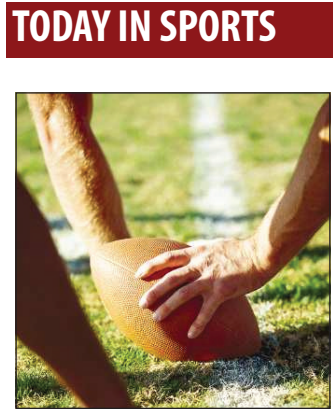


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# The PAMPA NEWS



Tuesday, December 30, 2014      www.thepampanews.com      Volume 110 • No. 187

**75¢** Prairie Plains Perspective | p6  
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription Bereavement and Healing | p7  
 Bowl Pick'em Standings  
 Extra Innings, Watch the Pros | p9-10

## REMEMBERING ROY 'DECK' WOLDT



Photo by John Lee

Roy "Deck" Woldt in front of the Pampa Oilers exhibit at the White Deer Land Museum. Woldt donated many of the items seen at the exhibit, including his uniform, some of the pictures and his old baseball bat, which he is pictured holding.

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

*Editor's note: This story from The Pampa News was originally published on June 29, 2013. Then sports editor John Lee sat down with Roy "Deck" Woldt for more than an hour at the White Deer Land Museum. Woldt passed away on Dec. 25, 2014. The Pampa News, with permission from Woldt's family, is re-running this article to remember Woldt.*

It was the 1950s. The air is turning warm and sodas and conies are still the top selling products at drive-ins across the country. World War II is a decade in the past and the country is barely flirting with the idea of military engagement with Vietnam. Rock n' roll icon Elvis Presley is swaying his hips and America's movie sweetheart, Marilyn Monroe, is infatuating men across the world. The NFL hadn't become what it is today and NBA had barely started a decade earlier. Baseball was still America's top sport. Here in Pampa, Texas the boys of summer are hitting the field as the Pampa Oilers, a baseball club started in

1939. Aside from a hiatus during World War II from 1942-1946, the Oilers provided the residents of Pampa with a baseball team from 1939 to 1957, including championship seasons in 1946, 1954 and 1955. Roy "Deck" Woldt, who played on the team from 1950-1955, is the last known Pampa Oiler baseball player alive. Woldt got his nickname from the glove that his father gave him and he used to wear all the time when we was younger. Woldt played for the Oklahoma City Indians, a AA minor league affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, before coming over to the Pampa Oilers. The Pampa Oilers name, by the way, was chosen in a contest held by the owners of the Oilers and ran in the Pampa newspaper at the time. An elderly lady had chosen the name "Oilers" for the team. Woldt shared some of his knowledge about how the team got started.

**Danziger's own team**  
 "The team evolved from Danziger Oil Company, who hired players to work for their company," Woldt said. "That was part of their job. They played in kind of a semi-pro league with other teams in their area. That's another thing that has changed. Back before

**WOLDT** cont. on page 4

## The Pampa News office closed Thursday

**STAFF REPORT**  
 The Pampa News office will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, so the staff may bring in the New Year with their families. On Dec. 31, the office will close at 12 p.m. The Pampa News will reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 2. The Pampa News welcomes any submitted pictures from the community counting down the minutes to 2015. Please send them to jcllee@thepampanews.com. Happy New Year!



## City of Pampa NYD hours

**STAFF REPORT**  
 The City of Pampa will be operating under special hours this week. All of the City of Pampa will also be closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. The landfill will be open normal business hours on Jan. 2-3.

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

**STAFF REPORT**  
 The Gray County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Dec. 31 in the second floor court room of the Gray County Courthouse, located at 205 N. Russell. The commissioners will discuss and consider taking action on the following agenda items.

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

## Five - and a half - things we won't forget about Rick Perry

**BY REEVE HAMILTON AND JAY ROOT**  
 The Texas Tribune

When Gov. Rick Perry leaves office next month, he'll wrap up a three-decade stretch in state elective office that concluded with his being the longest-serving governor in Texas history.

Perry's 14-year tenure in the state's highest office coincided with the ever-tightening grip of Republican rule, sweeping conservative reforms and more than a few controversies.

It was also marked by unprecedented population growth and an enviable economic expansion in Texas. The state led the nation in job creation during Perry's reign, and it added more people than any other state between 2000 and 2010 — numbers that continue to grow.

From his first legislative session as governor in 2001, when Perry shocked the political establishment with a record 83 vetoes, to his final days in office, when he used rare

emergency powers to send National Guard troops to the state's border with Mexico, the ruggedly handsome farm boy from West Texas signaled early and often that he would cut a unique and flashy trail through the state's political countryside.

Boiling down Perry's legacy into a few bullet points isn't easy and will undoubtedly leave supporters and detractors alike unsatisfied.

But memories fade, and not every event that seems newsworthy today will stand out in the history books or become part of the state's collective political memory. (And there could be a new set of mileposts on a future legacy tour if Perry runs for president again — a move he is currently considering.)

With those caveats, here are five — and a half — things people will probably remember years after Perry has left the Texas Governor's Mansion.

**1. Longevity**  
 When Perry hands over power to Gov.-elect Greg Abbott on Jan. 20, he will have served 5,144 days in office, making the previous records seem puny and insignifi-

cant. Gov. Allan Shivers, who took over after Gov. Beauford Jester died in 1949, previously held the distinction as the longest continuously serving governor with a mere seven-and-a-half years in office, back when the terms lasted only two years.

Bill Clements, elected in 1978 as the first Republican governor since Reconstruction, was the first to serve two full four-year terms, but they were not consecutive. In 1998, George W. Bush became the first governor to win two consecutive four-year terms, but he left for Washington halfway through the second one.

Perry, who had been elected lieutenant governor when Bush won his second term, was sworn into office as the 47th Texas governor on Dec. 21, 2000, and he went on to win three consecutive four-year terms. He has used the longevity to wield power with an increasingly tight fist.

At last count, Perry had made more than 8,000 appointments, allowing him to put his conservative stamp on every corner of state government — all from a perch that the state's founding fathers, suspicious of centralized authority, intentionally weakened.

Perry championed sweeping curbs on lawsuits, some of the most stringent abortion limits in the nation, the strictest voter ID statute in the country, a constitutional ban on gay marriage and steep cuts to programs once seen as sacrosanct, including public education and women's health programs.

People crossed Perry at their peril, whether they were appointees who dared support a political challenger or lawmakers who opposed his legislative program. Jim Henson, a Texas Tribune pollster and director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin, said Perry expanded the powers of the governor's office "in a way that is certainly not contemplated in the Texas Constitution nor really in the political culture of the state."

"I think Perry really learned how to use the office," he said.

**2. The Texas miracle**  
 The most appropriate use of the word "miracle" in relation to Texas is in the eyes of the beholder.

Critics will find plenty wrong with a state

**RICK** cont. on page 2

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Weather .....	2	Comics .....	12
Obituaries .....	3	Classifieds .....	13,14
Local Record .....	3	Puzzles/Dear Abby ..	14
Sports .....	9,10		



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## Rick

Continued From Page 4

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RICK cont. on page 4

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# Woldt

Continued From Page 1

the (second World) War a lot of towns had a team, it may not have been in a league of any sort but if it were they were semi-pro, they were paid to play baseball.”

things that Woldt said has changed in baseball is the expectation of the pitchers.

“Back when I played, pitchers were expected to pitch nine innings,” Woldt said. “We only subbed the pitchers if the game got out of hand, but if a pitcher didn’t pitch nine innings it was a bad outing.”

the baseball uniforms have evolved over time. Currently the Major League Baseball uniforms are made out of a double-knit polyester. During Woldt’s playing days, the uniforms were made from wool. Batting helmets would not be mandated to be worn by baseball players until the 1970s, so in Woldt’s time they had inserts put inside the baseball caps. Many times getting hit by a pitch was just a part of the game, and players knew that. Woldt also talked about his traveling. He said that many of the years the teams traveled by bus, except the years they were under manager Grover Seitz, when the Oilers traveled by station wagons. There are multiple stories about the Oilers’ manager being stopped by law enforcement for driving too fast. But Woldt said that what he misses most about the game is the relationship with his teammates.

“You miss the guys and clubhouse thing,” Woldt

said. “I think of all the years I played and the guys I played with, both minor leaguers or the guys who went on to the major leagues that I played with. You got real close because you played 142 games. It was a long season.”

## Back from the Great War

After coming back from World War II, Woldt played in a servicemens’ baseball game in Oklahoma, and then started playing for the Oklahoma City Indians. After playing for them for many years, and actually refusing an offer to go play for an A team in Pennsylvania, Woldt decided to do something, perhaps as important as trying to get into the majors, which was to get an education. Woldt got his college education from Southwestern State College, now Southwest Oklahoma State University. While there, he got offered to play for the Elk City Elks a couple days a week and still attend his classes. After getting his

education, Woldt knew a manager on the Pampa Oilers team, and that brought him to Pampa in 1950.

“In 1950, I was hired by the Pampa Oilers,” Woldt said. “A couple years later I got the high school job, I married a Pampa girl and I have been here ever since.”

## The most important lesson

Woldt taught and coached at Pampa High School for 11 years before retiring. He taught his students many things, but there is one lesson that was most important for the young student athletes to learn.


While Woldt doesn’t have any regrets, his never reaching the majors has made him not want the same thing to happen to the young up-and-coming ball players.

Woldt’s advice to the young ones: “Perfect is unattainable. But if you practice perfection, you can reach excellence. I blame myself many times

for not getting beyond AA ball,” Woldt said. “I had opportunities to go out and work. We played some major league teams in the spring at Oklahoma City in AA ball. When [the] Cleveland [Indians] would come from spring training, they would stop in Oklahoma City, and we would play an exhibition game against that team. It was an opportunity for the major league to see how their minor league was doing. They think they have reached the highest level by playing high school baseball, that’s just the beginning, if you don’t practice some of your skills you’re not going to get beyond that level.”

He started out playing ball for Sturgeon Bay High School in Sturgeon Bay, Wisc. 43 miles northwest of Green Bay.

He traveled all over the country playing ball, and even served in WW II. He ended his travels in Pampa, Texas. Now, 93, Deck Woldt truly is Pampa’s living legend.



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# Rick

Continued From Page 2

rate for local property taxes, prompting the high court to declare that Texas had effectively adopted a prohibited statewide property tax.

At the same time, the state’s loophole-ridden business tax had become all but voluntary. It applied only to corporations and limited liability companies, so many reformulated as non-taxable limited partnerships to avoid paying it.

“Folks may not have liked the end result, but the margins tax, when you look how it came about, it was really Perry’s finest hour.”

— Dale Craymer, president of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association

The solution Perry advocated: Craft a business tax that applies to most companies regardless of structure, raise the cigarette tax by a \$1 a pack and use all that money to reduce property taxes while giving teachers

a \$2,000 pay raise.

The plan drew plenty of foes. Democrats said it still left schools badly underfunded. And Republican activists complained (and still do) that the revamped business levy, applied to gross receipts minus certain deductions, constituted an unconstitutional income tax.

