

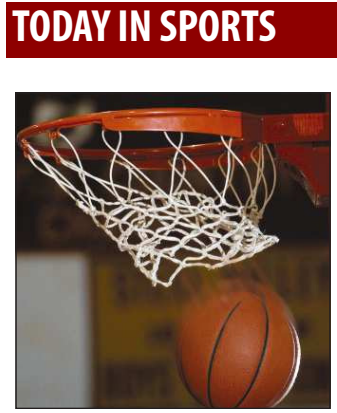
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# The PAMPA NEWS



Friday, December 26, 2014 [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com) Volume 110 • No. 185

**75¢** Tales from the Final Frontier | Basketball teams' action photos | p12  
 \$1.50 weekend | The war against Christians and Christmas | p4 | Community Calendar | p11  
 38¢ subscription

## Ammons Landscape rebrands itself as Verde Lanscape Companies

Administration offices will stay, and grow, right here in Pampa.



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

Ammons Landscape rebranded itself as Verde Landscape Companies on Nov. 1 of this year. Andrew Ammons, owner of Verde Landscape Companies, said that he wants everyone in the community to know that the company's headquarters are going to stay right here and grow in Pampa.

Ammons said he had been operating under that name since 2011 in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He said the work they did coincided with Ammons Landscape back in Pampa.

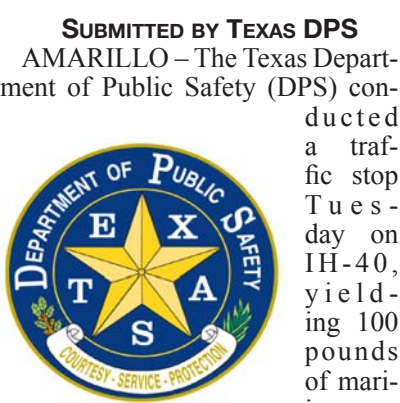
"We wanted to do some testing to see how hard it was to have one company in Pampa and elsewhere," Ammons said. "The dream was to rebrand here in Pampa. That way we could merge all marketing to Verde Land-

**AMMONS** cont. on page 2

Submitted photo

The pool and backyard on the right was one of Verde Landscape Companies' projects recently. They have many other projects on their Facebook page: Verde Landscape Companies.

## DPS Trooper seizes more \$491,000 in illegal drugs



**SUBMITTED BY TEXAS DPS**  
**AMARILLO** — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) conducted a traffic stop Tuesday on IH-40, yielding 100 pounds of marijuana and 11 pounds of methamphetamine valued at more than \$360,000 and 11 pounds of methamphetamine valued at more than \$131,000.

At approximately 11:15 a.m., a DPS trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe

traveling eastbound on IH-40, for a traffic violation, near Conway in Carson County.

The driver of the Tahoe was identified as Carlos Alberto Ruiz-Alamo, 32, of Fontana, Calif. During the traffic stop, the trooper discovered 100 bundles of marijuana and 10 bundles of methamphetamine in the Tahoe.

Ruiz-Alamo was placed under arrest for possession and delivery of marijuana more than 50 pounds but less than 2000 pounds, possession of a controlled substance more than 400 grams, both charges a first-degree felony, and booked into the Carson County Jail. The illegal drugs were allegedly being transported from Fontana, Calif., to Oklahoma City.

## Statewide gas price average drops 16 cents

**SUBMITTED BY AAA TEXAS**

**IRVING** — Year-End holiday travelers will get another big break at the gas pumps as they fill up and drive to their destinations this week.

According to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel in the Lone Star State is now \$2.15.

That's 16 cents less than last week and 90 cents less than one year ago.

Of the major metropolitan areas surveyed in Texas, drivers in Corpus Christi are paying the most at \$2.27 per gallon while drivers in Fort Worth are paying the least at \$1.98 per gallon.

The average in Texas is 23 cents less than the national average of \$2.38 per gallon.

AAA Texas forecasts 8.1 million Texans will travel 50 miles or more away from home from today through Sunday, January 4, which is 4.1 percent more than last year.

That's the highest growth rate for the Year-End holiday travel period since 2009 and the highest travel volume for the holiday period on record.

Comparatively low prices for retail gasoline are helping consumers to save more than \$450 million per day compared to the highs earlier this year, which likely is hav-



ing a positive effect on holiday shopping and travel.

Barring any disruptions in domestic production or unexpected spikes in the global price of crude, consumers could see prices drop even lower to ring in the New Year.

"It costs almost 13 dollars less today to fill up a 14-gallon size fuel tank compared to one year ago," said AAA Texas/New Mexico Representative Doug Shupe. "With the increased traffic on the roadways for the holiday season, we remind drivers to buckle up, obey the speed limits and never drive distracted or after they have been drinking alcohol."

## Severe weather slams southern US; 4 killed

**JACKSON, Miss. (AP)** — Severe weather slamming the southern U.S. two days before Christmas killed at least four people, flipped cars, knocked out power to thousands and damaged several homes and businesses.

In Mississippi, Gov. Phil Bryant declared an emergency for two southeastern counties where officials say four people died in the storms and several more were injured. His office said thousands were without power Tuesday night around Columbia, which is about 80 miles southeast of Jackson.

Jones County Emergency Management director Marda Tullos said a man and woman were killed in-

side a mobile home in the storm's path in Laurel. About 50 miles southwest, Marion County coroner Norma Williamson tells WDAM that two people were killed in Columbia. One person was in a trailer park, another at a strip mall.

Marion General Hospital had treated about 50 patients since the severe weather swept through, said spokeswoman Millie Swann.

"The whole town of Columbia is without power," Swann said. "The hospital is running on generator (power), but was able to treat people in the ER unless they needed a higher level of care."

**STORMS** cont. on page 2

## County Commission to meet New Year's Eve morning

**STAFF REPORT**  
 The Gray County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Dec. 31 in the second floor court room of the Gray County Courthouse, located at 205 N. Russell.

The commissioners will discuss and consider taking action on the following agenda items.

- Pay bills and salaries as approved by the County Auditor.
- Consider line item transfers.
- Consider bonds of elected officials.

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## PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
 20%		
High 38 Low 19	High 32 Low 17	High 44 Low 23

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 38. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north in the afternoon. 20 percent chance of snow. Sunrise: 7:52 a.m.

**Tonight:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19. North wind 10 to 15 mph. Sunset: 5:38 p.m.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. North wind 10 to 15 mph. Sunrise: 7:53 a.m.

**Saturday night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 17. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Sunset: 5:39 p.m.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 44. WSW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Sunrise: 7:53 a.m.

**Sunday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. Sunset: 5:39 p.m.

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## Storms

Continued From Page 1

Eight patients were transferred to a hospital in nearby Hattiesburg. Swann said the hospital's emergency room has since quieted. "Any time there's an event like this things get hectic, but health care people are used to working under pressure," she said. Photos tweeted by from several local media and the National Weather Service in Jackson showed damage to a Walgreens, car dealership, day care and the strip

mall. Several local media said none of the children at the day care were injured. Meteorologist Latrice Maxie said significant damage has been reported to many homes and businesses in the city of about 6,500 people. A survey team will be sent Wednesday to determine whether a tornado was responsible, she said. Storm spotters said it was. "It's chaos over here," coroner Williamson said. "All the lines are down." Marion County Emergency Management director Aaron Greer in the early evening told the Hattiesburg American newspaper that some people were trapped inside their homes.

Television footage showed cars, including an ambulance, flipped over and a few businesses wrecked. Calls from The Associated Press to Greer weren't immediately returned Tuesday night. Mississippi Highway Patrol Lt. Johnny Poulos said authorities have shut down the three highways that lead into Columbia because of downed trees, power lines and other debris. Watches and warnings were out for a swath of Alabama and Georgia with the storms moving toward Atlanta and south into Florida late Tuesday into Christmas Eve. Earlier Tuesday, accord-

ing to local media reports, a tornado touched down in Amite, Louisiana, downing several power lines and trees and tearing the roof off at least one home. Golf ball-sized hail fell in Enterprise, Mississippi, along with some pea-sized hail in the Bude area. Flooding also was forecast in several areas because of several inches of rain piling up. Already in Tallahassee, Florida, the weather service tweeted that travel was strongly discouraged and that several water rescues were in progress. At least 6 inches of rain had hit the area in a short time.

## Ammons

Continued From Page 1

scape Companies." Ammons said the logo is a clean, professional appearance. "We can service small and large communities," Ammons said. "When we came up with the name and logo, we wanted something that was clean and fresh to express that." Right now Ammons said he is in the process of trademarking the name. "The name Verde came about because we wanted to show that we were part of the green industry," Ammons said. "We have a timeline in place to convert all of our fleets into green, eco-friendly fleets." Ammons said the goal is to build a systemized company that is focused on a team and to work on processes and training so that they can reach more geographically. "All of that starts and ends right here in Pampa," Ammons said. "Pampa is home. We wouldn't have had all of this success without Pampa." Ammons went on to say as they grow to whatever locations then they want to

also grow the administrative offices in Pampa. "We may never be a Halliburton or Titan, but we sure would like to try," Ammons said. "We can in-source people here instead of outsourcing." One of the things Ammons wanted to express was that as Verde Landscape Companies grows, they can help the economy of Pampa. "We want to give back to the community that has blessed us," Ammons said. He mentioned that Verde has already made the first true step in acquiring a landscape company in Lubbock. "We built a business in a box to refine systems of a new acquisition or company," Ammons said. "In 2015, the plan is to rebrand that company. We have already hired another administrative assistant and administrative employee just from that one acquisition." Ammons said DFW is not in any immediate plans, but after Lubbock the next step is Amarillo. "We want to bridge the gap between the two cities," Ammons said. "There are some very large contracts there for the taking when we are ready. They are the next dart on the

board." Ammons said he wants to make sure the company doesn't stretch themselves too thin. "I learned that lesson by trial and error early in my career," Ammons said. "We won't make any moves until we feel that we are 100 percent ready." The Lubbock acquisition also gained the company a tree farm. "This will help us provide premium plant material," Ammons said. The plan is to set up an infrastructure right here in Pampa. "We have plans for two to five years out and then we will see from our clients and others where we need to go to next," Ammons said. The main reason Ammons started this company was when he lived in Lubbock he saw the quality that was provided to the community there. "I didn't think smaller communities had to suffer or be limited in options for landscaping," Ammons said. "The goal is to strive to provide a better level of service. There has been some big wins and some losses as well." Ammons said he thinks they understand now from

trial and error what level of service needs to be provided. "Now that we have reached the level of service that we think needs to be there in the Pampa area we are seeing that now larger communities aren't serviced as well as we once thought," Ammons said. Ammons said what he likes the most is the opportunity to show people what they should expect in service from a landscape provider. "I truly believe that dealing with your landscape provider should be no different than dealing with your accountant, attorney or any other professional occupation," Ammons said. "There should be good, solid meetings and you should trust them and push the bar for professionalism. This will help us stand out and it's what drives us." Ammons once again wanted to reiterate the company will not be leaving the Pampa area. "Because Pampa helped us grow, we are helping bring more," Ammons said. "We want to give back to the community both financially and possibly by bringing more jobs here."

# Ex-President George H.W. Bush taken to hospital

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush was admitted to a Houston hospital Tuesday evening after experiencing a shortness of breath, a family spokesman said. Bush, 90, was taken by ambulance to Houston Methodist Hospital as a "precaution," according to spokesman Jim McGrath. He "will be held for observation, again as a precaution," McGrath said in a statement.



George H.W. Bush

Bush spent nearly two months in the same hospital and was discharged in January 2013 after treatment for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues. The White House said President Barack Obama, who is vacationing in Hawaii, has been notified about Bush's hospital admission. "President Obama and the first lady send their good wishes to the former president and the entire Bush family during this holiday season," said White House spokesman Eric Schultz. Bush made two public appearances last month. He attended an event at Texas A&M Univer-

sity with his son, former President George W. Bush, and served as the coin toss captain for the Houston Texans during a Nov. 23 game that honored the U.S. Armed Forces. The elder Bush, the nation's 41st president, had served two terms as Ronald Reagan's vice president when he was elected in 1988. Four years later, after a term highlighted by the success of the 1991 Gulf War in Kuwait, he lost to Democrat Bill Clinton amid voters' concerns about the economy. He was a naval aviator in World War II — at one point the youngest

in the Navy — and was shot down over the Pacific. The elder Bush has skydived on at least three of his birthdays since leaving the White House. In June, he celebrated his 90th birthday by making a tandem parachute jump near his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine. During the winter, Bush and his wife, Barbara, live in Houston. Bush, also a former U.S. ambassador to China and CIA director, suffers from a form of Parkinson's disease that has forced him in recent years to use a motorized scooter or wheelchair for mobility.

