nor represented myself as living on a farm. You asked me where I live and I stated, "in Pampa." Apparently there was a misunderstanding about this. My point in mentioning these things is that as a producer, landowner and mother, I am concerned with good stewardship and clean production of our resources. Many small, independent oil and gas producers are in the same situation.

Thank you for your interest.

Stacey Ladd Pampa

Gray Pampa Community fund selected for pilot program

SUBMITTED
 The Gray Pampa Community Fund Advisory Committee is pleased to announce that it has been selected for a unique pilot program through the Amarillo Area Foundation (AAF) to help establish and to grow a community endowment fund that will benefit Gray County for years to come.

In 2013, the Gray Pampa Community Fund was one of five area community funds selected to participate in this pilot program. The advisors of these five funds, referred to as 2.0 Community Funds, will work closely with AAF staff members who will serve as community

coaches, guiding these existing community funds to function at a higher level. Katharyn Wiegand with the Amarillo Area Foundation will serve as community coach for the Gray Pampa Community Fund.

The overall goals for 2.0 Community Funds include:

- Create a sizeable community endowment — a permanent fund whose earnings will be used by the community each year to fund community projects and programs.
- Develop ongoing annual plans to raise funds to use for community improvement today and plans to increase permanent endowment funds steadily

over time, including opportunities for planned giving and bequests.

- Increase the number of people who give to the Community Fund by encouraging giving at all levels, large or small.
- Make grants and build partnerships that help the community increase wealth and improve prospects for the local economy, its organizations and its people by providing an avenue for charitable gifts that benefit the community at large.
- Cultivate community leaders, and strengthen the range and impact of leadership for the Fund and the community over time.
- Partner with the Ama-

rillo Area Foundation on regional wealth-building initiatives.

To implement the 2.0 Community Fund program, Wiegand will work hand-in-hand with members of the Community Fund Advisory Committee and the community-at-large through a series of meetings, trainings and local projects. Action plans will be created to increase Community Fund resources and ultimately increase the Fund's impact throughout the community. Community members will be asked to provide input and help plan for the Community Fund's future.

Members of the Gray Pampa Community Fund

Advisory Committee include: Kathy Cota, Duane Harp, Ray Jaramillo, Brad Morse, Richard Peet, Shane Stokes, Gary Sutherland and Dana Terry. The Gray Pampa Community Fund was established through a challenge grant from the Amarillo Area Foundation/Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation in 2008 in celebration of The Harrington Fund's 50th Anniversary.

The Gray Pampa Community Fund has provided financial support to Clarendon College and Snack Pack 4 Kids in recent years. This fund, which has a balance of \$196,603, can make grants to eligible charitable/nonprofit organizations

in Gray County.

One of the first tasks for the Community Fund Advisory Committee is to gather information from community members about what the current community needs are. Every citizen of Gray County is invited to complete an online or paper survey about current community needs. Gray County residents can access the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Gray-PampaFund. Paper surveys are also available at the Pampa EDC office, 107 E. Foster Ave. Surveys will be accepted through April 14.

For more information, call Kathy Cota at 806-665-0800.

Firefighter rescues 6-foot python from blaze

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) — A firefighter put his reptile-handling experience to good use when he rescued a 6-foot-long python from a burning home in western Michigan.

Muskegon firefighter Scott Hemmelsbach told The Muskegon Chronicle (<http://bit.ly/1jQ2Vbf>) that he reluctantly agreed to enter the two-story, smoke-filled house Sunday night to retrieve the snake. He says he cradled the "weighty" snake before carrying it to safety.

"It was trying to crawl up the side of his terrarium and get out," Hemmelsbach said. "His face was pushed up on the screen and trying to get out. There was a lot of smoke and he was trapped."

The firefighter said he learned how to handle snakes while he was

at Grand Haven High School, where he helped showcase them.

"I'd take them around and show them to the kids in the elementary classes," he said. "That didn't bother me at all."

When Hemmelsbach reached the python inside the home, he gingerly handled him so not to scare the reptile.

"I removed the screen off the top and knew to approach it by coming up behind his head. He became very active, and I was glad because that meant that he was OK."

Two people in the home escaped without injury, fire officials said. The fire significantly damaged the home, and the cause is under investigation.

"I would do it for any creature," Hemmelsbach said. "I'm just glad it had a happy ending."

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USDA extends extension of 2014 Milk Income Loss Contract Program

SUBMITTED

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency has extended the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. The extended MILC protects dairy farmers enrolled in the program against income loss through Sept. 1, 2014, or until a new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers (MPP), established by the 2014 Farm Bill, is operational.

Contracts for eligible producers enrolled in MILC on or before Sept. 30 are automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect. MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt), after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments

are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 Farm Bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through January 2014 marketings is zero. Payment rates during the months after January 2014 until the termination of the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available. Since MILC payments are limited to a maximum amount of milk production each fiscal year, dairy operations may select a pro-

duction start month other than October 2013 (the start of fiscal year 2014). Producers who want to select a different production start month must visit their local FSA office between April 14, 2014, and May 30, 2014. FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and sign-ups as the information becomes available. For more information on MILC, contact a local FSA county office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Neighbors bicker over forced gas drilling

NEW BEDFORD, Pa. (AP) — An energy company is dusting off an old, unused state law that can force property owners to accept oil and gas drilling under their land, pitting neighbor against neighbor in a Pennsylvania community and raising the possibility that lawmakers will have to take sides. Houston-based Hilcorp seeks to use a 1961 Pennsylvania law to drill under the property of four holdout landowners in New Bedford, near the Ohio border an hour north of Pittsburgh. The concept, known as "forced pooling," means that people who don't sign leases get bundled in with those who do, to make drilling more efficient and compensate all the landowners. The stakes are high. Property owners can reap royalties totaling hundreds of thousands or even millions

of dollars from drilling in the Utica Shale formation, which lies below the better-known Marcellus Shale. Suzanne Matteo, one of the four who has refused to sign a lease, said she is furious that the company may be able to drill under her property without her permission. "It's un-American," she said. On the other side are many neighbors who have signed leases, such as Bruce Clingan, who owns the roughly 200-acre Tanglewood Golf Course with his wife, Jody. They signed a lease with Hilcorp a few years ago and received a signing bonus of more than \$500,000, plus 18 percent royalties on future production. "I don't understand how people that own 4 acres of ground can hold up such a big thing. I don't agree with that," Clingan said. Hilcorp said that 99 percent of the property owners in the 3,267-acre tract have signed leases, and that drilling would occur a mile or more under the surface of the holdout's property. Invoking the old law, the company said, would ensure that "all participants, leased or unleased, are compensated for the minerals they own."

on whether to approve the request. The response to Hilcorp's proposal has been so strong that two hearings that had been planned for last week have been postponed until early May. Over 5,000 new wells have been drilled in Pennsylvania since 2008 using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. The law does not apply to the Marcellus Shale formation, the source of most of the gas being produced, but does to the Utica Shale, which energy companies see as a new frontier, since it also holds oil. Forced pooling laws exist in some form in about 40 states and are usually used with little dispute, said Jacqueline Weaver, an expert on oil and gas law at the University of Houston. The idea was once contentious, Weaver said, but courts have previously settled the question of whether it is unconstitutional. She noted that such laws were designed to reduce the number of unsightly drilling rigs on the surface, and to find a way to fairly compensate small landowners who lived on the edge of a "pool" of oil or gas. It's possible, for example, for drilling to pull oil or gas from under adjacent properties. Weaver is puzzled why Hilcorp doesn't just drill around Matteo and other landowners, since modern drilling rigs can twist and turn the well bore to follow deposits of shale gas. The Hilcorp case highlights the political sensitivity behind forced pooling, even in a state where Gov. Tom Corbett, a Republican, and most lawmakers favor the industry. Corbett, who took office in 2011 as a strong ally of the industry, promptly declared his opposition to forced pooling, a position he holds today, an aide said. Before Corbett took office, the industry had tried to persuade lawmakers to extend the pooling law to the rich Marcellus Shale when the drilling boom began. Republicans began drafting legislation to do just that before realizing that it could touch a nerve. Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson, said at the time that people's personal property rights were like their guns, and "you're treading on some thin ice when you try to take either."

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IPCC says climate change is here, world needs to adapt

The overall warming of the planet has had a clear impact on Earth's natural systems and human society and will pose increased — and potentially disastrous — risks in the future if the world does not make a more concerted effort to adapt and try to prevent the worst possible outcomes.

That's the continued message from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations-established body made up of hundreds of scientists who review and summarize the state of climate science and the research into its impacts, ways to adapt to them and ways to mitigate the damage.

The impacts of climate change and the ways in which both humans and nature can adapt to an altered environment are the focus of the second part of the IPCC's fifth assessment report, which was released on Sunday. It follows the September release of the first portion of the report, which focused on the scientific evidence for global warming and stated unequivocally that humans are behind the warming of Earth's average temperature.

RELATED IPCC Report Contains 'Grave' Carbon Budget Message Climate Projections More Confident, Dire From IPCC The 5 Most Sobering Charts from the IPCC Climate Report

Climate change has already contributed to a 1.6°F rise in global average temperature since the start of the 20th century and the

rate of warming is likely to increase into the 21st century. The second report makes clear that in addition to a change in the global average temperature, other climate change impacts observed to date have hit all regions of the world and affected everything from access to food and water to extreme weather.

"In view of these impacts, and those that we have projected for the future, no one on this planet is going to be untouched by climate change," Rajendra Pachauri, the chairman of the IPCC, said in the press conference announcing the report's conclusions.

The report has fewer specific predictions of future impacts compared to the last iteration released in 2007, but points out the significant risks climate impacts pose to globe's most vulnerable populations. It also has a greater emphasis on adaptation strategies, which range from improving urban infrastructure to creating drought-resistant crop varieties.

Compared to 2007's report, the newest iteration "assesses a substantially larger knowledge base of relevant literature," which allowed those assembling the report to consider a wider range of impacts, said Patricia Romero-Lankao, an author on the report and a sociologist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colo.

IPCC Working Group II Summary for Policymakers Among the impacts of

climate change that are already occurring, the report calls out: shifts in the ranges of species and changes to migration patterns, which could alter where key ecosystems such as valuable fisheries are found; changes in precipitation patterns, which affect the availability of water for drinking and agriculture; the effects of climate extremes on crops, which could threaten food supplies and the livelihoods of the world's farmers; and increases in health impacts, for example the number of deaths from heat waves, like the one that killed thousands in Europe in 2003.

