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The PAMPA NEWS



Saturday, December 7, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 173

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Judi Smith on Christmas traditions | Dog owner mourns his 'four-legged son' | **p4**
Texans fire Kubiak, John Lee speculates replacement | Cowboys look to right December woes | **p14-16**

Oil refinery agrees to pay \$300,000 for bird kill



Photo by Don Rice of the Borger News-Herald
 A storage tank at the Johnson Tank Farm Pond in Borger.

■ Phillips 66 and WRB Refining voluntary reported kill, immediately began mitigation to save birds.

By TIMOTHY P. HOSARE
 thosare@thepampanews.com

BORGER — An oil refining operation here has agreed to pay out \$300,000 to settle a complaint filed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) over a migratory bird kill that occurred in August 2012.

Around 278 waterfowl, mostly teal, were killed while another 260 were recovered at a 22-acre brine water pond operated by Phillips 66 and WRB Refining of Borger.

Concentrated salts in evaporative waste water ponds pose serious risks to migratory birds, according to the USFWS.

A pathology examination by the USFWS found the significant cause of loss was feather contamination from the refinery's underground salt dome. The bodies had a mild volatile, plastic-like, odor and the feathers were coated with a white crystalline material and grit. Some birds had feathers containing small curls of black plastic.

In August 2012, the USFWS learned of a large migratory bird kill at the Johnson Tank Farm Pond.

The Borger refinery self-reported the kill and immediately began implementing additional hazing efforts to keep migratory birds off the pond. Additionally, the refinery established an emergency treatment center to triage injured birds. The refinery also installed additional bird deterrents and contracted for bird-hazing personnel to deter migratory birds off the pond during daylight hours, using boats and horns as weather permitted.

The USFWS said in a released statement the refinery's actions are a **BIRDS** cont. on page 2

Happy slumbers



Photos by John Lee

Above, Michael Anderson next to one of the Tempur-pedic beds that are sold at Pampa Sleep Store. Below, the store has a wide variety of beds that are adjustable to customers' needs.

■ Pampa Sleep Store offers ways to help people get a good night's rest.

By JOHN LEE
 jlee@thepampanews.com

While over the next few days the cold may make it difficult for some people to get out from underneath the blankets, other people have a harder time sleeping, period.

Luckily in Pampa, there is a store that offers advice on how to get the sandman to come back into the bed-time lives of Pampans.

Pampa Sleep Store, located at 1203 N. Hobart Suite 34 in Las Pampas Square, offers shoppers not just mattresses, but ways to get the most out of their overnight slumbers.

"The biggest thing we offer is a unique perspective, we are looking to benefit somebody's health," said Michael Anderson, who opened the store with his wife, Devney, in 2012. "We are looking to try and increase their quality of life versus just selling them stuff. With any other store around here, bedding is just a side-item to what they do. This is the main thing we do. We know mattresses inside and out."

Anderson and his sales crew have extensive knowl-



edge of many different sleeping tendencies and ways to improve hibernation habits.

"Some of the things that people don't think about that are outside of what we do that we can help with are lifestyle choices," Anderson said. "Having a TV in the bedroom doesn't help with sleep. Not drinking any alcoholic or caffeine beverages within an hour of **SLEEP** cont. on page 2

Kokoska named chair of Children's Shopping Tour

■ Historic Pampa endeavor based on a foundation of joy and holiday giving.

SUBMITTED

Attorney Tom Kokoska was named the general chair of the 2013 Children's Shopping Tour.

The general chair position typically rotates among several senior organizations. However, Altrusa deferred this year in order to enable the committee to appoint new Pampa attorney Tom Kokoska as general chair.

"I jumped at the chance to work on The Children's Shopping Tour and participate in such a special community service project," Kokoska said. "I often work on cancer and other fundraising, but this is so special. It not only brightens Christmas for a large number of families that might not otherwise have one, but also teaches the kids great values they will later take out into the community and their lives."

He continued: "And you seldom see multiple disparate organizations banding together for one cause like this. I have not been in Pampa long, but have been many others places, and this is simply one of the most inspirational endeavors anywhere. Everybody wins and smiles and **CHAIR** cont. on page 2



Tom Kokoska

\$670K Las Pampas loan up for second vote

STAFF REPORT

The Pampa City Commission will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday to consider on final reading approval of a \$670,000 loan from the Pampa Economic Development Corp. (PEDC) to the Las Pampas Square.

At its Nov. 26 meeting, the commission approved first reading of the resolution with Commissioner Chris Porter casting the only nay vote.

The loan would allow continued upgrades to the 50-year-old shopping center, formerly called Coronado Center.

The loan would be paid back when the shopping center is sold to a private individual or company.

In other action, the Commission will consider accepting the PEDC's 2013 Annual Report and canceling the Dec. 24, 2013 regular meeting.

The Commission meets at City Hall, 201 W. Kingsmill Ave.

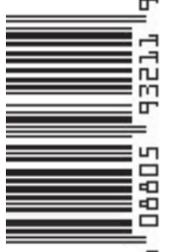
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Chair

Continued From Page 1

gives from the heart. And it is uniquely Pampa to give so generously.”

A few significant donors typically fund The Children’s Shopping Tour, but Kokoska said he would like to see many joining in to participate.

“As The Children’s Shopping Tour Chair,” Kokoska said. “I obviously would not refuse large gifts. But how wonderful would it be if everyone donated for one child, so more of the community shares in this effort? Almost everyone can scrimp a tiny bit so a child can give gifts to his or her family members who otherwise might not have anything. Most will never miss the money, but for these kids, what you do in giving lasts a lifetime.”

“I view this as a chance to re-orient our focus and seek greater involvement, so everyone can feel a part of this, as they should. If every bank and every church in town sponsored just one child, if a fraction of businesses in town sponsored just one single child, if a tiny number of the caring people of Pampa felt inspired to sponsor a gift to just one child — or even half a gift, it would be an incredibly bountiful Christmas event this year for the children, as well as everyone who gives.”

In 1963, with the nation and community grieving the tragic assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Pampa Jaycees felt a strong need to uplift

the community. In accordance with the spirit of the immortal words of President Kennedy to “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,” the Jaycees decided to take six children shopping, not to buy those gifts for the children themselves, but to enable them to buy gifts for their family members who otherwise might not receive anything. After shopping for others, the Jaycees surprised the kids at the end with gifts for the kids themselves.

“We wanted to teach these kids the joy of giving and serving the interests of others,” said founding member John Warner, who has worked all 51 years with The Children’s Shopping Tour.

And at the same time, we reminded ourselves and other adults of the fundamental lesson we wanted to teach these kids — that it is better to give than to receive. Most people get involved and feel that they are blessing the kids and their families, but when you see the smiles on the kids’ faces, you realize that you are blessed to be part of such beautiful moments. We certainly had no idea this might grow into such a large event and important Pampa tradition, with so many organizations joining to participate to do so much good for our community.

The Children’s Shopping Tour grew exponentially through the years and now brings a special joy every year to approximately 400 family members, with 100 children participating in the tour to buy them gifts. This

was for many the first time they have ever done so.

Although the Pampa Optimists continued The Children’s Shopping Tour when the Jaycees disbanded, The Children’s Shopping Tour actually is a unique effort from a Who’s Who of approximately 40 service entities in Pampa, including Kiwanis, The Salvation Army, Pampa Chamber of Commerce, Altrusa, Tralee Crisis Center, Lions Club, Pampa Regional Hospital, Health and Human Services, Gideon Organization, Opti-Mrs. and others.

Just as the spirit of giving was the original mission of the tour, the vision continues with multiple service groups combining together to create one of the longest-running traditions in Pampa history.

Walmart provides a generous discount to enable the children to purchase more gifts with their allotted spending, or even a special gift that they otherwise could not afford. Other merchants and businesses donate products, time and energy to make the event a success.

The Children’s Shopping Tour is so influential that in 2008, Optimist International named The Pampa Children’s Shopping Tour the outstanding community service project in the nation, while Altrusa International named it the outstanding community service project in the entire world.

The Optimist Club assists The Children’s Shopping Tour by collecting donations and handling its finances through a separate dedicated account. Anyone may sponsor a child with a donation of \$75, or otherwise make any size gift with a check payable to: The Optimists — Children’s Shopping Tour. Please mail checks to The Children’s Shopping Tour, c/o John Warner, P.O. Box 645, Pampa, Texas 79066, or leave donations at 309 W. Foster Ave., Pampa.

Birds

Continued From Page 1

great example of cooperation between industry and government. When industry self-reports and takes mitigation measures, it benefits all parties by allowing operations to continue without harming the environment, natural resources and wildlife, the agency said.

If a company resists working with the USFWS, its Office of Law Enforcement can pursue other avenues of compliance including calling upon the U.S. Attorney’s Office for prosecution.

In addition to mitigation to protect wildlife, the USFWS said it is not unusual for a company to pay restitution and fines. Restitution typically goes back into the community where the wildlife was harmed. In this case, there is a rehabilitation facility in Texas that provides training in the care for wildlife and education to promote good environ-



Photo by Don Rice of the Borger News-Herald of the Phillips 66 and WRB Refining facility in Borger.

mental practices and protect wildlife.

According to the compliance agreement, Phillips 66 and WRB Refining must pay:

- A \$50,000 violations notice.
- \$10,000 in restitution to the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.
- \$38,820 to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the value of the deceased migratory birds.

• \$200,000 charitable contribution to the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

The USFWS said it will not seek prosecution under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or other similar offenses related to migratory bird activity at the Borger facilities as long as they continue to comply with the agreement.

The case was handled by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Amarillo.

Sleep

Continued From Page 1

going to bed (can help). Not exercising an hour before going to bed can also help.”

It doesn’t stop at their “pre-bedding” habits, but also after they have gone to bed. A sleep habit that is unknown to many is sleeping hot, which can be detected if a person wakes up with a leg outside of the blankets. But that’s not all Anderson and his crew help with.

“We help with back pain, not being able to sleep at night to dealing with acid reflux,” Anderson said. There is a host of different solutions. With acid reflux and things like that you need to elevate your head when you sleep. So we have beds that can do that for you.

“Sleeping on your stomach is [another thing]. When you sleep on your stomach, all the muscles in your back and your skeletal structure of your back traps the heat in your organs, plus all the weight of your back is pushing on your heart and your lungs,

and that’s really hard on them.”

Some people may wake up with back pain because the soft mattresses sag inward, causing more pressure on the lower back.

Anyone who has seen the infomercials on TV for flashy mattresses may assume that a quality mattress costs upwards of \$5,000 dollars. But that may not be the case.

“I have queen-size mattress sets anywhere from \$299 to \$5,000. We display over 30 mattresses and have access to a lot more,” Anderson said. “We sell a lot of specialty mattresses and foam-construction mattress, but it depends on the person’s needs.

“I don’t think a high-end mattress is important. I think the right mattress is important. We encourage customers when they come in to talk about their lifestyle, how they live, what ailments or discomforts they have. In the end, a mid-line mattress might be right for you or a high-end mattress may be right for you. Everybody’s different.”

Anderson said he had a customer come in who expected to spend \$4,000

because of her multiple surgeries and other sleep issues she had. But the only one that worked for her and fit her correctly only cost \$1,200. But not all of the mattresses cost thousands of dollars; many of the mattresses cost less than a \$1,000.

There are also payment plans for those who may not have access to Scrooge McDuck’s checking account.

“We have a ton of payment plans and options for people,” Anderson said. “We do layaway. I have no credit check financing. And on all Tempur-pedic stuff you get at least two years no interest. We try to make ourselves pretty easy to do business with.”

Along with matching prices with competitors between Oklahoma City and Amarillo, Pampa Sleep Store offers delivery and setup free-of-charge within a reasonable driving distance.

“I’m more interested in helping people on a personal level,” Anderson said. “If you’re more interested in helping people than making sells, you will also be successful.”

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 17 Low 12	High 43 Low 12	High 25 Low 13

Today: Mostly cloudy with a high of 17. Winds south-southeast at 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:40 a.m.

Tonight: Clouds early clearing late with a low of 12. Chance of snow: 10 percent. Winds south at 15 mph. Sunset at 5:31 p.m.

Sunday: Partly cloudy and windy with a high of 43. Winds southwest at 22 mph. Sunrise at 7:41 a.m.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 12. Winds north at 13 mph. Sunset at 5:31 p.m.

Monday: Sunny with a high of 25. Winds north at 12 mph. Sunrise at 7:42 a.m.

Monday night: Clear with a low of 13. Winds west at 7 mph. Sunset at 5:31 p.m.

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CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY



Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik

National Bank of Commerce held its customer appreciation day from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday. Pictured are NBC patron Cary Rushing and bank employee Kevin Hunt. The bank's customers were welcome to hot cider and cookies for a nice refreshment after Thursday night's snow dusting.

