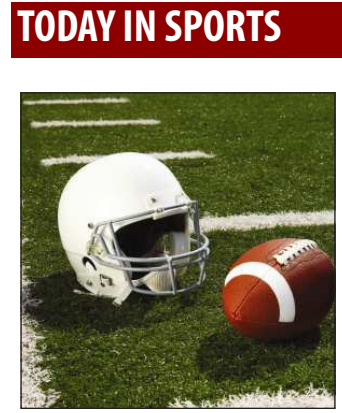


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The PAMPA NEWS



Tuesday, December 3, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 169

75¢ Mike Sublett's Advent devotionals p6-7
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription
Zac Green: Why a quarterback is important
 'John Lee's Likes and Gripes' | pB1-2

Annual Tralee Tree of Blessing all set for the holiday season



Photos by Lindsey Tomaschik

Tralee Crisis Center put up its annual Tralee Tree of Blessing on Monday, pictured left. Right, Cinthia Cordova-Perez strings together additional ornaments for the tree. The foundation has been doing this special Christmas tree for more than 15 years to provide the community with a way to be a blessing for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in their time of sadness and need. Those interested in helping the cause can stop by the center during regular office hours from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at 310 S. Cuyler St. and choose one or more of the ornaments from the Tree of Blessing. Written on each ornament is a family's Christmas wish or need. Gifts are due back to Tralee Crisis Center by Dec. 20 to be delivered to recipients in time for the holiday. Donations are also welcome. For more information on the Tralee Tree of Blessing, call 806-669-1131.

El Mejor Mexican restaurant burglarized

BY TIMOTHY P. HOSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

A third business in Pampa was burglarized last week. El Mejor Mexican Cafe y Cantina at 311 W. Brown St. was broken into sometime between Wednesday night and Thursday morning last week. Someone was able to gain access to the business by throwing a rock through a window, said Officer Jason Collier, a spokesman for the Pampa Police Department. Several electronic items, football memorabilia and the store's credit card machine were taken, according to PPD. "We believe this is tied in with the other two burglaries," Collier said. Last week, thieves broke into World Finance and Hastings, both located on North Hobart Street, and stole electronics equipment. Collier said all three break-ins are under investigation. "We don't have any main suspects but we are still looking at a few things," he said. Anyone with information about the crimes should call Crime Stoppers at 806-669-2222 or PPD at 806-669-5700.



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare
 El Mejor Mexican Cafe y Cantina on West Brown Street was the third Pampa business to be burglarized last week. In all three break-ins, electronic equipment was stolen.

County Commissioners agree on aerial road crossing

STAFF REPORT

The County Commissioners Court on Monday voted to approve an agreement proposed by Miami Wind I, LLC to install power lines that will cross five county roads. Crossings will be at the intersections of County Road J and County Road 26, County Road E and County Road 29 and on County Road O. While Commissioner Gary Willoughby expressed concerns for the land owners who do not want the lines to cross on their property, specifics were worked out when a representative from In-venegy brought out the maps with the proposed route of the lines printed on them. Commissioner Jeff Haley suggested that the agreement have some more specifics regarding the responsibilities of the county. The lines will be between 100 and 140 feet from the ground and will be strung mainly from the ground, requiring some by air, and they are expected to have a minimal effect on traffic. The Commissioners voted to approve the agreement with **AERIAL** cont. on page 5

Company cited, fined for demolition accident

BY TIMOTHY P. HOSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

A Stephenville company has been cited by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the death of a worker at the Pampa Energy Center. Ironrock Resources, Inc. was cited for not providing a training program for employees potentially exposed to fall hazards. The accident occurred Feb. 9. The citation stated that each employee on a walking or working surface 6 feet or more above lower levels was not protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system or personal fall arrest system. OSHA ranked the infraction as a serious violation. It also directed the company to pay a \$2,800 fine and to take corrective action to prevent future incidents. Jesus J. Ramirez-Chavez, of Pampa, was killed after a portion of a building collapsed. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Another worker was **COMPANY** cont. on page 5



Photo courtesy of Amarillo Channel 10 News

Roberts County man killed in U.S. 60 crash

STAFF REPORT

A Miami man was killed in a two-vehicle crash around 7:30 a.m. on U.S. Highway 60 in Roberts County, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Christopher Troy Blanton, 43, was pronounced dead at Pampa Regional Medical Center by Judge Tresa Seuhs. Blanton's next of kin has been notified. Blanton was driving a 1995 Suzuki Swift. The second vehicle was a 1998 **CRASH** cont. on page 2

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 Social Security & You 6A



Crash

Continued From Page 1

Chevrolet pickup truck

driven by Brian Don Taylor of Merkel.

Taylor was traveling west and Blanton was traveling east on U.S. Highway 60 when Taylor crossed the

center line into the path of Blanton, according to the DPS report. The vehicles crashed in the eastbound lane and came to rest in the south barrow ditch, the re-

port states. No details on Taylor's condition were in the report. The crash occurred near mile marker 408.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High 68 Low 25	High 39 Low 21	High 24 Low 13

Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 68. Winds west at 18 mph. Sunrise at 7:37 a.m.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low of 25. Winds north-northwest at 16 mph. Sunset at 5:31 p.m.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a high of 39. Chance of precipitation: 10 percent. Winds east-northeast at 13 mph. Sunrise at 7:38 a.m.

Wednesday night: Mostly cloudy with a low of 21. Chance of precipitation: 10 percent. Winds northeast at 12 mph. Sunset at 5:31 p.m.

Thursday: Snow showers with a high of 24. Chance of snow: 30 percent. Winds northeast at 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:39 a.m.

Thursday night: Few snow showers with a low of 13. Chance of snow: 30 percent. Winds northeast at 12 mph. Sunset at 5:31 p.m.

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Obituaries

Michael Dee Hawkins

Michael Dee Hawkins, 65, lost his battle with cancer on Friday Nov. 29 2013.

Michael Dee Hawkins was born in Pampa, Texas Dec 8, 1947 to R.D. "Red" and Maxine Hawkins. Dee attended the Pampa schools, Woodrow Wilson, Pampa Junior High and Pampa High graduating in 1966. He attended West Texas State University and graduated in 1970. He was accepted into Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla. for the U.S. Navy where he was trained as a navigator for Naval aircraft. An unusual condition kept him from going into high altitudes. He was moved to Naval Investigations and served as a plain clothes agent in the Naval Investigation Service. After his honorable discharge from the Navy, he became a marketing director for Baxter Laboratories in Chicago. He missed the Texas Panhandle and returned to Amarillo in 1978. He was founder and owner of Hawkins Trailer and Equipment Company in Amarillo for 35 years. He also owned and operated Rockhound Supply and was very active in the Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society. He was a District Director for the Hugh O'Brian Foundation, and volunteered for non-profit organizations that worked with children.

He is survived by his mother Maxine Hawkins, his beautiful wife Karen Hawkins, his brother Tom Hawkins and sister-in-law Mary. He is also survived by his son Nickolas Hartwell, and stepchildren, Shantel, A.J. and Tyson Hartwell.

Funeral services were held Monday with interment following at Memory Gardens Cemetery. Arrangements by LaGrone Blackburn-Shaw Funeral Home 8310 S. Coulter Road, Amarillo.



Michael Dee Hawkins

the Lefors Credit Union. Walter worked in the oilfield for many years, retiring from Chevron.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Jackson of the home, a daughter, Karen Gordon and husband Ron of Clarkston, Washington, a son, Larry Jackson of Lefors, a sister, Lorena Bryan of Amarillo, two brothers, James Jackson and wife Louise of Fresno, Calif., and Johnny Jackson and wife Marla of Laverne, Okla., five grandchildren, Michelle Samuelson and husband Michael of Salt Lake City, Utah, Dustin Gordon of Clarkston, Wash., Jason Gordon and wife Ashleigh of Kellogg, Idaho, Larry Lee Jackson, and Sonia Jackson of Borger, two great-grandchildren, Jack Gordon of Kellogg, Idaho and Makayla Samuelson of Salt Lake City, Utah, three nephews who were raised as sons, Russell Jackson and wife Diana of Amarillo, Barry Jackson and wife Lendi of Lefors, and Mike Jackson and wife Sabrina of Albuquerque, N.M., three great-nephews, Josh Jackson and wife Darby of Pampa, Cory Jackson and wife Alex, and Drake Jackson and wife Bailey, all of Amarillo, and two great-nieces, Katisha Sumner and husband Shane of Spearman, and Emily Sprouse and husband Jeremy of Hobbs, N.M.