All of these impacts are also listed as major future concerns around the world. The report also calls out sea-level rise as a major future concern, as it contributes to coastal flooding and higher storms surges — issues that particularly affect those in low-lying coastal areas, where a substantial portion of the world's poor live. Extreme weather events could also damage critical infrastructure, even in developed countries, if steps aren't taken to strengthen it, as Hurricane Sandy's inundation of sewage systems and New York City's subway system made clear.

The report also warns that climate change could exacerbate problems, such as drought, that lead to conflicts around the world through migrations and disputes over resources.

"Climate change can lead to displacement, can

lead to increased conflict," Pachauri said.

All of these impacts are expected to worsen in the coming decades if society fails to adapt to the changes that are already in play because of warming "locked in" to the climate system by past greenhouse gas emissions and if it fails to enact any meaningful measures to curtail future emissions, the report makes clear. The more warming, the more dire the future impacts become.

"Increasing magnitudes of warming increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive, and irreversible impacts," the report warns.

The first part of the fifth assessment report stated that global temperatures are likely to exceed 2.7°F above preindustrial levels by the end of the century but could reach as high as 8.64°F above 1986-2005 levels, depending on the levels of future emissions. At the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009, governments agreed to keep future warming below 3.6°F, which the report suggested was unlikely to happen because of the warming that past emissions have guaranteed. The third part of the assessment, focused on ways to mitigate climate

change, will be released on April 13 after a meeting in Berlin.

The report examines the efforts at adaptation that have been made around the world to date, which vary widely between regions, and those that should be considered for the future.

Strategies mentioned in the report vary from establishing better building codes to spreading more efficient irrigation practices, with many that would provide benefits to society even without climate change.

"A lot of these things make sense anyway," said Kevin Trenberth, a climate scientist also from NCAR, who was not involved with this report but has been an author and editor on past IPCC reports.

Trenberth suggested the report could be improved

by noting which adaptations strategies would have the biggest impact and how costs for them would be covered. He did applaud the group for noting funding gaps for adaptation, which are particularly affecting developing nations, which are expected to see impacts out of proportion to what they have contributed to global warming.

Romero-Lankao said that the process of putting together the report was an educational one for her, illuminating the process of international negotiations.

"We scientists think that all what is needed from us in these negotiations is to ensure accuracy, balance, and clarity of message in our findings. That is not the case for policy makers for whom a lot is at stake," Romero-Lankao told Climate Central in an email.

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Lent devotionals

By MIKE SUBLETT

Day 24 – Tuesday – a flogging whip

Scripture: Matthew 27:24-31; Mark 15:15-20; Luke 23:23-25; John. 19:1-16

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers around him.

(The Gospels Interwoven, Zarley)

Devotional: It was a Roman whip for flogging. A simple device: a handle, several leather cords, and bits of metal or rock tied on to each cord. Its purpose was also simple: rip the body of a criminal into bloody bits and pieces, but not kill him.

One day I watched the caning of a criminal in Singapore; — 25 strikes on the buttocks with a three-foot-long cane about the thickness of my little finger. It was excruciating to watch. No blood broke through the skin until the 24th strike.

Yet, there is absolutely no comparison between a thirty-six-inch cane and a Roman whip. From the first lash of the Roman whip there was blood. Each strike ripped gashes through the skin, into the muscles, and eventually all the way to the bone.

I cannot watch the flogging scene in The Passion of the Christ without sobbing. And as vivid as those visual images are, they are nothing compared to what actually happened that day.

Isaiah was right, "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed (53:4-5).

Prayer: Sacrificial Lamb, without a doubt I am not worthy of what You did, who You are and what You gave. I won't ever be. But with Your help, the depth of my appreciation for the suffering created by each and every lash can grow. Don't let me ever become desensitized. Keep my emotions near the surface, my tear ducts freely flowing. Keep my heart as tender as freshly tilled garden soil. Thank You so much for what You went through that day for me. Amen.

Day 25 – Wednesday – a crown of thorns

Scripture: Matthew 27:24-31; Mark 15:15-20; Luke 23:23-25; John. 19:1-16

They stripped him and put a purple robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. "Hail, O king of the Jews!" they began to call out to him. Falling on their knees in front of him, they worshiped him and mocked him.

They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head and face again and again.

(The Gospels Interwoven, Zarley)

Devotional: The actual plant from which the thorny vine was taken is unnamed

in the Gospels. The five most likely candidates are: 1) Christ thorn, 2)Thorny or Spiny Burnet, 3) Syrian Christ thorn, 4) Buckthorn, 5) White thorn. Whichever plant was used to construct the crown, it was first dried so as to harden it, thereby making it much more useful for producing suffering.

Now that Jesus was back under Pilate's thumb and the flogging was completed, the governor's soldiers mimicked the actions of the soldiers at Herod's palace. They clothed Jesus in a royal purple robe and the crown of thorns. The robe was nothing new, but He surely ached as it moved back and forth across His torn back and at times even stuck to His bloody flesh.

However, the crown of thorns was a new kind of pain. And the soldiers weren't content with setting the crown on His head. They had to drive it into place so it wouldn't fall off. As each thorn plunged through the scalp (only stopping when it hit the skull), blood started to flow profusely. All this happened to the One who really was the King and deserving of a solid gold crown; One who could have stopped it all, but didn't.

I wonder how often my sins have been like a thorn to Jesus. I know that when I hear something particularly disappointing about the behavior of someone I love, it hurts, especially if I was a mentor, teacher, or parent to them. How often are my actions a disappointment to Him, painful to Him? It's no fun to think about that. I need to be more careful and think more about how my actions affect other people and Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, I know that my sins put You on that cross as surely as anyone's. But I hadn't thought of my sins continuing to cause You suffering and pain. So for that I am sorry. Help me be more careful. I don't want You to suffer one more moment for me. You already did that on Calvary. Amen.

Day 26 - Thursday – a fancy water basin

Scripture: Matthew 27:24-31; Mark 15:15-20; Luke 23:23-25; John. 19:1-16

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away!

Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

With loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he decided to grant their demand. He took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

Finally Pilate surrendered Jesus to their will and handed him over to them to be crucified.

(The Gospels Interwoven, Zarley)

Devotional: Because it was part of the Governor's household utensils, it no doubt far out-shined the caliber of basin that Jesus had used to hold the water for cleaning the disciples' feet. That one was probably made of wood or clay, but this one was surely brass or silver or gold. Its historically priceless value had little to do with the metal material. It was the basin that held the water when Pilate tried to escape his guilt and condemnation by washing his hands clean.

When all was said and done, Pilate's hands were wet and clean. But, he still had "blood

on his hands" even though he couldn't see it.

He was 100% guilty in the eyes of the

Creator God, the Father of the one he just sent to be crucified. Pilate learned that day that

water can do many things, but it cannot cleanse the soul. What a ridiculous man he was. What a fool. How could he think something so silly?

Oooooops. Have I been that silly? How often have I sacrificed something during Lent thinking that it might help hide something from God's eyes that I had done? When I was baptized was my faith in the water or in Jesus? Do I profess my commitment to Christ loudly, but then spend little time with His Word--the Bible? Have I gone on and on about how much I love Jesus, but never tithed? Do I go to the grocery store or Wal-Mart more often than I do church? How often am I silly?

Prayer: Jesus, I need to see more clearly. I don't want to be blind like Pilate. I don't want to ever see anything as the cleansing ingredient used against sin except Your blood. I don't ever want my faith to be in anything I do. I just want my faith to be in You and for my eyes to see more clearly than Pilate's did. With You that clarity of vision is possible because "all things are possible through Christ who strengthens me." Amen.

Day 27 – Friday – a crucifixion cross

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-44; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:26-43; John.

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19:17-27

They led him away, carrying his own cross. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus. He was passing by on his way in from the country. They seized Simon, put the cross on him and forced him to carry it behind Jesus. (The Gospels Interwoven, Zarley)

Devotional: We don't know the type of wood from which it was constructed. We don't know how tall it was. We don't know how much it weighed. We don't know how wide it was. In fact, all we really know is that it was the cross on which the only begotten Son of God was nailed and hung and murdered. All of the things we don't know pale in comparison to what we do know.

It is a historical fact that Jesus was just one of thousands who were crucified by the Romans; just one of the many who died this excruciating death. So why doesn't that make this event commonplace? Normally, if something happened even a hun-

dred times I would begin to consider it ordinary. But now it is impossible for me to look at a cross and not remember Him. No matter how many I see, no matter how ornate they are, no matter what material is used to make them, no matter how large or small, no matter how valuable or inexpensive, no matter their unique design or presentation, no matter if they hang on a wall or around my neck, it is impossible for me to look at any Cross and not remember Him.

However, I know people who look at crosses and even wear them who seldom remember Him. Why is that? Why do they not remember Him, while I can't help but remember Him? Why do they take Him so much for granted, while I am provoked to worship and brought to tears when I see a cross? What is the difference?

The difference rests in the Holy Spirit. There was a day a long time ago when I once again heard the gospel story of His coming and His death. But that time was different. The Holy **LENT** cont. on page 9

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Lent

Continued From Page 8

Spirit came and stabbed me in my heart with His sword. That allowed my earthly eyes to be opened so that I could finally see the gospel story for the precious treasure that it always was. And once anyone sees the gospel for what it really is, there is only one possible response--surrender.

That is why I cannot see a cross without thinking about Him.
 Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You so very much for wounding me in my heart that day. Please, help me never see any cross as something common. In my mind and heart and spirit may that symbol always be directly connected to the Cross on Calvary. Thank You for making that a reality in my life. Thank You for cutting Your way into my heart. Amen.

Orson Welles' camera, other items up for auction

PHOENIX (AP) — The youngest daughter of director and writer Orson Welles is giving film buffs a chance to buy some of his personal possessions, including a camera, scripts and photos from the set of "Citizen Kane."

Beatrice Welles discovered the relics last year in boxes and trunks and decided to put them up for auction. She said her father would have preferred making the memorabilia available to film buffs and fans as opposed to sending them to a museum.

"It's about the last thing he would've wanted. He just did not believe in schooling, he did not believe in academic things," Beatrice Welles said in a telephone interview from her Sedona, Ariz., home. "And museums kind of have that connotation and I thought 'No, this is not right for him.'"

In all, she is handing more than 70 items over to Heritage Auctions, which will stage the auction on April 26.

Margaret Barrett, director of entertainment-related auctions, declined to speculate on any possible bidding amounts but said she expects all the lots to fetch decent bids.

"People are still talking about him decades after his death," Barrett said. "One of the enduring signs of fame is when young people know who someone is — someone who might have passed away decades ago."

Barrett said she thinks Welles' old Bell & Howell movie camera will be one of the bigger sellers. According to his daughter, he used the camera for home movies. In fact, one of the photos in another lot up for bidding shows Welles using the camera to record a bullfight in Spain.

