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# The PAMPA NEWS



Thursday, April 10, 2014    www.thepampanews.com    Volume 110 • No. 3

**75¢** Tales from the Final Frontier  
 John Stossel on taxes | **p4**

Harvesters fall short at River Road  
 Lady Harvesters romp River Road | **p5&7**

## School board selects new girls' basketball coach

**BY JOHN LEE**  
 jlee@thepampanews.com

The Pampa ISD Board of Trustees held a special meeting Wednesday morning.

During the session, the board approved the employment of the presented professional employees for the 2014-15 school year.

The school board approved hiring a new girls' basketball coach during the meeting.

Kim Chaffin, who comes to Pampa from Petersburg, Texas was selected to be the new head basketball coach for the Lady Harvesters.



**Kim Chaffin**

"I know Pampa has the athletes and the reputation of having the small-town feel which I really enjoy," Chaffin said. "I have always kept an eye on the 3A and up schools and with Pampa going to 4A next year I want to come in and see what I can do."

Chaffin said that the transition from 1A to 3A won't be too much of a transition, just more students to manage. Chaffin also said that her experience at Petersburg will bring enthusiasm to the team.

"Coming in earlier in the season helps me establish a relationship with the students early," Chaffin said.

She played her college basketball at University of Texas-Permian Basin and graduated from Smyer High School before that.

She won back-to-back district championships over the

last two years and has a total of four years of head coaching experience.

She is a former District Coach of the Year and a Region 1 Finalist for the Dean Weese Most Outstanding Coach Award.

While she was in college, she was a four-year team captain and holds national top-10 records for free throw percentage and assists. She was also a four-year college first team all-conference at point guard.

Chaffin knows that even though the Lady Harvesters are losing their leading scorer, Hayley Burnett, to graduation, she was in a similar situation when she took over at Petersburg.

"We had just lost an all-star point guard and everyone

**COACH** cont. on page 2

## Stories of the Panhandle



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

From left, Lynne A. Groom, director of development for Panhandle PBS; Dennis Palmitier, local storyteller; and Cullen Lutz, community engagement specialist for Panhandle PBS.

**■ Pampa storytellers featured in public broadcast station's oral history project.**

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

Everyone has a story to tell.

It could be your first kiss, a dedicated teacher who never spared the rod when you got out of line, shelling peas on the back porch with grandma or that monster tornado that ripped through the town yet amazingly didn't kill a single person.

Since September, Panhandle PBS, the public broadcasting television station based at Amarillo College, has been gathering stories on video from residents in Panhandle and posting clips on its web page.

The project started at the Lovett Memorial Library where several residents, including Pampa residents Zip Hall, Dennis Palmitier and Jo Schrader not only recalled events from their childhoods but also spoke

**Panhandle PBS**

on why they love living in this dusty, windy little town in the Texas Panhandle.

Palmitier said he's lived in big cities and traveled the country, but there is no place he'd rather live than the Panhandle.

One of the things Hall talked about was going to the rodeos when she was a kid. She also talked about the dust storms.

Another Pampan, Leslie Howard, said when Pampans jump into something, they jump into it with their whole hearts.

"When a new store opens people line up for three days," she said.

Two staff members of Panhandle PBS, Community Engagement Specialist Cullen Lutz and Development Director Lynne Groom, gave an overview of the project at Wednesday's weekly Rotary Club meeting.

"We want to collect, preserve and educate on what it means to live in the Panhandle," Lutz said.

With special video equipment, that the women called "a traveling kit," a PBS crew travels from city to city to record local residents as they tell their stories in a public space such as courthouse or library. The videos are shot in front of a generic background.

At the end of each interview, the TV crew burns a DVD that the storyteller can take home with him or her.

Select stories will be broadcast on the air, Lutz said.

Along with Pampa, stories have been recorded in Canyon, Amarillo, Tulia, Dumas, Stratford and Hereford.

Next on the list is Clarendon and Spearman, with more communities to follow.

All of the videos will be archived at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon.

Groom said inspiration for Panhandle Stories came from National Public Radio's StoryCorps, where an NPR crew travels the country to gather stories for radio broadcast, and Ken Burns' PBS documentaries

**PBS** cont. on page 2

## Commission approves zoning change

**BY LINDSEY TOMASCHIK**  
 LKTomaschik@thepampanews.com

The Pampa City Commission met Tuesday and approved on second reading an ordinance that amended the zoning on the lot located at 312 N. Sumner Ave. Originally zoned residential, lot owner James Kephart made a request that the zoning be changed to commercial with the approval of the city's planning and zoning commission.

The Commissioners also approved a resolution to authorize the city's participation in the Panhandle Region (Texas State Planning Region 1) Regional Mutual Aid Agreement, which provides for the sharing of disaster assistance among the localities of the region as needed and available, to afford all residents of the Panhandle a greater degree of protection. The mayor was designated to serve as the city's chief representative in all matters pertaining to the city's participation in the agreement.

In other business, the Commissioners approved the minutes from their March 25 meeting and excused the absence of Robert Dixon from that same meeting.

Dixon was absent from Tuesday's meeting.

The Pampa City Commission meets at 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month on the second floor of City Hall, 200 W. Foster Ave.

## Abbott campaign: Pre-K plan does not mean more tests

**BY MORGAN SMITH AND ALEXA URA**  
 The Texas Tribune

After questions were raised about language in a policy proposal that appears to call for the biannual testing of pre-kindergarten students, Republican gubernatorial candidate Greg Abbott's campaign is clarifying his early education plan, saying he is not calling for such tests.

The proposal — the first detailed glimpse at Abbott's education policy — aims to increase accountability for pre-kindergarten programs in the state by tying their funding to academic outcomes. Announced a little more than a week ago, it asks Texas lawmakers to require school districts with

**ABBOTT** cont. on page 2



**Greg Abbott**

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# PBS

Continued From Page 1

on World War II and the Dust Bowl. While Burns' TV documentaries were on specific topics, Panhandle Stories can be about anything the interviewee wants to talk about.

Lutz said it's still not too late to tell your story and get it on the website.

Stories can be recorded with a smartphone or video camera and then sent to the station, she said.

Panhandle PBS is a division of Amarillo College. Besides receiving financial support from the college, it gets taxpayer dollars through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, donations from individuals, businesses, foundations and trusts.

The station provides free, over-the-air, non-commercial programming to 140,000 households in the Panhandle.

Last year was the station's 25th anniversary, and it has celebrated with concerts, including one in Pampa, a family day at Wonderland Park and a summer library tour.

The oral history project also is part of that 25-year commemoration.

"We signed on in August 1988," Groom said, adding that Panhandle PBS is among the youngest of PBS stations, as quite a few are 50 or 60 years old.

To watch the videos, visit [www.panhandlepbs.org/stories](http://www.panhandlepbs.org/stories).

To find out how to submit a story of your own, call the station at 806-371-5222.

# Coach

Continued From Page 1

kind of put their head down and gave up on the basketball team," Chaffin said. "But that gives you an opportunity to find more leadership and before you knew it we had won district titles

and were in the regional tournament."

The final item on the agenda was the submission of the number of eligible scholastics to Gray County Commissioners Court. The figure will be used for the distribution of funds generated from land owned by Gray County.

The number is generated by where the students re-

side, not where they go to school. For example, students who come to Pampa ISD from another district are not included in the number. This is only those who live in Pampa ISD and live in Gray County. The number to be submitted to Gray County Commissioners Court is 3,758 students.

The Commissioners Court will receive the funds

by April 24 tentatively, and will distribute the funds at their May 2 meeting. Superintendent Dr. David Young said that this figure will be in the neighborhood of \$1,300 and \$1,500 a student.

The Pampa ISD board meets at 5:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at the new administration building on North Hobart Street.

# Abbott

Continued From Page 1

such programs to "administer assessments at the beginning and end of the year."

After Democrats and education advocates said Abbott's policy opened the door to standardized testing for pre-K students, the Abbott campaign said Tuesday the language in the attorney general's proposal would not amount to standardized exams for 4-year-olds.

"Suggestions to the contrary are absurd," spokesman Matt Hirsch said in a statement.

Such a plan would probably be an unpopular move after a legislative session during which lawmakers in both parties scrambled to scale back state testing in response to widespread outcry from parents and educators.

Abbott's Democratic opponent, state Sen. Wendy Davis, highlighted the legislative changes during a rally Monday in

Houston when she attacked Abbott over what she said was a new testing mandate.

"At a time when parents and teachers are calling out for relief from the burden of over-testing, Greg Abbott calls for more — subjecting 4-year-olds to another intrusive, state-mandated requirement," said Davis, who opposes standardized tests for pre-K students.

Davis, who filibustered 2011 state budget cuts to public schools, has attempted to make her support of education a key factor in the governor's race.

Her own early education policy proposal, which the Abbott campaign has said is "short on substance and big on spending," prioritizes increased access to full-day pre-K programs.

Abbott's proposal would provide an additional \$1,500 in state funding for each student enrolled in half-day pre-K programs — which the state currently funds for children who cannot speak English or are from homeless, low-income, foster or military families — if those pro-

grams meet state-set "gold standard" performance requirements. The biannual assessments are necessary, the proposal states, to provide the state with "data necessary to properly evaluate" whether districts would qualify as "gold standard."

In the section describing how the state should monitor pre-K performance, the proposal cites a 2012 report published by the Educational Testing Service, a nonprofit organization that develops and administers tests worldwide, that details policies related to "assessing preschoolers' learning outcomes."

It explains that there are three methods of evaluating pre-K students: through "norm referenced standardized tests," observations based on predetermined checklists and scales, and portfolios of children's work.