Memorials may be made to Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, Texas 79065.

The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Home in Pampa from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013.

Sign the online guest register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Christopher Troy Blanton

Christopher Troy Blanton, 43, died in Roberts County on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, at the United Methodist Church in Miami, with Rev. Anthony Inman, pastor, officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Blanton was born Dec. 29, 1969 in Lockney. He had been a resident of Miami for the past four years, moving from Fairfax, Okla. Christopher was employed by Nick Thomas Construction, LLC as a diesel mechanic. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and repairing things. His jokes and his smile will be missed by all. He was preceded in death by his mother, Janie Blanton in 2009.

Survivors include his wife, Joann Blanton of the home, a daughter, Santana Mann of Pampa, three sons, Lane Blanton of Lawton, Okla., Justin Mann of Pensacola, Fla. and Christopher Drexil of Miami, a sister, Mary Sires and husband Brandon, two brothers, Kurt Blanton of Atlanta, Ga., and Robert Hooten of Miami, and his father, Randall Blanton of Lubbock.

Sign the online guest register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Walter Lee Jackson

Walter Lee Jackson, 82, died Dec. 1, 2013 in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, at Central Baptist Church in Pampa, with the Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in Memorial Heights Cemetery in Lefors, under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Jackson was born Dec. 3, 1931 in Erick, Okla. to Henry and Hettie Coley Jackson. He married Betty Lou Goldsmith on Oct. 24, 1951 in Sayre, Okla. Walter had been a resident of Lefors since 1952. He was a deacon at both the First Baptist Church in Lefors and Central Baptist Church in Pampa. He was a 41-year volunteer with

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For the record

Several arrested on alcohol, drug charges over holiday weekend

STAFF REPORT

- Hector Balderas Duran, 25, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the Pampa Police Department for assault with intent to cause bodily injury to a family member.
- Keenan Wyatt Odell, 18, Pampa, was arrested Friday by PPD for two capias pro

fine charges.

- Ann Lorane Price, 47, Pampa, was arrested Friday by PPD for theft of property.
- Eli Jay Green, 34, Pampa, was arrested Friday by PPD for possession of marijuana.
- April Joe McCown Green, 25, Pampa, was arrested Friday by PPD for possession of marijuana.
- Joy Dawn Gray, 24, Skellytown, was arrested Friday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for no driver's license, failure to appear.
- Steven Wayne Walker, 22, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by the Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated.
- Benjamin Eugene Crocker, II, 51, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance.
- Cory James Copeland, 31, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by PPD for theft of

property.

- Nesha Norenda Wright, 22, Amarillo, was arrested Saturday by GCSO for manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance.
- Jesus Maria Velasquez, Jr., 44, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by PPD for capias pro fine.
- Stanley Bench, 38, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by GCSO for manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance, capias pro fine — failure to appear.
- Travis Frank Berryman, 30, Skellytown, was arrested Saturday by PPD for criminal trespassing.
- Kermit Kenneth Hartley, 44, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by PPD for possession of marijuana, blue warrant.
- David Kyle Weller, 32, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by DPS for driving while intoxicated.

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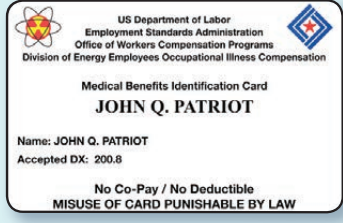
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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Mondays and all national holidays by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa,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

Publisher: ReDonn Woods	Subscription Rates – Mail Delivery
Managing Editor: Tim Howsare	1 year \$114.00
Sports Reporter: John Lee	6 months \$59.00
Reporter/Intern: Lindsey Tomaschik	3 months \$28.50
Advertising: Callie Odell	1 month \$9.50
Business Manager: Carrie Hair	Mail Subscriptions – Outside of Gray County
Circulation: Beverly Taylor	1 year \$114.00
	6 months \$65.00
	3 months \$35.00

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Aerial

Continued From Page 1

knowledge that the specifics will be added.

The Commissioners also considered the possibility of leasing surface rights at the McLean Airport. Haley will draft a lease agreement for the next meeting. The specifics of the agreement still need to be worked out, and Willoughby expressed concerns of hunting on the land and the liability of the county

if it is leased. The Commissioners also considered the idea of installing grass on the land to decrease the amount of dirt blowing in the air. The only problem with this is that there is no water on the property.

Although an executive session was scheduled to consider the lease agreement on Gray County School lands in Gaines County, Judge Richard Peet and the Commissioners delayed the session until the next meeting.

Other approved items on the agenda include:

- Paying bills and salaries

as approved by the County Auditor.

- Considering budget amendments and line item transfers.

- Opening insurance requests for proposals at 10 a.m. from Duncan Fraser and Bridges Insurance Agency, Inc.

- Filling a part time vacancy in the county veterans' office.

The next Gray County Commissioners Court will be at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 16 in the second floor courtroom of the Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell St.

Company

Continued From Page 1

critically injured.

The collapse at the former Celanese plant, which was being demolished, caused Ramirez-Chavez and another worker to fall approximately 40 feet.

The accident at occurred a few weeks after the groundbreaking for a G2X Energy plant that will convert natural gas into methanol and gasoline. Finished methanol will be shipped from the plant via rail car or tanker trucks.

Houston-based G2X Energy is leasing a subsec-

tion of property owned by the Pampa Energy Center to build the facility, which is expected to have a \$155 million impact on the local economy.

G2X said it will create more than 200 part-time and full-time jobs.

G2X Energy spokesman Trey Fielder said in June that the OSHA investigation has had no impact on the company's timeline for opening the plant, which is June or July 2014.

"We quit operations for two days to allow OSHA full access to the property, but it has not impacted our schedule," he told The Pampa News.

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Advent: 25 Days of Celebration — Week 1

By Mike Sublett

Instructions: Each day, beginning Dec. 1, read the devotional for that day and then slowly pray the prayer that follows. See for yourself what God will do in your life through Advent. Remember: the earlier in the day the better.

Day 1 — Nazareth

The greatest story ever told begins in a completely unexpected place — a tiny, obscure village west of the Sea of Galilee called Nazareth. Today nearly 70,000 people reside there, but in Jesus' day its population was less than 500. Little was expected of its residents, certainly not greatness. That is why so many fellow Jews made fun of all who lived there by asking, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Nazareth had no famous citizens in all its history, no renowned buildings or temples, it wasn't on any major road, it had no vital export. It basically just took up space. That is until the day came which is described in Luke 1:26-38. Everything for Nazareth changed that day.

Have you ever felt like you are just taking up space? Do you consider yourself insignificant, of no special value? If so, then ADVENT is most definitely for you. ADVENT is the story of the coming of Jesus Christ into this world to bring salvation to all who would surrender to Him. Just as Nazareth began a transformation that day, you can begin a transformation today. How? Surrender.

Prayer: Father God, I want to become much more than I ever have been before; I want to be transformed like Nazareth was after Jesus came to live there. I want Jesus to come

and live in me. I know He will want to make a lot of changes, and I want You to know that I look forward to the renovations He has planned. Amen.

Day 2 — the betrothal

Even though life in Nazareth wasn't significant to anyone throughout the rest of Galilee, life did still go on for the citizens of the tiny town, even a few special moments. One of those extraordinary times flowed into the lives of a young woman named Mary and a man named Joseph. They were "betrothed."

Many try to translate this term into English with the word "engaged." But Jewish betrothal of the first century was not like our modern engagement at all.

Sadly in our times, most couples have had a long standing sexual relationship before they are even engaged. Then engagement only means, "I think I want to marry you one day." Modern engagement can be dissolved at any time with no legal repercussions. Not so with "betrothal" in the times of Jesus.

Betrothal was legally and morally just like being married, with the exception of living together. For the first year, the man and woman didn't live together and yes, that meant no sexual contact for that year. Then, after the first year, the "home-taking" took place. The husband came and took his wife into his house and together they made it a home. Can you imagine that kind of commitment and faithfulness to another person?

Jesus came to make that exact degree of commitment to anyone/everyone who would choose Him as their Lord. He promises to be completely faithful to His followers and even calls them His bride. How-

ever, Jesus will not kick open the door of anyone's heart. Each person must personally open the door to his or her heart so that He can enter. Have you opened your heart to Jesus and invited Him to enter and revamp you in any way He pleases? Think about it.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I want to be totally committed to You, not with half my heart, but with my whole heart. Please enter the door of my heart that I have opened for You. I am Yours. Do with me as You please. And Lord, thank You so very much for caring enough about me to enter this fallen world and offer Yourself as the necessary sacrifice. May my life bring You praise every day. Amen.