Dylan's electric guitar sells for nearly \$1M

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fender Stratocaster that Bob Dylan plugged in when he famously went electric at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival sold Friday for nearly \$1 million — the highest price ever paid for a guitar at auction. A buyer identified only as a private individual agreed to pay \$965,000, including the auction house's fees, for the sunburst-finish guitar, Christie's said. Dylan's legendary performance at the festival in Rhode Island 48 years ago marked his rupture with the folk movement's old guard and solidified his shift away from

acoustic music, like "Blowin' in the Wind," toward amplified rock, such as "Like a Rolling Stone." The raucous, three-song electric set was booed by some in the crowd, and folk purists saw Dylan as a traitor and a sellout. But Dylan's "going electric changed the structure of folk music," said Newport Folk Festival founder George Wein, 88. "The minute Dylan went electric, all these young people said, 'Bobby's going electric. We're going electric, too.'" Christie's had expected the guitar, which was sold with

its original black leather strap and Fender hard-shell case, to go for far less: \$300,000 to \$500,000. The previous record for a guitar sold at auction was held by Eric Clapton's Fender, nicknamed "Blackie," which sold at Christie's for \$959,500 in 2004. Dylan's guitar had been in the possession of a New Jersey family for nearly 50 years after the singer left it on a private plane. The pilot's daughter, Dawn Peterson of Morris County, N.J., said that her father asked Dylan's management what to do with the instrument, and nobody ever got back to him. Last year, she took it to the PBS show "History Detectives" to have it authenticated, and rock-memorabilia experts matched its wood grain to close-up color photos of Dylan's instrument at the 1965 festival. Dylan's attorney and his

publicist didn't respond to email and phone requests for comment. Dylan and Peterson, who declined to be interviewed, recently settled a legal dispute over the items. The terms weren't disclosed. Dylan's Newport performance — like Elvis Presley's above-the-hips appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," or the Beatles' arrival in America, or Woodstock — is regarded as one of the milestone moments in rock history. By going electric, Dylan helped lead a movement that gave rock 'n' roll lyrics the richness of literature. Exactly what happened at the festival on July 25, 1965, has become enshrouded in legend, and to this day, the debate persists over whether those who booed were angry over Dylan's electric turn or were upset over the sound quality or the brief set. Backed by a band that included Mike Bloomfield on guitar and Al Kooper on organ, Dylan played such songs as "Maggie's Farm" and "Like a Rolling Stone." He returned for an acoustic encore with "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue."

CITY BRIEFS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR Sunday, Dec. 8th, 1-4pm. The Hudson Home - 1000 Deer Place, The Lusk Home - 2536 Duncan and The Smith Home - 2301 Chestnut. Tickets \$10 available at Pampa Office Supply, the Victorian Rose and at the homes.

CHRISTMAS SALE! Everything in store 40% off, Madison's Boutique, 329 N. Hobart.

CLOSE OUT Sale. Scrubs, gifts, gun cabinet. VJ's, 118 N. Cuyler, downtown Pampa. Bldg. for rent or sale. 806-778-5397

CLOTHING ROOM at Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ will be open Dec. 10th from 9:30-11:30 am.

DON'T FORGET your favorite "Nutcracker" flower bouquets & arrangements available at Brandon's Flowers, 665-5546.

FESTIVAL OF TREES MK Brown Auditorium Viewing Dec. 7th 10:30am-10pm and Dec. 8th 1-5:30pm.

GOSPEL SINGING will be held at the Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, from 2-4 Sunday afternoon. Everyone welcome.

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ON BEHALF of Mary Andrews family, we would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards.

PACK 'N' MAIL will be open from 10am - 1pm on Saturday, Dec. 14th and 21st for your packing and shipping needs.

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Traditions

Continued From Page 4

gift mysteriously hidden under the Christmas tree skirt. Since we lived in Southern California, my grandmother would go out in the yard and cut arm loads of flowers for the house because she thought it looked so bare without the Christmas decorations. One year, Mom decided she wanted a white tree. The local tree lot had all colors which had been sprayed on to look like colored "snow." Our white tree lasted about two days before it began to smell horrible and we had to throw it out. I didn't have a real Christmas stocking until my husband and I were married. Mom made us each a beautiful stocking, which we still have. Since we didn't have a fireplace, Mom would fill a sock with simple things like gum, boxes of raisins, Lifesavers and maybe an apple and an orange.

There were few shopping centers when I was young, and "Black Friday" did not exist. Since we didn't have a car, we either walked or took the bus to local shops and stores. The gifts were inexpensive. I remember when I was 7 or 8 years old I bought my grandmother a small hammer, though the reason escapes me now. I still have that hammer! When we moved from California to Illinois in 1965, we lived in a furnished apartment on the second floor. Mom and I went out to buy our tree, but when we got it home and hauled it up the stairs, we realized it was too tall for the living room. Mom refused to cut the top off the tree, and we didn't have a saw, so we took turns using a steak knife to saw the trunk down.

In the years we have been married, our trees have varied in size and shape from a 2-foot "Charlie Brown" tree to our current 4-foot one,

and have all been artificial trees except for one. A co-worker brought us a fresh tree from his property in Michigan, and I bought a water-holding stand for it. We set it up and decorated it, and it did look and smell wonderful. The next morning, I noticed some water by the tree, but I thought maybe our cat had gotten into the base. A little later, there was more water, and the carpet was soaked. We discovered the base was cracked, and rather than take the whole thing down and get a new base, we just put the tree in the back yard, and set up our usual artificial tree. The city where we lived, Waukegan, Ill., used to have a Twelfth Night tree-burning ceremony, and the city either picked up the trees from the curb, or you could bring your own on Jan. 6 or 7. There was a huge bonfire, singing and much merriment.

One year when we had a new kitten in the house, I decorated the tree with teddy bears to keep our fragile ornaments from being broken. He didn't bother the bears, but he did pull the little lights out of their sockets. This year our tree will hold a place of honor here in our new home, and since our young cat dislikes cinnamon, I will sprinkle the tree skirt with cinnamon to discourage any mischief from him. (It worked last year, so hopefully it will work this year. You never know with Boris.) My husband always makes woven Danish hearts, a tradition in Denmark, the land of his ancestors. They are red and white, and he carefully cuts them out and weaves them together, not an easy task for one with Parkinson's disease. The hearts are placed throughout the house and some are given as gifts with the message, "Glaedelig Jul!" (Merry Christmas in Danish.)

Judi Smith resides in Pampa and can be reached at nonny46@yahoo.com.

'Ice Friday' bears down on Texas

DALLAS (AP) — As Texas residents prepared for what one hardware store manager called "Ice Friday," schools started canceling classes and thousands of shoppers jammed store aisles to buy milk, pet food and other supplies.

Earlier this week, many in Texas were basking in spring-like temperatures hitting the 80s. But by Thursday, Texas was facing the same wintry blast that's hitting much of the U.S., bringing frigid temperatures, ice and snow.

At a Dallas Home Depot, manager James McGilberry said the store was already running out of firewood and ice melt on Thursday afternoon, as freezing rain and wind began hitting the region. Residents were preparing for a storm that threatened to slicken highways, freeze power lines — and leave them stranded through the weekend.

"It's almost like a Black Friday," McGilberry said, "but I guess we'll call it an Ice Friday."

The National Weather Service issued winter storm and ice warnings through much of Friday for parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. Some parts of the Midwest were expected to see several inches of snow.

The system has already dumped 1 to 2 feet of snow in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin and draped many communities in skin-stinging cold.

In the Dallas area, agencies and residents are still haunted by the fiasco of a frozen Super Bowl week two years ago, when an inadequate response to a winter storm crippled the region and left visitors stranded on impassable highways.

This time, all of North Texas mobilized before an expected half-inch of freezing rain began to come down. Temperatures are forecast to stay below freezing after the rain passes, meaning residents will have to contend with icy

roads through the weekend. The North Texas Tollway Authority had its 79 trucks stationed Thursday to cover 850 miles of highways with sand, and the city of Dallas went to a condition known as "Ice Force One," readying its own army of dump trucks to handle city roads. Fort Worth, Texas-based American Airlines and American Eagle canceled nearly 500 flights Thursday. About 250 flights were taken off the Friday morning board at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field.

Dallas and Fort Worth school districts lead a list of suburban and outlying North Texas school systems, colleges and universities that canceled their Friday classes. Numerous government offices also

closed, but the Dallas Marathon's organizers had not made a decision whether to cancel Sunday's race, which draws thousands of runners from inside and outside North Texas.

Debbie Jones was at a supermarket collecting the ingredients for a warm winter meal in advance of Friday. "I'm going to make a gumbo, then try and lay it in for tomorrow," Jones said.

In West Texas, many truckers had already pulled off Interstate 27 on Thursday, said Leilani Pierce, a manager at a Flying J Travel Plaza in Lubbock.

Students at Oklahoma State University were evicted by school officials from a makeshift tent community they set up ahead of Saturday's rivalry football

game against the University of Oklahoma. Debbie McCarthy, the university's athletics coordinator of special events, told the Tulsa World that officials were worried about propane heaters starting a fire.

The city of St. Louis opened its first cold-weather shelter of the season and warned residents to dress in layers inside and outside if need be.

The same system swept through the Plains Thursday and dumped 1 to 2 feet of snow in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. It forced cancellations in places far more accustomed to snow: Officials in Rapid City, S.D., said the weather was too cold for ice skating, and temperatures in Montana and Idaho fell below minus 25 degrees.



Community Chili Feed

for Pampa Citizens at
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Bullet

Continued From Page 4

loaded him in my front seat and drove away. Once we were there, I cradled his head in my arms and talked to him as the doc did what would give my friend his comfort. When I knew he was gone, my heart was exposed. I sobbed like crazy for I knew that he was really gone. The doc assured me that I had done the right thing. The

right thing is not always the easiest thing.

I'm going to miss my companion while working in the garage, who would howl on Saturdays at noon. I'll miss the funny little hop he would do at feeding time, and the way he would be ever so gentle with Evan and our smaller dogs. I'll miss the way he would nudge me when he wasn't finished getting attention. I'm going to miss my Bullet.

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For wind power, US extends permit for eagle deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration will allow companies to seek authorization to kill and harm bald and golden eagles for up to 30 years without penalty in an effort to balance some of the environmental trade-offs of green energy.

The change, requested by the wind energy industry and officially revealed Friday, will provide legal protection for the lifespan of wind farms and other projects that obtain a permit and do everything possible to avoid killing the birds. Companies will also have to commit to take additional measures if they exceed their permit limits or if new information suggests eagle populations are being affected.

But the rule makes clear that revoking a permit is a last resort.

"We anticipate that implementing additional mitigation measures ... will

reduce the likelihood of amendments to, or revocation of, the permit," the rule reads.

Right now, as an AP investigation has documented, wind farms are killing eagles in violation of the law. Not a single wind energy company has a permit authorizing the killing, harm or harassment of eagles, although five-year permits have been available since 2009. That puts companies at legal risk and discourages private investment in renewable energy.

It also doesn't help eagles, since without a permit, companies are not required to take steps to reduce their impact on the birds or report when they kill them.

Conservation groups, which have been aligned with the wind industry on other issues, said Friday the decision by the Interior Department sanctioned the killing of America's sym-

bol. "Instead of balancing the need for conservation and renewable energy, Interior wrote the wind industry a blank check," Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold said in a statement. The group said it would challenge the decision.

The wind energy industry says the change mirrors permitting already in place for endangered species, which are far more at risk than bald and golden eagles. Bald eagles were removed from the endangered species list in 2007 but are still protected under two federal laws.

The regulation published Friday was not subjected to a full environmental review because the administration classified it as an administrative change.

Last month, Duke Energy Corp. pleaded guilty to killing eagles and other birds at two Wyoming wind farms, the first time a wind

energy company has been prosecuted under a law protecting migratory birds. The permitting program falls under a separate statute, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

A study by federal biologists released in September found that wind farms since 2008 had killed at least 67 bald and golden eagles, a number that the researchers said was likely underestimated.

It's unclear what toll, if any, wind energy companies are having on eagle populations locally or regionally. Gunshots, electrocutions and poisonings likely kill more bald and golden eagles than wind farms. But with the industry still growing, the toll could grow.

A recent assessment of status of the golden eagle in the western U.S. showed that populations have been decreasing in some areas and rising in others.

Investigation underway into deadly bus crash

KUNA, Idaho (AP) — It could take weeks to determine what caused a rural Idaho school bus crash that killed an 11-year-old boy and injured four of his schoolmates, a law enforcement official says.

Daniel Robert Cook died of blunt force trauma Thursday morning after the bus collided with a dump truck on a two-lane country road about 20 miles west of Boise, Canyon County Coroner Vicki DeGeus-Morris said.

Four other children on the bus were taken to a hospital. Two of them were released after treatment, and the other two were transported to another facility for specialized care. Details on their injuries were not released.

The bus driver also was taken to a hospital for monitoring; Idaho State Police said she was distraught after the accident but not physically

injured.

The bus was carrying 12 children to Crimson Point Elementary School when the wreck occurred at about 8 a.m. in an area of small farms between Nampa and Kuna, on the edge of the Snake River Canyon. The truck driver was uninjured.

