



B & G Power Equipment recently erected two flags up 70 feet into the air. The flags are 15' X 25' and took two days to install. Doug Youree, manager of B & G Power Equipment, said that the motivation behind putting the flags up came from the popularity of their large flag usually used at rodeos and the Pampa Independent School District Veterans Day program. "We have our great big one and people really like it," Youree said. "So we decided to put a couple of large flags out in front of our business." Youree also said the reception from the community has been great as they have received several emails praising them for the flags.

At alma mater, Perry hints at 2016

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE COLLEGE STATION — Like A&M graduates.

specifically

primaries.

a speech at a convocation of Texas

many college graduates, outgoing "I got started early on my re-Gov. Rick Perry is sume," said Perry. "Under objec-looking for a job, tive I wrote: Highly motivated and he allowed on professional, seeking a position Thursday that he's as chief executive of a large enwilling to travel, terprise with good benefits and a to really large personal jet." Iowa, New Hamp-He also told the crowd he had shire and South experience overseeing "people Carolina — three who bicker a lot, otherwise known states crucial in as legislators" and had a "well-the presidential worn veto pen." Perry addressed December Quips were as close as Perry, graduates from his alma mater, who's considering a 2016 presi- praising Texas A&M's traditions

United Supermarkets launches gift card trade-in program

SUBMITTED BY UNITED FAMILY LUBBOCK- The United Family has launched a new service just in time for the post-Christmas gift return season. Trade In, Cash Out is a gift card exchange service available in all United Supermarkets, Market Street, Amigos and Albertsons Market stores designed to let recipients of unwanted gift cards trade them in for their choice of cash or grocery store gift cards.

AAA Texas offers tips to prevent backover collisions with children

SUBMITTED BY AAA TEXAS

IRVING - Children across the Lone Star State will soon be on new bicycles, tricycles, battery powered and pedal riding toys, scooters, and roller skates. So, AAA Texas offers reminders for drivers and parents to ensure kids enjoy new toys but remain safe in their communities. There are only rough estimates of backover collisions because many happen on private property and are not recorded in state or federal crash databases. But according to NHTSA, backover crashes cause more than 180 deaths each year and between 6,700 and 7,400 injuries annually. "With the joys of the season, it's crucial we not forget about safety," said AAA Texas/New Mexico Representative Doug Shupe. "We remind drivers to watch out for excited children on new riding toys and encourage parents to go over traffic safety tips before letting their kids enjoy the new gifts. As an advocate for the safety of travelers, AAA Texas offers the following advice to motorists and parents:



Rick Perry

dential run, came to shedding more light on his intentions during

PERRY cont. on page 2

"It is estimated that \$750 million in gift cards will go unused in 2014," said Kris Burdis, center store business manager.

UNITED cont. on page 2

THE SHELF HUNT WINNERS



Photos from Facebook

Above, Lynsee Green and Candace Kirby were the winners of the The Pampa News' Elf on the shelf contest. The Pampa News held a scavenger hunt for the elf, Ruby Poinsetta, and readers were encouraged to find the elf and take a picture of them with her. Above right, Kirby's little girls with their elf. Green was the winner of \$100 and Kirby was the winner of the Elf on the Shelf.

Drivers

Check your blind spots including the blind spot behind your vehicle that you cannot see in the rear or side view mirror.

Always assume children could be present and carefully check streets, driveways and areas around your vehicle before backing out.

Always look behind as you back out SLOW-LY with windows rolled down to listen for children - and BE PREPARED TO STOP.

Parents

Teach kids not to play in, under or around vehicles.

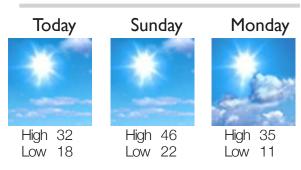
Avoid making your driveway a "playground." If you allow children in this area, make sure it's only when vehicles are not present and separate the driveway from the roadway with a physical barrier to prevent cars from entering.

Never leave a vehicle running and lock all cars and trucks, even in driveways and garages, to prevent curious children from putting a vehicle in gear.

AAA cont. on page 2



PAMPA FORECAST



Today: Sunny, with a high near 32. North wind 5 to 10 mph. Sunrise at 7:53 a.m.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 18. North wind 5 to 10 mph. Sunset at 5:39 p.m.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 46. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Sunrise at 7:53 a.m.

Sunday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Sunset at 5:39 p.m.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 35. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:53 a.m.

Monday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. North northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Sunset at 5:40 p.m.

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Democrats optimistic on 2016 presidential chances

publicans crowed in 2004 tions from 1932 to 1948? that freshly re-elected President George W. Bush had established a "permanent of a "depressed" liberal governing majority" for the GOP. Eight years later, Democrats were touting the enduring power of the Democratic demographer, "Obama coalition" to keep their party in the White House.

But Democrats couldn't sustain that coalition for this year's midterm elections, leading to Republican gains in Congress, governorships and state legislatures nationwide.

"The notion of demographics as destiny is overblown," said Republican pollster and media strategist Wes Anderson. "Just like (Bush aide Karl) Rove was wrong with that 'permanent majority' talk, Democrats have to remember that the pendulum is always swinging."

So how will it swing in 2016? Is the path to 270 electoral votes so fixed that one side just can't win? Will President Barack Obama's limited popularity be a burden for the Democratic nominee in the next race for the White House? Or will an increasingly diverse electorate pick a Democrat for a third consecutive presidential election for the first time since Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Tru-

Despite Democrats' midterm shellacking and talk base, many in the party still like their starting position for 2016. Ruy Teixiera, a points to a group of states worth 242 electoral votes that the Democratic presidential nominee has won in every election since 1992. Hold them all, and the party is just 28 votes shy of the majority needed to win the White House next time.

Obama twice compiled at least 332 electoral votes by adding wins in almost every competitive state. He posted double-digit wins among women, huge margins among voters younger than 30 and historically high marks among blacks and Latinos.

As non-white voters continue to grow as a share of the electorate, a Democratic nominee who roughly holds onto Obama's 2012 level of support across all demographic groups would win the national popular vote by about 6 percentage points and coast to victory in the Electoral College, Teixeira estimates.

win? Sure," Teixeira said. 'But they have to have a lot of different things happen."

ATLANTA (AP) — Re- man won five straight elec- to continue its gains among in 2012. non-white voters? Obama, after all, lost ground in 2012 among most demographic measures, compared to his those without a college 2008 performance. Those degree, move away from slides helped make him the first president since World War II to win re-election with a lower popular vote total than he got in his initial victory.

A GOP nominee such as the Spanish-speaking Jeb Bush, former Florida governor, could make a difference. He is a proponent of comprehensive immigration reform who has the potential to capture significantly more than the 27 percent of the Latino vote that also could tip Florida, Mitt Romney claimed in 2012. Meanwhile, Republicans hope African-Americans make up a smaller share of the electorate with Obama no longer atop the Those seven states, plus ballot.

winning those groups, but these elections are fought on the margins, so improvements here and the path to 270 requires there can make a difference," Anderson said.

Republicans acknowledge that demographic shifts make it more difficult than in years past for 'Could a Republican the GOP nominee to depend mostly on white voters, who cast 87 percent of presidential ballots in What if the GOP is able 1992 and just 72 percent the state as essential.

At the same time Democrats have watched white voters, particularly the party during Obama's presidency — and not just in the conservative South. Obama lost this group by about 26 points in 2012, according to exit polls and other analyses. By this November, his Gallup approval rating among the group stood at 27 percent.

Extending that trend into 2016 could push Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa and New Hampshire into the GOP column. Whites Virginia and Colorado, although non-white voters in those states hold more influence than in the Midwest and Northeast. all those won by Romney "We're not talking about in 2012, would give the GOP a winning total of 295 electoral votes.

> It should be noted that any potential GOP president to win Florida, with its 29 electoral votes. And while it's mathematically possible for a Republican to win without Ohio's 18 electoral votes, no GOP nominee has ever done so, and Republican strategists widely acknowledge

Perry

Continued From Page 1

and advocating for affordability in higher education. Perry said Texas needed more ideas like the \$10,000 degree plan.

"Join in the cause to

United **Continued From Page 1**

"We see an opportunity here to really help our valued Guests by turning unwanted gift cards into something keep Texas A&M afford- of the school's oldest and able and accessible for the next generation of Texans," that make college more affordable to students should had announced he was denot be a prohibited thought clining the honor. process.

offer from the Texas A&M ished traditions, that tran-University System Board scend any one individual," of Regents to rename one Perry said.

the card to the customer service desk or call to inquire and depending on the issuing retailer of the card they may be able to trade it in for up to 80 percent of the card balance.

The trade-in offer amount will vary depending on which re-

gift cards are eligible,

cards from hundreds of

most iconic buildings after him, an issue that had Perry said. "I think ideas stirred up some controversy. Earlier in the day, Perry

'There are places on this Perry also addressed an campus, like our most cher-



Continued From Page 1

Talk with neighborhood parents about back-over incidents and ask them to talk with their children as well.

tomobile Club of Southern vehicle to make sure noth-California's Research Center recently using the rear-view camera evaluated 17 vehicles from as they back out. Also keep 11 manufacturers that had different body styles and included both factory -installed and aftermarket rear-view camera systems. Researchers found rearview camera systems improved rear visibility an average of 46 percent in AAA tests. This shows rear-view cameras are a great supplement for drivers and are in 1902, the not-for-profit, especially helpful for viewing the first 10 feet behind the vehicle, which are the for the safety and security most dangerous in terms of of all travelers. AAA clubs backover risks for kids.

"The point of service, whether as a governor or a teacher, is not to make a name but to make a difference."

Disclosure: The Texas A&M University System and Texas A&M University are corporate sponsors of The Texas Tribune. A complete list of Tribune donors and sponsors can be viewed here

must begin fitting vehicles with a rear view image system starting in May 2016, with full compliance by May of 2018. But rear-view cameras do not show 100 percent of the space behind the vehicle. So, AAA Texas encourages drivers AAA along with the Au- to always walk around the Automotive ing is behind it first, before the lens clean because rain, snow or slush can cause blurry images. As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 54 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate can be visited on the Inter-

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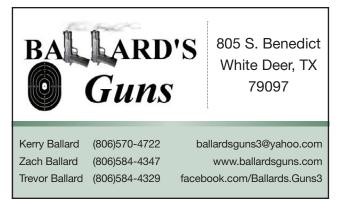
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retailers are being ac-Participants can bring cepted.



NHTSA says automakers net at AAA.com.





Nebraska surgeon could face state disciplinary action

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska attorney general's office is seeking disciplinary action against a Lincoln orthopedic surgeon and former Huskers football player who is accused of practicing medicine while impaired.

The petition filed this week alleges that Dr. Scott E. Strasburger arrived at work Nov. 26 in an impaired state that prevented him from performing surgeries that day. Strasburger, 51, refused to submit to a drug test and has a documented history of drug use, according to the petition. The exact drug wasn't speci-

"The defendant's conduct on or about November 26, 2014, involving the practice of medicine and surgery while impaired is grounds for discipline,' Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, a special assistant attorney general, wrote. A phone message left at Strasburger's office wasn't immediately returned. A listed home phone number rang unanswered.

Strasburg could face a range of penalties, including public censure, financial penalties, probation or having his license suspended or revoked, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Marla Augustine said.

The decision is made by the state's chief medical officer, unless the parties reach an agreement. Augustine said no hearing date has been set.

The petition says Strasburger tested positive for an unspecified controlled substance during an October 2013 screening requested by his previous employer, Nebraska Orthopedic and Sports Medicine in Lincoln.

Strasburger, who worked at that clinic since 1997, was placed in a residential treatment program in November 2013. He completed it the following month and went through outpatient treatment that ended in January.

In July, Strasburger took another drug test at Phelps Memorial Health Center in Holdrege and again tested positive for an unspecified controlled substance. His surgeries and clinical appointments were all canceled, according to the petition, and he resigned.

Strasburger was a defensive end for the Huskers from 1981-1984, being named a third-team All-American and a two-time All-Big Eight selection. He was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in 1985, but online NFL records don't show his player statistics.

He received his bachelor's degree from Nebraska in 1990, and his medical license in Nebraska in 1996. Strasburger attended the Nebraska Medical Center School of Medicine and did his residency at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He received advanced training at the American Sports Medicine Institute in Birmingham, Alabama, according to his biography on his clinic's website.

In February, he announced that he was opening his own clinic, Strasburger Orthopaedics. According to his website, Strasburger specializes in shoulder and rotator cuff issues, knee replacements and other sports injuries.

Obituaries

Roy Julius "Deck" Woldt

Roy Julius "Deck" Woldt, 95, died Dec. 25, 2014, in Pampa.

Memorial services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Woldt, also known as Coach Woldt, was born Oct. 22, 1919, in Egg Harbor, Wis. to August "Dick" and Ann Herbst Woldt. He attended high school at Sturgeon Bay, Wis., where he played several sports. Deck joined the Army Air Force during World War II and served as a radio operator on Solomon and Fiji Islands in the South Pacific in the 35th Fighter Control Squadron.

During the years of 1946-1954, he played on several minor league base-

ball teams. While attending Southwestern University in Weatherford, Okla. to earn his teaching degree, the Pampa Oilers ball team offered him a signing bonus during the 1950 season. He married Dorothy Eloise Hall Bowen on March 20, 1953 at Zion Lutheran Church in Pampa. After graduating from college, Deck played his final season with the Oilers in 1955.

Coach Woldt was hired to teach school and coach football, baseball and golf for the Pampa ISD before retiring in 1985. Some of the many honors he received over the years were Baseball Coach of the Year in the Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame in 1965, and Door County League Hall of Fame in Door County, Wis. in 1993. Deck was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church where he served as church elder.

Deck was preceded in death by his parents; his wife in 2006; a stepson, Russell D. Bowen in 1999; a brother, Roland "Fritz" Woldt, and three sisters, Myrtle Woldt Patza, Clara Woldt Becker and Elizabeth "Betty" Woldt Baster, all of Door County, Wis.

Survivors include his stepdaughter, Sandra Bowen Cox Wright and husband Lee of Seattle; a grandson, James Roy Cox and wife Melissa of Seattle; a granddaughter, Kelli Wright Shea and husband Jeff of Seattle; two great-granddaughters, Janyssa Cox Kester and Payton Cox, both of Seattle; a great-grandson, Spencer Shea of

Seattle: sister-in-law: Corrine Schneider Woldt of Sister Bay, Door County, Wis., and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to Odyssey Hospice, 6900 I-40 West, Suite 150, Amarillo, Texas 79106; Shephard's Crook Home Health Care, 916 N. Crest Road, Pampa, Texas 79065; or Zion Lutheran Church Helping Hands, 1200 Duncan, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online guest register at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

Walter "Walt" Cota

Walter "Walt" Cota died Dec. 25, 2014.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, 2014, at Cox Funeral Home Benton Chapel with Rev. Richard Bartell officiating. Burial will be at Llano Cemetery.