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# VERDE LANDSCAPING PROJECTS

Submitted photos



## Officer kills armed 18-year-old near Ferguson

BERKELEY, Mo. (AP) — The mayor of the St. Louis suburb of Berkeley called for calm Wednesday after a white police officer fatally shot a black 18-year-old who police said pointed a gun at him, touching off renewed protests that have lingered since the shooting death of Michael Brown in neighboring Ferguson. St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said the officer was questioning two men — one later identified as 18-year-old Antonio Martin — late Tuesday about a theft at a Berkeley convenience store when Martin pulled a 9mm handgun on the officer. The officer stumbled backward but fired three shots, one of which struck Martin, Belmar said. No shots came from Martin's loaded gun, the chief said. Martin died at the scene, though Belmar declined to specify where the fatal bullet hit Martin.

Berkeley is near Ferguson, Missouri, where white police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed, black 18-year-old, on Aug. 9, sparking weeks of sometimes violent demonstrations. A grand jury's decision to not charge Wilson last month in the shooting has spurred a nationwide movement to protest police brutality.

The 34-year-old, white Berkeley police officer, a six-year veteran of the police force in the 25,000-resident suburb, is on administrative leave pending an investigation, Belmar said. St. Louis County police and the city of Berkeley are investigating, Berkeley Mayor Theodore Hoskins said.

"He will carry the weight of this for the rest of his life, certainly for the rest of his career," Belmar said of the officer whose name

was not immediately released. "There are no winners here."

The officer wasn't wearing his body camera, and his police cruiser's dashboard camera was not activated because the car's emergency lights were not on, Belmar said.

Police released surveillance video from the parking lot outside the store. The nearly two-minute clip shows two young men leaving the store as a patrol car rolls up, and the officer gets out and speaks with them. About 90 seconds later, the video appears to show one of the men raising his arm, though what he is holding is difficult to see because they were several feet from the camera. Belmar said it was a 9mm handgun — loaded with one round in the chamber and five more in the magazine.

# Obituaries

## Joe Smith

Joe Smith, 56, of Pampa, died Dec. 24, 2014 in Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at Highland Baptist Church, with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, officiating. Burial will follow in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Smith was born Nov. 29, 1958, in Wichita Falls. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1976. Joe married Lorie Huddleston on May 7, 1977 in Pampa. He was a Baptist. He worked for Texas Pipe and Metal for 20 years, worked at Wal-Mart in the garden center for three years, and worked as a welder's helper for Crall



Joe Smith

Products for three years.

Joe was preceded in death by a brother, Jesse Smith in 2001.

Survivors include his wife, Lorie Smith of the home; two daughters, Crystal Smith and Donna Hook, both of Pampa; a son, Christopher Smith and wife Jessica of Pampa; his mother, Martha Ellis of Pampa; four brothers, Jimmy Smith of Amarillo, Jackie Smith, John Paul Smith and David Dykes, all of Wichita Falls; three sisters, Alma Lewis of Pampa, Gloria Green of Garland and Mary Rider of Sandia; six grandchildren, Hayden Morgan, Chloe Smith, Madison Smith, Jesse Smith, Joey Valdez and Victoria Valdez, all of Pampa; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Highland Baptist Church Building Fund, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the on-line guest register at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

# Pampa Fire Department call log — Dec. 17-23

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

- Dec. 17**
  - At 12:41 p.m., to Perryton Parkway and 23rd on a motor-vehicle accident. One patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.
  - At 2:39 p.m., to the 100 block of Village Drive on a medical assist.
- Dec. 18**
  - At 2:43 p.m. to a medical call in the 1900 block of Dwight.
  - At 6:58 p.m., to a medical call in the 600 block of East Scott.
  - At 10:30 p.m., to a carbon monoxide investigation in the 2400 block of Beech.
- Dec. 19**
  - At 6:56 a.m., to a false alarm in the 1400 block of South Barnes.

- At 7:18 a.m., to a medical call in the 1400 block of West Somerville.
  - At 3:47 p.m., to a motor-vehicle accident in the 800 block of North Hobart. Minor injuries.
  - At 5:48 p.m., to a false alarm in the 1900 block of Coffee.
  - At 6:21 p.m., to a medical call in the 1000 block of East Browning.
  - At 8:03 p.m., to a medical assist in the 1300 block of South Hobart.
  - At 11:29 p.m., to a motor-vehicle accident at the intersection of Highway 60 and Highway 70. One patient transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.
  - At 11:42 p.m., to a medical call in the 500 block of Warren.
- Dec. 20**
    - At 3:25 a.m., to a public service call in the 200 block of Sumner.
    - At 10:37 a.m., to a medical call in the 500 block of North Nelson.
    - At 8:35 p.m., to a medi-

- cal call in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.
- Dec. 21**
  - At 10:15 a.m., to a medical assist in the 2200 block of Williston.
  - At 1:23 p.m., to a medical call in the 800 block of North Ward.
  - At 1:49 p.m., to a medical call in the 400 block of Jupiter.
  - At 6:21 p.m., to a medical call in the 100 block of North Sumner.
- Dec. 22**
  - At 1:29 a.m., to a medical call in the 900 block of Campbell.
  - At 9:23 a.m., to the 300 block of East Browning on a medical call.
  - At 12:31 p.m., to the 700 block of Murphy on a lift assist.
  - At 1:17 p.m., to the 1300 block of East Francis on a lift assist.
  - At 4:11 p.m., to the 2900 block of Perryton Parkway on a gas leak.
  - At 10:05 p.m., to the
- 1200 block of North Wells on a medical call.
- Dec. 23**
  - At 4:23 a.m., to the 1800 block of Lynn on a lift assist.
  - At 5:23 a.m., to the 2600 block of Cherokee on a medical assist.
  - At 10:21 a.m., to the 1300 block of Hamilton on a medical call.
  - At 10:41 a.m., to the 300 block of Anne on a medical call.
  - At 12:40 p.m., to the 200 block West 28th on a gas leak.
  - At 2:06 p.m., to the 900 block of Fisher on a public service.

## After NYC deaths, a surge of support for police

NEW YORK (AP) — Rocker Jon Bon Jovi donned a New York Police Department T-shirt on stage. Well-wishers delivered home-baked cookies by the hundreds to police in Cincinnati. In Mooresville, North Carolina, police and sheriff's officers were treated by residents to a chili dinner. At a time when many in the nation's police community feel embattled, Americans in cities and towns across the country are making an effort to express support and gratitude. "I'm showing a little solidarity for my brothers in the NYPD and all of those who protect and serve us every day," Bon Jovi told a cheering crowd at his concert Monday in Red Bank, New Jersey. The surge of support is linked to two distinct but overlapping developments.

The immediate catalyst was the killings of two New York City police officers as they sat in their patrol car in Brooklyn on Saturday. For many of those making appreciative gestures, there also was a desire to counter the widespread protests — steeped with criticism of police — that followed grand jury decisions not to charge white officers for their roles in the deaths of black men Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York. Becky Grizovic, of Walton, Kentucky, helps orchestrate a campaign called Cookies for a Cop that provides treats to officers in more than 200 departments in 23 states. She was joined by her husband, son and a neighbor in delivering cookies to Cincinnati police stations

on Monday. At the District 2 station house, Capt. Jeffrey Butler said the gesture was especially appreciated in light of the deaths of the two officers in New York.

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# Viewpoints

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## Tales from the Final Frontier

### ■ A nerd's guide to 2015 movies.

2014 was a pretty awesome year for nerds. "Ironman 3," "Guardians of the Galaxy," "The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies," "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" and several others came out and wowed audiences everywhere. Particularly with Marvel movies, you have to wonder: is it ever going to slow down?



**JOHN LEE**

On May 1 of 2015, "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" is set to hit theaters.

From there, at least once a month there is a big release. It may be a stretch to call it nerdy

but for nostalgia purposes let's get excited for "Jurassic World" on June 12. After all, it does have Starlord himself, Christ Pratt, in it.

On July 1, "Terminator: Genisys" comes out. I am not the biggest Terminator fan, but I will probably try to catch it on a drive-in double feature. Later, on July 17, "Ant-Man" hits theaters.

On Aug. 7, "The Fantastic Four" reboot comes out, this is one I have not heard much about.

One I just learned about, "Frankenstein," comes out Oct. 2. There aren't any heavy-hitters casted yet and may still be in pre-production but if it's an adaptation of Mary Shelley's novel, I'm game.

The most anticipated one, in my honest opinion, is "Star Wars: Episode VII: The Force Awak-

ens." Hopefully this flick lives up to the hype.

There are several other movies coming out in 2015 to get excited about, including the next one in the "Divergent" series and the second part of "Hunger Games: Mockingjay."

As far as TV goes, "Gotham" is slated to return Jan. 5 to FOX.

Patience is going to have to be a virtue for those waiting for "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." The show will not return until Tuesday, March 3. We will get "Marvel's Agent Carter," a miniseries, on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

For "The Walking Dead," right now AMC just says, "the final eight episodes [of this season] returns in February 2015."

HBO has been mum, as always about the premiere date for "Game of Thrones." But if they stick to their trend over the last few years, a late March, early April could be expected.

What shows or movies are you looking forward to in 2015?

*John Lee is the editor of The Pampa News. He can be reached at jlee@thepampanews.com. Follow him on Twitter @jcl1987.*

## 'Racial' cop stories that didn't make the cut

In 2012, according to the CDC, 140 blacks were killed by police.



**LARRY ELDER**

That same year 386 whites were killed by police. Over the 13-year period from 1999 to 2011, the CDC reports that 2,151 whites were killed by cops — and 1,130 blacks were killed by cops.

Police shootings, nationwide, are down dramatically from what they were 20 or 30 years ago. The CDC reported that in 1968, shootings by law enforcement — called "legal intervention" by the CDC — was the cause of death for 8.6 out of every million blacks. For whites the rate was .9 deaths per million.

By 2011, law enforcement shootings caused 2.74 deaths for every million blacks, and 1.28 deaths for every million whites. While the death-by-cop rate for whites has held pretty steady over these last 45 years, hovering just above or below the one-in-a-million level, the rate for blacks has fallen. In 1981, black deaths by cop stood at four in a million, but since 2000 has remained just above or below two in a million.

So what's driving this notion that there is now an "epidemic" of white cops shooting blacks when in the last several decades the numbers of blacks killed by cops are down nearly 75 percent?

Where's the evidence suggesting race had anything to do with the death of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, who was pointing a pellet gun at bystanders before being shot and killed by police?

What's the racial nexus to the death of Eric Gardner, the large, obese man who died after being taken down by several NYPD cops?

While the Trayvon Martin/George Zimmerman case became another racial thermometer of America, the jury found Zimmerman not guilty, and several jurors later said that during jury delib-

erations "race never came up."

The Ferguson, Missouri, shooting of Michael Brown by officer Darren Wilson is yet another case where there is absolutely no evidence that whatever happened occurred because of Michael Brown's race. Did officer Wilson display racial animus? Does anyone know if this officer Wilson had some racist background? With the desire by media for a scalp, such information would have long ago been made public by somebody.

This white-cop-out-to-get-black-civilian narrative advances the interest of many. The media loves what Tom Wolfe called the "Great White Defendant" — a bad white guy everybody can agree to dislike. For the Democrats, it furthers their assertion that race remains a major problem in America, that Republicans/tea partiers/black conservatives are out to get them, and you must vote for us. For "activists" like the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, and local wannabes, it gives them continued relevance.

That this "epidemic" is imaginary can be demonstrated by the recent stories that never became national news.

In Mobile, Alabama, a black cop shot and killed an unarmed white teenager. As with Michael Brown, the Alabama teen was later found to have been under the influence of marijuana at the time of the shooting. The teen had also recently taken a hallucinogen, and was so stoned he thought he was on fire? — and literally took his clothes off. Nude — and obviously unarmed — he was still later shot by the cop. Despite public pressure, a Mobile grand jury decided not to indict the black police officer, believing he acted in self-defense. Not national news.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, just two days after Brown was shot and killed in Ferguson, a "not white" cop shot and killed an unarmed 20-year-old man whose race has been described as Hispanic. The family of the dead man believes that the



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## The war against Christians and even Christmas

There are 250 million Christians in America today, but most seem to be oblivious of the fact that they and their religion are under steady attack from those who apparently hate



**PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY**

Christianity, or at least want to expunge Christianity from any public place or mention. That hatred seems to extend to all sorts of evidences of Christianity in our society, such as Christmas, which is a federal holiday.