State Police investigators are still trying to determine exactly what happened and who might be at fault. Because the crash involved a fatality, charges could be forthcoming, said Cpl. Timothy Davidson.

"It's not just an infraction. It's going to be a criminal charge, more than likely," he said.

Officers did acceleration tests at the intersection with a similar bus Thursday afternoon, attempting to recreate what happened in the moments preceding impact.

State Police Sgt. John Burke

said a final assessment could take weeks.

"We can't really speculate," he said. "We need to gather more information and continue the investigation."

Sheriff's spokeswoman Theresa Baker said all the kids on the bus were sixth-graders or younger. The names of the injured children were not immediately released.

Daniel died at the scene.

Adam Cobb, whose son was friends with Daniel, was at the crash site later to collect the deceased boy's belongings for the family. Cobb's son wasn't among the kids on the bus.

"It's a terrible loss not only for the family but for the com-

munity," Cobb said. "Daniel loved to wrestle and play football. He was just the kind of kid you'd want at your home. We love him — he was just a good boy."

Daniel was a sixth-grader at Crimson Point, in the Kuna School District. He lived nearby and would have been on the bus for only a few minutes before the crash, Cobb said.

Investigators said Daniel's parents arrived at the scene about 30 minutes after the wreck and were unaware of their son's condition. Burke said the father knew where his son sat on the bus and immediately recognized the damage to that section of the vehicle.

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Whales stranded in Fla.: From despair to optimism

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, Fla. (AP) — When National Park Service volunteers Donna and John Buckley left a pod of 41 stranded whales Wednesday evening, their optimism was starting to wane.

The couple — from Michigan but now living in an Everglades boathouse — had spent two days of trying to coax the animals into deeper waters. On Tuesday, they physically pulled several whales from the sand of the remote Highlands Beach. They spent Wednesday with other wildlife workers in boats, forming a semi-circle around the pod and banging their vessels with anchor chains in an attempt to move the animals further offshore.

But the whales seemed fatigued and unmotivated. They moved just half a mile out to sea during the volunteers' rescue effort.

"I thought a number of them might not make it," Donna Buckley, 72, said.

On Thursday, Donna Buckley and her husband went back across the sage green waters to where they'd worked with the whales. This time, though, they were gone.

Sometime overnight the whales had begun moving toward their natural, deep-water habitat, some 20 miles from where they were found, a possibility that had seemed highly unlikely just a day before, when officials warned that the animals faced a puzzle of sandbars and shallow waters to make it out to sea.

A Coast Guard helicopter found two pods of whales early Thursday in a deeper area of water — about 12 feet. By late afternoon, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fisheries official Blair Mase said three pods had been located nine miles north of their original location and were moving offshore.

"That was a surprise," Donna Buckley, a former

national canoe racing champion said. "Quite the surprise."

Mase cautioned that the whales still face a number of challenges. While they were no longer drifting in a dangerously shallow area of 2 to 3 feet of water, the whales were still about nine miles from the deeper, cooler water to which they're accustomed. Pilot whale pods also are known to be so close-knit that if one animal falls ill or dies, the others are likely to stay within the vicinity or even beach themselves as well.

"It's quite a distance to deeper water," Mase said.

About 15 vessels carrying about 35 personnel were involved in the effort to track the whales.

Wildlife workers had planned Thursday to try using noises such as banging on pipes and revving boat engines to herd the whales out to the open ocean. But that turned out to be unnecessary, and the workers simply used positioning of the boats to prevent any of the whales from turning away from the open sea, Mase said.

Teams from NOAA, the National Park Service, the Coast Guard and state wildlife agencies were working to prevent any more whales from stranding. A Coast Guard cutter was to remain stationed with the whales overnight Thursday.

At the end of efforts early Thursday evening, the number of deaths still stood at 11. Six were found dead Wednesday morning and four others were found in extremely poor condition and euthanized later that day. Another dead whale was confirmed Thursday, and five were unaccounted for.

Donna and John Buckley were the first to respond after a fishing guide spotted the beached whales Tuesday afternoon. A call came across the parks radio, and the Buckylys were the closest volunteers to the

remote western edge of the Everglades park where the whales were found.

When they got to the beach, John Buckley waded through the shallow waters in a canoe while his wife stayed aboard the boat, counting the whales drifting before her. In their 28 years as volunteers in the Everglades, they had seen only one whale stranded before.

John Buckley climbed ashore and ran to one of about nine whales stuck on the sand. He grabbed its tail and began to pull.

"Once the whale could feel the water, it reacted," John Buckley, 72, said. "It wanted to help."

The whale flapped at him, knocking him into the water. He got back up and continued pushing the whale until it was entirely back in the water. Three park rangers then arrived and started working with him to pull the other whales off the beach.

A nearby calf and an adult whale were motionless.

"There was no helping them," John Buckley said.

But he and the rangers were able to help another calf and a whale that appeared to be its mother get back into the water.

The whales they were able to help save seemed ill, Donna Buckley said.

"They seemed very disoriented, confused," she said. "They didn't know which end was up."

The next day seemed to only confirm their suspicions that the whales were sick. The couple said the animals drifted languidly in the water, as if, John Buckley imagined, paralyzed by grief. He recalled how the whales seemed to look at him, quietly acknowledging his presence.

"They could have just rammed me and knocked me over, but they didn't do it," he said. "I could tell there was some thinking going on there. I just didn't understand."

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Cargo bikes the new minivan for cycling families

SEATTLE (AP) — One fisherman uses a bike to deliver hundreds of pounds of salmon to local markets. A mom who regularly shuttles her two kids around town once tried to haul a twin mattress home. And some companies are using the bikes to deliver beer kegs or pick up recycling.

Cyclists are pushing the limits of what they can haul on cargo bikes — sturdy two-wheelers built to haul lots of stuff. The so-called SUV of bicycles are increasingly popular in pedal-friendly communities, from Washington state to Massachusetts.

Families are using the bikes to do everything they did on four wheels — schlepping kids to school, hauling groceries or running errands — without the hassle of finding parking. Some do it to help the environment in a small way or get exercise, while others say it's an easier, more

fun way to get around. “(Our) bike has turned into our go everywhere minivan,” said Julian Davies, a Seattle physician who regularly hauls his two kids in a cargo bike.

Companies also are using bikes to deliver beer around Portland, Ore., collect recycling in Cambridge, Mass., or pick up dirty laundry in Philadelphia.

Cargo bikes are common in countries like Denmark and The Netherlands, but they're catching on in the U.S. Companies such as Xtracycle, Yuba and Metrofiets are catering to this niche, while major bike makers like Trek are also developing their own lines.

It's still in the early adopter phase, but “it's picking up steam,” said Andy Clarke, president of the League of American Bicyclists. “It's a reflection of the growing utility of cycling, and the propensity

to use bikes for more and more activities. It's giving people more options and flexibility.”

Cargo bikes can refer to any bike that hauls heavy loads. Many models out now are built to handle multiple people or loads up to about 400 pounds on a single frame. They can be a foot or two longer than typical bikes, and are often outfitted with a wheelbarrow-like box or shelf, in front or back. Some cost between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

“If you want to park your car, this is the way to go,” said Joel Grover, co-owner of Splendid Cycles in Portland, Ore. The shop opened four years ago mostly to sell to businesses, but quickly began catering to families who wanted wheels to handle more than one kid.

“We're reaching a point where all these cities are encouraging people to go

places by bike,” co-owner Barb Grover said.

Seattle dad Davies has logged about 2,000 miles on his cargo bike. A rain cover and electric assist helps him power through Seattle's rain and hilly terrain. His two young kids sit in a large front box built between the handlebars and front wheel.

It's more convenient to take the bike for errands because it's easier to park, he said. But he enjoys the social aspect of being able to chat with his kids as he rides.

Madi Carlson, 41, regularly schlepps her two young kids along with their bikes on her pink long-tail bike, which has kids seats mounted over the rear of the bike. The three usually cover about 10 miles a day, riding between school, home, playdates and errands.

The Seattle mom considers it a challenge to carry

absurd loads. She once tried to haul a box spring mattress, and made it six blocks before she had to call her husband for a lift.

“That damn box spring,” she laughed. “That's one of the problems with cargo bikes. You just want to carry bigger and more exciting loads. You just want to see what you can do.”

As for safety, Carlson said she bikes slowly and defensively and sticks to dedicated bike paths where possible. “I worry a lot more about accidents in the car,” she said.

Randy Swart, director of the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute, said he hasn't seen studies on cargo bike safety, but “most of them seem very stable.” He added: “From what I've seen, not from scientific evidence, they seem like a pretty reasonable solution for carrying kids.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines

recommends not taking infants under a year old on bicycles. It says children should ride in a bicycle-towed child trailer, wear helmets and be strapped in. It warns of risks of serious injury when carrying a young child on a bike.

Delivering salmon by bike has been good publicity for Rick Oltman, whose company bikes can be spotted in Port Townsend, Wash., near Seattle.

“People wave. We have huge fan clubs,” said Oltman, owner of Cape Cleare Fishery. “It's not to save the world. It's mostly that we enjoy bicycling. My butt was getting flat sitting in a white van and I didn't want to do that anymore.”

Carlson's enthusiasm has caught on. Two friends have bought similar cargo bikes and have started riding.

“Sometimes just seeing one person do it plants a seed,” she said.

Students in Libya say slain teacher inspired them

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — An American chemistry teacher shot to death while jogging in Benghazi was looking forward to his first Christmas in the United States with his wife and toddler son.

Ronald Thomas Smith II shared his excitement with his students, and sent his wife and child home while he stayed in Libya a few more weeks to help the young people in his class complete their end-of-semester exams.

His death on Thursday shattered those dreams and highlighted the tenuous security in the eastern Libyan city where a U.S. ambassador and three other Ameri-

cans were killed last year.

But to Smith's students, this was more personal. He was a teacher who offered free private tutoring when others had given up, they said. Smith pushed them, demanding hard work and success.

More than anything, he talked and laughed with them, and loved their country.

“He wasn't just a teacher to all the students, though — he was a brother,” Abdulrahman Bader, a 16-year-old student, told The Associated Press in an email. “He was the heart of the school.”

Smith graduated in 2006 from the University of Tex-

as in Austin with a master's degree in chemistry.

During his years in Texas, he was active in the Austin Stone Community Church, fulfilling what friends described as Smith's strong Christian beliefs. About 18 months ago, Smith began teaching at Benghazi's International School, a Libyan-owned facility that follows a British curriculum.

“Ronnie's greatest desire was for peace and prosperity in Libya and for the people of Libya to have the joy of knowing God through Christ,” Dave Barrett, executive pastor of the Austin church, said in an emailed statement.

Smith's wife, Anita, and

their son were already in the United States and “safe with family” when he was killed, Barrett said.

Smith was an integral part of the school just outside Benghazi, taking trips to the beach with his students and visiting their homes to tutor them while snacking on sandwiches and watermelon.

He also became active in their online chatter on Twitter — where many of them went to confirm rumors of his death and to share their anguish and memories.

Under #MrSmithMemories and #ThankYouSmith they wrote about how he baked them cookies and sang “Happy Birthday” to them in Arabic, taught them “to think like the electron and be the electron” and shared the story of how he met his wife.

“He was a much loved teacher who supported students in their learning and always had time to help when asked,” the school posted on its Facebook page.

“Ronnie was a professional who gave his time freely and without question.

We do not understand why this has happened and it is extremely difficult for his students and his colleagues to accept.”

Omaima El-Faitori, 15, was in her second year of learning chemistry with Smith. He was “not only a teacher, he was like a best

friend to me,” she told the AP in a phone interview.

On his Twitter handle, @ISBchem, Smith described himself as a best friend of Libya. El-Faitori said that was most certainly true. Smith loved Libyan food, most of all masareen, a dish of stuffed sheep intestines.

Smith also used his Twitter account — confirmed as his by his students — to comment on the security situation and he didn't shy from black humor about the rampant militias that roam the city.

“I understand I teach at a school of rich kids, so if (and when) I'm kidnapped by Ansar Al-Sharia, who's gonna pay the ransom?” he tweeted, naming one of the most well-known militias. And on Nov. 25, he tweeted: “I'm going out. If I don't come back alive know that all your grades have been securely recorded.”

Smith was killed five days after al-Qaida's American spokesman called upon Libyans to attack U.S. interests everywhere as revenge for U.S. special forces snatching an al-Qaida suspect off the streets of Tripoli in October and whisking him out of the country. Three military personnel were also killed Thursday. The United States called on Libya to investigate Smith's death.

Smith, though, had hope in Libya's future, said Abdullah Gaair, a former

student from Benghazi who now attends Manchester College in England.

“He believed we were the future,” Gaair, 18, told the AP in an email.

“He said we were the foundation for the essence of this country and that if we were to succeed now, Libya will also succeed. He was and always will be Libya's best friend.”

Originally from Warren, Mich., Smith graduated in 1997 from Woods Tower High School, his friend of 20 years, Nathan Hlavin, told the AP in a phone interview. Smith continued his education at Wayne State University in Detroit before heading to Texas, the friend said.