Other items are reminders of Welles' more painful Hollywood experiences. Two scripts for "The Magnificent Ambersons," a 1942 film he wrote and directed, reveal two different endings Welles had in mind; neither ended up in the film. The movie, which centers on a spoiled heir's attempt to keep his mother from marrying her first love, was famously re-edited by someone else.

"They kept on changing his pictures around and not letting him finish them.

That hurt him," Beatrice Welles said. "The only one he was allowed to do completely from start to end was 'Citizen Kane.'"

Long considered Welles' masterpiece for its innovations in editing and cinematography, the 1941 "Citizen Kane" follows the lonely life of wealthy publishing magnate Charles Foster Kane.

Not among the auction cache is any Rosebud-type childhood memento of Welles'. Rosebud was the name of the sled mourned by the titular character in "Kane" that burns at the end of the film. According to Beatrice Welles, director Steven Spielberg bought a version of the sled in 1982, also at auction, and was later teased by her father about its authenticity.

"My father and Steven were having lunch and my father said 'I hate to tell you something, but there was only one sled in Citizen Kane. Do you remember the ending?'"

Nearly 30 years after Welles' 1985 death, Beatrice Welles said she was finally emotionally strong enough to sift through boxes of her famous father's possessions. Her mother, Italian actress Paola Mori, died less than year after Welles. The double loss was devastating.

"When they died ... I just couldn't even look at the stuff," she said.

Celebrity interactions and globe-trotting made up Beatrice Welles' unconventional upbringing, where her father's "Moviola editing machine was like part of our luggage."

By the age of 3, Beatrice Welles was getting an education any film student would have loved. She often sat on her father's lap while he cut movies in the editing room. As she got older, she even pitched in.

"I'd get the two pieces of whatever celluloid film it is on the machine. ... He would tell me where to cut and I would cut and do it for him," Beatrice Welles said.

Her father wasn't always comfortable with being revered as a film genius, she said.

"He would say, 'There are only probably three geniuses ever that existed, one of them being Einstein. I don't put myself in that category.'"

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Citi Foundation to aid 10 US cities

NEW YORK (AP) — The Citi Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Citigroup Inc., will donate \$50 million to improve youth employment opportunities in 10 large U.S. cities, the chairman of the organization told The Associated Press.

The commitment, which will be funded over three years, has been dubbed "Pathways to Progress" and will launch in June. The organization has partnered with the big-city mayors and nonprofits to train teens for the workforce, create summer job opportunities and encourage entrepreneurship for young adults to form their own businesses.

"We know that a bank can't create permanent jobs directly; if the federal government can't do it, what hope do we have to do it alone?" Edward Skyler, chairman of the Citi Foundation, told the AP in an interview.

"But we want to help young people gain skills so they can join the labor force," said Skyler, a former deputy mayor under Michael Bloomberg. "As people get older, that gets

harder and harder. This is the best opportunity we have."

The program being announced Monday will launch in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Miami, Dallas, St. Louis, Newark, N.J., and Washington.

The donation will be directed to nonprofit organizations that will work in tandem with local mayor's offices. There will be three major components to the project's first wave that should help about 100,000 people in total, Skyler said.

The foundation and Points of Light, a volunteer organization, will launch AmeriCorps programs in all 10 cities. Teenagers will develop leadership and team-building skills through volunteer and community service programs such as school revitalization projects, creating care packages for veterans and seniors, and organizing food drives.

In five of the cities — New York, Miami, Dallas, Chicago and San Francisco — the grant also will directly create paid summer jobs for teenagers and young adults who

otherwise would be unemployed and more susceptible to the temptations of the street. The jobs, which for many will be their first for a paycheck, include staffing summer camps, parks, cultural organizations and government offices.

The money also will create so-called BizCamps that will teach young adults how to start their own businesses and how to prepare themselves for potential job interviews.

The mayors whose cities are receiving the money praised the donation, which comes at a time when aid from the federal and state governments has become less reliable.

"We need to use every tool possible to ensure we set all our city's students up for success," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a statement. "(This) helps provide our low-income students an opportunity to acquire the job readiness skills needed to get their professional lives started on the right foot."

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel applauded the Citi Foundation for recognizing "that the future

economic strength and vibrancy of our city lies in the hands of our young adults" while Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said the investments would create "a skilled, confident, and motivated workforce for tomorrow."

Urban policy experts noted that every bit of funding helps but cautioned that the donation would likely have relatively limited impact.

"Fifty million dollars is a drop in the bucket; it's really large structural issues in the economy that are keeping people from keeping good jobs," said Hillary Botein, a professor at Baruch College. "It's great that they did this, but will it really make a difference for these folks 10 years down the line?"

Skyler, who said Citi Foundation gives away \$78 million annually, agreed that the donation wouldn't be a cure-all, but he said the bank has "an obligation to give back."

"This is greater than anything we've done in the 20 years of the foundation," he said. "We're committed to the communities where we have a presence."

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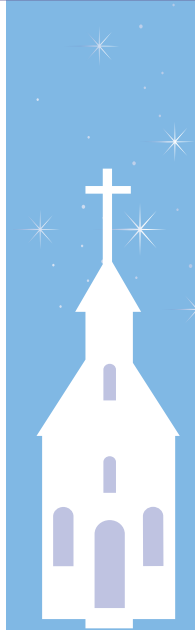
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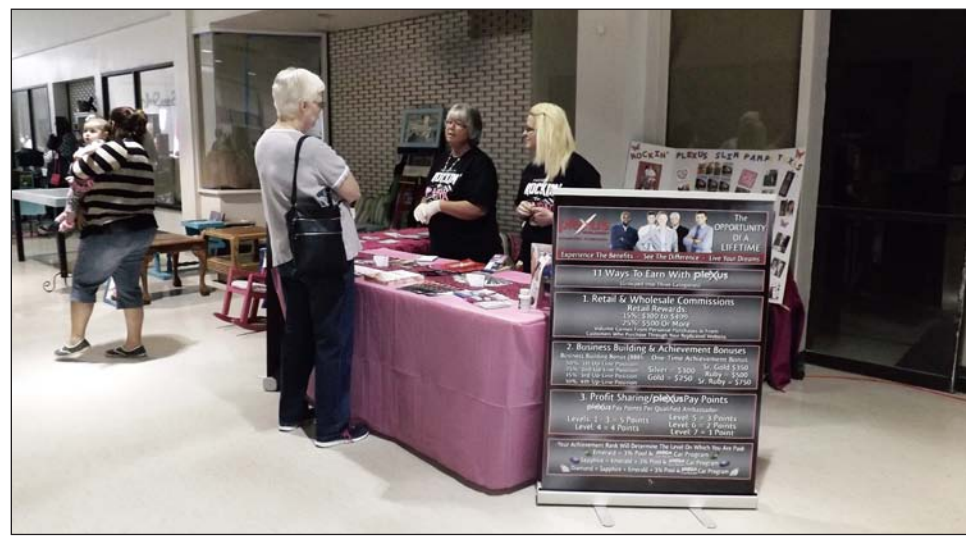
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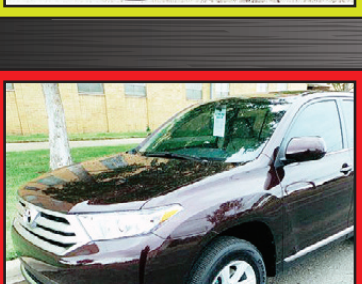
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PampaSports

Hustlin' Harvesters remember their season

BY JOHN LEE
jlee@thepampanews.com

The highlight video played and started with Fall Out Boy's "My songs know what you did in the dark (Light em' up)." That was the same jam that the Pampa Hustlin' Harvesters came out to every Tuesday night when it was time to defend their court against the opponent that was warming up on the other side of the hardwood.

With that jam and the highlight video, it was the ultimate rekindling of a winning season that resulted in a playoff berth, ending with the ensuing loss to Lubbock-Estacado at Randall High School. Even with the quick exit in the state tournament, head coach Matt Embry considered the season a

success and recognized his seven departing seniors which will inevitably result in a new look basketball team in 2014-15.

That's what Sunday night was about, remembering the season and giving the seniors one last hoorah.

The facilities were decorated in green and gold with pictures from the season spread across the tables as guests and players were served food, catered by The Plaza, at the Family Life Center at Briarwood Church.

The event was kicked off as senior Gabe Garcia gave the invocation and directed guests in the feeding order. After dinner, coach Shawn Brasher introduced his freshmen team and talked about the season in which the team

won 15 games. Next up was coach Jason Farmer, who discussed how hard he was on his team.

"I know at times I was a little hard on these guys," Farmer said. "But I was hard on them because of these seven empty varsity jerseys behind me. I told them that many of these guys will be varsity players next year, and even though it's a junior varsity team, I am going to coach them like a varsity team."

The junior varsity finished the season winning seven straight and posting a 7-1 district record.

Head basketball coach Matt Embry took the podium next and talked about his varsity squad.

The lone freshman on the squad, Brandon Sieck, was brought in because of an injury, and Embry said



Photos by John Lee

From top to bottom, the varsity, junior varsity and freshmen were all recognized for their seasons Sunday night. More pictures can be found at The Pampa News' Facebook page.

he was impressed with a 3-pointer he made in the game at Borger.

Two-time 1-3A All-District player sophomore Cade Engle was next on the pecking order in discussion. Embry said that his favorite memory of Engle this season was also in the game at Borger where Engle came back from an ankle injury and didn't seem to miss a step. Sophomore Kambrin Scott was next, and

Embry said, "I am waiting for him to get to 6-foot, 6-inches like he says he is going to." But all kidding aside, Embry said that Scott has a lot of potential as he had six games with four 3-pointers, including a four-point play versus Lubbock-Cooper to start the season.

The only junior, Jonathan Stevens, who played his first varsity season with Embry was highlighted for his three

games in-a-row where he had 14 points and 14 rebounds. It was then time to talk about the seniors.

Embry called Blayne Troxell "one of the most selfless players" who was prepared "whether he played two seconds or 25 minutes." In describing Ryan Powell, Embry said he was the definition of competitive and named 1-3A All-District. Embry

BANQUET cont. on page 3

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EXTRA INNINGS

■ It's the most wonderful time of the year. Opening week of baseball.

Yes it is the most wonderful time of the year: baseball is back. Baseball is like Christmas to me.

If you are a Texas Rangers fan like myself be sure to check out my Rangers news article that will come out later this week and continue throughout the season.



ZAC GREEN

I will be previewing and reviewing the Rangers series' as well as giving you all your injury information that you need to know when it comes to the Rangers.