The Butler Elementary School in Belmont, Massachusetts, for years has had a tradition of allowing kids to take a December field trip to see a performance of the Nutcracker ballet. The anti-Christian zealots in its Parent Teachers Association developed a secret plan to cancel this outing because the ballet features a Christmas tree on the stage, which they called "questionable content."

When news of the secret plan leaked out, parents forced the issue to be confronted at a PTA meeting, but parents were accused of being discriminatory if they supported the trip to see the Nutcracker ballet. The good news is that common sense prevailed and parents won the Nutcracker battle,

but many believe it will come up again next year and in other schools, too.

No town or school is too small to escape the wrath of those who hate Christmas. The atheists went after the annual Christmas parade in Piedmont, Alabama, a small town in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

The Piedmont parade isn't as spectacular as those in big cities, but it does feature the local high school marching band, Santa Claus on a bright red fire truck, local girls who had won beauty pageants and the Piedmont High School track team, which had just won the state championship.

When the parade committee selected "Keep Christ in Christmas" as the theme of this year's parade, nobody thought that was controversial. But suddenly the little Alabama town was confronted by a noisy group of atheists from Wisconsin called the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

This bunch of atheists sent the mayor a threatening letter alleging that one person in Piedmont had complained about the theme of the parade, saying that it "alienates non-Christians and others in Piedmont who do not have a 'strong belief' in prayers." Unfortunately, the city's attorney ruled that the theme violates the law because "the sentiment of 'Keep-

ing Christ in Christmas' does not qualify as a secular celebration."

The folks in Piedmont were not intimidated. The mayor said, "We still have the same religious floats. We're still going to have this wonderful Christian parade regardless of whether we have a theme or not." Local citizens paid their entry fees to be in the parade and marched alongside of the parade with signs reading "Let's Keep Christ in Christmas."

The mayor had some advice for the one person in town who had complained: "If they don't like a Christian parade, just stay at home and don't watch."

There is nothing really new about atheist groups trying to get supremacist judges to rule against any prayer in public and against any proclamation of Christian values. Their recent attempt in Colorado was met with a resounding "no."

The Colorado Supreme Court dismissed a legal challenge to Gov. John Hickenlooper's Day of Prayer proclamation, which is an annual Colorado tradition announced to coincide with the National Day of Prayer. The legal challenge had been filed by those ubiquitous busybodies from Wisconsin, the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

Writing on behalf of the 5-2 majority, Colorado Chief Justice Nancy Rice ruled that the law-

suit failed to show any "injury sufficient to establish individual standing." In other words, no harm was done by the annual honorary proclamation.

Of course, the FFRF is continuing its drive to establish a new "right not to be offended." These atheists are determined to silence our freedom of speech in the process.

Another important victory for religion occurred last fall in Oklahoma. State Representative Mike Ritze spent \$10,000 of his own money to pay for the construction of a Ten Commandments monument that was placed on the grounds of the State Capitol with the approval of the State Legislature, but no public money was ever spent on it. It was part of a 100-acre complex that has more than 50 other monuments.

The ACLU then sued, claiming that the monument on Capitol grounds violates the state constitution's ban against using public property to support a religion. The ACLU made a curious argument, claiming that its plaintiffs were not offended by the Ten Commandments, but were offended that the government was using something sacred for political purposes, and the monument's presence at the State Capitol cheapened a sacred text.

The suggestion that the

# Cop

Continued From Page 4

cop is a murderer. Not national news.

In Pennsylvania, a state trooper named Kelly Cruz was accused in 2009 of stomping on the head of a handcuffed suspect laying on the ground, resulting in facial fractures, a broken nose and damaged teeth. The trooper, at the time, was attached to a local drug task force and was part of a raid on a suspected meth lab. One of the men inside escaped during the raid, and the victim — who, according to another officer, was seen running from the scene and found five houses away — was thought to be the meth lab escapee. Turns out the victim was not a meth lab escapee. The local grand jury decided not to indict the

trooper. The feds, however, filed civil rights charges against the cop. He was found not guilty by the federal jury. Not national news.

It is rare for a cop to shoot and kill any civilian. Excluding practice on the gun range, 95 percent of officers never discharge their firearm while in the line of duty, including those who work for big-city departments. The first time — and only time — officer Darren Wilson used his firearm while on duty was in the Michael Brown case. The facts do not support the narrative that there is an epidemic of white cops shooting unarmed blacks.

We are being manipulated.

*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. Follow Larry on Twitter @larryelder.*

# War

Continued From Page 4

ACLU is worried about Scripture being cheapened is laughable. An Oklahoma judge ruled that the monument can stay. The state Attorney General Scott Pruitt pointed out that the Ten Commandments are of huge historic value, citing the "historical role the text has played in the founding of our nation."

Shortly after this court victory, a man drove his car into the monument, smashing it

into pieces. Oklahoma State Representative Mike Ritze is now building an identical Ten Commandments monument. The ACLU shouldn't be optimistic about its chances on appeal because Ten Commandments monuments have been consistently upheld.

*Phyllis Schlafly is a lawyer, conservative political analyst and author of two new books just published this year: "Who Killed the American Family" (WND) and the 50th Anniversary edition of "A Choice Not An Echo" (Regnery), available at eagleforum.org, amazon, and usual sources. She can be contacted by e-mail at phyllis@eagleforum.org.*

# Washington power is flowing away



**MICHAEL BARONE**

Too much power being grabbed by Washington — Obamacare, environmental regulations, education standards. That's a constant complaint of conservatives not only during Barack Obama's presidency but during George W. Bush's as well.

But power is also flowing out of Washington, largely unnoticed, and back to the states and localities. You can see that if you look at transportation policy, which is following the same path as the little remembered federal revenue sharing program enacted in the Nixon years and phased out during the Reagan presidency.

Federal transportation spending has an even longer pedigree, dating from the Federal-Aid Highway Act signed by Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. A few states had already been building limited-access toll highways. The new law instituted a federal gasoline tax to pay for Interstates, as they became known, throughout the country.

It made sense at the time, and for years afterwards. There was much more economic disparity between states then, and federal money could be spread from rich states to poor. Interstates would make trucking transportation cheaper at

a time when overregulation was making freight rail uneconomic. Routes between states could be coordinated, connecting all major metropolitan areas (though not those which would become major, notably Phoenix and Las Vegas).

But it doesn't work anymore. Gas tax revenue is flat lining because people haven't been driving as much since 2007. Gas mileage has improved, and increasing mileage standards and electric and hybrid vehicles will reduce revenues all the more.

So gas tax revenues are insufficient to replenish the Highway Trust Fund. Congress could increase the gas tax, but won't; it's highly unpopular and only a handful of members favor an increase. Barack Obama understands that and is not seeking one.

The alternative is to spend money from general revenues. But that puts a squeeze on discretionary spending because general revenues are and will be increasingly needed for entitlements — Social Security and Medicare. In the meantime, Barack Obama has said, the best Congress "could do would be to stagger through another year" of temporary funding.

In effect, the feds are abdicating and the states are taking up the burden. New roads and bridges are needed in some places and, more important, existing roads need to be maintained,

repaired and upgraded. More than 30 states have passed transportation fiscal measures in the last three years, according to transportation expert Ken Orski. Six have increased gas taxes. Others have increased highway tolls, floated toll revenue bonds or have passed sales taxes dedicated to transportation. "The move toward greater fiscal autonomy, self-sufficiency and financial innovation at the state and local level is likely to grow in strength," Orski wrote.

The gas tax, justified as a user fee, is being replaced by tolls, a more efficient measure of use. Transponder technology allows tolls to be levied based on actual use, and fees can be adjusted to discourage congestion at peak-use hours, as is being done in Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia. There's a move to public-private partnerships, like the one Canada is using to finance a new Detroit River bridge, in which private capital puts up the cash and is repaid from tolls. Some conservatives complained, evidently on the theory that highways are built and maintained for free. But private decision makers are likely to make better decisions than the feds about where the real needs are.

Democrats have obstinately blocked (and most Republicans have been less than eager about supporting) entitlement program reform, which

means that entitlements will continue to squeeze discretionary spending out of federal budgets. Transportation is just a leading example.

Something similar happened years ago with revenue sharing, a program promoted in the 1960s by Brookings economist Joseph Pechman. Pechman argued that revenues from the progressive federal income tax would rise faster than incomes and that Congress should share the largesse with the states. He concocted a formula to reward states with progressive taxes of their own and penalize those without, and it passed Congress in 1972 and was signed by Richard Nixon.

This economic redistribution increased as inflation pushed people with stagnant real incomes into higher tax brackets. In response, Colorado Sen. William Armstrong put income indexing in the 1981 Reagan tax cuts.

That, plus increasing crowding out by entitlements, led to the repeal of revenue sharing in 1987. Now we're seeing the slow-motion disappearance of the Highway Trust Fund. Washington is always trying to accumulate power. But some of it is flowing away.

*Michael Barone, senior political analyst at the Washington Examiner, (www.washingtonexaminer.com), where this article first appeared, is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a Fox News Channel contributor and a co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.*

# Again? Really? What if it's Bush-Clinton in 2016?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Again? Really?

There are more than 300 million people in America, yet the same two families keep popping up when it comes to picking a president.

The possibility of a Bush-Clinton matchup in 2016 is increasingly plausible.

After months of hints and speculation, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush last week said he's actively exploring a bid for the Republican nomination.

And while Hillary Rodham Clinton hasn't revealed her intentions, she's seen as the odds-on favorite for the Democratic nomination.

Between them, the two potential rivals have three presidents and a U.S. senator in the branches of their family trees. And three governors, as well.

Why are these two families so dominant in modern politics?

It turns out that even though Americans profess to reject dynasties, in politics they're quite comfortable with familiar names.

And a famous name can bring a candidate instant

brand recognition, important fund-raising connections and a ready network of political contacts. It may also suggest competence at a time of dysfunction — like now.

"Power begets power," says Dartmouth College political scientist Brendan Nyhan. "Dynasties can self-perpetuate."

A political pedigree can have its negatives, though. A prominent surname sometimes carries unsavory associations and the risk of a fatigue factor.

Both sides of that equation were evident after Bush, 61, the son and brother of a president and the grandson of a senator, made his announcement.

Party activists said the Bush name would help Jeb attract early money, talent and supporters around the country.

But Bush's brother, George W. Bush, was hugely unpopular at the end of his presidency six years ago. And while people seem to think more of him now, the recent release of a Senate report on Bush-era torture practices was a ready reminder of past controversies.

Clinton, 67, a former secretary of state, senator and first lady, will face the same com-

peting dynamics of familiarity vs. fatigue if she enters the race.

Former President Bill Clinton is enormously popular now, and would be sure to campaign for his wife as he did in the 2008 race, but there is still plenty of lingering unwanted baggage from his White House years.

After Bush edged closer to a run last week, the liberal RootsAction group quickly set up a NoBushesor Clintons website and began collecting signatures on a "declaration of independence" that pledges to "reject future domination of government by the Bushes and Clintons and by Bush/Clinton-like policies."

But Princeton historian Julian Zelizer thinks the comfort element might be more important to 2016 voters than any same-old, same-old worries.

"Washington's broken, and voters and campaign donors are looking for people who seem to know what they're doing," he said. "The familiarity of these names becomes a big benefit and counteracts any sense that, 'Oh my God, I can't believe these are going to

be the candidates again.'"

Despite some groaning about a possible Bush-Clinton sequel, there's plenty of reason to think voters will simply take a breath and size up the primary election candidates on their merits.

"It's all about alternatives," Zelizer says. "If that's the best choice available, people will get over it."

Dynastic politics, in which multiple family members hold elected office, are more common than people might think in the U.S.

The U.S. has had 44 presidents, and eight of them came from four families. (Two each of Adams, Harrison, Roosevelt and Bush.)

Nyhan points to a 2010 study published in Legislative Studies Quarterly that found that over the previous two centuries, nearly 9 percent of members of Congress were closely related to someone who had served in a previous Congress. It concluded that such politicians "enjoy 'brand name advantages,' giving them a significant edge over comparable nondynastic opponents."