Walt was born on Dec. 30, 1953, in Oceanside, Cali., to Harold and Patricia Cota. He was raised in Pampa, before moving to Reno, Nev. He graduated from Proctor R. Hug High School as Valedictorian, an accomplishment he was especially proud of. Walt then enlisted in the United States Navy in 1972, where he proudly served until his honorable discharge in 1975. He then attended Rutgers University in New Jersey, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. He was employed with the State of New Jersey for more than 30 years when he retired. Walt was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, even while living in New Jersey. Most of all, he was devoted to his family and especially loved his nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Patricia.

He is survived by four brothers, Jim Cota of Fernley, Nev.; Harold Cota and wife Kathy of Pampa, Bob Cota and wife Becky of Amarillo and Chuck Cota of Pampa; nieces and nephews, James Cota and wife Catherine, Angela Cota and Chris, Misty Alvey and husband Todd, Michael Cota, Brian Cota, Brandi Cota and fiancé, Tanner Leach, and Katelyn and Bethany Muggleworth; great nieces and nephews, Sarah and Dominique Cota, Paege Pritchett and husband Austin, Payton Alvey and fiancé Seth Foster, Patterson Alvey, Preslee Alvey, and Sawyer and Jameson Smith; father, Harold H. Cota; Aunt Betty Kinikin of Abilene; close family member, Doris Robbins of Pampa; and many special cousins, whom he loved greatly.

Fortherecord

Pampa man arrested for assault

STAFF REPORT

• Jose Guadalupe Nava, Police Department for asjury to a family member. • Zachariah Grecken, substance, Monday by PPD for vio-

Cherokee copy of Lord's Prayer

lation of probation — card abuse. criminal trespassing.

52, Pampa, was arrested 41, Pampa, was arrest- arrested Tuesday by PPD Wednesday by the Pampa ed Tuesday by the Gray for simple assault.

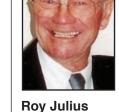
• Ronald David Dodd, langer, 31, Pampa, was drug paraphernalia.

County Sheriff's Office • Evan Ashley Pintzuk, rested Thursday by DPS sault to cause bodily in- for insufficient bond - 44, Encinitas, Calif., was for possession of maripossession of a controlled arrested Wednesday by juana - less than two insufficient the Department of Pub- ounces, possession of 35, Pampa, was arrested bond — credit or debit lic Safety for possession drug paraphernalia.

of marijuana — less than · Michael James Bal- two ounces, possession of

> • Jacob Paul Johnson, 20, Parker, Ariz., was ar-





"Deck" Woldt



(AP) — A copy of the Lord's Prayer written in ed the prayer as a way to Cherokee that was carried by a Cherokee World War II veteran has been ian Institution's National sacrifices they all make," Museum of the American Roach's Indian.

was his good luck charm from around the world. while serving in Italy and

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. the Philippines.

honor their patriarch's sacrifice

granddaughter Boyer said. Della Boyer, of Denton, 45 and believed the prayer family history with others three young children. He

grandfather carrying this prayer with him during the war. Many soldiers needed "Our family has so much that one thing that gave donated to the Smithson- respect for veterans and the them comfort and security during very trying times,"

The late Woodrow Roach Texas, said in a news re- he went to war - even so the men could proceed of Tahlequah fought for lease. "We just wanted to though the Army said he down the path and fight D.C., and possesses an the U.S. Army from 1944- share a special piece of our could opt out since he had "I know there will be ing at Fort Chaffee near

many veterans and fami- Fort Smith, Arkansas, and company that built bridges Roach's family donat- lies that can relate to my then joined the fight in since he was able to oper-Italy

> While serving there, an Army road grader came under fire and blocked the path of Roach and the other men. Roach crawled to the grader on his stomach Roach was 32 when and moved the machine back.

completed his basic train- the Philippines and transferred to an engineering

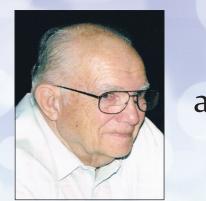
ate heavy machinery.

After completing his service, Roach worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and taught at Sequoyah High School.

The National Museum of the American Indian is located in Washington, expansive collection of Roach was then sent to Native American artifacts, photographs and other objects.

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if purchased beforehand, can qualify. For more details, call or come by.



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Viewpoints



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New years resolutions

It's almost 2015. It's hard to believe another year has passed.

I don't

stay up till

anymore. I

did that in

my 20s and have come

to real-

ize it will

still come

midnight

actually



REDONN WOODS

whether I stay up or not. So, I enjoy spending time with my husband and children until about 10 p.m. and then go to bed.

I try to participate in making a new years resolution. Anytime you can do something to improve yourself it's always a good idea. Even if it only last a couple of weeks. Here is a list of the most common new years resolutions that I got from usa.gov: lose weight, volunteer to help others, quit smoking, get

a better education, get a better job, save money, get fit, eat healthy food, manage stress, manage debt, take a trip, reduce/ reuse/recycle and drink less alcohol.

I believe they are common because no one can do them.

So, I have decided to make some resolutions that I might accomplish: 1.) Finish reading all the books that I bought and never find time to

read. 2.) Clean my children's fish tanks before the water turns colors .

3.) I will start reading the manuals before I try to put it together and lose some of the screws.

4.) I will reduce my Internet time to only one hour a day

5.) I will try harder to beat Zac in my football picks.

Well, that's a start. Hope you have a safe and happy new year.

page executive sum-

Bouncin' Around My love of the jazz era

We recently watched one of my husband's favorite movies, "High Society," starring Bing Crosby,

JUDITH SMITH

Frank Sinatra, and Grace Kelly and released in 1956. The movie is a remake of the 1940 movie, "The Philadelphia Story," which starred Kathryn Hepburn and Cary Grant and is set at the first Newport

Jazz Festival. The original Festival began in 1954. It's sometimes difficult for us jazz lovers living here in Texas because if we want to listen to our favorite jazz music, we have to play a CD or tune into one of the jazz stations on our Sirius radio. Ron and I are eclectic in our musical tastes-he prefers jazz and old show tunes, while I lean more toward classical and jazz.

According to Wynton Marsalis. renowned trumpeter, "New Orleans had a great tradition of celebration. Opera, military marching bands, folk music, the blues, different types of church music, ragtime, echoes of traditional African drumming, and all of the dance styles that went with this music could be heard and seen throughout the city. When all world. He died in New York City

of these kinds of music blended into one, jazz was born.'

"High Society" also features the famous Louis Armstrong, one of my favorite performers since I was a child. At the beginning of the movie, Armstrong and his band are riding on a chartered bus which drops them off at the front entrance of the mansion where Grace Kelly is about to marry; her former husband, played by Crosby, has invited Armstrong and his band to play at the first Newport Jazz Festival.

According to Wynton Marsalis, "Louis Armstrong was one of the most influential artists in the history of music." Born in New Orleans on Aug. 4, 1901, he began playing the cornet at the age of 13. Armstrong perfected the improvised jazz solo as we know it. Before Armstrong, Dixieland was the style of jazz that everyone was playing. This was a style that featured collective improvisation where everyone soloed at once. Armstrong developed the idea of musicians playing during breaks that expanded into musicians playing individual solos. This became the norm.

Affectionately known as "Pops" and "Satchmo," Louis was loved and admired throughout the

on July 6, 1971." Armstrong really did play Newport on many occasions, though he was subject to the same segregation as other African-Americans at that time. Hitler tried to deal a fatal blow to jazz music in Germany, considering the American jazz musicians one of the "inferior races."

Ken Burns' PBS special, "Jazz" gives a great history of the music and its musicians. I have music by several jazz artists on the iPod I use when taking my daily walks. Scott Joplin, Dave Brubeck (walking in time to "Take Five" can be a challenge!), Dizzy Gillespie, Vince Guaraldi ("Linus and Lucy"), Sade, Acoustic Alchemy, Ramsey Lewis (whom we met personally), Chuck Mangione... I could go on and on, but you get the point.

The jazz tunes share space on my iPod with Celtic Thunder, James Galway, Sousa, and Strauss. If you see me walking, wearing my pink headphones, I may be listening to "Wade in the Water" and walking along briskly, or I may be cooling down with a slower tune like Sade's "Smooth Operator" or Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World." In any case, I will be smiling!

Judi Smith resides in Pampa and can be reached at jlsmith46@aol.com.



How To Write Us

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

We reserve the right to edit letters or not to publish certain letters.

By Fax: 806-669-2520

By U.S. mail: Letters The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa, Texas 79065

By E-mail: jclee@thepampanews.



The needle already was in the haystack. That essentially is the

embed-

Demo-

ligence



DEBRA SAUNDERS

rogations and detentions, approved with one lonely Republican vote, that of former Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, and released by committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein of California.

Three former CIA directors contend that enhanced interrogation techniques, approved under President George W. Bush and prohibited by President Barack Obama, yielded key information that saved lives and led to Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. These claims go against Democratic rhetoric about what President Obama calls "the false choice between our security and our ideals." Democrats need to believe that what Feinstein calls "torture" doesn't actually yield information. So in 2009, the Senate Intelligence Committee voted to study CIA interrogations.

Feinstein has urged critics to read the report. I read the 500-

mary and finished with more questions than message answers. It was like reading a bureaucratic ded in the version of Mad magazine's onetime cartoon crats' Sen-"Spy vs. Spy." Clearly, there are rifts in the ate Select Committee intelligence commuon Intelnity. There was the FBI vs. the CIA — part report on turf war, part mission divide. Within the CIA, CIA interthere were officers who believed in rapport building and officers who believed that shows of force deliver the goods. My guess is that both methods work, although one can be faster. Each side of that divide thinks its approach teased out the

> bin Laden. The committee, to its discredit, chose to tarnish the tough guys. The CIA, the report notes, "determined from its own experience with coercive interrogations, that such techniques 'do not produce intelligence,' will probably result in false answers,' and had historically proven to be ineffective. Yet these conclusions were ignored." If information was gleaned without the now-banned techniques and later a detainee offered it up during or after a harsh interrogation, the report deliberately ignored the harsh-sourced tidbit. The commit-

information that led to

SPY cont. on page 5A

Lower oil and king dollar are unambiguously good

We all know that the American energy revolution, led by the new



new shaleoil and

natural-gas production that has overwhelmed world markets and driven prices down by roughly 40 percent. End-of-week crude oil closed near \$57 a barrel, and the national average gasoline price finished at \$2.60.

No matter what the naysayers are trying to sell, the new energy reality is unambiguously good for the U.S. and global economies. There may be some dislocations among countries, sectors or companies, but the overwhelming impact is positive.

In fact, the U.S. economy is already getting better. Recent numbers on jobs, retail sales, consumer confidence, small-business confidence, ISM's, and business investment point to a 3 percent growth rate rather than the tepid 2

percent pace of the prior Meanwhile, gold has five years.

And it's likely that oil prices will stay low or drop a bit lower.

The International Energy Agency's new forecast for 2015 shows a global reduction in demand growth of 900,000 barrels a day versus a previous projection of an increase of 1.1 million barrels a day. But U.S. production is expected to increase by 685,000 barrels a day next year. So besides American technological breakthroughs, this oil-price-drop story is a triumph of the freemarket forces of supply overwhelming demand — all while the OPEC cartel dissolves before our eyes.

As economist John Ryding puts it, "The oil supply curve is shifting outward at a faster pace than the oil demand curve, which argues against a rebound in oil prices in 2015.

But there is another important angle to this story: Looming behind the falling price of oil is the return of King Dollar

Since the middle of 2011, the dollar has appreciated by over 20 percent. Year-to-date it has gained 10 percent.

fallen nearly 40 percent since 2011, and oil has dropped 40 percent in the past six months.

Since the U.S. dollar is the world's reserve currency, commodities are priced in dollars. Hence a strong greenback generates lower commodity prices — oil, gold and everything else. This was the case during the Reagan 1980s and the Clinton 1990s. But when the dollar collapsed during the Bush 2000s, gold, oil and other hard assets like housing exploded upward to the detriment of the economy.

Now, however, as King Dollar seems to be on the mend, commodity prices are falling and the purchasing power of money for consumers and businesses is going up. Those greenbacks in your wallet or bank account are worth more and can buy more on the open market. Inflation stays low. Global capital flows to America.

Regrettably, neither the Bush nor Obama administrations particularly cared about the plight of the dollar. However, at a recent conference at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Paul Volcker, the greatest

American central banker since World War II, argued that the main goal of the Federal Reserve is to defend the dollar's stability. He also said he doesn't understand why the Fed has adopted a 2 percent inflation target. He asked, "Do we want prices to double every generation?'

(It's important to note that while the Fed can print excess money, the U.S. Treasury Department has statutory authority over dollar buying-and-selling operations. But then again, it's crucial to note that the U.S. Congress has constitutional authority over the value of our money.)

When Volcker was undersecretary of the Treasury during the Nixon years, he argued against the inflationary dollar devaluation that occurred when the U.S. broke the Bretton Woods link to gold. Though he never publically said it, there is ample evidence that when Volcker ran the Fed, he was targeting (or carefully watching) the movement of gold, broad commodity indexes and the dollar as he restrained the money supply to conquer infla-

OIL cont. on page 5A

Spy **Continued From Page 4A**

tee waded through 6.3 million documents. You could see how a CIA officer working in a warehouse of data might not see a phone number's significance until a detainee lied in a way that signaled its import. The committee deliberately ignored any breakthrough revelations.

The summary dismisses enhanced interrogation techniques because detainees subjected to them were known to provide fabricated information. Hello, Republicans counter, detainees not subject to harsh measures also fabricate answers. The CIA mocked the committee's credulity in generally accepting "at face value detainees' accounts that they lied under enhanced techniques and told the truth" afterward.

The GOP minority report slams the committee's failure to interview anvone at the CIA. The committee blames an Obama Department of Justice investigation of the CIA, expanded in 2009, for allowing brass to not require that staff be interviewed. No worries, quoth the committee: "The CIA's own documents provided a robust, contemporane-

of the EIT program."

To feed the outrage meter, the report reveals that the CIA paid \$81 million to a contracting firm started by psychologists James E. Mitchell and Bruce Jessen, who convinced the government that it could get more information by instilling in detainees a sense of "learned helplessness." Other than that, the

report is heartbreaking. Suspected Islamic extremist Gul Rahman died on a cold concrete floor — wearing only a sweatshirt and shackled to a wall — probably from hypothermia. I don't know what to make of allegations of rectal feeding - if they are even true. But I do know that the procedure was not an authorized interrogation technique. Techniques such as sleep deprivation surely preved on agency interrogators, as well as detainees. It was ugly work. I understand why some officers recoiled from the methods.

The report cost taxpayers \$40 million — for which Team DiFi blames the CIA. The outcome was predetermined. Feinstein maintains that waterboarding and sleep deprivation are "torture" that failed to produce crucial information obtainable by other means. CIA chief John Brennan

ous, and firsthand record wouldn't use that word.