I will give my season predictions in this article. Spoiler alert: as much as I want to say the Rangers will win the AL West, I am not going to predict that. There are just too many injuries to start out the season for Texas. Hopefully I am wrong and they can pull out some good play until they get healthy.

AL West: Oakland Athletics. NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers. AL East: Tampa Bay Rays. NL East: Washington Nationals. AL Central: Detroit Tigers. NL Central: St. Louis Cardinals. I am going to predict the Washington Nationals to win the World Series this year over the Tampa Bay Rays.

As we all know, predictions at the start of a 162-game season are pretty useless, but please share with me your predictions if you have some and let me know why.

One thing to look forward to this season is how Derek Jeter will play. Jeter has said he will retire after this season.

If you haven't had a chance to keep up with the free-agency frenzy, I will give you the most notable players and their new teams.

First, lets start with the batters. Robinson Cano is now a Seattle Mariner. Jacoby Ellsbury, Carlos Beltran and Brian McCann are now New York Yankees. Shin-Soo Choo is now a Texas Ranger. Nelson Cruz is now a Baltimore Oriole. Jarrod Saltalamacchia is a Miami Marlin. And Curtis Granderson switched teams in New York. He is now a Met.

Now onto the pitchers. Masahiro Tanaka came over from Japan and is a highly-touted pitching prospect, he is a Yankee. Ervin Santana is now an Atlanta Brave. Matt Garza is now a Milwaukee Brewer. Ubaldo Jimenez is now an Oriole. A.J. Burnett is a Philadelphia Phillie. Scott Feldman is a Houston Astro. And Joe Nathan is a Detroit Tiger.

Hopefully even though those are just a few of the names that have new homes this year, that will help you keep up with where some of the games best players have moved. It should be a fun ride the next few months.

When we will see the first no-hitter this year? I am going with May 14. Buckle up and let's enjoy this ride.

Zac Green is an avid Oklahoma State fan and youth minister at Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ. He can be reached at zac.green@sbc-global.net.

Harvesters fall in both Oklahoma games

STAFF REPORT

After strong pitching held the Harvesters to two hits in their 11-1 loss to Piedmont, the Harvesters lost the second part of their double-header 9-7 to Elk City to fall 6-11-1 on the season.

The Harvesters started the second game of their double-header strong with freshman Brendon Woelfle hitting a single. Sophomore Cade Engle then hit a single to left field on a line drive hit. Senior Ryan Powell sacrificed, moving Woelfle to third and Engle to second. Junior Ty Hooper got walked, loading the bases with two outs. The Harvesters scored the first run of the game after sophomore Adam Zuniga was walked, allowing Woelfle to score the run.

Elk City's on run scored at the bottom of the second came on a wild pitch, which tied the game 1-1.

The Harvesters had a three-run inning at the top of the second that was started when Braden Keown was walked. Woelfle then got walked putting two on base. It became a game of stealing bases until Keown scored on a wild pitch giving the Harvesters the 2-1 lead. After Engle was walked, Woelfle scored

on a wild pitch with a 3-1 lead. Engle scored on another wild pitch as Powell was walked making it a 4-1 ball game.

In the bottom of the second, Elk City scored a run on a single to left field with one on base. The Harvesters made Elk City work for their runs until a four-run inning with the game already 4-3 made it a 4-7 ball game.

Then it was the Harvesters turn when Hooper was walked, bringing in senior Brandon Stokes to run bases for him. Zuniga reached base on a fielder's choice, but Stokes was picked out at second base.

Sophomore Colton Thompson was walked, advancing Zuniga to second. Junior Jacob Nelson hit a single to center field, which scored Zuniga and made it 7-5 Elk City. With Thompson on third and one out, Keown was struck out swinging. But Thompson scored on a passed ball making it 7-6 Elk City.

Keeping Elk City away from home plate in the bottom of the fifth, the Harvesters were up to bat at the top of the sixth. Powell was walked and senior Ethan Hunt hit a double to center field, al-



Photo courtesy of Rod Keown. Colton Thompson up to bat during the game against Elk City. The Harvesters return to action Saturday.

lowing Powell to score and tie the game at 7-7. The Harvesters defense couldn't hang on, however and Elk City scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth, giving them the 9-7 win.

Brendon Woelfle went 1/4 and scored two runs. Cade Engle went 1/3 with a run scored. Ryan Powell went 1/1 with a run scored and two walks. Ethan Hunt went 1/3 with an RBI and a walk. Ty Hooper was walked twice. Colton Thompson and Adam Zuniga each had a run scored, Zuniga

had an RBI and a walk while Thompson had a walk.

Jacob Nelson went 1/4 with an RBI. Braden Keown had a run scored and a walk.

Ryan Powell pitched 2.1 innings with a hit, two runs, a walk and two strikeouts. Nathan Furgason pitched 3.2 innings with six hits, seven runs, an earned run, a walk and three strikeouts.

The Harvesters return to action Saturday at Harvester field to continue district play against the Rangers of Perryton.

Braun gets standing ovation in Brewers opener

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Ryan Braun has received a standing ovation in his first at-bat back with the Brewers following his 65-game suspension last season.

The right-handed slugger drew overwhelming applause as he strode to the plate in Milwaukee's opener against the Atlan-

ta Braves. There may have been a trickling of boos, but those were easily drowned out.

Braun hit in his customary No. 3 position in the lineup in his first regular-season



Ryan Braun

since July 21. He was retired on a high fly to left.

Braun also was put to work early at his new position in right field with two putouts in the first two innings.

He has apologized several times this

offseason following his suspension last summer following Major League Baseball's investigation of the Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic.

Braun accepted the penalty July 22, given for violations of MLB's drug agreement and labor contract.

Banquet

Continued From Page 2

said that when Powell knew that it was his night to shine, he did, if not he knew who to get the ball to. "I am certainly going to miss the defense from No. 12 Ryan Powell."

When describing Trey Miller, he said that he has high basketball IQ, and does everything he needs to do to make others better in-game players. Of Brandon Stokes, he said that he is a "fiery competitor." When Engle went down with the ankle injury, Stokes did a great job and scored 15 points in the game at Shamrock alone.

Of Alex Marrufo, Embry

said that Marrufo is one of the most driven players he has seen. Marrufo's highlight came in a 10-point game against River Road. Embry talked about Gabe Garcia and said that he is a great inside game and rebounder. He is unselfish and came off the bench this year after being a starter last year. He talked about Garcia's toughness after Garcia took an elbow to the face in a game earlier in the year. Another plug he put in was, "I have been coaching for a long time now, but I have never coached a player as good-looking as Gabe Garcia." Which the crowd had a good laugh with.

Last but certainly not least was Cory Ponce. He was 1-3A All-District and had 12

double-doubles in 28 games. Embry said that Ponce was one of the players who, when on the floor, made the team a better team.

In the awards, the Charge Award went to Trey Miller and Gabe Garcia. Most Improved Player went to Kambrin Scott. The Free Throw Award went to Brandon Stokes. The Assist Award went to Cade Engle. The "I am Third" Award went to Trey Miller. Offensive MVP went to Cade Engle while Defensive MVP went to Ryan Powell. To go with his Rebounding Award, Cory Ponce received the Most Valuable Player. Blayne Troxell rounded out the awards with the Hustlin' Harvester Award.

MLB ticket price average \$27.94 after 2% rise

CHICAGO (AP) — Major League Baseball's average ticket price rose 2 percent this season to \$27.93, the steepest rise since a 5 percent hike in 2009, according to the Team Marketing Report's annual survey.

The average rose 1.8 percent last year after remaining flat in 2012.

World Series champion Boston had the highest average, rising 4.8 percent to \$52.32. The New York Yankees, who missed the

playoffs for just the second time in 19 years, kept their average flat and remained second at \$51.55.

The Chicago Cubs were third at \$44.16 following a 0.9 percent decrease. The Cubs are coming off their fourth straight season with a losing record and are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Wrigley Field.

The Dodgers' average rose 15.3 percent to \$25.80 as Los Angeles hiked its opening-day pay-

roll to \$234 million and ended the Yankees' 15-year streak as baseball's biggest spender.

San Diego had the lowest average at \$16.37, and Arizona was just above the Padres at \$17.98. After its third straight season of 100 or more losses, Houston dropped its average 13.6 percent to \$27.98.

Kansas City had the highest rise, going up 24.7 percent to \$24.73 after its first winning season since 2003.

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Lady Harvesters down Garden City in 10 innings

STAFF REPORT

The Pampa Lady Harvesters softball team defeated Garden City 5-4 Saturday in Garden City, Kan. The Lady Harvesters are now 21-6 (4-0 District 1-3A play).

The Lady Harvesters were up first, and with one out, senior Bailey Wichert hit a single to center field on a line drive.

After a fly out, senior Bailey Dixon hit a single to right field, advancing Wichert to home after some base stealing. With a fresh 1-0 lead, the inning ended with a runner on base, but Garden City was trailing.

It remained a 1-0 ball game, until the top of the third when senior Alexa O'Brien hit a home run to center field with a 1-2 count and one out. The homer made it a 2-0 ball game.

With Garden City able to muster up two runs in the bottom of the fifth, it was the Lady Harvesters' turn at the top of the sixth. B. Dixon started the sixth for the Lady Harvesters with a single to center field. Senior Mattie Eldridge came in to run bases for B. Dixon following the hit. After stealing bases with sophomore Ally Roberson at bat, Eldridge got across when Roberson grounded out to shortstop, making it 3-2 Pampa.

With Garden City scoring a run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh, Pampa and Garden City were locked in a pitchers' duel. In the top of the ninth, senior Jessie Dixon reached first on a dropped strike. Junior Tori Robles bunted, but J. Dixon was caught out on a fielder's choice. With two outs, sophomore Cam-

eron Schaub hit a double to center field, allowing Robles to score and giving the lead back to the Lady Harvesters 4-3.

But the game swayed back and forth again at the bottom of the ninth when Garden City scored another run to tie the game and extend it another inning.

In the top of the 10th, with one out, O'Brien was walked. Then B. Dixon was struck out swinging and suddenly the Lady Harvesters were at a two-out deficit. Freshman Kaylee Arnzen was walked putting two on base. Then sophomore Kessie Jerome hit a single to center field, but it was enough for O'Brien to come home and score the game-winning run making the game 5-4.

Brittney Gonzalez and Bailey Wichert both went 1/5 with Wichert scoring

a run. Alexa O'Brien went 1/4 with two runs scored, an RBI and a walk. Bailey Dixon went 2/5 with an RBI. Kaylee Arnzen was walked and Ally Roberson had an RBI. Kessie Jerome went 2/5 with an RBI. Kylie Kreider went 1/2 and Robles had a run scored. Cameron Schaub went 2/3 with an RBI and a walk. Mattie Eldridge had a run scored.

