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The PAMPA NEWS

INSIDE TODAY



Thursday, February 28, 2013

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Smart checklist for pre-retirement
 Cut commitments not muscle | **p4**

Travis Elementary news | **p6**
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County Commission to discuss retirement contributions

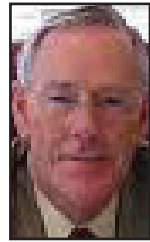
■ Judge Peet says county will oppose recent state legislation on benefits.

By **SASHA HELLER**
 sheller@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Commissioners Court will meet at 9 a.m., Friday, to discuss state retirement contributions as they relate to House Bill 958.

The Commission will also consider a resolution that expresses Gray County's opposition toward the legislative bill.

Filed by State Rep. Rob Orr (R-Burleson), HB 958 would reduce the interest credit rate on all



Richard Peet

Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS) funds from 7 per-



Rob Orr

cent to 5 percent, including employee accounts. The bill would reduce benefits that employees receive and it would deplete the annuity reserve fund which would, over time, force TCDRS to either reduce retiree benefits, increase employee cost, or both, according to the Texas Association of Counties.

"We are part of the

state's retirement system," Gray County Judge Richard Peet said. "When a person retires, the state contributes 7 percent and we contribute 7.1 percent or 7.2 percent."

Peet said he and the Gray County Commissioners are not in favor of this bill as it would negatively impact the county's financial situation.

"Someone wants to in-

roduce a bill from 7 percent to 5 percent which would be really detrimental to our employees," Peet said. "Texas' retirement system is one of the best in the nation."

Peet said Gray County's retirement system has survived the recent national economic downturn and that this bill could put the county in a vulnerable financial situation. **BENEFITS** cont. on page 3

CLEARING A PATH



Submitted photo

Pampa resident Steve Johnson, driving the tractor, helps clear snow Tuesday for residents in the 2600 block of Dogwood Lane. Twenty residents helped each other shovel snow while three tractors cleared a path for vehicles to get out of the neighborhood. They worked until sunset clearing the way.

Snow will be good for farming, ranching

By **TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE**
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

If you're a farmer or rancher in Gray County, the good news is the three snowfalls this month, including Monday's blizzard, will be a positive for both winter wheat and range conditions.

The bad news is, as the weather warms up, you may have more weeds to treat.

"But with the drought we've had for two years I don't think anybody is going to complain about treating weeds," said Brandon McGinty, Gray County's USDA extension agent for agriculture and natural resources. "The producers won't be too negative about the weeds."

Winter wheat is planted in the fall, grows through the winter and then is harvested in late spring or early summer.

It snowed in Pampa and Gray County on Feb. 12, 21 and 24. If you combine the accumulation from those three snowfalls and think of it as rain instead of snow, McGinty estimates the Pampa area has received around 1 and 3/4 to 2 inches of precipitation.

"This is going to be a tremendous help for putting moisture into the ground for **SNOW** cont. on page 3

Meals on Wheels looking for drivers with 4WD

STAFF REPORT

Pampa Meals on Wheels, an organization that delivers meals to homebound senior citizens and disabled people, is looking for people with four-wheel drive vehicles who can help out with deliveries today and Friday.

The nonprofit organization is always looking for extra drivers to be on call, and those with four-wheel-drive or all-terrain vehicles are needed when the snow on the roads is too deep for standard vehicles.

Meals on Wheels was unable to make deliveries Monday and Tuesday because of the storm.

If you would like to volunteer, call 669-1007 or email pampamealsonwheels@hotmail.com.

Neighbors help each other out

■ Sheets of snow blanketed the road with 30 inches or more.

By **ZACHARY GREEN**
 zgreen@thepampanews.com

When residents of the 2600 block of Dogwood Lane see blowing snow forecasted, they know the road in front of their houses will be impassable for days.

That is exactly what happened with the snowstorm that blew in Monday. There is an open pasture at the end of this north-south road. With 30-40 mph winds and gusts of 50 mph or more from the north, the snow was blown and piled onto the road.

At the end of the snowfall Monday, we measured 22.5 inches in the road, but that would not be the end of it.

On Tuesday morning, we measured 27-30 inches in the street. Most of that was due to the winds continuing to blow snow from the open field onto the road.

Tuesday was a long day. Residents got out to shovel their driveways hoping that someone might come with a tractor to clear off the roads. It was a sight to see before tractors arrived, with clean driveways and more than two feet of snow in the road. Some residents joked, "You can back out to the end of your driveway and pull back into

the garage."

The first tractor arrived around 2 p.m. to start clearing snow. Then around 3 p.m., the second tractor showed up. Both of those tractors belonged to friends of residents on the street who were called to help.

Toward the end when we were almost finished, a third tractor arrived at about 5 p.m. No one knew who this man was or where he came from, but we were all appreciative of his willingness to help us.

The thing I enjoyed the most about Tuesday was how much residents helped each other. Driveways were being cleared with 10 to 15 people working sometimes. That speaks volumes to the type of people we have in the Panhandle and in the great city of Pampa. People are always willing to go the extra mile to help each other out and ask nothing in return. I don't know who that man was in the big orange tractor, but he deserves recognition for his kind heart.

Residents hit the driveways as early as 8 a.m. Tuesday and did not leave the street and driveway until nearly 6 p.m. Mounds of snow about eight-feet high remain in the road as the tractors cleared a path for one vehicle to get by at a time.

This was also due to the fact that after piling snow in yard after yard, the tractors ran out of room to dump the snow.

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Thanks! Pampa News Facebook for keeping us informed during the blizzard!

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
		
High 45 Low 23	High 35 Low 22	High 47 Low 29

Thursday: Sunny with a high of 45. No chance of rain. Wind northwest at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:15 a.m.

Thursday night: Mostly clear with a low of 23. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind west northwest at 9 mph. Sunset at 6:38 p.m.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a high of 35. No chance of rain. Wind north northwest at 22 mph. Sunrise at 7:13 a.m.

Friday night: Mostly clear with a low of 22. No chance of rain. Wind north northwest at 13 mph. Sunset at 6:39 p.m.

Saturday: Sunny with a high of 47. No chance of rain. Wind northwest at 10 mph. Sunrise at 7:12 a.m.

Saturday night: Mostly clear with a low of 29. No chance of rain. Wind west southwest at 10 mph. Sunset at 6:40 p.m.

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Obituaries

Caroline Joy Smith

Caroline Joy Smith, 60, died Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013 in Pampa. There are no services scheduled at this time. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Smith was born Dec. 14, 1952 in Pampa. She had been a resident of Pampa most of her life, graduating from Pampa High School in 1971.