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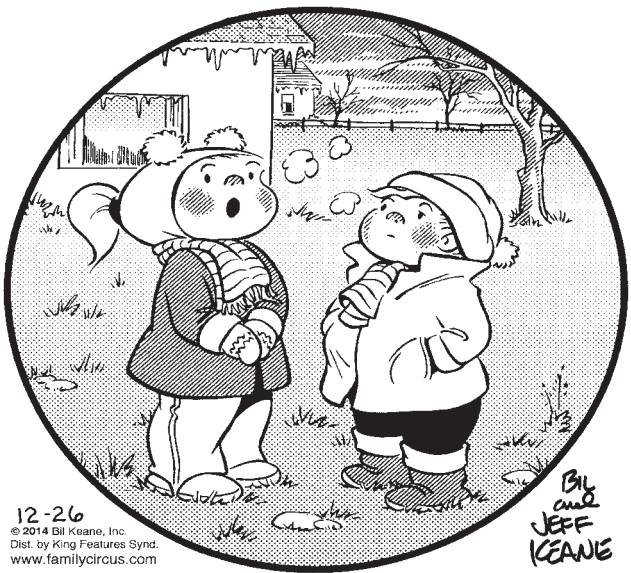
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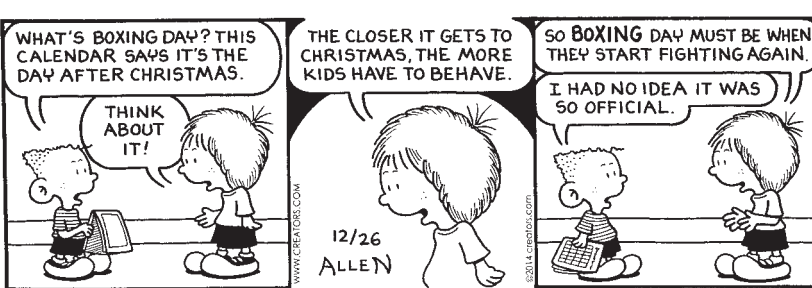
**"Looks like it's gonna snow today. I guess our white Christmas was runnin' behind schedule."**

### Non Sequitur



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### Nest Heads



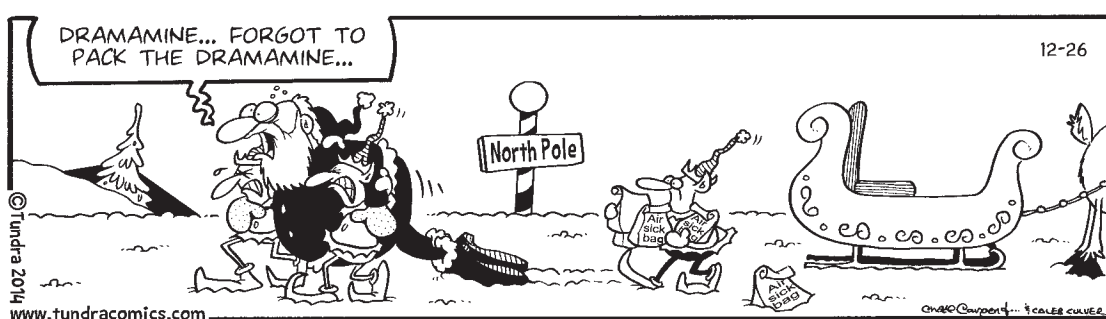
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# daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** For Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014:  
This year you are in sync with your energy and will make excellent choices. You'll note a tendency to become more in touch with your intuition. For instance, you could sense who is calling when the phone rings. This ability will evolve and serve you well over the next few years. Do not hesitate to take moderate risks. If you are single, you will know when you meet Mr. or Ms. Right, which will likely be the second half of this year. If you are attached, you really enjoy your significant other. You will prefer to socialize less and be with him or her more instead. PISCES can be very emotional.  
**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 sometimes charge full speed ahead, only to stop a few minutes later to daydream about your ideas instead of acting on them. People might not be able to get a read on you. Good feelings will flow between you and a very special person. Tonight: Follow-through counts.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
★★★★ Reach out to friends, and make some plans to get involved in a fun, enjoyable activity. Your biggest problem could surround your home life, as a lot seems to be going on. Perhaps a surprise visitor will come to see you. Tonight: Happiest close to home.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
★★★★ You might want to make an effort to visit with an older friend or loved one. You might feel as if you have not spent enough time together as of late. Remain easygoing, and share some of the special moments of the holiday with this person. Tonight: A must appearance.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
★★★★ Your mind seems to drift to those at a distance. You might be able to see past the obvious when someone shares a very confusing story. You could be in the mood to overindulge yourself and others at the same time. Why not? Tonight: Use your imagination when making plans.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
★★★★ You usually will slow down to spend some quality time with a friend. Freeing up extra time allows for more spontaneity as well. Often-times you see a side of someone that few people are aware of. Enjoy this!

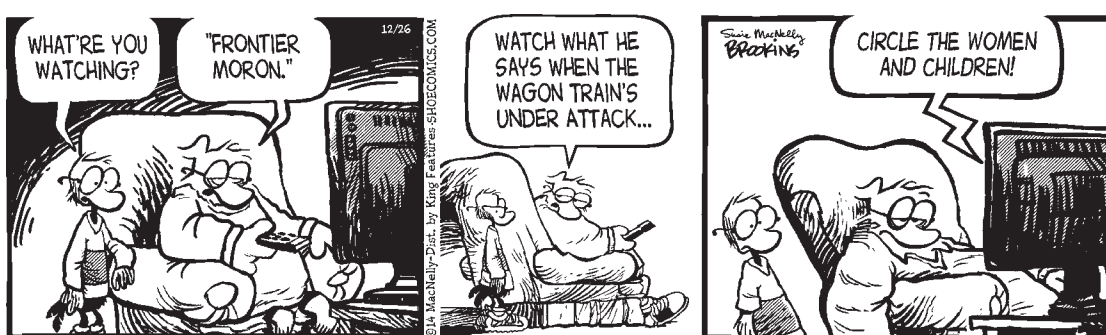
Tonight: Say "yes" to someone else's invitation.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
★★★★ Your creativity emerges and allows greater give-and-take in a situation that could involve someone who seems to be a little uptight. If you remain patient and relaxed, you will be able to get to the root of the problem. Don't allow anyone to distract you. Tonight: All smiles.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
★★★★ Your creativity seems endless, and it will give you a better sense of direction than you've had in the past. You'll be able to tap into some of your ingenuity in order to find practical solutions. A friend could become demanding. Tonight: Call it an early night.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
★★★★ You might feel better and more upbeat than you have in years. A child, friend or loved one will draw out the playfulness in you that people probably have not witnessed in a long time. Use caution with spending, and count your change. Tonight: Just enjoy the moment.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
★★★★ Tension builds, and you might feel as if you have no control. You actually do, but you must recognize that other parties are involved and you have little control over them. By accepting what works best for the majority, you will greet success. Tonight: Let the good times roll.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
★★★★ You could be more in touch with your feelings than you have been in a while. A conversation with a friend will help you feel revitalized. Make an effort to have an important conversation with someone you care about enormously. Tonight: Just ask questions.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
★★★ You might be in the mood to return some items or do some more shopping. In any case, grab some time for yourself, as you have very few quiet moments ahead of you in the near future. Others will seek you out; they want your company. Tonight: Bask in your popularity.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
★★★★ You'll be able to understand some of the pressure that others feel. You also could be overwhelmed by a responsibility that suddenly is dropped on you. Seize the moment. Enjoy hanging out with your friends. Tonight: Play it easy.

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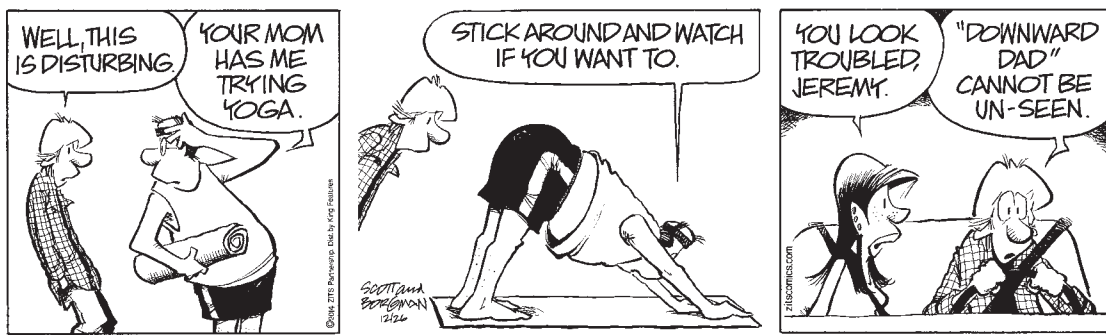
### Shoe



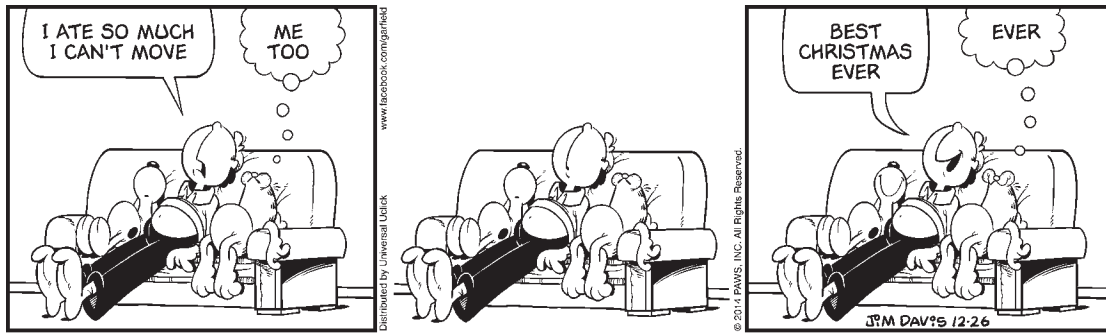
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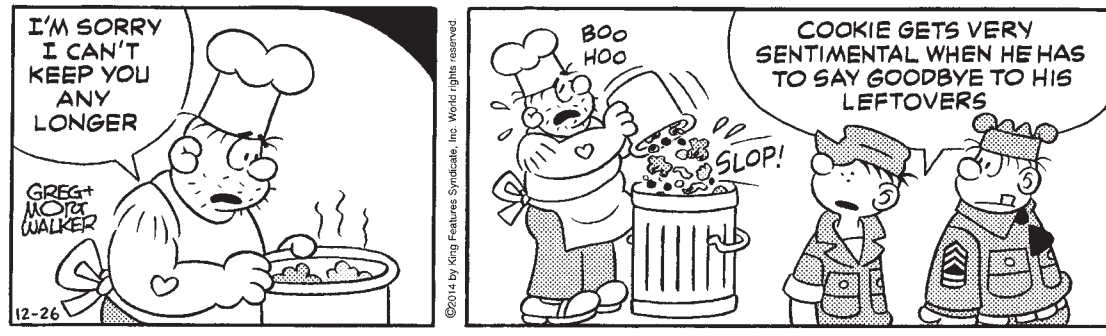
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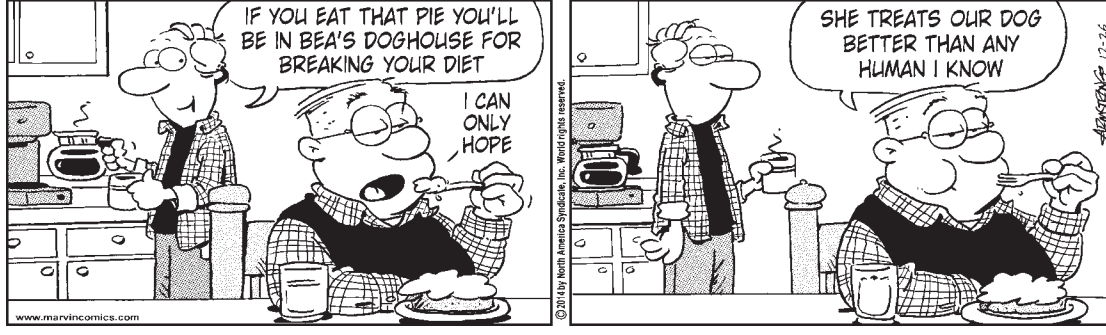
### Garfield



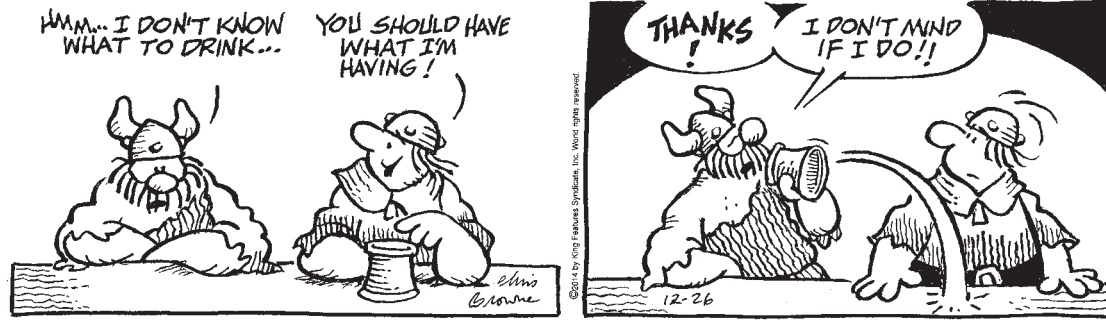
### Beetle Bailey



### Marvin



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



### Blondie



# Broncos have league-high 9 players selected for Pro Bowl

NEW YORK (AP) — The AFC West champion Denver Broncos led the NFL with nine players selected for the Pro Bowl on Tuesday.