Alexa O'Brien pitched four innings with three hits, a walk and seven strikeouts. Brittney Gonzalez pitched six innings with six hits, four runs, five walks and six strikeouts.

The Lady Harvesters return to action on Saturday in Pampa to take on the Rangerettes of Perryton. Varsity is at noon and junior varsity will follow.



Photo by Kevyn Jerome
Ally Roberson fields a fly ball during Saturday's game.

The unstoppable Spurs keep rolling

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Basketball Writer

AP — Injuries, age, even haunted hotel rooms. None of that has been enough to stop the San Antonio Spurs machine.

The Spurs dismantled the New Orleans Pelicans on Saturday night. It was another unyielding effort in the second game of a back-to-back and ran their

winning streak to 17 in a row, which tied a franchise record.

They've weathered injuries to Manu Ginobili, Danny Green and Kawhi Leonard, haven't seen age slow Tim Duncan or Ginobili and even overcame a scare at the Claremont Resort in Berkley, Calif., last week to rack up a league-high 57 victories.

In town to play the Golden State, Jeff Ayres and Duncan both told reporters that they were certain they heard the noises of a baby coming from Ayres' room before he checked in. When the front desk called the room, there was no one in there. Duncan said the experience gave him chills, but the Spurs are the ones striking fear in the rest of the league.

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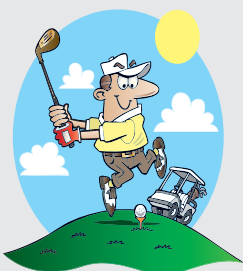
No. 6- John McCall, No. 8- Kaleb Johns, No. 12- Brian Brauchi, No. 15- Chris Barclay

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Q&A: Status update as health law marks a milestone

WASHINGTON (AP) — Like so much about the government's health care overhaul, Monday's deadline to sign up for coverage in 2014 didn't turn out quite as planned: Many people still are eligible for extensions that will let them enroll.

The change of plans shouldn't come as much of a surprise, given the disastrous HealthCare.gov rollout last fall, the mass policy cancellation notices that shocked even the president, and other set-in-law deadlines that turned out not to be not so firm.

Still, step by step, the law is taking effect. People are signing up. Insurance is kicking in or changing for millions of Americans.

It's time for a status report as the law marks a milestone, although no one's quite sure how to define success:

Q: How many people have gotten coverage?

A: That's the big question, and the answer is a moving target. About 6 million people have signed up for private insurance through the new state and federal marketplaces, and several million more have gotten insurance through expanded Medicaid coverage under the health care law.

But a lot of those people switched over from other plans, so the net increase isn't known. Also, under changes that kicked in during 2010, 3 million young adults up to age 26 have gotten coverage under their parents' plans.

Q: Do those numbers meet government expectations?

A: It depends on which expectations. Initially, the government had hoped to sign up 7 million through the marketplace exchanges by March 31. It ditched that number after HealthCare.gov experienced near-paralysis when it launched last fall. The new target became 6 million signed up through the exchanges. The administration is giving many people extra time to finish signing up, hoping for a robust number at the end.

Q: What happened to the March 31 deadline?

A: It's still there. It's just that a lot of people don't have to meet it. The government last week announced "special enrollment periods" for two big groups of people: those who have started an application but didn't manage to finish the complicated enrollment process by Monday, and people dealing with "special circumstances" such as natural

disasters, technical difficulties, family problems, complications related to immigration status and more.

Q: In general, who's already signed up?

A: Mostly people who didn't have insurance through their jobs, many of them with modest incomes. More than half are women.

Q: How many of the people who have signed up are getting help paying their premiums?

A: Four out of five of those selecting plans through the insurance exchanges have been qualifying for federal subsidies. In general, a single person earning between \$11,670 and \$46,680 or a four-person family bringing in \$23,850-\$95,400 can get premium breaks, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Provided on a sliding scale that's keyed to income, the most generous subsidies are available to people on the lower rungs of the middle class.

Q: Does signing up for coverage seal the deal?

A: No. People still have to pay their premiums. There's no definitive word yet on how many people are following through. Caroline Pearson of the market research firm Avalere Health estimates that between 10 percent and 20 percent have not paid, which could drop total enrollment down to between 5 million and 6 million people.

Q: How many people are still uninsured?

A: That's the flip side of the big enrollment question. There were about 47 million uninsured people in 2012. The number has surely gone down since then, but it's still sizeable. A Gallup-Healthways survey, based on interviews in January and February, found that 15.9 percent of U.S. adults were uninsured, down from 17.1 percent for the last three months of 2013. That translates roughly to about 3 million people gaining coverage since the start of the year. The Congressional Budget Office predicts there will still be 30 million people without insurance once the law is fully implemented.

Q: Who's still uninsured?

A: Millions of low-income people, in part because nearly half the states haven't acted to expand Medicaid coverage. Also, the estimated 11 million-plus immigrants who live in the U.S. illegally aren't eligible to get insurance through the health exchanges.

Q: What's happening with the "young invincibles" who have gotten so much attention?

A: During the first five months of enrollment, 26 percent of those who selected plans were between the ages of 18 and 34, although this group makes up about 40 percent of potential enrollees.

Q: Why are young adults so important?

A: Because they tend to be healthier than older people. And having plenty of healthy people paying into the risk pool helps ensure that there's enough money to cover the medical bills of those who are more likely to get sick. Otherwise, insurers may have to increase premiums. Kaiser Family Foundation President and CEO Drew Altman thinks people are making too big a deal of young adult enrollment. He says many insurers anticipated this issue and have already accounted for it in their premiums.

Q: How come more people aren't signing up?

A: For some, it's just a matter of procrastination. But polls show that many of the uninsured are uninformed or confused about the new law or don't think they can afford coverage. In addition, a third say they have tried to get coverage, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. A very small slice say they don't want or need coverage.

Q: Is health insurance through the Affordable Care Act really affordable?

A: That depends on the particular plan and level of coverage that's selected. Overall, premiums for plans offered through the exchanges have been lower than initially projected. But health insurance isn't cheap. Even when premiums are affordable, people have to watch out for high out-of-pocket costs and deductibles. Under the law, insurers can't charge an individual more than \$6,350 in out-of-pocket costs a year and no more than \$12,700 for a family policy. Patient advocates say that under some plans, people with serious illnesses could end up paying their entire out-of-pocket cap before insurance kicks in any money.

Q: What about the quality of the coverage?

A: Exchange plans have to take all applicants, cover broad benefits and provide strong financial protection in case of catastrophic illness. In return, though, doctor and hospital choices are limited, and there are those out-of-pocket costs mentioned

above. In general, plans offered through the health exchanges appear to offer less choice in hospitals and doctors than what people can get through employer-based or Medicare coverage.

Q: What will happen to uninsured people who miss that now-squishy Monday deadline to sign up?

A: If they're not in one of the groups eligible for an enrollment extension, they will have to wait until next year for coverage. The next enrollment period starts Nov. 15, for coverage starting in 2015. In the meantime, they risk getting fined for not having coverage.

Q: How big are the penalties?

A: The penalty for 2014 is \$95 per person (\$47.50 per child under 18) or 1 percent of annual income above the tax-filing threshold of \$10,150, whichever is higher. The fines are due when people file their 2014 taxes. If someone is due a tax refund, the IRS can deduct the penalty from the refund. Otherwise, the IRS will let people know what's owed.

Q: Who's exempt from the penalties?

A: If people don't make enough money to have to file a federal tax form, they don't have to buy coverage.

Q: Did the government fix that clunky website?

A: Well, HealthCare.gov is doing far better than at its disastrous launch last fall, but the system's still not perfect. Some people still experience delays and technical glitches, as it did on Monday. Independent testing by Compuware has

found that HealthCare.gov runs slowly when compared to other health insurance industry websites.

Q: What ever happened to all those people who got insurance cancellation notices last fall?

A: Many have gotten a reprieve. Others found new coverage. More than 4.7 million people got cancellation notices because their policies weren't good enough to meet the higher standards set in the health care law. After a public uproar, the government agreed to let states give those affected two years to switch to better coverage. That extension is good for policies issued up to Oct. 1, 2016.

Q: What's next for the Affordable Care Act?

A: There's lots more to come. And there are probably more surprises in

store, too.

Here are some dates to watch:

- Nov. 15: Open enrollment begins for 2015. Americans can sign up for coverage or switch to a new plan. And they'll see what rate increases are in store for the coming year.

- Jan. 1, 2015: Deadline for large employers — those with 100 or more employees — to offer coverage or face tax penalties.

- Jan. 15, 2015: Open enrollment for 2015 ends.


- April 15, 2015: Tax day. Fines are due for people who weren't insured in 2014.

- 2018: So-called "Cadillac" health plans offered by some employers come under a new tax. Some companies will pass the tax on to workers and others may trim employee benefits to avoid it.

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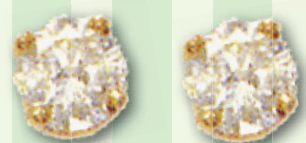
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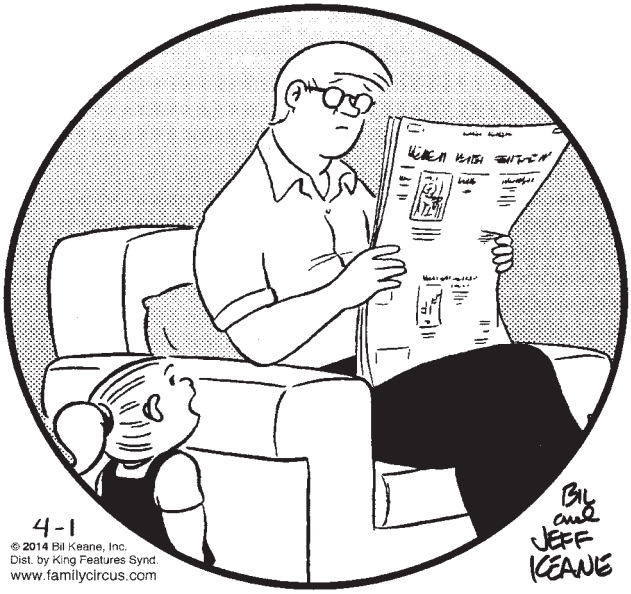
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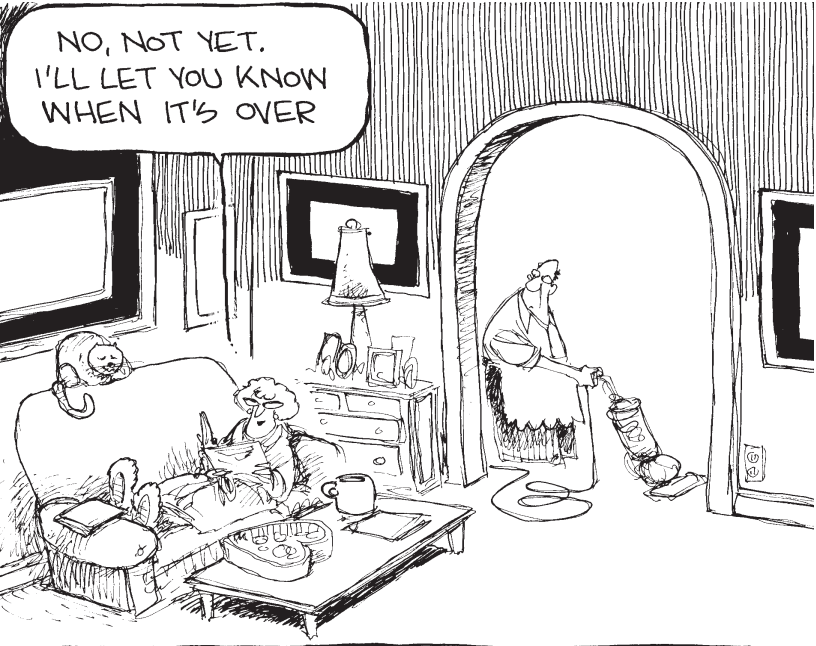
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-1
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“Why do you keep shakin’ your head when you’re reading the paper?”