Smith went to Libya after scrapping plans to get a doctorate in chemistry or go to the seminary.

“He had a heart for Libya” and “saw it as a great opportunity to help people,” Hlavin said.

The two last met in the summer when Smith was visiting Detroit and they enjoyed a meal together at their favorite Lebanese restaurant, he said.

“We had a deep friendship. We were there for all of the major life moments,” Hlavin said.

On Thursday, a family member who answered the door at a home in Warren, Mich., said she had no comment and asked an Associated Press reporter to leave the property.



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Lifestyles

Weekly Menus

Pampa Independent School District

MONDAY, December 9

Pig in a blanket or chicken nuggets, whipped potatoes, steamed broccoli, peaches, fresh fruit

Breakfast- French toast sticks, syrup

TUESDAY, December 10

Popcorn shrimp or chef salad, spinach, broccoli florets, fresh fruit, juice

Breakfast- Biscuit, gravy

WEDNESDAY, December 11

Spaghetti or popcorn chicken, green beans, tossed salad, mixed fruit, fresh fruit

Breakfast- Cinnamon tasters

THURSDAY, December 12

Turkey with dressing, whipped potatoes, green beans, fruit cup, hot roll, chiffon tart

Breakfast- Pancake n sausage on a stick, syrup

FRIDAY, December 13

Chicken fajitas or hot dog, french fries, pinto beans, carrot sticks, fresh fruit

Breakfast- Cereal, toast

Pampa Senior Citizens Center

MONDAY, December 9

Chicken fried steak or chicken & dumplings, mashed potatoes, spinach, beets, northern beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, Boston cream pie, cherry cream pie, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread

TUESDAY, December 10

Chicken breasts/wild rice or ham/fruit sauce, boiled potatoes, cream corn, Italian blend, beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, cherry chocolate cake, bread pudding, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread

WEDNESDAY, December 11

Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, fried okra, carrots, butter beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, butter pecan cake, apple pie, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread

THURSDAY, December 12

Chicken strips or Salisbury steak/gravy/onions, sour cream potatoes, peas fried squash, pinto beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, pineapple upside down cake, chocolate pie, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread

FRIDAY, December 13

Fried cod fish/hushpuppies or lasagna, potato wedges, broccoli casserole, beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-O, chocolate chunk brownies, cinnamon rolls, fruit cup, garlic breadstick, hot roll, cornbread

Pampa Meals on Wheels

MONDAY, December 9

B.b.q meatballs, potato salad, baked beans, apricots

TUESDAY, December 10

Hamloaf, hominy casserole, zucchini/tomatoes, pineapple

WEDNESDAY, December 11

Chicken nuggets, baked potatoes, peas/carrots, peaches

THURSDAY, December 12

Shepherd's pie, corn, picked beets, Jell-O

FRIDAY, December 13

Chicken breast, bread sticks, green beans, apple-sauce

ALTRUSAN TOY DRIVE



Submitted photo

Altrusa is collecting stuffed animals for The Bridge, an agency that provides services to children who are victims of abuse. The toys may be brought to Soup with Mrs. Claus Dec. 7 or given to any Altrusa member. Other items from the Bridge Wish List include dolls, Nerf balls, blank journals, gel pens and trinkets for teens. Pictured from left, Altrusan Barb Hahn; McKenzie Price of The Bridge and Altrusan Breanne Schwiogerath.

CHRISTMAS CHEER



Submitted photo

SugarSkulls in The Pampa Mall has decorated its store windows for the holiday season.

★ Sunday horoscope

A baby born today has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Pisces if born after 12:34 a.m. (PST). Before that time, the Moon is in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013:

This year you flex a lot more. Others find you receptive and easy to get along with. Still, you will want to maintain your boundaries. If you are single, you could spend time cocooning at home, as you seem to enjoy being a recluse. When someone encourages you to change your style, you'll know you have met someone significant. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy your time alone much more than in the past. Though you like to socialize, the action will be at your home. **PISCES** has moods that seem impossible to understand.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★ You know you need to slow down. Take a day off for you, even if you are pressured by others to go out and about. When you feel rested, you'll get more done. Confusion surrounds communication with someone at a distance. Tonight: Adapt your plans.

This Week: You feel more like yourself from Tuesday on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You will make excellent choices. You could be persuaded to

join friends, who might be getting together for some eggnog and laughter. It will help to let go of tension. A call might change your plans, if you let it. Tonight: As you like it.

This Week: Zero in on your objectives Monday.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You can avoid certain people only for so long. The wise move would be to make a call and set up plans. Eliminating what you don't enjoy will allow for some fun time with a loved one. Tonight: Think and plan for tomorrow.

This Week: You have reason to celebrate mid-week.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ The holidays affect your mood more than they affect many other signs. Listen to some holiday music, or visit a favorite holiday spot. A misunderstanding could occur with someone in your immediate environment. Do your best to clear it up. Tonight: Get into a project.

This Week: Think throughout the week about ideas hatched Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by a situation that emerges because of a friend's misinterpretation of a comment. Trying to get the situation straightened out will take time. Revamp your schedule if need be. Tonight: Go with someone else's suggestion.

This Week: Be the one to take the first step in a partnership.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Defer to some-

one who has a sense of what he or she would like to do. Walking in this person's shoes for a day will give you a fresh perspective. A friend inadvertently could misunderstand a concern of yours. Tonight: Revise your thinking.

This Week: Give others permission to take the lead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Pressure builds and gets you going, even if you would prefer to stay home or indulge in some leisure activity. Confusion surrounds communication, so confirm times and meeting locations. Make an adjustment for a family member. Tonight: Spend time with a loved one.

This Week: Defer to others. That way, you can enjoy the better parts of life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your creativity soars when you are with a certain person. A child could be involved in some momentary fun. Revise your normal plans to allow for more spontaneity. Use care with money. Keep your wallet close to you. Tonight: Let the party go on and on.

This Week: Allow your imagination to lead; the results might surprise you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Someone expects more from you than you feel you can deliver. Clearing the air seems logical, but it could cause more of a misunderstanding at the moment. Postpone the discussion for a few days. You will find a better time. Tonight: Hold on to your receipts.

This Week: Work from home Monday, but be prepared to give it your all the rest of the week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You know what to say and when to say it. Others respond to you positively. You might not understand how much you pick up on about those around you. Tap into that skill more frequently. Adjust plans if an invitation pops up at the last moment. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

This Week: Listen to feedback.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ A decision to whiz through your errands and holiday shopping today could get nixed. Someone might be very disappointed that you won't join him or her. Decide what is more important to you: the person, or the presents. Tonight: Go shopping in the wee hours.

This Week: Try not to be compulsive, and go along with others' requests.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You will go along with whatever others might want. Follow your instincts with a depressed loved one. You might want to postpone getting together with friends, or you could choose to bring this person along. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.

This Week: You peak today, but the rest of the week will be a downhill slump.

BORN TODAY

Singer Jim Morrison (1943), painter Diego Rivera (1886), comedian Flip Wilson (1933)

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tell us about it!



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

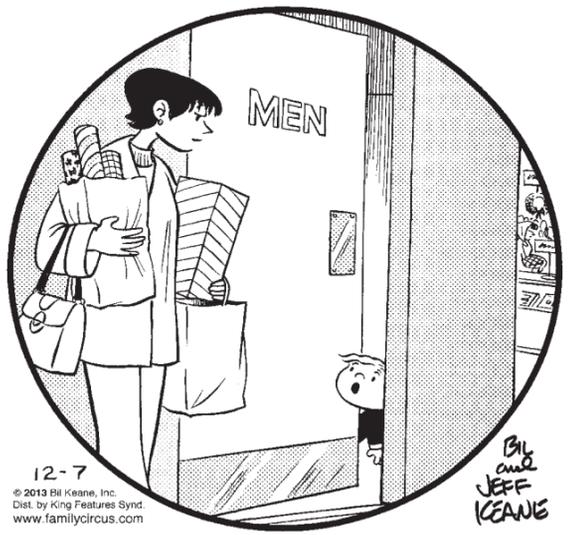
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"I keep wavin' at the faucet, but it won't turn on."

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Bil and JEFF KEANE

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



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Shoe



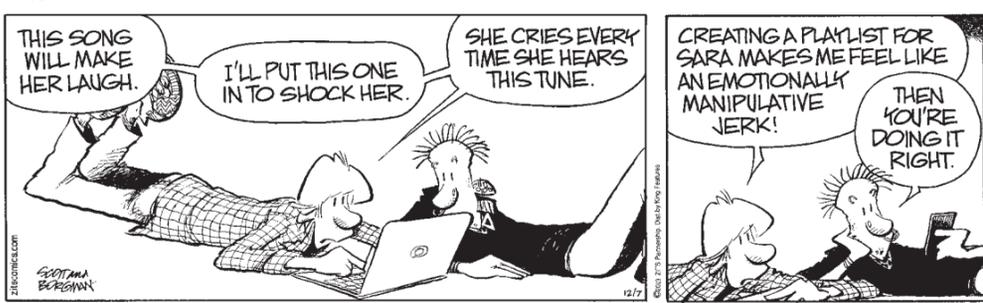
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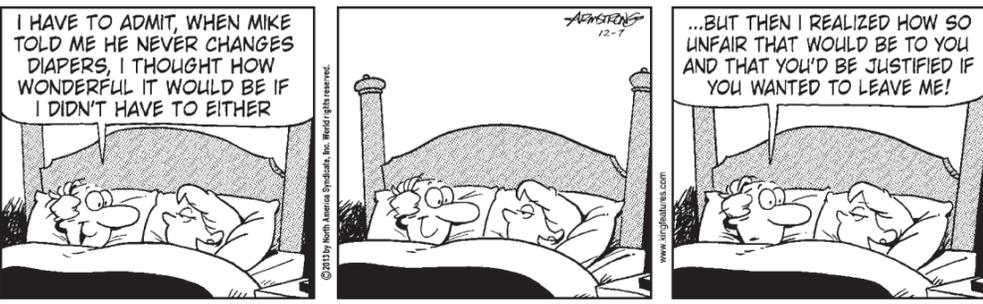
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 9, 2013:

This year you will feel torn between impulsiveness and careful planning. A mixture of both might deliver the results you seek. If you are single, refuse to toss yourself into a relationship just to have some company. You might not like spending time alone, but don't compromise yourself. If you stay available, you are likely to meet someone quite interesting this year. If you are attached, the two of you might spend more time together than you typically do. Make sure you choose activities you both enjoy. PISCES can make you uptight.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You will handle the back and forth of a situation well, though you would prefer clarity. Schedule some time with a boss or someone you care about. Discussions evolve. Together you might be involved in a new project. Tonight: Vanish with care; try not to leave tracks!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Look at the many facets involved in a decision. You might feel as if it is more complicated than it is. In some way, this situation reflects one of your inner issues. You would love to be impulsive, but on the other hand you see value in planning. Tonight: Catch up on news.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You could feel pressured by others' expectations. Focusing on what is important might be difficult right now. You also might be overly concerned with a partner or loved one. Pull back a bit and prioritize. You will gain a boss's respect as a result. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ In order to achieve a long-term goal, you must stop reacting to a difficult situation. Given time, you might understand where others are coming from. Choose the right path for you. Nobody can walk in your shoes. Tonight: Make a couple phone calls before you decide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your instincts will guide you in the right direction. Use your creativity to loosen up a partner. You will see this person go from stern to easygoing as a result. Good feelings exist between you, which makes nearly anything

possible. Tonight: Pretend it is Friday night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might question someone's authority, but the right thing to do is to follow this person's instructions. Inside, question whatever you want, yet remain realistic about the chain of command. A family situation could distract you. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You are easygoing, yet know exactly what you want. You will need to be more verbal so that others understand your chosen direction. Screen calls if you have a strict schedule; otherwise, you might find yourself distracted. Tonight: Squeeze in a visit to the gym.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Let go of any mental interference. Go with your gut feeling, especially regarding a creative project. You will know what to do. Expenses could be over the top. You might not immediately react to your financial situation, but later you could. Tonight: Enjoy time with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might feel as if you can handle everything. Listen to news more openly from a partner; this information could be nothing less than good news. Honor your feelings, even if they seem a bit extravagant. Do not get irritated with a friend. Tonight: Your inner voice speaks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Keep communication flowing, and refuse to be closed off. Establish your boundaries. You and others will be more comfortable if you do. Many people clearly like being around you. Know that you don't have to settle. Tonight: Be careful -- you could overindulge!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Approach a matter differently, with more openness than in the past. You seem to want to move forward. Do not let a difficult friend or stern associate sap your strength. This person appears vested in keeping you on the same level as he or she is. Tonight: Relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Allow your creativity to flourish when speaking to others or when working through problems. You will be amazed by the results. Be careful with forthcoming news; you are only hearing half the story. Get more facts and trust your instincts. Tonight: Whatever feels right.