But Perry got the plan passed with bipartisan support, the schools stayed open and businesses that used to pay nothing became taxpayers for the first time.

“Folks may not have liked the end result, but the margins tax, when you look how it came about, it was really Perry’s finest hour,” said Dale Craymer, president of the business-backed Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. “It was a crisis averted.”

The tax is still unpopular, and Republican leaders want to modify it or even get rid of it, but they’re likely to find that it’s easier said than done.

## 4. The oops moment

It’s still hard to watch. For 53 cringe-inducing seconds during a nationally televised Republican primary debate on Nov. 9, 2011, Perry desperately searched his frozen brain for the name of the third federal department he wanted to shut down if elected president.

“I would do away with the Education, the, uh, Commerce and, let’s see,” he said, looking down at his notes for any clues. “I can’t. The third one I can’t. Sorry. Oops.”

Commentators pronounced Perry’s presidential effort dead, and in the ensuing weeks, late-night comedians made the Texas governor the butt of endless jokes.

After his inevitable withdrawal from the race weeks later, Perry blamed health problems and a lack of preparation. Now, with a bespectacled new look, more time

to study up and the benefit of hindsight, he’s promising a better performance should he run for president again in 2016.

The significance of the “oops” moment is often overstated in recaps of Perry’s first presidential bid. According to polling data, his popularity had already declined significantly following fumbles in a previous debate and a strongly worded defense of a Texas policy allowing the children of undocumented immigrants in-state tuition for public colleges and universities.

But like Vice President Dan Quayle’s misspelling of potato (with an “e”) in a school classroom in 1992, or Democrat Howard Dean’s primal scream as his presidential campaign was going down the toilet in 2004, Perry’s 2011 debate meltdown has earned a permanent spot in the political blooper hall of fame.

## 5. The indictment

Political forecasts called for smooth sailing as Perry prepared for the final victory lap at the end of his long tenure. A felony indictment changed all that.

Now, just like the governor’s often messy battles with political rivals and his no-holds-barred approach to legislative negotiation, Perry is spending his remaining days in office at the center of a swirling controversy he helped create.

Gov. Rick Perry outside the Travis County courtroom where he appeared for a pre-trial hearing following his indictment in an abuse-of-power case. Photo by Bob Daemmrich

On Aug. 15, a grand jury indicted Perry on two felony counts — abuse of official capacity and coercion of a public servant — stemming from his 2013 veto of funds destined for a special investigative unit inside the

Travis County district attorney’s office.

Perry blasted the prosecution as a politically motivated “farce,” and has trotted out legal scholars from both sides of the spectrum to criticize it.

No matter what happens, Perry’s 11th-hour ride through the criminal justice system guarantees a mention in the history books. He’s the first governor since James “Pa” Ferguson to get indicted, and the uncommonly brash way he has confronted the allegations provided a unique twist to the way potential presidential contenders handle criminal justice challenges.

## 5.5. Swagger

Granted, swagger is not an event, a policy accomplishment or a political milestone. It’s a style — a cocky way of walking, talking and conducting business. And Perry has made it his calling card.

When a coyote threatened his Labrador puppy in 2010, Perry didn’t grab the pooch and run. He pulled out his pistol and shot. The incident later made the papers.

When Perry was courting the Tea Party in 2009, he did not just promise to get the federal government off the people’s backs. He flirted with secession.

And when Perry got booked on felony charges at the Travis County Courthouse this year, he did not slip in quietly through the back door. He held a press conference on the courthouse square. After smiling for his mug shot, he went out for ice cream near downtown Austin and posted a picture online to show he was keeping his cool.

Later, through his political action committee, he sold T-shirts with that same mug shot plastered on the front.

Love Perry or hate him, that’s swagger.

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Continued From Page 4

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**3. The margins tax**  
Texas was in trouble in 2005 when the state Supreme Court declared the state's school finance system unconstitutional. The chief concern was that too many districts were charging the maximum

**RICK** cont. on page 4

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# Obituaries

## Jocelyn Yvette Garcia

Jocelyn Yvette Garcia, infant, died Dec. 27, 2014, in Amarillo.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, at Fairview Cemetery, with Rev. Rafael Fraire of the Iglesia Apostolica of Amarillo, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Jocelyn was born Dec. 27, 2014, in Amarillo.

Survivors include her parents, Miguel and Jazmin Garcia of the home; her maternal grandparents, Angelica Diaz and Ramon Castillo of Pampa and her paternal grandmother, Jenny Mendoza of Pampa.

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

## Bill Washington

Bill Washington, 87, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, at the First Christian Church with Dr. Jeff Knighton, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Bill Washington

Mr. Washington was born Oct. 10, 1927, in Pampa, where he had been a lifelong resident. Bill attended Pampa High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army where he played baseball in Japan at the end of WWII. He married Emily Lancaster on March 18, 1949, in Pampa, and they were happily married for 65 years. Bill helped coach his sons baseball teams in the Optimist Club and he always enjoyed his time with family. Bill was an operator for the Dorchester Gasoline Plant and retired in 1984 after 37 years of service. He was a member of Hidden Hills Golf Course where he was active in the Senior Golf Association where he helped build the club house. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, James and Mittie Washington, Sr.; one son Terry Washington on March 19, 2007; two sisters, Virginia Tate and Clara Imel and a brother James Washington, Jr.

Survivors include his wife, Emily of the home; one daughter, Sherry Watson and husband Deon of Pampa; one son, Tommy Washington and wife Tracy of Pampa; one sister, Donna Sims and husband Wayne of Dallas; five grandchildren, Michelle Watson of Canyon, Ryan Watson and friend Rachel Zeck of Amarillo, Angela Walker and husband Jimmie of Duncan, Okla., Camron Washington and Nathan Washington both of Pampa and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to; First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, Texas 79065 or to your favorite charity.

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

## Paul E. Gercken

Paul E. Gercken, 96, passed away Dec. 26, 2014, in Amarillo.

Services were at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, 2014, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum with Pastor Mike Watson of Hobart Baptist Church, officiating. Burial followed in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Paul E. Gercken

Mr. Gercken was born on Aug. 9, 1918, in Noble, Okla. He was reared and attended schools in Oklahoma. Shortly after graduation he participated in the Civilian Conservation Corps for a few years before enlisting in the U.S. Navy and serving in WWII. He met Jessie Overton and soon they would get married on Jan. 8, 1950, in Chickasha, Okla. She preceded him in death on Oct. 5, 2012. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Pampa where he went to work for the City of Pampa and retired there after 23 years of employment. He was a long time member of the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ. Mr. Gercken will be remembered as a hard-working man and devoted husband, father, grandfather and he will be greatly missed by his family. Paul was also preceded in death by a son-in-law Rusty Yeager and daughter-in-law Iris Lee Gercken.

Survivors include two daughters, Cheryl Yeager and Becky Watson and husband Randy, all of Pampa; two sons, Doyle Gercken and life partner Jim Montgomery of

Dallas and Tommy Gercken of Pampa, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be made to Meals on Wheels 302 E. Foster, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

## Kenneth Joel Frankenbery

Memorial services for Mr. Kenneth Joel Frankenbery, of Wheeler, were held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, 2014, at Church of Christ in Wheeler, with Minister Carol Thomason officiating.

Burial will follow at Wheeler Cemetery, in Wheeler, under the direction of Peppers Family Funeral Home in Wheeler.

Mr. Frankenbery, 61, passed away, Dec. 24, 2014, in Elk City, Okla.

Mr. Kenneth Joel Frankenbery was born Sept. 28, 1953, in Chanqte, Kan. to Mr. Bob Frankenbery and Mrs. Valetta (Penn) Frankenbery.

He graduated from Wheeler High School in 1972. He then went to school in Okmulgee to study auto parts. Kenneth worked for several years at Burton Ford and Thompson Auto Parts in Pampa. He was an avid Wheeler Mustang sports fan, and during his high school years, he was the manager for the sports team. He enjoyed all sports, including NASCAR and fishing. Kenneth was very honored to receive the Man of The Year award from the Wheeler Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of Church of Christ in Wheeler.

Kenneth was preceded in death by two brothers, Mark and Craig Frankenbery.

Mr. Frankenbery is survived by his parents, Bob and Valetta Frankenbery of Wheeler; Brother Kevin Frankenbery and wife, Kathy, of Weatherford, Okla. and a host of friends and family.

The family suggest memorials be sent to Wheeler ISD Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1010, Wheeler, TX 79096 and Wheeler Area Aquatics Center, PO Box 221, Wheeler, TX 79096.

The family will receive friends at their home at 105 Sweetwater St., Wheeler, on Sunday, Dec. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m.

## Two men open fire at Los Angeles police car

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two men opened fire on a police car patrolling a tough part of Los Angeles but the two officers inside were not injured as one returned fire and a suspect was arrested, authorities said Monday.

The shooting occurred amid heightened tensions over attacks on police elsewhere in the country after grand juries decided against indicting officers in the killings of unarmed black men. Police officials did not say if they had determined a motive for the Sunday night shooting in South Los Angeles — an area plagued by gang violence — but said there were no indications it was linked to other attacks on police in the country.

"It was a complete unprovoked attack," LAPD Deputy Chief Bob Green said initially. "They were just driving on the street and somebody struck out and tried to kill two policemen." However, Green later said police were also looking into whether the officers might have driven into an ongoing incident and were inadvertently fired at.

"Last night the initial assessment based on the reaction of officers and the adrenaline factor was they were getting ambushed, but you know, things change

and it takes a lot to investigate this," Green said.

One man was arrested shortly after the attack. An hours-long search followed for the second man but he remained at large and an investigation was continuing.

The names of the suspect and targeted officers were not released.

The two officers were responding to an unrelated radio call and driving slowly in a neighborhood when they saw two men on a sidewalk and the flash of a rifle being fired, police said.

The officers stopped their car and one got out and returned fire as the men fled. Police found one suspect, uninjured, a short time later along with a rifle and another weapon.

Police searched the neighborhood throughout the night for the other suspect, warning nearby residents to stay in their homes. Police stopped the search early Monday after the suspect was not found.

Protesters in California and across the country have rallied for weeks against police killings of unarmed black men in Missouri and New York.

The killing of two New York City officers in their patrol car has departments on edge across the country.

## For the record

# Borger man arrested for drug possession

### STAFF REPORT

• Edward Dwayne Grove, 28, Borger, was arrested Saturday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for possession of a controlled substance — less than one gram.

• Justin Dale Demeritt, 32, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the Department of Public Safety for violation of a protective order.

• Mark More, 19, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the Pampa Police Department for theft of property — between \$50 and \$500.

• Donnie Lee Hunt, 23, Shamrock, was arrested Friday by DPS for driving while license is invalid with a previous conviction, possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Terry Lynn Botello, 18, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by GCSO for driving under the influence as a minor, possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Matthew Christopher Main, was arrested Saturday by PPD for theft of property — between \$50 and \$500, theft of property — Hutchinson County.

• Danny Merle McCon-

nell, 54, Guthrie, Okla., was arrested Saturday by GCSO for assault on a public servant.