Most states use either the first or second approach, and Texas, it notes, is one of four states that do not require any kind of assessment for pre-K programs.

On Tuesday, Hirsch said that the assessment methods mentioned in the plan were "there for informational purposes only."

"They are not part of Greg Abbott's policy recommendations," he said. "As the plan states, TEA should publish a list of approved assessments that districts may use."

Under the plan, local school districts would choose from a list of approved assessments to be published by the Texas Education Agency, which it states should avoid "granting any one testing organization a monopoly."

Asked whether the attorney general would call on the TEA to not include standardized testing as an approved assessment, Hirsch said Abbott "would discourage the use of standardized testing for pre-K students."

Debbie Ratcliffe, a spokeswoman for the agency, said in an email Tuesday that the TEA had not had a chance to review the proposal.

# Tax Freedom Day arrives in Texas on April 13

SUBMITTED

## ■ Texas is 18th state to reach Tax Freedom Day.

Washington, DC — Texas's Tax Freedom Day, the day on which Texans have collectively earned enough income to pay off their total federal, state, and local tax bill, will arrive on April 13 this year, making it the 18th state to reach Tax Freedom Day.

According to the annual report released this morning by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, national Tax Freedom Day falls on April 21, three days later than last year.

The states with the earliest Tax Freedom Days are Louisiana (Mar 30), Mississippi (Apr 2), and South Dakota (Apr 4). The latest dates fall in New Jersey (May 9), Connecticut (May 9), and New York (May 4).

The study's key findings include:

The national Tax Freedom Day is three days later than last year due mainly to the continuing economic recovery, which will boost federal tax revenue collected through the corporate, payroll, and individual income tax.

Americans will spend more on taxes in 2014 than they will on food, clothing, and housing combined, according to the foundation.

Americans will spend 42

days working to pay off income taxes, 15 days for excise taxes, and 11 days for property taxes.

Americans will pay \$3 trillion in federal taxes and \$1.5 trillion in state and local taxes, for a total bill of more than \$4.5 trillion, or 30.2 percent of the nation's income.

If you include annual federal borrowing, which represents future taxes owed, Tax Freedom Day would occur on May 6, 15 days later.

Tax Freedom Day is a significant date for taxpayers and lawmakers because it represents how long Americans as a whole have to work in order to pay the nation's tax burden.

"Arguments can be made for why the collective tax

bill is too high or too low, but in order to have an honest discussion, it's important to understand where we stand," said Tax Foundation Economist Kyle Pomerleau. "Tax Freedom Day gives us a vivid representation of how much we pay for the goods and services provided by governments at all levels."

Historically, the date for Tax Freedom Day has fluctuated significantly. The latest-ever nationwide Tax Freedom Day was May 1, 2000 — meaning that Americans paid 33 percent of their total income in taxes. A century earlier, in 1900, Americans paid only 5.9 percent of their income in taxes, meaning Tax Freedom Day came on Jan. 22.

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## PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
		
High 80 Low 46	High 82 Low 52	High 90 Low 54

**Today:** Partly cloudy with a high of 80. Winds north at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:18 a.m.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear with a low of 46. Winds northeast at 13 mph. Sunset at 8:13 p.m.

**Friday:** Mostly Sunny with a high of 82. Winds east-northeast at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:17 a.m.

**Friday night:** Partly cloudy with a low of 52. Winds south-southeast at 13 mph. Sunset at 8:14 p.m.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny with a high of 90. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds southwest at 17 mph. Sunrise at 7:15 a.m.

**Saturday night:** Mostly clear with a low of 54. Winds west-southwest at 15 mph. Sunset at 8:14 p.m.

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# Obituaries

## Dr. Wil Beck

Our Lord needed a doctor in Heaven and called Wil to be with him on Friday, March 7, 2014. For her family and friends, she was so much more than a great doctor. She will be missed. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12, 2014, at First Presbyterian Church, with Dr. Edwin Cooley, former pastor, Rev. Jim Friedewald, pastor, and Nancy Ruff, commissioned lay pastor, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

**Wil Beck**

Dr. Wilhelmina Paula "Wil" von Wolzogen Kuhr Beck was born April 13, 1924 in Bandung, Dutch East Indies as the youngest child and only daughter of Jules Emile Antoine von Wolzogen Kuhr and Catharina van Katwijk. She went two years to the elementary school in Bandung and continued her education in Holland after her father retired and the family repatriated to Holland in 1934 when she was 10 years old. On their way to Holland, the Kuhrs stopped by to see their family, the van Katwijk's (Catharina's brother, Paul), in Dallas. That's where Wil met Uncle Paul's nephew, Curt Buxton Beck. She went to high school in The Hague, graduating in 1942 after which she enrolled in the Medical Faculty of the Rijks University in Amsterdam. However her studies were interrupted after three months following the German invasion and occupation of the Netherlands. In 1945 she resumed her studies at the Rijks University in Utrecht and graduated with a medical degree in 1950 followed by her internships in 1952. She was a resident in the Children's Clinic in Amsterdam and accepted a job with the Amsterdam Health Department in 1954 and worked as a school physician.

In 1957 she married Curt Buxton Beck and settled in Pampa. This was followed by the birth of their three children: Curt Emile (1958), Anna Catherine (1960) and Paul Buxton (1962).

When Paul started school in Pampa, she started work on getting her Texas medical license. She obtained this in 1970 and joined the Pampa Clinic's Drs. Bellamy and Brown in Family Practice. Wil was the first woman doctor in Pampa. After Dr. Brown died and Dr. Bellamy retired she continued in solo practice, keeping many of the clinic's industrial accounts. In 1978, she served the newly created Hospice of Pampa, later named Hospice of the Panhandle as volunteer medical director.

She closed her medical practice in 1990, but kept her position with hospice until after the merger with BSA. For many years, she was Gray County Health Officer and a Local Medical Consultant for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. She was on the medical staff of the Worley Hospital, Highland General Hospital, and later, the Coronado Hospital.

Wil's active professional memberships included the AMA, TMA, AAFP, TAFP, Top o' Texas Medical Society, American Academy of Palliative and Hospice Medicine and the American Humane Society. For many years, she served as a Cub Scout Den Mother and a Girl Scout Brownie leader — both activities she loved. She served on the Board of Columbia Medical Center in Pampa and the Board of the Community Concert Association, the Samaritan Counseling

Service's Satellite Center, St. Matthew's School, and was a member of Twentieth Century Allegro Study Club among many other civic organizations. Additionally, she was always supportive of Curt's many civic activities throughout their 54 years of marriage.

Wil's greatest love, outside of her husband, children, and grandchildren were her pets. Too many to name, but they ranged from her most beloved horses and dogs, to cats, parrots, rats, and even an alligator. She loved animals and has many waiting for her at the Rainbow Bridge. There are many people in Pampa who will fondly remember Wil riding her horse out by the Kelly Corral.

Wil is survived by her three children: Curt and his wife Rhenalea and their three children, Kelsi (26), Austen (24), and Kaylen (22); Anna and her husband Kelly and her children Erin (23) and Sara (21) and stepchildren Carly (24) and Taylor (18); and Paul and his wife Carol and their children Gregory (19), Steven (17), Catie (12) and Jessie (10).

Over the past years, Wil has received very special and loving care from a number of caregivers. Her family would like to express their deepest appreciation to LaVern Fulton, Kandy Soliz, Rolanda Bowman, Brandi Soliz, Natalie Santacruz, Sherry Bolch, Tommy Henson and Jim Sinyard.

The entire Beck family wishes to thank all for their loving condolences and best wishes during this difficult period. For those who would like to donate in honor of Wil, we believe she would have preferred donations to the Pampa Animal Welfare Society, P.O. Box 2095 Pampa, Texas 79066-2095 or the First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online guest register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

## Richard Allen Stroud

Richard Allen Stroud, 61, of Pampa, died Wednesday, April 9, 2014, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



**Richard Stroud**

Mr. Stroud was born Feb. 5, 1953 in Pampa where he was a lifelong resident and attended Pampa schools. He married Jayne McCausland in Pampa. She preceded him in death in 2010. He worked as a machinist for several years for PeeWee Romines, Panhandle Industrial and 3-J Machine Shop. After his career as a machinist, he worked for UPS for the last 10 years. In his spare time, he liked to play golf, bowl and play softball. He will be remembered as a devoted brother and husband, who spent the last years of his life caring for his wife.

Survivors include three brothers, Larry Stroud and wife Debbie, Jerry Stroud and wife Brenda, and Jim Stroud and wife Jan, all of Pampa; and a host of nieces and nephews. Richard was also preceded in death by his parents, W.D. "Dee" Stroud and Florence Stroud.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Pampa Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 939, Pampa, TX 79066-0939 or Good Samaritan Christian Services, 309 N. Ward, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

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## For the record

# Pampa man arrested for possession of marijuana

### STAFF REPORT

• Cody Ellis, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Pampa Police Department for possession of marijuana — less than two ounces.

• Kevin Lee Mack, 41, Beaumont, was arrested Tuesday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for public intoxication.  
 • Eric Marvin Gray, 37, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by PPD for disorderly

conduct — language.  
 • Delia Ann Grimes, 61, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by PPD for capias pro fine — speeding, capias pro fine — violation of promise to appear.

## Have an Event? tell us about it!



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Submissions should be 100 words or less and written in the third person. Please include the title of the event, the date and time, physical address, the admission cost or whether it is a free event and a contact number and/or email address for the public.