Survivors include two daughters, Misty Pritchard, Stormy Standefer and husband Kenny, all of Pampa; two brothers, Bill Thomas and wife Sue of Brownwood, Tim Thomas and wife Debbie of Pampa; four grandchildren, Brittney Pritchard, Raeden Mason, Lynnzy Standefer and Chase Pritchard; and a great-granddaughter, Aaliyah Caviness. Caroline was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Bethany Caviness; and her parents, Joy and Vesta Thomas.

Sign the online register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

Harold Gene "Mick" Pendergrass

Harold Gene "Mick" Pendergrass, 74, died Feb. 16, 2013. A memorial dinner will be held at the Moose Lodge at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, 2013 in Pampa. Cremation arrangements were under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Pendergrass was born Sept. 21, 1938 in Poteau, Okla. He attended schools in California and moved to Pampa in 1979. He worked for V. E. Wagoner Well Service for 10 years before he retired.

Survivors include his son, Glen Pendergrass of Napa, Calif.; three sisters, Lou Terry of Pampa, Shirley Rhoads and husband J. A. and Pat Myatt, all of Napa.; two brothers, W. C. "Lark" Pendergrass of Napa, and Tom Pendergrass of Bullhead City, Nev.; and a very caring grandson, Gary Teakle of Pampa. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a son, Harold Gene "Mick" Pendergrass Jr.

Sign the online register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

For the record

Two consecutive days with no jail bookings. Way to go Gray County!

Texas rep targets confidential public settlements

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Fort Worth state representative wants to ban confidentiality agreements in legal settlements involving a public official or taxpayer money.

State Rep. Lon Burnam's proposal comes weeks after a former prosecutor's sexual harassment allegations against Tarrant County District Attorney Joe Shannon came to light. The county settled with the prosecutor for \$375,000.

It didn't release details

until Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office ordered it to do so.

Burnam's bill would instruct officials not to require confidentiality on settlement amounts or allegations against a state or local official.

He tells the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he wants "to correct a wrong that has been going on for a long time."

Shannon's spokeswoman says he hasn't read the bill but supports its concept.

Lions, bears taken from gangster's property

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Authorities have removed four lions and two bears from the estate of a notorious Romanian gangster, who reportedly used them to threaten his victims. Ion Balint was arrested Feb. 22 with dozens of others on charges of attempted murder, kidnapping, blackmail and possessing illegal weapons. In 2009, he was sentenced for human trafficking, violence and pimping.

Environmental authorities and the Vier Pfoten animal charity tranquilized the animals Wednesday, carried them on stretchers into cages and transported them to a zoo.

Dozens of bystanders gathered outside the estate's gates in Bucharest's slums.

Neighbors and relatives of Balint rejected reports from investigators who said he used the lions, which he had no permit for, to intimidate his victims.

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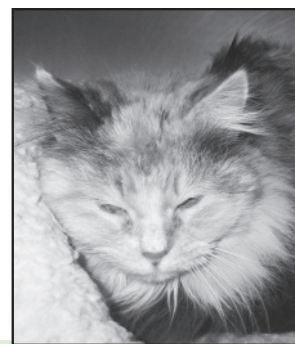
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Jeb Bush talks education reform with Texas lawmakers

BY MORGAN SMITH
The Texas Tribune

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told Texas senators "to go big or go home" when it comes to pushing changes to public education policy on Wednesday.

In Austin for the Texas Business Leadership Council's education summit, Bush spoke to the upper chamber's education committee on reforms he implemented in Florida, including voucher programs, mandatory online classes and an A through F school rating system.

The committee's chairman Dan Patrick, R-Houston, has made bringing those kinds of reforms to Texas a top priority for the current legislative session.

"When you have a chance to reform, it ought to be big. You either go big or go home," Bush said.

He said Florida's A through F school ratings — which Texas Education Agency Commissioner Michael Williams and some lawmakers have proposed enacting in Texas — had engaged parents in their community schools by making their performance easier to understand.

Opening up the public education system by expanding charter schools and providing vouchers for private schools, he said, helped those engaged parents choose the best schools for their children and drive low-performing public schools to improve.

"You empower the consumer of any service to be on equal footing the supplier that yields a better out-

come," he said.

As he urged a large-scale shakeup to the public education system, Bush said it was important to provide proper funding for any changes.

"A lesson we learned is to put money behind the reforms," he said. "If you are going to create tough love policies, then you need to fund them."

Bush also offered his views on the backlash against student testing currently sweeping the state, emphasizing the importance of maintaining high expectations for students.

"There is anti-testing sentiment in every state," he said. But he said that "if you don't measure, there's no consequences" for low performance.

While governor of Florida, Bush garnered praise for the gains the state's low-income and minority students made in reading after his first year in office.

Since then, critics have raised questions about whether those gains reflected a long-term improvement, and whether it is fair to connect policies currently advanced by Bush's foundation to that success.

The foundation has also been attacked for promoting changes that benefit its corporate donors, which include for-profit education companies Pearson Inc., K12, and McGraw Hill.

Speaking to reporters after he testified, Bush addressed that criticism, which he said was being advanced by teachers' unions who were about the "economic interests of their members" rather than students.

The foundation welcomed the support of anyone who supported its strategies, he said, but that did not affect the policies it chose to promote.

"Our views are our views," he said.

Snow

Continued From Page 1

summer," McGinty said.

For two years in a row, Gray County has received less than half of its annual average moisture.

"We average around 20

inches a year and have had less than half of that over the past two years," McGinty said. "So having early weed issues will actually be a good thing."

The Gray County USDA Extension Office is located at 12125 E. Frederic Ave. For more information, call 806-669-8033.



Jeb Bush

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Escape From Planet Earth (G) in realD 3D Fri 7:00 9:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thu 7:00	Escape From Planet Earth (G) 2D only Fri 7:00 9:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thu 7:00
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Benefits

Continued From Page 1

nancial situation. He added that many counties across Texas are adopting similar resolutions that condemn HB958.

The Texas Association of Counties website reads, "The TCDRS Board did not seek this legislation as the majority of our county and district employers have expressed support to maintain TCDRS as it currently exists."

TCDRS is a savings-based or cash-balance plan, which receives no state funding. TCDRS was designed to give county and district employers the ability to directly determine employee benefits and control employer costs.

HB958 could reduce the Gray County Commission's ability to make those local determinations, according to the Texas Association of Counties.

The Commission meets at the Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell St.