• Christopher Landers, 34, Borger, was arrested Saturday by GCSO for prohibited weapon — switchblade of knuckles, possession of a controlled substance — less than one gram.

• Gavin Brady, 19, Canadian, was arrested Sat-

urday by GCSO for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle with a previous conviction, criminal mischief — between \$500 and \$1,500.

• Meghan Natasha Schuster, 26, Miami, was arrested Sunday by DPS for her second driving while intoxicated offense, possession of marijuana — less than two ounces, theft — less than \$50, failure to appear.

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# Woldt

Continued From Page 1

the (second World) War a lot of towns had a team, it may not have been in a league of any sort but if it were they were semi-pro, they were paid to play baseball.”

things that Woldt said has changed in baseball is the expectation of the pitchers.

“Back when I played, pitchers were expected to pitch nine innings,” Woldt said. “We only subbed the pitchers if the game got out of hand, but if a pitcher didn’t pitch nine innings it was a bad outing.”

the baseball uniforms have evolved over time. Currently the Major League Baseball uniforms are made out of a double-knit polyester. During Woldt’s playing days, the uniforms were made from wool. Batting helmets would not be mandated to be worn by baseball players until the 1970s, so in Woldt’s time they had inserts put inside the baseball caps. Many times getting hit by a pitch was just a part of the game, and players knew that. Woldt also talked about his traveling. He said that many of the years the teams traveled by bus, except the years they were under manager Grover Seitz, when the Oilers traveled by station wagons. There are multiple stories about the Oilers’ manager being stopped by law enforcement for driving too fast. But Woldt said that what he misses most about the game is the relationship with his teammates.

“You miss the guys and clubhouse thing,” Woldt

said. “I think of all the years I played and the guys I played with, both minor leaguers or the guys who went on to the major leagues that I played with. You got real close because you played 142 games. It was a long season.”

## Back from the Great War

After coming back from World War II, Woldt played in a servicemens’ baseball game in Oklahoma, and then started playing for the Oklahoma City Indians. After playing for them for many years, and actually refusing an offer to go play for an A team in Pennsylvania, Woldt decided to do something, perhaps as important as trying to get into the majors, which was to get an education. Woldt got his college education from Southwestern State College, now Southwest Oklahoma State University. While there, he got offered to play for the Elk City Elks a couple days a week and still attend his classes. After getting his

education, Woldt knew a manager on the Pampa Oilers team, and that brought him to Pampa in 1950.

“In 1950, I was hired by the Pampa Oilers,” Woldt said. “A couple years later I got the high school job, I married a Pampa girl and I have been here ever since.”

## The most important lesson

Woldt taught and coached at Pampa High School for 11 years before retiring. He taught his students many things, but there is one lesson that was most important for the young student athletes to learn.


While Woldt doesn’t have any regrets, his never reaching the majors has made him not want the same thing to happen to the young up-and-coming ball players.

Woldt’s advice to the young ones: “Perfect is unattainable. But if you practice perfection, you can reach excellence. I blame myself many times

for not getting beyond AA ball,” Woldt said. “I had opportunities to go out and work. We played some major league teams in the spring at Oklahoma City in AA ball. When [the] Cleveland [Indians] would come from spring training, they would stop in Oklahoma City, and we would play an exhibition game against that team. It was an opportunity for the major league to see how their minor league was doing. They think they have reached the highest level by playing high school baseball, that’s just the beginning, if you don’t practice some of your skills you’re not going to get beyond that level.”

He started out playing ball for Sturgeon Bay High School in Sturgeon Bay, Wisc. 43 miles northwest of Green Bay.

He traveled all over the country playing ball, and even served in WW II. He ended his travels in Pampa, Texas. Now, 93, Deck Woldt truly is Pampa’s living legend.



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# Rick

Continued From Page 2

rate for local property taxes, prompting the high court to declare that Texas had effectively adopted a prohibited statewide property tax.

At the same time, the state’s loophole-ridden business tax had become all but voluntary. It applied only to corporations and limited liability companies, so many reformulated as non-taxable limited partnerships to avoid paying it.

“Folks may not have liked the end result, but the margins tax, when you look how it came about, it was really Perry’s finest hour.”

— Dale Craymer, president of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association

The solution Perry advocated: Craft a business tax that applies to most companies regardless of structure, raise the cigarette tax by a \$1 a pack and use all that money to reduce property taxes while giving teachers

a \$2,000 pay raise.

The plan drew plenty of foes. Democrats said it still left schools badly underfunded. And Republican activists complained (and still do) that the revamped business levy, applied to gross receipts minus certain deductions, constituted an unconstitutional income tax.

But Perry got the plan passed with bipartisan support, the schools stayed open and businesses that used to pay nothing became taxpayers for the first time.

“Folks may not have liked the end result, but the margins tax, when you look how it came about, it was really Perry’s finest hour,” said Dale Craymer, president of the business-backed Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. “It was a crisis averted.”

The tax is still unpopular, and Republican leaders want to modify it or even get rid of it, but they’re likely to find that it’s easier said than done.

## 4. The oops moment

It’s still hard to watch. For 53 cringe-inducing seconds during a nationally televised Republican primary debate on Nov. 9, 2011, Perry desperately searched his frozen brain for the name of the third federal department he wanted to shut down if elected president.

“I would do away with the Education, the, uh, Commerce and, let’s see,” he said, looking down at his notes for any clues. “I can’t. The third one I can’t. Sorry. Oops.”

Commentators pronounced Perry’s presidential effort dead, and in the ensuing weeks, late-night comedians made the Texas governor the butt of endless jokes.

After his inevitable withdrawal from the race weeks later, Perry blamed health problems and a lack of preparation. Now, with a bespectacled new look, more time

to study up and the benefit of hindsight, he’s promising a better performance should he run for president again in 2016.

The significance of the “oops” moment is often overstated in recaps of Perry’s first presidential bid. According to polling data, his popularity had already declined significantly following fumbles in a previous debate and a strongly worded defense of a Texas policy allowing the children of undocumented immigrants in-state tuition for public colleges and universities.

But like Vice President Dan Quayle’s misspelling of potato (with an “e”) in a school classroom in 1992, or Democrat Howard Dean’s primal scream as his presidential campaign was going down the toilet in 2004, Perry’s 2011 debate meltdown has earned a permanent spot in the political blooper hall of fame.

## 5. The indictment

Political forecasts called for smooth sailing as Perry prepared for the final victory lap at the end of his long tenure. A felony indictment changed all that.

Now, just like the governor’s often messy battles with political rivals and his no-holds-barred approach to legislative negotiation, Perry is spending his remaining days in office at the center of a swirling controversy he helped create.

Gov. Rick Perry outside the Travis County courtroom where he appeared for a pre-trial hearing following his indictment in an abuse-of-power case. Photo by Bob Daemmrich

On Aug. 15, a grand jury indicted Perry on two felony counts — abuse of official capacity and coercion of a public servant — stemming from his 2013 veto of funds destined for a special investigative unit inside the

Travis County district attorney’s office.

Perry blasted the prosecution as a politically motivated “farce,” and has trotted out legal scholars from both sides of the spectrum to criticize it.

No matter what happens, Perry’s 11th-hour ride through the criminal justice system guarantees a mention in the history books. He’s the first governor since James “Pa” Ferguson to get indicted, and the uncommonly brash way he has confronted the allegations provided a unique twist to the way potential presidential contenders handle criminal justice challenges.

## 5.5. Swagger

Granted, swagger is not an event, a policy accomplishment or a political milestone. It’s a style — a cocky way of walking, talking and conducting business. And Perry has made it his calling card.

When a coyote threatened his Labrador puppy in 2010, Perry didn’t grab the pooch and run. He pulled out his pistol and shot. The incident later made the papers.

When Perry was courting the Tea Party in 2009, he did not just promise to get the federal government off the people’s backs. He flirted with secession.

And when Perry got booked on felony charges at the Travis County Courthouse this year, he did not slip in quietly through the back door. He held a press conference on the courthouse square. After smiling for his mug shot, he went out for ice cream near downtown Austin and posted a picture online to show he was keeping his cool.

Later, through his political action committee, he sold T-shirts with that same mug shot plastered on the front.

Love Perry or hate him, that’s swagger.

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# Lost plane's request to change course was denied

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP) — The plane sought permission to climb above threatening clouds. Air traffic control couldn't say yes immediately — there was no room. Six other airliners were crowding the airspace, forcing AirAsia Flight 8501 to remain at a lower altitude.

Minutes later, the jet carrying 162 people was gone from the radar without ever issuing a distress signal. The plane is believed to have crashed into Indonesia's Java Sea, but broad aerial surveys on Monday turned up no firm evidence of the missing Airbus A320-200.

Searchers spotted two oily patches and floating objects in separate locations, but no one knew whether any of it was related to the plane that vanished Sunday halfway into what should have been a two-hour hop from Surabaya, Indonesia, to Singapore. Officials saw little reason to believe the flight met anything but a grim fate.

Based on the plane's last known coordinates, the aircraft probably crashed into the water and "is at the bottom of the sea," Indonesia search-and-rescue chief Henry Bambang Soelistyo said. Still, searchers planned to expand their efforts onto land on Tuesday.

The last communication from the cockpit to air traffic control was a request by one of the pilots to climb from 32,000 feet (9,754 meters) to 38,000 feet (11,582 meters) because of the weather. The tower was not able to immediately comply because of the other planes, said Bambang Tjahjono, director of the state-owned company in charge of air traffic control.

The twin-engine, single-aisle plane was last seen on radar four minutes after the final communication.

When planning a route prior to takeoff, pilots try to avoid thunderstorms. But if one pops up during the trip, or crews encounter rough turbulence, they routinely ask to fly around storms or move below or above the turbulence.

A storm alone isn't going to bring down a mod-

ern plane designed to withstand severe weather. But weather paired with a pilot error or a mechanical failure could be disastrous. It's like a car driving on a highway during a thunderstorm. Plenty of vehicles get through bad weather safely but one that gets a flat tire or takes a turn too fast might crash.

Pilots rely on sophisticated weather-radar systems that include a dashboard display of storms and clouds, as well as reports from other crews, to steer around dangerous weather.

"A lot more information is available to pilots in the cockpit about weather than it ever was," said Deborah Hersman, former chairman of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. But the technology has limits and sometimes information about storms "can be a little bit stale."

At least 15 ships, seven aircraft and four helicopters were looking for the jet, Indonesian search-and-rescue spokesman Jusuf Latif said. Most of the craft were Indonesian but Singapore, Malaysia and Australia contributed to the effort. Aircraft from Thailand were awaiting clearance to join the search.

Those numbers do not include Indonesian warships taking part in the search. Many fishermen from Belitung island also helped, and all vessels in that area were alerted to watch for anything that could be linked to the plane.

Jakarta's air force base commander, Rear Marshal Dwi Putranto, said an Australian Orion aircraft had detected "suspicious" objects near an island about 100 miles (160 kilometers) off central Kalimantan. That's about 700 miles (1,120 kilometers) from where the plane lost contact, but within Monday's greatly expanded search area.

