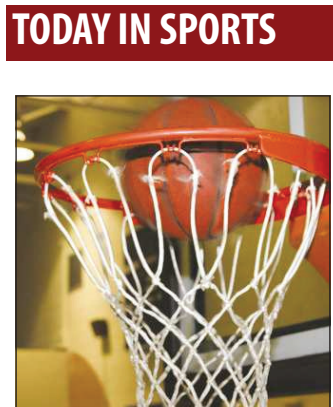


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The PAMPA NEWS



TODAY IN SPORTS

Wednesday, December 24, 2014 www.thepampanews.com Volume 110 • No. 184

75¢ Hump Day with Humphrey | p4A Advent devotionals | p11A Freshmen girls basketball in action | p1-3B Christmas decorations around town | p16B
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription

MERRY CHRISTMAS

No White Christmas in store for this year

By ZACHARY GREEN
 zgreen@thepampanews.com

Unfortunately for those hoping for a White Christmas there is not one in store for the Texas Panhandle this year.

Temperatures look to be in the low 60s on Christmas Day, but it will also be very windy. Winds will be from the south southwest at 20 to 30 mph, gusts could reach 40 mph.

If you are traveling outside of the Panhandle, weather shouldn't be a problem unless you are going up towards the Rockies or towards the northeast part of the country.

Santa should have no problem making it to everyone's house on Christmas Eve as temperatures look to reach around 25 degrees tonight for the low. The skies will be mostly clear, with a southwest wind at 10 to 20 mph.

Another dry cold front will hit on Friday. Temperatures are expected to only reach about 40 degrees. The sun will be shining but the winds will be blowing at 15 to 20 mph from the north. Keep that in mind and take a jacket for any post-holiday shopping you may venture out for.

Friday night looks to be cold at 19 degrees for the low and a north wind at 10 to 15 mph. Saturday won't warm up much with highs

WEATHER cont. on page 2

A Pampa News Christmas

STAFF REPORT

Today's the day. The final shopping day before Christmas.

It is also among the busiest travel days in the United States.

Traveling and shopping aside, it is important to remember just what the Christmas holiday is supposed to be about, and that it spending time with loved ones and creating memories to last a lifetime.

The staff from The Pampa News would like to share some of their favorite Christmas and holiday traditions.

The editor, John Lee, said that one of his favorite traditions is to watch Jim Carey in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," drive to Bishop Hills village outside of Amarillo and look at their Christmas display of lights.

After becoming a parents during the summer he and his wife also added a couple of events to this year's docket by going to the Botanical Gardens and Amarillo Zoo, who each had Christmas events going on.

"Having a infant in the house makes Christmas more exciting," Lee said. "Peyton (his son) may not understand all the hoopla yet, but as a young parent there is nothing more exciting right now than 'Baby's First Christmas.'"

Reporter Lindsey Tomaschik's family starts their celebrating the night before.

"Every Christmas Eve, all the "kids" (I'm the youngest at 23), gather at my parents' house. Christmas morning, we all return to their house, Step-momma Tom makes coffee for everyone as we wait in our pajamas for everyone to get there, usually around 8:30 a.m. or so, then we elect someone to play Santa," Tomaschik said.

"Presents are handed out and then we open them. After that, we see what everyone got and then after all the hype is over, food preparations begin. To end the day's traditions, we have a huge meal and usually end up napping on the couch in a tryptophan coma."

Zachary Green, The Pampa News' sports editor, is developing new traditions as well since coming to Pampa.

"Since I have moved to Pampa, it has been hard to develop any traditions. Last Christmas was the first one my wife and I shared together. My parents still come visit every year, but I am unable to go see them for the holidays because of work," Green said.

"A tradition that my wife's family does that I really like



Photo by John Lee

The Christmas tree is all lit up at the Gray County Courthouse. The Pampa News would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holidays as well as Merry Christmas.

is sausage biscuits and gravy every Christmas morning. I love it even though having Celiac Disease and eating all of that flour makes me sick I think it is worth it! My wife and I are hoping to make it a point to do Christmas morning with each other and our kids whenever that time comes. The afternoons will probably be spent relaxing by a fire or visiting her family in Amarillo."

Earlier this month, The Pampa News' featured the Davis tree farm in an article. Publisher ReDonn Woods and her family are just one of the many families who get their tree from there.

TRADITIONS cont. on page 2

Pattern Energy acquires Logan's Gap wind project in Texas

■ Portfolio increased to 12 wind projects with a total owned capacity of 1,636 MW.

SUBMITTED BY PATTERN ENERGY

San Francisco, Calif. – Growing its portfolio to 12 wind power projects, Pattern Energy Group Inc. today announced it acquired the 200 megawatt (MW) Logan's Gap Wind project in Texas, which is currently under construction, from Pattern Energy Group LP. Upon completion of the project, Pattern Energy will have an owned interest of 164 MW and three institutional tax equity investors will acquire the balance. Following construction, the project is structured to be financed with all equity and not with project debt. The Company acquired the Logan's Gap Wind project for a total cash funding commitment of approximately \$113 million, a portion of which will be used to pay down construction debt upon the completion of construction. The ac-

quisition will be funded from available cash and credit facilities.

Acquisition Highlights

- Adds 164 MW – an increase of 11 percent – in owned capacity
- Expands total owned capacity to 1,636 MW upon completion – an increase of 57 percent – in the last 12 months
- Increases total projects purchased from Pattern Development to nearly 600 MW in past 12 months, which corresponds to a 50 percent increase in run-rate CAFD [1]
- Long-term contracts for 75 percent of the expected output, including agreement with Walmart for 58 percent
- Cash purchase price represents a 10-11x multiple on run-rate CAFD[1] contribution from the project

"We are pioneering new markets for the sale of our electricity to leading corporations like Walmart who are pursuing clean energy for their businesses," said Mike Garland, CEO of Pattern Energy. "This project, which was only recently added to our ROFO list, demonstrates that our team can move fast to create value when opportunities arise. Pattern Development has more than 30 projects in development at any given time, providing a broad and deep resource for our continued growth and the potential of accelerated drop downs. Our outlook for future acquisitions is better than we have ever seen, as Pattern Development has recently added more projects to its development pipeline through third-party acquisitions. We look

PATTERN cont. on page 5



As oil prices plunge, Texas eyes are on Hegar

By JIM MALEWITZ AND AMAN BATHEJA
 The Texas Tribune

In January of 1983, just one month after Billy Hamilton stepped into his position as Texas' chief revenue estimator, the state was wading in a flood of red ink that no one had seen coming. Plummeting oil prices had pushed state tax collections \$100 million below the previous January, sending bureaucrats literally scurrying across the revenue-processing floor in search of forgotten mailbags of cash.

"It was like you were going to lose your job every day," recalled Hamilton, now the chief financial officer for the Texas A&M University system.

OIL cont. on page 5

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Weather 2A	Sports 1B-3B
Obituaries 3A	Comics 5B,6B
Viewpoints 4A	Classifieds 8B-15B
Church Pg 10A	Puzzles/Dear Abby 7B, 8B
Baby's 1st Christmas 12A	Christmas pics 16B



PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Christmas	Friday
		
High 45 Low 26	High 61 Low 32	High 41 Low 19

Christmas Eve: Sunny with a high near 45. Winds NW 10 to 15 mph. Sunrise: 7:52 a.m.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 26. Winds SW 10 to 20 mph. Sunset: 5:37 p.m.

Christmas Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. Winds SSW 20 to 30 mph. Gusts to 40 mph. Sunrise: 7:52 a.m.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. SSW wind 15 to 20 mph. Gusts to 25 mph. Sunset: 5:37 p.m.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. West wind around 15 mph. Gusts to 20 mph. Sunrise: 7:52 a.m.

Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. North wind 10 to 15 mph. Sunset: 5:38 p.m.

Merry Christmas from The Pampa News!

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Weather

Continued From Page 1

expected around 35 degrees. Good news is that Saturday will have very little wind. That may make it a good day to take down your Christmas decorations.

Next Tuesday we could see a shot at our first win-

ter storm of the year, but it is still a ways out. Stay tuned for updates on that system. As it gets closer we will do another story either in the newspaper or on our Facebook page as well as our website.

The bottomline for the next few days is up and down temperatures, sunny skies and variable winds. What else is new in the Texas Panhandle?

