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White Deer voters to decide on alcohol sales



■ City election is May 10.

BY TIMOTHY P. HOSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Driving through White Deer to or from Amarillo, the only reason to stop would be to buy gas or a soft drink at the Allsup's convenience store. Though the city did have a couple restaurants in the past, they have all closed. Only a handful of the businesses that once thrived on Main Street remain open. That could all change on May 10,

when voters in White Deer will decide whether to allow the sale of alcohol within city limits.

Similar to a petition drive last year in Pampa that placed a proposition on Pampa's election ballot to allow mixed drink sales, there were enough registered voters in White Deer who signed a petition to place a proposition on the ballot there to permit the sale of all alcoholic beverages — beer, wine and hard liquor.

Jayson Smith, mayor of White Deer, said he supports the proposition "150 percent."

Then he quipped, "I'd support it 200 percent but I don't drink."

Smith said the proposition isn't about whether he drinks or not, but about growth in White Deer, which has a population of only 1,000.

"It will help to generate more money to keep from raising our residential taxes," he said.

Smith was elected in 2012, and there are two city council seats up for vote in the upcoming city election, he said.

Smith said he believes the vote on **VOTERS** cont. on page 2

DPS reminds drivers of online license renewal



SUBMITTED

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is encouraging residents to beat the summer rush at driver license offices across the state by renewing their license or identification card early or online. The summer months are typically one of the busiest times of year at driver license offices, and many eligible Texans can skip the trip to the office completely via online renewal of their license, identification card or change of address at Texas.gov.

"With students and families out of school or off work, Texas driver license offices tend to be especially busy during the summer months," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Many Texans are eligible to take

DPS cont. on page 2

Brazos watermaster hotly contested

BY NEENA SATIJA
 The Texas Tribune

For decades, water wars have been rare in East Texas, where annual rainfall can be twice that of West Texas. But as drought keeps its grip on the entire state, the Brazos River is bucking that trend, forcing regulators to scrutinize its users in ways that could have implications for many in-demand Texas waterways.

The Brazos' lower basin, which flows from west of Fort Worth through Waco and down to the Gulf Coast, has been the subject of some of the most contentious water fights of the last few years. In response, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality decided last week to appoint a watermaster to the lower Brazos basin — an overseer who will interact daily with river users like farmers and manufacturers and require them to report their water use in real time.

While watermasters are meant to help prevent usage disputes, the debate over this regulatory scheme has also deepened divisions on the Brazos. Dow Chemical,

BRAZOS cont. on page 2

TASTE OF PAMPA



Photos by Timothy P. Howsare

The Pampa Altrusa Club held its annual Taste of Pampa fundraiser Monday at the M.K. Brown Heritage Room. Musical groups from the high school and junior high performed while those attending enjoyed food from local restaurants and food vendors, including United Supermarkets and Pampa Regional Medical Center. For more pictures from the event, turn to page 10.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries	3	Comics	7
Local Record	3	Classifieds	8-10
Weather	3	Puzzles/Dear Abby ..	10
Viewpoints	4	Sports	11,12
Church	6		



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Voters

Continued From Page 1

alcohol sales will be close, but has a feeling it will pass.

He said a couple of the buildings on Main Street have been purchased by individuals who plan to open restaurants, or what he calls "food vending" businesses.

There was excitement in Smith's voice when he started talking about some of the growth that is now happening in the tiny burg.

He said that Allsup's has purchased additional property adjacent to its store with plans to build a diesel truck stop, and then tear down the old convenience store and replace it with a new one.

At the far south end of Main Street, a 47-home subdivision is now under construction.

The houses are large and the subdivision looks like something one would see in a bigger city like

Amarillo or Dallas.

Asked if White Deer could possibly become a bedroom community for professionals who work in Amarillo but don't like living in a crowded city, Smith replied, "We wish they would come here. They could enjoy a little hometown atmosphere with lower tax rates. The population is 1,000 and we'd like to make that 2,000."

Carolyn Rapstine, a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in White Deer, lives five miles outside city limits and can't vote in the election.

However, if she did live within the city, Rapstine said she would probably vote for the proposition.

Rapstine said she and her husband both miss the days when there were one or two restaurants they could go to in White Deer instead of making the much longer trek to Amarillo.

"There's no places to eat in White Deer," she said. "We had a couple of places, including a Mexican restaurant, but they all

closed. There's no place to go except Allsup's."

She said that although White Deer is currently a dry town, many years ago alcohol was sold in the city.

But not everyone in White Deer agrees that bringing back alcohol will be a good thing for the city.

Alan Wilson, who has served as pastor of First Baptist Church in White Deer for the past 10 years, said he is against it.

"It's just because of the way alcohol has affected the family system as well as the community," he said.

Wilson said he has not addressed the issue from the pulpit because he believes it's a decision voters have to make on their own.

Early voting starts in White Deer on April 28 and ends May 6.

On May 10, polls open at the community center at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

For more information, call White Deer City Hall at 806-883-4191.

DPS

Continued From Page 1

advantage of our customer-convenient options for online and phone renewal of licenses and identification cards, and are encouraged to visit high-capacity driver license mega centers in metropolitan areas if needed."

If a trip to a driver license office is necessary, customers in the major metro areas should visit mega centers in their area. Located in the Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio metropolitan areas, driver license mega centers offer high-capacity facilities and technology designed to improve efficiency and customer service. Mega centers feature an innovative queuing system that offers customers the convenient option to reserve a spot in line before going to the office. Customers can virtually enter the line via cell phone, online or using a land line.

To be eligible to renew

online, the card holder must be a U.S. citizen and the expiration date on the card must be within one year. When the card is renewed, the expiration date on the new card will be six years after the current card's expiration date, whether customers renew early or not.

Additionally, in order to renew online, the card cannot have been expired for more than two years. Requirements for renewing online are available at Texas.gov, the official website of the State of Texas. Customers can also renew by phone at 1-866-357-3639. The eligibility requirements for phone renewal are the same as for online renewal. The fee is the same for online, in-person and telephone renewals.

Licenses must be renewed in person every 12 years, so an updated photo can be taken and eyesight can be tested. If residents need to come into the office to renew, they can do so within one year prior to the expiration date, which means they can pick a time that is convenient for their schedule.

Customers may obtain a replacement driver license or identification card online if they are able to provide the 20 character code on the front of their current license or card.

Visit the DPS website to make sure you have the proper paperwork (including documents needed for residency requirements) before making the trip to the office: www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/Apply-forLicense.htm.

Many offices require online scheduling in order to obtain an appointment for a driving test. To see if an office near you offers online scheduling, visit www.dps.texas.gov/administration/driver_licensing_control/rolodex/search.asp.

To find out more about online renewal services, visit: www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/OnlineServices.htm.

To find out additional information about the mega centers and the technology that allows you to get in line before coming into the office, visit: www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/getinlinebeforeyougo.htm.

Brazos

Continued From Page 1

the river's largest user, was the driving force behind creating the new position. Upstream cities and agricultural users strongly oppose it, fearing it will put too much power in the hands of a few, drive up costs and cater to powerful industries. Texas has just three watermaster programs today, all in South and West Texas — areas far drier than those where the Brazos flows.

"I personally was opposed to this watermaster and generally am opposed to most watermasters," said state Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, who is chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and worked to block efforts in the 2013 legislative session to create a watermaster for the Brazos. "I'm con-

cerned that we're giving too much power to one person."

Like most other rivers, the Brazos has for decades been managed largely through an honor system and educated guesswork. There was little need to enforce the river's appropriation system, in which some users — mostly notably Dow — have more senior water rights and get first dibs if water is limited.

Things changed in 2009. As a result of the sustained drought, the Brazos' flows were so low by the time the river reached Dow's sprawling industrial complex in Freeport that the company's pumps could not operate. For the first time in the river's history, Dow issued a priority call, asserting its senior water right and requiring users upstream to cut back.

Tension mounted between Dow and upstream farmers, who had to stop irrigating their crops. Though

upstream cities originally faced the same water cuts as farmers, state officials tried to exempt them, prompting farmers to sue the state in a lawsuit that is ongoing.