"However, we cannot be sure whether it is part of the missing AirAsia plane," Putranto said. "We are now moving in that direction."

Air Force spokesman Rear Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto told MetroTV that an Indonesian helicopter spotted two oil patches in the Java Sea east of Belitung island,

much closer to where the plane lost contact. He said oil samples would be collected and analyzed.

An Associated Press photographer flew in a C-130 transport carrier with Indonesia's Air Force for 10 hours Monday over a large section of the search area between Kalimantan and Belitung. The flight was bumpy and rainy at times. It flew low, at 1,500 feet, easily spotting waves, ships and fishermen, but there was no sign of the plane.

The suspected crash caps an astonishingly tragic year for air travel in Southeast Asia, and Malaysia in particular. Malaysia-based AirAsia's loss comes on top of the still-unexplained disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in March with 239 people aboard, and the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in July over Ukraine, which killed all 298 passengers and crew.

"Until today, we have never lost a life," AirAsia group CEO Tony Fernandes told reporters. "But I think that any airline CEO who says he can guarantee that his

airline is 100 percent safe is not accurate."

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo ordered an immediate review of all aviation procedures.

Nearly all the passengers and crew are Indonesians, who are frequent visitors to Singapore, particularly on holidays.

Ruth Natalia Puspitasari, who would have turned 26 on Monday, was among them. Her father, Suyanto, sat with his wife, who was puffy-eyed and coughing, near the family crisis center at Surabaya's airport.

Suyanto remembers the concern his daughter showed for the families of the Flight 370 tragedy. Puspitasari once told him how sad it must be for the victims' relatives who were left waiting for their loved ones with no certainty.

"I don't want to experience the same thing with what happened with Malaysia Airlines," he said as his wife wept. "It could be a long suffering."

Few believe this search will be as perplexing as the ongoing one for Flight 370, where what

happened onboard remains a total mystery. Authorities suspect the plane was deliberately diverted by someone on board and ultimately lost in a remote area of the Indian Ocean with notoriously deep water. Flight 8501 vanished over a heavily traveled sea that is relatively shallow, with no sign of foul play.

The captain, Iryanto, who like many Indonesians uses a single name, had more than 20,000 flying hours, AirAsia said.

"Papa, come home, I still need you," Angela Anggi Ranastianis, the captain's 22-year-old daughter, pleaded late

Sunday in social-media comments that were widely quoted in the Indonesian press.

People who knew Iryanto recalled that he was an experienced military pilot, flying F-16 fighters before shifting to commercial aviation. His French co-pilot, Remi Plesele, had been in Indonesia three years and loved to fly, his sister, Renee, told France's RTL radio.

"He told me that things were going well, that he'd had a good Christmas. He was happy. The rains were starting," she said. "The weather was bad."



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Prairie Plains Perspective

# 2014 news tail lines you may have missed

It's the eve of New Year's Eve folks, time for a look see back at the 2014 headlines that in some cases (okay, most) are what I like to call, tail lines that, due to editor's reasoning for the life of me I know not why, failed to make it to

respective front pages. This was actually front page material, though I like to think not because of what happened, but what it (more than likely) created. 'Xbox Live and PlayStation Network remain down' The two Internet gaming services were down Christmas Day and a goodly portion of the



DENNIS PALMITIER

day after. A group of nerdy hackers calling themselves 'Lizard Squad' is seeking atta boys for the takedown. We'll have to wait and see if 'Lizard Squad' is Asian speak for, North Korea... What the article failed to mention was how a gazillion frazzled parents worldwide coped with their children's protestations over failed gifted game boxes? God forbid kids and gamers for 24-36 hours were forced to get up off their arses and do something else. The humanity!

'German police hunting for stolen pigeon worth \$184,000' Why yes, you did read that correctly. Put 'Made in Germany' on it, the price escalates! Over Dusseldorf, Germany way a homing pigeon was suppos-

edly stolen from a Dusseldorf man's backyard aviary, here in the states known as, a coop. The owner is offering a \$12,250 reward for the safe return of his flown the coop fowl. Okay, so there is per the owner a filched fowl worth now a whopping \$196,250!?! Why is this news you ask? The tail line appealed to my aesthetics in regard to our fair burg. Pampa currently has a burgeoning pigeon population of Biblical proportion? Listen up City Fathers! In light of the recent budget brouhaha along with the need to assuage a now vigilant populace, I've come up with a solution to cure everyone's ills and even better, keep you in continued success at the polls! Why don't you trap all of Pampa's sky rats and sell them as homing pigeons to fowl fanciers over Dusseldorf's way? Sky's the limit!

'Scientists create artificial sperm and eggs' Courtesy one of my science news apps that due to the title's name I cannot print letter for letter and get past the editor's consternation, so I'll just call it IFLSCIENCE. From IFLSCIENCE came this little gem of a back page tail line. Firstly, this news is

somewhat worrisome to me. That's another story, but I am confident knowing I am not alone with the following scientific deduction. I already know way too many artificial people. Science certainly does not need to be making any more...

This headless line is courtesy Time Magazine, the article's author having what I think, a tad too much... time...on his hands. 'Kevin McCallister cost his family over \$50,000!' You remember Kevin don't you, from the American Christmastime classic 'Home Alone?' The Time Magazine author wrote and I quote, "Home Alone has always troubled me. Beyond the utter disrespect it exhibits, the filmmakers for some reason felt the financial hardship inflicted on his family by Kevin McCallister to be immaterial to the story." Kevin if you remember, was rather 'creative' protecting his family's home and himself from bungling burglars. Um, it was a movie you mindless, anal-retentive twit, quite the funny one and indeed a classic!

If not perusing through great science apps, I humor myself by scanning interesting articles like this one in

the publication, Archaeology Magazine. Don't read it? Why, you don't know what (history) you're missing! 'Analysis of prehistoric bones finds that as humans shifted from hunter-gatherers to less active agriculturalists, their bones became more fragile and susceptible to fracture' Whew! If you haven't figured it out, Archaeologists can be long winded... Pssst! You sallow-skinned protein deficient PETA types, listen up! Might help you to see the T-bone, you know, if you chew on that read.

'Oklahoma teacher fired after stuffing 11 teens into Honda Accord' No wonder the teacher was fired. Two reasons here. Firstly, had her car been a 1960's era VW Beetle, or in lieu of not owning a People's Car, had she opted for stuffing the teens in a phone booth, more than likely she would have passed her school superintendent's frown test. If she were to have had one or the other, she would have been front page news, at least in Oklahoma...

'NO. There will not be a "planetary alignment" on January 4th that will cause you to float for five minutes' Courtesy once again, IFLSCIENCE... Some of you I realize may already be afloat from pre-imbibing for New Year's night, however, for you Rapture minded individuals, when that event comes it will be what the experts(?) say, an actual floating with the added caveat of, an ascension. I read where this five minute float thing nonsense is an actual expectation with these Heaven's Gate types (go figure), but it will not happen on Jan. 4, 2015, or on Jan. 4 any subsequent year thereafter. People actually thinking (I wonder what their favorite flavor of Kool-Aid is?) this a reality make me sad for humanity.

'Armored truck driver arrested after Texas caper' There were quite a few articles nationwide about this armored car heist, but The Denver Post's use of 'caper' versus mundane wordage won me over. The

caper occurred last week over Amarillo way, where a young man who grew up wanting to be an armored car driver obtained his life long ambition and was employed by Rochester Armored Car Company. Temptation, however, must of overcome his career goal, for he opted to keep for his and two others personal use a \$200,000 cash delivery. Now a perp, he, along with one accomplice, made a hasty lam with the loot to Colorado Springs, where law enforcement promptly caught up with them. I'm thinking Rocky Mountain high desirous with this one. \$200K represents mucho marajuju, I mean why else Colorado, especially so with the obscurity of Mexico just a few clicks more the other direction?

'Study: Marijuana use has increased in Colorado' Get out of town! Like the armored car driver... My question is: Who pays for these nonsensical studies, and why print them in newspapers? I'll bet the ranch it's some federally funded think tank, which means of course, we taxpayers pay for this kind of crap! Another interesting factoid gleaned from the article courtesy the AP pointed out only Rhode Island topped Colorado in the percentage of residents who reported using pot. Rhode Island law allows for the use of 'medical' marijuana. Rhode Island, one fourth the size of the Texas Panhandle, with a population a roach more than one million souls... Must be a bunch of smokin' sick people in Rhode Island...

Courtesy the late Walter Cronkite, that's the way it is... Or was... Hard to believe folks that 2015 is nigh upon us. Happy New Year!

Pampa resident Dennis Palmitier is a regular, unpaid contributor to the opinion page on issues that affect Pampa and Gray County. His opinions and viewpoints do not reflect those of The Pampa News or The Pampa News' staff. He can be reached at denpalm1949@yahoo.com. Anyone wishing to respond to Palmitier's viewpoints in the form of a letter to the editor can email Editor John Lee at jlee@thepampanews.com.

Merry Christmas



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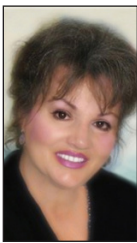
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# Bereavement and Healing

## Sadness is temporary, love is eternal

People die every day of the year, but if your loved one has died on, or just before a holiday, that holiday has forever changed. Unfortunately, as the years progress, your friends will forget, or not know, that your loved one died on a particular holiday. Through no fault of your own, this can make holiday cheer intolerable. It is important for you to realize and prepare yourself for this experience. Do not feel insecure or



**TRACY LEE**

shy over notifying your friends that the upcoming holiday will carry sadness and loneliness for you. Understanding that you may need to limit your exposure to parties, as well as other events, allows you to manage your exposure to your tolerance level, and allows your friends to understand what is happening. There is nothing wrong in doing this. As time progresses, so too will your ability to tolerate social activities. The pain of losing your loved one, will one day transfer into fond and loving memories. Once you cross this threshold, you will find you are again able to tolerate events with a

modicum of comfort and joy. Until that day, forewarning your friends, will offer them opportunities to reach out and help you move through the holiday with support and exposure levels that are comfortable for you. If you have suffered holiday loss, I extend my deepest condolences. The pain you feel at the loss of your loved one is brought on through the love you shared with them. Love is the most powerful emotion known to mankind. Because of its depth and power, it transcends all other emotions. The love in your heart is stronger than your sadness. This weaker emotion will one day make

way, allowing more powerful memories of love and happiness to replace it. Sadness is temporary, but love is eternal. My name is Tracy Renee Lee. I am a funeral director, author and professional speaker. I write books and weekly bereavement articles related to understanding and coping with grief. I am the American Funeral Director of the Year Runner-Up and recipient of the BBB's Integrity Award. I deliver powerful messages and motivate audiences in their "Pursuit of Excellence". It is my life's work to comfort the bereaved and help them live on. Please follow my blog at <http://pushin-up-daisies.blogspot.com/>, follow me on Twitter @PushUpDaisies and visit my website for additional encouragement, information or booking speeches at [www.QueenCityFuneralHome.com](http://www.QueenCityFuneralHome.com).