Rejoice

First Baptist Church

Christmas Eve

Celebration

6:00 pm

Refreshments will be served at 5:00

The public is cordially invited to attend.

203 N. West St.

Pampa, Texas



Tradition

Continued From Page 1

“We enjoy cutting down a tree at the Davis tree farm and getting a cookie and a cup of hot chocolate. In all the pictures you see Keith doing all the work while the girls pose for a photo op,” Woods said.

“Especially if its really cold, they pick out the most prickly and hard to cut tree and then watch dad from the inside of a heated pickup. He’s a trooper though he gets it cut and trimmed for the girls to decorate.”

Woods also enjoys her Christmas thanks to her large family.

“We are blessed to have a very large family. So, we spread out the visits and Christmas get-togethers. So, we always go to Granny’s (Keith’s mom) on Christmas Eve and then have Christmas breakfast with my mom.” Woods said.

“This has turned into something the kids really

like. They go in their pajamas and head to grandmas for a very large breakfast. Then they have the rest of the day to play with their toys.”

The frontline of our office, Beverly Taylor and April Lee, shared their favorite traditions as well.

“Two of my best memories of traditions when I was a little girl. My daddy, mother and me would drive around Pampa at night and look at Christmas lights, and I will always remember the excitement of waiting for Santa Claus to come,” Taylor said.

“Now it’s me and Keith getting to see the excitement in our grandchildren’s eyes as they talk about Christmas and Santa Claus, there’s nothing like it!”

April’s favorite past time is a little more simple.

“Christmas Eve we open presents while drinking hot chocolate,” April said.

“Christmas Day we do Santa presents and Christmas dinner with Christmas movies!”

CITY BRIEFS

EARLY CLASSIFIED and City Brief Deadlines for the Christmas Holidays! For Wed. Dec. 24th deadline is Tues. Dec. 23 at noon. For Fri. Dec. 26 deadline is Tue. Dec. 23 at 2pm. For Sat. Dec. 27 deadline is Wed. Dec. 24th, 10am. No paper Thurs. Dec. 25th Christmas Day. Merry Christmas to all! Pampa News office will close at noon on Wed. Dec. 24th.

JAM IS Here!! \$5 per jar. Stop by Rheams Diamond Shop, 111 N. Cuyler, downtown Pampa and pick some up today!! (proceeds got to St. Paul Methodist Church).

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisements.

PAMPA NEWS office will close at noon on Wed. Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve) and also be closed on Fri. Dec. 27th, so that our employees may enjoy the holiday with family & friends!! No paper on Thurs. Christmas Day.

SUPPLEMENT YOUR Income! Part-Time Janitor needed Mondays and Thursdays 8:30-10:30am. Please call to apply 806-355-0821.

With warm wishes!

In the spirit of this Christmas season, we would like to extend our sincere best wishes for a season filled with faith, festivity and delight. For your goodwill, we are extremely grateful, and for your friendship, we are truly blessed.

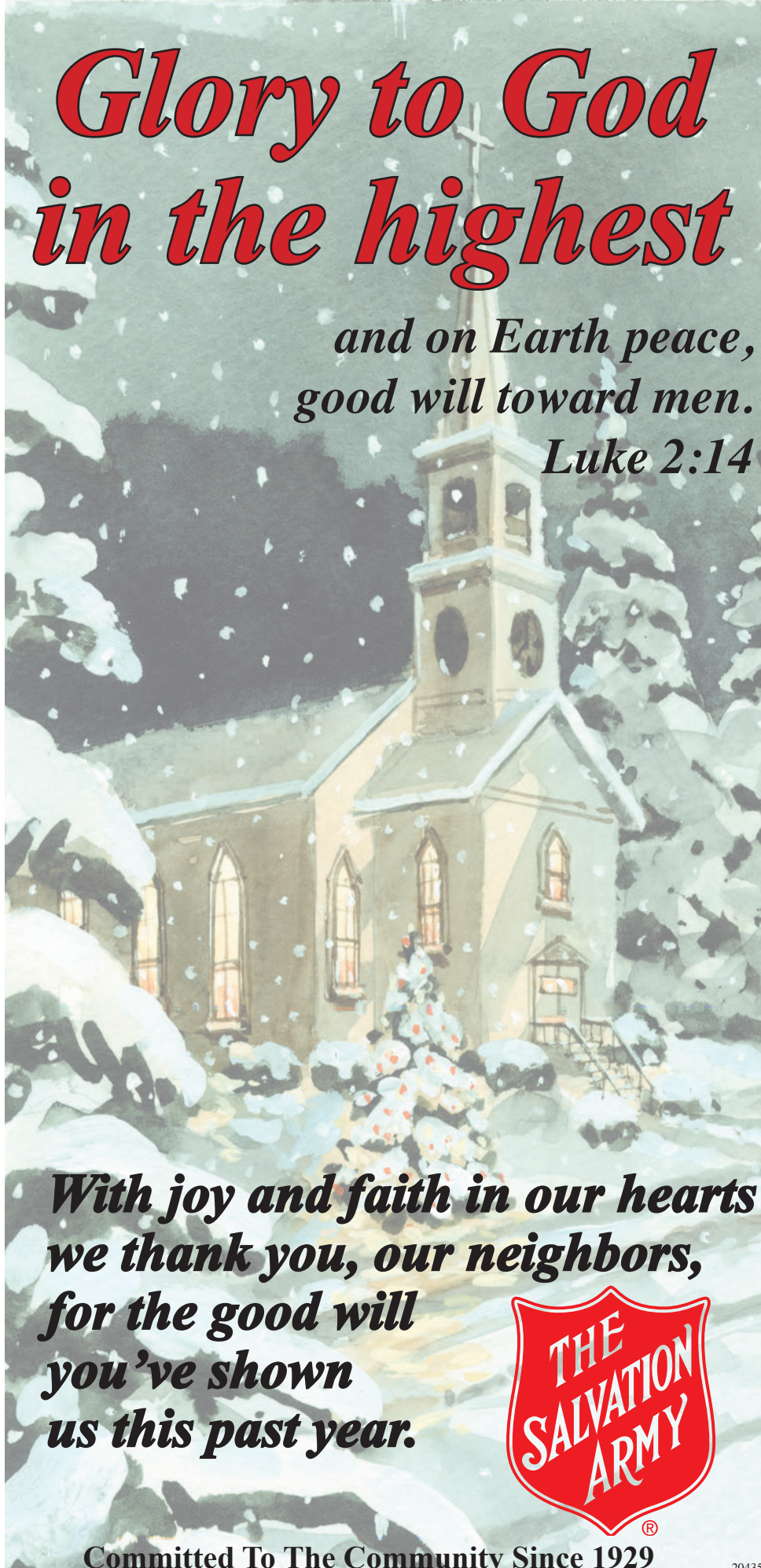


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Glory to God in the highest

and on Earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke 2:14



With joy and faith in our hearts we thank you, our neighbors, for the good will you’ve shown us this past year.



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Obituaries

Jane Carnahan Bright

Jane Carnahan Bright, 79, of Miami, died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014, in Amarillo.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at the First Baptist Church in Miami with Rev. Dennis Williams, pastor, and Bill Burkholder, officiating. Burial will be in Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Bright was born Nov. 7, 1935 in Miami to Sandy and Ada Carnahan. She was a lifelong resident of Miami and a 1954 graduate of Miami High School. Jane married Charles Nelson Bright on June 12, 1954 at the First Baptist Church in Miami. He preceded her in death in 1998.

Jane was the curator of Roberts County Museum for 20 years. She was a member of First Baptist Church where she was church hostess for 25 years and was also the church librarian. Jane was a member of the Miami Chapter #98 Order of the Eastern Star where she held many offices. She was a member of the Miami Chamber of Commerce where she served as vice-president. She was a hospice volunteer and was the hospice volunteer coordinator. Jane was also preceded in death by her parents, a son, Wayne Bright, two brothers, and two sisters.

Survivors include a son, Steven S. Bright and wife Donna of Paulden, Arizona; two granddaughters, Kanan Danner and Malani Heyman, both of Amarillo; two grandsons, Micheal Benitez and Marcus Benitez, both of Paulden, Ariz.; 8 great grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Starlet Bright of Borger; six nieces including Sarah Northcutt of Miami and Zelda Wilson of Pampa; a nephew, Jackie Sirmans of Pampa; and several great nieces and great nephews.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 57, Miami, TX 79059 or Roberts County Museum, Highway 60, Miami, TX 79059.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

John Earl Ferguson, Jr.