He told reporters last week it is "unknowable" whether the CIA would have learned what it needed to know without harsh measures. "But for someone to say that there was no intelligence of value — of use that came from those detainees once they were subjected to EITs?" Brennan said. "I think that lacks any foundation at all.'

"If it were not clear before, the Feinstein report shows that Democrats do not have the stomach for the tough policies necessary to prevail," John Yoo, the former Bush lawyer who wrote memos authorizing the use of enhanced interrogation techniques, opined in National Review. "Because they cannot deny their involvement, they must claim that the CIA lied."

For all the many offenses cataloged in the Feinstein report, the Justice Department investigation concluded in 2012 without finding any prosecutable offense. That tells me the wrongdoings alleged in the report aren't remotely solid.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Oil

Continued From Page 4A

tion.

Alan Greenspan often talked publically about the significance of gold as an inflation proxy during his first three terms as Fed chair. But unfortunately he gave up the discipline in his last years at the Fed.

And today, no one in U.S. officialdom is talk-



ing gold, commodities or the dollar. But the Fed has actually been tighter than people think, because only a small fraction of its QE bond buying and reserve creating circulated through the economy. And now it's given up QE altogether. And next year it will begin to cautiously raise its target rate on the long road to normalization. This all helps King Dollar. And with a new

Republican Congress,

QUALITY .

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there's the enhanced prospect of lower business taxes, which would grow the economy faster. More support for the dollar.

So I will argue simply that a strong dollar and lower oil prices are unambiguously good for the economy. Naysayers be gone.

To find out more about Lawrence Kudlow and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page atwww.creators.com

REPAIRS

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Creator of 'Tail! Spin!' talks about power, truth

NEW YORK (AP) — One had a "wide stance" and another was "hiking the Appalachian Trail."

Those were some of the are pretty lurid. excuses put forward by politicians caught in recent sex scandals. Mario Correa, a political junkie who 17. There's no dearth of hypocrisy. You're explorworked on Capitol Hill in material when it comes to ing more than just randy high school and college, congressional sex scandals. politicians, right? has turned them into comedy gold.

Correa, a co-host of Entertainment Weekly's daily on SiriusXM, stitched together four such sad tales to create "Tail! Spin!" at the Culture Project starring "Saturday Night Live" closes Jan. 4.

The show skewers former U.S. Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho, former U.S. Rep. Andrew Weiner of New York, former U.S. Rep. Mark Foley of Florida and former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, who is now a congressman. All were ensnared in sex scandals and initially feigned innocence.

The script uses only the public comments, tweets, statements, instant messages, emails and text messages from the disgraced politicians. The Associated Press asked Correa about the play's deeper meanings.

AP: How much were these four men representative of the politicians you encountered?

Correa: To me they were outliers. They fascinated me because, in my eyes, they had it all. I mean, what am amazing honor it is to be a member of Congress or to be a U.S. senator and have all this responsibility in your hands. And then to go and

ways struck me as 'Why?' AP: Some of the texts I think in any political situand messages in the play ation, the truth will come

Correa: There's worse and there's more. We had to fumbled cover-up was keep it rated R and not NC- more excruciating than the AP: You even incorporated cooking recipes, TV

appearances, Clinton-era than it is about sex. We all voting records and speech-"News & Notes" program es. How hard was it to dig? Correa: I sometimes say Google is my collaborator. I fell into a lot of Internet wormholes. One thing will lead you to another. You'll alumna Rachel Dratch. It find a strange Larry Craig business card in the airport recipe somewhere and it men's room, he really honwill lead you to a link of him somewhere at a Spanish-American cook-off. It was so clear to me watching his behavior that something more fundamental was happening there and I tried to juxtapose that with his public persona in a way that I hope works.

what can we take away from the play?

Correa: What I take away about sex lives that are very

do these stupid things, it al- different in private than someone's voting behavior. out.

AP: In each case, the

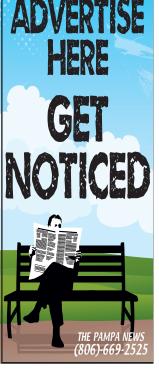
Correa: I do think the play is about power more make dumb choices in our personal lives. I know I have. What I saw in these guys is that they thought their power would protect them. So when Larry Craig hands a cop a U.S. Senate estly thought he was going to get away with it.

AP: It might sound like a naive question, but do you think we'll have more such scandals?

Correa: I think we'll have many more of these and other scandals because politicians have to come AP: Beyond the humor, to grips with the fact that power is not the ultimate protector — it's a responsibility. When they do think from it is: The truth in poli- it's a protector, then they tics comes out, whether will continue to make bad you're talking about a choices. They will think substantive policy issue that giving a guy a business or whether you're talking card will get them out of it.











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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 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

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 with be held on Monday. The meetings are held on the second floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

TOT Republican Women's Club

О' Top Texas Women's Club meets at noon on month, January through October, at the the third Wednesday of every month at the Pampa Senior Center, Citizens 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 The Gray County Commission 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 Republican meets the fourth Thursday of each 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.

Editor's note: Email submissions to *jclee@,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.

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.

■ 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** Purpose meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at

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

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

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.

Report: \$34M in repairs needed at Texas college

EL PASO (AP) — A report conducted by two architectural firms says more than \$34 million in repairs and upgrades are needed at a West Texas community college.

The firms will create a master plan to prioritize the needs at each of the five campuses of El Paso Community College. The plan also will detail services needed for a new campus the college intends to build at the Fort Bliss Army post.

The El Paso Times reports the assessment comes as the college projects enrollment to grow to 45,000 students in 12 years. The school has about 29,000 students now.

Officials say campuses lack gathering space for students, have small classrooms, outdated heating and cooling systems, and other problems.

The college has not yet developed a plan to pay for the improvements.

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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 handout 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

Sumner Street in Pampa. New pastor, Sergio Urrutia, said their mission is "New life Assembly of 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.

areas of the township with special emphasis to our

Latino brothers and sisters. Our worship will be a 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 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

be holding Gospel Pic'n and Grinnin'.

Space in the church.

Mother Nature are threatening to dismantle the Alamo. Not the original, but the replica 18th-century Spanish mission and Old West movie set John Wayne built for his Oscarnominated 1960 movie and that for decades was a tourist mecca and film produc-

that represents history to a movie set — it is now his-Curilla, the one-man cu-

acre plot of land about 120 miles west of San Antonio, was carved out of a large ranch in the late 1950s for Wayne's directorial debut. as Jim Bowie and Wayne

ing there full-time in 1988.

Business at Alamo Vil-

past.

ments are taking a toll on

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. and children's reflection of our multi-ethnic mixture of disciples 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 jclee@thepampanews.com or give us a call 669-2525. We will need the name, address, phone number and any other information about the event.



building — drawn up for the Texas centennial that tion took nearly two years.

Top business stories of 2014: US grows, world slows

year showed how sheltered the U.S. economy is from geopolitical and health crises around the world. The global economy sputtered, but the U.S. powered ahead. Employers are finally hiring enough to lower unemployment. A plunge in gas prices and a rising stock market has Americans feeling richer and spending a bit more.

Those are some of the top business stories of 2014, as chosen by business editors at The Associated Press. Others include massive product disasters: A string of auto recalls after faulty ignition switches from General Motors Corp. and air bags in many car models caused injuries and deaths. Hackers stole personal information from millions of people in a wave of breaches at stores, banks, a movie studio and other organizations.

We're also becoming increasingly dependent on our phones and tablets, using them to communicate, play and pay.

Janet Yellen became the first woman to head the Federal Reserve and U.S. workers won higher pay as cities and states across the country raise the minimum hourly wage.

Corporate deal-making was also in the spotlight. Companies acquired each other at a level not seen since 2007, the year the Great Recession began, while a burst of businesses went public.

The top 10 business stories of 2014:

1. U.S. GROWS AS WORLD SLOWS: After a freezing winter put a chill on buying and selling, the U.S. economy has posted its best six months since 2003. But the rest of the world hasn't been as lucky. Japan has fallen back into recession. The 18 countries that make up the eurozone are barely growing and fear a dangerous drop in prices. Major developing nations aren't faring much better. China's growth has dropped to a five-year low of 7.3 percent. Western sanctions and dropping oil prices have decimated Russia's currency. Brazil just edged out of recession.

ES: The theft of 40 million out to be just the beginning. Home Depot Inc. hackers nabbed 56 million cards and tic. 53 million email addresses. There were breaches at SOAR: Another year, an-Kmart, Dairy Queen, and Albertsons. JPMorgan Chase & Co. said hackers stole information covering 76 million households and 7 million small businesses. Sony employees' private information and emails were posted online. The consequences? Sony Pictures Entertainment canceled the mass release of "The Interview," a comedy about assassinating the & Poor's 500 index on pace North Korean leader, after hackers threatened to attack movie theaters. Target Corp. replaced top executives. Shops, card companies and markets, bond prices rallied banks sped up card security

improvements. crude prices have fallen to around \$56 per barrel from this year's high of \$115 beslowing economies in Europe and Asia crimp demand. A rapid decline in the secest price in nearly five years. \$15.4 billion more a month Barack Obama auto sales and saving airlines money on jet fuel. But drilling could slow in North Da-And governments in energy producers Russia, Venezuela increasing the likelihood of political upheaval.

the U.S. alone, automakers ics professor and the No. 2 recalled more than 60 mil- at the Fed, became the first lion cars and trucks. That far surpasses the previous record of 30.8 million in 2004. The trace of her native Brooklyn bulk of those come from two in her speech, Yellen critiproblems that have led to cizes inequality, focuses on nearly 50 deaths and dozens jobs growth and has tried to of injuries. Japanese air bag demystify the moves of the supplier Takata, whose air notoriously opaque Fed. She What's helped the U.S. is its bags can inflate too fast and has also tied the failure of relative insulation. Ameri- spew shrapnel, has fought most economists to predict can consumers, not exports, regulators' demands to ex- the damages wrought by the are the main drivers of the pand recalls. And GM was financial crisis to a lack of di-world's largest economy. fined the maximum \$35 mil-versity in the field. She says 2. JOBS ARE BACK: lion by U.S. safety regulators that increasing diversity is a Millions of Americans still for dragging its feet — for a priority at the central bank. decade — over replacing fewer hours of work than faulty switches that can shut down car engines. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating both companies. 6. MOBILE MOMENing healthy. The unemploy- ing, but mobile phone subscriptions are expected to Employers added nearly 3 reach 7 billion this year million jobs, the most since — the same as the world's 1999, as shoppers and busi- population. Phone makers nesses spend more. As a are launching cheaper smartresult, the Federal Reserve phones aimed at developing ended its recession-era stim- countries, which could get is edging closer to lifting in- Already, more than a billion terest rates. The Fed has kept people check Facebook on rates near zero since 2008 to their phones and tablets. The

NEW YORK (AP) — This spur lending and investment. social media giant spent \$22 3. SECURITY BREACH- billion on a phone messag- DEAL: Higher stocks and markets make it easier to do level in 2013. And the bigcredit and debit cards and a hail-a-cab app, is valued mergers and acquisitions is cheap. Meanwhile, initial na's e-commerce behemoth 70 million personal records at \$40 billion. Apple Inc., volume to highest level since public offerings had their Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., from Target last fall turned the iPhone and iPad maker, 2007. With a few days to go, biggest year since 2000. raised \$25 billion in Septemthat sidesteps cash and plas-

> STOCK MARKETS 7. other record. The end of the Federal Reserve's bondbuying stimulus program stressed investors this fall, but U.S. stocks kept rising, extending the bull market run to nearly six years. More companies acquired each other and big companies bought up more than \$400 billion of their own stock, helping to put the Standard for a 13 percent gain in 2014. And despite the end of the Fed's bond purchases, which was expected to weigh on and rates dropped.

8. MINIMUM WAGE 4. OIL PLUNGE: Global GROWTH: Inequality has been rising, and median household incomes have fallen since the recession because of more production, gan in late 2007. But the fedespecially in the U.S., while eral minimum hourly wage has remained at \$7.25 since 2009. Labor organizers, fastfood workers and Wal-Mart ond half of the year pushed Stores Inc. employees have gasoline to about \$2.30 a campaigned for higher pay gallon in the U.S., the low- across the country. Congress hasn't acted, but cities Americans are pocketing and states — and President have. than when gas was at its Obama raised pay by execu-2014 high of \$3.70. Cheaper tive order for government crude is also pumping up contractors, to \$10.10 an hour. By Jan. 1, 29 states and Washington, D.C. will have a higher minimum wage kota's new boomtowns and than \$7.25. Seattle approved other regions, hurting busi- an increase to \$15 an hour, nesses that have cropped up. the highest rate in the country

9. JANET YELLEN: The and Iran are being squeezed, Federal Reserve had been led exclusively by men for a century. Then Janet Yellen, a 5. AUTO RECALLS: In 68-year-old former economwoman to lead the central bank. Plainspoken, with a

20 percent to \$3.41 trillion, up 37 percent of all IPOs in

10. LET'S MAKE A including debt. Climbing the U.S., nearly double the ing app, WhatsApp. Uber, confidence lifted global stock deals, and borrowing gest IPO ever, that of Chilaunched a payment system global deal volume has risen Health care companies made ber.

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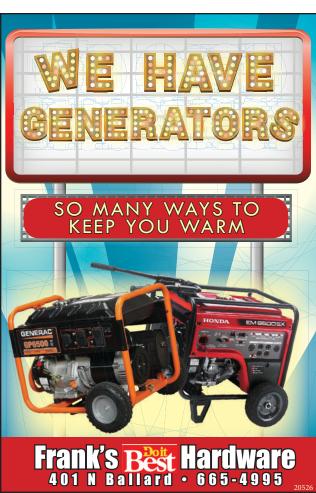
struggle with low pay and they want, and millions have given up looking for a job entirely. But five years after the recession ended, the U.S. job market is look- TUM: PC sales are slumpment rate is below 6 percent. ulus program in October and billions more people online.



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College sees small, big benefits with loan promise

to pick a college, Abby Slusher leaned toward a private school near her southeastern Michigan home for the small campus and class sizes. Her mother pushed Adrian College for another reason: A new program guaranteeing every graduate would make more than \$37,000 or get some or all student loans reimbursed.

Adrian is among the first colleges to take out insurance policies on all incoming freshmen and transfer students who have student loans and at least two years of school remaining.

"She said, 'Look at me, I'm still trying to

ADRIAN, Mich. (AP) — this would be great. When it came time I don't want you in this situation," said Slusher, 18, who is studying to become a social worker. "And seeing her in this situation, I don't want that."

The idea has been around for a few decades at Yale Law School and for specific programs elsewhere, such as seminary and social work degrees. Some small, religious schools started offering guarantees to all new students in recent years, but Adrian President Jeffrey Docking is taking it further by framing the program as a solution to skyrocketing tuition costs and student loan defaults. His crusade has gotten the pay my student loans off attention of U.S. law-

makers and education versation with Spring officials.