## For Obama, high ambitions, less power to achieve

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was intended as a joke. "Are you still president?" comedian Stephen Colbert asked Barack Obama earlier this month. But the question seemed to speak to growing weariness with the president and skepticism that anything will change in Washington during his final two years in office. Democrats already are checking out Obama's potential successors. Emboldened Republicans are trying to push aside his agenda in favor of their own. At times this year, Obama seemed ready to move on as well. He rebelled against the White House security "bubble," telling his Secret Service detail to give him more space. He chafed at being sidelined by his party during midterm elections and having to adjust his agenda to fit the political interests of vulnerable Democrats who lost anyway. Yet the election that was a disaster for the president's party may have had a rejuvenating effect on Obama. The morning after the midterms, Obama told senior aides, "If I see you moping, you will answer to me." People close to Obama say he is energized at not having to worry about helping — or hurting — Democrats in another congressional election on his watch. He has become more comfortable with his executive powers, moving unilaterally on immigration, Internet neutrality and climate change in the last two months. And he sees legacy-building opportunities on the international stage, from an elusive nuclear deal with Iran to normalizing relations with Cuba after a half-century freeze. "He gained some clarity for the next two years that is liberating," said Jay Carney, Obama's former press secretary. Still, pillars of Obama's second-term agenda — gun control, raising the federal

minimum wage, universal preschool — seem destined to stand unfulfilled. Wrapping up the Iraq and Afghanistan wars isn't turning out to be nearly the tidy success story Obama once envisioned. Even supporters say one of the president's top remaining priorities may have to be simply preventing Republicans from dismantling his earlier accomplishments, including the health care law. The Yes-We-Can man is entering a twilight of maybes, his presidency still driven by high ambitions but his power to achieve them running out. Before the midterm election results arrived, Obama's advisers say, the president realized he would finish his presidency with Republicans running Capitol Hill. He concluded the status quo would mean more gridlock. Indeed, 2014 had been another year of fits and starts for a White House that has struggled to find its footing in Obama's second term. The feeble HealthCare.gov website stabilized, but scandal enveloped the Veterans Affairs Department. Syria got rid of its chemical weapons, but a violent extremist group pulled the U.S. back into military conflict in the Middle East. The unemployment rate fell, but so did Obama's approval ratings — to the lowest levels of his presidency. Nearly two dozen White House officials, former Obama aides, presidential historians and political analysts discussed Obama's standing as he closes his sixth year in office, some on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss their conversations with the president or his top advisers. For much of the year, Obama appeared to struggle with the realization that his political standing had slipped. He publicly complained about criticism of his foreign

policy by pundits in Washington and New York. Despite pleas from his party to stay out of November's elections, he said his policies were indeed on the ballot. He desperately looked for ways to break free of the confines of the White House. Obama is realistically optimistic about what he can get done over the next two years, advisers say. He wants to try tax reform and sees opportunities to accelerate growth and job creation with the economy on firmer footing. Aides have reached out to historians and political scientists to solicit ideas for Obama's next State of the Union address. Yet the president is forging ahead as something of an isolated figure. Congressional Democrats are increasingly willing to go against him. And in the West Wing, Obama's

tight inner circle of loyal advisers keeps shrinking. The trio of political gurus who helped direct his presidential campaigns — David Axelrod, Robert Gibbs and David Plouffe — have moved on. And former chief of staff Rahm Emanuel is now the mayor of Chicago. Other longtime aides are eyeing exits. Bringing in fresh talent is getting harder. Obama is trying to branch out. He started keeping his version of a bucket list: the names of authors, business leaders, innovators and others he wants to bring to the White House for a private lunch or dinner. Those who have visited include inventor Elon Musk, business tycoon Doris Kearns Goodwin and AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, a major Republican donor.


## 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 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 Purpose meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at 112 W. Foster Ave.
  - **Alcoholics Anonymous** Keep It Simple meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Methodist church in White Deer.
  - **Pampa Caregiver Support** meets at the Pampa Nursing Center on 1321 W. Kentucky Ave. at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information call 806-669-2551.
  - **Accolade Home Care** sponsors a **Parkinson's Support Group** the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The group meets at Accolade at 1313 N. Hobart St. For more information, call Lindsey Presson at 806-665-9700 or 806-324-3230.

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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 S.

Gillespie St. in Pampa.

## PAWS meets first Tuesdays

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

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

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

## County Commission meetings

The Gray County Commission meets at 9 a.m. on the first and 15th of each month. If the date falls on a Saturday, the meeting will be held on Friday. If the date falls on a Sunday, the meeting will be held on Monday. The meetings are held on the second floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

## TOT Republican Women's Club

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

## Jam sessions every Friday night

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center has a jam session every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to play or listen. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler St. For more information, call 806-664-0824.

## Meredith House presents live music

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

## Monday night dance club

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

## PPQG Meets fourth Thursdays

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

The meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. and membership is open to adult quilters of all ages. Dues are \$15 annually. Meetings consist of a short business discussion followed by a program featuring quilting techniques. For more information, call 806-662-2909.

## Pampa Post VFW meetings

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

## CASA of the High Plains

CASA of the High Plains will be open from 6-7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month for persons interested in becoming a CASA Volunteer. The CASA

office is located in the Brown Alliance for Children at 315 N. Ballard Street in Pampa.

CASA volunteers are appointed by a Judge to represent the Best Interest of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Volunteers are crucial to positive outcomes for children in the foster care system.

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


## Church of the Nazarene

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

## McLean Dance Club NYE dance

There will be a New Year's Eve dance 2014 at the McLean Dance Club, located west of Hwy 273 on County Rd. Z. The dance will feature Blue Denim II and Friends Rick and Brenda and Dwight and Lee and Chino and Lucydean from 8 p.m. till after midnight. Single tickets are \$20 with set-ups available and couples' tickets are \$40. For more information or to make reservations call 806-205-6022. Early booking is encouraged.

*Editor's note: Email submissions to jcllee@thepampanews.com. Submissions should be 100 words or less and written in the third person. Please include the title of the event, the date and time, physical address, the admission cost or whether it is a free event and a contact number and/or email address for the public.*



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## 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

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

New life commits to reaching out to Pampa in all areas of the township with special emphasis to our Latino brothers and sisters. Our worship will be a reflection of our multi-ethnic mixture of disciples including Chris-

tian Latino music, contemporary music as well as the traditional hymns and songs of the church. Outreach will have as its goal to produce new believers who in turn are able to witness effectively and make disciples who will in turn continue this cycle. This will be effected through small group bible studies, both Bi-lingual services, and bibles."

Services are Sunday at 10 a.m. and Sundays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. **Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ**

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

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

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

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

For more information call 806-665-0031.

## First United Methodist Church

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

The weekly event will be at 5:30 p.m. at Gathering Space in the church.

For more information call 806-669-7411.

## McLean Cowboy Church

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

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

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

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

For more information, call 806-779-0260.

## Southside Church of Christ

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

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

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

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# PampaSports

## EXTRA INNINGS

### ■ Top 10 sports moments.

I am going to cover the top ten moments in sports from 2014 that



**ZACHARY GREEN**

#### takes the NCAA Championship.

I liked this one because UCONN was my cinderella pick, although I didn't have the guts to cement them into my official bracket as the champions, I was rooting for them the whole way.

#### No. 9 - LeBron returns to Cleveland.

were my favorite. Some of these will cover my favorite teams and are solely my opinion.

#### No. 10 - UCONN

I lost a lot of respect for LeBron when he went to Miami and probably would hate him forever had he chosen to stay there. Since he came home I give him a little forgiveness here.

#### No. 8 - Madison Bumgarner's World Series performance.

As a baseball fan he amazed a lot of people this October with his performance. Simply outstanding.

#### No. 7 - The College Football Playoff era begins.

I would rank this higher had the Big 12 not been snubbed, I understand the reasoning but it is frustrating nonetheless.

#### No. 6 - Derek Jeter retires.

You can't love baseball and not respect what Jeter did for the game. Class act.

#### No. 5 - Germany destroys Brazil.

A 7-1 victory in soccer is impressive, but to do it against the host nation and favorite to win the World Cup is simply special.

#### No. 4 - USA beats Russia.

Even though they lost to Canada in the finals, this was a great game.

I loved the T.J. Oshie shootout.

#### No. 3 - Odell Beckham's catch.

Would have been No. 2 if something else didn't happen to dethrone it.

I still consider David Tyree's helmet catch better than Beckhams.

#### No. 2 - Kevin Durant wins the MVP.

He accepted it with class and praised everyone but himself. He knew without God, his mother and teammates he wouldn't be where he is today.

#### No. 1 - Oklahoma State beats Oklahoma in overtime.

Would you really expect anything else from me?

OSU was the 21-28 point underdog and was down 14 points with five minutes to go.

What were your top moments of the season? Let me know and I will give you a shoutout next week.

*Zachary Green is the sports editor at The Pampa News and youth minister at the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ. He can be reached at zgreen@thepampanews.com or @okiecowpoke14 on Twitter.*

## Rodeo cowboy legend Alvin Nelson dies in Minnesota

WATFORD CITY, N.D. (AP)—Rodeo cowboy legend Alvin Nelson, a member of half a dozen halls of fame and North Dakota's only world champion saddle bronc rider for 24 years, has died. He was 80.

Nelson, of Grassy Butte, died Dec. 23 at a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, according to Fulkerson Funeral Home. His funeral is scheduled for Wednesday in Watford City, North Dakota.

Nelson won the saddle bronc world championship in 1957 at Madison Square Garden in New York. He qualified for five Wrangler National Finals Rodeos, winning the saddle bronc riding average at the finals in 1961 and 1962, and also the all-around title in 1961 in Dallas.

Nelson told the Minot Daily News in 2004 that he remembered his 1957 title well.

"The rodeo lasted three weeks in September, and at that time, it was the world's largest rodeo according to

prize money, number of spectators and the number of contestants," he said as he was preparing to be inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame.

"There were eight rounds. I split third and fourth on the first horse, won the second round, split first and second in the last two rounds to win \$4,234," he said. "This was the most money ever won in the saddle bronc riding at any one rodeo at the time, and this record stood until 1980."

Nelson was a member of the "six pack," a group of North Dakota bronc and bull riders who dominated the rodeo circuit in the 1950s. He is a member of two national rodeo halls of fame, as well as halls of fame in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Montana. He was a native of Moberge, South Dakota.

The Army veteran will be buried in Grassy Butte Cemetery with military honors.

## No mailing it in as Cowboys top Redskins 44-17

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — There was no mailing it in, no resting the starters. This edition of the Dallas Cowboys had worked too hard to end the regular season with another clunker, even if the result had no bearing on the playoff picture.

The Cowboys played to win and did so emphatically, beating the Washington Redskins 44-17 Sunday to cap a 12-4 season that firmly puts to rest the 8-8s of the last three years.

"I think for a core group of us that kind of took it on the chin for the last three years, we knew we had to go do it," tight end Jason Witten said. "And it wasn't about anybody else but us and going and proving that."