John Earl Ferguson, Jr., 54, of Pampa, died Dec. 20, 2014 in Amarillo.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Pastor Gary Luckey of Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship, officiating. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Johnny was simply passionate about life. He had a contagious smile that could light up a room and his love for his family was hard to emulate. It is said that one should live this life to the fullest, well, Johnny didn't have a problem doing just that. He traveled to many parts of the world, bringing back stories and knowledge about the history and culture of the places he visited. He never met a stranger he couldn't befriend within minutes, and his personality was so energetic that most people probably walked away in wonder and disbelief that anyone could be so driven to develop relationships with others. His work in sales granted him the avenue to use his gifts to motivate, lead and genuinely care for others in their daily walk in this life. A person once said, "John can sell rotten fish to a fisherman and the fisherman would be his friend for life."

"Fergie," as he was affectionately known, spent most of his adult life living in the Dallas Metroplex where he could live his dream of being the "Greatest Dallas Cowboys Fan" ever. As he donned his favorite Cowboys jersey, you could hear him on game days with his cliché, "How 'bout them Cowboys!" Win or lose, he was as loyal a Cowboys fan as anyone. He always bragged about being on a first-name basis with former Cowboys greats, such as Larry "MVP" Brown, Drew Pearson, Eugene Lockhart and Charles Haley. He took great pride in the Silver and Blue.

The last couple of years, Johnny returned to his hometown of Pampa, spending time with his family, working on the land, taking care of his parents, John Sr., and Mary, and traveling with his dad to Oklahoma and Arkansas on many occasions, reminiscing about the family's history. He was an avid cook, golfer and connoisseur of Classic Rock. He was loved by so many, especially his sons, Joshua and Garison, whom he fondly nicknamed, "Punkin Snub and Niknup," and of course his brothers, Terry and Steve, who made friendly competition a family tradition.

Johnny was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Kelly Ann Ferguson; his grandparents; his biological mother, Alice Faye Cummings; and a host of aunts and uncles.

Survivors include his two sons, Joshua Wayne Ferguson and wife Donna of Amarillo, and Garison Scot Ferguson of Oklahoma; his parents, John and Mary Ferguson of Pampa; three brothers, Kelly Martin of Panhandle, Terry Ferguson and wife Ginger of Weatherford, and Steve Ferguson and wife Christy of Pampa; a sister, Suzie Moore of Panhandle; two granddaughters, Caylle Shepard of Marlow, Oklahoma, and Kimberly Ferguson of Rockwall; a grandson, Dakota Scot Ferguson of Port Aransas; a stepdaughter, Gina Hugg-Daniel of Perryton; and four step-grandchildren, Trae, Hallie, Sophie, and John Ryan.

Johnny rose every day to see the "Majestic Sunrise," dedicating his days with the love of the Lord our God, and in his passing leaves this life with the Bible verse for others to remember "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the Light of Life." John 8:12

Sign the on-line guest register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Patrick Wayne Robertson

Patrick Wayne Robertson, 59, of Clarendon died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2014.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at 2 p.m. in First Baptist Church, Clarendon with Rev. Dave Stout officiating. Burial will follow in Citizens Cemetery, Clarendon. Arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Patrick was born March 10, 1955, in Groom to Delbert Wayne and Patsy Darlene Robertson. He graduated from Clarendon High School in 1973. He attended the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science, graduating in 1975. Patrick married Edith Faye Black of Wellington, Texas on Sept. 27, 1975. She preceded him in death in 1987. On May 4, 1991, he and Vicky Annette Hawkins were united in marriage in Clarendon. He was co-owner of Robertson Funeral Directors in Clarendon and co-owner of KEFH 99.3 FM radio station. Patrick was a lifetime member of the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department serving from 1975 to 2009. He was a graduate of the first paramedic class in the Texas Panhandle and one of the first paramedics to serve Donley County. He served with the Clarendon EMS from 1973-1992. He later became a member of the Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department. He loved classic cars and was a member of the High Plains Cruisers of Pampa. He was a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association for 25 years. He received his Eagle Scout from Troop 433 of Clarendon in 1972. He was awarded funeral director of the year by Panhandle Funeral Directors Association for the year 2011-2012. He was appointed to the Texas Funeral Service Commission by Governor Rick Perry in 2011 and served until 2014. He was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Howardwick.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Patsy Wallace Robertson in 2008.

Survivors include his wife, Vicky Hawkins Robertson of Clarendon; a son from his first marriage Charles Wayne (Chuck) Robertson of Clarendon; his father Delbert Robertson and step-mother Naomi of Clarendon; a grandson Jaxon Robertson of Clarendon; a sister Debbie Thompson and husband Michael of Clarendon; two step-sisters Linda Allison and husband Con of Shamrock and Glenda Harvey and husband Mike of Austin; three stepbrothers Gary Lowe and Dennis Lowe, both of Shamrock, and Boe Lowe and wife Sue of Lumberton, Texas; mother-in-law Wanda Beddingfield of Clarendon; sister-in-law Sonya Hawkins Shieldknight of Spearman; brothers-in-law Sam Hawkins, III and wife Lisa of Scott, La, Doug Hayton and wife Kathy of Claude and Shane Beddingfield of Fayetteville, N.C.; a brother-in-law from his first marriage Charles Black and wife Patsy of Dumas; an aunt Margaret Vines of Wellington;

many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

The family suggests memorials be to First Baptist Church of Howardwick, 235 Rick Husband Blvd., Howardwick, Tx 79226 or Citizens Cemetery, P. O. Box 983, Clarendon, TX 79226.

Sign the online guestbook at www.robertsonfuneral.com.

Alan Dallas

Alan Dallas, 50, of Pampa, died Dec. 23, 2014, in Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at First Baptist Church, with Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Dallas was born Aug. 24, 1964, in Clovis, N.M. He had been a lifelong resident of Pampa, graduating from Pampa High School in 1982. He married Tamilan Gowin on Aug. 22, 1986, in Pampa. Alan was an operator for Cabot Carbon Black Plant for 23 years, retiring in 2014. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, spending time at his ranch, and playing video games with his grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Jane Adams Dallas in 2007.

Survivors include his wife, Tamilan Dallas of the home; three daughters, Alisha Dallas and husband Andy Sevordzi, Adeena Dallas and fiancé JP Richey, and Arin Dallas and Christopher Smith, all of Pampa; his father, Kevo "Earl" Dallas of Pampa; two brothers, Butch Dallas and wife Sheila of Pampa, and Charles Dallas and wife Sherry of Dayton; a sister, Pamela Phelps and husband Paul of Pampa; three grandchildren, Daxton Dallas, Azdyn Dallas and one-on-the-way, all of Pampa; numerous nieces and nephews, including Cory Dallas, Jonathan Olson, Dakota Gowin, Christopher Gowin and Braden Gowin, all of Pampa, Chris Johnson of Houston, Keva Dallas of Tallahassee, Fla., Alex Dallas and Lexi Dallas, both of Dayton, RC Spiller and wife Cindy of Midland, and Mecca Dodd of Lubbock; and his mother-in-law, Rose Ann Gowin of Pampa.

Memorials may be made to M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, Texas 77030.

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



Jane Carnahan Bright



Patrick Wayne Robertson



John Earl Ferguson

IN MEMORY OF Patsy Stewart

Perhaps you sent
a lovely card,
or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent
a funeral spray,
if so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke
the kindest words,
as any friend could say;
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Viewpoints

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Museum Musings

The origin of Jingle Bells

One of the most popular songs heard during the Christmas season began not for that holiday but as a winter song with the title, "The One Horse Open Sleigh."



COURTNEY OXLEY

According to the book, "Boston Curiosities," "Jingle Bells" was written by Medford [Massachusetts] resident, James Pierpont, in 1850, inspired by the annual one-horse open-sleigh races on Salem and Pleasant Streets between Medford Square and Malden Square. Pierpont penned the racy little ditty in Simpson's Tavern, a boarding-house that had the only piano in town.

This is interesting details about how the song was written but unfortunately the two authors (Bruce Gellerman and Erik Sherman) don't provide any source for this information. Two years later, in 1859, the title was changed when it was reprinted with the title: "Jingle Bells, or The One Horse Open Sleigh."