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ReDonn Woods
 Publisher
 rwoods@thepampanews.com

Timothy P. Howsare
 Editor
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Zachary Green
 Sports Editor
 zgreen@thepampanews.com

Sasha Heller
 Reporter
 sheller@thepampanews.com

Dana Whinery
 Advertising Representative
 dwhinery@thepampanews.com

Smart checklist for pre-retirement

Q: My husband and I are planning to retire on Dec. 31, 2016. Although that seems like a long time, we foresee the possibility of many dramatic financial changes ahead. Could you speculate on what our pre-retirement options might be?



DOUG MAYBERRY

A: First, when we set a fixed retirement date, we become happier. Visualize sleeping in and knowing that we will not have to crawl out of bed every morning for work is an emotional builder-upper. However, the thrill of looking forward and regaining our personal freedom can overshadow the reality of our future. Men, especially, who believe they have nothing much to do other than enjoy TV, have an especially difficult time with this. Now is the right time to determine your priorities, affordability and relationships. Hire a professional planner who has a checklist to evaluate your wishes and the legal papers to make it happen. If you do not do so, others will

do it for you!

People who are retired often get frequent wake-up calls from worried families. Have you defined who gets what and when? In the event that your listed heirs who pass before you do, have you chosen an alternate person?

Remember, when and how federal and state inheritance laws are changed, you can always update your will and trusts. Are you or will you need to work after retirement? Even though you may not think so now, continue to network your peers. They can prove helpful. Try to eliminate your fixed expenses now before you retire. Doing so will help eliminate stress later.

Make an appointment with your mate for a serious discussion to agree upon how best to distribute your assets. Asset values can change from week to week. Prior to retiring, make an appointment for a full physical and evaluation. Ask for a projection outlook. Many planners recommend your gifts be stated in percentage of your estate, not actual dollars, in your will and/or your trusts because asset values change.

Assets can rarely be divided equally, nor do you know how some family members and other recipients may react upon learning what their share will be.

Many are negative. Experienced estate lawyers have wild stories about families' reactions when the second parent dies. World War III may erupt! Medicare and insurance companies are reevaluation their terms and conditions and will continue to do so.

For example, women's long-term insurance rates are being raised because they live longer. Do you want to travel, and are you able to do it now? Why not now? In many families, parents choose not to disclose the contents of their wills and trust that reveal who gets what. I disagree, and I have shared my information. There should be no surprises. Even if you choose not to do so, your family will eventually learn your plans. I will take the heat and responsibility for my choices.

Doug Mayberry makes the most of life in a Southern California retirement community.

Cut commitments, not muscle

In that year of happy memory, 1972, George McGovern, the Democratic nominee, declared he would chop defense by fully one-third.



PATRICK BUCHANAN

A friendly congressman was persuaded to ask Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird to expatiate on what this might mean.

The Pentagon replied the Sixth Fleet might have to be pulled out of the Med, leaving Israel without U.S. protection against the fleet of Adm. Sergei Gorshkov, and provided the congressman a list of U.S. bases that would have to be shut down.

Radio ads were run in the towns closest to the bases on the Pentagon list, declaring they would be closed and all jobs terminated, should McGovern win.

Something akin to this is going on with the impending sequester.

A cut of 7 percent, \$46 billion, in Pentagon spending, says Army chief Ray Odierno, will mean a "hollowing" out of his force.

The Navy? The carrier Harry Truman will not be sailing to the Persian Gulf. The Abraham Lincoln will not be overhauled in Newport News. Thousands of jobs will be lost.

Reporter Rowan Scarborough writes that the Air Force has produced "a map of the U.S. that shows state-by-state the millions of dollars lost to local economies," should the guillotine fall. Military aid to Israel may be cut, says John Kerry.

But if an evisceration of the national defense is imminent, why did Obama not tell us in 2012? Why were the joint chiefs silent, when they are panicked now?

Are the generals, admirals and contractors all crying wolf?

Undeniably, spending cuts by sequester slicer, chopping all equally, is mindless. And with the national security, it manifests a failure of both parties to come to terms with the world we are now in.

The Cold War is over. The Soviet Union is gone. Mao's China is gone, though a mightier China has emerged, as America's share of the global economy is shrinking.

Moreover, as ex-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mike Mullen contends, our greatest strategic threat is not Kim Jong Un or Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but the soaring national debt.

And if, as Republicans insist, we have a debt crisis because we are "spending too much," spending will have to be cut — discretionary spending, entitlements and defense.

And the only question about the defense cuts is not whether they are coming, but where.

What is needed is what America, since the collapse of the Soviet Empire, has stubbornly resisted doing: a strategic review of all U.S. commitments abroad to determine which remain vital to the national security.

Before we decide what our defense forces should be, let us determine what is in the U.S. vital interest to defend at risk of war.

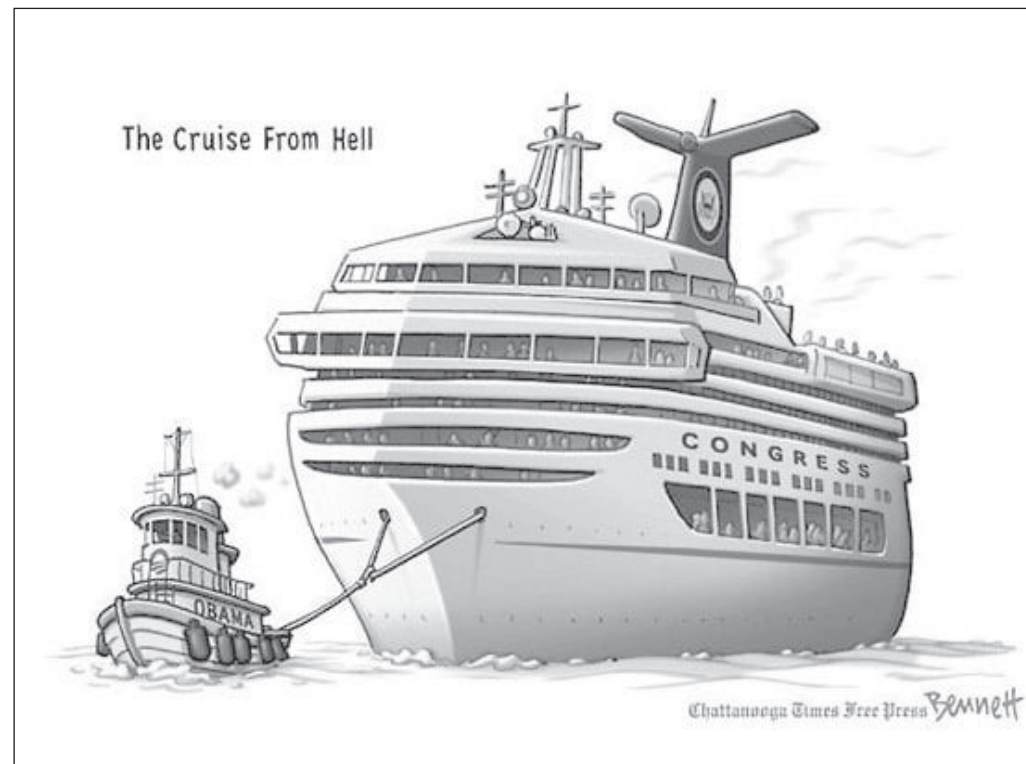
Start with NATO. In 1961, President Eisenhower urged JFK to bring home the U.S. forces and let the Europeans raise the armies to defend themselves, lest they become military dependencies.