Day 3 — the announcement

Today if someone wants to make a special announcement it will most likely show up on Facebook or Twitter or arrive via some electronic device (i.e. cell phone).

The very first earthly announcement of the ADVENT of Jesus burst on the scene through something much more spectacular than any of our modern technologies. It came directly from the mouth of Gabriel, one of Jehovah's archangels.

Think about that: one of God's generals brought the announcement in person. And his presence was so brilliant and impressive that he had to tell Mary not to be afraid. Just the sight of him made humans tremble.

Notice in Luke 1:30 that

Mary's fears were put to rest when she was told, "You have found favor with God." Before she actually received the message of the announcement, Gabriel calmed her fear with a dose of God's approval.

God wants to do the same with you too. He wants to calm your fears by letting you know that you too have found His favor. That is the whole reason behind this greatest of all announcements: THE RESCUE OF FALLEN HUMANS! YOUR RESCUE!

Prayer: Holy Father God, the majesty of this announcement of Jesus' ADVENT takes my breath away. You sent Your number one messenger to proclaim His coming so that I wouldn't miss its life-critical importance. I praise Your name that He came and that You loved me enough to make sure that I didn't miss it or Him. Amen.

Day 4 — the message

Have you ever received a message that was almost unbelievable, something that just seemed too good to be true? One that was the last thing you ever thought you would hear?

One message that every first century Jew wanted to receive from God was that the long-promised Messiah was coming soon. Mary received that very message from the lips of Gabriel. Here is the message he proclaimed.

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the

Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:31-33).

Hallelujah! Mary was the first to hear what every Jew since the days of Moses had yearned to hear. However, since Mary was confused about how a virgin could have a baby, she asked a question. Then she got a few more of the details of the message.

"The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born

will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail" (Luke 1:35-37).

The ADVENT was at hand and Mary was about to be impregnated through the Holy Spirit and then become the earthly mother of God's Son. AMAZING!

Pay careful attention to how the message of the ADVENT ended. "For no word from God will ever fail."

You need to remember

ADVENT cont. on page 7

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Advent

Continued From Page 7

that too. That was true of Gabriel's words to Mary and it is just as true to all of the amazing promises God has made to you in His Word. Nothing could be better news for you than that.

Prayer: Loving Father, I can't thank You enough for Your faithfulness and love. Your message to Mary concerning the ADVENT reassures me once again of the magnitude of Your grace and the security of my salvation. May Your holy name be praised throughout the earth. Amen.

Day 5 — the pregnancy

The ADVENT story is all about a baby. It is a story so unbelievable that if God wasn't the author, it would surely be a lie.

I remember once hearing two young girls sing a song entitled "The Ten Little Fingers of God." Up until that day I had never actually stopped to picture the only begotten Son of God as a tiny baby inside of Mary's womb. Imagine His tiny foot pushing against his mother's belly. Mary felt every move Jesus made as He adjusted to His awkward new life in a baby's body.

Don't those thoughts cause your imagination to run wild, wondering about how Jesus felt inside His mother? One day His home is in heaven with; the next day He is restricted in space and body. And just think, He went through all that just so that YOU could have a Savior — so your debt of sins could be paid in full. Doesn't that take your breath away? Only God could create a plan this glorious.

So what do you need to do in light of what He did? Is it time to praise His name? Is it time to brag on Him? Go for it!

Prayer: Gracious Jesus, You left heaven's glory and assumed Your position inside of Mary's womb. You didn't do that for Yourself, You didn't need a Savior. You did that for me and others like me. Why? Because we needed a Savior. So this day I shout praises to You. May the glory that You so richly deserve be poured out on You and may Your name be praised throughout the whole earth. Amen.

Day 6 — the dream

I don't know about you, but most of the time when I awaken, whatever I was dreaming about quickly fades. No matter how hard I try to remember, usually I just can't. However, there have been a handful of dreams that were so different that they were transported from faded forgetfulness to an emblazoned memory. Those dreams I have never forgotten.

Joseph had such a dream on the very worst day of his life. All his life he had yearned for the day when he would find that special someone to whom he could give his heart and his love and his faithfulness. It turned out that she lived right there in Nazareth, and her name was Mary. More importantly, she loved him too. Her family allowed the betrothal and all of life glowed.

Then Joseph's world came crashing in. Mary informed him that she was pregnant and then made the betrayal even more painful with a preposterous story that bordered on blasphemy. He was crushed.

So what do you do when you love someone and yet they have betrayed you? Joseph resolved to put Mary away quietly so that she would not be stoned for her adultery. With a shattered heart he probably laid on his bed that night praying that sleep would halt the agony for at least a few hours.

Then it happened. God

sent one of His angels to Joseph in a dream with the confirmation that Mary had spoken the truth. It was time to assume his role in God's heavenly plan. Joseph immediately took Mary to his home as his wife. Now that's a man of God, a man of true faith!

What about you? When was the last time you faced a situation where it was time to believe and to get up the next morning and start doing God's will? Maybe you didn't have a dream, but I'll bet it wasn't that long ago when it was time for you to believe. In fact, that time just might be right now.

Prayer: Father God, You have always had a plan for me, just like You do for everyone. But I haven't always taken the right path and I haven't always really believed in You and in Your plan for me. I want that to change today. I want You to know that I really do BELIEVE! And Lord, I truly care about Your plan for my life. Please supply me with the strength and guidance I need to faithfully walk that path. Amen.

Day 7 — husband and wife

The plans for the big wedding were smoldering among the ashes in the fireplace. Imagine how everyone in the tiny village of Nazareth must have been looking forward to the upcoming celebration. After all a Jewish wedding was a community affair; the whole town was invited and shared in the celebratory food and drink.

So when Mary sud-

denly showed up at Joseph's house without all the hoopla, the gossip lines throughout Nazareth must have been were overloaded. When Mary began to show, whispers turned to malicious gossip and doubtful glances to condemning glares.

But at least they had each other and the soon to arrive baby and their heavenly Father.

Those first weeks Mary and Joseph shared together must have been special. Outside their home in the village, they each had to have heard the snickers and the whispers and endure the finger-pointing and shaking heads. But inside their home everyone knew the truth. Mary knew, Joseph knew, and Father God certainly knew. Those hours were the best.

Have you ever wondered how they endured it all? Could you be the object of the unwarranted ridicule with only the truth to rest on and take comfort in? You could if you leaned on the same resting post that Mary and Joseph did. Lean on PATER, Father God.

Prayer: God, I want to want Your truth to be enough for me. I don't want to need anyone or anything else besides You and Your plan for me. I want to want only You. Please help me. I'm not where I wish I was, so I can't truthfully say that I only want You all the time. But I want to want only You all the time. Please, please, help me. Amen.

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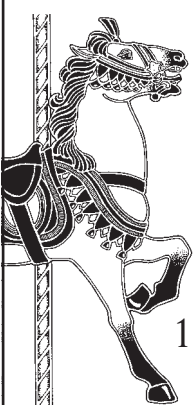
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EXTRA INNINGS

■ Quarterbacks are the backbone of teams. How losing a franchise QB hurts.

New York Jets, Cleveland Browns, Green Bay Packers and my fantasy team, "Bison!" All have found out the hard way this year that quarterbacks make a huge difference in your team.



ZAC GREEN

I will start off talking about my fantasy team. It is a keeper league that is in its seventh year. My quarterback for the past few years has been Aaron Rodgers, who hasn't missed more than one game in a season since he took over as the Pack starter in 2008.

Well during Week 9 of the NFL season this year against the Chicago Bears, the unthinkable happened. Rodgers went down. The longer and longer it went without seeing him on the field I knew it was bad. Suddenly my thoughts of "oh no I am going to lose this week," turned into "oh no, I hope he isn't out for the season."

Rodgers suffered a broken collarbone and has yet to return this season. This week is the final week before playoffs for my fantasy league. So essentially in my fantasy land, he missed the rest of the regular season.

Going into week 9, my record was 6-2. Since Rodgers went down, I have dropped 5 out of the last 6, to finish at 7-7. At the time this article was written I was well on my way to a loss again. But also at the time of this article, I was still IN the playoffs due to some other teams losing as well.