The Cowboys will host the Detroit Lions (11-5) next Sunday in the wild-card round, their first playoff appearance since 2009. There had been a slim chance of a first-round bye had other results on Sunday gone their way, but they'll more than settle for a 4-0 December in which they won every game by double digits.

Owner Jerry Jones told a story

from his childhood when asked about his team's recent late-season miseries. He said when he spilled something his father would say: "Jerry, you're going through the clumsy stage" — even if it was only an isolated incident and not any worse than anything he had done previously. It's hard, he concluded, to break a reputation.

"When you get those characteristics of faltering or fading in December, there's not but one way to cure it," Jones said. "It's when you need to grow right before people's eyes. Now this one should be in the vision of a lot of fans and media for a long time to come: Right before peoples' eyes, we have basically torn it up in December."

Here's more to know about Dallas' biggest win in the Cowboys-Redskins rivalry in 11 years:

**RECORDS FOR DeMARCO & DEZ:** DeMarco Murray ran for 100 yards and one touchdown on 20 carries to break Emmitt Smith's franchise single-season rushing mark. Murray ends the season with 1,845 yards, bettering Smith's 1,773 in

1995. Murray passed Smith during a 32-yard first-quarter run that included a nice change-of-direction in front of safety Ryan Clark.

It was also Murray's 12th 100-yard game this season, breaking another team mark held by Smith.

Also in the first quarter, Dez Bryant caught scoring passes of 65 and 23 yards to give him 16 touchdown receptions on the season, breaking Terrell Owens' team record of 15 set in 2007. The 65-yarder was a screen in which Bryant juke cornerback David Amerson at the line of scrimmage and took off for the end zone.

**ROMO'S MONTH:** Tony Romo completed 22 of 34 passes for 299 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. For the month, he completed 75 percent with 12 touchdowns and one interception, and his 114.4 season passer rating is sixth best in NFL history.

**SMOOTH ROAD:** The Cowboys became the sixth team with an 8-0 regular-season road record since the NFL adopted a 16-game schedule in 1978. Four of the other five advanced to the Super Bowl.

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Cincinnati at North Carolina State.....	ESPNU 3 p.m.
Maryland at Michigan State.....	ESPN2 4 p.m.
Davidson at Virginia.....	ESPNU 5 p.m.
Florida at Florida State.....	ESPN2 6 p.m.
Norfolk State at Baylor.....	FSSW 7 p.m.
Oklahoma State v. Missouri.....	ESPN2 8 p.m.

**College Football Bowls**

Notre Dame v. LSU.....	ESPN 2 p.m.
Georgia v. Louisville.....	ESPN 5:30 p.m.
Maryland v. Stanford.....	ESPN 9 p.m.

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Yale at Oklahoma.....	FCSC 7 p.m.
Houston Baptist at Texas Tech.....	FCS 7 p.m.

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## Bowl Pick'em Contest Update

### STAFF REPORT

The bowl season has been flying by. The following are standings updated through the games of Dec. 27. There were three games played on Monday, Dec. 29 after press time for this edition. Those games brought us to 21 that have been played out of 39.

We are at the halfway mark. Any name with an asterik by it cannot win the prize as they are The Pampa News' employees or family members. They are competing for fun. Best of luck the rest of the way.

Participant	Record
Patrick Kulle	14 - 4
Susan Tripplehorn	14 - 4
Zac Green*	14 - 4
Andy Lopez	13 - 5
Bert Encina	13 - 5
Greg Poynor	13 - 5
Keith Woods*	13 - 5
Kenny Maple	13 - 5
Martha Tiedt	13 - 5
Aaron Manous	12 - 6
Del Smith	12 - 6
Donna Bennett	12 - 6
Jana Vinson	12 - 6
Kaleb Snelgrooes	12 - 6
Tom Lindsey	12 - 6
Christie Eads	11 - 7
Herb Minton	11 - 7
Jarrett Waggoner	11 - 7
Jax Waggoner	11 - 7
Linda Perez	11 - 7
Nicolas Saucedo	11 - 7
Roger Tiedt	11 - 7
Seth Erickson	11 - 7
Shane Stokes	11 - 7
Bret Bethke	10 - 8
Brian Poynor	10 - 8
Cameron Johnston	10 - 8
Clara Achord	10 - 8
Clint Wood	10 - 8
Gary Turley	10 - 8
J.P. Wright	10 - 8
Jim and Louise Dills	10 - 8
Joel Baker	10 - 8
Logan Turley	10 - 8

Mike Erickson	10 - 8
Clyde Coffee	9 - 9
Jimmy Ellison	9 - 9
ReDonn Woods*	9 - 9
Roy Stephens	9 - 9
Willie Caldwell	9 - 9
Allen Jenkins	8 - 10
Donald Denham	8 - 10
Johnny Achord	8 - 10
Josh Kelley	8 - 10
Lindsey Tomaschik*	8 - 10
John Lee*	7 - 11
Melvin Ball	7 - 11
Tommy Burns	5 - 13

## Broncos whip Raiders 47-14 to earn first-round playoff bye

DENVER (AP) — The team that rolled into the Super Bowl on the strength of Peyton Manning's right arm last season doesn't look nearly as efficient through the air anymore.

The Denver Broncos couldn't be happier with the way they've morphed into a well-rounded team that can win in the wintry weather: with a dominant defense and a good ground game.

"I feel good about this team," Broncos coach John Fox said, adding he'll feel even better after "a week's rest."

The Broncos (12-4) secured the AFC's No. 2 seed and a first-round bye with a 47-14 whooping of the Oakland Raiders on Sunday in which Manning didn't throw a single touchdown pass.

While Manning was held out of the end zone for the second time this month — after throwing a touchdown pass for 51 consecutive games — C.J. Anderson ran for three touchdowns, one of which was set up by Omar Bolden's 76-yard kickoff return, Connor Barth kicked four field goals and cornerback Tony Carter capped a dominant day by the defense with a fumble return for a score.

"When you get all three phases of the game playing like we did today, we can be a dangerous team to stop," said Anderson, who has eight TD runs to Manning's five TD throws since Thanksgiving.

Anderson gained 87 yards on just 13 carries for a 6.7-yard average and finished the season with 1,173 yards from scrimmage despite not winning the starting tailback job until midseason.

"C.J.'s been great," Manning said. "He's been really solid and good in the passing game, good

in the pass protection and made a lot of big runs. The line's done a good job of springing him. It was good to get Ronnie (Hillman) back today. Those two guys can be a pretty good little 1-2 punch."

Hillman returned to the Broncos' backfield for the first time since spraining his left foot Nov. 9 and added 56 yards on 15 rushes.

Other takeaways from Denver's seventh straight win over the Raiders (3-13), who lost their 11th straight road game and missed the playoffs for the 12th consecutive season:

**WELCOME BREAK:** The Broncos had their bye way back in September and sorely need the extra week. Not only did Manning acknowledge he was "a little beat up physically," but safety David Bruton and left guard Orlando Franklin sustained concussions.

Demaryius Thomas (hand) and Emmanuel Sanders (back), who combined for 212 catches for 3,023 yards and 20 touchdowns, are ailing. And the bye week will allow top tackler Brandon Marshall (foot) and Pro Bowl safety T.J. Ward (neck) more time to get healthy.

"I feel like all the other players in the locker room, guys that have played 17 weeks of physical football," Manning said. "I think this bye week is coming at a good time."

**SPECIAL TEAMS:** The Broncos have found some spark in their return game after switching from Isaiah Burse to Wes Welker on punts and from Bubba Caldwell to Bolden on kickoffs.

Welker had punt returns of 18 and 19 yards and Bolden's 76-yard kickoff return set up a score

Sunday.

"I enjoy getting the ball in my hands," said Welker, whose 49 catches for 464 yards and two TDs represented his worst statistical season since 2005 in Miami.

**SAFETY INJURED:** Bruton was briefly hospitalized after being carted off the field following an illegal hit by Denico Autry while covering a punt return late in the game.

The team said Bruton sustained a concussion but was cleared of any other injuries.

As Bruton lay on the field receiving medical attention, his teammates and coach John Fox surrounded him. Before Bruton was carted off, Raiders quarterback Derek Carr patted him on the chest. Bruton waved to the crowd as he disappeared into the tunnel, drawing a large ovation.

**WELCOME BACK?:** The Raiders may be in the market for a new coach and starting free safety.

Or maybe not. Interim coach Tony Sparano is hoping to return in 2015, and one of his biggest supporters is 38-year-old Charles Woodson.

"I think the guys on this team, they actually believe in Coach Sparano," Woodson said. "He did a good job with the guys on a week-to-week basis, trying to get us ready for games, having us prepared as a team. I think he's made a good case."

Woodson thinks he made a good case to return for another season himself.

Notes: Brock Osweiler threw the first TD pass of his three-year career, a 1-yarder to Virgil Green, a first for the fourth-year tight end. ... Thomas broke Rod Smith's franchise record with 1,619 yards receiving.

## Bills quarterback Orton announces plans to retire

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Quarterback Kyle Orton has informed the Buffalo Bills that he plans to retire.

The team announced Orton's decision in a news release issued Monday, a day after the Bills (9-7) closed their season with a 17-9 win at New England.

The release was issued shortly after Bills players held end-of-season meetings.

The team issued a statement from Orton,

in which he calls retirement a "family decision," and says he wants to go home to be a father.

Orton went 7-5 in closing the season as the Bills starter.

The 10-year journeyman took over after EJ Manuel was benched following a 2-2 start.

Orton had one year left on a two-year contract he signed with Buffalo a little more than a week before the start of the season.

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# Ravens get new start in postseason; Browns regroup

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens are back in the playoffs, and they don't mind one bit that it took them until the final game of the regular season to get there.

It doesn't matter that they're the No. 6 seed, either. As far as Baltimore is concerned, at this point everyone is even.

"We all know the history. It's a 0-0 tournament right now," coach John Harbaugh said after Sunday's 20-10 win over Cleveland. "We've been on the road plenty of times in the playoffs as a group. We're as dangerous as anybody else, at least."

To qualify, the Ravens (10-6) needed to beat the Browns (7-9) and San Diego had to lose to Kansas City. That is precisely what happened, and now Baltimore is back in the postseason after missing out in 2013.

The Ravens open Saturday night in Pittsburgh.

"It feels good," said quarterback Joe Flacco, whose two fourth-quarter touchdown passes brought the Ravens back from a 10-3 deficit. "I remember sitting at home last year, a week from now, and it didn't feel very good."

The Browns, on the other hand, will have a long offseason to ponder what went wrong following a promising 7-4 start.

Owner Jimmy Haslam said coach Mike Pettine and general manager Ray Farmer "absolutely" will return next season. Between now and then, Pettine will have to straighten out some personnel issues, most notably the questionable behavior of rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel, rookie cornerback Justin Gilbert and suspended wide receiver Josh Gordon.

Some things worth nothing about the Browns-Ravens game:

**RUNNING WILD:** Ravens running back Justin Forsett ran for 119 yards and finished with 1,266 for the season.

His performance Sunday included a 32-yard run in the second quarter and carries of 27 and 26 yards over the final seven minutes.