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# Viewpoints

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Mondays and all national holidays by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

<b>Publisher</b> ReDonn Woods	<b>Subscription Rates – Mail Delivery</b>
<b>Managing Editor</b> Tim Howsare	1 year ..... \$114.00
<b>Sports Reporter</b> John Lee	6 months ..... \$57.00
<b>Reporter</b> Lindsey Tomaschik	3 months ..... \$28.50
<b>Advertising Director</b> Callie Odell	1 month ..... \$9.50
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## Tales from the Final Frontier

### ■ New characters for next 'Smash Bros' installment brings little excitement.

For many years of my teens and early twenties, nothing was more of a test of our manhood between my friends and me like a good ol' fashioned round of "Super Smash Bros."

That's right. Whenever there was a dispute, that meant we went one-on-one, on Final Destination and no items. Usually it was me, playing as my beloved Link, versus my best-friend-turned-brother-in-law playing as Ike. Sure there were others. I had a friend who liked Kirby, a friend who liked Marth, my wife likes Pikachu, and several others in between.

That is what made this game special. Everyone had their one character they had mastered and felt unstoppable with.

So any time there is a new installment in the series, everyone wants to know who is going to be the new character. Well, Nintendo announced recently the next installment, still just labeled "Super Smash Bros," which will be for Wii U and 3DS, will feature Villager (from the Animal Crossing se-

ries), Wii Fit Trainer (from the Wii Fit), Rosalina and Luna (from Super Mario Galaxy), Little Mac (from Punch-Out!) and Greninja (from Pokemon X and Y).

Really? Greninja and Little Mac? That's the best you got, Nintendo? What about characters from the Golden Sun series? Or you already did a Nintendo-Square Enix mash-up with Fortune Street (great game by the way) so how about you give us some Dragon Quest characters?

But you give us Villager from Animal Crossing and Wii Fit Trainer? Did you notice they don't have names?

So with that in mind, here are some characters I would love to see in Super Smash Brothers:

• **King K. Rool** — That's right. The pot-bellied crocodile that finds a way to steal Donkey Kong's banana hoard and make the lovable gorilla run around the island tracking down his precious fruit would be great on Super Smash Bros.

• **Dixie Kong** — Why shouldn't Diddy Kong's pony-tailed companion be in the Super Smash Bros series? She would work just like Diddy except she could flutter by spinning her hair.

• **Bowser Jr.** — We have Toon Link

and Donkey's miniature counter-part in Diddy. We have Shiek/Zelda and Pokemon Trainer who interchanges between three pokemon. So in that same tune, Bowser Jr., who is now giving Mario grief, should be on the game. Seriously, he could be played like a smaller faster version of Bowser.

• **Wolf Link and Midna** — I had to be informed of this one, but after reading the suggestion I really enjoyed the idea. Yoshi and Pokemon are the only beast-type characters in the game. If Nintendo wants to stick to adding cult-following type games such as Pikmin and Animal Crossing, they should add these characters. "The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess" has a following who believe it was the best installment in the Zelda franchise. It would be a neat fit.

• **Any character from Dragon Quest VIII** — The Dragon Quest that took me the longest to beat (over 100 hours logged into that sucker). This one had several different characters who each had their own personality quirks. Angelo was cocky, but a good swordsman (make him like Marth?). Jessica was a girly-girl who could fight and sometimes had racy attire. There was King Trode who was transformed into a toad-like humanoid. Basically any of these characters would do and the item drops could feature any Dragon Quest foe.

Who would be your dream character (s) in a Smash Bros game?

John Lee is the sports editor of The Pampa News. He can be reached at [jlee@thepampanews.com](mailto:jlee@thepampanews.com)

## Taxing life away

It's tax time. I'm too scared to do my taxes. I'm sure I'll get something wrong and my enemies in government will persecute — no, I mean prosecute — me. So I hired Bob. Bob's my accountant. I like Bob, but I don't like that I have to have an accountant. I don't want to spend time keeping records and talking to Bob about boring things I don't understand, and I really don't want to pay Bob. But I have to.

What a waste. Once, I calculated what I could do with the money I give Bob. I could have a fancy dinner out 200 times. I could buy a motorcycle. I could take a cruise ship all the way from New York to Venice, Italy, and back.

Better yet, I could do some good for the world. For the same money I waste on Bob, I could pay four kids' tuition at a Catholic high school.

The tax code is now complex enough that most Americans now hire Bob, or his equivalent. Instead of inventing things, doing charity work or just having fun, we waste weeks (and billions of dollars) on tax preparation.

And we change our lives to suit the wishes of politicians.

"What the tax code is doing is trying to choose our values for us," complains Yaron Brook from the Ayn Rand Institute. I think I choose my own values, but it's true that politicians use taxes to manipulate us. Million-dollar mortgage deductions steer us to buy bigger houses, and solar tax credits persuaded me to put solar panels on my roof. Brook objects to every manipulation in the code: "It's telling us charity is good!"

On my TV show, I respond: But charity is good! Brook retorts, "If you want to give to charity, great, (but) I might invest in a business that's more important."

That's possible, but since a charity will probably spend the money better than government will, isn't it good that the code encourages people to give? Steve Forbes argues that if taxes were flat and simple, Ameri-

cans would give more. "Americans don't need to be bribed to give ... In the 1980s, when the top rate got cut from 70 down to 28 percent ... charitable giving went up. When people have more, they give more."

While freedom lovers complain about the byzantine complexity of the tax code, the politically connected tout their special breaks. The National Association of Realtors runs TV ads showing Uncle Sam offering first-time homebuyers an \$8,000 tax break, while sleazily winking at the viewer.

The tax code oddity that may have the most destructive influence on America might be the fact that if you buy private health insurance, you pay more tax than if your employer buys you a plan.

It's why we ended up with a sluggish health care market unresponsive to individual desires — leading to the insistence that we need a government-managed alternative like Obamacare.

The code is incomprehensible. You can get a deduction for feeding feral cats but not for having a watchdog, for clarinet lessons if your orthodontist thinks it'll cure your overbite but not for piano lessons a psychotherapist prescribes for relaxation. It seems so arbitrary.

In the marketplace, individuals shop around for the most efficient, low-cost way of getting services they really want. Every time tax rules nudge us in a chosen direction, they preempt the market's signals.

Government gets moralistic about it, too, placing "sin taxes" on items like cigarettes and fat, plus luxury items like yachts that some find decadent. It's gone on for centuries. American colonists seem libertarian by today's standards, but they put extra taxes on snuff and "conspicuous displays of clothing."

That's one thing the Founders did that we shouldn't copy — but their otherwise rebellious attitude toward taxation is one that we should emulate. America suffers when government turns taxes into a manipulative maze.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on the Fox Business Network. He's the author of "No They Can't: Why Government Fails, but Individuals Succeed."



JOHN LEE



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## On our highest court, a former lobbyist guts campaign finance reform

For a large and bipartisan majority of Americans, the increasing power of money in politics is deeply troubling.



JOE CONASON

But not for the conservative majority of the United States Supreme Court, whose members appear to regard the dollar's domination of democracy as an inevitable consequence of constitutional freedom — and anyway, not a matter of grave concern. Expressed in their decisions on campaign finance, which continued last week to dismantle decades of reform in the McCutcheon case, the court's right wing sees little risk of corruption and little need to regulate the flamboyant spending of billionaires.

Based on the behavior of certain conservative justices, such as Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito — who flout the rules that govern partisan behavior among lower-court judges — it is easy to regard their rulings as partisan cynicism. But there is also an element of willful naivete when the conservatives claim, for instance, that influence-seeking donations will be exposed by the instant transparency of publication on the Internet. Any reporter who has covered elections can attest that there are dozens of ways

for wealthy donors to avoid public scrutiny until it is much too late to matter.

But if right-wingers like Scalia and Thomas are simply pursuing ideological objectives, what about Anthony Kennedy, the Ronald Reagan appointee from California who is sometimes viewed as a moderating influence and a "swing vote"? On the issue of campaign finance, Kennedy has marched along with the majority, seeming just as fervent in his urge to destroy every regulation and protection against the "malefactors of great wealth" erected since the days of Theodore Roosevelt.

It was Kennedy who wrote the majority opinion in Citizens United, which dismissed the notion that corruption will arise from unlimited political campaign contributions because all such money will be disclosed. "Citizens can see whether elected officials are 'in the pocket' of so-called moneyed interests ... and disclosure permits citizens and shareholders to react to the speech of corporate entities in a proper way," he wrote. "This transparency enables the electorate to make informed decisions and give proper weight to different speakers and messages."

Yet if any Supreme Court justice knows how ridiculous that sounds, it must be Kennedy — whose own background as a corporate lobbyist and son of a lob-

byst has been forgotten in nearly three decades since his Senate confirmation in 1987.

Yes, Kennedy was a respected appellate court judge before Reagan appointed him to the high court. But before that, he grew up and then worked as an attorney in Sacramento, Calif., where his father became a "legendary" lobbyist in a state capital renowned as "freewheeling" (a polite term that means "routinely corrupt"). His father, Anthony "Bud" Kennedy, was a backslapping, hard-drinking partner in a powerful lobbying law firm run by one Arthur "Artie" Samish, "the 'secret boss of California' who finally went to prison on tax charges in the mid-1950s, while young Tony was studying to enter law school. Samish liked to brag that he had amassed more power than anyone else in the state, including the governor, that he could buy any legislator with 'a baked potato, a bottle, or a broad,' and that he could 'unelect' any lawmaker who didn't vote his way.

The major clients of Samish and Kennedy were racing, entertainment and liquor interests, notably Schenley Industries, then owned and run by J. Edgar Hoover's mobbed-up pal Lewis Rosenstiel. When Bud Kennedy died suddenly in 1963, young Tony was only two years out of law school. But he went into the family business and

inherited his late father's clientele.