In theory, a watermaster will help avoid such fights by collecting daily data on how much water Brazos River users are pumping. Supporters say the program will also hold junior water rights holders accountable if they take more than their share of water before it flows downstream to Dow. They argue a watermaster will protect all users on the basin, not just industries.

"A watermaster will be able to proactively manage the water resources and water rights on the Brazos River and be able to take action to address a shortage before a crisis occurs," Trish Thompson, a Dow spokeswoman, said in a statement.

But opponents say most of the lower basin's roughly 1,000 water rights holders are against the idea. And

because the program, which will cost more than half a million dollars annually, will be financed by water users by way of staggered annual fees, those upstream say they are being forced to pay for a program they do not support.

"It's an overreach of the government," said Jerry Atkinson, general manager of the Bell County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, which delivers water from the Brazos to more than 300,000 municipal customers in the fast-growing area. "Where is the justice? Where is majority rules?"

Atkinson said the Bell County water district could be forced to pay up to \$20,000 a year for the watermaster.

Farmers' fees are likely to be lower, but they will also have to install meters at the point where they divert water from the Brazos and report readings to the watermaster daily.

Sidney Kacir, who grows pecans and small grains in Bell County, said he would have to pay more than \$1,000 to install the meter. Yet he has hardly been able to irrigate at all in the last few years because of Dow's priority calls, he said, and now his water supply has been so unreliable that he cannot get crop insurance for his pecan trees.

"Our water supply as we know it is going to change drastically," he said.

It is hard to forecast the success of the Brazos watermaster by looking to the state's other programs, which were established under varying circumstances.

The Rio Grande watermaster system is highly regarded, but its water rights are unlike those on the Brazos. There, the watermaster always fulfills municipal needs before irrigation needs as a result of more than a dozen years of litigation in the 1950s.

The South Texas watermaster program has also existed for decades, with few major complaints. But the office's decisions are not without controversy, since its goal is primarily to protect holders of senior water rights. Industrial users there have forced junior water rights holders, including cities, to severely cut back their use in recent years.

The Concho River Basin in West Texas got its water-

master in 2005 after years of debate. In that case, farmers petitioned for its creation, claiming that the city of San Angelo was unfairly taking their water despite having a junior right. Today, both sides accuse the watermaster of catering to the other.

"It's a huge deal to put up with," said Brian Treadwell, a real estate broker who grazes cattle and grows hay on two small farms on the South Concho River. "In theory, it's probably a good idea. But there's too much politics."

Though they are controversial, watermasters are likely to proliferate across Texas if the drought continues. The next stop may be the Colorado River, where Austin is battling downstream rice farmers and fishermen for water supplies.

"When you get in a drought, people's suspicion goes up astronomically," said Ron Kaiser, a professor of water policy at Texas A&M University. "Probably within the next 10 years, if we stay under dry conditions, we're going to see watermasters in other rivers."

Disclosure: At the time of publication, Texas A&M University was a corporate sponsor of The Texas Tribune. (You can also review the full list of Tribune donors and sponsors below \$1,000.)

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 81 Low 48	High 75 Low 52	High 88 Low 59

Today: Scattered strong storms with high winds and a high of 81. Chance of rain: 50 percent. Winds south at 26 mph. Sunrise at 7:01 a.m.

Tonight: Isolated thunderstorms with a low of 48. Chance of rain: 30 percent. Winds west-southwest at 23 mph. Sunset at 8:23 p.m.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a high of 75. Winds northwest at 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:00 a.m.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 52. Winds south at 13 mph. Sunset at 8:24 p.m.

Friday: Sunny with a high of 88. Winds southwest at 19 mph. Sunrise at 6:59 a.m.

Friday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 59. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds south-southwest at 12 mph. Sunset at 8:25 p.m.

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NOTICE

Dr. Mayra Freeman-Ladd will be leaving her practice on April 30, 2014.

Patient records will be available at PMG Pediatrics.

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Obituaries

Nancy Ruth Harl Thomas

Nancy Ruth Harl Thomas, 80, died April 15, 2014 in Pampa.

Memorial graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 24, 2014, at Mount Olive Cemetery, north of Fargo, Okla., with Rev. Phillip Davis, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Fort Supply, Okla., officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Nancy Thomas

Mrs. Thomas was born April 3, 1934 in Springfield, Mo. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1972. She married Charley A. Thomas on July 31, 1953 in Fort Supply, Okla. He preceded her in death in 2007.

Nancy was a Methodist. She loved to sew and quilt, and she enjoyed traveling to the mountains with Charley. Nancy was preceded in death by three half-brothers; and a grandson, Jason Vaughn.

Survivors include a son, Charley Frank Thomas and wife Cathy of Pampa; a daughter: Pamela Thomas of Amarillo; a grandson, Justin Thomas and wife Casey of Pampa; four granddaughters, Elizabeth Thomas, Hilary Thomas, Amber Vaughn and Emily Bustos, all of Amarillo, several great-grandchildren; and her brother-in-law, Hal Thomas of Woodward, Okla.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 415 W. 8th Ave., Suite 300, Amarillo, Texas 79101.

The family invites anyone who wishes to sign the guest register book to come by the funeral home at their convenience.

The family wants to offer a special thanks to Interim Hospice and Jordan Douglas for their loving care.

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

Jane "Baby Jane" Kane Dedrick

Jane "Baby Jane" Kane Dedrick, 41, died Saturday, April 19, 2014, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Jane Dedrick

Mrs. Dedrick was born Feb. 21, 1973 in Groom to Ernest and Susan Kane. She attended Pampa schools, graduating from Pampa High School in 1991. She married Steven Dedrick in 1992, and he preceded her in death in 2000. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Jane worked for the Pizza Hut for several years. In her spare time, she liked to play slot machines and spend time with her family. She will be remembered as a loving mother,

grandmother, and friend.

Survivors include her fiancé, Jerry Little, of the home; three daughters, Kayla Dedrick of Elk City, Okla., Amber Dedrick of Pampa, and Kimberley Carter of Holdenville, Okla.; a son, Anthony Dedrick of Pampa; her mother, Susan Kane of Pampa; a sister, Donna Kane of Pampa; five brothers, Jerry Kane and wife Hannah, Charles Kane and wife Kathy, and John Kane, all of Pampa; James Kane and wife Renae of White Deer; and Leonard Kane of Fort Stockton; a sister-in-law, Gina Kane of Pampa; and by five grandchildren. Jane was preceded in death by her father, Ernest Kane, and by a grandson, Ernest Travis, III.

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

For the record

Pampa man arrested for evading arrest

STAFF REPORT

• George Jackson, 44, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Pampa Police Department for evading arrest or detention with a pre-

vious conviction.

• Jake Mulanax, 29, Pampa, was arrested Monday by PPD for assault on a family or house member impeding breathing or circulation.

• Aaron Childress, 30,

Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for insufficient bond — manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance — between four and 200 grams,

three copias pro fine of fenses.

• Casey Lee, 29, Amarillo, 29, Amarillo, was arrested Tuesday by GCSO for theft of services — between \$20 and \$500.

US says average airfares rising slowly; \$381 in 4Q

DALLAS (AP) — The average price of an airline ticket for travel within the U.S. rose by just \$1 last year, although prices are still modestly higher than they were five years ago.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said Tuesday that the average domestic airfare rose to \$381 in the fourth quarter of 2013, a 0.3 percent increase from a year earlier.

The government said that the highest average fares were in Huntsville, Ala., at \$528, and the lowest were \$249 in Long Beach, Calif.

The figures, which are adjusted for inflation, mostly count round-trip fares, but about one-fourth are one-way trips if that's what the passenger bought. Taxes are included, but fees for checking bags, boarding

early or getting an economy-cabin seat with more legroom are not.

"The base fare may not be much higher, but because of the add-ons, it feels worse," said Rick Seaney, CEO of travel site FareCompare.com.

As fees have multiplied, the airlines get a smaller percentage of their revenue from fares — 71.5 percent in 2013, down from 87.6 percent in 1990.

Seaney added that airlines are also pushing up fares for nonstop trips — in some cases charging 30 percent to 50 percent more for the convenience of avoiding connecting flights.

The airlines are able to do all this because they are successfully limiting the supply of seats. After four major mergers since 2008, the four biggest airlines now control more than 80 percent of the U.S. air-travel market.