Quarterback Peyton Manning was picked for the 14th time. Joining Manning from the Broncos will be Ryan Clady, Chris Harris, Von Miller, Aqib Talib, Demaryius Thomas, Julius Thomas, T.J. Ward and DeMarcus Ware. Denver also led the league with five defensive players selected.

The NFC East champion Dallas Cowboys were second with six selections for the Jan. 25 game in Glendale, Arizona, site of the Super Bowl.

Tony Romo will be going for the fourth time. Dez Bryant, Travis Frederick, Zack Martin, DeMarco Murray and Tyron Smith were also honored.

Dallas led the NFL with six offensive players chosen.

Other notable players selected included Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks New England's Tom Brady (10th selection), Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers (fourth), and Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger (third).

Roethlisberger's teammate, wide receiver Antonio Brown, was picked for the third time. Other receivers include Detroit's Calvin Johnson and Atlanta's Julio Jones.

And joining Brady from the AFC East champion Patriots are cornerback Darrelle Revis, tight end Rob Gronkowski, special teamer Matthew Slater and kicker Stephen Gostkowski.

Among the players earning first selections are wide receivers T.Y. Hilton of the Colts and Jordy Nelson of the Packers; Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell; and Eagles special teams star Darren Sproles.

"I think this year the difference has just been the amount of opportunities," Nelson said. "There have been more opportunities for Randall (Cobb) and myself and we have just been trying to make the most of them. I think for the most part we have been successful and just tried to help the offense put up as many yards and points as possible."

Martin, Aaron Donald of St. Louis and C.J. Mosley of Baltimore were the rookies selected.

Arian Foster was one of two Houston Texans honored, along with defensive end J.J. Watt.

"It is kind of the league's elite," Foster said. "It's a place where you can meet the best in the business and learn from their experiences. It's a place where the league's elite are selected and it's an honor."

Panthers tight end Greg Olsen was pleased with his selection.

"It's a tremendous honor to be selected to the Pro Bowl and be recognized by your peers, the coaches and the fans,"

Olsen said. "It's something that every player thinks about at one point in time. I'm very thankful and feel very fortunate to be a part of it."

The Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks were one of six teams with five players. Not enough, according to one of their stars.

"It's kind of frustrating because you sometimes feel like your teammates are getting punished for being on a good team," defensive back Richard Sherman said.

"Your linebackers are getting punished for not having a D-line that allows them to make 130, 140 tackles. Your D-line is being punished because everybody is not going to get 10 sacks or one guy is not going to get 14, 15 sacks — that's difficult to get on a team like this. You just feel for guys."

Among the players not selected were Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers, Packers running back Eddie Lacy and Giants rookie receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who has 1,120 yards.

In fact no members of the Giants were selected. Three other teams: the Vikings, Titans and Jaguars were also shut out.

For the second consecutive season, players will be selected without regard to conference in voting by fans, coaches and players.

Hall of Famers Cris Carter and Michael Irvin will serve as alumni team captains for their Pro Bowl teams.

The Pro Bowl will be held prior to the Super Bowl for the sixth consecutive year.

## 6 Cowboys, including Romo, chosen for Pro Bowl

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys are sending six players, including quarterback Tony Romo and leading NFL rusher DeMarco Murray, to the Pro Bowl.

In addition to Romo and Murray, also chosen on Tuesday were: wide receiver Dez Bryant; center Travis Frederick; rookie guard Zack Martin; and tackle Tyron Smith.

This will be Romo's fourth Pro Bowl and his first since 2009.

Bryant, Murray and Smith will be making their second Pro Bowl appearances after first being selected in 2013.

Martin is the first Cowboys rookie offensive lineman to make the Pro Bowl. This will be Frederick's first Pro Bowl appearance.

The game will be held at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, and will be played on Jan. 25, one week before Super Bowl XLIX.

## Seahawks regain top spot in AP Pro32 rankings

NEW YORK (AP) — Heading into

the final week of the regular season, the Seattle Seahawks are once again playing like the top team in the NFL.

Defending Super Bowl champion Seattle (11-4) received seven of 12 first-place votes Tuesday in the AP Pro32 power rankings, which are decided by a media panel that regularly covers the league.

The Seahawks are coming off a 35-6 rout of the Arizona Cardinals.

"Bad news for NFC teams. Seahawks are back," NBC Sports' Tony Dungy said.

The Patriots (12-3), who were No. 1 last week, received the other five first-place votes and trail Seattle by only three points (379-376) in the poll.

The Patriots clinched home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs when the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Denver Broncos 37-28 on Monday night.

"The AFC's No. 1 seed appears poised for a sixth Super Bowl berth in the past 14 seasons," said Ira Kaufman of the Tampa Tribune.

The Bengals (10-4-1) also clinched a playoff spot for the fourth straight season with the victory. The Bengals are looking for their first playoff win since the 1990 season.

"All season long, we haven't quite known what to make of the Bengals," the Monday Morning Quarterback's Jenny Vrentas said. "But Monday night, at least, they showed the grit of a team that

could avoid its one-and-done playoff past."

They close the regular season Sunday night at Pittsburgh (10-5), with the winner taking the AFC North title.

"They (Steelers) are going to be a dangerous playoff team," ESPN's Herm Edwards said.

The Green Bay Packers (11-4) moved up a spot to No. 3. The Packers host the Detroit Lions (11-4), who are No. 6 in the poll, for the NFC North title.

The Dallas Cowboys (11-4) clinched the NFC East last week and moved up two spots to No. 4.

"Finally, a division title for the Cowboys, as Tony Romo puts an exclamation point on a terrific regular-season run and gets into the MVP conversation," Newsday's Bob Glauber said.

The Broncos (11-4) dropped to No. 5, but can still clinch a first-round bye with a win on Sunday.

"The Broncos can go 8-0 at home this season with a victory over Oakland in the season finale," said Rick Gosselin of The Dallas Morning News.

The Lions, Steelers, Arizona Cardinals, Bengals and Indianapolis Colts rounded out the top 10.

The injury-riddled Cards dropped three spots after the loss to the Seahawks.

"Great team, great coach, but no quarterback," Fox Sports' John Czarnecki said.



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# 10 years after tsunami, Indonesian family reborn

MEULABOH, Indonesia (AP) — It all started with a dream that led to a chance meeting: A girl who had been swept away by the Indian Ocean tsunami a decade ago.

For three nights, the child's uncle said she visited him in his sleep. When he told the girl's mother, Jamaliah, it was hard to believe. The daughter was only 4 when a towering wave ripped her away with her 7-year-old brother, clinging to a board.

But the mother had always been convinced both children were still out there and that the family would be reunited.

Soon after the dream, the uncle ran into a 14-year-old orphan girl who had survived the disaster and washed up on a remote island with her older brother. They had stayed alive by riding a slab of wood.

The odds were impossible, but after the uncle sent a photo of girl, the mother became convinced God was giving their family a second chance.

"I said, 'I'm sure that's my daughter,'" she recalled. "I felt the connection in my womb."

A month later, Jamaliah had the same feeling. This time, after hearing that a 17-year-old homeless boy calling her "mom" had also been found.

But was it real, or all just a dream?

It was just before 8 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2004. Jamaliah, who uses only one name, was hanging clothes on the line while her three kids were inside watching TV.

When the 9.1 magnitude quake hit, Jamaliah, her husband, Septi Rangkuti, and the children ran outside their house, which sat about 500 meters (550 yards) from the sea.

They then heard people screaming: "The water is coming! The water is coming!"

The family leaped onto their motorbike and made it as far as the market, but couldn't outrun the wall of black water. Jamaliah and her 8-year-old son were pulled away by the wave, but somehow they managed to hang on to each other.

Rangkuti put his 7-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter on top of a large floating board. He held on as long as he could, but when the water sucked back to the sea, his fingers slipped

and they were dragged off by the angry torrent.

Hours later, Jamaliah and their oldest son found Rangkuti wandering on a street. One look at his empty eyes, and she knew the kids were gone.

Some 230,000 people in 14 countries were killed that day in one of the worst natural disasters in modern history, with Indonesia's Aceh province logging nearly three-quarters of the deaths.

Most of the 1,500 children found after the disaster were returned to their families or taken in by neighbors or friends, though some ended up in orphanages, said Bukhari, who uses one name and heads the Aceh provincial Social Affairs Office.

"The uncertainty of what happened to those children, the desperate hope that maybe they did survive somehow, that irresistible idea that they might be reunited, what parent wouldn't think about that?" said Harry Minas, a mental health expert from the University of Melbourne who has worked in Aceh.

Jamaliah and Rangkuti spent a month and a half searching for their son, Arif Pratama, and their daughter, Raudhatul Janinah, along a chewed-up coast tangled by debris. They had lost everything, and with no money and a surviving son to look after, they decided to stay with relatives several hours away.

Time passed, and the family tried to move on. Jamaliah had a baby boy two years later, and Rangkuti finally started to let go of his grief. But neither gave up hope they would one day find their lost children.

"I believed it in my heart," Jamaliah said. "I prayed every night because of the strong emotional connection to my kids. I believed we would be together again."

This summer, Jamaliah's older brother, Zainuddin, called with stunning news.

He'd had a dream three nights in a row about a girl in Banda Aceh. The morning after the third night, he visited a cafe not far from his house and was shocked to see a face that looked just like the one from his dreams — a younger version of Jamaliah.

He learned the girl was a tsunami orphan, and later discovered from the foster family that a fisher-

man found her and a boy on the sparsely populated Banyak islands, about six and a half hours by car and boat from Jamaliah's house in Meulaboh.

The girl had little memory of life before the tsunami.

"I remember when we were on the board. I was there with my brother," she said. "I was found by someone on the beach and taken to a house. That's where we were split."

In July, Jamaliah and Rangkuti traveled 100 kilometers (60 miles) to meet the girl called Weniati. At first sight, the mother said it was hard to tell if she was really her child.

Since the tsunami, the girl had lived with three different relatives in one foster family and was now located in South Aceh. She had not attended school regularly and only had a fourth-grade education.

Jamaliah was permitted to take her back to Meulaboh, where they had lived when the tsunami hit, for three days. The desperate mother said she prayed for a sign that the girl would remember something from her childhood.

Much of the town had been destroyed and rebuilt, but a house that belonged to Jamaliah's mother had survived. When the girl saw it, memories of eating sweet tropical fruit came back.

"She remembered the chicken coop and the rambutan tree," Jamaliah said. "She remembered waiting for durian that her grandmother used to give her."

This was all the sign she needed, and Jamaliah wanted to bring her home with them for good to Meulaboh. She said the foster family was hesitant and asked for a DNA test. The parents agreed, but said they had no money for to pay for it.

Sarwani, the foster grandmother who last cared for the girl, said she later agreed to let her go.

"It turned out that Weniati herself is confident that Jamaliah is her mother and Rangkuti is her father," she said. "What can I say? I don't want to impede the reunion of a daughter and her mother."

In the meantime, Jamaliah was on national television with the girl she was calling her daughter. The exposure caught the attention of Lana Bestir

in West Sumatra, who had been feeding a homeless boy for years after he turned up at her Internet cafe.