With little to be had on

the waiver wire, I was stuck with using Jason Campbell, E.J. Manuel, Terrelle Pryor, Josh McCown or a combination of those to get by without Rodgers. All of which have suffered injuries of their own, save McCown.

Okay enough about my rant and how Rodgers almost cost me a play-off spot in my fantasy league.

Let's talk about how he is making the Packers suffer really badly without him. Since Rodgers went down the Packers are 0-4-1. Yes, they tied the Vikings in Week 12. (Don't even get me started on how ridiculous it is that a professional sport allows ties.)

The Lions stand atop the NFC North at 7-5. The Bears lost in overtime to the Vikings, and are 6-6. Then there is the Packers at 5-6-1. The Packers finish with Atlanta, at Dallas, Pittsburgh and at Chicago. The only game that is "easy" is the Falcons and that's IF Rodgers is back and 100 percent. Green Bay now has an uphill battle to climb if they want to make the playoffs.

I won't even attempt to explain the catastrophe that has been the QB situations in New York and Cleveland. But it just goes to show that without a rock solid starting and healthy quarterback, it is very hard to win both in the NFL and in fantasy football land.

Please share with me horrors of your fantasy football team this season or how you can relate to quarterback situations with your favorite NFL team.

Zac Green is an avid Oklahoma State fan and youth minister at Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ. He can be reached at zac.green@sbc-global.net.

Florida St, Ohio St take top two spots in BCS

(AP) — Florida State and Ohio State are in position to play for the BCS national championship, though Auburn and Missouri are close enough behind in the BCS standings to put pressure on the Buckeyes.

The Seminoles grabbed the top spot in the BCS standings released Sunday after Alabama relinquished it for the first time this season.

The Crimson Tide's wild 34-28 loss at Auburn dropped Alabama to fourth. Ohio State is second and Auburn is third. Missouri is fifth. Auburn and Missouri play in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday in Atlanta. The winner should get a boost in the standings, but it might not be enough to catch the unbeaten Buckeyes.

Ohio State (12-0) faces Michigan State, 10th in the latest standings, in the Big Ten championship game Saturday in Indianapolis.

Florida State is first in both the USA Today coaches' poll and Harris poll, and rated No. 1 in the compilation of six computer rankings used in the BCS standings.

The Seminoles' .9948 BCS average makes them a lock to get to the title game in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 6 if they can beat Duke in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game Saturday.

The Buckeyes (.9503)

are second in the polls and second in the computers. Auburn (.9233) is third in each. Missouri (.8428) is fifth in each. But each of those SEC Tigers is 11-1. Ohio State is riding a 24-game winning streak.

An unbeaten team from a BCS automatic-qualifying conference (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC and Big East, now American Athletic Conference) has never been shut out of national championship game in favor of a team with a loss.

The SEC, which has won the last seven BCS championships, would like that to change.

"Any one-loss team in the SEC (should be considered) just because of the strength of schedule," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. "Hopefully that will be taken into consideration."

Jerry Palm, who analyzes the BCS for CBS.com, said there is no reason to expect the unprecedented to happen.

"I think the voters would have to abandon Ohio State, and that's never happened in the history of the BCS," he said Sunday.

Alabama (.8539) is fourth but the Tide would need both Florida State and Ohio State to lose to get back in the title conversation.

The BCS is in its last season. It will be replaced by a four-team playoff

next year, which will use a selection committee to pick the teams.

Farther down the latest standings, the competition to become the last BCS buster is now a one-team race after Fresno State lost to San Jose State. It's all about Northern Illinois now.

The undefeated Huskies from the Mid-American Conference remained 14th in the standings this week. NIU, looking for

its second straight BCS bid, plays Bowling Green in the MAC title game on Friday night.

The Huskies can earn an automatic BCS bid two ways:

— Finish in the top 12 of the final BCS standings.

— Finish in the top 16 of the final standings, ahead of an automatic qualifying conference champion.

The Huskies used the latter route to get to the BCS last season with one loss.

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Durant has triple-double, Thunder beat Wolves

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma City may soon have to address the issue of slow defensive starts that lead to double-digit deficits. On Sunday, the Thunder just wanted to bask in another comeback win and another historical statistical performance by Kevin Durant.



Kevin Durant

Durant recorded his first triple-double of the season with 32 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists, and the Thunder rallied for another fourth-quarter win, beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 113-103.

Durant also added four blocked shots and four steals. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, he is the first NBA player to record 30 or more points, 10 or more rebounds, 12 or more assists, four or more steals and four or more blocks in the same game since blocks and steals became official NBA stats during the 1973-74 season.

“Kevin is a stat filler,” coach Scott Brooks said. “He can do it all and he has the ability to have large scoring nights, including assists and steals and blocked shots. He’s one of the few guys that can do that. That’s what makes us a good defensive team, because he can guard not only his man, he can guard multiple positions.”

Oklahoma City extended its winning streak to seven games, tops in the Western Conference, and moved to 9-0 on the season at home, matching the franchise’s longest home winning streak to open a season, set in Seattle in 2004.

“You always want to play tough, aggressive defensive basketball for 48 minutes,” Brooks said. “We didn’t do it tonight, but we came back in the second half and made some adjustments and took care of the things we thought were important. We have to play much better going on the road.”

Kevin Martin, in his return to Oklahoma City after joining Minnesota during the offseason, led the Timberwolves with 24 points, while Nikola Pekovic had 22 points and 10 rebounds. The Thunder have beaten Minnesota eight straight times at home, dating to the 2008-09 season, the franchise’s first in Oklahoma City.

Minnesota led 83-78 entering the fourth quarter but wilted against Oklahoma City’s defense, scoring just 20 points. Meanwhile, Du-

rant had two of the Thunder’s six 3-pointers in the quarter and finished off his fourth career triple-double. His previous three came last season.

Asked if a triple-double meant anything to him, Durant didn’t even mention his stat line during his answer, focusing instead on his teammates’ defensive effort.

“I’m glad we got the W,” Durant said. “We came out a little sluggish on the defensive end early on, but they started off 80 percent (from the field). Holding them to 41 percent from the game was really big. I think our bigs did a good job of frustrating the two bigs on the other end. We kind of fed off their energy.”

Overcoming large deficits has been a Thunder specialty this season. Oklahoma City rallied from double-digit, second-half deficits in wins over Denver and Washington, and trailed by 11 points in the first half against the Timberwolves.

Durant and Jeremy Lamb each hit a 3-pointer during an 8-0 run by Oklahoma City to start the fourth quarter, with Lamb’s giving the Thunder their first lead at 84-83. Reggie Jackson and Durant later hit 3-pointers to put Oklahoma City up 94-88 with 7:48 left and the Thunder weren’t threatened after that.

Here are my likes and gripes from the weekend:

Likes:

• **Bama/Burn** – If you missed the Alabama-Auburn game, like I almost did, you missed a classic. More than just the crazy finish, the game was an old-fashioned, pound-it-out football game. Alabama usually gets upset once a year, but doesn’t lose their top spot.

But now they have with the 34-28. It will come down to this weekend to decide who plays for a National Championship. It is anybody’s game despite Florida St. and Ohio St. being one and two. Don’t forget, Florida St. has their signal-caller facing a sexual assault investigation, and the Buckeyes were a two-point conversion away from falling to their arch-nemesis Michigan.

• **Eric Decker** – I am just going to keep the Broncos’ players in my gripes section. I challenged wide receiver Eric Decker to stop calling for flags and use his size to beat defenders. Well, he had eight catches for 174 yards and four touchdowns in the Broncos 35-28 win over the Kansas City Chiefs.

• **Monday Night Football** – Over the next few Monday nights, time usually spent doing other things will most likely be spent watching Monday Night Football. Usually there aren’t marquee match-ups on Monday, but Saints at Seahawks, Cowboys at Bears, Ravens at Lions and Falcons at 49ers all have intriguing desire.

Gripes:

• **BCS rankings** – Auburn’s one loss is killing them in the rankings right now. But pollster’s don’t think about

this: If Auburn beats Missouri this weekend, they will win the SEC championship.

So tell me how winning college football’s best conference and beating the best team in college football doesn’t get a national title spot. My college football knowledge is not as strong as others who are passionate for it, but I find Auburn not in a national title game hard to believe.

• **Inconsistent Cardinals** – The Arizona Cardinals had a nice little winning streak going. Bad mistakes made them lose a very winnable game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

But either way, this team is far better than last year’s 5-11 squad.

• **Kobe Bryant** – Signed a big extension last week and hopes to win one more ring before he is done.