"To open those runs up in the fourth quarter, to finish the game, that's what you need to do," Harbaugh said. "Especially this time of year."

With 17 carries of at least 20 yards, Forsett broke the single-season franchise record of 16 set by Jamal Lewis in 2001.

**SHAW SHINES:** With Cleveland quarterbacks Brian Hoyer and Manziel out with injuries, Connor Shaw went 14 for 28 for 177 yards in his NFL debut. He lost a fumble, threw an interception and was sacked four times.

"Being a rookie quarterback, I knew they were going to pin their ears back and bring some heat," Shaw said. "For the most part, I thought we handled it well. There were just a couple times where it was a coverage sack. When they put us in a third-and-long situation, it puts us in a bad spot."

**VOTE OF CONFIDENCE:** Pettine finished his first season at the Browns' helm with a 7-9 mark, and though there are question marks aplenty as heading into another offseason, safety Jim Leonhard thinks Cleveland has found a solution at head coach.

"Mike Pettine is the right coach to lead this team," Leonhard said after the final game of his 10-year NFL career. "Early on, we really turned things around. None of us wanted the season to end like this. Nobody is more upset about this than he is. This is the guy that will make this program get better."

**NGATA ON DECK:** The four-game suspension of Ravens defensive tackle Haloti Ngata ended Sunday, and Baltimore expects its exceptional run-stopper to start in Pittsburgh.

Ngata was suspended by the NFL for using the amphetamine Adderall without a prescription.

"I'm confident Haloti will be ready to go," Harbaugh said. "That's his job, to be ready to go. I'm confident he'll do it. He has done it before. He has been there; he knows what's at stake."

Rookie Timmy Jernigan, who replaced Ngata over the past month, hurt his foot Sunday and will have an MRI on Monday to determine his status for the playoffs.

"It's very unfortunate about Timmy Jernigan, but he's young," linebacker Terrell Suggs said. "But it's great to get my brother back, to (get) one of the leaders of this team back. That's huge for us."

**PLAYING ILL:** Though he was cleared to play after a shoulder injury, Browns defensive back Joe Haden battled flu-like symptoms to make three tackles Sunday.

"That's the kind of guy he is," Pettine said. "He could have just said, 'No, I missed the last game, I'll go ahead and miss this one, too, and head into the offseason and get healthy.' He went out there under the weather, clearly. I know he banged his shoulder on one play in the end zone, but he's a warrior."

Said Haden: "I feel like if I'm out there and doing what I have to do under the weather and hurting, it should just make other people on the team see that and hopefully do the same."

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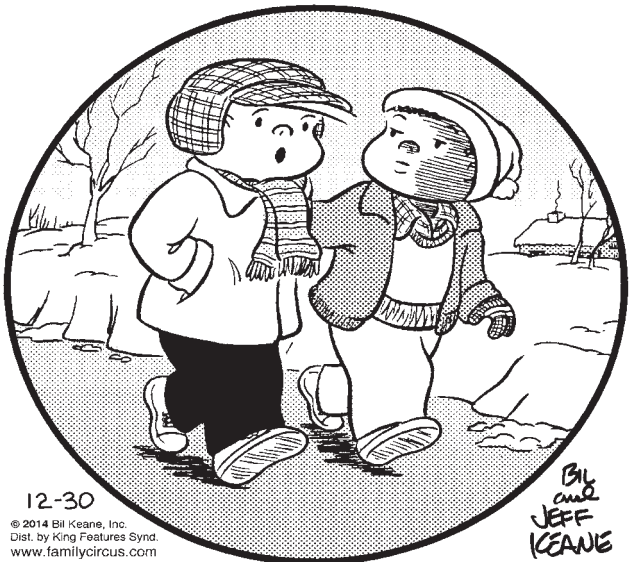
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# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-30

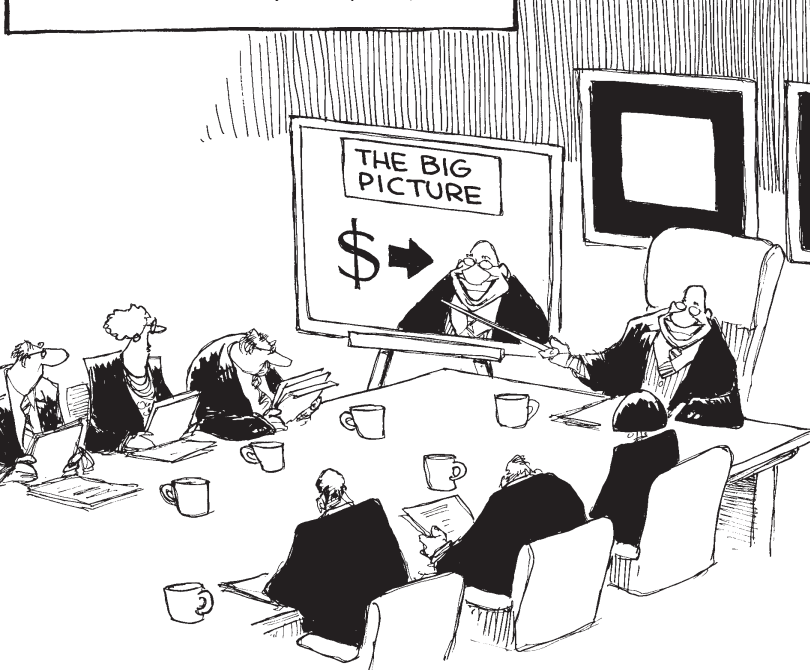
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"I'm gonna try to stay up till midnight tomorrow, but I don't really know why."

## Non Sequitur

### The CLARITY of GRAPHICS



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## Nest Heads



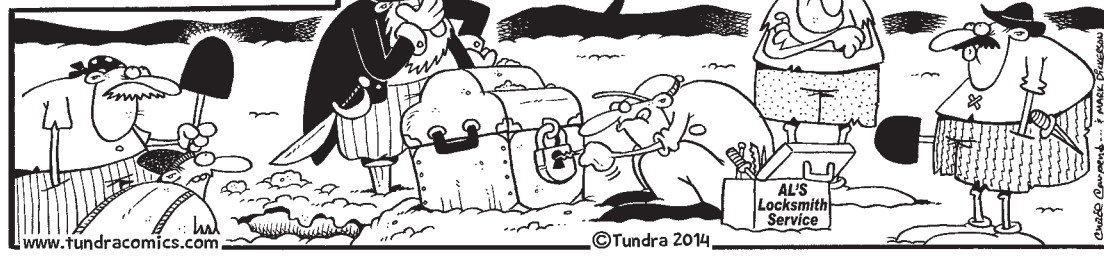
# daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014:  
This year you open up to many new ideas. You also become quite adventurous. In the next few months, risk-taking and breaking past restrictions that no longer make sense will open you up even more. As you become more accepting, your relationships will transform. If you are single, you will have the opportunity to change your status. If you are attached, you and your partner create an even more intimate bond, as you seem to be less defensive. **TAURUS** knows how to push your buttons.  
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)  
★★★★ Rather than eye a situation with remorse, take a deep breath and make your resolutions. You'll feel empowered right now, and resolutions stand a chance at becoming a reality. Make time for a friend if you would like to bypass a problem. Tonight: Stay present in the moment.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
★★★★★ Everyone will be unusually aware of your choices, yet they might question where you are going. Know that you make a difference, and that others tend to be observant of you. Someone might express some jealousy toward you. Be nice. Tonight: Cheer in the new year!  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
★★★ You might not be in the mood to be around others this New Year's Eve. Instead, you might opt to invite a dear friend over. One-on-one relating is likely to take this relationship in a new direction. Tonight: Use the pre-midnight hours to let go of any hassles.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
★★★★★ You could be in a new situation and not realize what is happening. Stay on top of a personal matter, and don't lose sight of your priorities. You will feel a lot happier that way. Maintain your sense of humor. Tonight: Do not hesitate -- just dive right in.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
★★★ You might be in the middle of a very lively situation. You could make changes swiftly because of what you perceive as a problem. A partner seems to be looking back on the past year in order to determine what he or she wants now. Tonight: A major force in ringing in 2015.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
★★★★ Take a leap of faith and christen 2015 in a new way that reflects you and who you are. Others will be unusually responsive to your ideas. Be aware of your limits and your choices. You could be far busier than you might have anticipated. Tonight: Nap, then decide.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
★★★★ Honor changing times, despite a loved one's resistance. You might feel as if you can't do much more, but you'll keep trying anyway. Try not to bicker about plans or major life decisions. You don't want to start 2015 in a bad mood. Tonight: Someone wants to kiss and make up.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
★★★★ Defer to a friend, as he or she will be up for calling the shots. You know that no one else can claim your power, so you don't need to get into petty fights about the details. This person will be able to carry out the responsibility with grace. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
★★★★ You'll want to move forward with a project, no matter how irrelevant it may seem. Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with an angry person. Understand that he or she could be dealing with hurt feelings. Don't react -- just listen. Tonight: You could go way overboard.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
★★★★ You are all personality right now. You also have the ability to make a big difference to a loved one who wants to celebrate the new year with you. Indulge this person, and he or she will remember you for this effort. Be aware of how much you are spending. Tonight: Your treat.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
★★★★ You might be stopped by a situation that might not be as dramatic as you think it is. Your sense of direction will point you to a new path. Curb a tendency to be irritable. You might have reason to feel this way, but giving yourself a little space would be best. Tonight: At home.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
★★★★★ Return calls, and understand that everyone around you is feeling festive. A moment of sadness might come over you as you review part of the passing year. Don't stay stuck on that feeling. Move on, and greet 2015 with a big smile. Tonight: Where you are, the party is.