James Lord Pierpont was born in Medford, Massachusetts in 1822 and died in Winter Haven, Fla. in 1893. He had a rather unusual

life, coming from a strict New England Unitarian family who were against slavery. He moved to the South and was an organist in a church in Savannah, Ga. Against his family's wishes, he supported the Confederate cause, writing several songs in support, including "Strike for the South" and "We Conquer or Die." It has been reported, though not proven, that he wrote his popular winter song for his father's Sunday School class for Thanksgiving and it proved so popular that it was sung again at Christmas time. One of Pierpont's friends called the song — "A Merry Little Jingle."

After he wrote the song Pierpont paid little attention to it until the Salem Evening News printed a story about it in 1864. Then he accepted credit for writing "Jingle Bells." There has been speculation that Pierpont borrowed lines from a Stephen Foster minstrel song but that has remained unproven.

James Pierpont's uncle was the famous wealthy New York financier, John Pierpont Morgan, founder of the famed Pierpont Morgan Library.

Though he died in Florida, James Pierpont was buried in Savannah, Ga. in Laurel Grove Cemetery. There was a marker

placed in Troup Square in Savannah to honor him.

Did Pierpont write "Jingle Bells" in Medford, Mass. or Savannah, Ga? Both places make claim to the song's origin. Yet it seems likely that he wrote the song in Medford where snow was commonplace rather than in the warmer climate of Savannah.

Among the earliest recorded versions of the song were on music boxes and other mechanical music devices.

When did it start to become popular as a Christmas song?

That happened first with the spread of phonograph records and later on radio, which allowed the song to be heard by a nationwide audience.

Among all the recordings, it was Bing Crosby with The Andrews Sisters who made the song the most popular. Their 1943 recording is the one most often heard today during the Christmas season in the U.S.A.

For more information about the museum's current exhibits, visit the White Deer Land Museum in downtown Pampa. Regular tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday from 1-4 p.m. If you would like to schedule a special or group tour, please call or email the museum at 806-669-8041 or courtney.oxley@graych.com. Source: Roger Lee Hall, American Music Preservation.

What the war on cops has wrought

"NYPD, KKK, How many kids did you kill today?"



PATRICK BUCHANAN

That was one of the chants of anti-police protesters in New York City. Another was, "What do we want? Dead

cops! When do we want them? Now!"

Well, the marchers got their wish Saturday in Bedford-Stuyvesant when Ismaaiyl Brinsley, 28, firing into a patrol car, murdered NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu.

The two were executed by this criminal who had just shot his girlfriend outside Baltimore and used social media to say he was going to Brooklyn to take revenge for Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

"There's blood on many hands tonight," said Patrick Lynch of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, "That blood on the hands starts at City Hall in the office of the mayor."

Echoed Ed Mullins of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, "The blood of 2 executed police officers is on the hands of Mayor de Blasio."

Ex-Governor George Pataki called the murders "a predictable outcome of the divisive anti-cop rhetoric" of Bill de Blasio and Eric Holder.

When de Blasio arrived at Woodhull Hospital where Ramos and Liu had been taken, scores of cops turned their backs.

Rudy Giuliani disents. "The blood is not on his hands. ...

That's an incorrect and incendiary charge." But, adds Rudy, "The protesters should not have been allowed to take over streets the way they did."

Indeed, they should not. And here is where the moral culpability of de Blasio, Holder, Al Sharpton and President Obama lies. They gave aid and comfort to the cop-haters and cop-baiters.

When did any of these four speak up or speak out to denounce the blocking of squares, highways, bridges, tun-

nels, shops and stores, from New York to the Mall of America?

When did they denounce the protesters for their hateful anti-police rhetoric? When did they demand that these mobs go home and respect the rule of law and decisions of the grand jury, even if they disagreed?

When a Staten Island grand jury voted not to indict NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo in the death of Eric Garner, the mayor did not urge the city to accept it calmly, but expressed astonishment, called it a "very painful day for so many New Yorkers," and said he had warned his biracial son to be especially careful dealing with cops.

De Blasio was feeding the myth that cops, especially white cops, are what young black males should fear most. That myth is a big lie.

After the shooting death of Michael Brown by Officer Darren Wilson, Holder flew to St. Louis, decried racism, which had nothing to do with the shooting, ordered the FBI to conduct it's own investigation, and declared, "I am the Attorney General ... but I am also a black man."

When a St. Louis County grand jury concluded no crime had been committed in Ferguson, that Wilson acted in self-defense, Holder said his department would look at charging Wilson with violating Brown's civil rights.

In an increasingly ugly national clash between police and black communities, Holder did not stand squarely for the rule of law; he and the president took sides against the cops and stood with their own.

"If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon," said Obama, flashing a signal of racial solidarity in a blazing issue dividing his country and in which his allies, Revs. Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, were stirring up crowds with incendiary rhetoric.

The Wall Street Journal writes today, "Especially in urban America, the police walk that line between civilization and mayhem every day." Others say that the thin blue

WAR cont. on page 7A



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Hump Day with Humphrey

Humphrey's sneaky ways

I hope everyone is having a merry Christmas Eve!

This is my favorite time of the year. Although I am slightly put back about the fact that we will not have a white Christmas in the Texas Panhandle this year,



LINDSEY TOMASCHIK

and I'm sure Humphrey is too, he's glad that it hasn't been cold enough for the Christmas sweater. I did get him to wear it for about an hour before he looked miserable enough for someone to take it off of him. I guess his human-like facial expressions worked in his favor on that one.

On another note, I'm looking forward to spending a lot of time with my family this week. There's guaranteed to be a house full of laughter and food when we are all together. Dog-lovers alike, we always have some sort of story to tell of our four-legged children.

My family has been one that has had boxers for several years now, and with the purchase of my English bulldog, I have broken the mold. Humphrey still fits in with the big dogs though.

Ever since he was a little puppy, he has been jazzed about getting to play with the boxers at my parents' house when the holidays roll around. They have welcomed him and even teamed up during one holiday gathering last year to sneak a steak off the kitchen counter.

We were all laughing around the dining room table after dinner when it got quiet in the kitchen — too quiet. Someone decided it was a good idea to go check on the dogs. They had stopped running laps around the house barking and carrying on, which usually is not a good sign.

Shortly after checking on them, we heard some yelling and turned around to find that one of the boxers had gotten up on her hind legs and was then tall enough to snatch a steak out of the serving dish. From there, Humphrey decided to take the steak and munch on it. The teamwork was too funny not to laugh at. Humphrey let the big dogs do all the work, and he still ended up with the food.

By the time we found that they had gotten into the food, we decided to pause for pictures before scolding and taking the steak away since there was no point in trying to save it.

That's just another instance of Humphrey being mischievous.

Another thing that happened recently was while I was getting ready for work last week. Humphrey knows that he is not allowed on my new papasan chair. It's a little on the fragile side, and it's the one piece of furniture I do not want him getting on. I heard a loud crash and a thud, and I was sure that Humphrey had knocked over the lamp and broken the vase that I have sitting by the chair.

I rushed into the living room to a terrified Hum-

phrey in the corner and a toppled over papasan chair. Thankfully, nothing was broken, and I'm pretty sure that Humphrey will not try to get up on the chair again.

I let him sleep out of his kennel on Monday night and awoke to find that he had only been on his favorite oversized chair when I woke up Tuesday morning, so hopefully the war on the papasan chair between Humphrey and me is over.

Reporter Lindsey Tomaschik can be reached at lktomaschik@thepampanews.com.



Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik

I did happen to get this picture of Humphrey in his Christmas sweater this year.

Oil

Continued From Page 1

Comptroller Bob Bullock, Hamilton's boss at the time, thought someone must know what was going on — if not the newly hired economics wonk. So the two flew to Exxon's headquarters to ask the company's chief economist where oil prices were headed in the next three years.

"The guy walked over, closed the door, and says, 'Bob, we have no idea. It's just in free fall,'" said Hamilton, recalling his moment of vindication. "If I could have kissed him on his bald head, I would have kissed him right there."

Fast-forward 32 years and Texas state leaders are again about to step into the oil-tinted unknown. As the price of crude oil plummets, prominent analysts are openly discussing the possibility of a Texas recession, and how badly the next legislative session will be scrambled remains an open question.