"Obviously, we feel like this is a big solution to a big problem — maybe the biggest problem right now in higher education," Docking said. "We felt like we needed to make a grand statement."

Adrian paid roughly \$575,000 this year, or \$1,165 per student, to take out policies on 495 students. For those who graduate and get a job that pays less than \$20,000 a year, the college will make full monthly student loan payments until thev make \$37,000 a year. With a job that pays \$20,000 to \$37,000, the college will make payments on a sliding scale.

There's no time limit for the payment plan, but the college caps total loan payments at \$70,000 per student. Adrian's annual cost of tuition, room and board is about \$40,000 before any forms of financial aid.

The school has 1,700 students.

Docking already sees benefits: The entering freshmen class is up about 50 students to 570; to break even, the school determined it needed about two dozen new students who took out loans. He credits the program in part for the enrollment increase but says other efforts, like launching a varsity bass fishing team, have served as a lure.

About 35 miles northwest of Adrian, Spring Arbor University, a small Christian institution, offered a similar guarantee to every incoming freshman in fall 2013. A con-

Arbor's former president inspired Docking.

Although Spring Arbor officials see value in the program, they're likely to scale it back next year.

"For the vast majority of students, it's not a deciding factor in choosing Spring Arbor," said school spokesman Malachi Crane. "Is there a way to better tailor it to students who really need it and have the desire to have that option? For us, it makes more fiscal sense not to automatically assign it to each and every student."

Both programs were made possible by the Loan Repayment Assistance Program Association, a Bloomington, Indiana-based organization that works with U.S. colleges and universities. Peter Samuelson, the organization's president, said some schools "have ramped up, ramped back down and ramped back up again" with loan programs, but overall results are positive.

"There's much more likelihood they're going to complete college successfully," Samuelson said.

To get word out about the program, Docking met with other university presidents and testified last year before a U.S. House higher edusubcommittee. cation Retiring U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., made a floor statement last June praising Adrian's program as a model for other colleges.

Docking said federal education officials told him at a meeting in August that they are exploring ways to promote the program. Education Department spokeswoman Denise Horn said officials commend the college for its "creative approach" to helping students manage their loans.

"We're talking about this far and wide because we hope other colleges do it as well," Docking said.

Mark Kantrowicz, publisher of edvisors.

the first place." **Israel:** Palestinian stabs 2 border police

JERUSALEM (AP) -A Palestinian man on Friday stabbed and lightly wounded two Israeli paramilitary border policemen at the entrance to Jerusalem's Old City on Friday, Israeli police said.

The attacker stabbed an officer in the neck, and in an ensuing struggle stabbed another in the arm before fleeing, said police spokeswoman Luba Samri. Police are searching for the attacker.

stabbing took The place at the Lion's Gate in east Jerusalem shortly after morning prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the third most sacred place in Islam. There has been a wave of attacks in Jerusalem amid heightened tensions over the compound, which is considered the holiest site in Judaism because it is where the biblical Hebrew temples stood.

Meanwhile, an Israeli hospital in Jerusalem said it was continuing treatment for a Palestinian boy who was wounded this week during a clash between Israeli border police and Palestinian demonstrators in east Jerusalem.

The 5-year-old boy, Mohammed Obeid, was returning home from kindergarten when a rubber bullet shot by Israeli police struck him in the face, said his grandfather, Ibrahim Obeid.

Police spokeswoman Samri said Palestinians threw fire bombs and fireworks at border police, who responded with 'riot-dispersal means." She said she did not know if the boy was injured during the incident but that police are investigating.

At the Israeli border with the Gaza Strip on Friday, Israeli troops shot a Palestinian who was climbing on the border fence, the army said. Troops shot him in the lower part of his body Ukraine between govand took him for medical ernment forces, voluntreatment and questioning, the army said. Israel's supreme court claimed more than 4,700 meanwhile ordered authorities to demolish one of the oldest and most contentious Jewish settlement outposts in the West Bank. The court said the hilltop outpost of Amona must be evacuated within two years. Amona was established in 1995 on private Palestinian land without Israeli government permission. In 2006, Israeli police demolished nine homes at the outpost, setting off clashes pitting settlers and their

supporters against police and soldiers. Several dozen trailers have remained.

The government put off dismantling the rest of the outpost despite court deadlines. Settlers say they have bought some of the land where the outpost sits, but the Palestinian landowners say some of the sales were fictitious.

Conflicting reports of Ukraine prisoner exchange

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — A major exchange of war prisoners was embroiled in controversy Friday, with some reports saying it has been completed and others saying it had has been pushed back a day.

Russia's Interfax news agency said the exchange had been completed successfully on neutral ground between the sectors controlled by the insurgents and the government forces, but the ITAR-Tass news agency quoted separatist rights ombudsman Darya Morozova saying that the exchange was pushed back until Saturday.

The conflicting reports couldn't be independently confirmed.

The pro-Russia rebels had been set to release 150 Ukrainian prisoners in exchange for the Ukrainian government releasing 222 captives, Ukrainian and rebel officials said.

Russia's state television showed Ukrainian war prisoners boarding buses in the main rebel stronghold of Donetsk before being driven to a location north of the city where the exchange took place.

The exchange had been tentatively planned for earlier this week, and the failure to conduct it pushed back another round of Ukraine peace talks in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, which was set for Friday but was adjourned indefinitely.

Fighting in eastern teer battalions and pro-Russia separatists has lives since last spring. Previous rounds of talks in September produced a cease-fire and an agreement to pull back heavy weapons, but both sides have failed to agree on a line of division and fighting continued. Hostilities have diminished in the past weeks amid renewed peace efforts, but mutual suspicions and distrust have stymied progress. parliament Ukraine's vote earlier this week to abandon the country's non-aligned status, a first step toward a possible bid for NATO membership which is anathema to Moscow, also has hampered talks. Amid the tensions, Ukraine on Friday suspended train and bus services to the Russiaannexed Crimean Peninsula, citing security concerns. Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula in March following the ouster of Ukraine's former Moscow-friendly president after months of protests.



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com, a college planning and financing website, said such programs have grown as school administrators become more concerned about rising discount rates, or the percentage of gross tuition given back to students in the form of grants. He calls it an "arms race in recruiting students," and schools are trying to find ways to stop the discount rate from increasing.

"Obviously, loan repayment assistance provides assistance after the fact, and that has value," he said. "But it would be better to charge less in





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for Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014:

involving your loved ones. You never know what you will walk into self. Tonight: Out late. next, and for the most way. You have a tendency to withdraw and sometimes overanalyze situations. Don't that a fight is the surest way to put distance show. between you. ARIES angry!

The Stars Show the 21-June 20) Kind of Day You'll Have: 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES 21-April 19)

rather quiet once you must appearance. This year you have start sharing. Find out your life, especially likely to let you know sion surrounds you. that he or she admires how you handle your- 21-July 22) This Week:

and running around. TAURUS

20-May 20) You'll $\star \star \star$ put yourself in a situa- more restrained with A loved one could be comfortable. If you are you normally do. What that you don't need to getting to know some- subtler than you might one. This person might realize. In fact, you be very different from could miss out on the and prioritize your life what you think. If you true symbolism of a are attached, the two conversation altogethof you can be argu- er. Later, you'll have 22) mentative. Understand an unexpected realization. Tonight: A must taneity will take you and he or she might 22-Jan. 19)

resolutions.

GEMINI

4-Positive; 3-Average; are far more indul- gest obstacle. Tonight: gent of your whims Dinner for two. (March than you might real- $\star \star \star \star$ You could be act in a most unexvery content, yet at the pected way. You are 23-Sept. 22) same time feel rather likely to remember this

distance seems to be opens up. Tonight: A

This Week: By mida lot of excitement in why. Someone else is week, a lot of confu-CANCER

Use assume more responpart, you like it that Monday for meetings sibility right now. You Avoid a power play. will enjoy bringing oth-(April ers together, no matter what the excuse. feel Lighten up a bit more. tion where you are not a certain person than very controlling. Know single, take your time occurs will be much react to that behavior.

on Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug.

★★★★ Your spondown a new path, This Week: Think though you might feel can really make you about your New Year's somewhat restricted overdue chat. by a loved one. Break (May past your judgments, and new ideas will $\star \star \star \star \star$ Focus on emerge. You know that 5-Dynamic; your friends, who often you are your own big-

This Week: ize. One friend could Monday off if you can. VIRGO

restrained. You might person's wild behavior decide to let some- what this person is tion again.

on making plans. You is as simple as asking know that this person a question. Tonight: will make choices that Ever playful. would please you. An unexpected conversa- on what must be done day. Whether you're at (June tion reveals a weak- early. ness in your bond. ★★★★ Be willing to Don't worry - it can 22-Dec. 21) be corrected. Tonight:

last minute.

22)

★★★★ You have a Tonight: Say "yes." want. Encourage oth- in a different direction. **** This Week: Organize ers to make the final Tonight: Don't push so become decision, and everyone will get more of what he or she wants. a lot to get done, so do A family member could become demanding, rain on your parade. Tonight: Have a long-

peeves.

SCORPIO 23-Nov. 21)

to read a situation cor- ed when dealing with Take rectly will emerge. You this person or matter. might be rethinking an Tonight: Order in. (Aug. awkward interaction that you had with a rest up Monday, you Stan Lee (1922), sing- $\star \star \star \star$ You could loved one. Understand are ready for celebra- er/songwriter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY find that a friend at a for a while. A partner one else take the lead feeling. Sometimes, it

ly to be a little more prise might force you This Week: You might stern or serious than to revise your plans. decide to go away for you typically are. You New Year's Eve at the could be weighing the big fuss, please. pros and cons of con-LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. tinuing on the course chosen. you have You might decide to way of getting what you take a creative leap 19-March 20)

> hard. it quickly

> CAPRICORN (Dec.

 $\star \star \star \star$ Your smile is a sure-bet winner, and a tendency to have it frequently draws in things go your way. This Week: Resolve what you want. You Tonight: Make it your to deal with others' pet seem to be in conflict with a family member, (Oct. or a situation at home yourself for some comcould be irritating you. $\star \star \star \star$ Your ability Go with the unexpect-

This Week: Once you comic-book

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** You might seem rather ornery as This Week: Focus you go out during the the mall returning items SAGITTARIUS (Nov. or hanging out with a friend, you seem less $\star \star \star \star$ You are like- than pleased. A sur-Tonight: Don't make a

This Week: Make calls important Monday.

PISCES (Feb.

**** You could exhausted just by balancing your This Week: You have checkbook after the past few weeks. You tend to enjoy yourself wherever you are, as long as there are other people around. Curb treat.

This Week: Prepare pany.

BORN TODAY

Actor Denzel Washington (1954)writer John Legend (1978)

Cowboys seek to find meaning in finale vs Redskins

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) - Any given Sunday, one NFL team can tie another.

If you're the Dallas Cowboys, that's one of your top motivations for playing Tony Romo and DeMarco Murray, and otherwise giving your all in the season finale against the Washington Redskins.

For the Cowboys-Redskins outcome to have any significance in the playoff picture, at least one other game Sunday has to end in a draw. The Cowboys have already clinched the NFC East and will earn a first-round bye with losses by Seattle The and Arizona - regardless of what they do against their division rival.

But they can also get a bye through multiple other scenarios. For example, a Dallas win and a Detroit-Green Bay tie would do the trick. Add in a loss or the by Arizona, and the Cowboys would become the No. 1 seed in the conference. So, even though Romo could probably use a week off to rest his nagging back, and even though Murray broke his hand two weeks ago, look for both to be out there. "There's a playoff scenario with us winning the game that will give us an opportunity to get a first-round bye," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said, "so we're going to take advantage of what we can take advantage of." It's quite the contrast from seasons past, when the Cowboys didn't care what happened elsewhere. Three years running, they needed a win on the final weekend of the regular season to clinch a playoff berth — and failed each time. Now they're in with a week to spare, and the last thing they want to hear is that their game might be meaningless. "I think really you think about momentum," tight end Jason Witten said. "This game is a crazy game. You want to play well every opportunity you get. For one, there's still stuff out there for us. And then, two, you want to be playing well going into the playoffs. You never want to back door your way into it. I think this team has been playing well, and we want to continue to do that.' Here's more that's in store Sunday as the Cowboys (11-4) and Redskins (4-11) wrap up the regular season: **RECORDS TO BREAK:** Another reason for playing Murray is his pursuit of Emmitt Smith's franchise rushing record. Murray leads the

needs 29 to surpass Smith's mark of 1,773 from 1995.

Also, Romo has a chance to finish with one of the five best passer ratings in NFL history. He's sixth right now at 114.4, and a stellar game would move him past Peyton Manning's 115.1 last year with Denver.

Then there's Dez Bryant, who leads the league with 14 touchdown catches and needs one to tie Terrell Owens' franchise record from 2007.

OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN:

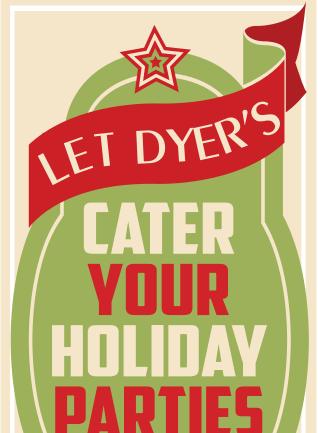
NFL with 1,745 yards and rivalry loses much of its Gruden said. "But, still, to sting when one or both of the teams are struggling, but Washington's signature victory in an otherwise tough season was a Monday night win at Dallas in October.

One of the oldest oneliners in D.C. is that it's permissible for Washington to go 2-14 if both wins come against the Cowboys. The Redskins wouldn't be far off the mark with a victory on Sunday.

"I know we are 4-11, not a whole lot of excitement after this game happen-Cowboys-Redskins ing," Washington coach Jay

beat Dallas, to play Dallas is a great opportunity for a lot of guys to get more work and go against a heck of a football team. That's always great."

HISTORY LESSON: In 2007, the Cowboys had already clinched a playoff spot when they sleepwalked through a 27-6 loss at Washington in the final weekend of the regular season. That Dallas team was 13-3 and appeared poised for a Super Bowl run, but it lost to the New York Giants in its first playoff game.





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Lifestyles

Bad Santa? 5 tips to tackle your holiday gift returns

As anyone who's re-Santa Claus gets it wrong sometimes.

Friends and relatives? Yes, them too.

Hence the throng of customers who flock to shopping malls soon after the holidays to exchange or return less-than-ideal presents. Retailers generally try to accommodate their wishes, or provide store credit. But it's not always easy.

A recent National Retail Federation survey of 60 merchant loss-prevention executives estimated that fraud related to returned items this holiday season will cost the industry \$3.8 billion. That's one reason many retailers are increasingly asking for identification and restricting how long a customer has to return an item, among other measures.