When a photo of the young siblings taken before the tsunami flashed on the screen, she was shocked. It looked similar to the boy she knew as Ueok. She said she showed him a picture of Jamaliah from the Internet, without giving him any information about her.

"This is my mother. Yes, this is my mother, Liah!" Bestir recalled the boy saying after staring at the photo. "I want to meet her."

When she got the call, Jamaliah, whose nickname is Liah, wondered: Could a second miracle really be possible? She went to the boy immediately, but he was also hard to identify.

He was much darker than Arif had been, and his forehead also bore a melted scar. Arif had been a top student, but this boy did not know his name and could hardly speak any language. He also had the mentality of a young child.

He remembered washing up on the beach and being taken to live with a family, but he doesn't know where. He said that one day, when he stayed in bed too long, a woman in the house threw scalding coffee in his face. After that, the street became his home.

"I was sad at first," Jamaliah recalled. "But then I said, 'Whatever happened to my son, I've been waiting so long, I can be patient and take care of him now.'"

It hasn't been easy since the family moved in together. At first, Arif kept going to the neighbors, begging for money and food. Jamaliah suspects he may still be traumatized. Many children who survived the tsunami were confused and suffered mental health issues, including some who were unable to talk or remember their own names.

He's now speaking fluently, and she plans to send him to a religious boarding school to instill discipline and give him a basic education.

The family recently moved from Meulaboh back to North Sumatra to be near the father's family.

Jamaliah also wants to get Raudhatul caught up in school. She said there's still some wrangling with members of the foster family who are less supportive, but they have agreed to let her stay for now. Repeated calls and texts by The Associated Press seeking comment from them were not returned.

After the children were interviewed by police, the village head signed a document saying they belong to Jamaliah and Rangkuti.

"I don't want to go back," Raudhatul said. "I'm happier here because I'm with my real family."

Jamaliah said some people question whether their story is true, but none of that matters to them. Even if a DNA test came back negative, she said it would never stop a mother's love.

"It feels like a reborn family," she said, smiling. "I sometimes feel like it's a dream. Is it real or not?"

But then I just trust in God and believe that this is my family."

## Area Support Groups

- The following is a list of support groups that meet regularly each week in Pampa. Information for each meeting is submitted to The Pampa News office and may not be completely updated or accurate. Please notify the newsroom if a change is necessary.
- The Pampa News welcomes all submitted materials for area support groups. Please include the meeting time, date and location and, if applicable, provide a contact number for each group.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** Open Door Club meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky Ave. **Al-Anon** meets at noon on Mondays. For more information, call 665-9072.
  - **Alcoholics Anonymous** Primary Purpose meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at 112 W. Foster Ave.
  - **Alcoholics Anonymous** Keep It Simple meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Methodist church in White Deer.
  - **Pampa Caregiver Support** meets at the Pampa Nursing Center on 1321 W. Kentucky Ave. at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information call 806-669-2551.
  - **Accolade Home Care** sponsors a **Parkinson's Support Group** the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The group meets at Accolade at 1313 N. Hobart St. For more information, call Lindsey Presson at 806-665-9700 or 806-324-3230.
  - **Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault**, meet at 6 p.m., Thursdays, at the Tralee Crisis Center, 308 S. Cuyler St. For more info, call the Center at 806-669-1131.
  - **Narcotics Anonymous** — **The Pampa Group** meets at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, and at 6 p.m., Saturdays, at 805 N. Gray St. **Narcotics Anonymous** — **Rufe Jordan Unit** also meets at 6 p.m., Mondays, and at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, at 1992 Hilton Road.
  - **Cancer Support** meets from 12-1 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Central Baptist Church. For more info, contact Beth Kean at 800-274-4673







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## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Tennis star
  - 6 Innocent ones
  - 11 Sing à la Bing
  - 12 "Halt!" from a salt
  - 13 Unoccupied
  - 14 "Likewise"
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  - 20 Had lunch
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  - 27 Camera type
  - 28 Wendy's friend
  - 30 Spring period
  - 33 Drill need
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- DOWN**
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  - 3 Sequel of 1941
  - 4 Young one
  - 5 "The joke's —!"
  - 6 Unjust judgments
  - 7 Bird, to Brutus
  - 8 Sequel of 1992
  - 9 Manor setting
  - 10 Sculpting medium
  - 17 Cart puller
  - 22 Diet no-no
  - 24 Ailing worker
  - 26 Most tidy
  - 28 Angers
  - 29 Pi follower
  - 31 Spot
  - 32 Makes fun of
  - 33 "Twilight" heroine
  - 35 Shady spot
  - 38 West Wing
  - 42 Gallic assent

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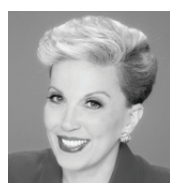
### Yesterday's answer

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- 8 Sequel of 1992
- 9 Manor setting
- 10 Sculpting medium
- 17 Cart puller
- 22 Diet no-no
- 24 Ailing worker
- 26 Most tidy
- 28 Angers
- 29 Pi follower
- 31 Spot
- 32 Makes fun of
- 33 "Twilight" heroine
- 35 Shady spot
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- 42 Gallic assent

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12-26



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a grad student who enjoys perusing social networks for jokes and stuff. The other day I came across a post from someone who said he wanted to kill himself. Naturally, I kind of freaked out.

I contacted the person to ask him not to and thankfully he didn't. Normally I don't do the whole "Internet friend" thing, but we decided to keep chatting and since then we have become fast friends. I'm not sure how to help this person, though.

He is in the military and fears losing his job if he seeks help. I don't want to pressure him into seeing a professional, since part of what's causing his anxiety is being ordered around constantly, but I don't want him to hurt himself. I know I can't save this person; I can only walk alongside while he figures it all out, but I don't want him to suffer. Please tell me what to do! — LONG-DISTANCE FRIEND

**DEAR LONG-DISTANCE FRIEND: I'll try. Are you SURE this person is who he purports to be? Suicidal people don't usually broadcast it to strangers they meet on the Internet. When you say he's afraid that if he seeks professional help he'll lose his job, is he intending to make a career in the military? If the answer is yes, and he doesn't like "being ordered around con-**

stantly," he has chosen the wrong career.

You should tell this individual that it's essential he talk to someone about his suicidal impulses who has the training to actually help him with his suffering (your word). If you encourage him to lean on you, it will only prolong his procrastination about standing on his own two feet. For BOTH your sakes, deliver your message clearly and back away. Because you have known each other for such a short time, it shouldn't be too traumatic.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I will celebrate our 50th anniversary soon. One hundred and twenty-five invitations were sent and 80 people have responded that they will be attending. I have wondered about the 45 invitees who didn't respond one way or the other.

Today I was told there's a new rule of etiquette regarding the RSVP on an invitation — that one doesn't have to respond unless one is attending the function. Is this true? Am I out of step with the current social culture?

I am more than aware that it has changed — and would debate that it probably hasn't changed for the better with regard to social courtesy. So, in planning any function that entails food, hotel rooms, etc., am I to assume no response is a negative one? —

QUESTIONING IN THE SOUTHEAST

DEAR QUESTIONING: You are not out of step. There is no "new rule," unless the invitation specifies "regrets only." RSVP still means what it always has: "Repondez s'il vous plait." That's French for "Please respond." It doesn't mean to respond only if you plan on being there. Polite people take note of the phone number at the bottom of the invitation, or the little card included with it, and accept or decline.

While it's safe to assume that the individuals you didn't hear from won't be coming, it's also a clue that they may not have been taught good manners.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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# The PAMPA NEWS Community Calendar

## City Commission meetings

The Pampa City Commission meets at 5:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held on the third floor of City Hall.

## School board meetings

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

## Immunization clinic three times a month

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) hosts an immunization clinic in Pampa three times a month. The clinics are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays of each month. The first 10 people in line for the morning and first 10 in the afternoon will always receive shots. However, if there are more than 10, they still may be able to accommodate the patients, or ask them to

come back at another time. The Department of State Health Services can be reached at 806-669-5323 and is located at 121 S. Gillespie St. in Pampa.

## PAWS meets first Tuesdays

Pampa Animal Welfare Society meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Pampa Animal Shelter, 811 S. Hobart St. The meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

There is a desperate need for more members. PAWS members are needed to work at the shelter from 3 to 5:30 p.m. each day and to work adoption days or take animals to the vets when needed, but mostly people are needed to love and work with the animals where they will be more adoptable.

For more information, call the shelter after 3 p.m. at 669-5775 and ask for the PAWS volunteer.

## County Commission meetings

The Gray County Commission meets at 9

a.m. on the first and 15th of each month. If the date falls on a Saturday, the meeting will be held on Friday. If the date falls on a Sunday, the meeting will be held on Monday. The meetings are held on the second floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

## TOT Republican Women's Club

Top O' Texas Republican Women's Club meets at noon on the third Wednesday of every month at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis St. For more information call 806-669-1990.

## Jam sessions every Friday night

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center has a jam session every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to play or listen. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler St. For more information, call 806-664-0824.

## Meredith House presents live music

Meredith House, an assisted-living facility at

812 W. 25th Ave., has a band performing at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday night. Join them for Western music, gospel and the classics. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

## Monday night dance club

The Monday night dance club meets from 7 to 9 p.m., each Monday, in the Pampa Chamber of Commerce building on the corner of Ballard and Kingsmill. Admission is \$3.50. Cold drinks and coffee are offered. The club plays country music. For more information, call Della at 806-663-1136.

## PPQG Meets fourth Thursdays

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets the fourth Thursday of each month, January through October, at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center at 500 W. Francis St.

The meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. and membership is open to adult quilters of all ages. Dues are \$15 annually. Meetings consist of a short business discussion followed

by a program featuring quilting techniques. For more information, call 806-662-2909.

## Pampa Post VFW meetings

Pampa Post VFW, Men's Auxiliary, and Ladies Auxiliary meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. There is a social hour with meal at 6 p.m. and the meetings begin at 7 p.m. For questions, call Danny Martin at 806-662-4367.

## CASA of the High Plains

CASA of the High Plains will be open from 6-7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month for persons interested in becoming a CASA Volunteer. The CASA office is located in the Brown Alliance for Children at 315 N. Ballard Street in Pampa.

CASA volunteers are appointed by a Judge to represent the Best Interest of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect.

Volunteers are crucial

to positive outcomes for children in the foster care system.

You may contact CASA at 806-669-7638 for more information.

## Church of the Nazarene

The community is invited to our Christmas Eve service at 6 P.m. There will be Christmas carols, reading of the Christmas story from the Bible, and candle lighting to go with the program. Come experience "Why Jesus came" at 500 N. West St. For more info please call 669-3144.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God Bless one and all.

*Editor's note: Email submissions to jcllee@thepampanews.com. 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.*

# The PAMPA NEWS Church Calendar

## Hi-Land Christian Church

Beginning Wednesday night, Sept. 3, Pastor Mike Sublett will be teaching two special advanced classes at Hi-Land Christian Church. From 7 - 8pm The Judges and Kings of Israel (broken people, faithful God); from 8-9pm 1-2 Corinthians (Jesus and His messy people).

Pastor Sublett said, "Both classes are advanced in that they have a weekly reading assignment and weekly hand-out pages that will supply each student with a significant notebook for continued study. I will also be recording each class so that everyone can have the audio in case they want to review something later."

The classes are open to anyone interested in

learning more about their Bible. Child care will be provided for anyone who is attending either class.

## Cornerstone Baptist Church

Cornerstone Baptist Team KID (Kids in Discipleship) meets Wednesdays at 6:30 until 8:00 pm at 2410 W. 23rd St. All children ages 4 thru 5th graders are invited to attend. For more information call the church at 669-6509.

## New Life Assembly of God

New Life Assembly of God is located at 1435 N. Sumner Street in Pampa. New pastor, Sergio Urrutia, said their mission is "New life Assembly of God is committed to fulfilling a four-fold mission. Our primary reason for being is to evangelize the lost, worship God, disciple believer

and to show compassion, to build a multi-ethnic body of believers.

New life commits to reaching out to Pampa in all areas of the township with special emphasis to our Latino brothers and sisters. Our worship will be a reflection of our multi-ethnic mixture of disciples including Christian Latino music, contemporary music as well as the traditional hymns and songs of the church. Outreach will have as its goal to produce new believers who in turn are able to witness effectively and make disciples who will in turn continue this cycle. This will be effected through small group bible studies, both Bi-lingual services, and bibles."