Let’s see how he does post-recovery before we judge for sure whether or not it was a good deal.



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Broncos' Fox back at work

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Denver Broncos coach John Fox has returned to work, less than a month after undergoing open-heart surgery to have his aortic valve fixed.

Fox missed the toughest stretch of the season before coming back Monday morning. During his absence, defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio guided the Denver Broncos (10-2) into first place in the AFC West by winning three of four games.

They won at San Diego and swept Kansas City, and in Del Rio's words, came "within an eyelash" of going 4-0. They lost 34-31 at New England two weeks ago.

Executive vice president John Elway presented Del Rio with a game ball after Denver's 35-28 win at Kansas City on Sunday.

Fox has no restrictions, but it's likely that he'll coach from the booth and not the sideline this Sunday against Tennessee.

Avs goalie still free on bond on assault charge

DENVER (AP) — A judge has allowed Colorado Avalanche goalie Semyon Varlamov (var-LAH-mawf) to remain free on bond while facing a domestic violence charge involving his girlfriend.

Varlamov appeared in court Monday for a brief hearing, giving yes or no answers to the judge. He said nothing as he left the courtroom with his lawyers.

He has not entered a plea. His agent has said he's innocent. The 25-year-old is charged with misdemeanor assault for allegedly attacking his girlfriend at their apartment on Oct. 30.

Texas Tech rolls past UTSA 94-64

LUBBOCK (AP) — Jaye Crockett eventually asserted himself on the court to provide Tech a blowout to enjoy.

The senior scored 17 points and pulled down eight boards to lead Texas Tech to a 94-64 victory against UT San Antonio Friday night.

Jordan Tolbert remained a consistent threat for Texas Tech (6-2) as he added 12 points and six rebounds. Randy Onwuasor scored 15 points and Aaron Ross added 13.

Crockett, Tolbert, Ross and Onwuasor gave UTSA fits throughout the game, as Texas Tech had a 54 shooting percentage to UTSA's 37.7.

Phillip Jones led UTSA (1-6) with 12 points and nine rebounds. Kaj-Bjorn Sherman scored 11 points and Jordan Sims added 11 for the Roadrunners.

UTSA grabbed a lead on the opening possession, but fell behind quickly as Texas Tech broke an early 7-7 tie with a 30-13 run to close the

first half. The Red Raiders led by as much as 35 points midway through the second half.

Ross was out on the court early because Texas Tech coach Tubby Smith was seeking a spark from the bench to get the team going.

"It felt great coming off the bench and making the spark because we needed it," Ross said. "I knew if I came off the bench and played hard and got the spark the team would start going."

Onwuasor and Toddrick Gotcher supplied the jump start as well, but made their impact initially felt on the defensive side of the ball.

Once Texas Tech established its pressure on defense, UTSA had trouble doing much of anything out on the court as they shot 18.2 percent from beyond the arc.

The stagnant UTSA offense allowed Texas Tech the opportunity to build a lead. A lead which began

to quickly grow with 7:36 left in the first half as Tolbert knocked down two free throws.

"We guarded," Crockett said. "At the beginning of the game, we kind of stayed close with them, and our zone defense gave

us some stops that kind of slowed them down a little bit so we got to build a lead."

Tech exhibited a newfound aggressiveness on both sides of the ball. This attitude made an impact UTSA could not overcome as Texas Tech hit its groove.

Eighteen turnovers were forced by the Red Raider defense, and those turnovers were paired with 18 fast break points. When the easy basket was not available for Texas Tech, the team still charged ahead to earn a couple free throws.

Of the 31 free throw attempts accumulated through the duration of the game, over half of the attempts

came in the first half. Texas Tech capitalized on these attempts for 22 points.

"I was telling Jordan you're not going to get fouled unless you take it to the basket," Smith said. "So, Aaron Ross came in right away and said, 'Hey, coach wants me to take it to the basket,' and he did. He is one of our most confident free-throw shooters."

Ross matched Robert Turner from the free throw

line with eight attempts and six makes.

After a while, Texas Tech was picking and choosing how it wanted to score with a couple free throws here, a layup there and 3-pointer for good measure. Meanwhile, the only scoring chance opening up for UTSA were trips to the free throw line. The last field goal UTSA recorded in the first half was a layup from Jones at the 8:41 mark.



Jaye Crockett

Patriots rally for 34-31 win over Texans

HOUSTON (AP) — Tom Brady was glad to escape Houston with a win.

He would have been much happier if his New England Patriots didn't have to overcome another first-half deficit to do it.

Brady threw for 371 yards and two scores, and Stephen Gostkowski made two long field goals in the fourth quarter Sunday as the Patriots rallied for a 34-31 win over Houston.

"I wish we could start fast and put the foot on the gas pedal the whole way," Brady said.

New England coach Bill Belichick echoed Brady's feelings.

"It's not the way we want to play," he said. "Hopefully, I can find a way to coach better than I've done, find a way to get ahead."

The Texans' franchise-record skid reached 10 games. Gary Kubiak coached from the sideline for the first time since suffering a mini-stroke Nov. 3. He missed one game before working the last two games from the booth.

"We're playing hard, we're not always playing good," Kubiak said. "We had a lot of opportunities to make plays ourselves, just

didn't make enough."

New England overcame a 24-point first-half deficit last week to beat the Broncos 34-31 in overtime. The Patriots (9-3) trailed by 10 at halftime in this one and the lead changed five times in a wild second half. New England tied it with a 53-yard

field goal and took a 34-31 lead with another one from 53 with about three minutes left.

"Whatever we're doing is not good enough, and we can't keep getting behind because you have to play too well in the second half to overcome," Brady said.



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



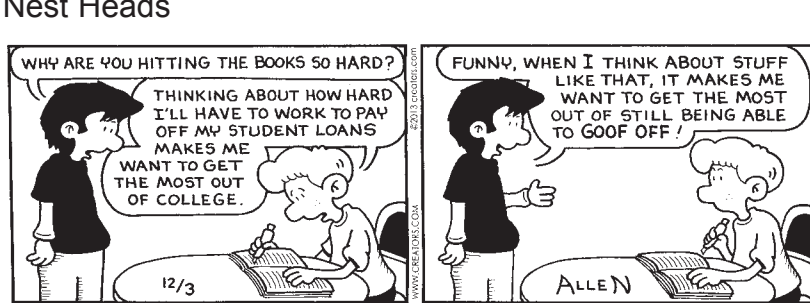
12-3
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“Do you think Mary and Joseph ever thought they should give Jesus a ‘time-out’?”

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013:
This year you will follow your intuition, especially when dealing with family and real-estate matters. Come summertime, you could be unusually lucky in these areas. If you are single, your life needs to have an element of excitement about it in order for a romantic relationship to be successful. Otherwise, it could become explosive. If you are attached, the two of you work together to solidify your financial and emotional security. Listen to your thoughts more often, as they will lead you in the right direction. CAPRICORN understands money as well as you do, but he or she looks at finances quite differently.

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)
★★★ At times, you just can't seem to give a higher-up the respect he or she desires. Are you revealing your true feelings? The unexpected marks your actions. To many people, you are changing in front of their eyes. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Kick back and take in the big picture. How you see a situation could change as a result of this process. Once you gain a better understanding of the mechanics involved, you will transform your ideas accordingly. Tonight: Listen to what a loved one shares.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Deal with a loved one directly. Your fatigue could mark a discussion with this person. Take a deep breath before you start. Realize what you hope to get from this situation, and you will be able to make a decision about whether the timing is right. Tonight: Togetherness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Defer to others, and follow through on what you want to do. That extra time you save could make all the difference in what happens. You'll hear a lot from someone in your daily life about what you need to do. Make your own choices. Tonight: Listen to your inner voice first.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Tap into an associate's imagination, and you will be delighted and challenged simultaneously. You might want to reverse direction or do something differently. Once you settle on a new path, don't let anyone distract you.

Tonight: Push on till the wee hours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your perceptions come from your intuition. Sometimes a partner might make fun of this quality. This person just wishes he or she could home in like you do. Be willing to rearrange your schedule. You might decide to approach a topic differently. Tonight: Fun and games.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Tension builds and creates greater motivation to complete a personal matter. You know that some of your ideas are great, but you get distracted easily. Revise your thinking if it becomes apparent that you might be straying down the wrong path. Tonight: Head home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Resist following your gut, as it could lead to trouble. A situation involving your health and daily life could take an interesting turn. You might want to assess your plans and your approach to an important matter. Can you avoid a power play? Tonight: Visit with a loved one.