Likely to end up on the gift return queue in a few days? Here are five tips to consider before you head over to the mall or attempt to swap out that unwanted item purchased online:

1. KEEP GIFTS IN GOOD CONDITION

Retailers will resist taking back a purchase that's not in good condition or in the original packaging.

or consumer electronics, make sure the item is free of wear, and that you have ing credit, debit cards and all of the parts.

"The biggest problem is methods. ceived a drugstore cologne when you don't have ac-Mike Abt, co-president of Abt Electronics, one of the will be enough. largest independent retailers of electronics and ap- ply with wishes to return as GiftCards.com, Card-

pliances in the country. But what if you lost part of an item and want to re- DEADLINES turn it? Try offering to

a refund or credit, Abt said. And don't think a retailer won't open the box the parts. Abt notes he's some items, like a GoPro had customers bring back a camera or a TV, for a onebox that looks like a recent time use. Then they will

were different. bottle of Windex and a to-

mato soup can," he said. 2. DON'T STRESS THE RECEIPT

handy in case it's needed refund. for a return is ideal. But don't worry if you've misplaced it. Odds are your ID will do. Nearly 71 percent customers who are returning an item without a receipt to show identification, according to the NRF. Target requires a receipt

for all returns and ex-Whether it's clothing changes, but in most cases, within 90 days, it can verify purchases made us- Not a big coffee drinker?

gift set well knows, even cessories like a remote resistance, ask to speak face value of the card. control or a battery," said with a manager. Often pleading your case to a Glenview, Illinois-based store manager in person a \$25 gift card for Star-

> "Most retailers will commerchandise," Abt said.

3. HEED RETURN

Be aware of how much pay for the lost accessory. time you have. It's not un-That'll make it more likely common for certain items, that the merchant will take like cameras and other the item back and issue you electronics, to have a limit of 15 days for refunds or exchanges.

That's partly because and take an inventory of some consumers will buy purchase, but the contents attempt to return it for a refund. The practice is "One time we found a known as "wardrobing," which alludes to a similar scenario: When someone buys clothing to wear for one night and then returns Having a gift receipt the item in exchange for a

"Retailers can't afford to be too lenient with certain products," said Kathy Grannis, a spokeswoman of retailers now require for the National Retail Federation.

Check the store's policy online or the gift receipt for details on when the return window closes.

4. SELL THAT UN-WANTED GIFT CARD

Got a Starbucks gift card?

other electronic payment for your gift card in cash. gift card."

There's a catch, though: If you're being met with You'll receive less than the

During a recent look at Giftcardexchangeday.com, bucks brought up cash offers from companies such pool.com and eBay, among others. The offers ranged from \$17.25 to \$18. At best, that's a 28 percent fee to wring some of that coffee credit into cash.

PUR-5. ONLINE CHASE? GO TO THE STORE

If you received a gift that was purchased online, the return process typically means mailing back the item and waiting for a response, whether it's to give you a credit, cash or a replacement item.

For presents bought online, but through a merchant with a brick-andmortar store nearby, skip the shipping and take the item to the store. Most will accept items that were originally delivered by mail.

Wal-Mart, for example, will let shoppers return items bought on the company website or at one of the retailer's big-box stores to its smaller, neighborhood markets, said Sarah McKinney, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman.

"If you don't have a receipt, if it's under \$25, we'll give you the cash," she said. "Over \$25, you Several websites will pay get it back on the Wal-Mart

Weekly Menus

Pampa Independent School District

MONDAY, December 29 through FRIDAY, January 2 - CLOSED HOLIDAY

Pampa Meals on Wheels

MONDAY, December 29 Swedish meatballs over noodles, lima beans, carrots, applesauce

TUESDAY, December 30 Chicken spaghetti, garlic bread, mixed vegetables, pineapple

WEDNESDAY, December 31

Pancakes/sausage, eggs, has browns, Jell-O THURSDAY, January 1 CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

FRIDAY, January 2

Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, broccoli, mixed fruit

Pampa Senior Citizens Center

MONDAY, December 29

Chicken fried steak or chicken & ham tetrazini, mashed potatoes, green beans, beets, Northern beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, lemon streusel cake, chocolate sundae cups, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread **TUESDAY**, December 30

Sausages & kraut or chicken breast/wild rice, flame roasted potatoes, turnip greens, baby carrots, black eyed peas, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, black forest cake, blackberry cobbler, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread WEDNESDAY, December 31

Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, peas, California bend, butter beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, ugly duckling cake, butterscotch icebox pie, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread

THURSDAY, January 1

CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

FRIDAY, January 2

Cod fish filets or beef stew, potato wedges, broccoli casserole, beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, brownies, peach pie, fruit cup, cornbread, hot roll.



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More 'Help Wanted' signs up at small businesses

market is improving, just gained momentum since serve it' mentality. They've they're maxed out," she

that the U.S. economy is software maker Intuit show Marys. growing and that the job small business hiring has

NEW YORK (AP) — If companies. Reports from for a premium vodka like ers to handle the increased you're looking for signs payroll company ADP and Grey Goose in their Bloody workload.

"People are in this 'I de- getting to the point where

"The group we have is

ers

evident at Lady M Cake Boutiques.

Revenue is up 40 percent the coming months. this year at the New Yorkbased company with more customers paying \$60 to \$85 — three or four times what a supermarket cake costs — for confections made of paper-thin pastry dough and flavored with ingredients like green tea and chestnuts. Business is so good that owner Ken Romaniszyn, who has two locations in Manhattan and one in Los Angeles, plans average 35 cents more per three or four next year in New York, Boston and Charlotte, North Carolina. He'll hire 60 new employ- an extra \$94,500 in annual ees to staff the stores, add- revenue, she says. Customing to Lady M's current ers are ordering some of the staff of 145.

wealthy are now attracting to pay a few dollars more a wider range of customers, Romaniszyn says.

"The middle class, they can afford to make a special occasion a little more special," he says.

The U.S. economy is growing at a solid pace. This week, government figures showed that consumers and businesses drove growth to a sizzling 5 percent annual rate last quarter. Fewer Americans are applying for jobless benefits. In the first 11 months of this year, employers have added 2.65 million jobs. That already makes 2014 the best year for hiring since 1999.

A good chunk of the good news can be attributed to improvements at small

looks to continue — sur- to play hard," Young says. After cutting back on veys by Wells Fargo & Co.

> Squeeze In restaurants in cession. Reno Nevada and near Lake Tahoe, owner Misty California, and hire 25 employees there.

Diners are spending an meal. When multiplied by the 270,000 people Young serves a year, it gives her most expensive items on His cakes, which once the menu, like a \$22 crab appealed mostly to the omelet. They're willing

talk to small business own- the summer. The trend worked hard and they want says.

The healthier economy spending for years, people and the National Federation is luring customers back are splurging again. That's of Independent Business to Spa Lamar for massagshow more owners plan to es, facials and pedicures. bring in new employees in Owner Heidi Lamar, who has 35 employees, is hiring With revenue up 11 per- to bring her staff back up to cent this year at her four 50, the level before the re-

> Customers visit the Scottsdale, Arizona, spa more of-Young plans to add nine ten, and they're asking for people to her staff of about more services. The average 90 next year. She'll also bill has soared this quarter missed you. It's good to be open a fifth restaurant next to \$122 from \$98, Lamar coming back again," she month in Redwood City, says. She needs more staff- says.

The increase in business has encouraged Lamar to add new services such as massages for couples. She's also renovating and painting the spa.

Some of the pickup in revenue comes from snowbirds, people who come to Arizona to escape the cold. But area residents are splurging on themselves again, she says.

'They say, 'we've really

Merry Christmas Duane Harp, AAMS®

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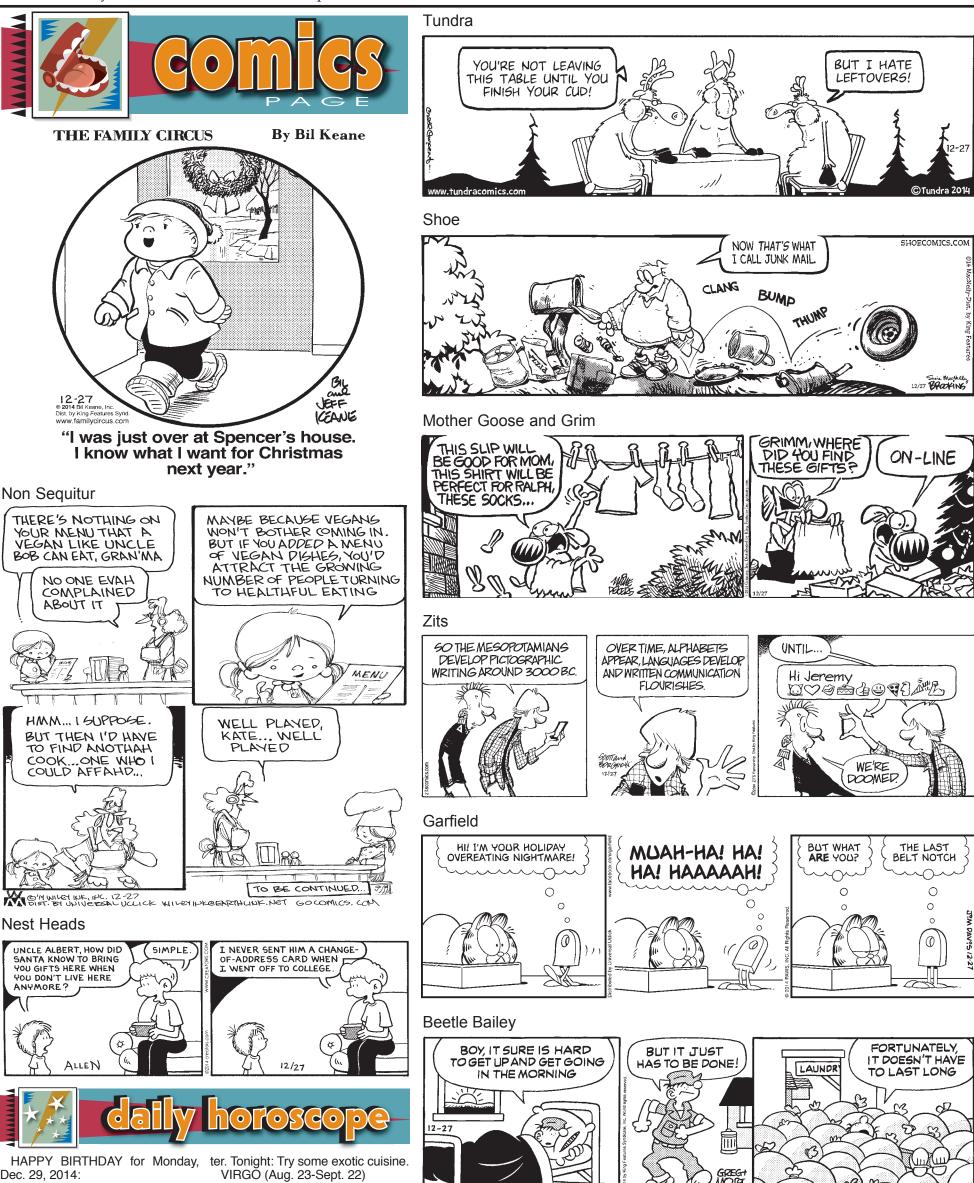
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This year you are likely to encounter an obstacle or two, especially when dealing with personal or domestic issues. Finding a meeting point in conflicts could be difficult, as you and others say one thing but mean another. If you are single, you could meet someone quite significant to your life before the end of summer 2015. If you are attached, the two of you act like two peas in a pod. You might make a major change in how you structure your lives together. ARIES knows how to trigger you.

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)

**** If you wake up with a battle cry in your head, know that you probably were in the midst of a power play for control in your dreams. As a result, you might react quickly when encountering a similar situation today. Tonight: Happily focus on the better parts of your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ It is always good to listen to your inner voice to see which direction you should head in. You might feel pushed by a powerful person in your life. You could become irritated and confused as a result. Tonight: Postpone what you can for as long as you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You'll blissfully walk into a situation that might be more intense than you had expected. If you use logic to sort out the real issue, productive conversations are likely to result. Make a point of understanding where an associate is coming from. Tonight: Communication flourishes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You could be somewhat withdrawn in the morning. A loved one might decide to pick an argument with you in order to draw you in closer. You tend to not agree with this person a lot, particularly about his or her style of communication. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ If you can manage to bypass some of the mental grenades that surround you, you will be a lot happier. Be careful as you attempt to maintain a steady course, because others might act as if you are off-kil-

**** You might try to form something solid out of nothing more than loosely related facts and/or feelings. You would be well-advised to pursue your original course. A creative venture with a child could prove to be ultimately frustrating. Tonight: Use your sixth sense.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** You often seem to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. The nature and strength of your support system will determine what happens in any given situation. Back away from someone who seems a bit off. Tonight: Hang out with a close pal.

SČORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You tend to wonder what might be the best course of action. Today, everyone will give you an earful as to what he or she thinks is right and will work. Once you center yourself, you will be able to find an appropriate response. Tonight: Avoid a warring faction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You seem to have incorporated a little more serenity into your life as of late. You might not be so spontaneous. You'll actively continue seeking out relevant and important answers to a dilemma that faces you. Tonight: Do not back off. Reach out to an important friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Pressure seems to build around a matter that you must deal with. You might want to nix any spending for now. You could feel as if a lot is out of your control and that your words are falling on deaf ears. Tonight: A situation on the domestic front demands your attention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Know that your responses could be slightly off. You might want to clobber someone today for an offhand statement, when you typically just might laugh it off. You will try to explain your thoughts, but the message might not be clearly received. Tonight: Try to clear the air.

PIŠCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** You will work best with a friend when trying to plan a budget or decide on a gift. However, you might not be speaking the same language right now, as you could have different objectives. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget, and be sure to count your change.



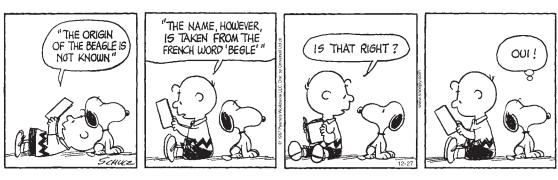
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mark Wahlberg rolls the dice with new type of role

- Mark Wahlberg admits he's not Hollywood's go-to guy for teacher roles.

In "The Gambler," out on Christmas Day, he plays the brilliant but troubled English professor Jim Bennett. The role gave Wahlberg particular anxiety.

The 43-year-old actorproducer dropped out of school after the eighth grade, and he only recently went back to get his diploma.

"As much as (director) Rupert (Wyatt) wanted me to transform physically, to me, being a believable literary professor was the most important challenge," said Wahlberg. "These parts don't come my way that often.

To prepare, he visited lectures at UCLA and USC and watched videos of the late David Foster Wallace. One particular lecture on "Beowulf" stood out as the most memorable for its energy and the way UCLA students responded.

He also asked some of the professors to read the script with him. Screenwriter William Monahan's language "is so different. Having these pretty uptight literary professors read it was hilarious," he laughed.