The monumental task of predicting that future falls to Glenn Hegar, the incoming comptroller. Less than two weeks after Hegar replaces Susan Combs as the state's chief financial officer, he will release his first revenue estimate — a forecast of how much cash will flow into state coffers in the biennium that begins the following September.

That pivotal number will tell lawmakers how big of a pie they will squabble over in the coming session.

Due to a complicated mixture of geopolitics and supply and demand, the per-barrel price of West Texas Interme-

diated oil — the U.S. benchmark — has fallen below \$60, a roughly 50 percent drop since June. Several major oil companies have already sliced their budgets, and in October, the Texas Railroad Commission issued fewer drilling permits than in September, a trend that likely continued into November and December. That means growth in oil production will likely slow in the coming months.

How hard that will wallop the Texas economy is unclear, but the outlook is far less rosy than it was just months ago.

"The question is what will the comptroller do," said Bill Hammond, president of the Texas Association of Business. "Oil is only 14 percent of our economy currently, but obviously that's a lot of it."

Over the last 40 years, comptrollers have periodically seen their estimates miss the mark by billions of dollars. A recent study by the comptroller's office found that the most inaccurate forecasts coincided with large swings in oil and gas tax collections. In 2011, amid the early days of the current drilling boom, Combs' estimate was low by \$11.3 billion, prompting lawmakers to make deep cuts in the next budget.

Hegar recently met with a team of former revenue estimators — Hamilton included — seeking guidance on forecasting state revenue, particularly from the volatile oil market. "There was lots of wisdom exchanged, as well as some pretty funny and insightful anecdotes," said Liz White, his political director.

Texas, no doubt, has learned plenty since the 1980s, when drilling rigs were laid down, oilfield workers laid off, banks

shuttered and state spending slashed, economists agree. The state diversified its economy, and state officials stashed away money to cushion the blow of future financial troubles.

Still, today's ongoing crude oil nosedive — and the increasingly gloomy forecasts that have followed — cast a pall over the next legislative session, as lawmakers look to invest in the state's needs while avoiding concerns that they are not properly preparing for a potential bust.

"There's definitely impact [on the economy], and it's definitely worrisome," Hamilton said.

Texas' new lawmakers had no reason to worry last May when they delivered their post-primary victory speeches. Texas' "miracle" economy — driven partly by a petroleum sector that now pumps 40 percent of the nation's oil — was only growing, fueling a budget surplus.

Incoming Gov. Greg Abbott has charted an ambitious agenda for his first legislative session, including improving the state's education system, boosting transportation funding by \$4 billion a year and providing substantive tax relief.

"We're all going to pay a price if these kids don't get off to a good start," the Republican says in a web ad touting his policy goals released by his campaign Thursday. "And we simply have to build more and better roads in Texas."

But the oil market's volatility may temper those plans.

"Not knowing where the bottom is or the top is, or what tomorrow holds, it's kind of tough to figure out," said Christopher Guith, vice

president for policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Energy Institute.

A dip in oil prices has unleashed some benefits across Texas' economy. Manufacturers, motorists and others, for instance, are enjoying cheaper fuel. And those savings should spill into other parts of the economy. Asked about falling oil prices at a Houston event on Wednesday, Abbot spoke of those positives.

"At the same time, you see increased revenues in other areas," Abbott said, according to KVUE-TV, after acknowledging state revenue will probably drop in the coming months. "You see increased sales tax revenues because people have more money in their pocket, because they're spending less on gasoline and they can go buy more at the store. You also see an increase in manufacturing like what we see here in the Houston area."

Some analysts suggest those benefits will be too small to ward off a Texas recession.

"While we expect the country, overall, will be a new beneficiary from falling oil prices," Michael Feroli, J.P. Morgan's chief U.S. economist, said Thursday in a note to investors. "Two states look like they will bear the brunt of the pain: North Dakota and Texas."

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services was less gloomy, but hardly upbeat this month. Its report said Texas "continues to be a strong driver of growth" in a region that includes Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, but a continued drop in oil prices could derail growth and constrain state budgets drawn up with more optimistic assumptions.

Still, most experts predict

a fate far better than what the 1980s brought, when oil and gas revenue made up about 20 percent of the state's budget.

The state expects oil and gas production taxes to make up 4.5 percent of its total revenue during the current 2014-15 biennium and 9.6 percent of its total tax collections, according to a Legislative Budget Board report. And much of that cash is staying outside the budgeting process, flowing instead to the Economic Stabilization Fund, more often called the Rainy Day Fund, which lawmakers created after the last oil bust.

While oil and gas are a pivotal part of the Texas economy, other states stand to be hit harder by the drop in crude prices. As this month's Standard & Poor's report noted, oil and mineral-related revenue make up less than 5 percent of the Texas and North Dakota budgets, but 31 percent of the Wyoming budget and a whopping 87 percent of the Alaska budget.

"By these measures, Alaska is particularly vulnerable," the report reads.

While energy analysts debate when and where the market will settle, all eyes in Austin will be on Hegar next month, as he delivers his forecast of how much Abbott and the Legislature have to work with. His forecast could assume oil prices will recover in the coming years, even if no one knows for sure, Hammond said. Or it could be more pessimistic.

"Nobody expects you to be right about oil and gas prices," Hamilton said about what he calls a "miserable job."

"They just expect you to be less wrong in the right direction."

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

Pattern

Continued From Page 1

forward to announcing new opportunities that will be added to our ROFO list in the near future."

Pattern Energy has rights of first offer to Pattern Development's project development pipeline, which includes more than 3,000 MW. Projects are added to Pattern Energy's list of identified Right of First Offer (ROFO) projects when they reach identified milestones, such as when a project has executed a power purchase agreement.

Through its strategic relationship with Pattern Development, Pattern Energy is able to acquire projects for which the development risks have been substantially reduced. The Company's fleet of projects, including Logan's Gap Wind, has limited exposure to fluctuations in the oil and gas markets, as approximately 90 percent of its power output is contracted for sale with long-term agreements.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has a 10-year power purchase agreement to acquire 58 percent of the expected output from the project. Seventeen percent of the expected output will be sold under a 13-year fixed price agreement

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Logan's Gap Wind is being built in Comanche County, Texas, and consists of 87 Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbines. Located near the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Logan's Gap Wind will be the Company's fourth wind project in Texas, serving three different regions throughout the state.


Once operational, the Logan's Gap Wind project will create enough clean energy to power 50,000 homes in Texas each year, according to average annual residential energy use data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Located in ERCOT's North Zone, the project will connect to Oncor's 138kV Comanche Zephyr line, which crosses the project site and supplies power to the Dallas Fort Worth area.

As part of the acquisition, Pattern Energy has assumed an obligation to make an equity investment upon the completion of construction. Construction financing, which closed concurrent with the acquisition, will be repaid from Pattern Energy's equity capital contribution and those of the institutional tax equity investors.

The Conflicts Committee of the Board of Directors of Pattern Energy, which is comprised entirely of independent directors, approved the terms of the acquisition. The Committee was advised on financial matters by Evercore Group L.L.C., which also provided a fairness opinion, and on legal matters by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.

This forward looking measure of run-rate Cash Available for Distribution (CAFD) contribution from Logan's Gap is a non-GAAP measure that cannot be reconciled to net cash provided

by operating activities as the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure without unreasonable effort. A description of the adjustments to determine CAFD can be found on page 71 of Pattern Energy's 2013 Annual Report on Form 10-K.



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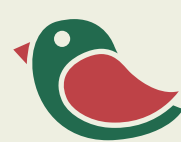
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War

Continued From Page 4A

line stands between us and anarchy.

True. But what does it say about our country that, if the police took a week off, our cities would descend into mayhem. What does it say about the character of the people upon whom our democracy depends? Would the America of the Founding Fathers have descended into mayhem or anarchy if police were not a huge and visible presence? Would the America of the 1940s or 1950s?

In D.C. last week, an exasperated Police Chief Cathy Lanier said:

“All of these protests that are blocking traffic, it’s pulling police officers out of the neighborhoods that need the police the most. ... So how do I prevent homicides and shootings and violent crimes and robberies and burglaries right before the holidays if all my cops are directing traffic around 30 guys that want to be out there at 11 o’clock at night laying in the middle of Chinatown?”

Consider the chief’s statement. Is it police brutality or police violence that worries her? Are cops committing

those homicides, shootings, violent crimes, robberies and burglaries? Or does that crime come out of the poor neighborhoods the cops are trying to protect?