Non Sequitur

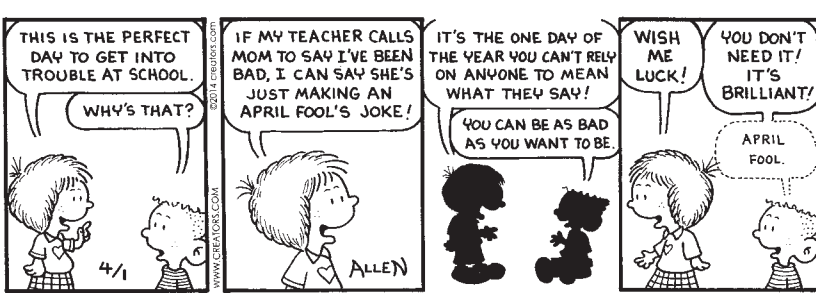


NO, NOT YET. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S OVER

BURT BEGINS TO SUSPECT THAT NATIONAL WORSHIP WOMEN MONTH WASN'T A REAL THING

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Nest Heads

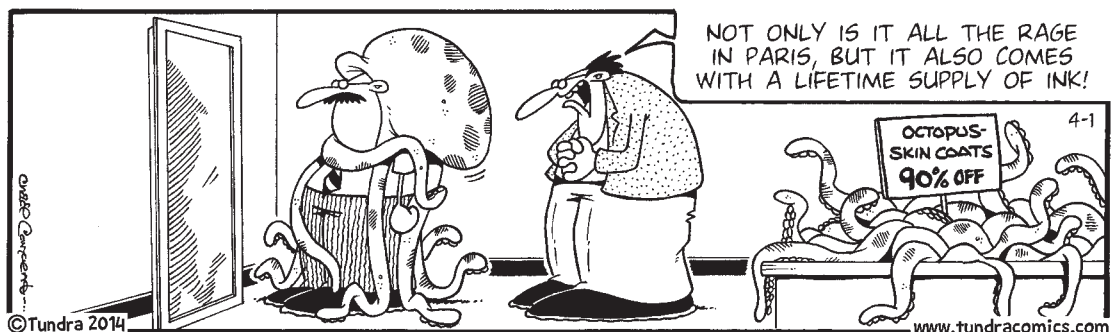


daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 2, 2014:
This year you have a lot going for you. Others easily succumb to your charm. Never underestimate your potential, as you will be in a period where you could make a dream a reality. Friends inspire you and support you with some very wild ideas. If you are single, your Romeo or Juliet could appear at the most unexpected moment. The relationship will flourish naturally. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy living together even more than you have in the past. You even might decide to meet one of your mutually desired goals this year. TAURUS knows you much better than you think.
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 have reason to want to change directions, and you will act in, what others will believe to be, an unanticipated way. Little do they know how well thought out many of your ideas are. A partner could toss more seriousness into a situation. Tonight: Buy a new item on the way home.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You'll feel as if you are empowered and can turn a situation around. The problem is that one person, who has been more difficult for a while, could try to stand in your way. Open up to some more innovative ideas, and you might find a solution. Tonight: All smiles.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Pull back a little, and try not to initiate any new projects or ideas right now. If you make the first move, the results are likely to be irritating at best. You might decide to toy with a situation from which you have nothing to lose. Tonight: Say “yes” to a good night’s sleep.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Push comes to shove very easily. Even if you have second thoughts about a loved one, it might not be the right time to have a discussion. You still will want to be present, but just observe rather than act. Tonight: Time to let off some steam.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Consider reaching out to someone at a distance, as you might not trust what you are hearing. Get as many perspectives as possible, and then imagine the situation from others’ standpoint. As a result, you will get a better sense of

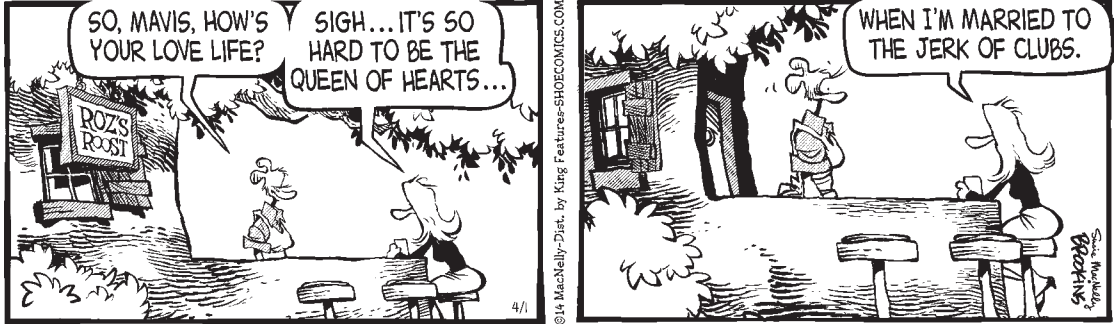
direction. Tonight: Where there is music.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Deal with one person at a time. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening, but try to stay organized and take notes. In the long run, this meticulous attitude will pay off. A partner seems to be everywhere but present. Tonight: Say “yes” to an offer.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to understand what is going with a partner or close loved one. You seem to lose your temper easily with this person. Detach, and you might discover what the best course of action will be. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Reach out to a close friend.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Pace yourself, and understand what is happening. If you follow your sixth sense, you will be successful. Your creativity also is likely to flourish. Good news could come from a distance. Realize what you are asking for from an associate. Tonight: Use your imagination.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You will be more tuned in to the moment than you originally might have thought possible. Allow your ingenuity to guide you. You like to be logical, so you could feel insecure working on only an emotional level. Tonight: Have a good time wherever you are.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Listen to news and decide what you plan to do with it. You can point your energy and interest in nearly any direction. Use your intuition to guide conversations. You initially might be uncomfortable starting a conversation. Tonight: Only what you enjoy.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might be firmly set on responding in a certain way to a specific situation. You could be more protective than you realize about a domestic matter or a family member. Ask yourself whether it would hurt to hear a different perspective. Tonight: Order in from a favorite spot.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could have mixed feelings about a child or loved one, or perhaps just about what you want from life in general. You might be overwhelmed by what you need to do. An unexpected cost could concern you. Trust in your abilities to handle this issue. Tonight: All fun and games.

Tundra



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Shoe



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Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



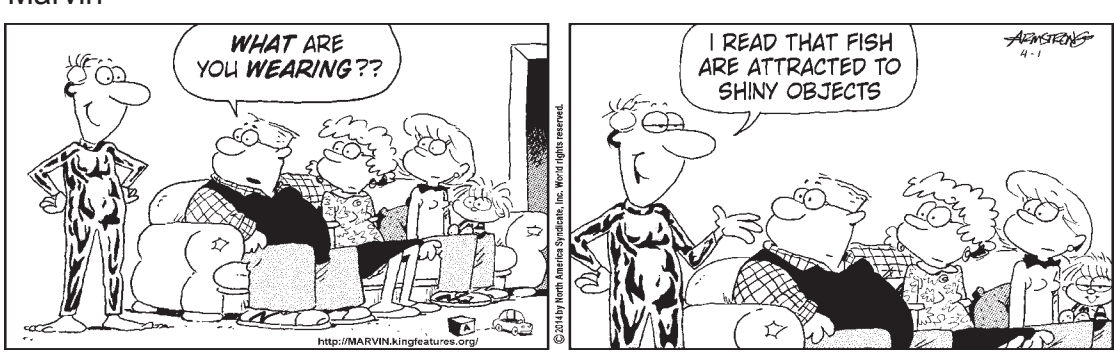
Garfield



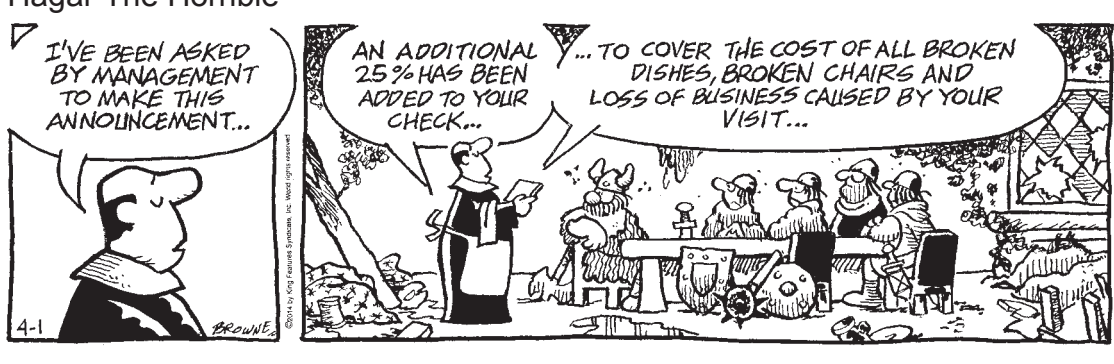
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