Most planes are likely to be full this summer during

peak vacation season. That means when flights are canceled because of thunderstorms at big, hub airports in Dallas, Chicago and elsewhere, it could be days before stranded passengers find a seat on another flight.

The airlines have long argued that airfares have risen more slowly than many other things consumers buy, from a gallon of milk to the cost of college tuition.

Airfares are up 10.2 percent from 2009, when the U.S. was digging out from the worst of the Great Recession. But they are down 16.3 percent since 2000 — the peak year for airfares — while overall consumer prices have risen 33.9 percent, the government said.

"It's a great time to fly," said Jean Medina, spokeswoman for Airlines for America, an industry trade group. "Air travel is one of the best consumer bargains in America, given its superior speed and price versus other modes of travel."

It's also a great time for the airlines.

Delta Air Lines Inc., American Airlines Group Inc. and Southwest Airlines Co. are expected to report this week that they earned a combined profit of more than \$700 million in the first three months of 2014. That's usually the slowest time of year for travel, and it was considered remarkable when those airlines earned \$200 million in the first quarter of last year.

Among the big four, only United Airlines parent United Continental Holdings Inc. is expected to report another large loss.

George Hobica, founder of the travel-shopping site airfarewatchdog.com, sees a connection between glowing financial reports and the slower pace of airfare increases.

"The airlines are profitable, and they've reached the limits of what consumers can afford, so they've dialed back on fare increases," he said.

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Viewpoints

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Museum Musings

The story of the Rider family

James C. "Jim" Rider of Parker County and Issadore (I-sa-dore) Frances Crawford of Palo Pinto County



COURTNEY OXLEY

were married in 1888. About the time their son, Larry, was born in 1890, Rider bought a ranch near present day Lefors and stocked it with cattle.

He lived in a dugout until a house, consisting of a central hall with two rooms on each side, could be built. When the house was finally finished in 1893, Rider sent for his wife and son. He met them at Clarendon and they rode in a hack to their new home.

Their nearest neighbors were the Henry Thuts who lived in the only house near the newly built courthouse at Lefors. Postmaster Henry Thut had the Lefors post office, established Oct. 12, 1892, in his home.

When Larry attended the Lefors school, begun in 1896, he rode a little pony across the North Fork of the Red River. He looked forward to the springtime when the rains made the

river rise and he could spend the night with the Thut boys — George, Henry, Jr., and Charles.

Anna Kathleen Rider, born in 1901, was named for Mrs. Henry (Anna) Thut, Sr., who assisted at Kathleen's birth.

In 1903, the Rider family moved to Pampa to live in a new four-room house built by J.L. "Jim" Stroope at 303 East Foster. That year Rider opened a livery stable business between 100 South Gillespie and 101 South Ballard (location of present White House Lumber Company). Sometime later Rider left Pampa and died in 1939 at Big Lake, Texas.

Mrs. Rider kept boarders and taught piano at home and in the school for about 20 years. She took a correspondence course in music and also studied with Mr. Cranker, a piano teacher who rode the train from Canadian to give lessons in Pampa. Mrs. Rider died in 1941 at Lubbock.

Larry Rider and Jeff Lard (brother of Elsie Hall) made a white deer for the town of White Deer. The deer had to be replaced because of vandalism, but the original stand is still located at the intersection of Main and Third

Streets in White Deer. Later Larry, a game warden, and his wife, Grace, lived at Jayton, Texas.

M.K. Brown was very fond of "de-ah little Kathleen." She graduated from Pampa High School in 1921, the year the first volume of The Harvest was published. This statement appears below her senior class picture: "'Least but not last,' and this refers to size only. Kathleen was easily voted the most popular girl in school --- an honor she well deserves."

The stable furnished horse and buggy transportation for visiting lawyers and others who needed to go to Lefors for business in the new Gray County Courthouse.

Kathleen married J.B. Logan and moved to Lubbock. J.B.'s brother, Howard Logan, married Ruby Henry, daughter of W.B. Henry, and they also moved to Lubbock.

Visit the White Deer Land Museum in downtown Pampa. Regular tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday from 1-4 p.m. If you would like to schedule a special or group tour, please contact the museum at 806-669-8041 or email courtney.oxley@graycch.com. Sources: Eloise Lane, White Deer Land Museum Archives.

Time for decent exposure

Of the 432 members today serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, he is 429th in seniority, having won a special election barely five months ago. But by now, Rep. Vance



MARK SHIELDS

McAllister, R-La., is known to tabloid readers everywhere as the "Kissing Congressman," after someone, apparently a staff member, leaked a surveillance video of the married McAllister in his Monroe, La., district office on Dec. 23 amorously kissing a woman congressional employee who is also married.

The Republican governor of Louisiana, Bobby Jindal, who has a reputation for being smart, self-inflicted some serious damage on that reputation by calling for McAllister's resignation from the House because he is "an embarrassment."

You may remember that Louisiana is represented in the Senate by Republican David Vitter who, with his hurting wife next to him, publicly confessed his "very serious sin," telling the world he had asked for "forgiveness from God and my wife," after his phone number turned up several times in the phone records of the Madame running a Washington prostitution ring.

Obviously more "embarrassed" by a 30-second video replay of one illicit kiss than by repeated illegal connections with prostitutes, Jindal has continued to enthusiastically endorse Vitter.

This reminds me of the Senate's four-year refusal to seat Republican Reed Smoot, a Mormon leader, who was elected in 1902. In spite of the fact the Mormon church had renounced all future plural marriages in 1890, Protestant groups were adamantly opposing a Mormon in the Senate, even though Smoot was happily married to just one wife. Smoot was finally accepted after Republican Sen. Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania argued: "I would rather have seated beside me in this chamber a polygamist who doesn't 'poly' than a monogamist who doesn't 'monog.'"

Personal political scandals almost always follow the same script. The penitent wrongdoer is diagnosed with some previously unnoticed medical condition and, almost miraculously, undergoes a profound religious experience. This is one reason why I so personally value the late and irrepressibly colorful and able Texas congressman, Charlie Wilson. When it became public that the Justice Department was investigating the use of drugs on Capitol Hill, Wilson, a Democrat, denied he had ever used cocaine and then added that whatever happened, "I won't blame booze, and I won't suddenly find Jesus."

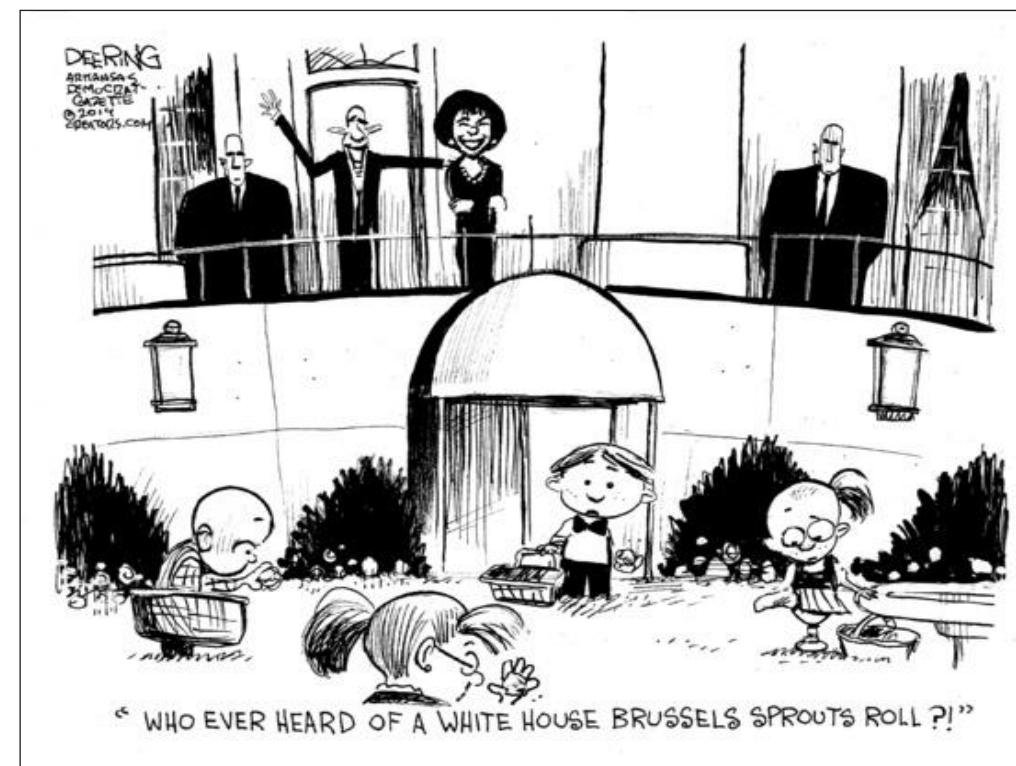
When it comes to public penance for personal wrongdoing, no politician has ever rivaled the genuine character of John Profumo, the British secretary of war who consciously lied to the House of Commons by testifying that there had been no impropriety in his relations with a woman named Christine Keeler.