Yet, more than 20 years after the Wall fell, the Red Army went home, East Europe broke free and the Soviet Union fell apart, we have scores of thousands of troops in Europe.

Why? The European Union's economy is 10 times that of Russia. Europe's population is twice Russia's. Why are we still there?

Though we have given NATO war guarantees to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, our McCainiacs want them handed out to the Ukraine and Georgia. Yet no president in his right mind is going to go to war with a nuclear-armed Russia over some Caucasus dustup or Baltic brawl.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of "Suicide of a Superpower: Will America Survive to 2025?"



How To Write Us

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Obama finally talks about the culture of fatherlessness

Dads matter. President Barack Obama said it recently in Chicago, a city on track for 600 murders this year, the equivalent of



LARRY ELDER

two Sandy Hooks per month. Too bad he still does not understand that his left-wing ideology is the problem. After the Sandy Hook tragedy, Obama, much of his party and much of the media have been calling for further gun control and advocating "common sense" measures such as limiting the number of rounds in a magazine, "universal" background checks and restrictions on "assault weapons."

But there is an 800-pound politically incorrect elephant in the room.

Most gun murders in America are committed by people of color, with the victims almost always people of color. Whites have the same access to firearms, listen to the same "urban" music and play the same violent video games. Why, then, do the murders disproportionately involve racial minorities, principally blacks and Hispanics, usually young men in urban settings, many with gang ties?

Obama, in Chicago, finally talked about the lack of fathers and the impact this has on crime rather than complain about the number of rounds in a magazine: "For a lot of

young boys and young men in particular, they don't see an example of fathers or grandfathers, uncles, who are in a position to support families and be held up in respect.

And so that means that this is not just a gun issue; it's also an issue of the kinds of communities that we're building. When a child opens fire on another child, there is a hole in that child's heart that government can't fill. Only community and parents and teachers and clergy can fill that hole."

He offers no alternative. Why would he? That would require a wholesale rethinking of the welfare state and of the perverse incentives that work against the interests of the very people the left claims to care about.

Perverse incentives? Columnist Walter Williams said that census data from 1890 to 1940 show that blacks were slightly more likely than whites to marry, and therefore their children were also more likely to be in a two-parent household.

During the Great Depression, "going on the dole" was considered shameful, only done as a dire necessity of last resort after first seeking help from friends, family, churches and charities.

But by the '60s, government workers went door-to-door in urban communities and elsewhere urging unmarried mothers to sign up for benefits, thus "marrying" the government. Almost 75 percent of today's black children are born outside of wedlock, as are 53 percent of Hispanics and 29 percent of non-

Hispanic whites.

As recently as 1963 — five decades ago — those numbers for blacks were 23.6 percent. As for whites at that time, fewer than 3 percent were born outside of wedlock.

By 1965 — just two years later — out-of-wedlock births by black women had increased to 28 percent. By 1970, it had jumped to 38 percent. In the '80s, it rose to 50 percent, and by the '90s, the black out-of-wedlock birthrate exceeded 70 percent.

What to do?

We know that government welfare damages individual initiative and personal responsibility. After the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, the welfare rolls declined by half! The needy can and should be helped at the state and local level, ideally by nonprofits, religious institutions, self-help organizations and mentors.

A counselor recently wrote me. She asked not to be identified, fearing a backlash because of her condemnation of the bad choices women make in male partners. She argued that if women demanded more of themselves, men would get the message — and they would be forced to behave more responsibly. To do otherwise, she says, is to behave selfishly — for responsible parenting requires selflessness: "No one is putting a gun to women's heads and making them have intercourse with unworthy men prior to marriage.

It is done willingly, leads to a life from hell and harms everyone involved, even the bum who has no motivation

to shape up since he is afforded all the reward a good, respectable, hard-working husband would get without having to be a good, respectable, hard-working husband.

"The term 'father' used to be considered synonymous with the man who, in this order, a) courted a woman, b) married a woman, c) impregnated a woman, and d) stayed around for the next 20 years paying the bills, playing catch, disciplining the kids and loving the mom.

Now, mere siring or donating sperm to the creation of a kid is called 'fathering,' when it's barely more than breeding. It cheapens the meaning of the word 'father.'

"Now picture this: If all women, black or white or whatever race, said to black men, 'No marriage, sex, children or home-cooked food without toil and solid achievement first,' do you really think any lowered bars that had been established would have stopped black men from achieving the finances and success required for romance? I don't.

They'd be working hard, wanting to get the top score and wanting to outshine others."

No romance without finance — because dads matter.

Larry Elder is a best-selling author and radio talk-show host. To find out more about Larry Elder, or become an "Elderado," visit www.LarryElder.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at Creators.com.