Eventually he came to a sort of peace with the fact that performing a lecture in front of students isn't all that different from performing for a camera, and he was set. "The Gambler," a remake of a 1974 Karel film starring Reisz James Caan, is a bit of a passion project for Wahlberg. He'd seen the original as a kid with his father, but it wasn't until he read Monahan's update of the slow-burning thriller about a privileged professor who's gotten in over his head with gambling debts that he knew this was something special.

Monahan and Wahlberg have a long-standing and fruitful professional relationship going back to "The Departed,"

LOS ANGELES (AP) ple weren't willing to his and others' money. are tied together in how want to see it. We were To prepare for that asnever going to make him the most likable guy in the world, but at least people should find him interesting enough that they would want to go on the journey with him."

It's quite a journey to the bottom as Jim bor-

pect, Wahlberg and Wyatt went to gambling dens, "high-stakes private poker games" and college sporting events.

Beyond the excitement of making the movie and stretching as an actor, Wahlberg is a businessrows and gambles away man. Art and commerce

he thinks about the films and projects he's producing, and he's not shy to discuss everything from tax incentives to release strategies.

Wahlberg knows that roles in blockbusters "Transformers" like help make films like "The Gambler" possible.

"That's part of doing but the only way they're bigger commercial movies," he said. "You then get the opportunity to do a smaller one that you're more passionate about."

"The goal for us was to make a movie that as many people will see as possible. It's great that the studio had the guts to make this kind of movie,

going to keep making more of them is if they can make a profit," he said.

Wahlberg said he wants to be involved on every level and may even go behind the camera, if he finds the time. "I'd rather have as much control as possible," he said.

Tips for dealing with Social Security

TOM MARGENAU Creator's Syndicate

If you are thinking about applying for Social Security now or in the near future, here is a holiday gift from me to you: six tips that will make your Social Security experience easier.

Tip No. 1: File online. It is so easy to file for most Social Security benefits online. Go to the Social Security Administration website at www.socialsecurity.gov and just follow the simple instructions. It's probably best if you start the process you want your benefits to begin. Both my wife and I filed online. The claim took less than a half hour and within a couple weeks, we received our "award notice" in the mail. And about a month later, the checks started rolling in to our bank accounts.

Tip No. 2: Don't file online.

OK, so how do I justify this second bit of advice following my first tip, which says just the opposite? Well, this second tip applies to anyone planning to employ one of the Social Security maximizing strategies that are so popular today. I've written about these strategies service, these different many times in this column. The most common strategy is usually called "file come along, most of which and restrict." That's when, at age 66, you file for benefits on a spouse's Social Security record and delay taking your own retirement benefits until age 70, in order to claim a 32 percent delayed retirement and is usually employed at age 66 by people who want a spouse with little or no Social Security of his or her own to claim benefits on their record while delaying their own benefits until 70 to get that aforementioned bonus. These and other maximizing strategies are way to complex for Social Security's online computers to handle. So for these kinds of claims, you need to talk to a human being. You do so by calling SSA an appointment. Tip No. 3: Call late. One of the biggest gripes I hear from my readers



is that they have a hard time getting through to SSA's 800 number. Even though the Social Security Administration is a government agency, it's like a business.

It has its busy days and times, and it has its not so busy days and times. For SSA, the busy times tend to be early: as in early in the day, early in the week about two months before and early in the month. So if you can, I suggest trying to call them late: as in later in the day, later in the week and later in the month.

Tip No. 4: If you detect inexperience, ask for a supervisor.

As I've mentioned often in this column, these maximizing strategies are a fairly new phenomenon. And they are now all the rage amongst seniors pushing retirement. And frankly, it's put SSA at a bit of a disadvantage. Just when they have been gearing so much of their resources into their online systems, and cutting back on personal, one-on-one and complicated ways of filing for Social Security often require rather intense person-to-person communication.

Sadly, I have heard from more than a few readers who tell me that when they talk to SSA clerks about employing a specific bonus. Another strategy is maximizing strategy, they called "file and suspend," are met with blank stares. Or even worse, they are sometimes given misinformation. That's why I'm always telling my readers that if they are uncomfortable with the representative they are initially assigned to, then ask to speak to a supervisor. Tip No. 5: When in doubt, insist on filing a claim. This might be my most important tip. People frequently tell me that they contacted SSA to find out if they are eliat 800-772-1213 to make gible for a certain kind of Social Security benefit. It might be a guy who was inquiring about a possible disability claim. It might be a woman who

if she was due benefits from an ex-husband's account. And lots of times an

ply tells them, "You're not eligible" — and that's that. left wondering if they got bad advice.

That's why I'm always reminding folks that they have every right in the world to file any Social Security claim they want to file. By insisting on filing a claim and taking the time to fill out the necessary paperwork, they are ensuring that they get a legal decision about their eligibility, and not just the (possibly incorrect) opinion of the SSA clerk they happened to talk to when they first contacted the agency

And by the way, that same message applies to the advice I give. People are always emailing me and asking me if I think they are eligible for one kind of Social Security benefit or another. I try to give the best answer I can based on the information they gave me. Although I sometimes forget, I usually tell them to contact SSA and file a claim — and not just take my word for it.

Tip No. 6: If you're not satisfied with a decision, file an appeal right away.

I am constantly hearing from readers who tell me they disagree with something SSA has done. For example, I just got a typical email from someone who said he thinks his benefit was figured incorrectly. Problem is: The guy is 72 years old and has een getting benefits for a half dozen years now. The time to complain (to SSA,

was wondering not me) was six years ago, paragraph explaining your when the benefits first right to appeal if you disbegan.

Every decision SSA Social Security makes comes with appeal rights.

Whenever you get a let-SSA clerk sim- ter from SSA advising you of something about your Social Security ben-And the inquirer is often efits (usually involving a change in the benefit amount), that letter has a net.

agree with what they did.

You always have six months to file that appeal. Don't wait for six years and then expect me to fix things!

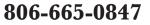
If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.





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for which Wahlberg received his first Oscar nomination. (Monahan won for his adapted screenplay.) Wahlberg trusts his scripts and his judgment. The two recently wrapped the psychological thriller "Mojave," which Monahan also directed, and Monahan is writing the script for a new project, "American Desperado."

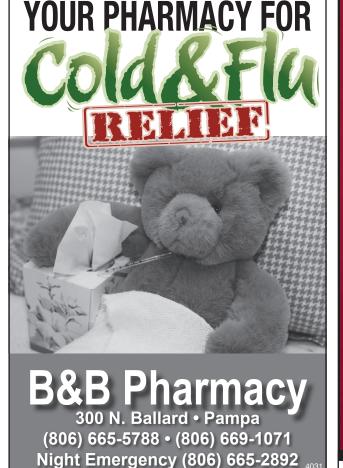
For Wahlberg, stepping into the self-destructive shoes of a mostly despicable guy was the perfect change of pace after "Transformers: Age of Extinction.'

His character, Jim, is "trying to be the underdog as opposed to the underdog trying to do the impossible," he said.

"At one point we were thinking about making him more likable and giving him more redeeming qualities, but we felt that would take away from who he really was and how we really interpreted the material," ex-plained Wahlberg. "But, we also didn't want to make it so dark that peo-

Cot A Sports SOMO

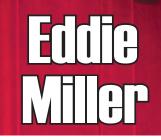
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CULBERSON's Spotlight

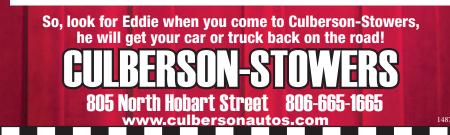




Eddie Miller is one of the newest Body Shop repairmen. He has lived in Pampa for nearly 20 years. His wife, Barbara, also works here in Pampa at Chubby's. Eddie went to Clearfield Utah Job

Corp. for auto body and paint. He has 18 years of experience. When asked why he chose this profession he said," I just enjoy it."

Richard Stowers said, "He has 18 years of experience. That speaks for itself."





Good, bad and weird of NFL season

ASSOCIATED PRESS Every NFL season of- and fers much to marvel at or play laugh about, and plenty of chances to shake our In stepped a true jourheads in befuddled wonderment.

That final description certainly fits the mindnumbing off-field news that plagued the league this year, beginning in the preseason with the Ray Rice case. For anyone who hasn't had enough of that stuff, look elsewhere.

These offbeat awards ons secondary. will recognize the good, bad and ugly on the field.

BEST GAME: Green Bay 26, New England 21, in a possible Super Bowl preview.

Aaron Rodgers outdueled Tom Brady, although the difference might have been the Packers' defense. On the Patriots' final series, rookie safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix blanketed Rob Gronkowski on a deep pass on second down.

Brady was sacked on third down, Stephen Gostkowski missed a 47-yard field goal, and the host Packers ran out the clock. ther, and made their fu-

Runner-up: San Diego 38, San Francisco 35. In Week 16, the Chargers rallied from a 21-point hole in the second half. Philip Rivers hit Malcom Floyd for an 11-yard TD to tie it, and Nick Novak kicked a 40-yard field goal in overtime after a Niners fumble.

WORST GAME: Atlanta 56, Tampa Bay 14. A nationally televised RG3 struggles with too Thursday night debacle in September, the worst performance by the Buccaneers, which is saying something considering they are 2-13 now. The ty Jairus Byrd, their top Falcons led 35-0 before offseason signing, had the Buccaneers picked up a first down.

Atlanta's starters left after Steven Jackson's 3-yard touchdown run made it 49-0 before the midway point of the third quarter.

Runner-up: Jets 16, Titans 11. The only such final score in NFL history.

Hopefully the

after Rice's suspension injuries/mediocre by his replacement, Bernard Pierce. neyman, Justin Forsett, and he's been magical, juicing up the Baltimore offense with a combination of the steady and the spectacular.

Runner-up: Detroit safety Glover Quin, like Forsett a former Texan, and like Forsett, a journeyman who has found a home, solidifying the Li-

BIGGEST SURPRISE TEAM): Only because they were expected to head directly south from their recent string of 8-8 finishes, it has to be the Cowboys.

Rather than plummet despite an undertalented defense and questionable coaching, Dallas has surged to the NFC East title, possibly a first-round playoff bye.

Runner-up: Buffalo. No, the Bills won't snap their league-high streak of non-playoff seasons, now at 15. But they won't have a losing record, eiture look brighter for once.

BIGGEST DISAP-POINTMENT (PLAY-ER): Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, although we very much want to give him some slack. Griffin still doesn't appear fully recovered from his knee woes, and other injuries have slowed him. That said, many fundamentals, including footwork - odd for a guy with Olympic running skills.

Runner-up: Saints safeno interceptions through four games and then went offensive on injured reserve (knee).

BIGGEST DISAP-POINTMENT (TEAM): Da Bears.

Dysfunctional as they come, the Bears were the fashionable pick as a rising team this season.

Instead, they flopped so "ac- badly a total housecleaning could be in order.



Includes:

uon from this game will quickly be forgotten.

BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR: It didn't win the of front-office discord game, and wound up being not particularly impactful in the grand scheme for his team.

Yet Odell Beckham Jr.'s ANNOUNCER phenomenal gered touchdown catch while falling backward into the end zone against Dallas can't be topped.

"When I'm standing on the sidelines, I'm rooting for him all the way," coach Tom Coughlin said. "When I get to Monday, sometimes I run it back an extra time."

Runners-up: This one did win a game. Vikings rookie LB Anthony Barr honesty, something rare chased down Bucs TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins, stripped the ball and took it 27 yards for a touchdown in overtime and a listen to him on West-19-13 victory.

And "Beast Mode 2," Marshawn Lynch's sensational 79-yard touchdown run for Seattle against Arizona in Week Rich Gannon, CBS. Want 16.

WORST PLAY OF THE YEAR: Figures it would be the Raiders. WR James Jones fumbled twice on one play vs. Houston.

He lost the ball, picked it up and started running again, only to be stripped a second time and the Texans recovered.

Runner-up: A tie between Chicago DE La-Marr Houston and Detroit LB Stephen Tulloch. Each tore an ACL on sack celebrations.

BIGGEST SURPRISE man (Fox) deserve rec-(PLAYER): The Ravens ognition for their strong were in a dire situation work.

Runner-up: San Francisco, which because is about to lose the best coach it has had since Bill Walsh.

BEST PLAY-BY-PLAY (TV): three-fin- Mike Tirico, ESPN. We should just rename this award for the top, by far, play-by-play guy on TV, regardless of the sport. Tirico especially shines on the NFL, where his understanding of the game and, especially, its nuances and rules from the obvious to the obscure — serves the viewer.

So does his brutal among NFL broadcasters.

Runner-up: Kevin Harlan, CBS. Also give a wood One's radiocasts of national games. He's so descriptive you feel as if you are in the stadium.

BEST ANALYST (TV): to know how and why something happened? Gannon provides it.

Who messed up and who performed above and beyond? Gannon provides it.

Some humor? That, too.

And he works Sunday games with Harlan — a duo worthy of being the network's top team.

Runner-up: Now that both of them are willing to criticize when it's called for, Jon Gruden (ESPN) and Troy Aik-

PampaSports Harvesters head into break at 11-1

By ZACHARY GREEN zgreen@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Hustlin' Harvesters basketball team headed into the winter break at 11-1 after beating Caprock on



Dec. 19. The Harvesters will be headed to the Snyder Tournament on Monday morning to play four games.

Water Valley is Pampa's first opponent. Head coach Matt Embry said they won state last year in Class 1A and will be a tough test for Pampa.

Matt Embry

Merkel is the second team that will face Pampa. Embry said he doesn't know much about them other than they have struggled early on so far this season.

Albany is Pampa's third opponent. Their football team just lost the state championship in 2A. Embry said he expects them to be athletic and physical.

Pampa finishes the tournament against the host team, Snyder. Embry expects them to be the four or five seed in their district and for Pampa to be the one or two seed. He said this could be a potentional playoff matchup in round one.

"Our schedule is down compared to previous years," Embry said. "A lot of that is due to players graduating. We only returned two players that played significant minutes during district from last season.

Embry added that when you play with the previous year's junior varsity team, scheduling can be tricky.

"You don't know if it will take time for them to get together and mesh. We had a really good fall that helped play



Photo courtesty of Charla Shults

The Hustlin' Harvesters gather at halfcourt before the Caprock game.

into our fast start," Embry said.

seven guys are averaging over five points a game.

'Our second leading scorer, Shanoaha Bridges (11 ppg), comes off the bench. Cade Engle (12.5 ppg) leads the dle Plains Super Team as a junior. Most team," Embry said. "Engle averages players don't make it until their senior six assists and two steals per game. His assist to turnover ratio is 2.5 to 1. A "He's been great and very unselfish," Fritch and Dumas before they start good point guard has a ratio of 2 to 1." Embry said. "He gets other guys going trict play Jan. 16 against Perryton.