The problem was not just that the married Profumo had been sleeping for two years with Keeler, but that Keeler, at the height of the Cold War, was simultaneously sleeping with the Soviet naval attache in London. The scandal ended Profumo's then-promising career and helped to bring down Harold Macmillan's Conservative government.

The next 40 years were one long act of personal contrition. The well-born Profumo worked with and for the poor. For four decades at Toynbee Hall, a refuge for the disadvantaged in East London, he was out of public sight.

He washed dishes. He cleaned and scrubbed toilets. He helped feed the hungry. He visited prisoners in jail. He raised money to train youth. He used his remaining connections in Parliament to win greater support for housing and schools. And he never once, in all that time, had a press conference or a "media team" to tell us the good he had done or how much he had changed. That, Dear Readers, is called character.

To find out more about Mark Shields and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.



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Humphrey's love for other animals

Humphrey is probably the friendliest dog on the planet, and he's always curious about other animals,



LINDSEY TOMASCHIK

but more often than not, the feeling isn't mutual. Although he sees everyone as a friend, he doesn't realize that his size is intimidating to smaller dogs and cats, so basically the only animals that like him tend to be much larger than Humphrey.

My parents and siblings all have boxers, and Humphrey gets along with them just fine, but when it comes to chihuahuas and Yorkshire terriers, Humphrey is better off just leaving them alone.

There was one time that

Humphrey was outside and saw a cat. He ran up to the cat out of curiosity, and she was terrified and went straight into defense mode. It's safe to say that Humphrey steers clear of cats for the most part now.

Older dogs are also easily annoyed by Humphrey because he is so full of energy all the time. I expected to have an English bulldog that would just sleep all the time, but that is definitely not Humphrey. Sometimes this worries me because I don't want him to give himself a heart attack, but then again, he is only a pup.

Humphrey's current best friend is a Saint Bernard. They are the same age, give or take a couple weeks, and they usually have about the same amount of energy, which is just what Humphrey needs.

One of the down sides

to Humphrey playing with these larger breeds is that he comes inside covered in drool since he's so much shorter than them, but he doesn't seem to mind as much as I do.

With the weather warming up, I'm hoping that Humphrey may start to calm down some, as I know he is going to have a hard time dealing with the Texas Panhandle heat this summer. Luckily for me, he's a fan of ice cubes and Pedialyte freezer pops, so I will keep them handy since he also likes to be outside a lot.

We recently let Humphrey explore at the lake when he overheated, and I have always heard that bulldogs cannot swim. It's safe to say that Humphrey learned he cannot swim the hard way, but he caught land and was back above water before help got out

to him, and has since been more careful about not going out too far in the water. Other than that, he had a blast playing in the water and tuckered himself out for the rest of the evening, which made things pretty easy on me.

Reporter Lindsey Tomaschik can be reached at lktomaschik@thepampanews.com.



Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik
The fact that he can't swim doesn't stop Humphrey from having fun in the water.

Officer accused of tripping students at game

GEORGETOWN (AP) — A Central Texas police officer has been put on paid leave after video surfaced allegedly showing him tripping and pushing students as they rushed a playing field after a state championship soccer game.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that in a YouTube video, Georgetown Police Department Officer George Bermudez could be seen tripping one student and grabbing another one after the girls soccer team at Vandegrift

High School in the Leander school district beat Wiley East High School and students rushed onto the field to celebrate.

Georgetown police spokesman Roland Waits says Bermudez's actions were not appropriate mea-

sures for crowd control. The incident has been referred to the police department's internal affairs unit.

Pam Waggoner, the president of the Leander school board, says parents who witnessed the incident were upset.

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Year after Texas plant blast, no new safety laws

DALLAS (AP) — It has been a year since a fire caused a huge explosion at a Texas fertilizer plant that killed 15 people, yet companies in the state can still store hazardous chemicals in flammable wooden containers in buildings without sprinklers and volunteer firefighters like those who rushed into that plant still aren't required to train how to fight such fires.

Despite investigations that have yielded new information about safety deficiencies at the plant in West and voluntary safety steps taken by the fertilizer industry, there hasn't been a single state or federal law passed since the explosion requiring change.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board, which is leading one of those investigations, will present its findings and recommendations at a meeting Tuesday in West, a city of 2,800 people about 70 miles south of Dallas.

The federal agency has interviewed West Fertilizer Co. employees and victims of the explosion and conducted studies of how the blast occurred. A fire at the plant led to conditions that caused the detonation of up to 34 tons of ammonium nitrate, a common fertilizer component and industrial explosive.

Daniel Horowitz, the board's managing direc-

tor, told The Associated Press on Monday what some other experts have also said: The plant's storage of ammonium nitrate was potentially dangerous and West's firefighters and residents didn't realize how dangerous a fire there could be.

While key questions remain unanswered, including the exact cause of the fire, "we know more than enough to keep this from happening again," Horowitz said.

He said several developments since the explosion have helped. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued guidelines for the storage of ammonium nitrate and the national industry group for fertilizer producers has created an organization that will offer voluntary inspections of U.S. dealerships.

"What we don't have at this point is any change whatsoever to federal or state mandatory codes," Horowitz said. "Without that, it's still permissible for a company to store ammonium nitrate in wooden bins. It's still permissible for ammonium nitrate to be stored near a school or a hospital."

Texas Fire Marshal Chris Connealy is traveling to small towns with ammonium nitrate storage facilities to discuss its

safe handling and disaster preparation, and his office created a Web page where users can type in their zip codes to see if they live near a storage facility. It doesn't provide the names of facilities and has been little used thus far.

Connealy has said 46 facilities in Texas should be required to install sprinkler systems or retrofit buildings with non-combustible materials. He is working with state lawmakers on a potential bill to be considered by the Legislature when it reconvenes in January.

Texas law still prohibits its small counties from adopting a fire code, and the volunteer firefighters who serve much of rural Texas are not required to obtain training on how to deal with fires like the one at the West Fertilizer Co. plant, though many of them do.

The Chemical Safety Board, which has no regulatory authority, held a separate inquiry from the main investigation led by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Texas State Fire Marshal. That investigation narrowed the possible causes of the plant fire to three things — a golf cart battery, an electrical system or a criminal act — but didn't go further.

Lucey is tops in Iowa's 'Beautiful Bulldog' event

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Lucey is a slobbering 18-month-old pooch whose human family dreams of making her a therapy dog.

Winning a pageant before her second birthday should boost the Iowa bulldog's hopes of joining owner Dr. Tiffany Torstenson in the health care industry.

Lucey beat out 49 drooling competitors Monday to take this year's "Beautiful Bulldog" pageant, a tongue-in-cheek event designed to kick off the weeklong Drake Relays, an internationally renowned track and field meet in Des Moines.

"She's just very calm and she loves people," Torstenson, of Waukee, Iowa, said. "She loves the attention."

Torstenson, a breast surgeon at the Mercy Katzmann Breast Center, she said she often takes Lucey to work. Lucey's



Lucey

demeanor around doctors and patients helped convince her human family that she'd make a perfect therapy dog, and she will soon start training to become one.

Lucey was certainly a hit with the crowd at Drake's Knapp Center, besting a pair of boys named Lord Nelson and Zuul, to capture top honors.

"She's is very docile and she doesn't get really excited," Torstenson said. "Every room we go into, she's in that room. She likes to sleep in the bed, and hog the bed. And she loves cheese."