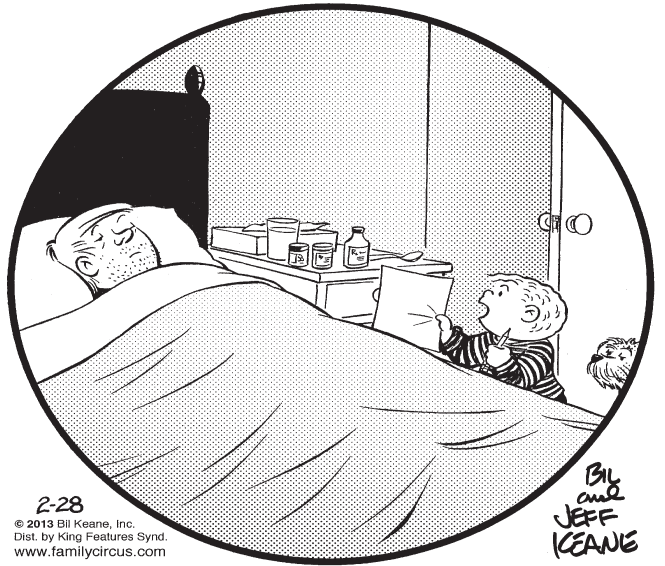
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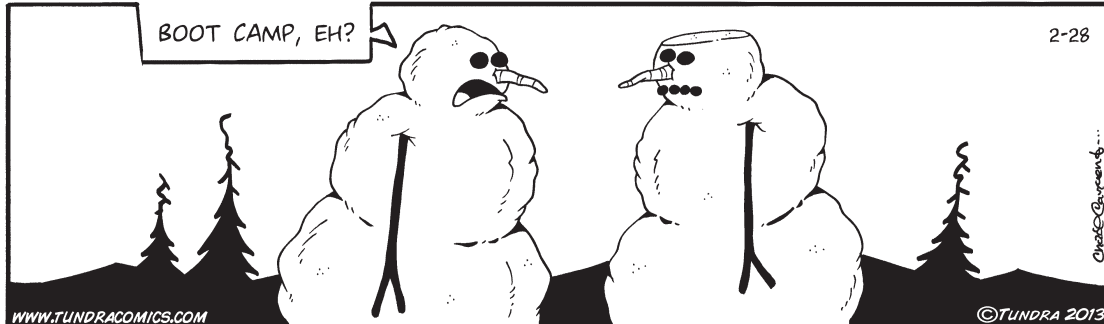
comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



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"I'm gonna make you a get-well card, Daddy. Can you show me how to draw a bird and a flower and a ..."

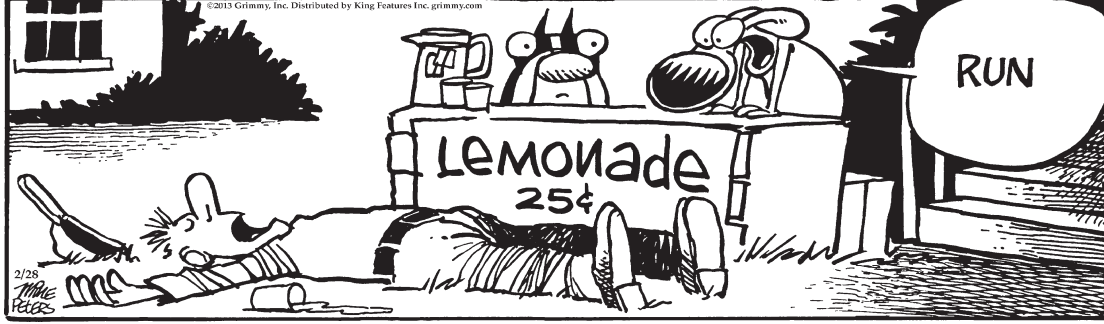
Tundra



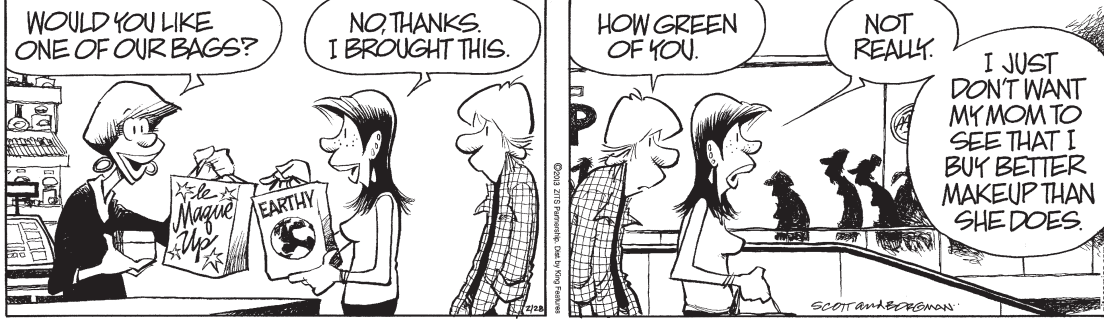
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



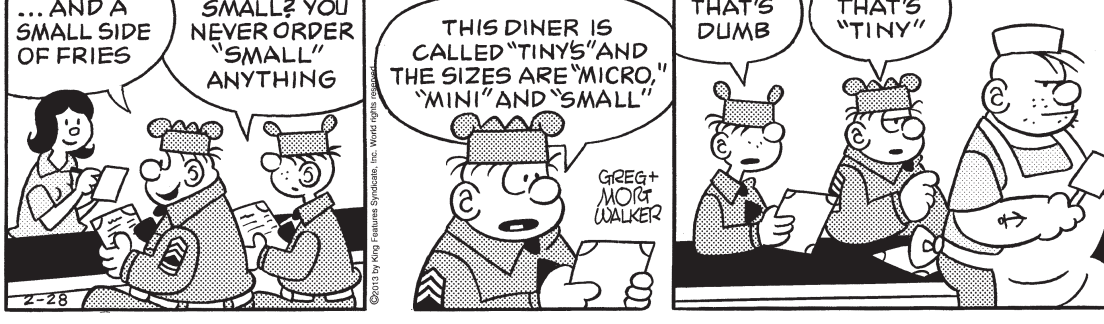
Zits



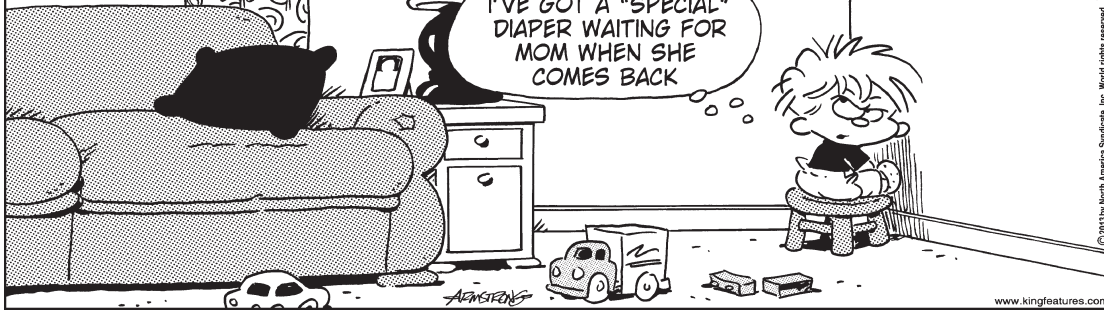
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