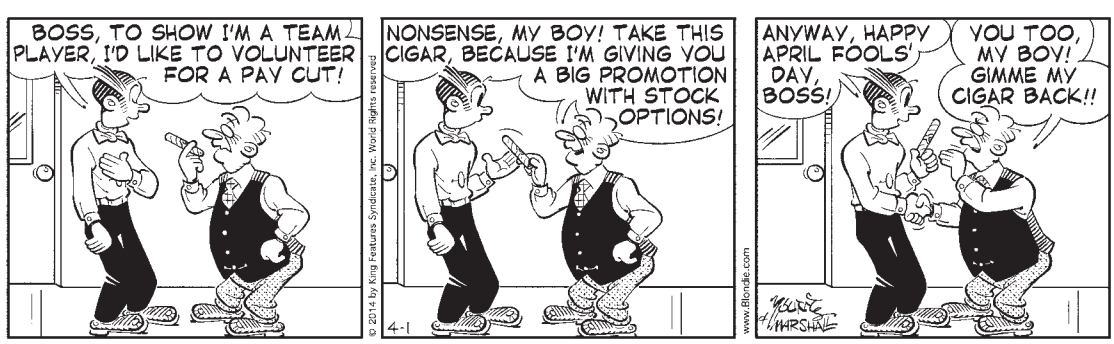
Hagar The Horrible

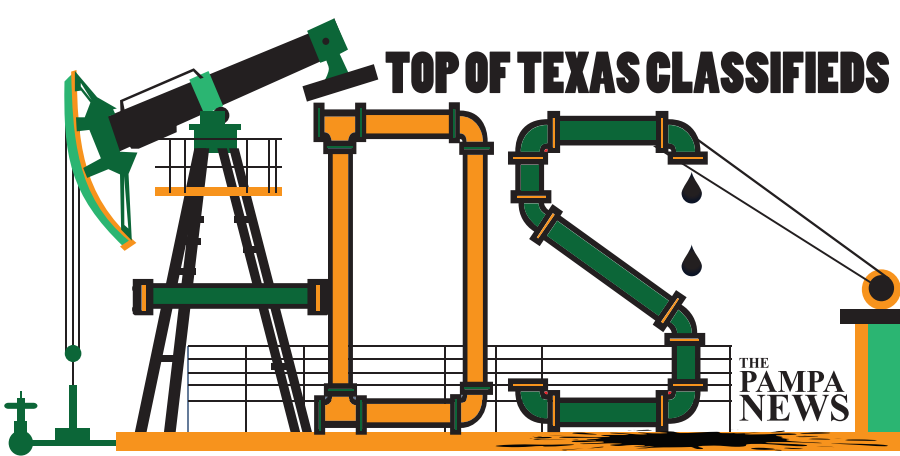


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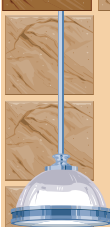
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9	7	5	1	8	3	6	2	4
3	8	4	2	6	9	5	7	1
7	3	9	4	1	8	2	6	5
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4	5	2	7	9	6	1	3	8
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SUDOKU

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6								5

Level: Beginner



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR READERS: It's April Fools' Day, the one day I can share some of the more unique letters that come my way — clearly, more than a few of which were written in an attempt to have some fun with me. Enjoy!

DEAR ABBY: Many times when I would wake up in the morning, I'd find toothpaste already on my toothbrush, courtesy of my foreign-born girlfriend, "Inger." Because I am chivalrous, I figured I would return the favor. So at night before going to bed or in the morning, I'd tiptoe to the bathroom and put toothpaste on her toothbrush.

Well, the other day Inger told me, "DON'T put toothpaste on my toothbrush!" I was flabbergasted. And if that's not enough, she no longer preps my toothbrush, either.

I know, I know — I should have asked a simple "Why?" but I wasn't in the mood for drama. Now it's eating at me and I just don't get it. — **CONFUSED IN CONNECTICUT**

DEAR CONFUSED: I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but here it is: Inger appears to be giving you the brush-off.

DEAR ABBY: I have this really hot, sexy latex dress in lilac. I can't decide which color 6-inch stilettos to wear with it, black or white. I don't want to look trashy. — **FASHIONISTA IN THE EAST**

DEAR FASHIONISTA: With latex in April, wear flats and a LONG overcoat.

DEAR ABBY: I married a wonderful man last week. It was the wedding of my dreams except for one thing: My husband's sister brought six birds with her and insisted it was perfectly acceptable

to keep them in the reception area. My new in-laws all said I was "unreasonable" for not allowing the caged birds in the reception area.

I was strong and stood my ground. After a year of preparation, I didn't want our nuptials spoiled by uninvited birds. Has anyone ever written to you about uninvited birds being brought to a wedding? — **RUFFLED FEATHERS IN RENO**

DEAR RUFFLED: The only ones I can recall were a few cuckoos, but I'm not sure they were of the avian variety.

DEAR ABBY: I have a dear old friend I talk with on the phone several times a day. She is the talkative type and sometimes keeps me on the phone for half an hour at a time. The problem is I have an overactive bladder and sometimes must rush to the bathroom. It's very embarrassing. Is there a nice way to tell her I need to get off the phone for a few minutes without being rude or too specific? — **LEAKING IN LAS**

VEGAS DEAR LEAKING: Yes. Tell her to hang on, you'll be back in a flush.

DEAR ABBY: All the letters you have printed about pennies brought back the memories of what happened in our family when I was very small. My mother won a \$10 gold piece for her sponge cake, but our family dog swallowed the coin.

You are probably wondering if we got the coin back. No, we didn't. Turned out the coin was counterfeit, and the dog couldn't "pass it." — **GOTCHA! IN AMHERST, OHIO**

DEAR GOTCHA!: Now that's a shaggy dog story if I ever heard one. (And for a moment, I swallowed it.)

 Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

BANANAGRAMS!

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

LEVEL

COMMON LETTER

PEACE

DREAD

TAKEN

RAVED

Yesterday's Answer: 1-5; 2-4; 3-6; 7-8

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Niagara sight
 - 6 Flower part
 - 11 Visitor from afar
 - 12 Like a gymnast
 - 13 Dwight Yoakam song
 - 15 — out a living
 - 16 Fish eggs
 - 17 Simple denials
 - 18 Lease signers
 - 20 Holiday lead-in
 - 21 Tick off
 - 22 Hammer part
 - 23 Chops finely
 - 26 Sounds contented
 - 27 At any time
 - 28 Golfer's goal
 - 29 Skillet
 - 30 Checks the fit of
 - 34 Colony member
 - 35 Friend of Harry and Hermione
 - 36 Father's Day gift
 - 37 Vivien Leigh movie

B	R	A	V	O		S	T	A	B	
R	A	D	A	R		M	E	S	A	S
E	V	I	T	A		A	N	T	I	C
W	E	E		N	F	L		A	L	E
S	L	U	M	G	U	L	L	I	O	N
			Y	E	N		A	R	U	T
S	C	A	T	S		A	B	E	T	S
P	O	S	H		O	L	E			
R	A	P	S	C	A	L	L	I	O	N
I	L	E		O	F	T		O	V	O
N	O	R	M	A		H	A	T	E	S
G	I	S	T	S		A	W	A	R	E
	L	E	N	T		T	E	S	T	S

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Pretender
 - 2 Similar
 - 3 Sheet material
 - 4 Table part
 - 5 Loud sleepers
 - 6 Bank fixtures
 - 7 Swelled head
 - 8 Trailblazer
 - 9 Wide-spread
 - 10 De-creases
 - 14 Setting item
 - 19 Stadium section
 - 22 Undiluted
 - 23 Meals
 - 24 Sir Walter Scott work
 - 25 Franc division
 - 26 Hard to bear
 - 28 Teacher to sophs
 - 30 Deux follower
 - 31 Fancy wrap
 - 32 Crude tanker
 - 33 High homes
 - 38 For every
 - 39 Count start

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13					14					
15				16				17		
18			19					20		
			21				22			
23	24	25				26				
27						28				
29				30				31	32	33
34				35				36		
37			38					39		
40								41		
42								43		

4-1

LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME



Terrier Mix Male (#12469), with a sturdy build, seeks companion for romps in the grass, tug of war, romantic naps next to the air conditioner, snuggling, constant snacking, and early morning singing. Other pets a BONUS. I love a big family.

READY FOR ADVENTURE



I'm a wild girl - **Tabby Female (#12460)** with a taste for adventure. If you think you can keep up with my party lifestyle, bring it! I enjoy midnight counter-cruising, theme parties, and making fun of dogs. I am seeking my one-and-only bestest friend for life.. Must be catnip-friendly. Feather toys on a stick, or tinkle ball toys skills a plus.

If interested please call me at the number below.

PUP LOOKING TO LEARN NEW TRICKS



Me: Husky Lab Male Puppy (#12476) - Loves: long walks, tug of war, snuggling, ear scratches, running, playing fetch, long talks, belly rubs, treats, and eating. You: Human - Loves - All of the above and more.

If interested, look me up. I am waiting for my someone special. xoxoxo

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Jury selection begins in Apple-Samsung case

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Jury selection began Monday in the latest legal battle between the fiercest rivals in the world of smartphones, with Apple and Samsung accusing each other, once again, of ripping off designs and features.

The trial in Silicon Valley marks the latest round in a long-running series of lawsuits between the two tech giants that underscore a much larger concern about what is allowed to be patented.

"There's a widespread suspicion that lots of the kinds of software patents at issue are written in ways that cover more ground than what Apple or any other tech firm actually invented," Notre Dame law professor Mark McKenna said. "Overly broad patents allow companies to block compe-

tition." The latest Apple-Samsung case will be tried less than two years after a federal jury found Samsung was infringing on Apple patents. Samsung was ordered to pay about \$900 million but is appealing and has been allowed to continue selling products using the technology.

Dozens of attorneys gathered in U.S. District Court for the latest legal skirmish in which Apple Inc. accuses Samsung of infringing on five patents on newer devices, including Galaxy smartphones and tablets. In a counterclaim, Samsung says Apple stole two of its ideas to use on iPhones and iPads.

"Apple revolutionized the market in personal computing devices," Apple attorneys wrote in court filings.

"Samsung, in contrast, has systematically copied Apple's innovative technology and products, features and designs, and has deluged markets with infringing devices."

Samsung countered that it has broken technological barriers with its own ultrathin, lightweight phones.

"Samsung has been a pioneer in the mobile device business sector since the inception of the mobile device industry," Samsung attorneys wrote. "Apple has copied many of Samsung's innovations in its Apple iPhone, iPod, and iPad products."

In the current case, Apple claims Samsung stole a tap-from-search technology that allows someone searching for a telephone number or address on the Web to tap on the results to call the num-

ber or put the address into a map. In addition, Apple says Samsung copied "Slide to Unlock," which allows users to swipe the face of their smartphone to use it.

Samsung countered that Apple is stealing a wireless technology system that speeds up sending and receiving data.