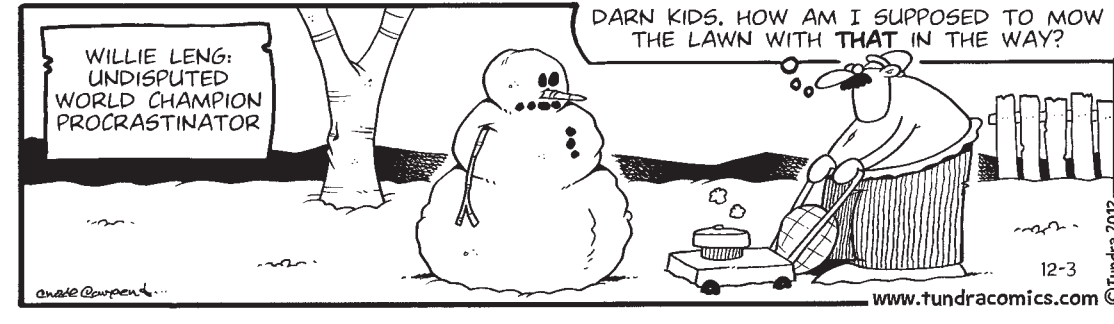
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be sensitive to your financial situation and where it could land you. You might want to jump on a sudden offer, but you seem to be restrained. What might appear to be a good risk suddenly could turn out to be too dangerous to mess around with. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You are in your element. A family member might test your decisions as of late. You'll adjust your approach as a result of their attitude. You seem to be changing. If a thought keeps lurking in your mind, listen to it; it probably has value. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

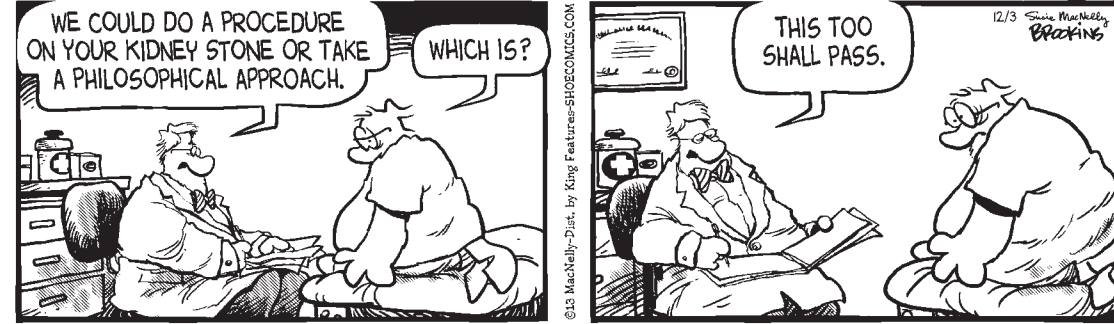
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Saying less and listening more is a safer course for you to take. What you hear could be quite unexpected yet significant. Use caution with your finances right now. A friend could share a secret that might help you make a decision. Tonight: Not to be found.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want. A friendship plays a strong role in the next few days. Your intuition also might be somewhat important, as you pick up a lot on a subliminal level. Make a call to a parent or older friend later today. Tonight: Don't overthink a personal matter.

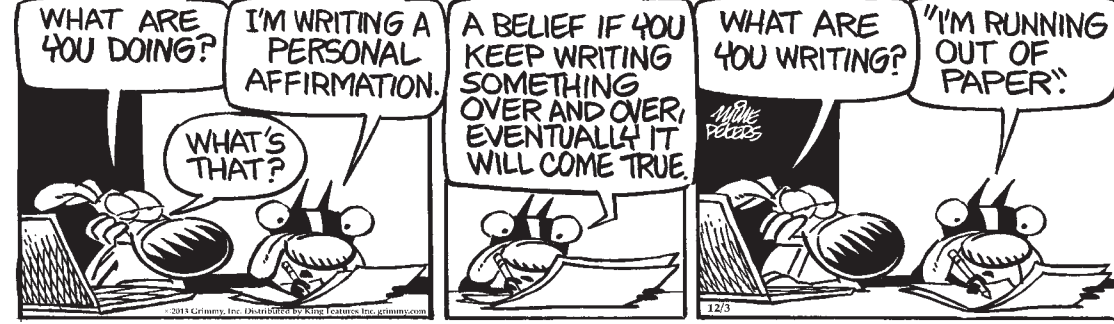
Tundra



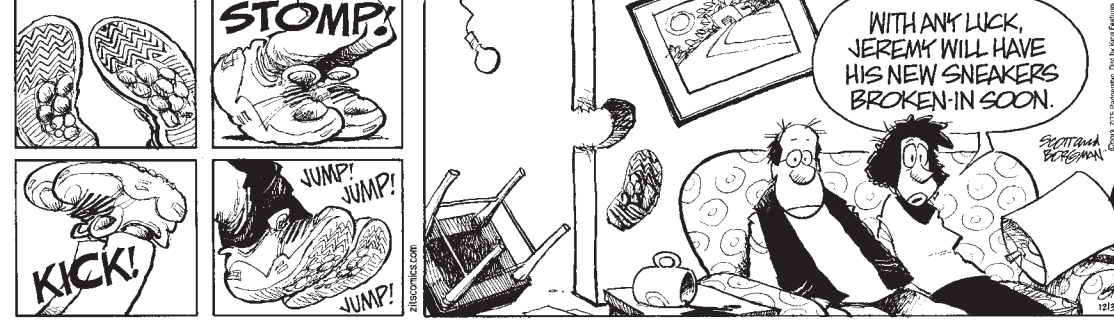
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



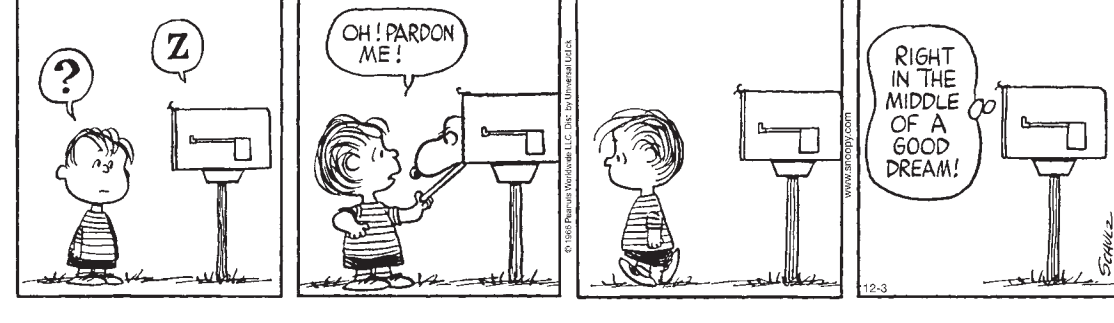
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 38-year-old woman who has been dating a 41-year-old man for seven months. He's wonderful and treats me magnificently. We have similar values and interests and are very much in love. Sadly, although I have always wanted children, he does not.

At my age, I have dated enough men to know that I have found someone special. I realize my choice is either to stay in a relationship with a fabulous partner, knowing we won't have children, or end it, hoping I'll find someone just as wonderful who wants kids.

Your advice in making the hardest decision of my life would be greatly appreciated. — MATERNAL IN NEW YORK

DEAR MATERNAL: I'll try. Many women in their late 30s find that conceiving a child is complicated, and it

can also take longer than they thought. It has taken you 38 years to find this exceptional man, and it could take quite a bit of time to find another one who is so compatible.

Look at it this way: If you married "Mr. Wonderful" and learned afterward that he couldn't father a child, would you leave him? Insist on adopting? Or would you count the many blessings you do have with him and stay?

Many women are happily childless. However, if you're not one of them, you should take your chances and move on — remembering that there are no guarantees.

DEAR ABBY: I work on a busy street in San Francisco where smokers walk around puffing all day while ignoring those around them. Don't you think they should be considerate enough to smoke at designated areas only and not while

walking with their secondhand smoke billowing around other pedestrians?

I have seen pregnant women and children inundated by the smoke as these puffers stroll by with no regard. We nonsmokers would appreciate their courtesy for others because we don't want to inhale what they're smoking. Can you comment? — HATES THAT HABIT

DEAR HATES THAT HABIT: I hate it, too, but unless there is an ordinance in your city that prohibits smoking on certain sidewalks, I think it's unrealistic to expect smokers who inhale not to exhale.