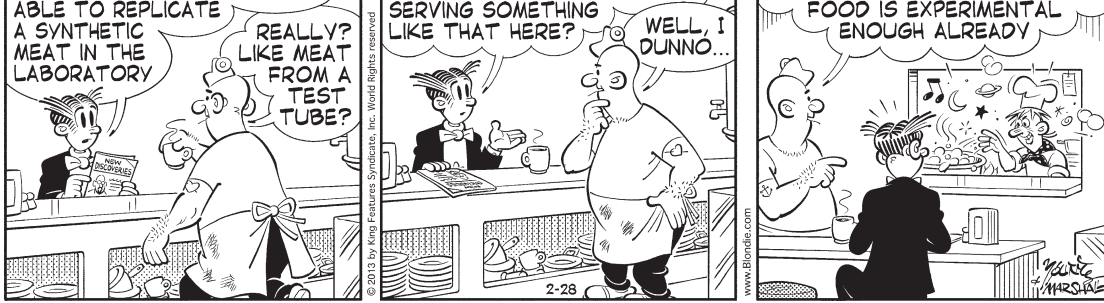
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



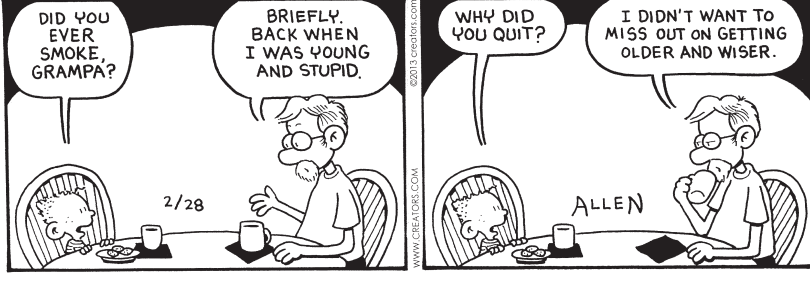
Blondie



Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 1, 2013:

This year no one can deny the fact that you are able to tackle a problem and work through it. When it comes to personal issues, you are able to look within yourself and find a solution. You will gain in different facets of your life because of your sense of responsibility. If you are single, someone quite different barrels into your life when you least expect it. If you are attached, as a couple, you might want to plan a trip away from your normal stomping grounds. In a new setting, you will be able to revitalize the strength of your bond. **SCORPIO** brings out your confident side.

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 become energized when dealing with a difficult associate or boss. The longer you choose to indulge him or her, the more difficult it will be to change the situation. A partner might take a stand, which could make this person even more irritating. Tonight: Avoid crowds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others come forward and try once more to get you to agree with them. Granted, their approach might be totally different, but the result will be the same. Dig into your creativity when you decide to approach certain people about recent events. Tonight: Defer to someone else.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have a distinctive style that encourages others to head in a different direction. You know how to communicate your bottom line. You discover that you are unusually busy and might not have much time to have a discussion. Tonight: Join a co-worker.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ As you see someone change in front of your very eyes, you might wonder how to relate to this person now. Will the same style of communication be effective? Take your cues from the other party. Start thinking about a trip in the near future. Tonight: Let loose.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You are coming from a more secure position. Understand that the pressure that is building is coming from a judgment you are making. Your creativity helps you work through some of the issues involved. You gain a better sense

of your abilities. Tonight: Head on home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Make a change, only if you consider it necessary. You will talk through this decision, and others seem to help you see how you can make this transformation easier. Give yourself the time and space to figure out which way might be best. Tonight: Visit with a friend over dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Don't go overboard handling an issue that might make you very uncomfortable. Understand the alternatives. Tap into different ideas to find a way to work through this problem. The solution might not be one that you would have imagined. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You see a certain liability approaching a matter as you have. Discuss how you feel with the other parties involved. An exchange of ideas could be full of surprises. Others tap into your creativity, and you might tap into their sensitivity. Tonight: Find a reason to celebrate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ The less said, the better off you are. You might need to ask questions and do some research about a money "hunch." Your instincts are excellent at the moment, but someone could be deceptive. Keep your guard up. Tonight: Head home early, even if meeting friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You are more than aware of the potential of an offer or an idea. You might need to make a big adjustment or change if you head down that specific path. A friend could be rigid and not willing to negotiate. Be calm yet assertive. Tonight: Hang with your friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You obviously know what you are doing by letting someone else take the lead. You could question excessive demands from a higher-up. Still, you know your role in this situation. If you opt to change your attitude, you might need to hang with a different group. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to head in a different direction. Pressure builds, and you could have difficulty doing what you want. In fact, you might not be able to visualize your desires. Refuse to make a commitment just yet; you will be on firmer ground soon. Tonight: Let go of today.

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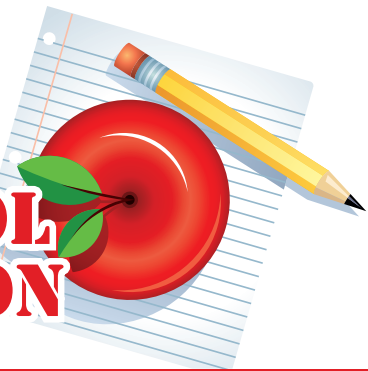
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The PAMPA NEWS

SCHOOL EDITION



Thursday, February 28, 2013 Page 6 Travis Elementary

Spring concert coming in March
 McNeely Field House at 6 p.m., March 17

Fifth-graders sing for Amarillo veterans
 Valentine's Day outing a treat for everyone.

Valentine's Day field trip



Above: the fifth-grade students sing songs to the veterans on Valentine's Day in Amarillo. Left: Pete Mejia, a fifth grade student at Travis Elementary, greets a veteran after the students performed at the Ussery Roan Texas State Veteran's Home.

BY T.J. CONLEY, XZAVION DONEHUE AND QUINLAN HUNEYCUTT

They sang patriotic songs at the nursing homes. First, they visited the V.A. Nursing Hospital. Then, they went to the Ussery Roan Texas State Valentine's Home. The veterans enjoyed hearing the students sing and getting to visit with the students.

Travis Elementary fifth-grade students traveled to veterans nursing homes in Amarillo on Valentine's Day.

in the spotlight

BY OSCAR SILVA, JOSH PRICE AND GAGE GERHARDT

We had the opportunity to interview our Principal at Travis Elementary, Mrs. Faubion, about her job.

Oscar Silva [O.S.]: What is your favorite part of the day?

Mrs. Faubion: I think doing the announcements.

O. S.: Do you like being principal?

Mrs. Faubion: Yes, I love it!

O.S.: What do you like most about Travis?

Mrs. Faubion: We have great teachers and students.

O.S.: What did you do before you became principal?

Mrs. Faubion: I was a teacher.

O.S.: How did you like school growing up?

Mrs. Faubion: I loved it.

O. S.: Do you look forward coming to school?

Mrs. Faubion: Yes.

O.S.: Final question: Is it hard being principal?