The most attention-grabbing claim in the case is Apple's demand that Samsung pay a \$40 royalty for each Samsung device running software allegedly conceived by Apple. The figure is more than five times more than the amount sought in the previous trial and well above other precedents between smartphone companies.

If Apple prevails in the case, the cost to Samsung could reach \$2 billion. Apple's costs, if it loses the

litigation, are expected to be about \$6 million. The costs could be passed on to consumers, experts said.

"You rarely get from the jury what you ask for, so companies aim high," said German patent analyst Florian Mueller.

"But in my opinion this is so far above a reasonable level the judge should not have allowed it."

The problem, he said, is that each smartphone has thousands of patented ideas in it; Apple is challenging just five.

Throughout the three years of litigation, Samsung's market share has grown. One of every three smartphones sold last year was a Samsung, now the market leader. Apple, with a typically higher price, was second, with about 15 percent of the global market.

Apple claims the following Samsung products now infringe on Apple patents: Admire, Galaxy Nexus, Galaxy Note, Galaxy Note II, Galaxy SII, Galaxy SIII, Epic 4G Touch, Galaxy SIII Skyrocket, Galaxy SIII, Galaxy Tab II 10.1 and Stratosphere.

Samsung claims the following Apple products infringe on Samsung patents: iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPhone 5, iPad 2, iPad 3, iPad 4, iPad mini, iPod touch (fifth generation), iPod touch (fourth generation) and MacBook Pro.

With the San Jose federal courtroom just a 15-minute drive from Apple's Cupertino headquarters, even jury selection can be difficult. In the previous case, several prospective jurors were dismissed because of their ties to the company.

Free tax filing services available to qualified Texans

SUBMITTED BY TWC

AUSTIN — April 15, the deadline for filing 2013 federal income tax returns, is just around the corner. For Texans trying to wade through their federal income tax returns, it can often be a challenge. Fortunately, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) stand ready to assist taxpayers with information on preparation services.

With Free File, everyone can file Form 1040 series

tax returns at no cost. Free File is a complimentary, federal income tax preparation and electronic filing program for eligible taxpayers. Those with a 2013 Adjusted Gross Income of \$58,000 or less who meet additional requirements can qualify for Free File. For more information on the program, visit www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File:-Do-Your-Federal-Taxes-for-Free.

TWC also encourages qualifying taxpayers to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC),

which allows lower-income individuals and families to pay less or no federal income tax, or receive cash payments. Local Workforce Solutions offices offer tax preparation help, including how to file for EITC. Individuals can find more information on specific services provided by local Workforce Solutions offices at www.texasworkforce.org/dirs/wdas/directory-offices-services.html.

For Tax Year 2012, the IRS reported approximately 2.6 million Texans claimed more than 6.6 billion in

EITC credits. This number reflects 36.8 percent of tax returns filed in Texas with EITC. In past years, Texas has ranked first in the nation in the number of EITC dollars claimed by taxpayers.

Under certain limitations for 2013, individuals may qualify if their adjusted gross income is less than:

- \$46,227 (\$51,567 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children
- \$43,038 (\$48,378 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
- \$37,870 (\$43,210 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
- \$14,340 (\$19,680 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

The maximum credit for 2013 is as follows:

- \$6,044 with three or more qualifying children
- \$5,372 with two qualifying children
- \$3,250 with one qualifying child
- \$487 with no qualifying children

Investment income must be \$3,300 or less for the year to qualify for EITC.

The Earned Income Tax Credit has no negative effect on an individual's eligibility to receive certain public assistance benefits. In most cases, the credit payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), low-income housing or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.

More information on EITC can be found at www.eitc.irs.gov.

Ocean garbage frustrates search for Flight 370

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Sometimes the object spotted in the water is a snarled fishing line. Or a buoy. Or something that might once have been the lid to an ice box. Not once — not yet at least — has it been a clue.

Anticipation has repeatedly turned into frustration in the search for signs of Flight 370 as objects spotted from planes in a new search area west of Australia have turned out to be garbage. Not only is the trash a time-wasting distraction for air and sea crews searching for debris from the Malaysia Airlines flight that vanished March 8, it also points to wider problems in the world's oceans.

"The ocean is like a plastic soup, bulked up with the croutons of these larger items," said Los Angeles captain Charles Moore, an environmental advocate credited with bringing attention to an ocean gyre between Hawaii and California known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which by some accounts is about the size of Texas.

The world's oceans have four more of these flotsam-collecting vortexes, Moore said, and the searchers, in an area about 1,850 kilometers (1,150 miles) west of Perth, have stumbled onto the eastern edge of a gyre in the Indian Ocean.

"It's like a toilet bowl that swirls but doesn't flush," said Moore.

The garbage patches are nothing like a typical city dump. In fact, most of the trash can't even be seen: It's composed of tiny bits of plastic bobbing just below the surface.

The larger items in these gyres also tend to be plastic and are often fishing-related, Moore said. Though, he added, he has come across light bulbs, a toilet seat, and, bobbing off the California coast, a refrigerator, complete with defrosted orange juice.

Seattle oceanographer

Curtis Ebbesmeyer has been studying the phenomena of ocean debris for years. He said there are smaller collections of garbage that collect within the gyres.

"If you go into a house you'll find dust bunnies," he said. "The ocean has a mass of dust bunnies, each moving about 10 miles a day."

Ebbesmeyer said he's fascinated by what happens to the trash that spews from the hundreds of shipping containers lost overboard from cargo ships each year. He said there's one that keeps belching out Lego pieces onto the beaches of Cornwall, England. Another spilled 2,000 computer monitors. Another released thousands of pairs of Nike sneakers.

Sometimes, he said, the containers themselves can become hazards as they float around for months, buoyed by plastic objects inside or the air trapped behind watertight doors.

Trash also gets into the ocean after being washed down rivers or swept up in tsunamis, Ebbesmeyer said.

Scientists are particularly worried about small and seemingly ubiquitous pieces of plastic that can be from shopping bags, plastic water bottles, or other household items. Waves break the items up into smaller pieces.

Denise Hardesty, a research scientist for Australian science agency CSIRO, said the studies she's been involved with conservatively estimate there are between 5,000 and 7,000 small pieces of plastic per square kilometer in the waters around Australia.

She said two-thirds of the seabirds she's performed necropsies upon have ingested at least some plastic and one particular bird had swallowed 175 pieces. Another bird, she said, had swallowed an entire glow stick longer than a finger.

Such sticks are used by fishermen to attract fish underwater.

"It takes 400 or 500 years for lots of types of plastics to completely break down," Hardesty said. "It just goes into smaller and smaller bits. You even find plastics in plankton — that's how small it gets."

Hardesty said while she finds plenty of plastic in the ocean, she doesn't typically spot many larger objects. She said she does find trash like cans, bottles and candy wrappers floating near urban centers, but most of it tends to get washed ashore.

American sailor James Burwick said he's twice crossed the Indian Ocean from Africa to Australia. He said the sea was too wild to see much trash but he did feel bumps against the bottom of his boat, and an old fishing net once got caught around his vessel.

Wing Cmdr. Andy Scott, of New Zealand's defense force, said the crew in a P-3 Orion scouring the ocean for Flight 370 on Saturday spotted about 70 objects over four hours.

Three were deemed worthy of further investigation, he said, but none turned out to be from the missing plane. One was probably a fishing line, he said, another was the suspected ice box lid, and a third was some unidentified brown and orange material.

"From my experience, it can be quite a roller coaster," he said. "You sight these search objects, and think you've made a breakthrough, and then you have to get back to your routine."

Scott said that over time, small pieces of debris can raft and tangle together in the ocean to make something larger. Such rafts will eventually attract sea life, he said, which can stir up the water and make it appear to be more important than it is.

"A lot of the stuff we are seeing," he said, "is basically rubbish."

Pushing payday loan protections

By JOHN MICHAELSON
Texas News Service

AUSTIN — As the tax deadline approaches, those who have to pay in but don't have the money may think a payday loan is a good option, but for many it can lead to a deep cycle of debt. According to the payday industry, it fills a need for those who have cash emergencies, but Dallas City Council member Jerry Allen said with exorbitant interest rates and fees, such loans become predatory and the lenders prey on the most vulnerable.

"These are folks who have jobs. They're hard working, but unfortunately it's very difficult for them to get out of the cycle of debt, paying a tremendous amount of fees on top of fees on top of fees."

Allen led the charge for

payday lending reform in Dallas with passage of an ordinance in 2011. As of today, 16 cities have adopted the regulations, providing the protections to around 7 million people. The list of cities includes Austin, El Paso, San Antonio and Houston, where Steve Wells is pastor at South Main Baptist Church.

"These are not fine, upstanding business people who are providing a needed service in our community," Wells said. "These are predators actively seeking to deceive people and leave them worse than they found them. So why a faith community response? Because it's clear to me that, one, the scripture says you shouldn't charge usury to poor people. And two, that kind of victimizing of people is very far from what God wants in

the world."

Wells added that while payday loans mainly prey on poor people, senior adults are also targeted, and that's done in two ways.

"One is the same sort of deceptive appeals that they make to people who are desperate because of their financial straits. The other is to get them to cosign loans for their grandchildren. So not only are they trying to take the nothing that poor people have, they're trying to take the nest egg from our senior adults," Wells said.

Wells, Allen and consumer groups such as AARP Texas are all pushing for statewide regulations on payday lending, with legislation to be introduced in the 2015 session.

The payday ordinance passed in Houston is online at www.houstontx.gov.

Texas police turn to social media to warn drivers

KELLER (AP) — Police in North Texas say the term "speed trap" is becoming a misnomer as they're turning to social media to notify motorists where officers are watching for speeders.

Police in Keller, north of Fort Worth, tell the Fort Worth Star-Telegram they started using Twitter and

other social sites earlier this month to post the locations of officers with radar guns. They say the intention is to get motorists to slow down.

Two weeks after starting the routine, Keller police added 1,113 followers on Twitter and 2,187 friends on Facebook.

Dallas police began the practice shortly after Keller.

Meanwhile, two other North Texas departments, Arlington and Fort Worth, don't post daily accountings of speed patrols, but do use social media to inform the public of crime alerts and other matters.

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APRIL FOOL'S DAY ADVICE

- Check the inside of your shoes & socks before putting them on.
- Do not open a "present" in close range of the face.
- Check shampoo & conditioner products before use. (Green hair is unattractive.)
- When rolling out of bed in the morning, check the floor beside your bed before putting your feet on it.
- If you are offered ANY delicious pastries or treats, ask the person who offers it to you to take the first bite.
- Never open a door without looking up.
- Check the exhaust pipe on your car for spuds BEFORE starting it and driving away.

HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY!

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