Advent: 25 Days of Celebration — Week 2

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 8 — Caesar Augustus

He was born 63 years earlier, assumed the throne of the Roman Empire 44 years before the Advent story appeared on the scene, was the face on the coins of the day and was the tool God used to get Mary and Joseph to the city of prophecy, Bethlehem. We know him in history as Augustus Caesar.

As the first century began, if you had randomly asked someone on the street who was in charge on planet earth, almost everyone would have looked at you like you were crazy and then replied, "Well, Augustus Caesar, of course." But even the Caesar of the Roman Empire was nothing more than a pawn in God's hand and merely a member of the cast of God's Advent drama.

So how do you feel about being a pawn? You are, you know. How do you feel about being just a member of the cast of a play that someone else wrote and is directing? Since God is the chess master and the director, then being a pawn and a member of the cast should be A-OK. In fact, it should be your life's goal. Why? Think about it: if being a pawn was A-OK with Joseph and Mary, then it ought to be fine with you too.

Prayer: Jehovah God, You and You alone were the author and director of the Advent production. You and You alone get all the glory. I desire more than anything for You and You alone to be the author and director of my life. Mold my story as You see fit; write the scenes of my life as only You know how to do. I vow to play my part as You direct and with all that is in me. Amen.

Day 9 — the census decree

The goal of the project wasn't really to count the

people. Even though the census involved the counting of the people, that wasn't the objective, nor was it the incentive. So why did Caesar order an organized accounting of the population? MONEY! TAXES!

Things are not much different in today's world. Money is all too often the driving force behind politics, laws, elections, and, sad to say, sometimes even churches.

However, be sure to remember that in spite of the stained motives, it was that Roman census that forced Joseph and Mary to journey to Bethlehem. God used that earthly governmental project to bring about His will and to fulfill Micah's 700-year-old prophecy.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2).

So what is going on in the world you live in that God could be using? Have you submitted yourself and your life to God's will? Have you told God that you want to be a tool in His toolbox? Sometimes God is just waiting for you to volunteer.

Prayer: Holy Father, I don't ask to see Your plans in advance or even to understand them. Your ways are light years beyond my grasp. But like Isaiah, I do cry out, "Here am I, use me." (Isa. 6:8) I volunteer myself for You and Your plans. Use me as You see fit. Use me like You did the Roman census in the Advent story. If no one even notices, that's fine with me; just as long as You see. Amen.

Day 10 — the donkey

In 1978 Disney brought to life the story of an invisible Advent character, Small One. I say invisible because he actually isn't mentioned in the biblical account. However, Mary certainly couldn't walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem when nine months pregnant. So it isn't a giant leap to believe that she probably made the journey on a donkey.

This serves as a reminder that sometimes things

which are hardly noticeable can be a necessary part of the story. In fact, God seems to specialize in wallflower people, nobodies, and invisible folks. Over 2,500 people are mentioned in the Bible, yet not even ten percent would be considered by most as important. However, without those other 90 percent, most of the big stories in the Bible would never have happened.

God wove part of His Advent tapestry with priceless threads: Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and angels. But most of it was composed of common threads, this donkey being one. What is the point?

Have you ever felt "common," "invisible," "a nobody"? I'll bet you have because at one time or another most everyone has felt that way. So does that make it true? Are you invisible?

No, you are not! That is what the donkey should remind you of. When God is at the helm, everyone and everything plays a necessary part in His plan. And most importantly, He weaves you into His work of art because He loves you. Will you be a cooperative thread?

Prayer: Awesome God, I find myself all too often wondering why You would even bother with me. But then, You are faithful to remind me that the value You place on me isn't clouded with all of the muck and mire of my life in this fallen world. Your price tag is right, my perception is wrong. Deliver me from my dark perceptions of myself. And may this Advent season prompt me to see everything through "my Father's eyes." Amen.

Day 11 — distance and elevation

In 2008 a young BBC correspondent, Aleem Maqbool, began a 12-day re-enactment journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. His only friend sharing the Advent re-enactment journey was his donkey, Cynthia. Aleem chose the most direct path of the two available routes and still ended up walking almost 100 miles, much of the time up and over mountains and through remote wilderness

areas. Sounds tough, huh?

Now consider why Joseph probably didn't choose that route. There were two basic routes from Nazareth to Bethlehem. One was the route Aleem selected, and it surely was the shortest. However, when we consider: (1) the number of mountains that had to be overcome, (2) the numerous remote wilderness areas where danger was a serious concern, (3) the fact that very few Jewish travelers went this way and (4) the aversion Jews had to Samaritans and traveling through Samaritan country, it seems very unlikely that Joseph would have taken his nine-month pregnant wife this way.

The other route (Nazareth to the Jordan River, down to Jericho, and over to Bethlehem) did add at least 40 more miles to the journey, but (1) it allowed them to travel with many other Jews for companionship and safety, (2) it bypassed most of the mountains, (3) it kept them away from most of the dangerous remote areas and (4) it avoided Samaritan territory. Considering all of these advantages, Mary and Joseph most likely took the longer route — 140 miles.

Now figure in the elevation points: Nazareth, 1,200 feet; Jericho, 1,000 feet (below sea level); Jerusalem, 2,450 feet; and Bethlehem, 2,550 feet. That meant that the 110-plus miles from Nazareth to Jericho was also 2,200 feet downhill. Then the 20 miles from Jericho through Jerusalem to Bethlehem was more than 3,500 feet uphill. Remember, that final twenty miles from Jericho to Bethlehem was at the end of what had already been a grueling 120-mile trip.

Whew! I don't know about you, but learning about these geographical details of their journey causes my appreciation for what Mary and Joseph went through to grow by leaps and bounds. And remember, they both overcame every single one of the obstacles and difficulties that life put in their way just so that the Advent story wouldn't be a fairy tale.

So how are you doing with your obstacles and difficulties? Handling them as well as Mary and Joseph? You can, you know. You can handle your troubles just as well as Mary and Joseph handled theirs. How? By doing the same thing they did; relying on God each day for the needed strength, power, and guidance.

Prayer: Almighty God, I have made it through most of life's obstacles and difficulties, but not as well as

I could have. I have relied on Your strength, but only a little bit. I know that to do better, I have to rely on You more. So Lord, here I am ready to fall into Your arms. I want to rely only on You and Your strength; no more on me and mine. Amen.

Day 12 — Bethlehem

At the time of the Advent story, Bethlehem was just a tiny town with a population of only about 2,500. During major Jewish festivals and celebrations it served as a kind of extension of the capitol, Jerusalem, since it was only five miles away. Now remember, it wasn't a flat, comfortable five miles. The walk from Jerusalem to Bethlehem was more of a narrow path — a hiking trail if you will.

When they finally entered the town, they found a rural setting that was more fa-

ADVENT cont. on page 12

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Travis Elementary second six weeks honor roll

A Honor Roll

1st Grade

Alexia Albear, Cambree Brown, Wyatt Johnson, Robin Logan, Alex Passini, Sawyer Burleson, Sarah Gray, Will Baker, Reese Beckham, Jacob Bridwell, Truett Flood, Ashlyn Leal, Halee Adams, Megan Hanson, Braydon Parker, Emma Perry, Boston Ziegelgruber.

2nd Grade

Liam Ciesla, Naveah Davis, Bradey Hall, Jaden Salazar, Carmen Vela, Molly Culpepper, Jimena Montes, Melyna Carrasco, Jackson Gill, Semirah Garcia, Kenzie Daner, Anthony De La Cruz, Elizabeth Jaramillo, Kynleigh Kirby, Brayden Powell, Abbie White.

3rd Grade

Veronica Davis, Jose Lerma-Montes, Brody Reppart, Ariel Lacher, Yena Christensen, Kendyl

Roberson, Sarah Spence.

4th Grade

Gracie Covil, Benjamin Langford, Emma Olsen, Eva Welsh, Tessa Rodriguez, Kiera Donehue.

5th Grade

Raegan Beckham, Marcee Troxell, Kambrie Neff, Myra Villanueva, Taylor Guerra, Madison Parks, Lacey Bilyeu, Hope McCollum, Jack Studebaker.

Burr, Taylor Huddleston.

2nd Grade

Cohle Adams, Eliana D'Jesus, Brock Hoskinson, Piper LaBombard, Evan Membre, Sage Owen, Marcos Ramon, Breelyn Richards, Nathan Washington, Ella Bolton, Tucker Bruce, Levi Ledford, Ayden Portillo, Sebastian Renteria, Hunter Smith, Tyler Tuttle, Kaley Bilyeu, Ashley Chilton, Melanie Gonzalez, Cameron Moore, Thomas Silva, Kennedi Wimer, Zoe Jara, Erik Jimenez, Lane McKinney, Josey Osborne, Zach Robbins.

3rd Grade

Valeri Anguiano, Kaden Brown, Mykaella Leal, Jaya Ledbetter, Malejia Munn, Jaquelin Ruiz, Britney Wood, Danielle Gonzalez, Drake Davenport Johnson, Korbin Preston, Samantha Price, Lesli Salazar, Aleeya McCullough, Laney Shipman.

4th Grade

Jacilyn Hall, Kaylea Perez, Ayden Perez, Dallas Vaughn, Jessica Arter, Drew Davis, Scott McLatchey, Kaiden Perez, Joey Rodriguez, Lexie Rosser, Blake Ruiz, Samantha Short, Kayleigh Steen, Sierra Bridwell, Hannah Davis, Meraya Esparza, Ozlyn Fields, William Lindley, Mackenzie Mullins, Hunter Nichols, Celeste Ortiz, Troy Perez, Dax Scott.

5th Grade

Hannah McPherson, Kaylin Burr, Jennifer Eakin, Jaylene Montes, Noah Johnston, Esai Calderon, Haley Goodwin, Ben Grubitz, Tyler Hutchinson DeLaney Mears, Brandon Jimenez, Hannah McCollum, Blane Robbins, Mckennzie Willett, Ciera Belflower, Hanna Boland, Daijania Botello, Robbie Conley, D'Laytis Esparza, Jorge Renteria, Seth Reppart, Taiten Sanders, Mackenzie Steen, Macie Voss.

AB Honor Roll

1st Grade

Daygon Elrod, Mckinley Hendrick, Evan McCormick, Jeremy parks, Josey Spezzafero, Mia Alatorre, Noah Anguiano, Kayden Beaty, Mason Childress, James Johnson, Sonny Lopez, Hallie Mullins, Anthony Scifres, Preslie Segura Efemio Vasquez, Cesar Elebario, Aubreigh, Avery Mccarley, C.J.

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Advent

Continued From Page 11

amous as a home for sheep-herders than anything else. Bethlehem was where the money—grubbing priests kept most of the sacrificial sheep they were grooming for sale at the temple. Huge herds grazed in the fields outside Bethlehem and were the number one boost for the local economy.

So what does this all say about Bethlehem? It was hard to get to, very rural, tiny, and smelly. Then why did God pick Bethlehem as His Son's birthplace? You would think that He would select Jerusalem, the kingly city for the King of kings. But not so with God. He picked the town nobody was thinking about, the one that was not on anybody's "must see" list.

Do you sometimes feel around other people as Bethlehem appeared among the cities and towns

of Palestine — nothing special, not pretty/handsome, clothes not as nice, living in the run down part of town, poor, lower class and not many friends?

You see, in Jesus' day nobody really dreamed about visiting Bethlehem. But since the Advent, no world traveler would think of visiting that part of the world and not stopping in Bethlehem. The Advent changed it all for that little town. And it can do the same for you too.

You just have to do what Bethlehem did. What was that you ask? Bethlehem cooperated and went along with God's plan. How? It didn't fight the plan. It allowed itself to be used by God. If you haven't already done that, then you can follow Bethlehem's lead right now. Just submit yourself to God and ask Him to take charge. And if you've already done that, then thank God for receiving you into His Kingdom.

Prayer: Father God, all too often I have thought of

myself as a human Bethlehem. I've doubted the specialness that You created inside me. I don't want to do that anymore. I thank You for choosing me and I submit myself to Your Lordship. Amen.

Day 13 — the inn

When you think of staying in a cheap motel, what comes to mind? What is your worst "motel" memory?

Now compare that with a small rock building, dirt floor, no air-conditioning or heating, no indoor plumbing, only an out-house for a bathroom, no electricity, and no food. YUCK! Are you ready for that overnighter?

The inns of Jesus' day were a far cry from even the cheapest of motels in America these days. But Mary and Joseph were content with so little that the YUCK INN described above was going to be just fine for them and their baby.

Think about it. They

were so satisfied with each other and with God's plan that even the YUCK INN would score a three star rating. What a lesson on gratitude!

Are you content like the holy family was? Are you able to endure situations that fall far below your expectations, even beneath the expectations of others? Are you able to focus on God's plan for your life so clearly that life's shortcomings seem insignificant?

That was their secret. All that mattered was being together and in the middle of God's will — the Advent. The same can be true for you today.

Prayer: Father, no one knows what is truly best for me except You. I want my life to be so focused on Your plan that I can be as content as Mary and Joseph were as the Advent neared. Help me. And Lord Jesus, I praise Your holy name for caring enough about me to leave heaven and come to earth. Amen.