Embry continued to praise Engle say-Embry mentioned that it helps when ing that every game teams are trying to stop him because he made the cover of the Panhandle Plains Basketball magazine

> He also made the first-team Panhanplayers don't make it until their senior from Snyder with a 15-1 record. seasons.

early and then when they (Jett Gibson and Johnathan Stevens) start getting the attention it opens up his style of play later in the games.

Embry said a recurring theme of late has been when Stevens and Gibson are attacking the basket it leads to Pampa's success.

"It forces the other team to give up easy baskets or foul us," Embry said. "When they start getting in foul trouble and have to bring their backups in, then we can start running on them.'

Embry praised Bryson Burrell, Bridges and Kambrin Scott.

"All three of those guys can play at the three spot and do a great job at it. It is great to have so much depth across the board," Embry said. "We can play Burrell and Bridges together even if Burrell is having a good night."

Another thing Embry loves is what he calls a three-headed monster at point guard.

"Brandon Sieck, Engle and Brendon Woelfle make up the three-headed point guard," Embry said. "This is the deepest team I've been a part of since coming to Pampa."

Embry said Adam Zuniga is so diverse and plays the game one step ahead of his opponent. Embry mentioned he can play the three or the five spot, which makes him a valuable asset.

"Dante Jordan's energy and tenacity on the defense disrupts the rhythm of opposing offenses," Embry said. "We can't leave out Calven Webb. His defensive presence and help on the boards have been beneficial to us when Johnathan and Jett get into foul trouble."

Embry hopes to come back to Pampa

The Harvesters will play Childress, "He's been great and very unselfish," Fritch and Dumas before they start dis-

Sports games to remember from 2014

ASSOCIATED PRESS

They kept us on the edge of our seats and brought us to our feet.

They sent us into joyful celebration or left us in anguished disbelief.

When we look back at 2014, these are some of the games - not to mention stock car races, tennis finals and golf rounds — we'll remember the most.

IRON MAN BUMGARNER

So much for pitch counts and pampered arms. Madison Bumgarner almost single-handedly pitched the San Francisco Giants to their third World Series title in five years with three masterful performances against the upstart Kansas City Royals. He won the opener with seven innings of onehit ball and pitched a four-hit shutout with 117 pitches in Game 5. But the drawling left-hander will be remembered most for his performance in Game 7, when he threw five innings of scoreless relief on two days rest for a decisive 3-2 victory. The last of his 68 pitches came with the potential tying run at third, resulting in a series-ending popup. "You know what?" he would say about a half-hour later. "I'm

a little tired now." SHOOTOUT IN SOCHI

T.J. Oshie was one of the last choices to the U.S. Olympic hockey team, but he sure came up big in Sochi. Facing the Russians and their screaming hometown crowd, including President Vladimir Putin, Oshie scored on four out of six chances in a shootout to give the Americans a thrilling 3-2 victory. Oshie scored in the first round and the shootout was still tied after three attempts by each team. At that point, under international rules, the same shooter can be used over and over Oshie, five times in a row, before he put a forehand through the goalie's legs for his fourth goal in six chances. "At some point, you think, 'Does he have any more moves left?"" U.S. captain Zach Parise said.

unstoppable, scoring five goals in the "Twenty-one points isn't a big deal for first half-hour — four of them in a seven-minute span. "It was very important to stay calm, cool and courageous in facing Brazilian passion," said the winning coach, Joachim Loew, whose team went to capture the title that was supposed to go to the home team. For Brazil, there was nothing but heartache, a nation plunging into mourning at the unimaginable result. "We apologize to all Brazilians," defender David Luiz said.

WILD NIGHT IN WACO

us."

COLTS COMEBACK

Speaking of comebacks, the Colts pulled off a memorable one of their own in an AFC wild-card playoff game. Kansas City led 38-10 early in the third quarter, but Indianapolis scored 35 second-half points for the second-biggest rally in NFL postseason history. Andrew Luck threw for 443 yards and four touchdowns, shaking off three interceptions. He also scored a touchdown on a fumble recovery. The teams combined for 1,049 yards, a playoff record. Not enough, it turned out, for Kansas City to end a 20-year drought since its last playoff win

BRAZIL BLOWOUT

For a soccer-mad nation hosting the World Cup for the first time since 1950, it was championship or bust. Oh, what a bust it was. Brazil was blown out by Germany 7-1 in the semifinals,

In a Big 12 showdown, neither team again. The Americans kept turning to played a lick of defense until Marcus Mallet returned an interception 49 yards for a touchdown with 11 1-2 minutes remaining, giving TCU a seemingly comfortable 58-37 lead over Baylor. Turns out, no lead was safe against Bears quarterback Bryce Petty. He led three lightning-quick touchdown drives to tie the game, then drove Baylor into position for Chris Callahan's 28-yard field goal as time expired for a beyond-improbable 61-58 victory. "I just knew looking the biggest rout ever that far along in at guys' faces that we were going to the tournament. The Germans were come back in that game," Petty said.

SHOCKERS SHOCKED

Wichita State had not lost since the previous year's Final Four and took a 35-0 record in its third-round game against Kentucky, a team that had underachieved after starting the year ranked No. 1. The game went back and forth the entire way, the margin never more than five points over the final 18

GAMES cont. on page B2

Watch the Pros - Monday

College Football Bowls

Texas A&M v. West Virginia	ESPN 1 p.m.
Oklahoma v. Clemson	
Arkansas v. Texas	

College Basketball

Toledo at Duke	ESPN2 6 p.m.
North Texas at Texas Tech	FCSC 7 p.m.
Alice Lloyd at Western Kentucky	FCSP 7 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Mary's California	ESPNU 8 p.m.

Women's College Basketball

Duke at UCONN	ESPN2 8 p.m
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College Hockey

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Great Lakes Invitational.....FCSA 2:30 p.m.
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Soccer Swansea at Liverpool.....NBCS 1:55 p.m.

NHL Hockey

New York Rangers at Dallas Stars	FSSW 7:30 p.m.
Detroit Red Wings at Boston Bruins	NBCS 6 p.m.

Game times and channels are subject to change.



Send it to us! jclee@thepampanews.com or bring it to the paper!



mpaSports

Watch the Pros - Saturday

College Basketball

Georgetown v. Indiana	ESPN2 11 a.m.
Maine at Seton Hall	FS1 11 a.m.
Kentucky at Louisville	ESPN2 1 p.m.
UAB at North Carolina	ESPN2 3 p.m.
Gonzaga at BYU	ESPN2 5 p.m.
Brescia at Western Kentucky	FCSA 7 p.m.
San Diego Christian at San Diego State	FSCP 9 p.m.

High School Football

Eastside Catholic v. Trinity Christian......ESPNU 11 a.m. Bothell v. Miami Central.....ESPNU 3 p.m. Bingham v. Booker T. Washington.....ESPNU 7 p.m.

College Football Bowls

Cincinnati v Virginia Tech	ESPN 12 p.m.
Arizona State v. Duke	
Miami v. South Carolina	
Boston College v. Penn State	
Nebraska v. USC	

NHL Hockey

Dallas Stars at St. Louis Blues	FSSW 7 p.m.
Wash. Capitals at Pittsburgh Penguins	NBCS 6:30 p.m.
San Jose Sharks at LA Kings	NBCS 9 p.m.

Horse Racing

Arima Kinen..TVG 11 p.m.

Game times and channels are subject to change.

Watch the Pros - Sunday

NFL Football

Dallas Cowboys at Washington RedskinsKCIT 12 p.m.
San Diego Chargers at Kansas City ChiefsKFDA 12 p.m.
Detroit Lions at Green Bay PackersKCIT 3:25 p.m.
Oakland Raiders at Denver BroncosKFDA 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh Steelers at Cincinnati BengalsKAMR 7:20 p.m.

College Basketball

St. John's v. Tulane	FS1 11 a.m.
Long Beach State at Syracuse	ESPNU 1 p.m.
Morgan State at Marquette	FS1 1 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at Xavier	FS1 3 p.m.
Wake Forest at Richmond	NBCS 3 p.m.
Belmont at Butler	FS1 5 p.m.
UCLA at Alabama	ESPNU 5:30 p.m.

Women's College Basketball

East Carolina at South Florida	
Temple at Memphis	ESPNU 7:30 p.m.
· ·	-

Soccer

Manchester United at Tottenham	NBCS 5:55 a.m.
Chelsea at Southampton	NBCS 8 a.m.
Everton at Newcastle	NBCS 10:10 a.m.

College Hockey

665-1665

Quinnipiac at Princeton	ESPNU 3 p.m.
Michigan v. Michigan Tech	FCSA 2:30 p.m.
Michigan State v. Ferris State	FCSA6p.m.

From the Press Box

Teams who could make some noise in the upcoming NFL playoffs.

First off I want to wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas. As you recover from your food-induced comas, we have one more week left

season.



in the NFL regular All but two spots are filled, now teams are playing for seeding.

One of the wild card spots are up for grabs. In the AFC, the No. 6 seed is still available. If San Diego

wins at Kansas City, they're in. If they lose and Baltimore wins,

Baltimore is in. If both the Chargers and the Ravens lose, Houston gets in. And if all three of them lose, Kansas City is in.

Clear as mud?

What about the NFC, well the NFC South is still up for grabs and it's between the 6-8-1 Carolina Panthers and the 6-8 Atlanta Falcons. That's right, a team below .500 will make the playoffs. Parity sometimes creates parody.

The NFC North is also up for grabs as Detroit will travel to Lambeau Field to take on Aaron Rodgers and the Packers, whose offense is limping into the playoffs.

On that note, let's look at the teams who could make some upsets in the playoffs.

This will probably come back to haunt me but I am discounting

Games

Continued From Page B1

1-2 minutes. The Wild-

chance to win it and stay four-point play. on course to be the first 78, Wichita State 76.

BRINGS SIC DURANT THE THUNDER

San Diego because they are really banged up on offense, including at quarterback. Philip Rivers is playing with a bulging disc in his back.

The Chiefs don't scare me because they have "Captain Checkdown" Alex Smith at quarterback. The Chiefs still don't have a touchdown pass to a wide receiver. In today's NFL, with all the rules meant to help the offense, that is pathetic.

A case could be made for the Texans, but they need too much help and the odds aren't in their favor. But if they make the playoffs, Arian Foster Top-3 running back in the NFL, and that Houston defense could carry them to a win.

The Baltimore Ravens concern me the most. Joe Flacco is having his best year, beside his Super Bowl year. They may have finally found their Anquan Boldin replacement with Steve Smith, Sr. Who needs Ray Rice, they have Justin Forsett.

Depending on what Cincinnati does Sunday night against Pittsburgh, they could also get hot and make a run and finally shut the critics up. The same could be said about Pittsburgh as well.

In the NFC, if the Detroit Lions beat the Packers on Sunday, they could possess the No. 2 seed in the NFC. That gives them a first-round bye and hosting a playoff game. If Green Bay has to travel during the playoffs, it could be troublesome for them. They are averaging 41 points

at home, versus just 21 on the road.

The Arizona Cardinals are the San Diego Chargers of the NFC this year. They are just so banged up at seemingly every position. But they could get an easy first-round game against Atlanta or Carolina. But if they win Sunday and the Seattle Seahawks lose, they regain the No. 1 seed. That would be huge for them as it would give quarterback Drew Stanton another week to recover.

Many people are wondering how the Cowboys are going to do in the playoffs. I personally think it depends on who the Cowboys face in the first round. Right now it looks like it will either be Green Bay or Detroit traveling to Jerry World in the first round of the playoffs.

If the Cardinals and the Seahawks happen to lose this weekend, Dallas earns a first-round bye, which would be huge for running back Demarco Murray and quarterback Tony Romo.

I personally don't think Dallas could win a shootout against Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, but like I mentioned earlier, at least they will be hosting the Packers.

Either way it's going to be a great set of games to watch in the playoffs.

Everyone be safe and have a Happy New Year!

John Lee is the editor of The Pampa News. He can be reached at jclee@thepampanews.com.

maining. But Oklahoma nearly four hours of mo- fourth overall, making City had Kevin Durant, mentum shifts, winning him just the fourth playwho came up with what 6-7(7), 6-4, 7-6(4), 5-7, er in the last century to might be shot of the year 6-4 to deny Federer his win that many before his - a towering 3-pointer record eighth title at the 26th birthday. The other cats finally went ahead from the corner as he was All-England Club. "I re- three? for good, 73-71, when tumbling out of bounds. spect your career and ev-James Young knocked Nothing but net. Plus, he erything you have done," down a 3-pointer with was fouled by Marc Gas- Djokovic told Federer Jones. Not bad company. less than 2 minutes to go. ol and knocked down the afterward. "And thank RACE FOR THE TI-The Shockers had a free throw to complete a you for letting me win TLE

The Thunder wound unbeaten national cham- up sending the game to GLOAMING pion since Indiana in overtime, but the Griz-

under 20 seconds re- Djokovic held on after straight major title and today."

After golf's first three the results, NASCAR got 1976. Fred VanVleet's zlies bounced back from majors failed to produce what it was looking for 3-pointer bounced off the shock of Durant's much drama, the PGA in the latest version of the side of the rim as the amazing shot to win Championship turned out the Sprint Cup champi-horn sounded. Kentucky handily, 111-105. to be a pure theater with onship. Kevin Harvick WIMBLEDON CLAS- an All-Star cast. Rory pulled off a relentless McIlroy, Phil Mickel- dash through the field, Novak Djokovic was son, Rickie Fowler and going from 12th to first Memphis had a 98-93 on the verge of finish- Henrik Stenson all held over the final 15 laps to lead in Game 2 of the ing off Roger Federer a share of the lead on claim his first title in the NBA playoffs with just in the fourth set of the the back nine. The final final race of the year at Wimbledon final. The two hours were filled Homestead. He beat three 33-year-old Swiss star with eagles and birdies, other drivers also seeking would not go that easy. with tension and chaos. their first titles: Denny With Djokovic serving Finally, with darkness Hamlin, Ryan Newman for the match at 5-3, Fe- threatening to push the and Joey Logano. "If you derer broke for the first finale to the next morn- want to win the champitime all day. He would ing, McIlroy knocked in onship, you're going to go on to win five straight a 10-inch putt that gave have to figure out how to games, forcing a deci- him a one-stroke victory win races," Harvick said. sive set that pushed this over Mickelson. It was "In the end, that's what it one into classic territory. Boy Wonder's second came down to.'

Woods, Tiger Jack Nicklaus and Bobby

While it may seem a bit WINNING IN THE like pro wrestling in the way it tries to manipulate



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Lions and Packers meet with NFC North title and bye at stake

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) close to ending a two-decade stretch without a division title.

win the NFC North.

Upstarts vs. standardbearers.

Tackle Ndamukong Suh ery year." and one of the league's top defenses against quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the potent Packers offense.

showdown between Detroit sion champion since Dallas and Green Bay at Lambeau Field takes the NFC North championship and a firstround bye in the playoffs.

Both teams (11-4) are already guaranteed postseason berths. But the loser gets relegated to a road game next week as a wild card.