Monday marked the 35th anniversary of the Beautiful Bulldog event, which was started in 1979 in an effort to find a real dog to represent the school's mascot, the Bulldogs.

The pageant is meant to honor English Bulldogs and all the slovenly traits that have endeared the breed to so many. The event has become so popular in recent years that a lottery was needed to winnow the field from over 100

bulldogs down to 50.

Competitors from as far away as South Dakota and Kansas made the trip to Des Moines to find out which pup would be voted the prettiest.

Costumes and props are strongly encouraged, and a dog named Capone from Center Point, Iowa, got the crowd going by taking part of his turn on the catwalk on a skateboard. The runner-up, Zuul, was named after a character in the iconic '80s film "Ghostbusters," and he and his dad, Dan Phelps of Marengo, Iowa, wore costumes inspired by the movie.

But no one could touch the simple pink tutu and award-winning smile of Lucey, whose reign will last until next year's pageant.

Lucey received a crown, a cape and a cake for winning the event, and she'll be feted at Drake Stadium later this week.

"She's good with kids. She's good with adults. She's just been a great dog," said Lucey's owner, Toby Torstenson.

AT&T joins crowded field with online video plans

NEW YORK (AP) — AT&T and an investment firm run by former News Corp. executive Peter Chernin have formed an online video venture that could rival Netflix and Hulu.

AT&T Inc. and Chernin Group said Tuesday that they have committed more than \$500 million in funding toward the venture. They are not saying how much each company is investing.

The move comes amid rapid growth in online video services. AT&T, a telecoms giant, already offers TV content through its U-Verse service, which competes with more traditional cable TV providers.

With online video, though, it could attract customers

of Netflix, Hulu, YouTube and other services — including people who've stopped paying for traditional broadcast, cable or satellite TV.

The companies said the venture will invest in advertising and subscription-based video-on-demand services, as well as online streaming.

AT&T rival Verizon Communications Inc. is planning similar services. The telecommunications giant bought Intel Media earlier this year. The onetime division of chip maker Intel Corp. had been preparing to launch a service that streams TV channels over the Internet.

Dish Network Corp., meanwhile, struck a deal with Disney last month

that paves the way for the satellite TV service to live-stream Disney-owned channels like ESPN and ABC over the Internet to customers' smartphones, tablets, video game consoles and other devices.

None of companies have announced start dates for the planned online video services.

The Chernin Group, run by former News Corp. Chief Operating Officer Peter Chernin, is contributing its assets to the venture, including its majority stake in Crunchyroll, a subscription-based provider of anime videos.

Shares of Dallas-based AT&T rose 23 cents to \$36.29 in late morning trading.

US looking into Mexican exports, price of sugar

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The U.S. Commerce Department is investigating allegations that Mexico is exporting far more sugar than it has in the past and selling it in the U.S. at below fair market price.

The American Sugar Alliance and other groups asked for the investigation in March, saying imports of sugar subsidized by the Mexican government have cut the price of raw sugar in half since 2011.

Alliance spokesman Phillip Hayes said the price was above 40 cents a pound for the 2011 crop year, but fell to less than 20 cents per pound last year.

The Commerce Department announced its deci-

sion Friday, saying sugar imports from Mexico grew from 1.4 million metric tons in 2011 to nearly 2.1 million metric tons last year. The sugar alliance said that was a record — and imports from Mexico this year are on a pace to break it with imports totaling as much as 2.3 million tons by Sept. 30.

The alliance claims that in one year, imports of Mexican sugar went from 9 percent to 18 percent of the U.S. market share.

American farmers produced an estimated 8.9 million tons of sugar from cane and beets last year, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department.

U.S. farmers contend that Mexican sugar is be-

ing sold on the U.S. market at substantially less than fair value. If findings of the Commerce Department support the claim, the International Trade Commission could impose import duties to make up the difference.

"It'll mean a lot to sugar farmers in the U.S. if they can bring the case to a good conclusion," said Louisiana sugar farmer Mike Robichaux.

The leading U.S. sugar growing states are Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Hawaii, according to the Agriculture Department.

About one-fifth of Mexico's sugar industry is owned by the government, according to the American Sugar Alliance.

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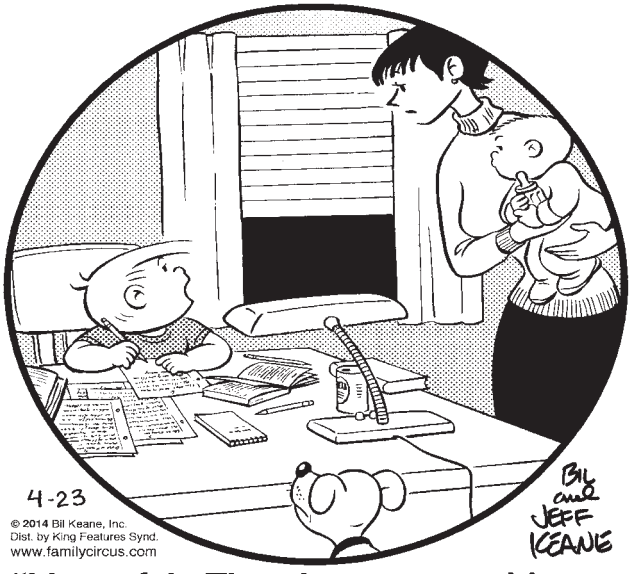
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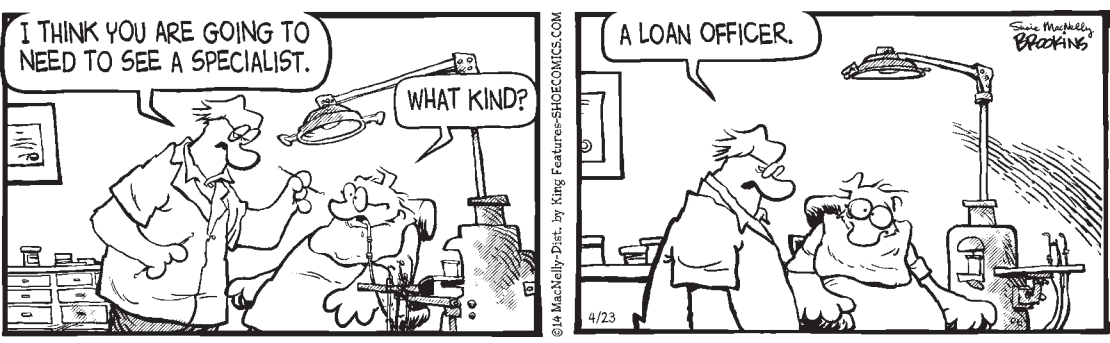
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"It's no fair. There's way more history to learn now than there was when you and Daddy were kids."