Day 14 — no vacancy

Have you ever stopped at a motel to get a last-minute room only to discover that they had forgotten to turn on the "no vacancy" sign when they rented out their last room? Frustrating, wasn't it? Why?

Today we expect the courtesy of a lighted sign on the outside of the building so that we not only don't have to get out of our car, but so that we don't even have to slow down at the motel. But that wasn't the case at the Advent.

Joseph entered the poorly-lit rock room full of hopes. It never crossed his mind that so many others would be visiting Bethlehem for the same reason they were, the Roman census. All of his hopes to at least provide a decent room for Mary were shattered with three words: "Sorry, no room."

How in the world could anyone turn down the opportunity to host the birth of the greatest person who ever lived, the only begotten Son of God? But at the time the inn owner didn't

know that, did he? He simply said what he had to say: NO ROOM!

Have you ever said those words to God? Have you ever told Him that you didn't have any room for Him in your life? Have you ever evicted God's Spirit for a day or even an hour, just so that you could once again be in charge of your life? Kind of silly that anyone would think that they could do a better job as CEO of their life than God Himself, isn't it? Maybe you need God's help to resist the temptation to ever steal that role again. Think about it.

Prayer: Loving Father, I can hardly believe it, but there have been times when I didn't allow You inside me; times when it was like I posted a "no trespassing" sign. I don't ever want that to happen again. But since I don't trust me and my own strength to keep on track, I'm begging You to help me. Only by Your might will I stay surrendered and keep Your room ready each day. Please make my heart Your living quarters. Amen.

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Parents... Holley & Gary Jones
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WOUNDED WARRIOR DINNER



Photos by Timothy P. Howsare

A dinner to welcome 17 Wounded Warriors who traveled to Pampa from San Antonio was held Thursday in the M.K. Brown Room at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. For the second year in a row, a group of Warriors stayed as guests at local ranches for three days of deer hunting. The trip was organized by the Lone Star Chapter of Serve Outdoors, which is based in the San Antonio area. The nonprofit organizes game hunts and fishing trips for military veterans who were injured during their service. The chapter leader is Clay Wheeler and the local coordinator is Loyd Waters. Christy Robinson also was instrumental in bringing the Warriors to town. Above, Melissa Parr, left, and Catherine Noordenbos perform "The Other Side." Below, the audience claps in recognition of the Wound Warriors. The group will return to San Antonio on Monday.



DPS partners with Toys for Tots

SUBMITTED

The Texas Department of Public Safety has partnered with Toys for Tots, a national charitable organization that collects toys to give to needy children. DPS will serve as an official Toys for Tots collection center.

They do ask that toys remain in their original packaging. Toys for children ages 0-2 and 12-13 of either gender are in the most demand. Some examples of appropriate toys for the 0-2 range are teething rings, plush toys, ring towers or anything that would stimulate their senses. For the 12-13 range, appropriate toys include board games,

books, jewelry, and anything to prepare them for their teenage years.

For more information on Toys for Tots, please visit their website at www.toysfortots.org.

Residents are invited to donate toys any time between now and Dec. 13 at the following locations:

- Pampa Highway Patrol Office, 2909 Perryton Parkway, Pampa.
- Borger Highway Patrol Office, 3249 Fairlanes Blvd., Borger.
- Amarillo District Office, 4200 Canyon Drive, Amarillo.
- Clarendon Highway Patrol Office, 723 W. 2nd, Clarendon.

• Childress Highway Patrol Office, 1700 Ave F, NW, Childress

• Dumas Highway Patrol Office, 817 S. Bliss, Dumas

• Hereford Highway Patrol Office, 807 W. 15th, Hereford.

www.thepampanews.com



Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.
~From a headstone in Ireland

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US to play Ghana, Portugal, Germany at World Cup

(AP) — The United States will play Ghana, Portugal and Germany in what appears to be the most difficult first-round group at next year's World Cup, one that will take the Americans on a 9,000-mile trip around Brazil.

Making its seventh straight appearance at soccer's showcase, the U.S. was drawn Friday into Group G and opens on June 16 in Natal against Ghana, which eliminated the Americans at the 2006 and 2010 tournaments.

The U.S. meets Portugal and 2008 FIFA Player of

the Year Cristiano Ronaldo six days later in the Amazon rain forest city Manaus. The Americans have just three off days to recover before closing group play on June 26 in Recife against three-time champion Germany.

"I think we have the quality, if we play our best ball, to get out of the group," U.S. captain Clint Dempsey said. "You can't think about, 'Am I the favorite? Am I the underdog? What's it going to be like playing in the heat? What's it going to be like with the travel?'" Those are factors that come into it, but at the end of the day both

teams have to deal with it." Statistically, the U.S. group has the top average FIFA world ranking.

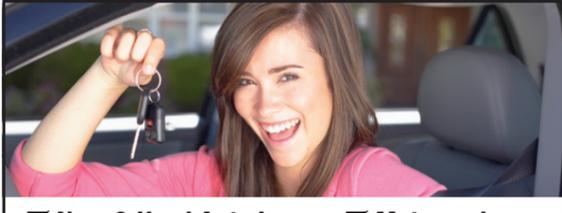
"It's definitely one of the tougher groups, if not the toughest, but at the same time, this is what the World Cup's all about. You go there to play against the best," American forward Jozy Altidore said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I think the boys will be excited, will be up for it."

U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann played for Germany's 1990 World Cup championship team and coached his

native country to third place in the 2006 tournament, commuting to Europe from his California home in Orange County.

"Obviously it's one of the most difficult groups in the whole draw, having Portugal with Cristiano Ronaldo and then Ghana, who has a history with the United States. It couldn't get any more difficult or any bigger," he said at the draw in Costa do Sauipe, Brazil. "It's a real challenge. And we'll take it. We'll take it on, and hopefully we're going to surprise some people there."

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Johnson and Knaus are NASCAR's magical combination

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Rick Hendrick remembers the stress-filled days in 2001 when he was trying to launch a new team with an unproven driver.



Jimmie Johnson

He had an interested sponsor in Lowe's, but wasn't sure he could sell the company built around a

25-year-old nobody who had four top-five finishes in an underwhelming Nationwide Series career.

So Hendrick called in Jeff Gordon for help in sealing the deal on Jimmie Johnson, the driver Gordon had noticed on the track and brought to the team owner's attention.

"I was scared to death when I went to talk to Lowe's the first time about Jimmie — could he win?" Hendrick recalled.

"We had to get Jeff to go make appearances for Lowe's in the beginning. We were doing everything we had to do in the beginning to make that deal work."

Lowe's signed off on Johnson, and Hendrick pulled former Hendrick Motorsports mechanic Chad Knaus back into the

organization for the crew chief job on the brand new No. 48 Chevrolet. Twelve seasons later, the duo was looking forward to collecting the hardware for their sixth championship in Friday night's awards ceremony at Wynn Las Vegas.

"I don't take any credit for it," Hendrick said. "Some-times it just happens. We

were able to put something together that turned out to be lightning in a bottle."

Johnson has won 66 races since Hendrick paired him with Knaus for the start of the 2002 season.

They reeled off an unprecedented five consecutive Cup titles from 2006 through 2010, and after a two-year hiatus they cap-

tured No. 6 to put Johnson behind only Richard Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt's record seven titles.

"I know the pairing of us, there's something magical there and it works," Johnson said. "I say this confidently: I would not have the success I've had in this sport if it wasn't for Chad and our relationship together."

Big League Predictions

RECORDS

John - 111-78-1 Zac - 121-65-1 ReDonn - 115-65-1 Tyler - 116-3-1



John's Picks

- Houston Texans at Jacksonville Jaguars
- Indianapolis Colts at Cincinnati Bengals
- Atlanta Falcons at Green Bay Packers
- Cleveland Browns at New England Patriots
- Oakland Raiders at New York Jets
- Detroit Lions at Philadelphia Eagles
- Miami Dolphins at Pittsburgh Steelers
- Buffalo Bills at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Kansas City Chiefs at Washington Redskins
- Minnesota Vikings at Baltimore Ravens
- Tennessee Titans at Denver Broncos
- St. Louis Rams at Arizona Cardinals
- New York Giants at San Diego Chargers
- Seattle Seahawks at San Francisco 49ers
- Carolina Panthers at New Orleans Saints
- Dallas Cowboys at Chicago Bears



ReDonn's Picks

- Houston Texans at Jacksonville Jaguars
- Indianapolis Colts at Cincinnati Bengals
- Atlanta Falcons at Green Bay Packers
- Cleveland Browns at New England Patriots
- Oakland Raiders at New York Jets
- Detroit Lions at Philadelphia Eagles
- Miami Dolphins at Pittsburgh Steelers
- Buffalo Bills at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Kansas City Chiefs at Washington Redskins
- Minnesota Vikings at Baltimore Ravens
- Tennessee Titans at Denver Broncos
- St. Louis Rams at Arizona Cardinals
- New York Giants at San Diego Chargers
- Seattle Seahawks at San Francisco 49ers
- Carolina Panthers at New Orleans Saints
- Dallas Cowboys at Chicago Bears



Zac's Picks

- Houston Texans at Jacksonville Jaguars
- Indianapolis Colts at Cincinnati Bengals
- Atlanta Falcons at Green Bay Packers
- Cleveland Browns at New England Patriots
- Oakland Raiders at New York Jets
- Detroit Lions at Philadelphia Eagles
- Miami Dolphins at Pittsburgh Steelers
- Buffalo Bills at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Kansas City Chiefs at Washington Redskins
- Minnesota Vikings at Baltimore Ravens
- Tennessee Titans at Denver Broncos
- St. Louis Rams at Arizona Cardinals
- New York Giants at San Diego Chargers
- Seattle Seahawks at San Francisco 49ers
- Carolina Panthers at New Orleans Saints
- Dallas Cowboys at Chicago Bears



Tyler's Picks

- Houston Texans at Jacksonville Jaguars
- Indianapolis Colts at Cincinnati Bengals
- Atlanta Falcons at Green Bay Packers
- Cleveland Browns at New England Patriots
- Oakland Raiders at New York Jets
- Detroit Lions at Philadelphia Eagles
- Miami Dolphins at Pittsburgh Steelers
- Buffalo Bills at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Kansas City Chiefs at Washington Redskins
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CULBERSON'S Spotlight



Chris Pope

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He has been married to Kentra since 1983. They have three daughters: Krisandra, Kallison, and Kellan. When asked why he likes working at Culberston-Stowers, "I enjoy working for the Stowers. It's a great place to work, they treat you like family. Richard Stowers said "Chris is a terrific employee. He is dependable and hard working. He is always trying to make your visit to Culberston-Stowers better than your "last visit".

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Golf Tips of the Week

■ What's your putting conversion rate?

If ever there was an example of "putting making the difference," it was this last weekend's victory for Rory McIlroy in the Australian Open! Adam Scott had seven or eight putts within a 15-foot range and couldn't make one of them. McIlroy, faced with a 15-foot putt on the 18th, rolled it in for a birdie and the victory.

When Tiger Woods was playing at his best he seemed to be able to will the ball into the hole when he was within 15 feet. Woods' challenges off the tee are well documented, and while I'm sure he'd much rather be hitting it down the fairway, his inability to dominate the green is probably the reason he hasn't added to his

Major victories.

Charl Schwartzel, another winner this weekend, in his post-victory interview stated that if he could get eight or nine approach shots within 15 feet, he knew he'd make three or four of them for birdie. That's quite a conversion rate!

Have you ever decided to keep a record of your conversion rate in the eight to 15-foot range? Try it! Over your next 12 rounds, write down how many putts you have in that range and how many you sink, along with your final score. It will be interesting to see the relationship between your success in that range and your final score. And if you are not happy with your conversion rates, talk to us and let's see how we can improve your game!

Regards,
Tim

Tim Stadler is the PGA golf professional for Pampa Country Club. He can be reached at 665-8431.

Auburn, Alabama student papers admit mistakes

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — The student newspapers at Auburn University and the University of Alabama are both backtracking on things they published after the Iron Bowl.

First, The Crimson-White apologized for an editorial cartoon that mentioned President Obama. Referring to Alabama's loss to Auburn, the cartoon said: "This is

what happens in Obama's America."

The paper's editor issued an apology, saying some people considered the cartoon racist. The statement says the cartoon was only satire.

The Auburn Plainsman issued its own apology Friday for an editorial that referred to some Crimson Tide fans by the derisive nickname "Bammers."

Cowboys want to finish in December this time

IRVING (AP) — Jerry Jones sees a healthy and productive Tony Romo taking the Dallas Cowboys into December in playoff contention — same as the past two years.

If the Dallas owner gets another ending without a postseason trip, he's going to feel as if someone is piling on.

"I don't know of but one or two other things I could put on a hand that matches the disappointment that I've had the last two years," Jones said.

"I've often said it is one of the biggest disappointments of my entire time to have Romo as quarterback and not be in better shape for the playoffs as we've looked at his career. We need to change that."