The winner gets some needed rest and a guaranteed home game in two huge advantage in the post- fact that this doesn't happen ing a great team in a historic season.

- The Detroit Lions are so line. It's an opportunity to asked Sunday's game will win our fourth straight di- mean to his players. vision title, which would be pretty sweet. We get a about the playoffs. The Green Bay Packers chance for a bye, which have been so good that it's would be great to get some it would have earned the a surprise when they don't rest for all of us," Rodgers title by snapping a 23-game said. "A home playoff game is the most important thing; Bay in Wisconsin. The last that's what we play for ev-

According to the Packers, this will be the first time that teams each with 11 wins will play in a regular-season The winner of Sunday's finale to determine a diviand the New York Giants met in 1993. The Cowboys won that game — and went on to win the Super Bowl.

time Detroit won a division done a tremendous job and title. This often-forlorn franchise has been to the postseason just once since 2000, a 45-28 loss to New Orleans them to be a little off the in the wild-card round in the ground here in the next 2011 campaign.

weeks. That's considered a we talk to them about is the cause obviously we're playvery often," Lions coach place.'

"Yeah, there's a lot on the Jim Caldwell said when

And he's just talking

If Detroit wins the North, losing streak against Green time the Lions left the state happy was a 21-17 victory at Lambeau on Dec. 15, 1991.

That's so long ago that Hall of Famer Barry Sanders was still Detroit's running back, gaining 85 yards.

So forgive the Lions if they're more pumped up than usual this weekend.

"The guys have fought That year is also the last some real battles and have we've got a great opportunity ahead of us," Caldwell said. "And do you expect couple of days in intensity "One of the things that and focus? Absolutely, be-

PampaSports

Participant	Record
Kenny Maple	9-1
Patrick Kulle	9-1
Susan Tripplehorn	9-1
Greg Poynor	8-2
Jana Vinson	8-2
Nicolas Sauceda	8-2
Tom Lindsey	8 – 2
Zac Green*	8-2
Aaron Manous	7 – 3
Andy Lopez	7 – 3
Cameron Johnston	7 – 3
Clint Wood	7-3
Del Smith	7-3
Herb Minton	7-3
Jax Waggoner	7-3
Jim and Louise Dills	7-3
Jimmy Ellison	7-3
Joel Baker	7-3
Keith Woods*	7-3
Linda Perez	7-3
Martha Tiedt	7-3
Roger Tiedt	7-3
Seth Erickson	7-3
Shane Stokes	7-3
Bret Bethke	6-4
Christie Eads	6-4
Donna Bennett	6-4
Gary Turley	6-4
Jarrett Waggoner	6-4
Johnny Achord	6-4
Kaleb Snelgrooes	6-4
Logan Turley	6-4
Mike Erickson	6-4
ReDonn Woods*	6-4
Allen Jenkins	5 - 5
Bert Encina	5 - 5
Brian Poynor	5 - 5
Clara Achord	5 - 5
Clyde Coffee	5 - 5
J.P. Wright	5 - 5
Josh Kelley	5 – 5
Roy Stephens	5 – 5
Willie Caldwell	5 - 5
Donald Denham	4 - 6
Lindsey Tomaschik*	4-6
John Lee*	3-7
Melvin Ball	3-7
Tommy Burns	1-9

High-scoring offenses create longer college games

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bear Bryant said offense sells tickets, and he was right. College football is enjoying immense popularity in an era of record scoring.

But is there too much of a good thing? All that scoring caused this season's average length of game to hit 3 hours, 23 minutes in late November, according to the NCAA. That was up from 3:17 last season. Games are, on average, 14 minutes longer than in 2008. By comparison, this season's NFL average is 3:07.

"I think it's trending in the wrong direction, and it is a concern," American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco said.

Administrators are wary of turning off fans, especially young ones who crave faster action and represent future ticket buyers. They also are mindful of the risk of injury to fatigued players who are on the field longer and for more plays.

The NCAA Football Rules Committee expects to discuss the issue when it meets in February, secretary-rules editor Rogers Redding said.

"The 14-minute increase has been gradual" since 2008, he wrote in an email to The Associated Press, "but the cumulative effect has generated some concern among some stakeholders so that it is probably something that the committee will want

to take a look at."

Increasing game lengths prompted rules changes in 2008. One shortened the interval between when the clock stopped and restarted on plays that end out of bounds. Another required the 40-second play clock to start right when the previous play is blown dead.

No changes are imminent for 2015, but a number of ideas have been proposed. They include shortening halftime from 20 to 12 minutes and keeping the game clock running while the chains are moved after first downs. Another idea is to allow the quarterback and one defensive player to have earpieces in their helmets to allow for radio contact with coaches and streamline communication, as in the NFL.

Mid-American Conference commissioner Jon Steinbrecher, who chairs the College Football Officiating Board of Managers, said it's imperative to keep the average game under 3:30. That figure coincides with the typical window TV networks allot for a game.

"A shorter game is better than a longer game. That's painting with a broad brush," Steinbrecher said. "If a game is exciting, I suppose it doesn't matter how long it takes. We ought to probably be in that 3:15 to 3:20 range."

Baylor's 61-58 win over TCU on Oct. 1 — at 4 hours, 25 minutes — was

the season's longest game that didn't go overtime or wasn't delayed by weather, according to STATS. Temple's 59-0 win over Delaware State on Sept. 20 — at 2:40 — was the shortest.

Video reviews and the demands of television play a role in game times, but they are secondary to the increased scoring, administrators said.

The average number of game stops for the replay official to review a play has held steady at 1.7 to 1.9 a game. The average duration of those stoppages is down to 1 minute, 15 seconds this season from a high of 1:22 in 2011.

Television agreements vary by conference and network, but generally there are three or four commercial breaks of differing lengths per quarter.

"In this world, you always want to make sure that if a TV commercial break is 2 minutes, 30 seconds, it's 2 minutes 30 seconds and not three minutes," Big Ten senior associate commissioner for television administration Mark Rudner said. "TV has a stake in it, too. The last thing TV wants to do is have a game that goes too long and miss a game that is coming up."

ESPN senior vice president Burke Magnus said as long as the average game doesn't extend past 3 1/2 hours, his network sees no problem.



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Miranda Foreman



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The Pampa News — Saturday, December 27, 2014 — 7B





Dear Abby... By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

ing a poor trait to have? I like to know how you and see it as a positive thing as your readers feel about nitlong as matters are brought up in a helpful way. If you NEAT IN LOUISVILLE want a healthy relationship with the person you live with, isn't it best to tell her what you think should be done and how?

Two examples: My girlfriend likes to take her socks off when she's lying on the couch. She rolls them off her feet with the opposite foot and they sometimes end up in the corner of the couch, but most of the time on the floor. Also, dishes never get rinsed off, washed or put away on time. The the food gets stuck on them. strainer, not the cupboard.

DEAR ABBY: Is nitpick- with these suggestions. I'd

DEAR LIKES THINGS NEAT: I find it interestwhen you tell her she's doing something that bothers you? Nitpicking asking someone to pick up her socks or not leave the the counter. (If she washes them, shouldn't YOU put them into the cupboard?)

to make this romance a then perhaps it's better lifelong commitment, I'm she see another stylist. warning both of you in Accept it and move on. advance that you can't change another person. Got it?

doing my mother-in-law's hair for the last seven years. picking.-LIKES THINGS I became very busy with clients and had her doublebooked in between clients because she wasn't a paying ing that you used the term customer. She felt "shuffled "nitpicking." Is that what around" and decided to text your girlfriend calls it me, telling me she will go to another hairdresser.

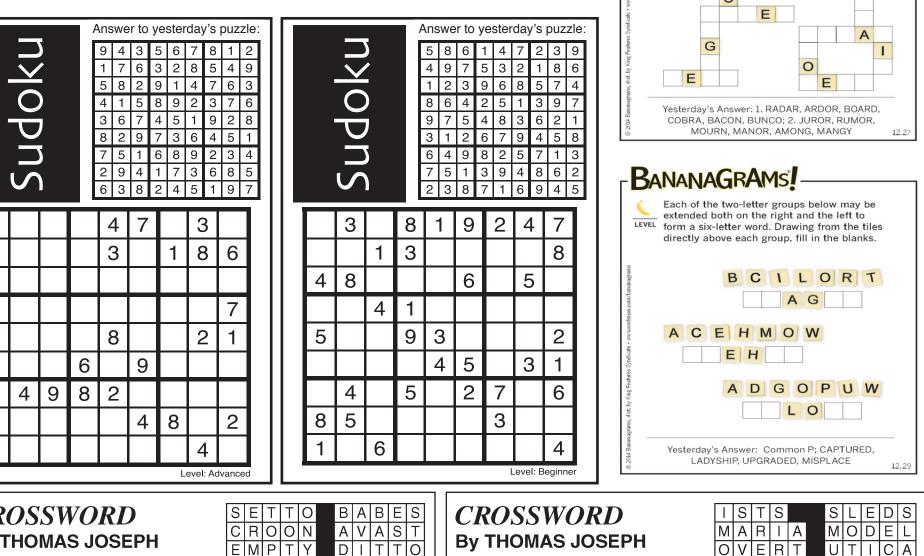
I'm hurt and don't understand why she wouldn't com- is "fitting" me in? Or encompasses more than municate this to me directly so we could have worked something out. What's the dishes in the sink or on best way to handle this? HAIRDRESSER IN CALIFORNIA

There are few things Talk with her directly. sations with an expression sock thing is gross, and the that a neatnik finds more Tell her you received her dishes end up stinking or upsetting than living with text and the snub wasn't busy, her drive time may someone who is disor- intentional. One would be the optimum time for Also, the dishes sit in the ganized. You and your think she'd realize you her to talk privately. So girlfriend appear to have were doing her a favor be happy — it's better My girlfriend thinks I go some very basic differ- by working her in, but if than never hearing from overboard and bombard her ences. If you're planning she can't understand that, her at all.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter calls me (handsfree) when she is driving DEAR ABBY: I've been in her car. We have lively conversations and I enjoy her calls. However, she is always either running errands or on her way to work when she calls. I can be in the middle of a sentence when she announces, "Oops, Mom, I've reached my destination. Gotta go. Love you!"

> Am I wrong to feel she should I just be happy for the call? — A MOM IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR MOM: It may seem like your daughter is "fitting you in," but at DEAR HAIRDRESSER: least she ends the converof love. If her schedule is



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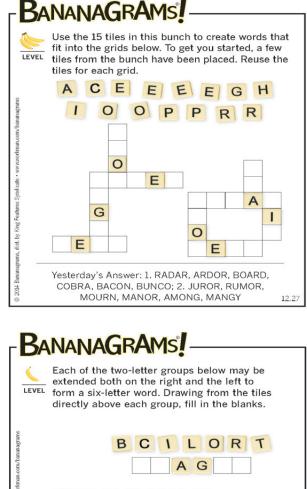
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25 Machine	10	11 12		seed	9	10	11
at 22-	13	14		29 O'Neill	10	10	
Across	13	14		works	12	13	
29 "— Gone"	15	16 17	18	30 First-rate	14	15	16
(Hall and	19 2	20	21	31 Unrefined	17	18 19	20
Oates				32 Salad			
song) 30 Set upon	22	23		green	21	22	
32 Glutton		24		34 Be patient	2	3	
33 Writer				for			
Tarbell	25 26		27 28	37 Bygone	24 25		26 27 28
34 Bond, for	29	30	31	auto	29		30
one				38 Move on			
35 Oscar or	32	33	34	the ice	31	32 33	
Tony	35 3	36 37	38	39 Exact	34 3	5 36 37	
37 After a				сору			
while	39	40		40 "The King	38	39	
39 Neces-	41		42	and I"	40	41	
sary				setting			
-			12-27				12-29

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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. 12-29 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

XDKO ZBOU, RANOU DKFVXZ XDFX FVK INWW AI PDKKV, JBXD OKGKV F XDANUDX AI ZAVVAJ; XDK AWQ UAKZ ANX, ENX XDK UWFQ RANOU PASKZ SKVVBWR RKFV BO XASAVVAJ. — KSBWR SBWWKV Saturday's **Cryptoquote:** FOOTBALL IS FOOTBALL AND TALENT IS TALENT. BUT THE MINDSET OF YOUR TEAM MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE. — ROBERT GRIFFIN III







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Deck Deck NEU HALLS This Holiday Season!









 111 E 7th St, Lefors

 MLS #14-9990
 2 bed - 1 bath - 1320 sqft



710 N Main, McLean MLS #12-9415 3 bed - 2 bath - 1610 sqft



1500 Coffee St, Pampa MLS #14-10052 3 bed - 1 bath - 1409 sqft



708 Sloan St, Pampa MLS #14-10172 4 bed - 1.75 bath - 1316 sqft



705 N Somerville St, Pampa MLS #14-10182 3 bed - 1.75 bath - 1124 sqft



2108 N Zimmers St, Pampa MLS #14-10144 3 bed - 1.75 bath - 1223 sqft





1805 Williston St, Pampa MLS #14-10156 2 bed - 1 bath - 1256 sqft





2225 Lea St, Pampa MLS #14-10165 3 bed - 2 bath - 1750 sqft



1031 Sierra Dr, Pampa

MLS #14-10209

-10209 3 bed - 1.75 bath - 1261 sqft

1901 Chestnut, Pampa

513 N Powell St, Pampa

MLS #13-9870

3 bed - 1.75 bath - 1917 sqft

MLS #14-10111 3 bed - 1.75 bath - 1580 sqft

804-806 W Jackson Ave, WD

MLS #14-10198

4 bed - 2 bath - 2536 sqft



220 W Wichita St, Miami MLS #14-10155 4 bed - 1.75 bath - 1997 sqft



2541 Christine St, Pampa MLS #14-10152 3 bed - 1.75 bath - 2050 sqft



1916 Holly Ln, Pampa MLS #14-10137 4 bed - 2 bath - 1848 sqft



11609 Co Rd E, Pampa MLS #14-10134 3 bed - 1 bath - 1651 sqft



1625 N Zimmers, Pampa MLS #14-10216 3 bed - 2 bath - 1623 sqft



2545 Beech Ln, Pampa MLS #14-10217 3 bed - 2 bath - 2816 sqft

Acreage & Commercial Lots

441 W Brown St, Pampa MLS #12-9327 1 bath - 24,075 sqft

612 S Gray St, Pampa MLS #13-9950 2 bath - 39,150 sqft

203 S Main St, White Deer MLS #12-9561 1 bath - 1,260 sqft **119 & 121 S Starkweather** MLS #14-9994 1 bath - 2268 sqft

2505 N Perryton, Pampa MLS #14-10097 25,270 sqft

8601 W Cemetery MLS #14-10017 Acreage 200 S Main St, McLean MLS #14-10019 Commercial Lots

Burdett/Arrington Avenue MLS #11-9135 Commercial Lots

400 S Talley St, White Deer MLS #12-9447 Residental Lots

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