Services are Sunday at 10 a.m. and Sundays and

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ**  
Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ is located at 1342 Mary Ellen St. Corner of Mary Ellen and Harvester. Right across from the high school.

Bible Classes start at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship is at 5 p.m. and Ladies Bible Class Wednesday 10 a.m. Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ also offers Wednesday Bible Class at 7 p.m.

Keith Feerer is the Preacher and Zac Green is Youth Minister.

For more information call 806-665-0031.

## First United Methodist Church

Every Friday, First United Methodist Church will be holding Gospel Pic'n and Grinnin'.

The weekly event will be at 5:30 p.m. at Gathering Space in the church. For more information call 806-669-7411.

## McLean Cowboy Church

McLean Cowboy Church is a non-denominational spirit-filled Christian church. The pastor is Ronnie Ferguson.

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. and children's ministry is Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The ages for the children's ministry are nursery through fifth grade.

The church is located at the intersection of state Highway 273 and Interstate 40 in McLean.

For more information, call 806-779-0260.

## Southside Church of Christ

Southside Church of Christ is located at 11923 W. McCullough Ave. in Pampa. The church extends an open invitation to all to come and worship where the gospel, "God's Word," is always taught and preached.

Regular worship services are: Sunday morning Bible study, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; morning worship begins at 10:45 a.m. to noon; Wednesday night Bible study is from 5 to 6 p.m.

*If your church would like to be added to this list or are hosting a special event let us know! Email jcllee@thepampanews.com or give us a call 669-2525. We will need the name, address, phone number and any other information about the event.*

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# PampaSports

## PAMPA HARVESTERS AND LADY HARVESTERS BASKETBALL TEAMS IN ACTION



Photos courtesy of Charla Shults

All photos are from the Dec. 19 games against Caprock. Above left, Keshia Daniels lines up for a free throw. Above right, Brandon Sieck prepares to set up the play. First row below left, Montaisha Brown makes a good defensive play. First row below right, Dante Jordan skies high for a layup. Second row below left, Brendon Woelfle flies past a Longhorn. Second row below right, Rayna Wall shoots a free throw in the game. Bottom left, Bryson Burrell is in the air for a three point attempt. Bottom right, Ty'Randa Archie-Johnson looks for an open Lady Harvester to pass to. Both teams won their games against Caprock.



**Got A Sports Story or Photo?**

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**Watch the Pros**

**College Football Bowls**

Illinois v. Louisiana Tech.....	ESPN 12 p.m.
Rutgers v. North Carolina.....	ESPN 3:30 p.m.
North Carolina State v. Central Florida.....	ESPN 7 p.m.

**Soccer**

West Ham at Chelsea.....	NBCS 6:40 a.m.
Teams TBA.....	NBCS 8:55 a.m.
QPR at Arsenal.....	NBCS 11:25 a.m.

\*Game times and channels are subject to change.\*

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**K. West's class**  
 Yo quiero una muñeca de Ana y de Frozen. Yo quiero unos patines. Gracias.  
 - Evelyn

Yo quiero boy a querer una computadora. Yo me comporto bien. Yo voy a dejar cocoa y galletas a ti. Felis navidad Santa clos. Te quiero. Gracias.  
 - Roberto

Yo ciero uat roca toocp mo stro. Yo me comporto bien. Yoyo yade gon gooaonte una zanahoria para Rudolfo. Felixs navidad xo te ciero. Gracias.  
 - Alejandro

Yo quiero una tableta. Yo me coqoto bien. Yo voy a dejar una zanahoria para Rudolfo. Felis navidad. Yo tu quiero mocho. Gracias.  
 - Samantha

Yo quiero un carro de control remoto. Yo me comporto bien. Yo voy a dejar una galleta y leche. Felis navidad santa. Gracias.  
 - Tomas

Yo quiero un moto de contol remoto. Yo me cnprto bien. Yo te voy a dejarte galletas. Papa Noel te quiero mucho. Gracias  
 - Arturo

Yo quiero un go-cart y patina. Yo me comporto bien. Yo voy a dejar una cocaa y una zanahoria para Rudolpho. Felis navidad. Gracias.  
 - Oscar

Yo quiero un telefono de tableta para llamar a mi mama. Yo soy un buen nino. Te boy a poner galletas i leche. Gracias. Te quiero.  
 - Elixandro

Yo quiero un carro de control remoto. Yo me comporto bien. Yo voy a dejar una zanahoria para Rudolpho. Gracias. Te amo papa Noel.  
 - Gabriel

Yo quiero una muñeca de high. Yo me comporto bien. Yo voy a dejar una zamahoria pia para Rudolpho. Felis navidad Santa. Gracias.  
 - Janeth

Yo quiero un conejo. Yo me comporto bien. Yo te voy a dejar leche y galletas. Te quiero mucho Santa Clos. Gracias.  
 - Zuleika

Yo quiero una tableta. Yo me comporto bien. Yo te voy a dejar le leche y galletas. Te quiero mucho mucho Santa Claus. Gracias.  
 - Celeste

Yo quiero una tableta del color rojo. Yo me comporto bien. Yo coy a dejar unas galletas para ti. Gracias.  
 - Abigail

Yo quiero un conjunt de te. Yo me comporto dien. Yo te voy a dar leche y galletas para ti. Felis navidad y que dios te vendigo. Y te queremos mucho. Gracias.  
 - Cassidy

Yo quiero un 3DS. Yo me comporto bien. Yo coy a darte galletas y leche. Feliz navidad. Y te quiero. Gracias.  
 - Emmanuel

Yo quiero in traje de spiderman. Yo me conerta bien. Yo te boy drte leche y galletas para ti. Feliz nabidad papa noel que seas feliz santa. Gracias.  
 - Oscar

Yo quiero una muñeca de Monster High. Yo me porto vien. Te voy a dejar una leche y galletas para papa noel. Felis navidad. Gracias.  
 - Yamileth

Yp quieo un juego de video porque me comporto bien. Y yo yo te dejare un plato de galletas y una tasa de cocoa. Papa noel gracias.  
 - Angel

Yo quiero una Barbie de Elsa que canta. Yo me comporto bien. Yo boi a dejarte cocoa y galletas. Feli nabidad te quiero mucho. Gracias.  
 - Ashly

Yo quiero un traje de Elsa. Yo me comporto bien. Yo te boy a dejar galletas u para ti te quieromuchu y te deseo una

## A Pampa News Navidad

### INFORME DEL PERSONAL

Hoy es el día. El día de compras final antes de Navidad.

Es también uno de los días de mayor tráfico en los Estados Unidos.

Los viajes y las compras a un lado, es importante recordar las vacaciones de Navidad para estar a punto, y que pasar tiempo con sus seres queridos y la creacion de crear recuerdos que durarán toda la vida.

El personal de La Pampa Noticias gustaría compartir algunas de sus vacaciones de Navidad y las tradiciones favoritas.

El editor, John Lee, dijo que una de sus tradiciones favoritas es ver Jim Carey en "Cómo el Grinch robó la Navidad," conducir al pueblo de Bishop Hills fuera de Amarillo y mirar su pantalla de Navidad de las luces.

Después de convertirse en padres durante el verano, él y su esposa también agregó un par de eventos de agenda de este año por ir a los jardines y Amarillo Zoo Botánico, que cada uno tenía eventos de Navidad pasando.

"Tener un bebé en la casa hace que la Navidad es más emocionante," dijo Lee. "Peyton (su hijo) no puede entender todo el alboroto, sin embargo, sino como un padre joven no hay nada más emocionante en este momento que 'primera Navidad del bebé.'"

La familia de Reportero Lindsey Tomaschik comienza su celebración de la noche anterior.

"Cada víspera de Navidad, todos los" niños "(Soy el más joven a los 23), se reúnen en la casa de mis padres. La mañana de Navidad, todos regresan a su casa, madrastra Tom hace el café para todos, mientras esperamos en nuestros pijamas para que todos puedan llegar, por lo general alrededor a las 8:30 a.m., entonces elegimos a alguien con quien jugar Papá Noelle," dijo Tomaschik .

"Los regalos se entregan y luego abrirlas. Después de eso, vemos lo que todo el mundo tiene y luego, después de todo el bombo ha terminado, preparaciones alimenticias que empezar. Para finalizar tradiciones del día, tenemos una gran comida y normalmente terminan durmiendo la siesta en el sofá en coma trip-tófano "

Zachary Green, editor de deportes La Pampa Noticias , está desarrollando nuevas tradiciones desde que llegó a Pampa.

"Desde que me mudado a Pampa, ha sido difícil cualquier tradición. La Navidad pasada fue la primera que mi esposa y yo compartimos juntos. Mis padres todavía vienen visitar todos los años, pero soy incapaz de ir a verlos para las vacaciones a causa del trabajo , " dijo Green.

"Una tradición que la familia de mi esposa hace que realmente me gusta es galletas de salchicha y salsa cada mañana de Navidad. Me encanta, aunque tengo la enfermedad celíaca y comiendo toda esa harina me enferma, creo que vale la pena! Mi esposa y yo son la esperanza que sea un punto para hacer la mañana de Navidad con los demás y con los niños cuando e llegue ese momento. Las tardes serán probablemente descansar y relajarse en



Foto por John Lee

El árbol de Navidad está todo iluminado por la Corte del Condado de Gray. La Pampa Noticias gustaría desear a todos unas vacaciones seguras y felices, así como Feliz Navidad.

un incendio o visitar a su familia en Amarillo "

A principios de este mes, La Pampa Noticias 'contó con la granja de árboles de Davis en un artículo. Editorial ReDonn Woods y su familia sólo una de las muchas familias que obtienen su árbol de allí.

"Nos gustan cartar un árbol en el árbol de la granja Davis y conseguir una galleta y una taza de chocolate caliente. En todas las fotos que ves Keith haciendo todo el trabajo, mientras que las chicas posan para una sesión de fotos," dijo Woods.

"Sobre todo si es realmente frío, que escojan la más espinosa y difícil de cortar el árbol y luego ver papá desde el interior de una camioneta climatizada. Él es un policía, aunque lo consiga cortado y recortado para las chicas para decorar "

Woods también disfruta de sus gracias de Navidad a su numerosa familia.

"Tenemos la suerte de tener una familia muy grande.

**NAVIDAD CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 2**

## DPS ofrece consejos PARA EVITAR EL ROBO DE VEHÍCULOS EN ESTA TEMPORADA

### ENVIADO POR DPS DE TEJAS

AUSTIN - El Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas (DPS) está recordando a los tejanos que la temporada de vacaciones puede ser un momento privilegiado para los robos de vehículos y está animando a las personas a tomar las precauciones necesarias para proteger sus vehículos de un posible robo. Robos de vehículos también son una preocupación durante toda la temporada de vacaciones.

"DPS está insistiendo a los tejanos para asegurarse de que sus vehículos y pertenencias son seguros con el fin de evitar posibles hurtos y robos durante las fiestas", dijo el Director de DPS Steven McCraw. "Diciembre es uno de los meses más ocupados para el robo de autos, y durante esta temporada de compras navideñas, es importante que todos los objetos de valor en un vehículo están fuera de la vista."

En diciembre de 2013, 5,395 automóviles, camionetas y motocicletas se registraron robados, por lo que es el tercer mes más alto de los robos de vehículos que año tras meses de julio y agosto. Además, se registraron más de 13,100 robos de vehículos y \$ 12,2 millones la propiedad robada en diciembre

pasado.

DPS ofrece los siguientes consejos que los tejanos pueden seguir para ayudar a protegerse contra el robo de vehículos:

Nunca deje su auto funcionando sin vigilancia, incluso para una visita rápida a un negocio o tienda.

Nunca deje las llaves en el coche o ignición, dentro de un garaje cerrado o en ocultar una llave cajas.

Siempre suba las ventanas y cerrar el coche, incluso si está estacionado en su casa.

Cuando sea posible, siempre aparcar en alto tráfico, áreas bien iluminadas.

Instale un dispositivo antirrobo que bloquea el volante, la columna o los frenos, sobre todo si su vehículo es considerado como un mayor riesgo de robo.

Nunca deje a los documentos personales, título de propiedad del vehículo o tarjetas de crédito en su vehículo.

Siempre mantenga los objetos de valor o propiedad escondido fuera de la vista o bajo llave en el maletero.