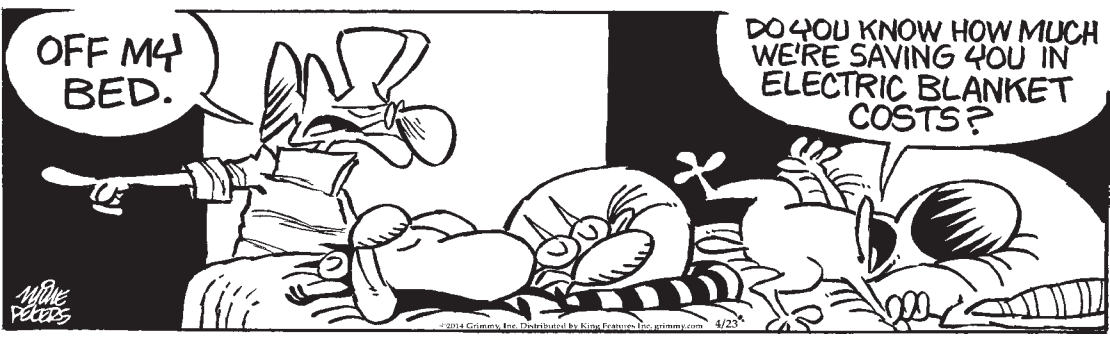
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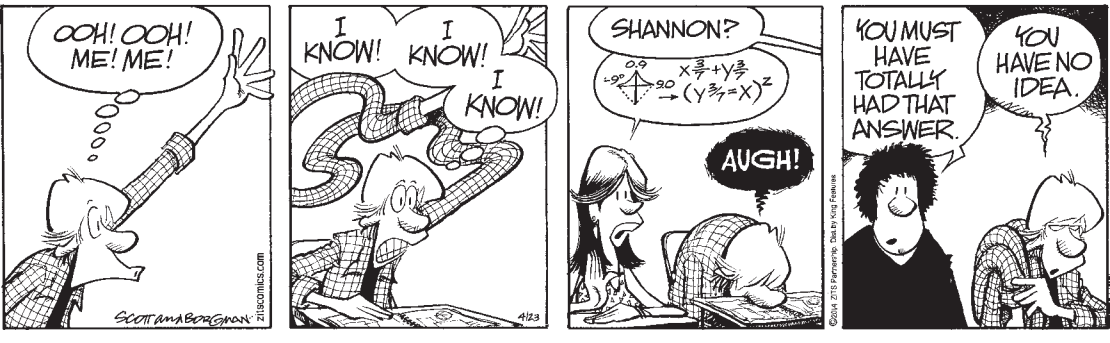
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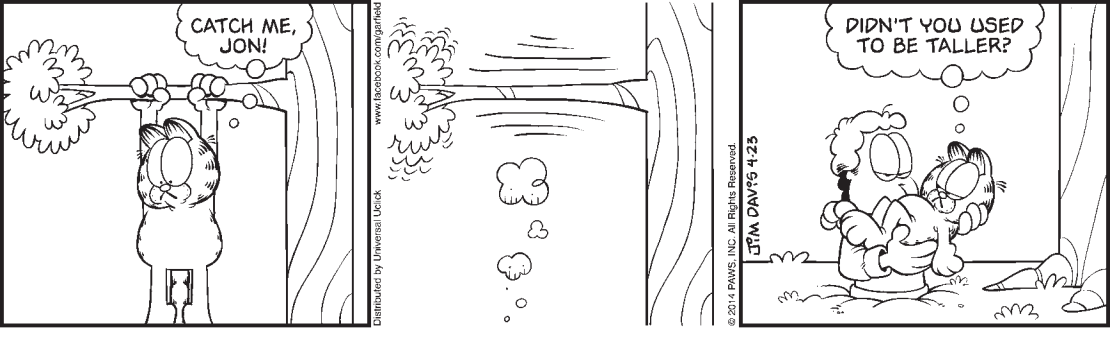
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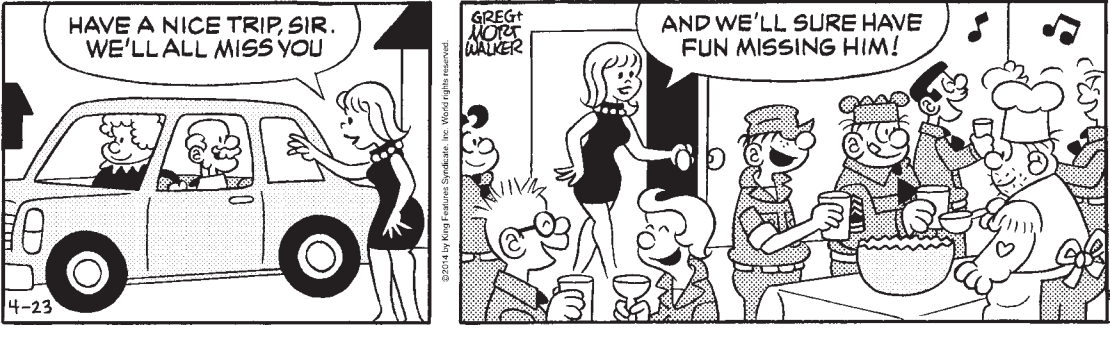
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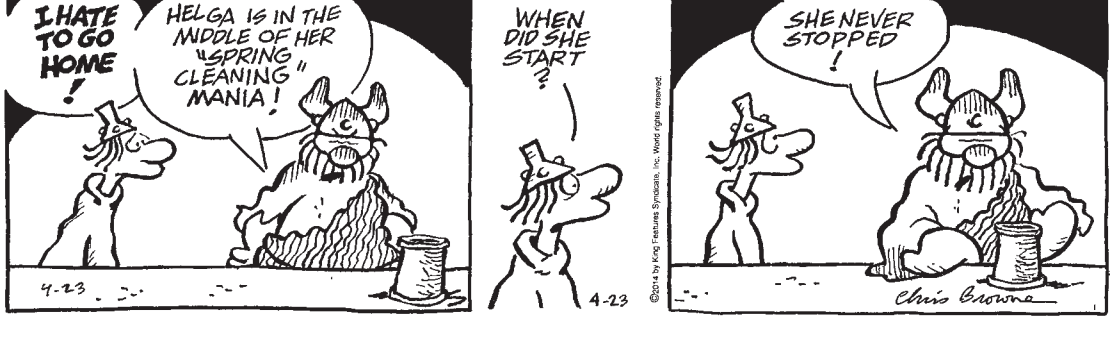
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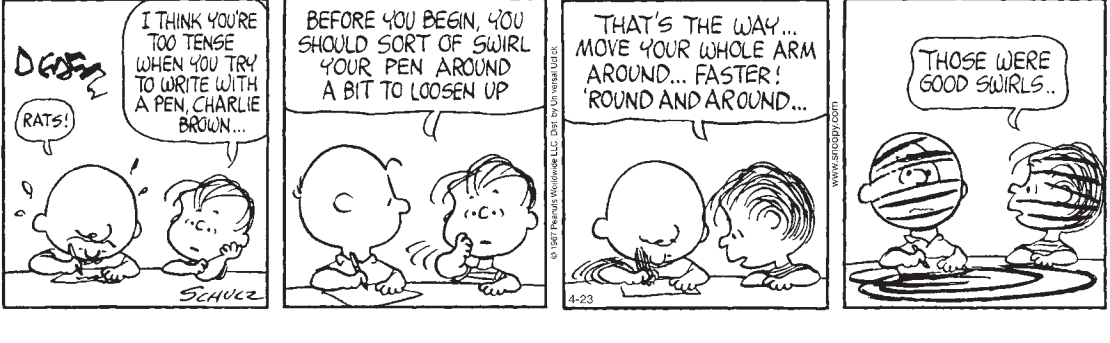
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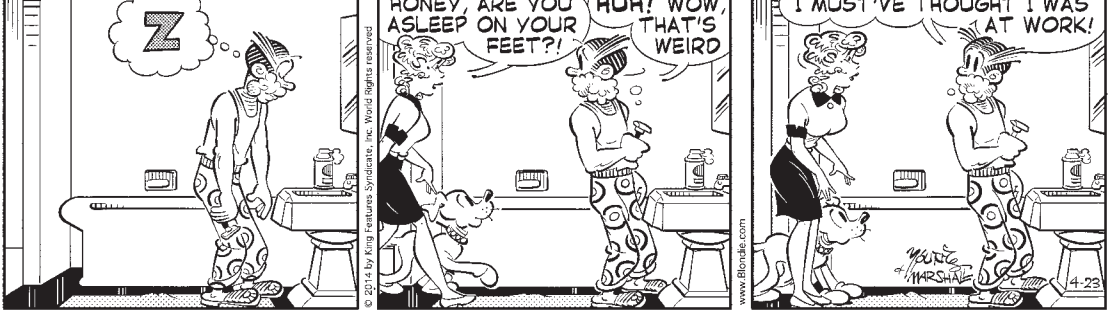
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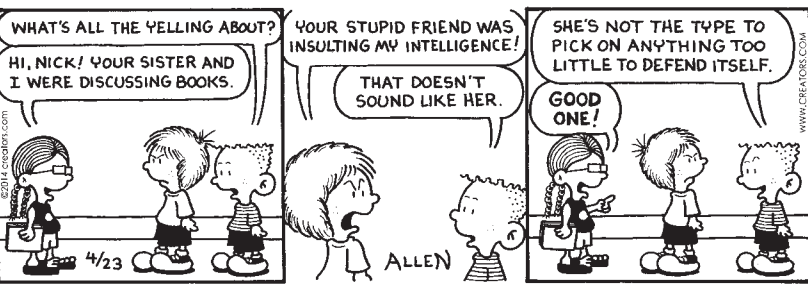
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Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, April 24, 2014:

This year you will have the opportunity to socialize and network till your heart's content. You also will see a long-term desire become a reality. Don't hesitate to go for what you want. If you are single, you easily could tumble into a new crowd, where you will meet a special person. Enjoy the process of getting to know each other. If you are attached, as a couple, you have a lot to celebrate. You are likely to achieve one of your mutual goals, if not more. This year could be very special for you both. **PISCES** is an emotional but enduring friend.