While Kennedy always insisted that lobbying was only a "sideline" in his law practice, his billings were substantial — the equivalent of hundreds of thousands or more in today's dollars. In 1974, he pushed through a bill for Capitol Records that saved the company (and cost the state) millions in sales taxes.

How did he do it? The same way that special interests work their will today — by doling out huge wads of cash to lawmakers on behalf of his clients. The single largest recipient of Kennedy lobbying largesse, according to the Los Angeles Times, was a legislator who introduced a bill to benefit the opticians lobby that Kennedy himself had drafted (it passed). He gave that guy alone about \$6,500 in campaign contributions over six years, or roughly \$40,000 in today's dollars.

So if anybody on the court knows how the political and legislative process is geared in this country, that would be Justice Kennedy. After all, he was reared in the game. And it shouldn't deceive anyone when he sounds as if he doesn't understand how things work or who wins in that perverse process — and how everyone else loses.

To find out more about Joe Conason, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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# PampaSports

## Directly from the Dugout

### Rangers get needed pitching back.

By ZAC GREEN

Sometimes even the best pitchers have a rocky start when they are first returning from the DL (disabled list). Some fans were skeptical of how Yu Darvish might perform on his return to the mound Saturday.



Yu Darvish

Darvish had a spectacular performance in the Rangers 3-0 win against the Rays Saturday. He allowed seven hits, only one batter and struck out six over seven innings. He also did not allow a run to score. All this was done on a limited pitch count. Darvish left the game after 89 pitches. Had he not been on a limited pitch count, he could have easily had a complete game shutout.

Alexi Ogando, Neal Cotts and Joakim Soria did not disappoint from the bullpen either to keep the shutout in tact.

The good news was Darvish returning, but later in the weekend the Rangers lost another pitcher, Joe Saunders, to the disabled list. But just as the Rangers were served that hit, Colby Lewis is returning from the DL, so they don't have to bring up another experiment from the minor leagues while all of the other pitchers remain on the DL.

Unfortunately for the Rangers, their offense has just not clicked into rhythm yet. Aside from a 10-run performance on Opening Day, the Rangers have yet to surpass the four-run mark. If you take away two comeback, walk off wins against the Phillies, the Rangers would be 1-6 on the season. In those two walk off wins, the Rangers were held to one or two runs in the first eight innings of the game.

Surprisingly the Rangers offense struck early and often against the Rays' ace, David Price, on Saturday. However, the bullpen blew the game in the eighth when Cotts gave up a two-run double to James Loney. However, Cotts redeemed himself the next day as he held on to the Rangers slim 3-0 lead when he came in that night.

Friday's game had very little positive features for the Rangers. The

bright notes were Pedro



Prince Fielder

Figuerroa and Ogando having shutout innings when they came in to pitch and Prince Fielder recording his first RBI of the season. Yes, the big bat the Rangers are spending a lot of money on and the big bat they traded Ian Kinsler for recorded his first RBI of the season four games into the season! Fielder has yet to hit a home run this season as well. Every season but his rookie year of 2005, Fielder has hit at least 25 home runs. The Rangers can only hope he finds his groove soon.

But it is not just Fielder, all of the Rangers batters need to get it going. If the bats can get going, the Rangers can have a deadly lineup. Yes, the lineup is rather weak in the 7-9 holes, but the 1-6 holes, if they play like they should, can be a big time threat and intimidation to opposing pitchers. As of Tuesday afternoon, the Rangers had a total of two home runs on the season. One came from the smallest man on the field, Elvis Andrus, and one from a guy not much bigger than him, Alex Rios. Only two teams, the New York Yankees (1) and the Kansas City Royals (0), have less home runs on the season than the Rangers.

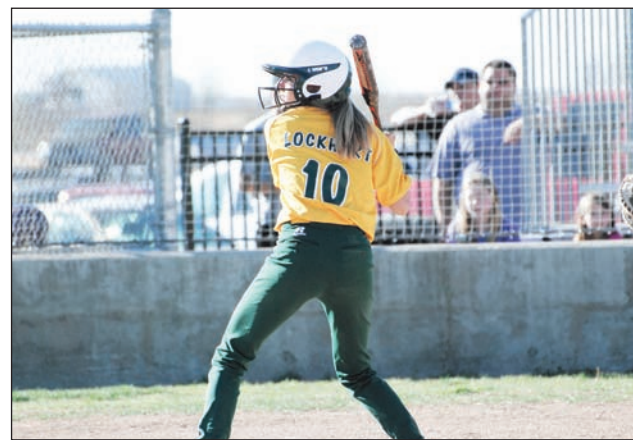
On to this weekend's series. It is the Lone Star Series as the Houston Astros come to Arlington. It could be just what the doctor ordered for this Ranger offense. However, don't be alarmed, Houston is actually playing a little better at the start of the season.

Friday night the former Ranger, Scott Feldman (2-0, 0.66 ERA) faces off against Darvish (1-0, 0.00 ERA). Feldman was a 17-game winner for the Rangers in 2009 and is off to a flying start for the Astros. I think this game has all the makings of a great pitching duel, with one mistake by either pitcher being the difference in the game. I give the nod to the Rangers in this one because Feldman has allowed 7 runs in 11 innings pitched against his former team.

Saturday's tilt will feature young Jared Cosart

DUGOUT cont. on page 7

## The hits keep on coming



Photos by Kevyn Jerome

The Pampa Lady Harvesters advanced to 6-0 in district play on Tuesday with the 33-0 dominating victory of the River Road Lady Cats. Above left, Jessie Dixon slides into home plate. Above right, Cheyenne Lockhart bats late in the game. Below left, Kassie Jerome slides back onto base. Below right, Shiann Regalado tags out a runner. Everyone recorded a run scored in the contest. Britney Gonzalez went 2/7 with six runs and two RBIs, Bailey Wichert went 2/3 with four runs and an RBI and a walk, Jazmyn Hair went 1/2 with a run scored, an RBI and a walk. Alexa O'Brien went 5/7 with four runs scored and six RBIs and a home run. Kassie Jerome went 2/4 with five runs scored and two RBIs and two walks. Jessie Dixon went 1/5 with a run scored and an RBI. Cameron Schaub went 1/4 with two runs scored and an RBI. Cheyenne Lockhart went 1/1 with two runs scored and an RBI and a walk. Kylie Kreider went 1/4 with a run scored and two RBIs. Tori Robles scored two runs and an RBI. Shiann Regalado went 1/6 with a run scored and two RBIs. Ally Roberson went 1/4 with two runs scored. Mattie Eldridge went 1/2 with two runs scored. O'Brien also pitched five innings with two hits, two walks and 12 strikeouts.



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150 oz. asst. types



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25 sq. ft.



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To-go orders welcomed - chips not included



## 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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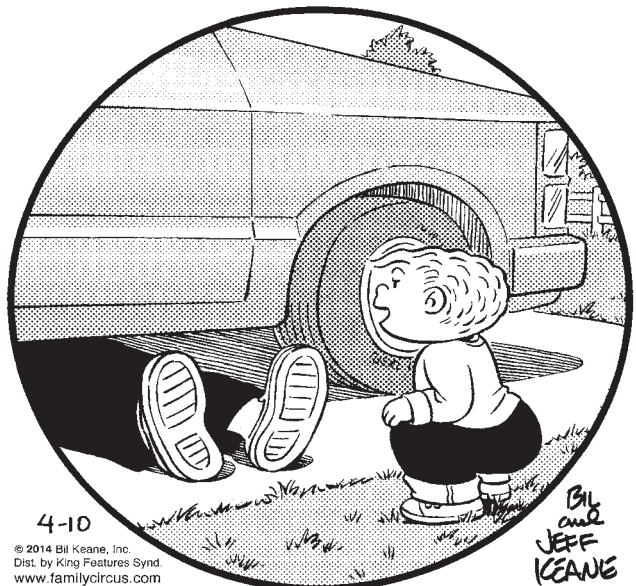
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# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

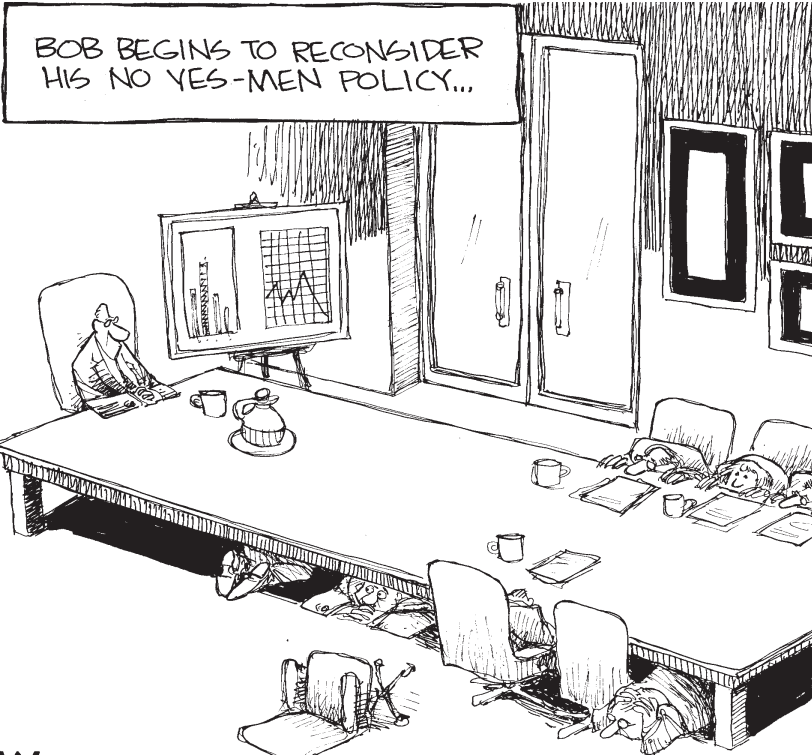


4-10  
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**"Hi, Daddy! Are you working, napping or hidin' from Mommy?"**

Bil and JEFF KEANE

### Non Sequitur



BOB BEGINS TO RECONSIDER HIS NO YES-MEN POLICY...