Si su vehículo es robado, repórtelo a la policía inmediata-

**DPS cont. on page 2**

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# Navidad

Continuado de la página 1

Así, difundimos a cabo las visitas y Navidad lleguemos a gethers. Así, siempre ir a casa de la abuela (madre de Keith) el día de Nochebuena y luego tomar el desayuno de Navidad con mi mamá.," Dijo Woods. "Esto se ha convertido en algo que los niños realmente les gusta. Ellos van en pijama y se dirigen a las abuelas para un desayuno muy grande. Luego tienen el resto del día para jugar con sus juguetes". La primera línea de nuestra oficina, Beverly Taylor y abril de Lee, compartió sus tradiciones favoritas también. "Dos de mis mejores recuerdos de tradiciones

fue cuando yo era una niña. Mi padre, mi madre y yo iban a conducir alrededor de Pampa en la noche y ver las luces de Navidad, y siempre me acordaré de la emoción de la espera de Santa Claus por venir," dijo Taylor. "Ahora yo y Keith podemos a ver la emoción en los ojos de nuestros nietos, cuando hablar sobre la Navidad y Santa Claus, no hay nada como él!" Pasatiempo favorito de abril es un poco más simple. "Nochebuena abrir los regalos, mientras que beber chocolate caliente," dijo April. "El día de Navidad hacemos regalos Santa y la cena de Navidad con películas de Navidad!"

# Cartas

Continued From Page 1

felis navidad. Gracias. - Ytzel

Yo quiero una computadora azul de la letras. Yo me comporte bien. Yo voy a dejar cocoa y galletas para ti. Gracias. Te quiero mucho. - Evelyn

**Mrs. Montoya's class**  
Yo me parte bien. Traeme un juego de skylanders track team. - Samuel

Yo quiero que me traes legos. - Jonathan

Por favor me puedes traer un juguete aye se llama marker maker para mi hermano. Para my hermano el quiere una bicicleta chaquita para mi hermanito el color quiere wue sea blanco y negro y rojo. Gracias Santa. - Camila

Por favor me puedes traer un xbox 1. Y a mi hermana le puedes traer una muñeca. Y a mi hermano le puedes traele un xbox 3. Gracias Santa. - Jairo

Querido Santa Feliz Navidad que me regalas una sirena para la navidad. Y una Ipad. - Yaileen

Yo quiero un 3DS y un Wii y me aportado bien en la escuela. Y mi hermana quiere un Barbie. - Jessie

Me a portado bien en la escuela. Por favor me puedes traer un Disney infinity. Gracias. - Luis

Querido Santa yo quiero un Xbox 1. Y a my hermano de le un xbox 3. Y a mi hermana dale una muñeca y a mi hermana menor una muñeca. - Isaac

Hola Santa. Por favor traeme una tambores y que venga con microfono. Gracias. - Pedro

Quiero un tabletas para mi hermana I mi hermano y yo un play station. - Joel

Yo me porta bien. Yo quiero el

juego de maicraft 2 por favor Santa. Para mi hermanita un juguete. - Gael

Santa por favor en Navidad me quiere traer tacones y una muñeca para navidad y para my hermanita que es schelby un vestido de Frozen. Pero chiquito a mis hermanos carros. - Yareizr

Buenos dias Santa clos. Yo quiero una coneja y un perrito bonito y te voy a preparar unas galletas y leche. Y quiero un Ipad y pa me hermanito chiquito un perrito bonito. - Ailany

Por favor me traes un doh venchy. Ya mi hermana le traes ropa bonita. Gracias Santa Claus. - Karen

Estimado Santa Feliz Navidad! How are you? Me a portado bien en en la escuela. Me puedes regalar un iPad. Por favor santa eras bueno para mi familia. - Yaritza

Quiero que me traes una computadora de Barbi y una muñeca de elsa y uno camita y una tableta. Feliz navidad santa. Traeme los regalos. - Maria

How are you? I want a DS for Christmas. I am going to leave you cookies santa. I also want a tablet. - Job

Wuiero una tableta y una muñeca Elsa y una de Ana. Y para mi hermano y mi hermana quiere un dinosarios. - Joselyn

Por favor me puedes traer un arco. - Hector

**Miss Pletcher's class**  
Yo quiero un caballo. - Nicholas

Yo quiero un muñeco. - Israel

Yo quiero un lonchero y un pino. - Kiaro

Yo quiero bicicleta. - Evelyn

Yo quiero un robot. - Yesiel

Yo quiero unos monitas - Gabriel V.

Yo quiero una muñeca.

- Annette

Yo quiero una muñeca y un perro. - Violeta

Yo quiero un carro y un pajaro. - Gabriel R.

Yo quiero un casa y una camioneta. - Santiago

Yo quiero unos superheroes. - Benjamin

Yo quiero un Castillo y un pino. - America

Yo quiero un perro. - Baleria

Yo quiero una casa. - Vianette

Yo quiero una troca y un pino y una casa. - Edward

Yo quiero una Barbie. - Diana

Yo quiero una moto y una tableta. - Miguel

Yo quiero una tableta y una barbi y un Castillo. - Bianca

Yo quiero una muñeca. - Kimberly

Yo quiero un pino. - Brissa

Yo quiero una muñeca. - Maritza

Yo quiero un juego de monitos y minecraft. - Daniel

**Mrs. Navarrete's class**  
Quiero que por favor me traigas my little frozen un vestido de frozen y unas zapatos - Angie

Quiero un regalo por favor me traigas un regalo de transformer. Trucks willer y cars y un niojo y un forapasen cuenta AiPatí y una seisaposen cuenta. - Jordan

Quiero que por favor me traigas una moto. 4wlar5. Moch. Luchera. Escritorio tableta. Colores futnolrlics. - Jaime

Por favor me puedes traer una moto un corro un niojo turtle miss-

Quiero que por favor me traigas un vestido de frozen. Gracias. - Anatia

Quiero que por favor me traigas Lightning Maqueen Dasty un mochilan ueahlecha cars 2. Gracias. - Irving

Quiero que favor me traigas una mona de frozen. Gracias. - Carina

Quiero que por favor me traigas una monita. Gracias. - Marelist

Quiero que por fav me traigas una mona de frozen que canta. Gracias. - Chastely

Quiero de lv me traigas una tuck del transformers. Gracias. - Milton

# DPS

Continuado de la página 1

mente. DPS también alienta a las personas a mantener una copia de su número de identificación de la matrícula y el vehículo a la mano

en caso de robo, ya que la policía necesitarán esta información para tomar en un informe. Para obtener más información sobre el robo de autos y robo, ver <http://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/consumer-protection/aut theft-prevention>.

**The PAMPA NEWS**  
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# MERRY CHRISTMAS



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# Sin blanca Navidad en el almacén para este año

POR ZACHARY GREEN  
zgreen@thepampanews.com

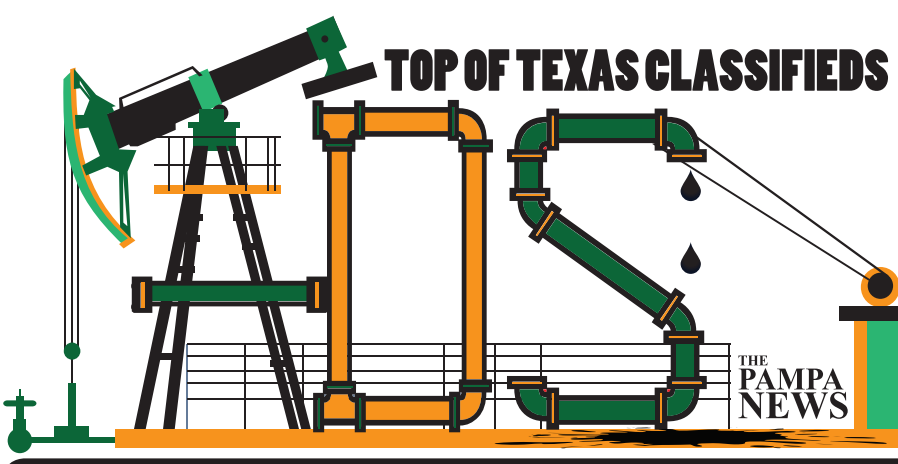
Desafortunadamente para aquellos que esperan para una Navidad blanca no ay uno en el almacén para el Panhandle de Texas de este año. Las temperaturas parecen ser en los años 60 bajo el día de Navidad, pero también va a ser muy ventoso. Los vientos serán del suroeste de 20 a 30 mph, ráfagas podrían llegar a 40 mph. Si va a viajar fuera de la región del Panhandle, el clima no debería ser un problema a menos que usted va para arriba hacia las Montañas Rocosas o hacia la parte noreste del país. Santa no tendría ningún problema en lo que es la casa de todos en la víspera de Navidad ya que las temperaturas parecen llegar a alrededor de 25 grados esta noche para el bajo. Los cielos estarán mayormente despejado, con viento del suroeste de 10 a 20 mph. Otro frente frío seco llegará el viernes. Las temperaturas se espera sólo para llegar a cerca de 40 grados. El sol brillará pero los vientos se soplab a 15 a 20 mph desde el norte. Tenga esto

en cuenta y tomar una chaqueta para cualquier compra después de las vacaciones es posible aventurarse en cuenta. Viernes por la noche parece ser frío en 19 grados para el bajo y viento del norte de 10 a 15 mph. Sábado no se calentará mucho, con temperaturas alrededor de 35 grados esperados. Una buena noticia es que el sábado tendrá muy poco viento. Eso puede hacer que sea un buen día para derribar a tus decoraciones de Navidad. El próximo martes pudimos ver una oportunidad en nuestra primera tormenta invernal del año, pero todavía es un lugar para escapar. Estén atentos para las actualizaciones en ese sistema. Cuando se acerque lo haremos otra historia, ya sea en el periódico o en nuestra página de Facebook, así como nuestra página web. La línea de fondo para los próximos días es arriba y abajo de las temperaturas, cielos soleados y vientos variables. ¿Qué más hay de nuevo en el Panhandle de Texas?

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This part-time night position is responsible for handling newspaper bundles and inserting advertising supplements into the daily newspaper. This position requires constant standing, repetitive bending, stooping and lifting of advertising inserts and newspaper bundles of up to 50 lbs. Candidates must be able to work Mon-Fri nights. Shift usually begins around 10pm or 11pm.

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**PART-TIME** Weekend Clerk needed at Parkway Package Store. Fri. 5:30 pm to 9 pm and Sat. 1 pm to 9pm. Apply in person Mon. thru Thurs., 10am to 3pm, 1824 N. Hobart, Pampa. NO phone calls.

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

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**Miscellaneous**  
2 entombments, Chapel of Peace Mausoleum, Memory Gardens. Ext. deluxe, Level 4, #s PA 19, 20. 903-536-1148.

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3 bdr, 2 ba mobile home, central heat. Fenced yard. \$775 mo., \$700 dep. 440-6842

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IDEAL FOR COLLECTORS! 1979 Pontiac TransAm. White / blue, lrg bird on hood. One owner! 24,500 actual miles, 6.6 L, 403 eng. Auto transmission. All original. Good price \$21,900. Call 806-665-4836.

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CNA, LVN or Certified Medical Assistant needed for growing medical practice Please fax resume to (806)665-0537

**NEEDED** 2 part-time Food Service Aides. Hours and days will vary. Call Mel at Pampa Nursing Center, 806-669-2521. EOE

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\$350/mo and up. Large 1 bdr. apts. w/ appli., are in walking distance to things you need. 665-4274, 881-8518.

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**APTS. Houses Duplexes.** K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 665-0995

**OFFICE space for rent.** Ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841

**Ogle Fence Company** Free Estimates Repair & New Const. 665-1712

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W  
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**12-26 CRYPTOQUOTE**  
T M L O R M T U U D Q R M I W P , Q R I X R I Z A R I R M ' , Q X R M R M ' Q R M L , T M L T U U I X W U T M L Q R U U A W E T M I U W L Q R I X Z M V Q .

— P V D A W T M  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** CHRISTMAS, MY CHILD, IS LOVE IN ACTION. EVERY TIME WE LOVE, EVERY TIME WE GIVE, IT'S CHRISTMAS. — DALE EVANS ROGERS

**SUDOKU**

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Advanced

**D.E. CHASE, Inc.** now hiring exp. day/night drivers. MUST pass drug screen, DOT physical & have CDL. Apply in person at 1445 S. Barnes, Pampa, Texas.

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

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**BANANAGRAMS!**

For each of the word groups below, change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles as needed to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, one path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

LEVEL

R A D A R     J U R O R

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B U N C O     M A N G Y

Yesterday's Answer: Common V; BRAVELY, ADVISOR, DEVIANT, EVICTED 12.26

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