That’s the real D.C. That’s the real America. Unfortunately, de Blasio, Sharpton, Holder and Obama are either too blind to see it or will not concede it because they fear speaking truth to their followers. “To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards out of men.”

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of the new book “The Greatest Comeback: How Richard Nixon Rose From Defeat to Create the New Majority.”

Angelina Jolie’s latest incarnation: filmmaker

NEW YORK (AP) — In a life that has been notable for its many metamorphoses — screen starlet, Goth vixen, United Nations ambassador, mother of six, breast cancer awareness advocate — Angelina Jolie’s latest incarnation is as filmmaker.

Rarely has an actor, particularly of Jolie’s stature, so fully given over to the other side of the camera. On Thursday, she’ll release her second directorial effort, the inspirational World War II survival tale “Unbroken,” which follows her Bosnian War drama “In the Land of Blood and Honey.” She has already shot her next movie (an intimate marriage drama in which she also co-stars with her husband, Brad Pitt), and made plans for her fourth film, “Africa,” about elephant poaching. Meanwhile, she’s virtually disappeared from the screen, starting in only one live-action film (“Maleficent”) in the last four years.

The transformation is complete, even if the new title gives her some hesitation.

“I’m shy to call myself a director still. When someone says, ‘What do you do for a living?’ I don’t know if I’ve earned that,” Jolie said in a pair of recent interviews, one in a Manhattan hotel, the other by phone. “I do love directing. I much prefer it to acting.”

It’s admittedly unlikely that Jolie is beset by queries about her occupation (“And this Mr. Pitt, is he in show business as well?”). But if there were any doubt, the scope of “Unbroken” — a classical epic that spans war and sea, a prestige picture with major below-the-line talent, a Christmas Day release amid awards season — certainly makes clear Jolie’s ambition.

“If you would have said to me a few years ago, ‘What kind of film are you looking for?’ I would have never said a film with shark attacks and bombing raids and the Olympics,” says Jolie. “I would have picked something very intimate and character driven. But I fell in love with this story.”

The story is of Louis Zam-

perini, who before enlisting in the Air Force to fight in World War II was a track star who ran in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. During the war, his B-24 bomber crashed in the Pacific. He and two crewmates survived on a raft at sea for 47 days, only to be captured by the Japanese and put into a brutal prisoner-of-war camp.

Zamperini’s incredible life was chronicled in a 2010 best-seller by Laura Hillenbrand, though his tale had been kicking around in Hollywood since 1956, when Universal Pictures bought the rights to Zamperini’s memoir with plans for Tony Curtis to star in the film.

“If it was a hot property, I wouldn’t have had a chance, to be honest,” says Jolie, who had to convince Universal that she could handle a much larger project than the independent “In the Land of Blood and Honey.” But she was deeply moved by the script (later to be rewritten by the Coen brothers) and Hillenbrand’s book.

“It wasn’t that I believed I was the most skilled director,” she says. “It was that I just really, really cared.”

Colleagues of Jolie’s bear that out, calling the film a deeply personal one for the 39-year-old. “Obviously, she doesn’t know as much about the technical aspects of filmmaking as some people like Joel and Ethan (Coen) do, but she learns very quickly and she’s so passionate about it all,” says cinematographer Roger Deakins, the Coens’ usual director of photography, who’s also slated to shoot “Africa.”

“We spent a lot of time in prep and a lot of time considering what we wanted from a

sequence,” says Deakins, who said a touchstone for Jolie was Sidney Lumet’s “The Hill.” “But on the day, on the set, it was a very instinctive way of working, which I found quite stimulating.”

The young British actor Jack O’Connell, who plays Zamperini, wasn’t the studio’s preferred choice, but Jolie fought for him.

“Undoubtedly, in terms of the movie industry’s perspective on it, there were certain boxes that hadn’t been ticked,” says O’Connell. “But I think that’s a credit to Angelina. She just wanted the best actors for the roles and wanted to make the best movie possible, as opposed to entertaining business agendas.”

“Unbroken” has put Jolie into the awards season mix, though the film was conspicuously absent from the Golden Globes nominations. But the most important response from “Unbroken” — which Jolie calls “the hardest thing I’ve ever done creatively” — was Zamperini.

Before he died in July at age 97, he and Jolie — who lived just around the corner from each other in Los Angeles — became close friends. Jolie screened the film for Zamperini on his deathbed, and she vividly recalls “those beautiful blue eyes” seeing his life’s story, revisiting memories and family Zamperini knew, she says, he’d soon be reunited with.

“I didn’t anticipate when I signed on to do it what an impact this man would have on my life and how much this story and the messages would hit home with me and my family and change me,” says Jolie.

Solar-powered vehicles could patrol in Galveston

GALVESTON (AP) — Solar-powered vehicles could be cruising along Galveston’s seawall to help with parking enforcement.

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees is considering buying solar-powered electric vehicles to transport attendants to

enforce parking fees. The Galveston County Daily News reported Tuesday that the park board recently tried out a loaner vehicle from a dealer. The \$18,000 test vehicle has a solar panel on its roof, room for two passengers and a top speed of 25 mph.

Chairman Melvin Williams says the park board hopes to have a clear plan for its version of the program by spring break.

A pay-to-park system relying on smartphone apps began along Galveston’s seawall last year. Patrons can also buy annual stickers.

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PAWS ANIMAL OF THE WEEK



Submitted photo

This is Lexie. She has a broken left back leg. She is really suffering and will cost at least \$600 to fix it. She is a beautiful, young red heeler. PAWS is currently accepting donations to raise money for the surgery Lexie needs to get back to full speed.

Dallas, river authority at odds over water bill

DALLAS (AP) — The city of Dallas and a North Texas river authority are at odds over the price of lake water that could trickle down into a 15 percent rate hike for city customers.

The Dallas Morning News reports Dallas has asked the Texas Public Utility Commission to block the rate set by the state-created Sabine River Authority. The river authority decided to charge Dallas \$24.1 million a year for water after six years of failed negotiations.

The city this year started drawing from Lake Fork, which provides about 13 percent of water coming out of Dallas faucets. Dallas officials say the price could be passed on to consumers, adding about \$4 a month to the average residential water bill.

The nearly 28,000-acre reservoir is owned by the authority but was built by Dallas in the 1970s. The city paid \$315 million to construct the lake and has underwritten 74 percent of the reservoir's operating costs every year since 1981.

City officials declined to say what a fair price of water would be, but are adamant that the price set by the authority is too high. Dallas has received a \$2 million water bill from the authority for November, which is due before Dec. 31.

"This year, because we have not budgeted (it) ... we would have to defer some capital improvements" to meet the river authority's demands, said Terry Lowery, assistant director of business operations for Dallas Water Utilities. "In the future, it would be the imposition of a rate increase."

Ann Galassi, the Sabine River Authority's assistant general manager of administration, says the price is reasonable. The authority is charging Dallas 56 cents per 1,000 gallons.

"We set a rate we thought was fair because it was a rate they set for their customers," she said.

The commission has scheduled a hearing for Jan. 6 and will determine if it has jurisdiction in the dispute.

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Pampa Faith

What Leonard Gray taught me about Christmas

Do you know any Christians who are of the “gung-ho Christmas” variety? Oh, I don’t mean someone who hangs up a few lights. In fact, I’m not talking about people and their decorations at all. Christmas zealots are those folks who throughout the month of December are over the top celebrating the birth of the Son of God in that stable in Bethlehem. Many of them celebrate Advent, a season of time in December praising God for that precious gift to this fallen world for our salvation. Well, I’m one of those gung-ho Christmas folks and to some degree always have been.

However, one of my professors at White’s Ferry Road School of Preaching in West Monroe, La., was very much the opposite. Leonard Gray was one of my instructors in school, the one who specialized in “practical teachings.” He wasn’t the top scholar on the teaching staff, but nobody prepared us better for preaching in a fallen world than Leonard.

Oh, and one more thing: Leonard was very, very ANTI-CHRISTMAS. He didn’t go around school making trouble over the issue, not even during December. But if you asked him a question about Christmas, then you had to be ready for a very well prepared presentation on why he didn’t observe Christmas. That was Leonard and I loved him deeply.