DEAR READERS: Years ago, a young mother in Arlington, Va., wrote my mother about a book she had received that promised to help parents prepare their children for school by expanding their vocabulary. The "secret"? Reading to them while they are small.

Children learn words by hearing them spoken in context — the more they hear, the more they absorb. Like

everything else, reading is something people will do more of if they enjoy it. When a parent reads to a child, the child associates reading with pleasure.

"The Read-Aloud Handbook" by Jim Trelease became a huge best-seller when it was published. Penguin Books called it one of the 75 most important books it has published in its history. The book is now in its seventh — and LAST — edition and has been completely revised and updated. If you're a parent who wants your child to succeed, a grandparent, or someone contemplating becoming a parent in the future, pick up a copy.

The first half is filled with the latest research on the importance of literacy for children's success; the rest lists book titles and ages of the youngsters for which they're intended. To learn more about the author, visit www.trelease-on-reading.com. To order the book, go to www.penguin.com. — Love, ABBY

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.

12-3 CRYPTOQUOTE
T E D V S T W F O B A H E T N B N
K D A E I R T V V A K F D N T
W E O D Q V N B E O , K W N B N
K D A E I A H R T V V A K F D
N T H A V W E O D Q V N B E O .

— P W A E N A F A B E
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE TWO THINGS WRONG WITH ALMOST ALL LEGAL WRITING. ONE IS ITS STYLE. THE OTHER IS ITS CONTENT. — FRED RODELL

BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the following six-letter sets can be rearranged to spell out a common word that starts with **KN** or **LA**, or ends with **ED** or **LD**.

LEVEL

A C E L K Y D D E I O V
[][][][][][] [][][][][][]

B D E E H L E K N O R W
[][][][][][] [][][][][][]

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Yesterday's Answer: LOBSTER, CARDINAL, HYDRANT, LIPSTICK 12.2

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

M S G O U L B
H O R S E T I W

BANANA BITE:
One word means "to shed skin."

BANANA BITE:
One word is a crawling creature.

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Yesterday's Answer: LACKEY, VOIDED, BEHELD, KNOWER 12.3

SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Database option
1 River vessel
5 Resorts for the pampered
9 Magazine's front
10 Must
12 Without help
13 Spanish hero
14 Pizza servings
16 Last part
17 Shore eroder
18 Plug parts
21 USN rank
22 Alternative to curtains
23 Paris river
24 Set upon
26 Campaign pro
29 Dr. Jekyll's alter ego
30 Cougar
31 "— we there yet?"
32 Cook's collection
34 Puccini opera
37 Low joint
38 Take an oath
39 Ranch animal
40 Went under

DOWN 1 Arrive, as fog
2 Steers clear of
3 Backyard barrier
4 Forest unit
5 That woman
6 Chum
7 Climb
8 Wasp attacks
9 Social group
11 Casino figure
15 Joins together

19 Skating spot
20 Start of a count
22 Abacus piece
23 Pig's place
24 Quiver contents
25 Poseidon's domain
26 Prepare to smooch
27 Egg dish
28 Powerful beam
29 Foot-wiping spots
30 Spotted horse
33 Bidding option
35 Soup buy
36 Bible vessel

Saturday's answer

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

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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			

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 1 Highway exits
6 Sensational
11 Poor sport's cry
12 Permit
13 Dissing
15 Have lunch
16 Equip
17 Overhead trains
18 Prom rentals
20 Accept eagerly
23 Temple leader
27 Farm team
28 Nullified
29 Piper of rhyme
31 Reach
32 Picture puzzle
34 Commo-tion
37 "Oh, wow!"
38 Casserole bit
41 Frisking
44 "The Waste Land" poet
45 Daughter of Leda
46 Takes a breather
47 Corpulent

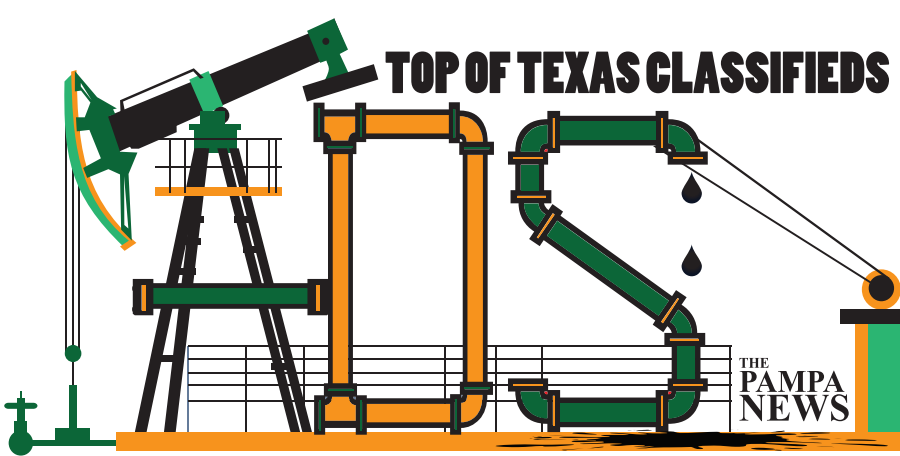
DOWN 1 Ready for picking
2 Blue hue
3 Pooch
4 Peach center
5 Agitate
6 Checkout worker
7 Archaic
8 Ice chunk
9 Quail and pheasants
10 Pos-sesses
14 Disallow
18 Radio dial
19 Goalie's stat
20 Cut off
21 Cut drastically
22 Parrot or puppy
24 Program that performs repetitive tasks
25 Drill part
26 Groom's answer
30 Sends, as payment
31 Zealous
33 Prohibit
34 Mimic
35 Secluded valley
36 Singer Redding
38 Warsaw native
39 Rams' mates
40 Last of the House of Stuart
42 Infant
43 Cotillion girl

Yesterday's answer

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

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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			



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 LOST Border Collie near 1400 block E. Browning. REWARD! Black w/white paws, chest & tip of tail. Missing since 11/17. Please call 928-231-0287.

Carpentry
 OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR. Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.

Help Wanted
 BOOKKEEPER needed: Exp. necessary. Payroll, accounts payable, general ledger, bank reconciliations, & oil/gas accounting. Salary based on experience. Experience in Wolfe Pac software a plus. Send resume to P.O. Box 2018, Pampa, TX 79066-2018

Help Wanted
 PIPELINE TECHS: Day to day operations & maint. on NGL Pipeline System. Send resume to mccaber@ensicon.com

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 ROOM For Rent. \$110 week, all bills paid including cable. Private entrance. Call 806-661-8508.

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 3 bdr. brick, sale or lease w/ lease purchase option. 505 Harvey, Miami. New h/a system. Close to sch. Nice neighborhood. 806-868-5811, 663-3598.

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 CHRISTMAS Dec. 7th % To PAWS Booth #37 Dolls, Bears, Jewelry Neat Kitchen Items Holiday Wreaths Boots & Horseshoes Sat. Frost & Browning

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Unfurnished Houses
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HELP WANTED
Temporary Work - 4 Job Openings
 Starting: 02/01/2014 and Ending: 12/01/2014.
 Operates self-propelled custom harvesting machines to harvest a variety of grain and oilseed crops. Adjusts speed cutter, blowers and conveyors and height of cutting head, using hand tools. Changes cutting head as appropriate for crop. Drives heavy truck and does infield repairs and maintenance. Require three months experience as farm machine operator.
 The employer, Lindel Farms LLC from Pampa TX, will pay the AEW of \$10.18/hr. The employer guarantees 3 / 4 of the workdays in the work contract. The work tools, supplies and equipment are provided without cost to the worker, if applicable. Free housing is provided to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of the workday. Transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be provided or paid by the employer upon completion of 50% of the work contract or earlier.
 Workers interested in the job should contact their nearest local State Workforce or send resumes to TWC, Alien Labor Certification Unit, 101 East 15th Street, Room 202T, Austin, TX 78778 and mention job order number: TX3206548

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.

12-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

E F K Q K C Q K E H Z E F S T B U
 H Q Z T B H S E F C J P Z U E C J J
 J K B C J H Q S E S T B . Z T K S U S E U
 U E N J K . E F K Z E F K Q S U S E U
 X Z T E K T E . — D Q K I Q Z I K J J

Saturday's Cryptoquote: HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, AND SAY IT AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN. THAT IS THE ONLY SECRET OF STYLE. — MATTHEW ARNOLD

Help Wanted
 COOK needed. Chicken Express, 2201 Perryton Pkwy in Pampa. Apply in person only. MUST be able to pass drug test.