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)
★★★★ Tap into your knowledge and listen to what is being said. Avoid personalizing comments, as you are more vulnerable than you have been in a while. Count on your imagination going to extremes, but know that a great idea could be the result. Tonight: Play it low-key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might be overly concerned about a situation. Keep your long-term objectives in mind. You could be very interested in what goes on around a work-related matter. You also might decide to finally clear the air. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have more at stake than you realize. You might be more creative on one level, yet on another level, you'll see the role of structure in your life. A partner whom you thought you finally had an agreement with suddenly could change his or her mind. Tonight: Out late.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Let your mind wander, and worry a little less about form and what is appropriate. You can take a great idea and make it conform later. A brainstorming situation could cause a slight rift, as someone is likely to get a little too personal. Tonight: Be your expressive self.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Relate to a key person in your life directly. You might have difficulty getting through to this person on some level, so use this obstacle as an opportunity to open up to more creative modes of communication. You are bound to get a reaction. Tonight: Din-

ner for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You would be a lot happier if you allowed others to take the reins. Consider everything you could do if you were less available and didn't need to be present. You might catch up on your loved ones' news or take part of the day off just for you. Tonight: Continue the theme.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation in your life. You have high ideals, and it is important for you to meet them. Be realistic in setting goals. A boss or someone you must be responsive to might have a pleasant surprise for you. Tonight: Be willing to share more.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Listen to your ingenuity, and you might be able to materialize a special idea. Be aware that there is a strong possibility that you could sabotage yourself. Make an effort to be more in touch with your anger. Your emotions often come out in strange ways. Tonight: Very fun to be with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to spend some time talking to a family member or roommate. Just because you are related or live in proximity does not mean that you can take each other for granted. It is important to make time for each other. Tonight: Order in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Return calls and see what is necessary to complete before the work-week ends. With some organization, you could leave on Friday afternoon feeling great. Your intuition is in high gear, as you seem to know who is calling before you even answer the phone. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might not realize how possessive you can be. Make an effort to get past this issue. Your instincts could point to a money matter and taking a risk. Still, be careful. If you are not right about this, you'll want to make sure that you can handle the damage. Tonight: Your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You'll feel as if you are unstoppable. You will be, and because of your charisma and drive, it is unlikely that anyone would want to stop you anyway. Check in with a friend or co-worker about an important get-together or meeting. Tonight: Use your imagination.



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful man for 30 years. Our marriage may not be perfect, but it's quite good.

My dilemma is this: My husband keeps track of every time we have sex and has a personal goal of 100 times a year. In 2013, he informed me that we'd had sex only 76 times, and that was not adequate for him. He was quite upset about it.

Do you think tracking your sex life is normal, and what do you think about a couple married for 30-plus years having sex 76 times in a year? Is that normal? Also, keep in mind that he travels for business and is gone about 60 days a year. — **PRESSED**

DEAR PRESSED: Your husband sounds like a college student who is striving to get 100 notches on his belt. Rather than obsess about the number of times you have had sex, the quality of the experience should be more important. Fifty GREAT times a year would be better than 100 so-so times, one would think. And no, I do not think your husband's preoccupation is "normal" — whatever normal is these days. **DEAR ABBY:** After six years of unsuccessful

fertility work, my husband and I were forced to give up. Last summer his sister offered to be a surrogate for us, and we'll use a donor egg since I have none. We have told only a few people.

We're having an embryo transfer next week and thought we'd wait until after the first trimester to "announce." But what is the proper way to do it when it's not actually I who is expecting? And is there etiquette for having a baby shower in this situation?

We're excited and proud of this opportunity, but it takes a lot of explaining for people to understand and not be judgmental. This is the closest we'll ever get to experiencing pregnancy, and I want to enjoy it to the fullest. — **MODERN MOM-TO-BE IN WASHINGTON**

DEAR MOM-TO-BE: Congratulations on your pregnancy. Because it takes explaining, I recommend you share the happy news with your family and close friends by telling them in person. That way, you can answer any questions they may have directly. When you want "the world" to know, you may decide to send a mass email or post photos on the Internet.

As to having a baby shower — because this is a happy event you are celebrating and you will need things for the baby, I'm sure a friend will want to host one for you. Be sure to include your sister-in-law if she would like to attend.

DEAR ABBY: My 18-year-old granddaughter is seeing a 30-year-old man. What can I say to let her know he is way too old for her? I don't want her to hate me. — **LOVING GRANDMA IN FLORIDA**

DEAR LOVING GRANDMA: I don't think that telling your granddaughter the man is too old for her would be a good idea because it would imply that she is too young, and no 18-year-old wants to hear that. Tell her instead that you think she would have a lot more in common with someone closer to her age. This is particularly true if she is still in high school.

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.

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For each of the three words below, change one letter to an **A** and then rearrange the letters to spell something found in a hotel.

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[] [] [] []

DIME
[] [] [] []

SKIRTS
[] [] [] [] [] []

Yesterday's Answer: Common N;
AGENDA, ALBINO, CHANCE, GENIUS

4.23

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cup holder
 - 7 Use a dagger
 - 11 Wear roughly
 - 12 By way of, informally
 - 13 High school events
 - 14 Woodwind part
 - 15 Prepare to play
 - 17 Analogy words
 - 20 Backpack part
 - 23 Extreme
 - 24 Gigantic
 - 26 Stage prompt
 - 27 Coach Parseghian
 - 28 Washington baseballer, for short
 - 29 Expand on
 - 31 Espionage org.
 - 32 Iberian nation
 - 33 Hawk
 - 34 Depleted
 - 37 Enthralled
 - 39 Without delay
 - 43 Fencing weapon
 - 44 Movie studio department
 - 45 Swiss capital
 - 46 White sale buy
- DOWN**
- 1 Feeling down
 - 2 Lawyers' org.
 - 3 Coffee dispenser
 - 4 Bean-bearing tree
 - 5 Unspoiled spot
 - 6 Take a breather
 - 7 Walks proudly
 - 8 One Twain title character
 - 9 Verb for you
 - 10 Future flower
 - 16 School paper

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

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Peru people
- 18 Lumberjack's leftover
- 19 ... and the other Twain title character
- 21 Use
- 22 Peony part
- 24 Augusta's state
- 25 Sandy's bark
- 30 Pay heed
- 33 Wheel part
- 35 Blocks
- 36 Ogden's state
- 37 Yank's foe for one
- 38 King Kong, for one
- 40 Maiden name label
- 41 Director's cry
- 42 Dance records, for short

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1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
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45						46				

A taste of The Taste of Pampa

PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE



PampaSports

Gymnastics of Pampa competes in state meeting

STAFF REPORT

Gymnastics of Pampa competition team competed at the Texas State Tumbling and Trampoline Competition held at the Amarillo Civic Center Coliseum. They had 13 gymnasts compete at the meet and nine walked away with one or more gold medals.

"Eight of the gymnasts are first year competitors and were attending their first state competition so it's very impressive to have so many state champions for our gym," Kristi Petty said.

"In fact, I'm pretty certain that's the most state gold medalists we've ever had at one State meet and our gym has been open and competing almost 39 years!"

ond place. Carsyn Hunt participated in the Level 1 Double Mini and took first place, second place in the Level 1 trampoline and third place in the Level 2 Tumbling. Emma Perry competed in the Level 2 Tumbling and took first place, third place in the Level 1 Trampoline and in the Level 1 Double Mini she took third place. Saylor Stribling competed in the Level 4 Double Mini and won first place, ninth place in the Level 3 Trampoline and in the Level 4 Tumbling she took 1 fourth place.

Nine and 10-year-olds
Cassie Stubblefield took part in the Level 1 Trampoline and won first place and won the Level 1 Double Mini, she also took second place in the Level 2 Tumbling. Ashley Perry participated in the Level 2 Double Mini and won first place, she took third place in the Level 3 Tumbling and fourth place in the Level 2 Trampoline.