The Cowboys get December started Monday night in Chicago, where Bears quarterback Jay Cutler will be sidelined again and Dallas should see the return of linebacker Sean Lee, who was a full participant in practice

Thursday after missing two games with a hamstring injury.

Dallas (7-5) and Philadelphia are tied atop the NFC East, and those teams play the season finale on the Cowboys' home field. Before that, the Cowboys get Green Bay at home and Washington on the road.

The 2011 and 2012 seasons ended for the Cowboys away from home in chilly playoffs-or-bust finales against the other division rivals, the New York Giants and the Redskins.

That's probably why Dallas cornerback Orlando Scandrick thinks of the December failures as "a bunch of road games."

"We couldn't set it up much better," said Scandrick, who has been strong as a starter with injuries sidelining 2012 top 10 pick Morris Claiborne. "Two road, two home. This feels like as good an opportunity as you could ask for."

The chances the past two seasons were good, too. The

Cowboys were 8-6 each time, although they had a bad December two years ago before losing to the Giants 31-14 in a night game on New Year's Day.

Last year, Romo led the Cowboys to three straight December wins before losses to New Orleans and Washington extended their playoff drought to three years.

The past two Decembers sum up Romo's career pretty well: spotty overall and an 11-15 record as a starter with three trips to the playoffs and three early tickets home.

"We're not even looking back, last December to the December before that," Scandrick said. "None of that's even been discussed. We're looking forward and we're focused."

The Cowboys are healthier as well. Last December they were missing their two best linebackers in Lee (toe injury) and Bruce Carter (dislocated elbow).

Safety Barry Church was

long gone by then with a ruptured Achilles tendon, and pass rushing star DeMarcus Ware wasn't himself because of a shoulder injury that required surgery in the offseason.

So Dallas basically couldn't stop Drew Brees from throwing or Alfred Morris from running in the back-to-back losses.

This time, Claiborne is the only significant defender sidelined, not counting the early season loss of end Anthony Spencer to knee surgery or the release of tackle Jay Ratliff after he didn't play a down in Dallas because of a groin injury and signed with Chicago, where he made his season debut last week.

"There's no question we were rendered almost really helpless as the last part of the season came along to really be what we wanted to be defensively," Jones said. "We're not that way this year. We've got a chance."

Jason Garrett is talking to his players about finishing.

Hidden hills seniors 4-man scramble

■ Event played Dec. 12



1st — 63

Kelly Everson
Gerrell Owens
Chris Kutin
Lynn Allison

3rd — 64

Jim Brashears
John McCall
JG Davis
Melvin Ball

2nd — 64

Eldon Maxwell
Charles Byrum
Mike Wesbrooks
Howard wells

4th — 66

Bob Mosher
Bob Henderson
James Stavenhagen
Leroy Morris

Closest to the pin

No. 6 JG Davis No. 15 James Lee

Watch the Pros SUNDAY

Football

Miami Dolphins at Pittsburgh Steelers.....CBS noon
Detroit Lions at Philadelphia Eagles.....FOX noon
Seattle Seahawks at San Francisco 49ers.....FOX 3:25 p.m.
Carolina Panthers at New Orleans Saints.....NBC 7:30 p.m.

Basketball

Toronto Raptors at L.A. Lakers.....NBATV 8:30 p.m.

College Basketball

Virginia Tech at Miami (FL).....ESPNU 11:30 a.m.
Washington at San Diego St.....CBSSN 2 p.m.
Oregon at Ole Miss.....ESPNU 4 p.m.
Nebraska at Creighton.....FOXSI 5 p.m.
Seton Hall at Rutgers.....ESPNU 7 p.m.
Check your local listings for channel number
Times may vary and blackouts may apply

Watch the Pros SATURDAY

College Football

(17) Oklahoma at (6) Oklahoma State.....ABC 11 a.m.
(25) Texas at (9) Baylor.....FOX 2:30 p.m.
Marshall at Rice.....ESPN2 11 a.m.
(16) UCF at SMU.....ESPN 11 a.m.
(5) Missouri at (3) Auburn.....CBS 3 p.m.
South Florida at Rutgers.....ESPN2 2:30 p.m.
(7) Stanford at (11) Arizona St.....ESPN 6:45 p.m.
(20) Duke at (1) Florida St.....ABC 7 p.m.
(2) Ohio St. at (10) Michigan St.....FOX 7:17 p.m.
Utah St. at (23) Fresno St.....CBS 9 p.m.

College Basketball

Texas at Temple.....ESPNU 11 a.m.
Colgate at Georgetown.....FS1 11 a.m.
UCLA at Missouri.....CBS 11:30 a.m.
BYU at Massachusetts.....CBSSN 12:30 p.m.
Bowling Green at Xavier.....FOXSI 1 p.m.
Kansas at Colorado.....ESPN2 2:15 p.m.
Cincinnati at New Mexico.....CBSSN 3:05 p.m.
Virginia at Green Bay.....ESPNU 4 p.m.
UNLV at Arizona.....ESPN2 4:15 p.m.
North Dakota at Butler.....FS1 5 p.m.
Villanova at St. Joseph's.....CBSSN 5 p.m.
UNC Greensboro at North Carolina.....ESPNU 6 p.m.
Alabama at South Florida.....ESPNU 8 p.m.
New Mexico St. at Gonzaga.....ESPNU 10 p.m.

Hockey

Pittsburgh Penguins at Boston Bruins.....NHLN 6 p.m.

Basketball

L.A. Clippers at Cleveland Cavaliers.....NBATV 6:30 p.m.
Dallas Mavericks at Portland Trailblazers.....NBATV 9 p.m.
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Times may vary and blackouts may apply

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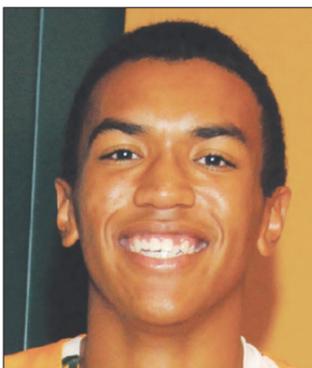
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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



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From the Press Box

■ Texans fires Kubes: Where do the Texans go from here?

The coaching carousel season has started as the Houston Texans fired their long-time head coach Gary Kubiak after losing 11 straight games this season.

I have always been a Kubiak supporter because of his ties to the Denver Broncos. For those who didn't know, Kubiak was a long-time offensive coordinator for the Broncos during the John Elway era. This was after backing up the legendary quarterback.

So after almost eight seasons and two playoff wins with the Texans, the team gave him the "best with future endeavors" speech and named former Dallas Cowboys' head coach and current Texans defensive coordinator Wade Phillips interim head coach.

In his time with the Texans, Kubiak had two 8-8 seasons, a 9-7 season, two 6-10 seasons and the two playoff seasons where the Texans went 10-6 and 12-4.

The Texans were in a tough spot. They are clearly going to have a No. 1 or No. 2 pick in the NFL draft. This usually puts teams in the awkward position of either starting with a clean slate or keeping the old coach. But I think sometimes it is just time for a change of scenery, Andy Reid going from Philadelphia to Kansas City for example.

So now, where are the Texans going to go from here?

Texans owner, Bob McNair, according to ESPN Houston Texans reporter Tania Gangull, has indicated going with a defensive-minded coach. A favorite that comes to my mind and even mentioned by McNair is former Chicago Bears head coach, Lovie Smith. Smith was fired by the Bears after going 10-6 in 2012. The team, however, missed the playoffs that year.

Lovie Smith was a head coach for the Bears for a long time, from 2004-12. He must have been doing something right with Chicago to be there for so long. He had an 81-63 record

and made the playoffs three times, including a Super Bowl appearance in which the Bear's fell to Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts (no shame there).

Current interim head coach Wade Phillips would not be a bad idea for a replacement, either. He also has success as a head coach, his most recent stint was in Dallas, where he was fired after a bad start in which he lost quarterback Tony Romo for the season and had a coach-in-waiting in Jason Garrett. The defense has not been, terrible considering the sputtering offense.

My last thought is perhaps Denver Broncos' defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio. In the two losses for the Broncos, the offense put the defense in bad spots, not to mention the Broncos were missing All-pro linebacker Von Miller for six games. Del Rio also has coaching experience, spending nine seasons with the Jacksonville Jaguars. The defense was never the problem in Jacksonville while Del Rio was there.

With all of these potential coaches I think the Texans need a good offensive coordinator to compliment the defensive coach. What about the team now? Expect veteran quarterback Matt Schaub to be cut or released by the team. The play of young quarterback Case Keenum the remainder of the season will likely be an indicator what direction the Texans take in the 2014 NFL Draft. If they pick up a quarterback in free agency, particularly a veteran quarterback, it could very well cause a mess going into next season. They don't need a bigger quarterback controversy than they already have.

Either way, scrapping this season and getting excited about next season full of new possibilities is the best perspective a Texans' fan can take.

John Lee is the sports editor for The Pampa News. He can be reached at jlee@thepampapnews.com



JOHN LEE



Wade Phillips



Jack Del Rio

Texans fire coach Gary Kubiak

HOUSTON (AP) — The scuffling Houston Texans fired Gary Kubiak on Friday, parting ways with the only coach to lead the team to the playoffs.

The team announced the decision one day after the Texans lost their 11th straight game, 27-20 at Jacksonville, a stunning fall for a team that expected to make a Super Bowl run. Houston (2-11) played miserably and was flagged 14 times for a franchise-record 177 yards.

The 52-year-old Kubiak was hired in 2006 and led the team to back-to-back AFC South titles in 2011-2012, the highlights of his eight-year tenure.

The Texans said they couldn't wait any longer to start turning things around.

"What's taken place with this organization is unacceptable," general manager Rick Smith said. "We've got three weeks of an evaluation process left and we've got to right the ship."



Gary Kubiak

Kubiak's overall record is 61-64, with a 2-2 mark in the playoffs. Owner Bob McNair said the decision to let him go was a hard one.

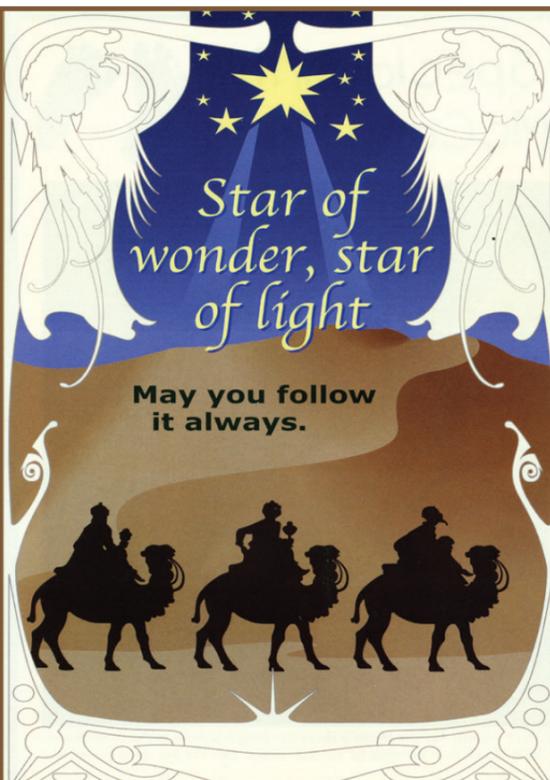
"It was difficult for me because I think so much of Gary," McNair said. "We're here to have a winning culture and this year has not contributed to that."

The Texans said defensive coordinator Wade Phillips would serve as interim coach for the rest of the season.

Kubiak suffered a mini-stroke Nov. 3 in a frightening scene, collapsing at halftime during a game against the Colts and being rushed to a Houston hospital.

He had returned to the sidelines, but the Texans have been unable to rebound from injuries to top players including quarterback Matt Schaub and running back Arian Foster.

The team later said Kubiak suffered a transient ischemic attack, or TIA, which occurs when blood flow to the brain is briefly interrupted, typically by a blood clot or narrowed blood vessels. Experts say they are often a warning sign for a future stroke, particularly within three months of a TIA.



When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.
Matthew 2:9-10 (KJV)

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Petersen leaving Boise State for Washington

SEATTLE (AP) — Chris Petersen is headed to Washington after finally being persuaded to leave Boise State.

Petersen agreed to become the Huskies' new football coach on Friday, leaving behind an unprecedented run of success with the Broncos.

The Huskies made the announcement Friday morning after Petersen reportedly met with Washington athletic director Scott Woodward on Thursday night in Boise.

The decision was first reported by ESPN. Petersen met with his Boise State players Friday morning before the announcement was made.