So I was very shocked in my second year at WFRSOP when Leonard asked me to work with the youth at a little church north of West Monroe, Rock Branch, where he preached on Sundays and Wednesdays. I thought surely that I would have to pass some kind of anti-Christmas test before it would be final, but he didn’t say a word.

One Sunday when we were driving to Rocky Branch I finally got up the nerve to ask him, “Leonard, can I ask you a very personal question?” He told me that I could ask him anything. “You know that Shari and I are big Christmas observers don’t you?” He confirmed that he knew. “So why then did you ask me to be to one to work with you in Rocky Branch?” His answer was one of the wisest, godliest answers I have ever heard to any question in all of my 65 years.

“Well, Mike, it took me 25 years to reach the conclusion I hold about Christmas. So even if I was a legalistic old Pharisee, I would at least have to be patient with you for 25 years. And I would like to think that I am a whole lot more like Christ than that.”

It’s kind of funny, we never talked about Christmas again. I can still close my eyes and see us driving down that little highway to Rocky Branch that day. Leonard was the patient, loving, strong man of God that I needed at that point in my life. He taught me one of the most important lessons in life. Christians seem to be better at fighting with each other than loving one another like the scriptures teach. Leonard taught me that being patient with one another concerning our minor differences is a very, very big deal. It is one of the ways that we prove that we love each other like Christ commanded.

So whether you are gung-ho or anti-Christmas, please be patient with each other for “at least 25 years.” LOL!

And Leonard, wherever you are, I love you and I owe you more than I could ever, ever repay. Hug your sweetheart for me. God bless. Mike

Mike Sublett is a pastor at Hi-Land Christian Church, 1615 N. Banks St., Pampa, Texas 79065. Email him at pawdad@nts-online.net.



MIKE SUBLETT

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

A blessed new year

A new year. A fresh start. January is a time of new beginnings. We can look at this past year and hopefully learn from it, but we must leave it behind and reach forward to the new year that now lies before us. As we do, let me recommend a verse in I Chronicles 4:10 that has touched and challenged many of our lives.



DAVID BOULTER

“And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, ‘Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my coasts, and that thine hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.’”

We can think in terms of choosing options that will add to our lives. Jabez prayed for increased abundance, for God to bless him, indeed. He wanted what God wanted for his life. Next he prayed for expanded influence, for

God to enlarge his borders so that he could touch the lives of more people for God’s glory. Then he asked God for spiritual anointing. He wanted the hand of God’s power on his life at all times. Finally, he prayed for God’s supernatural protection. He knew that unless God watched over him, he would only be depending on human strength.

A dependent state of mind upon the Lord allows the Holy Spirit to guide, touch and fill us with the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (Galatians 5:22-23).

What God did for Jabez, He will do for you and me, if we will pray. What does this year hold in store for you? God only knows, but walking with Him will make it a blessing. May the heavens open and God do more in your life than you ask or think.

Dr. David Boulter is from Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tenn., who writes “God’s Good News For Today.” He can be reached at davidboulter@tntemple.edu.

Have an Event? tell us about it!

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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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ADVENT — DAY 24 AND 25

Day 24 - Mary

Of all humans who ever lived (excluding Jesus) she was probably the top of the heap. Mary was the perfect one to bring the Messiah into the world. Chosen by God Himself, she was the most blessed of all. However, those nine months must not have felt very blessed at times. The whispers and idle tongues sometimes filled the days with agony.

Then, when the announcement of the census came, the thought of that 140-mile trip on a donkey must have seemed totally unfair. Next came the actual trip during the ninth month, ending with no room in the inn, and the only bed a pile of hay with the animals. Don't you know that she surely didn't feel very special? She must have wondered where the pampering was that most wives received from their husband and friends and families. And all this she did to fulfill her role in the Advent story.

What are you willing to do to fulfill your role in God's plan for your life? What

obstacles are you willing to overcome? What hardships are you willing to endure? If your endurance wavers, just re-read Mary's part of the Advent story and think about things from her vantage point.

Prayer: Loving Father, I know that I will never measure up to Mary, but could You help me be a little more like her? Could You help me be more content and accepting for whatever You have for me? Could You help me toughen up and not be such a grumbler in life's difficult times? Help me be more like Mary; more accepting, more obedient, more thankful. Amen.

Day 25 - baby Jesus

No other picture is more out of place than that of baby Jesus in a pile of hay in a manger. The logos, the Word, who was to dwell among humanity, the very Creator of everything, confined to a tiny human body and sleeping in a bunch of straw. Nothing appears more upside-down than this scene.

So what is the point? The point is that He chose to come, to give up His complete equality with Father God so that you could have a Savior.

That is what Christmas Day is really all about. No present under any tree compares to this unwrapped gift. And most importantly, guess whose name is written on the package? Your name is there! That's right, your name! What does that mean? The gift is yours.

So have you opened it? If not, why? It is a present from heaven and it's for you. What in the world are you waiting for? Get with the program and get that gift open. The present won't ever bless you until you open it and put Him on.

If you have opened it, when and where did you open the package? Do you still put Him on every day when you get up? Do you put Christ on to face and overcome each day? That's what He wants, you know. That's why He came; why He entered this world in that smelly, dirty old

stable.

So make sure that on this Christmas Day you either:

1. Open your present and put Him on for the very first time; or
2. Go find your unworn gift in the closet and put Him back on; or
3. Thank Jesus for being your gift and for letting you wear Him every day.

Which number best fits you?

Prayer: Precious Father, You let Your One and Only Son come to earth for me. Oh, not just for me, but none the less for me. I sometimes forget to put Jesus on. I'm so sorry for that. I need Your help. Please love me enough to give me the daily reminders that I need to put Him on. I don't ever want to forget again. And Father, please know that this Christmas present is absolutely the most wonderful gift I have ever received. Thanks and know that I love You more than I can put into words. Amen.

Tsunami survivors recall how mosques stood firm

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — When a powerful tsunami smashed into this Indonesian city 10 years ago, the only structures left standing in many neighborhoods were mosques. For the hundreds who found refuge within their walls, the buildings' lifesaving role has not been forgotten — and for many, that experience strengthened their faith.

Architectural experts say the mosques in Banda Aceh survived because they were sturdily built and had stronger foundations than surrounding structures, many of which were likely constructed of shoddier materials.

But many survivors believe the mosques were spared by divine intervention.

"It's because the mosque is the house of Allah, the creator of such a tsunami. It's protected," said Ahmad Junaidi, a survivor who fled to safety in the majestic Baiturrahman Grand Mosque, a major landmark in the city with its 35-meter (115-foot) minaret, white walls and seven black domes.

The mosque, built by Dutch colonizers and completed in 1881, was virtually unscathed by the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami, which devastated the city and killed more than 230,000

people in more than a dozen nations around the Indian Ocean.

As an 18-year-old, Reza Nasir found refuge from the disaster by climbing onto one of the Grand Mosque's black domes. From there, he saw the ocean flood into the city and over the mosque's outside walls, leaving hundreds of bodies in the courtyard. He had never seen so many corpses.

That was also when he started to pray five times a day, one of the five pillars of Islam.

Many residents of Aceh, the most dominantly Muslim province in all of Indonesia, viewed the disaster

as punishment for their lack of devotion to God. The tsunami has actually made many more devout, said Faisal Ali, a prominent cleric.

"It encouraged Acehnese to renew their dedication to their faith," Ali said.

With the renewed religious fervor among many in Aceh, the region on the northern tip of Sumatra also has become the only one in Indonesia governed by Islamic Shariah law — part of a peace agreement with the government to end a decades-long separatist war that granted the region some autonomy.

Mirza Irwansyah, an architectural expert from

Banda Aceh's state-run Syiah Kuala University, said that at least 27 mosques in the city survived the tsunami, often the only buildings in their neighborhoods to do so. Photos of the structures standing amid the debris circulated on the Internet after the disaster, with many calling their survival a miracle, he said.

But they stood firm mostly because of their solid construction compared to surrounding buildings, he said. The Grand Mosque, he said, was built by Europeans with a sturdy foundation.

Irwansyah also said that in many cases mosques and churches are built by chari-

ties and are therefore less likely to be cheated by corrupt contractors who use lower quality materials in houses and ordinary buildings to cut costs.

Now 28, Nasir — who watched the tsunami rush in from the rooftop of the Grand Mosque — recently awoke before dawn to join dozens of others for prayers at the same spot. Together, they bowed their foreheads to the white stone floor that was once covered with bodies.