## Tundra

### EMBARRASSING MOMENTS IN PIRATE HISTORY



## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grim



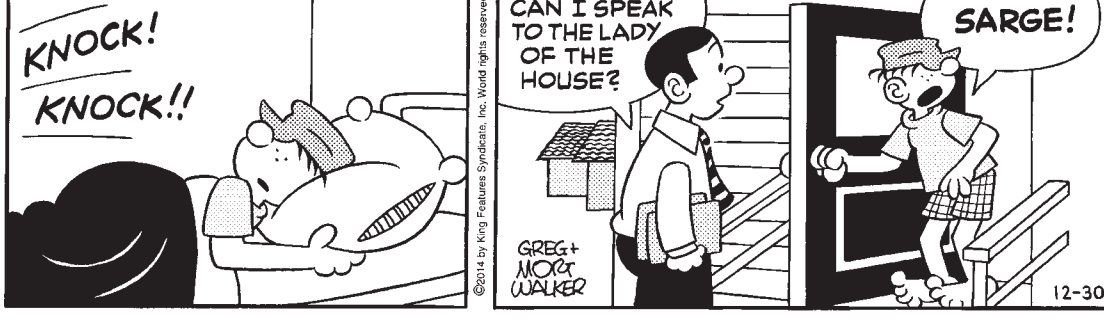
## Zits



## Garfield



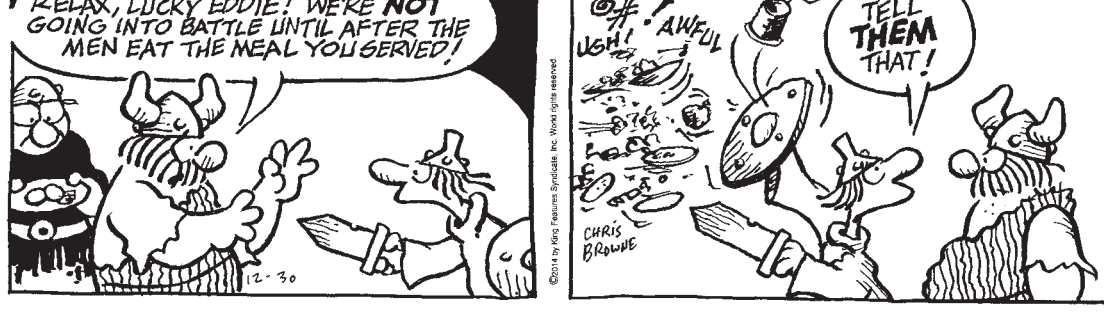
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Hagar The Horrible

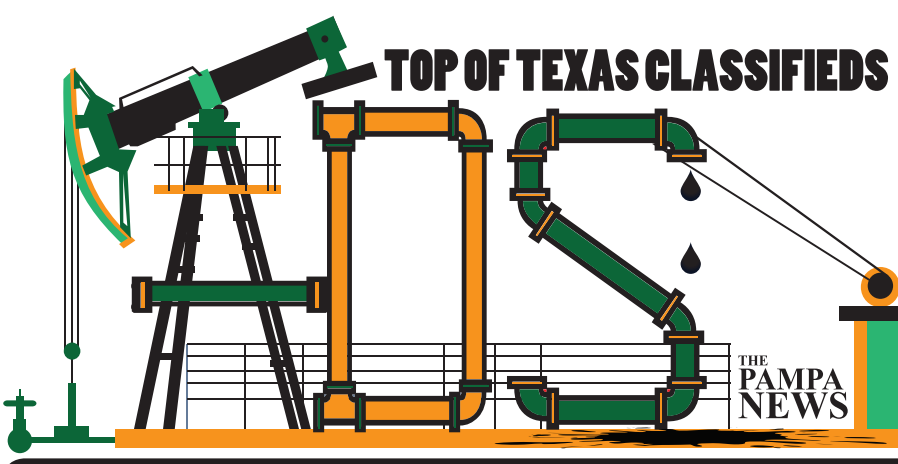


## Peanuts



## Blondie





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**CROSSWORD**  
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | <b>DOWN</b>                   |
| 1 Last Greek letter                  | 1 Poet Khayyám                |
| 6 Truman's hometown                  | 2 Prepare potatoes            |
| 11 Spiked weapons                    | 3 Canyon sound                |
| 12 Sports setting                    | 4 Tooth-paste type            |
| 13 "Jericho" actress                 | 5 "Yours truly" alternative   |
| 15 Letter after pi                   | 6 Survived                    |
| 16 Dog doc                           | 7 Rainbow shape               |
| 17 Tiny                              | 8 Cat call                    |
| 18 Heredity units                    | 9 Poker payment               |
| 20 Beer type                         | 10 Velocity                   |
| 23 Calendar markings                 | 14 Longing                    |
| 27 Oodles                            | 18 Invitation to a hitchhiker |
| 28 Tiny amount                       | 19 Pious sort                 |
| 29 Army doc                          |                               |
| 31 Massage                           |                               |
| 32 Tag player's cry                  |                               |
| 34 French friend                     |                               |
| 37 Cow call                          |                               |
| 38 "My country — of thee"            |                               |
| 41 "Exodus: Gods and Kings" director |                               |
| 44 Cove                              |                               |
| 45 Asian peninsula                   |                               |
| 46 Title documents                   |                               |
| 47 Offensively vile                  |                               |

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

**Yesterday's answer**

20 Hurried flight	33 Stocking stuffer
21 Pub pint	34 Like a desert
22 Zeus or Apollo	35 Coal source
24 Foot part	36 Not busy
25 Letter after zeta	38 Singer Amos
26 Feeling down	39 Gossip bit
30 Astro-nomical sightings	40 Remain
31 News-stands	42 Went first
	43 Gen.'s underling

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11						12				
13					14					
15				16			17			
			18				19			
20	21	22				23		24	25	26
27							28			
29				30			31			
				32		33				
34	35	36		37				38	39	40
41				42				43		
44								45		
46								47		

12-30

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.

**12-30 CRYPTOQUOTE**

J Q G Q F F Q L M H J R S Y M F H J  
X I C V W B C N S Q Y C J R F S S  
R T V K F S K C V K H M E J A - Y M U S  
B C N S X Q Q W . L F M J S C N Q Q K  
Q V S . — X F C K B C M H I S A

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** THEN SING, YOUNG HEARTS THAT ARE FULL OF CHEER, WITH NEVER A THOUGHT OF SORROW; THE OLD GOES OUT, BUT THE GLAD YOUNG YEAR COMES MERRILY IN TOMORROW. — EMILY MILLER

**Sudoku**

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Advanced

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## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: “Left Out in Florida” (Sept. 2) feels it is inconsiderate of her daughter-in-law to speak only her native language (not English) with her children in front of their grandparents. You advised that the mother should speak English in this situation. My son attends a bilingual immersion school, and I have experience with this issue. I have attended lectures about raising bilingual children. It is extremely difficult to pass on a language other than Eng-

lish to kids living in America. As the children grow, they will be increasingly drawn to English. The most successful families are those who do exactly what the mom in the letter is doing. They speak only their native language with their children and are very persistent about it. This is the recommendation of the experts in the field.

What should also be happening is translation for others when necessary. Ideally, there is a level of support from family and friends who understand what a worthwhile, yet difficult, task this is. Grandparents don't need to understand everything that is said, and their job is to speak English with the youngsters so they become truly bilingual.

Bilingualism is an incredible gift to give a

child. It goes beyond just learning another language. It broadens mental development, thought patterns and world perspective. It must be done during childhood while the brain is still pliable, and continue until adulthood or the language will be lost.

These parents obviously understand the value of what they are doing. I hope the grandparents will support it. — BILINGUAL MOM IN OREGON

**DEAR BILINGUAL MOM: Thank you for lending your insight. I heard from others who, like you, have firsthand knowledge on this issue:**

DEAR ABBY: My son also married a woman from another country. She has spoken only her native tongue to my granddaughter from day one. My son speaks English to his daughter. My daughter-in-law speaks English to me.

I care for the little girl three days a week.

She's 4 and completely bilingual. I thank my lucky stars that she has this opportunity. And I'm glad for her other grandparents, who do not live in this country or speak English, but can communicate with her. I don't worry that they're secretly talking about me. “Left Out” should be grateful her grandkids have this huge advantage. — JEAN IN MILLERSVILLE, MD.

DEAR ABBY: I wish you had suggested to “Left Out” that she and her husband try to learn the language of their grandchildren. It's not difficult to learn a few foreign conversational phrases, or even be able to carry on a coherent conversation using free or inexpensive tools available at the library or online.

Of course, in order to do that, they have to want to reach out and make the effort. Perhaps if they did, the daughter-in-law might feel a little more welcoming and less distant.

Ever since my grandkids started attending a bilingual school, I have been studying to try to keep up with them, and so have the other grandparents. Communication is a two-way street! — JUDI IN ELGIN, S.C.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

### BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

LEVEL

L A E U I Y U  
C W D G Y C H A

BANANA BITE: Clear-thinking

BANANA BITE: A question

Yesterday's Answer: TRAGIC, HEEHAW, UPLOAD 12.30

**BY GIVING JUST A FEW HOURS OF MY DAY I HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING BECAUSE I DON'T JUST WEAR THE SHIRT, I LIVE IT. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED®**

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# Police boss urges more dialogue, less rhetoric

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's police commissioner called for a "lot less rhetoric and a lot more dialogue" to defuse the tension between police officers and the population they protect.

Commissioner William Bratton, speaking on NBC's "Meet The Press" on Sunday, a day after the funeral for one of two police officers gunned down in their patrol car, said the "pent-up frustrations" that have caused people to take to the streets in recent weeks go far beyond policing policies across the nation.

"This is about the continuing poverty rates, the continuing growing disparity between the wealthy and the poor. It's still about unemployment issues. There are so many national issues that have to be addressed that it isn't just policing, as I think we all well know," he said.

Bratton said rank-and-file officers and much of America's police leadership feels under attack, including "from the federal government at the highest levels."

He urged: "See us. See the police. See why they have the anxieties and the perceptions they have."

Bratton also appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation," where he defended Mayor Bill de Blasio, saying it was wrong for hundreds of police officers to turn their backs to a video monitor outside a Queens church as de Blasio spoke at the funeral of Officer Rafael Ramos.

"I certainly don't support that action," he said. "That funeral was held to honor Officer Ramos. And to bring politics, to bring issues into that event, I think, was very inappropriate."

Some police officers blame de Blasio for creating an atmosphere of negativity toward the New York Police Department in the city after a grand jury declined to charge an officer in the police chokehold death of Eric Garner on Staten Island.

Bratton acknowledged that the morale of officers is low and said their actions "unfortunately" reflected the feelings of some toward the mayor.

The gesture at Ramos' funeral came amid contentious contract negotiations with the city. The rank-and-file police union did not claim credit for the symbolic protest, and its head, Patrick Lynch, repeatedly dodged reporters' attempts to ask about it after Ramos' funeral.

It was not clear if officers planned to turn their backs on de Blasio again at a service next weekend for Ramos' partner, Officer Wenjian Liu. His funeral is set for Sunday at a Brooklyn funeral home, after a viewing Saturday.

The silent protest was a continuation of the defiance shown at a hospital after the officers' slayings on Dec. 20, when Lynch and others turned their backs on de Blasio. Lynch said the mayor had "blood on his hands."

Bratton said de Blasio was "totally supportive" of

officers and had contributed hundreds of millions of dollars outside the department's budget this year, much of it focused on officer safety enhancements.

After Bratton, former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told the CBS program that it was wrong for officers to turn their backs on de Blasio or to try to blame him for officers' deaths.

But he also said de Blasio should apologize to the police department because he "created an impression with the police that he was on the side of the protesters."

"Say you're sorry," Giuliani urged.

De Blasio stayed out of sight Sunday, staging no public events and continuing to let Bratton hold center stage in the week since the double murder.

The five city police unions will meet with Bratton

this week.

Ramos and his partner, Wenjian Liu, were shot to death as they sat in their patrol car in daylight. After the officers' deaths, the gunman, Ismaiyil Brinsley killed himself. Police said he was troubled and had shot and wounded an ex-girlfriend in Baltimore earlier that day.

In online posts shortly before the attack, Brinsley referenced the killings of two black men by white police officers.

Bratton said the department had recently investigated more than 50 reports of threats against officers, closing out over half of them with nine arrests, and had warned officers to be alert to potential dangers. More than 20,000 officers attended Ramos' funeral, along with Vice President Joe Biden.

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