Mrs. Faubion: Yes, it is very hard.



Oscar Silva interviews Mrs. Faubion, Principal of Travis Elementary.

Life is a party with Bluebonnet Books



Photo by Jasmine Bolch

Taylor Jefferis and Julia Allen enjoy reading the nominated Bluebonnet books.

BY JULIA ALLEN, JASMINE BOLCH AND TAYLOR JEFFERIS

It's time to read some Bluebonnet books!! Have you ever read a Bluebonnet book? The Travis Elementary fourth- and fifth-graders had a bluebonnet blast! The amazing Bluebonnet books include: "Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie," "Aliens on Vacation," "Wonderstruck," "Zita The Space Girl," "The Cheshire Cheese Cat" and many more!

With these inspiring titles and mind blowing stories, they make the perfect collection of books. When the kids went to the Bluebonnet party, they played bingo, drank punch and ate delicious popcorn. While they had a snack and played, they got to vote for their favorite books!

In the end, Texas schools count up the votes and determine the overall winner! We recommend that you read at least one of these wonderful books!



Photo by Julia Allen

Some of the nominated Bluebonnet books.



Photo by Emma Gill

Fifth-grade students at Travis Elementary practice their dance routine for the Spring Concert.

Pampa Schools spring to the TOP with fifth-grade concert

BY KENDAL ELLIOTT, EMMA GILL AND KARISSA HOBBS

Come to the Spring Concert for some awesome singing by the fifth-graders of Pampa Independent School District.

The concert will be at 6 p.m., March 17, 2013. It will be at the McNeely Field House, Pampa High School. All fifth-graders from all four schools will be performing that night. This concert will give all fifth-graders the privi-

lege of coming together and singing to the community. The fifth-graders will be singing a variety of songs. The songs are "Call Me Maybe," "Party Rock Anthem," "Home," "Water Tower Town," "American Honey," and "My Wish."

We think that you will enjoy the concert, so don't hesitate and come on by! Be a part of the fun event. Don't forget — at 6 p.m., March 7, 2013 at the McNeely Fieldhouse.

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Jill Faubion, Principal

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Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Newspaper Golf

YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE STEM ZONE™

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. Chevron and the United States Golf Association (USGA) are bringing science to life by showing how STEM studies play a big role in the game of golf. This page is the first in a series of special Kid Scoop pages created through this partnership.

FUEL FOR THOUGHT WHICH IS FASTER?

Do the math to find out.

- RUNNING CHEETAH**
(30 x 2) + 10 = _____ MPH
- PRO BASEBALL PITCH**
(31 x 3) + 3 = _____ MPH
- PRO HOCKEY SHOT**
(33 x 3) + 1 = _____ MPH
- PRO TENNIS SERVE**
(54 x 2) + 47 = _____ MPH
- PRO GOLFER DRIVE**
(58 x 3) + 1 = _____ MPH

Some people think golf is a slow game. But it clocks some of the **highest speeds** in the world of sports! Hitting a ball hundreds of yards into a tiny hole with the least strokes possible requires some serious speed.

Sir Isaac Newton



No relation to Sir Isaac.

Speed in the STEM Zone™

Speed is about *motion*. An English scientist named Isaac Newton came up with ideas about motion that have been tested and proven again and again. His ideas are called **Newton's Laws of Motion**.

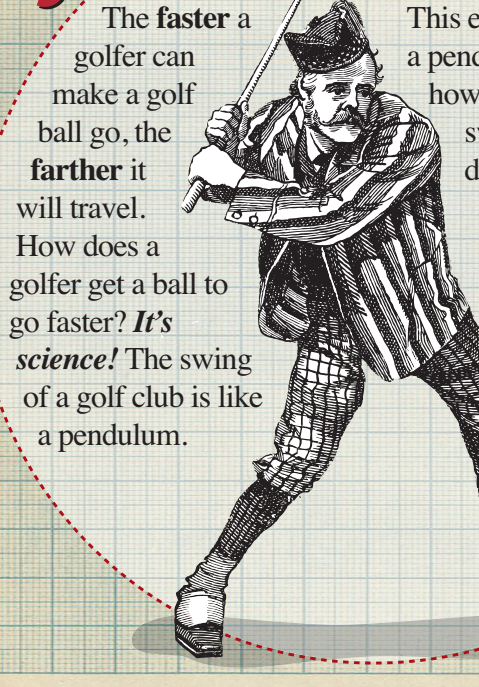
NEWTON'S FIRST LAW OF MOTION:

Any object at rest will stay at rest, until a force causes it to move. An object in motion will stay in motion, until a force causes it to stop.



(WHICH MEANS THIS BALL WILL SIT HERE FOREVER UNLESS SOMETHING HITS IT.)

SWING INTO SPEED



The faster a golfer can make a golf ball go, the farther it will travel. How does a golfer get a ball to go faster? *It's science!* The swing of a golf club is like a pendulum.

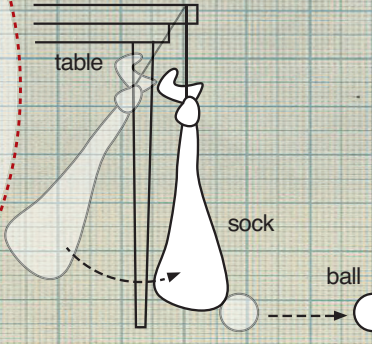
This experiment uses a pendulum to show how the length of the swing affects the distance a ball travels.

- THE STUFF YOU'LL NEED:**
- 1 cup dry rice
 - old sock
 - 3' piece of string
 - small ball
 - desk or table
 - tape measure

Scientist's Notebook

Question: Does the length of swing change the speed of the ball?
Hypothesis: (Your guess here) _____

PENDULUM OF DOOM!*



- Experiment:**
1. Pour the rice into the sock and knot the open end.
 2. Tie one end of the string around the knot in the sock. Securely tape the other end to the top edge of the table so that the sock hangs just above the floor.
 3. Set the ball on the floor so that its side touches the sock. Pull the sock about 3 inches (5 cm) away from the ball. Release the sock and let it hit the ball.
 4. Allow the ball to roll to a stop. Measure how far it traveled.
 5. Repeat steps 3 - 4, pulling the sock back about 10 inches (25 cm).

Conclusion: Was your hypothesis correct? YES NO
What did you learn from this experiment? _____

*This experiment contains no actual doom (unless you use a stinky sock).

STEM Connection:

The swing of the golf club is like the hanging sock pendulum. The weight and mass of the sock stayed the same — but the distance the sock traveled changed. Golfers use their longest clubs when hitting off the tee. A shorter club can't get the same speed.