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### Nest Heads



AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE YOU ONE OF MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS: MY COMPLETE SET OF 1962 "MARS ATTACKS" CARDS.

CAN WE SEE WHAT THEY'RE GOING FOR ON EBAY?

4/10

AFTER FURTHER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE YOU ONE OF MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS...

IS IT THOSE COOL, OLD CARDS WITH ALL THE MARTIANS?!

ALLEN

# daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Friday, April 11, 2014:

This year you see others act out, and you often witness extreme behavior. You might opt to watch rather than participate. Sometimes you retreat to your own personal world, as you find the chaos difficult to be around. You are likely to make a change on the homefront for the better. If you are single, you draw in some interesting characters to your dating life. You could find a potential suitor to be demanding and picky. Wait for someone better to come along. If you are attached, the two of you get into your domestic life this spring. Cupid appears this summer, which adds to the warmth and caring between the two of you. VIRGO can be nitpicky.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
★★★★ You might wake up feeling lucky. Whether or not you choose to act on this feeling, you'll see everything fall into place today. Your sense of humor will help you deal with an unexpected obstacle, which could help to free up your weekend. Tonight: Join friends.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
★★★★ You seem to be bubbling with ideas and plans. Make calls and necessary arrangements. You'll gain a sudden insight into why someone is so reactive. You can question this person's actions all you want, but you're not likely to get an answer. Tonight: Ever playful.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
★★★ Stay focused on a personal or domestic issue. Be willing to put more effort into what you want. It is clear that you can't delegate right now and get the results you desire. A friend could surprise you. Tonight: Where the gang is!

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
★★★★ Don't hesitate to reach out to a neighbor or close relative. You might be delighted by the conversation that ensues. A boss or friend could add an unusual element of surprise to your day; choose to roll with it. Tonight: Out with a loved one.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
★★★★ You could be a bit frivolous as you decide to indulge a loved one to the max. Understand your limitations as well as this person's needs. You might have the best intentions, but

you could go completely overboard. Stay within your budget. Tonight: The moment continues.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
★★★★ You'll feel unstoppable, and in a sense you are. Focus on what you need to do in order to get the results you desire. Make plans for the weekend that involve close friends, as you seem to be happiest around them. A new friend could be demanding. Tonight: As you like it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
★★★ Remain sensitive to what needs to happen with someone you look up to. You could choose to say little at the moment and observe more. You might feel as if a situation is a little out of control. Use caution with your finances. Tonight: In the limelight.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
★★★★ Zero in on what is important in a discussion. Others will be responsive, as long as you demonstrate the ability to understand the big picture and its ramifications. You might be out of sorts when dealing with a difficult person. Do only what you must. Tonight: Find your friends.

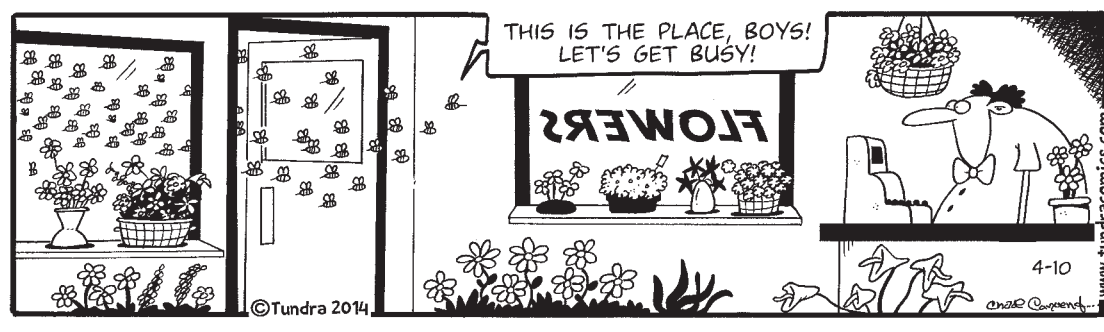
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
★★★★ You could be in a situation that is hard to break away from. Others will want you around to help make sure that everything is up to snuff with a project. Be flattered, even if it means working later than you want to. Tonight: It could be a late one.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. You might need to rethink how you deal with this person. Others are highly responsive to you, and they will welcome any suggestions. Tonight: Think in terms beyond the obvious, and make plans accordingly.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
★★★★ Interact on a one-on-one basis. You could find that a lot of what you thought would be difficult actually is quite easy, as others seem to be responsive. One person might be unusually unpredictable later today. Tonight: Time with a favorite person.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
★★★★ You might want to get to the bottom of a problem that revolves around a friend at a distance. You could be taken aback by someone else's suggestion, but you might decide to use it anyway. A child will be most responsive. Tonight: Follow a friend's advice.

### Tundra



THIS IS THE PLACE, BOYS! LET'S GET BUSY!

© Tundra 2014

### Shoe



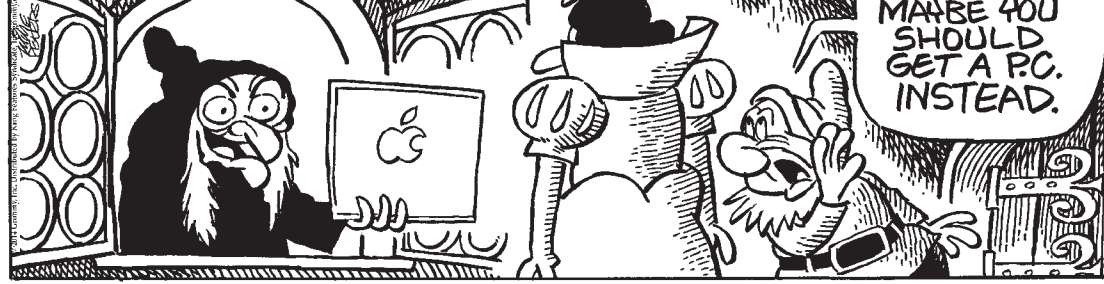
HOLY COW, SKYLER. IT STINKS IN YOUR ROOM.

I BOUGHT A HAMSTER.

I HOPE HE CAN GET USED TO THE SMELL.

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### Mother Goose and Grim



PSST... MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET A P.C. INSTEAD.

### Zits



HOW'S YOUR JOCK ITCH, JEREMY?

UH, FINE.

THE SPRAY HELPED?

YEP.

ARE YOU USING IT TWICE A DAY, LIKE I SAID?

UH-HUH.

SO YOU'RE MORE COMFORTABLE?

UP UNTIL THIS CONVERSATION!

### Garfield



HERE WE GO...

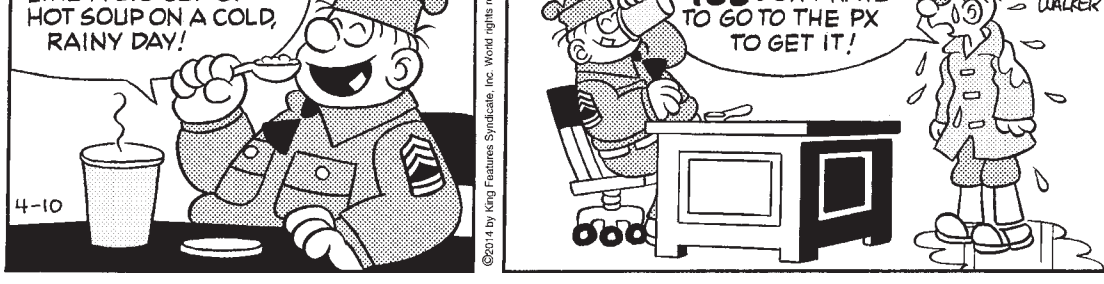
MOMMY, LOOK!

WAIT FOR IT...

IT'S A HAIRY HOG!

...AND, IT'S BITING TIME

### Beetle Bailey



AH! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A BIG CUP OF HOT SOUP ON A COLD, RAINY DAY!

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE PX TO GET IT!

GREAT WOLF WALKER

### Marvin

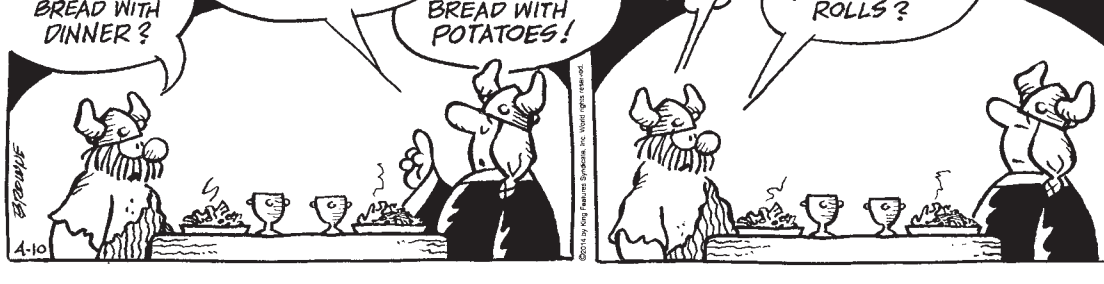


MABEL ACCUSED ME OF NOT LISTENING TO HER

THERE REALLY WAS NO POINT IN DENYING IT

SHE CAUGHT ME TURNING OFF MY HEARING AID RIGHT BEFORE SHE STARTED TALKING

### Hagar The Horrible



CAN I HAVE A LITTLE BREAD WITH DINNER?