Katie Smith took second place in the Level 4 Double Mini, fourth place

in the Level 3 Trampoline and in the Level 4 Tumbling she was part of a 13th-place tie.

Natalie Monds participated in the Level 4 Double Mini and took fourth place, sixth place in the Level 3 Trampoline and was another part of a tie for 13th in Level 4 Tumbling.

11 and 12-year-olds
Haley Fossett won the Level 4 Trampoline and placed third in the Level 4 Tumbling. Peyton Demetriades won the Level 4 Double Mini, took third in Level 4 Trampoline and took fifth in Level 4 Tumbling.

Olivia Flores won the Level 3 Double Mini, took fifth in Level 3 Trampoline and took sixth in Level 4 Tumbling.

Madison Swearingim took sixth in the Level 3 Trampoline and 10th place in the Level 5 Tumbling.

13 and 14 year olds
Jordan Demetriades won the Level 4 Trampoline and the Level 4 Tumbling and third in the Level 5 Double Mini.



Submitted photo
Front row, from left, Madison Swearingim, Peyton Demetriades and Olivia Flores. Middle, Haley Fossett, Katie Smith, Jordan Demetriades, Cassie Stubblefield and Natalie Monds. Back, Saylor Stribling, Quin Billingsley, Ashley Perry, Emma Perry and Carsyn Hun.

Seven and eight-year-olds

Quin Billingsley competed in the Level 1 Tumbling and finished first place, in Level 1 Trampoline she finished first place and in the Level 1 Double Mini she took sec-

Grizzlies beat Thunder 111-105 in OT to tie series

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant's four-point play was magnificent, even by his lofty standards.

With his Oklahoma City Thunder trailing by five with 13.8 seconds remaining in regulation, the scoring champion hit a difficult 3-pointer from the corner as he was being pushed out of bounds by Marc Gasol. Durant converted the free

throw to make it a one-point game.

The magic ran out for the Thunder, though. Zach Randolph scored 25 points to help Memphis defeat Oklahoma City 111-105 in overtime on Monday night and tie their first-round playoff series at one game apiece. The final result took nothing from perhaps the most spectacular play of his season.

"He's a great player and made a great play," Memphis coach Dave Joerger said. "It was tough to take that hit and go into overtime."

When asked if it was the best shot of his career, a sullen Durant said he wasn't worried about it.

"I don't know, man," he said. "We lost, so it really don't matter."

Mike Conley added 19

points and 12 assists for the Grizzlies, who executed their game plan perfectly and put themselves in position to take control of the series in Game 3 Thursday night in Memphis. Oklahoma City pushed the pace through most of its 100-86 victory in Game 1, but on Monday, the Grizzlies successfully slowed the tempo and limited Oklahoma City's fast-break opportu-

nities.

"Basically it's just going to be a slugfest," Allen, who was praised by his teammates for playing solid defense against Durant, said. "We're going to pound it. They're going to run it. Whoever can come up with the most stops pretty much wins the game."

Oklahoma City's stars put up big numbers, but they worked for everything

they got. Durant had 36 points and 11 rebounds, but he made just 12 of 28 shots and had just eight points at halftime and 16 through the first three quarters. Russell Westbrook scored 29 points for Oklahoma City, but he made just 11 of 28 shots. Serge Ibaka added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder, who shot just under 40 percent from the field.

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Popovich wins NBA Coach of the Year

By **JON KRAWCZYNSKI**
AP Basketball Writer

(AP) — San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was named NBA coach of the year on Tuesday, making him just the third coach in league history to win the Red Auerbach trophy three times in his career.



Gregg Popovich

Popovich has received the league's top coaching honor in two of the last three seasons, joining Don Nelson and Pat Riley as the only coaches to win the award three times.

In a career full of masterful coaching performances, Popovich may have delivered his best in season No. 18.

The Spurs entered the season still thinking about the devastating loss to the Miami Heat in last summer's

classic NBA Finals. Once again thought to be too old to challenge LeBron James and the mighty Heat, the Spurs took the defending champions to seven games but couldn't quite close it out for the franchise's fifth NBA title.

"Suffice to say that I've thought about it every day," Popovich said at training camp in October. "I'm wondering if it will go away. I'm anxious for it to happen, but it hasn't happened yet."

They showed up to training camp still stinging from that defeat, and Popovich had to get to know a new-look coaching staff after losing longtime assistants Brett Brown and Mike Budenholzer to head coaching jobs in Philadelphia and Atlanta.

Then he led the Spurs to a league-best 62-20 record, which gives them home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. And he did it while deftly navigating a season filled with nagging injuries to several key players. Tim Duncan was the

only starter to play in at least 70 games. No Spur averaged 30 minutes per game and Tony Parker led the team with a modest 16.7 points per game.

Despite all of that, the Spurs won at least 50 games for the 15th straight season and topped 60 for the fourth time in that span, an unprecedented run of sustained excellence in the modern era.

He added free agent Marco Belinelli, juggled the lineup to keep veterans Duncan and Manu Ginobili fresh for the playoffs and used his role players often enough that they enter the postseason brimming with confidence. The Spurs lead the Dallas Mavericks 1-0 in their best-of-seven series, with Game 2 on Wednesday night in San Antonio.

"He's a gentleman," Belinelli said.

"Everybody knows that he's the best coach in the league. So to say that is not really important. But maybe some people, they don't know he's really a great guy,

a great gentleman. He really helps guys, helps each other. He wants to help everybody. Great person."

Popovich garnered 59 first-place votes and 380 total points in voting conducted by a panel of media members. Phoenix's Jeff Hornacek (37 first-place votes) finished second and Chicago's Tom Thibodeau (12) finished third in the voting, with Charlotte's Steve Clifford and Toronto's Dwane Casey rounding out the top five in a season so strong that Miami's Erik Spoelstra did not make the top 10.

"I think he should be the coach of the year this year," Minnesota coach Rick Adelman said of Popovich at the end of the season.

"You talk about everybody else, but coming back off of a Finals loss and what he's got them to do, with injuries too, he should be considered. He probably says he won't want it, but I think he's done a great job. He's been able to keep his system going."

Strong era begins at Texas with shaky QB play

AUSTIN (AP) — The Charlie Strong era began at Texas with a shaky performance at quarterback and few questions answered about just how quickly the Longhorns can rebound in the Big 12 under their new coach.

With next season's presumed starter David Ash not playing because of a foot in-

jury, Tyrone Swoopes took all the snaps with the first-team offense in the Longhorns' annual spring scrimmage. Swoopes rallied from a poor start to finish with 229 yards and three touchdowns against the second-team defense. But he likely did little to establish himself as the potential top-flight quarterback the Longhorns have lacked for several seasons if Ash's injury problems persist.

Watch the Pros

- Baseball**
- New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox.....ESPN 6 p.m.
 - Texas Rangers at Oakland A's.....FSSW 3 p.m.
 - Arizona Diamondbacks at Chicago Cubs....WGN 1:15 p.m.
- Hockey**
- Pittsburgh Penguins at Columbus Blue Jackets....NBCSN 6 p.m.
 - Anaheim Ducks at Dallas Stars.....CNBC 7 p.m.
 - St. Louis Blues at Chicago Blackhawks....NBCSN 8:30 p.m.
- Soccer**
- Real Madrid vs. Bayern Munich.....FS1 1:30 p.m.
 - Toluca vs. Cruz Azul.....FS1 7 p.m.
- Basketball**
- Dallas Mavericks at San Antonio Spurs.....NBATV 7p.m.
 - Charlotte Bobcats at Miami Heat.....TNT 6 p.m.
 - Portland Trail Blazers at Houston Rockets.....TNT 8:30 p.m.

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NFL playoff game to air on cable for 1st time

NEW YORK (AP) — An NFL playoff game will air on cable for the first time this season.

The league said Tuesday that a wild-card matchup will be broadcast on ESPN in January. As with "Monday Night Football," the game will be simulcast on local channels in the teams' home markets.

In the NFL's new TV deals that start with the 2014 season, NBC exchanged one of its wild-card matchups for one in the divisional round. It hasn't been determined yet whether NBC will show an AFC or NFC game in January.

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