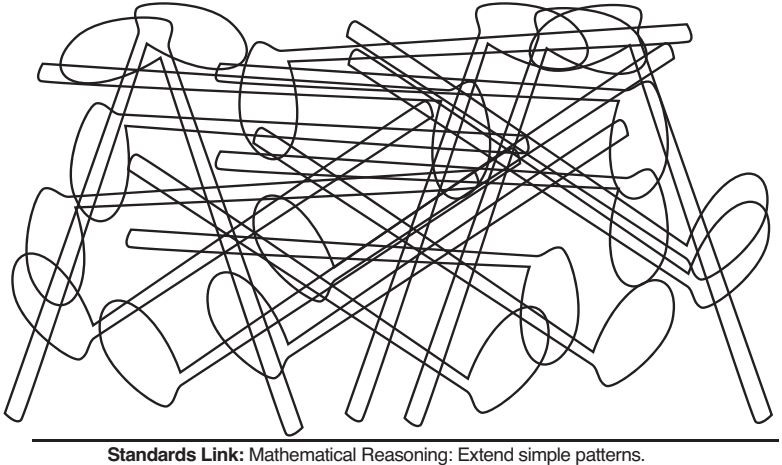
Extra! Extra! Cause and Effect

The experiment, *Pendulum of Doom*, is an example of **cause and effect**. The length of the swing (“cause”) changed the speed of the ball (“effect”). Look through the newspaper to locate articles and identify **cause and effect**.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify cause and effect.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many golf clubs can you find here?



Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Extend simple patterns.

STEM Zone™ content on this page is provided through a partnership with Chevron and the USGA.



Double Double Word Search

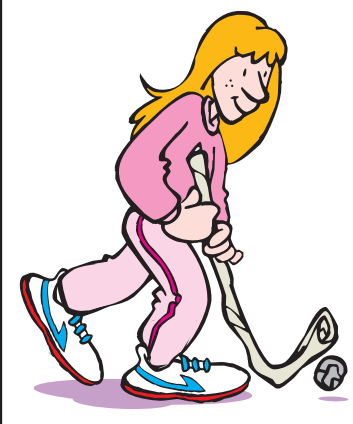
EXPERIMENT Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



How many differences can you spot between these pictures?



Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **GOLF** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

G			F
	G		
		G	
F			G

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

STEM in Your Future?

Look through the newspaper and online for want ads to identify careers in science, technology engineering or math. Count the different careers. Graph the results.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

What did the necktie say to the hat?

ANSWER: "You go on ahead. I'll just hang around."

Write On!

Fastest Ever

Write a paragraph about a fast animal or machine, include at least three facts and one opinion.

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Photo by Kim Skinner

HOWDY, SNOWMAN! Huston Skinner, left, 8, and Troy Perez, 9, with their snowman Tuesday at Huston's house on Chestnut Drive.

Lent devotionals

Day 15 – Thursday

Scripture: Mt 26:26-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:17-20; 1 Cor 11:24-25

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the



Mike Sublett

supper he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." And they all drank from it. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." (The Gospels Interwoven)

Devotional:

In Jesus' world it was the most common of all food items. No doubt some breads tasted better than others, but its main objective was to fill the belly for another day and stave off the hunger that showed up each morning with the sunrise. During Passover the bread was flatter, denser, because it was to be unleavened like the bread of the Israelites when they exited Egypt. Ex. 12:34 It was normally the least expensive item on every dinner menu.

So with Him being the most valuable gift ever given by Yahweh to humanity, why did He select bread as a symbol of His sacrifice? Why not the most precious of meats or exotic fruits? Why something so ... "common"? There is the answer. Something so common that everyone would have and be able to afford. Something that was considered the PRIMARY food item essential for life.

His words were simple, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." What could be easier than that? Get some bread, eat a piece and remember Him while eating it. Now who could struggle with that one?

I could and have. In fact, if God had struck me dead every time I didn't remember Him while I was eating the bread during communion, He would have to have raised me from the dead more times than I would like to think about. Why is it so hard to see Him on the cross and to keep my mind/heart there as I eat the bread? After all, it's not like I have to stay focused for hours. Why is concentration so hard during those few moments? What is so difficult about remembering His body on the cross? What could possibly be interfering with my focus? Hummmm? Better yet, WHO could be interfering with my concentration? WHO would want to distract me from concentrating of the bodily sacrifice of the Lamb of God? Eureka! Satan.

In the words of my Savior, "GET BEHIND ME, SATAN." I pledge to "remember Him" as He commanded when I taste the bread of communion. I vow to remember that He gave His body for me, to redeem me from the sinful predicament I was in. Lord, I WILL remember You.

Prayer:

Thank You, Jesus, for not picking something full of taste for communion. Thank You for selecting something that made it easy for us to focus on You and Calvary and Golgotha. But Lord, sometimes even with having just the right item to help me remember, I still wander in my mind and heart. On those occasions I dishonor You and I fail. Help me. Please, help me honor You. Help me taste the bread in a worthy manner. Amen.

Search for boat, missing family ends off Calif. coast

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — Rescuers have stopped searching the cold Pacific Ocean for a couple, two young children and a sinking sailboat as questions of a hoax arise amid no reports of the missing family or any registration of the vessel in question.

The Coast Guard on Tuesday called off the search for a boat that reportedly sank in rough seas far off the Central California coast, saying nothing more could be done and that the family's distress calls might have been a hoax.

"We've exhausted the possibilities," Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Mike Lutz said. The Coast Guard is treating the incident as a rescue, with the possibility the calls

came from a trickster.

Coast Guard Executive Officer Noah Hudson in Monterey said it was tough to call off a search, but that if it was a hoax, "it's unfortunate that we were forced to use so many resources for so much time."

Making a false federal distress call is a federal felony, and perpetrators face up to six years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The 42-hour search involved hundreds of rescuers from the Coast Guard and the California Air National Guard. A Hercules C-130 four-engine turboprop aircraft buzzed above the seas, while helicopters, cutters and lifeboats plied the waters, as costs soared into the hundreds of thou-

sands of dollars. The Coast Guard handles several hundred hoax calls a year, some involving major rescue efforts.

A massive search was launched last year in the Atlantic Ocean east of Sandy Hook, N.J., after a caller falsely radioed for help, claiming, "We have 21 souls on board, 20 in the water."

Kurtis Thorsted, 55, of Salinas, Calif., was released from federal prison last summer after being convicted, for the second time, of making false calls to the Coast Guard. Court records show he made 51 distress calls over a five-month period, claiming in one case to be in trouble in a kayak off the coast of Santa Cruz.

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