NUTRITIONALLY SPEAKING...

...YOU SHOULD NEVER EAT BREAD WITH POTATOES!

OH...

HOW ABOUT SOME ROLLS?

### Peanuts



OH, AND ANOTHER THING, I HEARD GLENDA DEBLENDER HAD TWINS LAST WEEK

HONEY, HAVE YOU HEARD A WORD I'M SAYING?

UH-HUH

SOMETHING ABOUT WANTING TO HAVE TWINS NAMED GLENDEYLER

### Blondie



OH, AND ANOTHER THING, I HEARD GLENDA DEBLENDER HAD TWINS LAST WEEK

HONEY, HAVE YOU HEARD A WORD I'M SAYING?

UH-HUH

SOMETHING ABOUT WANTING TO HAVE TWINS NAMED GLENDEYLER

# PampaSports

## Harvesters come up short in extra innings to Wildcats at River Road 3-2

BY JOHN LEE  
jlee@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters fell to the Wildcats 3-2 in nine innings on Tuesday. The loss puts the Harvesters 1-4 in district play. The game ended abruptly in the bottom of the ninth when a Wildcat runner, Ryan Frye, stole home plate after the Harvesters tried to catch him at second base.

"The kids played hard, I have said all along they never quit," head coach Kaleb Snelgrooes said. "That game goes either way. The only ball that got away was a ball that kicks over our shortstop and that is not an error, it was a clump of grass and that's just the baseball gods."

"I told the kids that this game hurts and it should because [they] are competitive. But if you don't want to lose a close game like that, run-rule them. I hate

to lose a game like that and it was a close game, but we've got to come back tomorrow and regroup and try to get Borger."

In what was his first start at the mound, sophomore Cade Engle pitched six innings with four hits and two runs. He also had three walks and three strikeouts. Despite a rocky start, Engle settled down and eventually pitched a solid game. He was relieved in the middle of the sixth by junior Ryan Powell, who had a hit, a run and a walk.

"He's (Engle) done a good job," Snelgrooes said. "He's a competitor. We had some injuries and he came to me and said if he needed to take a bigger role in pitching he was willing to. That's great and for a kid to come do that, you can build program around kids like that."

"It took him a moment

to settle in and it's kind of hard to coach him because the verbiage you use, he's really not used to. A gritty performance, I wish we could have won the game for him. Totally proud of his effort."

The Harvesters had an equally impressive defensive outing by each of their players. Sophomore Adam Zuniga led the team in putouts with eight, with senior Ethan Hunt coming in second with four. It is worth noting that sophomore Colton Thompson had a great game at right field, with two putouts. Junior Ty Hooper and freshman Brendon Woelfle each had three putouts as well, while juniors Jacob Nelson and Braden Keown each had two.

The Harvesters' first run scored came in the top of the third when Thompson reached first base on an error.

With Keown sacrificing, Thompson moved to second. Then Woelfle hit a flyball out to right field which advanced Thompson to third but was able to score on an error by the third baseman, making it 2-1 River Road.

Their second run was a bit more manufactured. With Powell on first and Engle on third base, Powell attempted to steal second. The attempt was enough to draw attention away from Engle at third base, who took off running to steal home, tying it at 2-2.

While the game will be chalked up as a loss, the Harvesters have every reason to be optimistic heading into Saturday's game against Borger, whom they beat for their lone district win.

"We're going to have our hands full against Borger. We are going to put Ethan

on the mound, he's a senior and he wants to go get those guys," Snelgrooes said. He didn't pitch like he wanted to against them last time so he is excited about that. We are having an Optimist Club day, have the kids coming out to do the National Anthem. Hoping for a big turnout and a big win."

Brandon Woelfle went

1/4, Cade Engle went 1/4 with a run scored and Colton Thompson had a run scored. Ryan Powell, Ethan Hunt, Ty Hooper, Adam Zuniga and Jacob Nelson were all walked in the game.

Game time is Saturday at 12 p.m. at Harvester Field against the Borger Bulldogs.

### Watch the Pros

**Baseball**  
Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees.....MLBN 6:05 p.m.  
Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs.....WGName 1 p.m.  
College: Tennessee at Georgia.....ESPN 6:30 p.m.

**Softball**  
Washington at Stanford.....ESPNU 10p.m.

**Hockey**  
St. Louis Blues at Minnesota Wild.....NBCSN 7 p.m.  
College: Union vs. Boston College.....ESPN2 4 p.m.  
College: North Dakota vs. Minnesota...ESPN2 7:30 p.m.

**Golf**  
The Masters: First-round play.....ESPN 2 p.m.

**Soccer**  
Juventus vs. Lyon.....FS1 2p.m.

**Basketball**  
Denver Nuggets at Golden State Warriors.....TNT 9:30p.m.  
San Antonio Spurs at Dallas Mavericks.....TNT 7 p.m.  
\*\*Check your local listings for channel\*\*  
\*\*\*Times may vary and blackouts may apply\*\*\*



Photos by John Lee

Above left, Ty Hooper, who plays catcher, had a good game defensively leading some of the key outs in the game. Above right, Jacob Nelson (1) and Adam Zuniga (19) were also key in getting the outs the Harvesters needed to stay alive in the contest. The Harvesters return to action Saturday versus Borger.

## Former pro wrestler Ultimate Warrior dies at 54

(AP) — James Hellwig, better known as former pro wrestler The Ultimate Warrior, has died, the WWE said. He was 54.

The WWE said Hellwig died Tuesday but did not give any other details.

Hellwig was one of pro wrestling's biggest stars in



Ultimate Warrior

the late 1980s. He beat Hulk Hogan in a memorable match at Wrestlemania in 1990.

He was in the spotlight again earlier this week, making appearances at the latest Wrestlemania in New Orleans and

on "Monday Night Raw," and being inducted into the

WWE Hall of fame.

"WWE is shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the passing of one of the most iconic WWE Superstars ever, The Ultimate

Warrior," WWE said in a statement, adding: "We are grateful that just days ago, Warrior had the opportunity to take his rightful place in the WWE Hall of Fame."

Baseball weekend 2	John	Zac	Redonn
Yankees vs. Red Sox	Split	Red Sox	Yankees
Reds vs. Rays	Reds	Reds	Reds
Mariners vs. Athletics	Athletics	Mariners	Athletics
Giants vs. Rockies	Giants	Rockies	Giants
Braves vs. Nationals	Nationals	Nationals	Braves
Rangers vs. Astros	Rangers	Rangers	Rangers
Records	2-4	4-2	3-3

## Dugout

Continued From Page 5

(1-1, 4.09 ERA) for the Astros and Colby Lewis (0-0, 0.00) making his 2014 Ranger debut. As noted before sometimes pitchers are a little rusty in their first game back from the DL.

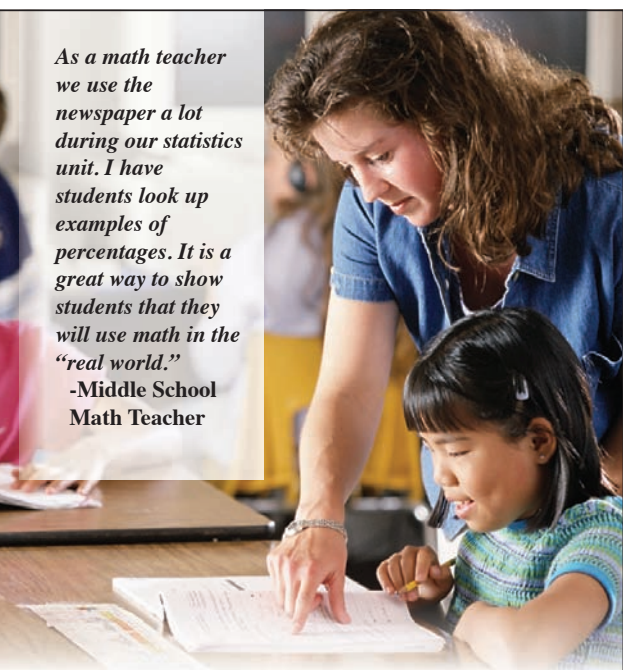
But if Lewis is in proper form, he is 3-0 against the Astros in his career with a 1.26 ERA. Cosart has only had one start against the Rangers, but he did well, only giving up three runs in six innings. I think the Astros sneak one out here if Lewis shaky, but if he is on, Rangers cruise.

The finale on Sunday will feature Brett Oberholtzer

(0-1, 4.76 ERA) against Tanner Scheppers (0-1, 9.00 ERA). Scheppers was a little better in his second start of the season, but it is still clearly evident that he is not comfortable as a starter. Oberholtzer has only pitched 10 innings against the Rangers but has performed well by limiting the Rangers to only three runs. I think the Rangers

could be looking at a sweep in this series if their offense can get clicking.

As of Tuesday the Rangers were 3-4 on the season and in fourth place in the AL West. Let's hope next week we are talking about an explosion of the Rangers' offense and some solid pitching performances to pull the record back above .500.