Help Wanted
 FRONT Office help needed. Must be bilingual, preferably with previous dental office experience. ALSO need an experienced dental assistant, preferably bilingual. Fax resume to 877-750-1323.

Help Wanted
 FULL-TIME and Part-time help needed at Hoagies Deli. Apply in person at 1201 N. Hobart.

NOTICE
 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

Miscellaneous
 FOR SALE: Double Lawn Crypt in Memory Gardens. Call 806-898-2451

Miscellaneous
 FREE -red, 3 speed, freestanding wood burning Fireplace. Call 806-662-2979

Miscellaneous
 SALE on mattresses. Queen set \$246, Full \$180-236, King \$436. 1424 S. Barnes. Country Red Barn 665-2767

Garage Sale
 ESTATE SALE J.D. & Lorene Paris, 416 South Main, Miami, TX. By appointment only Thurs. Dec. 5, 9am-6pm. Call Martha Porter 1-806-662-0710. OPEN TO PUBLIC Fri. Dec. 6th & Sat. Dec. 7th, 9am-6pm.

Feed & Seeds
 HAYGRAZER for Sale Large Round Bales Delivery available. Call 806-278-0383 or 806-845-2700

Furnished Apts.
 CAPROCK APTS. 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms with rent starting as low as \$445/mo. Pool and on-site laundry, W/D hookups in all 2 and 3 bdrms. 665-7149.

Furnished Apts.
 LARGE 1 bdr. apts. w/app, are in walking distance to things you need. 665-4274, 663-2579, 881-8518.

Furnished Houses
 Schneider Apartments: Call for special rates. Short term lease. Business people welcome. 665-0415

Unfurnished Houses
 TEXAS SIZE APTS. 1 and 2 bdr. Apts. Largest in Pampa Plus Houses Too! Great Value! 665-1875 or 881-8518

Unfurnished Houses
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Business Rent. Prop.
 PICK up rental list in the Black Box at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

Business Rent. Prop.
 DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823

FREE RENT!
 Downtown Properties: Service Station, Retail, Restaurant / Bar, etc. 665-1875, 881-8518

Homes for Sale
 3 BEDROOM remodeled, hardwood, steel siding, bank financing available. 1906 N. Nelson, \$69,500. 662-7557

Recreational Vehicles
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- Solid Work History
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 Smithfield Premium Genetics, the live production company for Smithfield Foods, Inc., has several openings in Pampa, TX. Excellent benefits, including health, dental and vision insurance, 401k, pension, and paid time off. Career opportunities are available for the right individuals.

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- Plumbing, welding, and electrical experience required
- Routine and annual maintenance

Sanitizer: Starting pay \$10.00

- Pay increase within 6 months
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- Miscellaneous other farm duties

Herd Technician: Starting pay \$10.00

- Pay increase within 6 months
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You can apply in person @ Smithfield Premium Genetics located 11 Miles East of Pampa on Hwy 60 between 10:00am - 3:00pm or at the Texas Workforce Office in Amarillo. Contact Robert Peffley at 806-663-7672 for more information.

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2005 Yamaha Royal Star with trike kit. 10,000 miles, black with silver, back rest & windshield. Mint condition. Asking \$9,000. Call 662-3497

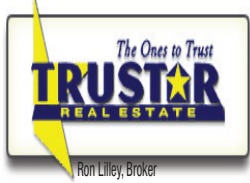
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311 E. 2ND, McLEAN..3/2.....1469 SQFT.....	\$55,000
1405 FRANCIS.....2/2/3.....1302 SQFT.....	\$68,000
1105 CHARLES.....3/1.75/0.....1240 SQFT.....	\$67,500
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1122 ALCOCK.....commercial...3360 SQFT.....	\$92,500
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1921 ZIMMERS.....3/1.75/2.....1345 SQFT.....	\$110,000
615 CEDAR, McLEAN. 3/2.75/1.....2002 SQFT.....	\$115,000
2113 LYNN.....4/1.75/2.....2007 SQFT.....	\$114,500
33 GREENBELT.....4/2.75/2.....2384 SQFT.....	\$125,000
130 E. 28TH.....3/1.75/2.....1634 SQFT.....	\$133,500
1932 ZIMMERS.....3/1.75/2.....2150 SQFT.....	\$143,000
134 GREENBELT.....3/1.75/0.....1497 SQFT.....	\$145,000
1819 RUSSELL.....3/1.75/2.....2285 SQFT.....	\$149,000
1701 HOLLY.....3/1.75/2.....2493 SQFT.....	\$149,997
2241 CHARLES.....3/2/2.....2688 SQFT.....	\$172,000
950 CRANE RD.....3/2/2.....1775 SQFT.....	\$163,000
1938 EVERGREEN.....4/2/2.....2049 SQFT.....	\$169,500
701 GROVE, McLEAN 4/5/2.....4360 SQFT.....	\$185,000
2400 CHEROKEE.....4/2.75/2.....2599 SQFT.....	\$190,000
1405 DWIGHT.....3/2/2.....1767 SQFT.....	\$194,500
2325 BEECH.....4/2.75/2.....2993 SQFT.....	\$225,000
1707 MARY ELLEN...3/1.75/2.....3025 SQFT.....	\$235,000
132,133GREENBELT7/5/0.....3118 SQFT.....	\$233,000
12060 BERRY.....4/2.5/2.....2519 SQFT.....	\$350,000

Patti Hudson, Bkr 662-4896
Roy Devoll 896-0000 Scooter Hutchison 440-6061
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Happy Holidays

HOUSEHUNTERS Realtor

Outstanding Available Property

1002 E Francis Ave MLS# 13-9895 1,280 sqft - 3 bed, 1 ba	303 N Frost St MLS# 13-9784 1,682 sqft - 2 bed, 2 ba	2625 N Cherokee Dr MLS# 13-9813 1,610 sqft - 3 bed, 1.75 ba PENDED
710 N Main St McLean, TX MLS# 12-9415 1,610 sqft - 3 bed 2 ba	1904 Lea St MLS# 13-9922 1,762 sqft - 3 bed 1.75 ba	#20 LL Greenbelt Greenbelt, TX MLS# 13-9813 2,562 sqft - 4 bed 2 ba PENDED
712 Magnolia St MLS# 13-9628 1,272 sqft - 2 bed, 1 ba	513 N Powell MLS# 13-9870 1,917 sqft - 3 bed, 1.75 ba	441 W Brown St MLS# 12-9327 24,075 sqft
808 E Locust St MLS# 13-9858 1,248 sqft - 3 bed, 1 ba	931 N Christine St MLS# 13-9817 2,311 sqft - 4 bed, 1.75 ba	2122 W Alcock St MLS# 13-9847 1,584 sqft
1044 W Crane Rd MLS# 12-9446 1,379 sqft - 3 bed, 1.75 ba	8640 Keller Estates MLS# 12-9499 2,598 sqft - 3 bed, 2.5 ba	203 S. Main White, Deer, TX MLS# 12-9561 1,260 sqft
413 S Horn St White Deer, TX MLS# 13-9799 1,464 sqft - 3 bed 2 ba	2234 Lynn St MLS# PENDED 3,095 sqft - 4 bed, 2.75 ba	2420 W Alcock St MLS# PENDED 1,252 sqft
#31 4800 LL Greenbelt, TX MLS# 12-9608 1,618 sqft - 2 bed 1.75ba	2516 Beech Ln MLS# 13-9849 3,667 sqft - 4 bed, 3.5 ba	County RD E MLS# 13-9862 Acreage
8601 W Cemetery Rd Amarillo, TX MLS# 13-9845 1,064 sqft - 3 bed 2 ba	525 N Powell MLS# PENDED 927 sqft - 2 bed, 1 ba	Burdett/Arrington Ave Skellytown, TX MLS# 11-9135 Commercial Lots
1710 N Evergreen St MLS# 13-9855 1,582 sqft - 3 bed, 1.75 ba	737 N Bradley Dr MLS# PENDED 1,918 sqft - 4 bed, 2 ba	400 S Talley St White Deer, TX MLS# 12-9447 Residential Lots

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 "Jangle" Lab Female Puppy #11524	 "Donder" Terrier Male #11513	 "Faith" Calico Kitten Female #11448	 "Blitzen" Basset Hound Male #11488	 "Eve" Rottweiler Mix Female #11472	 "Snow" Boxer Pup Male #11462
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