"Coach Petersen's success and record are extraordinary, but even more impressive is the man himself," Woodward said in a statement released by the school. "His integrity, work



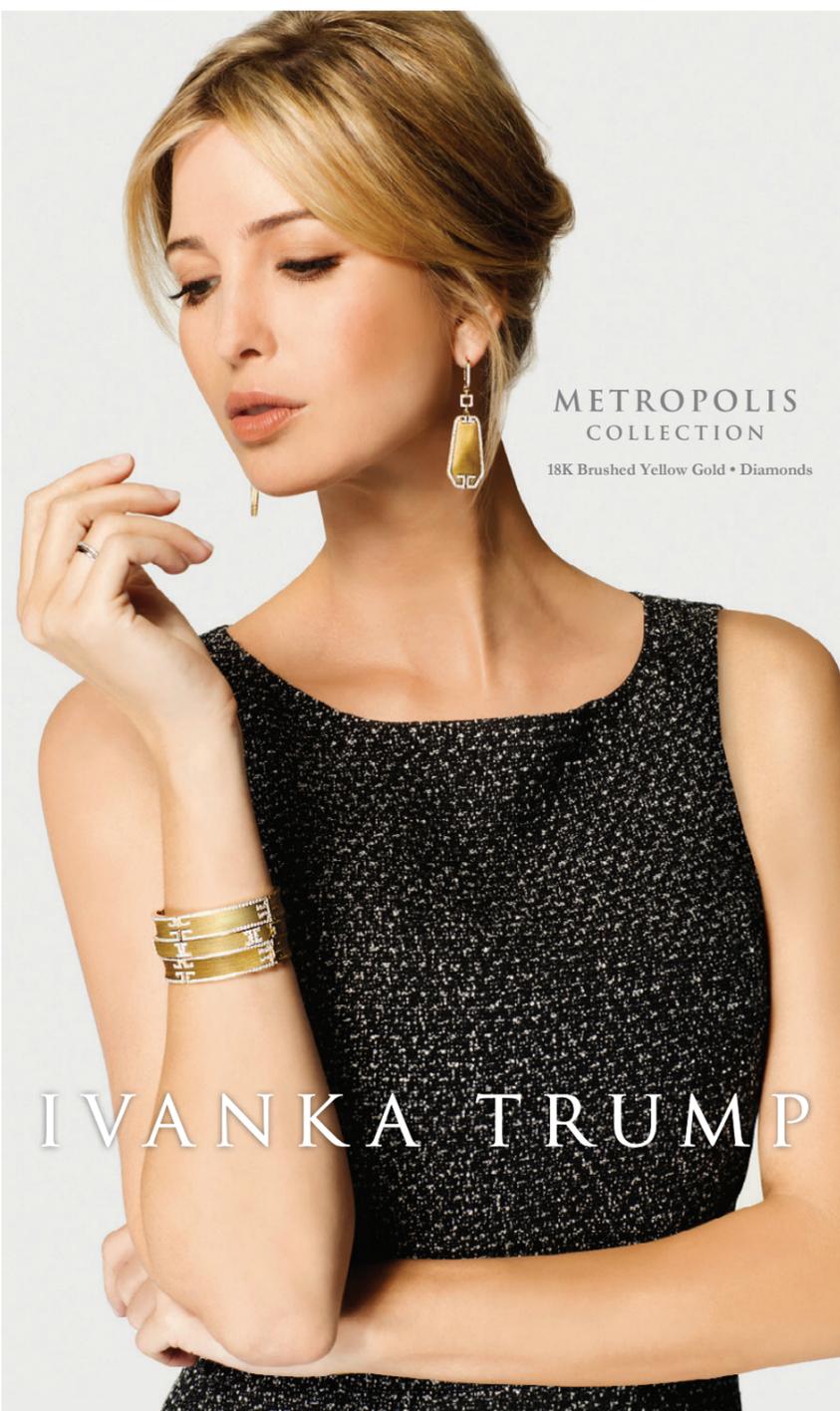
Chris Peterson

ethic and character make him an outstanding fit and leader of our student-athletes at UW.

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Lovie Smith



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MLS - 13-9813
2,562 SQFT - 4 BED 2 BA

2234 Lynn St, Pampa
MLS - 13-9924
3,095 SQFT - 4 BED 2.75 BA

441 W Brown, Pampa
MLS - 13-9327
Commercial - 24,075 SQFT - 1 BA

2122 W Alcock St, Pampa
MLS - 13-9847
Commercial - 1,584 SQFT - 1 BA

203 S Main St, White Deer
MLS - 13-9561
Commercial - 1,260 SQFT - 1 BA

312 S Gray St, Pampa
MLS - 13-9950
Commercial - 39,150 SQFT - 2 BA

County Rd E, Pampa
MLS - 13-9862
Acreage

**Burdett/ Arrington Ave
Skellytown**
MLS - 11-9135
Commercial Lots

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

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Special Notice CHRISTMAS Dec. 7th % To PAWS Booth #37 Dolls, Bears, Jewelry Neat Kitchen Items Holiday Wreaths Boots & Horseshoes Sat. Frost & Browning	Carpentry CUSTOM Building & Remodeling: Kitchens, Bathrooms & Additions. Shawn Deaver Construction, 662-2977	Situations I will sit with the elderly in their home. Call Jenny Adair at 806-669-6649 for more information.	Help Wanted COOK needed. Chicken Express, 2201 Perryton Pkwy in Pampa. Apply in person only. MUST be able to pass drug test.	Help Wanted DISHWASHER needed. Must be 18. Apply in person at Dyer's Bar-B-Que. NO phone calls, please!	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.	Feed & Seeds HAYGRAZER for Sale Large Round Bales Delivery available. Call 806-278-0383 or 806-845-2700	Pets & Supplies Ferrets For Sale \$250, 1 male, 1 female with ferret nation cage. Call 663-6131.	Wanted to Rent CHRISTIAN Family looking for 3 or 4 bdrm 2 ba home to rent or lease in Pampa. Call 806-202-7378 or 806-664-0370.
FREE ADS for Free Items! Call Ellen Today! 669-2525	NOW HIRING Fiberglass Fabrication & Outfitting Personnel Will Train. Medical Insurance after 90 days Paid Holidays & Profit Sharing Plan Apply in person 100 N. Price Road Pampa, Texas	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	MUSIC Ministry position at First United Methodist Church of Pampa. Seeking accompanist for Sunday morning worship service and Wednesday night choir practice. Ability to play piano a must, organ a plus. Background check required. Contact church at 669-7411 or email PastorBlossomFUMC@gmail.com	Verona Italian Bistro is hiring for wait staff and kitchen help. Apply in person, 1203 N. Hobart Ste. #14.	FOR SALE: Double Lawn Crypt in Memory Gardens. Call 806-898-2451	For Sale Registered Chihuahua puppies \$350, 2 females, 2 males. Call 663-6131.	Free puppies to a good home. Call 665-0603.	ROOM For Rent. \$110 week, all bills paid including cable. Private entrance. Call 806-661-8508.
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.								
LARGE 1 bdr. apts. w/app. are in walking distance to things you need. 665-4274, 663-2579, 881-8518.								

FTS International

What: Job Fair
When: Friday, Dec. 13, 2013
 10:00am - 4:00pm
Where: Texas Workforce Solutions
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FTS IS HIRING FOR ROTATION CREWS IN ELK CITY, OK. NO RELOCATION REQUIRED!

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Cimarex Energy Co., an independent oil and gas exploration and production company, is currently accepting resumes from qualified candidates for a Production Foreman in our Miami, TX office.

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Qualifications include:

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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.

12-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

YL UBXHRM WV LVT HN QVW
 WV HQETHPM GFL VP GFHWFMP,
 STW ATNW MQAVL LVTP HRM
 RPMUY GFHDM HW'N VQ LVTP

CDUWM. — WFVPQWVQ GHDBMP
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A STUDY OF ECONOMICS USUALLY REVEALS THAT THE BEST TIME TO BUY ANYTHING IS LAST YEAR.
 — MARTY ALLEN

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SHOP & STORM CELLAR
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1538 N. Sumner MLS #139910
3 BED - 1 BA \$69,500



STORM CELLAR & DECK
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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.

3 BDRM/1Bath, 1128 S. Wells in Pampa; ALSO 3 bdrm/1 bath at 300 First in Lefors. Call 806-205-0322

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NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

To those indebted to or holding claims against the Estate of HELLEN M. McLAUGHLIN, Deceased, Cause No. 10076 in the County Court of Gray County, Texas: GALE THOMPSON, having been duly appointed Independent Executrix of the Estate of HELLEN M. McLAUGHLIN, Deceased, by the Judge of the County Court of Gray County, Texas, on the 4th day of December, 2013, hereby notifies all persons indebted to this Estate to come forward and to make settlement, and those having claims against this Estate to present them in care of the attorney for the estate, within the time prescribed by law, at the following address: Estate of Hellen M. McLaughlin c/o Don Lane Attorney at Law P.O. Box 1781 Pampa, TX 79066-1781 By: Don R. Lane Attorney for Independent Executrix F-19 Dec. 7, 2013

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ORDINANCE NO. 1610

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PAMPA, TEXAS, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PAMPA, TEXAS, BE AMENDED BY REVISING SECTION 13.02.037 OF SAID CODE PROVIDING FOR THE MONTHLY RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS, RESPECTIVELY, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. F-11 11/30,12/7/2013

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I'm 12 and weigh 204 pounds. I feel really fat and I want to go on a diet, but my mom won't let me. I'm getting bad grades in gym class and need your help. — SAD GIRL IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR SAD GIRL: By recognizing that you have a problem that you can't deal with on your own, you have already taken an important first step in resolving it. The next is to talk to your gym teacher about this and enlist her aid in convincing your mother to give you the help you need.

Childhood obesity is rampant in this country, and all those extra pounds could negatively affect your health — not only now, but in the future. If you have a pediatrician, the doctor may be able to discuss the importance of a healthy diet and exercise program for you with your mom. You will need the help of other adults to make her understand if she can't see that you need help now.

DEAR ABBY: I am 18 and dating someone of a different race. We have been together for more than a year. The problem is my father is very racist. Every time I sneak out to go see my boyfriend, my father wants to know who I am with. I tell him it's "my friends," but he knows I'm lying.

I want to tell him who I'm dating, but I know he's going to be judgmental and rude if I introduce him to my boyfriend. Any advice on what to do? — NERVOUS IN THE NORTHEAST

DEAR NERVOUS: At 18 you are too old to be sneaking around. Your father knows something is up, and he probably suspects the reason you're not being truthful or open, so stop lying. If he wants to know why you haven't brought the young man around, tell him it's because you know how he would react. And if you decide to make introductions, be sure your boyfriend knows in advance what the reaction will probably be — if he agrees to meet your dad, that is. But I wouldn't blame him if he didn't.

DEAR ABBY: I ran into an old high school friend a while ago. "Jan" and I are

both single moms. We want what's best for our kids. She has no family living here, and she doesn't have many friends. Jan has low self-esteem, high anxiety and, I believe, she mismanages her finances. Her house is extremely unkempt.

She calls me in tears often, asking for advice and help. I have tried to help her, but it is becoming overwhelming.

I asked my boss for two days off over the holidays. Jan called me shortly after and asked me if I can take care of her son on any days I have off over the holidays so he won't have to go to his day care facility. I feel bad and want to help, but I took the time off to spend much-needed time with my family. I don't want to have to bring her son to my family festivities. Is this wrong of me?

Needless to say, this relationship has added a lot of stress to my life. I tried breaking off the relationship over the summer, and I'm not even sure why it still continues. I feel mean and rude, but I don't want to be — and can't be — this girl's only means of support.

— TRAPPED IN BUFFALO

DEAR TRAPPED: It is neither mean nor rude to draw the line when someone's neediness is more than you can cope with. It is OK to say no, and you needn't feel guilty about it. It is also OK to advise someone that low-cost counseling is available in most communities if the person appears unstable or unable to cope with life. When you do, tell her that her needs are more than you are able to handle. If you do, you may not need to end the friendship — she may do it for you, but you'll be doing her a favor.

BANANAGRAMS!



Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, a few tiles from the bunch have been placed. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

S V E I M C G F
L O M S A E M



Yesterday's Answer: LIMOUSINE, JET; DIAMOND, CASTLE; HOUSE, YACHT; LAWSUIT, WEDDING

12.7

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Pert talk

1 One of a bear trio

5 Bud's place

9 Big to-do

10 Squashed circles

12 Fancy neckwear

13 Roofed patio

14 Generous virtue

16 Family

17 Great weight

18 Flying high

20 Be short with

22 Wallet bills

23 Concluded

25 Mystique

28 Beginnings

32 Trapper's job

34 Gettysburg loser

35 Model buy

36 Very hot

38 One of the Kennedys

40 Silly one

41 Plow pioneer

42 Computer key

43 "Blast it!"

DOWN

1 Try to budge

2 Secret stuff

3 Penniless

4 Skilled worker

5 Russian river

6 One of Frank's wives

7 Registered

8 Broadway's

9 Forgoes food

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

Yesterday's answer

11 Spills the beans

15 Contrary to good manners

19 Reactor parts

21 Brandy base

24 Hires

25 Invited

26 Cohesive

27 Prefer to

29 George and T.S.

30 Past and future

31 Rocker Bob

33 Key

37 Columnist Barrett

39 Historic stretch

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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				

12-7

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SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Advanced

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