As a math teacher we use the newspaper a lot during our statistics unit. I have students look up examples of percentages. It is a great way to show students that they will use math in the "real world."  
-Middle School Math Teacher

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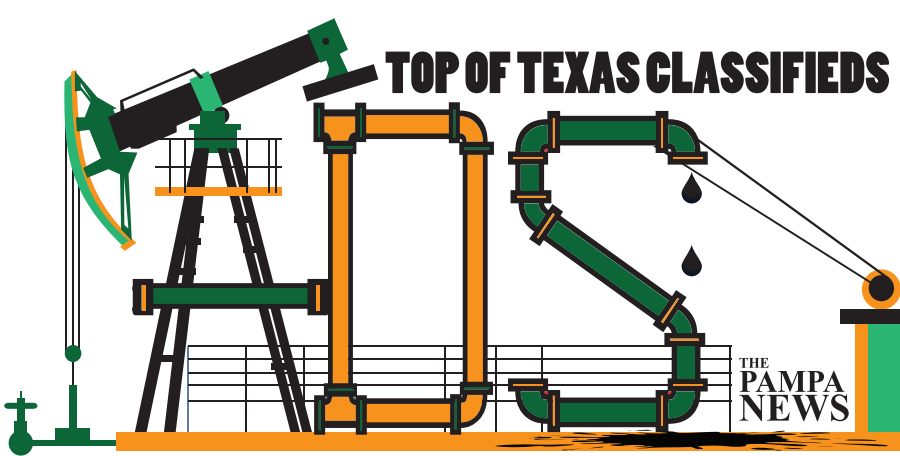
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**Lost & Found**

FOUND keys outside the Coney Island. Also found extension ladder. 114 W. Foster, 669-9137

FOUND white male Poodle puppy, Mar. 26th on Price Rd. / Borger Hwy. No collar. 806-676-9884

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 V E E . — P J V Y M F C Z B R E V  
 J F M O R P F H M V H E B

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** I ALWAYS READ THE LAST PAGE OF A BOOK FIRST SO THAT IF I DIE BEFORE I FINISH I'LL KNOW HOW IT TURNED OUT. — NORA EPHRON

**SUDOKU**

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 27-year-old woman who has never had a boyfriend or been kissed. I was never interested in romance or having a significant other. I felt strong being independent and taking care of myself. Now that I have a degree, a career and a house, I feel ready to try to let a man into my life.

I met a really nice guy a month ago. "Brian" and I have gone out several times and have a lot in common. He's a gentleman, and he says he's willing to wait for me.

I have been having a difficult time letting myself be physical with him. Even hugging is uncomfortable for me. I know it's because I have been a shy loner my whole life and I'm unaccustomed to being close to people.

Even though Brian says he'll be patient, I can sense his frustration. Physical closeness should come easily if you like and are attracted to someone. I feel abnormal. I don't know if I'll be this way forever or get more comfortable the more I know him.

I'm afraid Brian — and most men — won't be willing to wait that long. I'm afraid if I don't move faster I'll lose a great guy and never get another chance. What do you think? — BLOCKED IN BOISE

doesn't, you'll be able to more easily relate to someone else.

DEAR ABBY: I am planning my wedding in the fall. My fiancé and I are paying for the wedding and reception.

I have worked at my job for a year, and I haven't always been treated well by a few co-workers. I am reluctant to invite these people because I'm worried about the repercussions if I do. I know they will judge every aspect because they did it to another co-worker.

I like a few of the people I work with, but I don't know if I can invite only them. What do I do? — WEDDING PLANNER IN OMAHA

DEAR WEDDING PLANNER: What you do is invite only those people you truly want to attend your wedding. It's not necessary to apologize for it or to explain why. If you are put on the spot and feel you must give a reason, say that your guest list is limited because of financial con-

straints. It's far more tactful than saying they are being excluded because they are rude, awful people, and you don't want them anywhere near you on such an important occasion.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

\*\*\*\*\*

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

**BANANAGRAMS!**

Each of the following seven-letter sets can be rearranged to spell out a common word that starts with **TR** or **ST** and/or ends with **RD** or **LY**.

**LEVEL**

A C D R S T U  
 E I K N R T T  
 A C E L L N Y  
 H I L S S T Y

Yesterday's Answer:  

A	I	L	S
O	C	A	
G	O	O	E
I			
G			

I	G	L
O	O	O
S	A	G
O	O	Y
E		

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Loaded
  - 5 "The Hairy Ape" playwright
  - 11 Canyon sound
  - 12 Nasty guy
  - 13 Adopted son of Claudius
  - 14 Will topic
  - 15 Gladiators' weapons
  - 17 Sermon topic
  - 18 Doesn't have
  - 22 Gave a score to
  - 24 One of the Barrymores
  - 25 Boxing great
  - 26 Early auto
  - 27 Diner pages
  - 30 Hard to see
  - 32 Fragrance
  - 33 Twisty turn
  - 34 Almond confection
  - 38 Word of caution
  - 41 Silent performer
  - 42 Wears down
  - 43 Binary digits
  - 44 Composer Bloch
  - 45 Let off steam
- DOWN**
- 1 Monthly expense
  - 2 Bakery worker
  - 3 Stephen King book
  - 4 Sweat-shirt variety
  - 5 Portent
  - 6 Get snug
  - 7 Troubles
  - 8 One-million link
  - 9 Topsy
  - 10 General at Antietam
  - 16 Cut off
  - 19 "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" star
  - 20 Acute
  - 21 Coin's place
  - 22 Farm fathers
  - 23 Baldwin lof "30 Rock"
  - 28 Like just-slept-in beds
  - 29 Rude looks
  - 30 Shriner's topper
  - 31 "I, Robot" writer
  - 35 Take a breather
  - 36 Reply from the pews
  - 37 High home
  - 38 Worker, for one
  - 39 Blunder
  - 40 Took the title

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

**Yesterday's answer**

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15					16					
					17			18		19
22	23							24		
25									26	
27					28	29		30	31	
32								33		
					34					36
38	39	40							41	
42									43	
44									45	

# 8-year-old girl befriended by hoops star dies

DETROIT (AP) — When Michigan State was fighting to stay afloat despite a succession of injuries to key players, Lacey Holsworth was there.

When the team rebounded to win the Big Ten tournament, the 8-year-old from St. Johns, Mich., was there.

And as the cold-shooting Spartans bowed out of the NCAA tournament at the hands of eventual champion Connecticut one win short of the Final Four, she was there.

Now, Lacey is gone.

The little girl affectionately known as “Princess Lacey” finally succumbed to the cancer that she battled since 2011. Her father, Matt Holsworth, said Lacey died at their home late Tuesday “with her mommy and daddy holding her in their arms.”

Lacey met Michigan State star Adreian Payne during one of her hospital stays, and their friendship quickly blossomed.

The little girl became known to legions of basketball fans, cheering on Payne and the Spartans on Twitter as they became a popular pick to win it all this season.

When it was Payne’s turn to be honored during Senior Night, the 6-foot-10 center scooped up Lacey and carried her around the court.

He did it again in Indianapolis after Michigan State won the Big Ten tournament, and the little girl with the blonde wig was there when he took part in a recent slam-dunk competition.

And there she was at the Michigan State basketball banquet last month, standing next to coach Tom Izzo, who put his arm around her

as he addressed the hundreds of players, families and others in attendance.

His message: What Lacey was going through put his team’s injury woes in perspective.

“I’ve learned they’re minor injuries when you look at life,” said an emotional Izzo, who paused to gather himself. “One of the greatest things I’ve done in my 30 years here” was seeing Payne interact with Lacey during a hospital visit.

“Watching that moment, I could never teach that. I could never coach that. I learned from him,” said Izzo, who said Lacey became the team’s inspiration.

Former Detroit coach and longtime ESPN announcer Dick Vitale pledged to raise \$250,000 toward cancer research over the next month and present a check in that

amount in Lacey’s memory during his annual gala to benefit The V Foundation for cancer research on May 16 in Sarasota, Fla.

“I talked to Matt (Holsworth) this morning. I promise you that we are not going to let her die in vain,” said Vitale, who was thrilled to have Lacey attend his gala last year.

“I was just crushed” when he found out about Lacey’s death Wednesday morning, Vitale said. “They should take Lacey’s picture and when they define courage it should have her photo right next to it.”

Lacey watched Michigan State’s NCAA tournament run from the stands. After Payne scored a career-high 41 points to help Michigan State beat Delaware in its first tournament game, Payne talked as much

about what his performance meant to Lacey as it did to the Spartans.

“It’s like having a family member who’s really sick,” he said.

“The only thing you can do is play basketball. You can’t be there with them. Just knowing that when I play well, it makes her happy. It feels like I’m doing something, in a way, to make her feel better.”

Back pain while dancing in 2011 led to the discovery of a football-sized tumor that had engulfed her kidney. After another tumor wrapped around her spine, her father had to carry her into a hospital on Dec. 28, 2011. She lost feeling below her belly button and couldn’t walk on her own for several months, a long stretch that included the first of many visits from Payne.

Still, Lacey almost always was smiling when she was seen in public.

“She loved unconditionally and without hesitation,” said Matt Holsworth, who asked that others continue her legacy by doing the same.

In a statement, Izzo said: “Princess Lacey has taught us all an incredible lesson about love, strength and toughness. We can all learn from her on how to handle adversity with class and dignity. At just eight years old, she has given us all a lifetime of memories.”

Lacey is survived by her parents, Matt and Heather Holsworth, and three brothers: Will, Mitchell and Luke.

A memorial service is planned for April 17 at Breslin Center, Michigan State’s arena in East Lansing.

## Reprising grim role, Obama grieves at Fort Hood

FORT HOOD (AP) — Returning again to a grief-stricken corner of America, President Barack Obama is reprising his role as chief comforter, mourning with families of those killed last week at Fort Hood and offering solace to the nation.

It’s a duty Obama has had to fulfill far too often. Tucson. Aurora. Newtown. Boston. Washington Navy Yard. Fort Hood —

The names of these communities have all become synonymous with tragedy in the five years since Obama took office, each challenging the president to find ways to impart meaning to senseless death.

“Increasingly, giving these eulogies has become a central responsibility for our presidents,” said Michael Waldman, who helped write many eulogies as President Bill Clinton’s chief speechwriter.

“A president is not just a political leader. He is the head of state and speaks for the whole country.”

But as Obama returns to Fort Hood on Wednesday, he brings little in the way of solutions to offer a society that has been confounded by the frequency of events that have jolted Americans out of their sense of security. For a president who is on the path to ending two wars, warding off violence at home has proved an elusive challenge.

Obama and first lady Michelle Obama arrived late Wednesday morning at Fort Hood, where the camouflage fatigues of troops standing to salute his passing motorcade almost blended in with the desert terrain. Flags were lowered to half-staff at the sprawling Army base in central Texas, where Obama was meeting with victims’ relatives before offering his public condolences.

The memorial was to take place at the same spot on the base where Obama eulogized victims of another mass shooting in 2009.

Those close to Obama say he sees his role after a tragedy as fulfilling a ministerial function for the nation. Valerie Jarrett, Obama’s senior adviser and longtime friend, said although it’s painful for Obama, he understands the importance for the president to show leadership, empathy and strength in times of crisis, and for him to spend time with each family member affected.

“It’s hard because it’s

deeply personal for him,” Jarrett said in an interview.

“He identifies as a father, as a husband, as a son, as a family member.”

The last time Obama came to Fort Hood, he told residents here that the 13 lives they lost would endure, their legacies safeguarded by the nation whose protection they had made their life’s work.

“Every evening that the sun sets on a tranquil town, every dawn that a flag is unfurled, every moment that an American enjoys life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — that is their legacy,” Obama said, adopting the role of comforter-in-chief for the first time.

Like an improbable bolt of lightning, tragedy has struck twice at Fort Hood. Army investigators are still piecing together what led to Spc. Ivan Lopez’s deadly, eight-minute rampage last week, on the same sprawling post where an Army psychiatrist unloaded on his comrades five years earlier.

To be sure, Obama is not the first president called on to help Americans in their grief. Ronald Reagan had the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, Bill Clinton had Oklahoma City and George W. Bush had 9/11, to say nothing of the wars that American troops have fought overseas.

But for much of the country’s history, the role fell largely to the vice president, said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. Modern transportation, around-the-clock media and the public’s demand for answers has put a spotlight on the president’s personal response to catastrophes.

“It is an evolving role of any president in a hyper-YouTube age to make sure you get your boot heels on the ground and you go to those memorials,” Brinkley said, calling the president “the de facto spokesperson for our grief.”

In the days after a 20-year-old gunned down elementary school students in Newtown, Conn., Obama said he had been reflecting on whether America was doing enough to prevent such violence. He concluded that it was not.

“We can’t tolerate this anymore. These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change,” Obama said as he consoled heartbroken parents at a prayer

vigil.

There are few signs today that a new push to address such societal ills through public policy is in the works.

Obama’s efforts to seek stronger gun control protections fell flat in Congress. What some hoped could be a productive national conversation about mental health raised fears that patients could be stigmatized by the actions of criminals.

In the face of such long odds, the president may be reluctant to generate undue hope that the nation will enact new laws or programs. White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama’s speech Wednesday will focus on the victims and their families, not on policy.

After Newtown, the National Rifle Association pushed back against new gun control legislation, insisting that “the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” For proponents of more gun control, those words ring hollow following an insider attack on a base housing America’s good guys with guns.

But for gun control foes — and there are plenty in Texas — equally hollow is the notion that the government can prevent such tragedies. Even after Fort Hood’s second deadly shooting, military officials have warned that screening all soldiers for weapons as they enter the 108,000-acre base isn’t feasible.

Adding complexity to the president’s response are questions about whether the suspect’s wartime service precipitated his actions. Although Lopez did a short stint in Iraq in 2011 and said he suffered a traumatic brain injury, Fort Hood officials have said his mental condition was not a “direct participating factor” in the shooting.

Such is the fraught political terrain that Obama’s speechwriters must traverse as the president prepares, once again, to console a nation in grief. Craig Smith, a speechwriter in the Ford and first Bush administrations, said Obama, not his writers, makes the call about how far to go and whether to use the speech as a call to action.

“What you want to do is praise the people who lost their lives and use them to display certain virtues and values that the public needs to believe in at this moment,” Smith said.

## La Quinta rises in first day on the NYSE

NEW YORK (AP) — La Quinta’s stock rose in the hotel chain’s return to the stock market.

The Irving, Texas-based company was publicly traded for more than 30 years before being acquired by private equity firm Blackstone in 2006. Blackstone paid \$2.3 billion in cash and also assumed La Quinta’s debt, giving that deal a value of about \$3.4 billion.

The IPO announced Tuesday night raised \$651 million and valued the company at about \$2.1 billion. Shares priced below the company’s prediction, suggesting lukewarm demand from investors. The stock added 78 cents, or 4.6 percent, to \$17.78 Wednesday afternoon after declining earlier.

La Quinta’s debut comes amid growing demand for IPOs amid a rising stock market. The hotel industry

has also started to recover from a deep slump after the recession.

Begun in 1968 in San Antonio, La Quinta runs select-service hotels, which typically have fewer amenities than full-service hotels. Under Blackstone’s repositioning, La Quinta’s franchise business has grown and the company says it has become more competitive with competitors such as Holiday Inn Express.

It posted a profit last year from a loss in 2012, its sales improved and revenue per available room — a key gauge of a hotel operator’s performance — grew nearly 7 percent. It had 834 hotels at the end of 2013.

Blackstone, which will still own a majority of La Quinta’s stock after the IPO, is familiar with lodging companies. It took Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. public in December in

a \$2.7 billion IPO.

La Quinta priced shares at \$17, lower than the \$18 to \$21 it had projected. But it sold some 38.3 million shares, about 1 million more than initially expected. The banks managing the deal may buy another 5.7 million shares, which would add to the deal’s proceeds.

La Quinta plans to use the money to repay debt.

La Quinta Holdings Inc. trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the “LQ” ticker symbol.

The other company that debuted Wednesday, iKang Healthcare Group Inc., rose 11 percent on the Nasdaq to \$15.60 under the “KANG” symbol.

iKang’s IPO raised nearly \$153 million. The Chinese health care provider priced 10.9 million American depository shares at \$14 each, the top of the expected range.

## Mexican national set to die for 1997 Texas slaying

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A man who escaped prison in his native Mexico while serving a murder sentence was headed to the Texas death chamber Wednesday for the fatal beating of a former Baylor University history professor and attack on his wife more than 16 years ago.

Ramiro Hernandez-Llanas, 44, was in the U.S. illegally when he was arrested for the October 1997 slaying of Glen Lich. Ten days earlier, Lich, 49, had given him a job helping with renovations at his ranch near Kerrville in the Texas Hill Country in exchange for living quarters.

Hernandez-Llanas would be the sixth Texas prisoner executed this year and second in a week to receive lethal injection with a new supply of pentobarbital. Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials have refused to identify the source of the powerful sedative, contending secrecy is needed to protect the provider from threats of violence from capital punishment opponents. The U.S. Supreme Court in a related case last week backed that position.

Texas and other states that have the death penalty have been scrambling for substitute drugs or new sources for drugs for lethal injections after major drugmakers — longtime opposition to the death penalty — stopped

selling to prisons and corrections departments.

Hernandez-Llanas’ appeals were exhausted and the Texas parole board on Tuesday refused to delay his sentence or commute it to life in prison.

Hernandez-Llanas was among more than four dozen Mexican citizens awaiting execution in the U.S. when the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, ruled in 2004 that they weren’t properly advised of their consular rights when arrested. A measure mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court to enforce that ruling has languished in Congress.

Euclides del Moral, a Mexico Foreign Ministry deputy director general, said Tuesday there were “certain gray aspects” in the consulate notification in Hernandez-Llanas’ case. “The execution of a Mexican national is of great concern,” he said.

However, the issue never surfaced in Hernandez-Llanas’ appeals, which focused primarily on claims that his mental impairment made him ineligible for the death penalty. Testimony from psychiatrists who said he was not mentally impaired and would remain a danger was faulty, his attorneys argued.

He wouldn’t be facing execution “but for the testimony of two experts, neither of whose testimony can withstand a moment’s scrutiny,

and neither of whom should have been permitted to testify at all,” lawyers Sheri Johnson and Naomi Torr said.

According to trial testimony, Hernandez-Llanas lured Lich from the rancher’s house on Oct. 14, 1997, by telling him that there was a problem with a generator, then repeatedly clubbed Lich with a piece of steel rebar. Armed with a knife, he then went inside the house and attacked Lich’s wife.

When he was arrested hours later, he was sleeping in the bed where he had wrapped his arm around the terrorized woman, who managed to wriggle from his grasp and restraints without waking him and call police.

Evidence showed Hernandez-Llanas was in Texas after escaping from a Mexican prison, where he was serving a 25-year sentence for a 1989 bludgeoning murder in Nuevo Laredo. He was linked to the rape of a 15-year-old girl and a stabbing in Kerrville. While awaiting trial, evidence showed he slashed another inmate’s face with a razor blade. In prison, he was found with homemade weapons.

“This is exactly why we have the death penalty,” said Lucy Wilke, an assistant Kerr County district attorney who helped prosecute Hernandez-Llanas. “Nobody, even prison guards, is safe from him.”

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*What are the three most common complaints?*

*What questions do you have for the doctor?*



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