"I feel like I have a second chance in life after surviving the tsunami," Nasir said. "I'm grateful. It created a momentum for me to change to be better."

Domestic violence at forefront of NFL in 2014

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The video of the hit to the face, the pictures of the lash marks on a young boy's body and all the rest of the unseemingly evidence rolled out over days and weeks in a steady, stomach-churning stream.

With virtually every revelation about domestic abuse committed by Ray Rice, Adrian Peterson and other players, the NFL and its commissioner, Roger Goodell, made a new misstep that sent out a clear, repeating message: They were in over their heads.

That, in short, summed up the biggest headlines of 2014 for America's favorite sport. The NFL's domestic-abuse crisis was voted sports story of the year by a panel of editors across the country.

The \$9 billion industry that U.S. fans devour on a weekly basis ran into a public-relations crisis, the likes of which nobody could have predicted and not even the league's supposedly well-oiled spin machine could repair.

The real victims weren't the league or the players, whose punishment often felt

arbitrary, but rather, the women and children these players were supposed to care for and protect.

"In regards to their policy, they did not do well when this first came about," said Ruth Glenn, executive director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "In a lot of ways, that can be very dangerous for some people."

As the season progressed and the scandal unfolded, the league and its teams took steps to try to remedy the problems — public-service ads, an increased focus on education and adopting a new, tougher policy, even though it was enacted without the blessing of the players union.

With the calendar about to flip, though, there are no guarantees the league has contained its crisis.

Rice, his skills declining, is eligible to play again after receiving a suspension that started at two games, was made indefinite when the video surfaced of him punching his then-fiancee in an elevator, then was scrubbed by a neutral arbitrator who ruled

against the NFL for not adhering to its own discipline rules.

Peterson, who pleaded no contest to misdemeanor reckless assault for injuring his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch, has been suspended indefinitely and is eligible to apply for reinstatement next year.

He was suing to have the suspension repealed, though with the Vikings' season ending Dec. 28, there's no returning this season.

But Peterson's court case, the eventual return of either of the running backs, or the appearance of new cases against players in a league that has averaged more than six domestic-abuse arrests a year, according to a USA Today database, all have potential to keep domestic abuse and the NFL's handling of it in the headlines.

And the report from former FBI director Robert Mueller — who is trying to find out, among other things, when,

exactly, the league knew about the inside-the-elevator

video of Rice's punch —

will likely come out soon to spawn yet another series of news cycles.

Merry Christmas



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Conscious Discipline

How do I use choices effectively?

Choices can be used effectively as a discipline technique and as a means to help children focus. Mr. Adams had announce to the lass that in five minutes it would be cleanup time. He personally got Jason's attention and told him face-to-face. After the five minutes had passed, the class began singing the cleanup song and putting toys away. Jason had trouble redirecting his focus from playing to cleaning up. "Jason, you have a choice. You may pick up the big blocks first or the little blocks first. What is your choice?" Mr. Adams asked. Jason said, "The big blocks because I am strong."



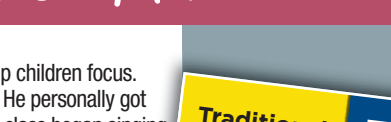
Most children can benefit from using choices as a guidance tool, especially children who need additional structure to be successful. Jason is a good example. He needs more direction than some of the other children. Since he needs more guidance, the teacher is prone to giving him a lot of commands. "Jason, get your lunch. Jason, get in line. Jason, wait until the door is opened." Jason, in his need for external structure from adults, misses out on some of the choice-making decisions other children acquire on a regular basis. So, instead of constantly directing Jason with commands, choices would give him the structure he needs, provided practice in making decisions and ultimately build his self-esteem.

Choices are also helpful with compliance. A teacher is less likely to get resistance with "Katie, you have a choice to sit on the red tape or the blue tape," than if the teacher simply says, "Katie, it is circle time. Sit down." Since preschool children are developing autonomy and initiative skills, they sometimes like to assert themselves in response to adult commands. Choices provide the option of complying with adult wishes while still maintaining the "last word," so to speak.

In order for the adult to deliver choices to children on a regular bases, two things are required.

1. The adult must think in terms of what he or she wants the children to do. We have been conditioned to think negativity—what we don't want them to do. "Don't run. Don't talk when I am talking." This "don't" thinking is detrimental to giving choices.
2. The adult must give the children two positive choices. Typically, adults have been trained to give the child one "good" choice and one "bad" choice to coerce the child into picking the one the adult wants. For example, children have been given the choice to pick up their toys or lose recess time. This is not a choice; it is a manipulation. A true choice is given when we, as adults, do not care which option the child selects.

To create choices for children, think first, "What do I want them to do?" Then create two positive options to accomplish that goal. If you want a child to wipe off the table, you create the options of "with a towel" or "with a washcloth." If you want a child to pick up some trash on the floor, you could give the options of "putting it in this trash can or that one."

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Brooklyn Grace Wilkes
Born October 2, 2014



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Grandparents...
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Kenneth & Janet Roberts

Cannon Kenneth Sumpter
Born June 29, 2014



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Marty & Casey Rash
Grandparents...
Ronny & Cindy Brown
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Christina & Robbie Bryan
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Allen Jenkins
Mike Reddell
Dwaine & Monica Shuler
Great-grandparents...
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Carolyn Shuler
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Melissa Post
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Lillian Grace & James Russell Workman
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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Church Calendar

Hi-Land Christian Church

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

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

The classes are open to anyone interested in learning more about their Bible. Child care will be provided for anyone who is attending either class.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

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

New Life Assembly of God

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

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

Services are Sunday at 10 a.m. and Sundays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Christ

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

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

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

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

For more information call 806-665-0031.

First United Methodist Church

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

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

For more information call 806-669-7411.

McLean Cowboy Church

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

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

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

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

For more information, call 806-779-0260.

Southside Church of Christ

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

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

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

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Report: At least 60 journalists killed in 2014

NEW YORK (AP) — At least 60 journalists around the world were killed in 2014 while on the job or because of their work, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Tuesday, making the past three years the deadliest for journalists since the organization began keeping track more than two decades ago.

Two journalists for The Associated Press were among the CPJ's toll. Their black-and-white portraits were added to a memorial wall at the news agency's headquarters, along with that of a freelance translator for the AP who was not included in the report.

An "unusually high proportion," or about one-fourth, of journalists killed in 2014 were international ones, though the overwhelming number of journalists threatened continue to be local, the New York-based organization's report said.

Those killed in 2014 include Anja Niedringhaus, an AP photographer who was shot to death while covering elections in Afghanistan. AP video journalist Simone Camilli and his freelance translator, Ali Shehda Abu Afash, were killed in an explosion

at an ordnance dump in the Gaza strip in August. In addition, AP photographer Franklin Reyes Marrero died in a car accident while returning from an assignment in Cuba.

"2014 was a tragic year for journalists worldwide and for our organization in particular," said John Daniszewski, vice president and senior managing editor for international news for the AP.

"While the casualties stemmed from war and conflict in different parts of the world - an ordnance explosion in Gaza, a lone gunman in Afghanistan, a road accident in Cuba - they remind us of the daily courage and sacrifices made by professional journalists to bring back the news and information that so many rely on and take for granted."

The CPJ report said the number of journalists killed in 2014 was down from 70 the year before, but the past three years have been the deadliest since the organization started compiling such records in 1992.

Forty-four percent of the journalists killed were targeted for murder, the new report said.

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Community Calendar

City Commission meetings

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

School board meetings

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

Immunization clinic three times a month

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) hosts an immunization clinic in Pampa three times a month. The clinics are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays of each month. The first 10 people in line for the morning and first 10 in the afternoon will always receive shots. However, if there are more than 10, they still may be able to accommodate the patients, or ask them to come back at another time. The Department of State Health Services can be reached at 806-669-5323 and is located at 121 S. Gillespie St. in Pampa.

PAWS meets first Tuesdays

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

There is a desperate need for more members. PAWS members are needed to work at the shelter from 3 to 5:30 p.m. each day and to work adoption days or

take animals to the vets when needed, but mostly people are needed to love and work with the animals where they will be more adoptable.

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

County Commission meetings

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

TOT Republican Women's Club

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

Jam sessions every Friday night

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

Meredith House presents live music

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

Monday night dance club

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

PPQG Meets fourth Thursdays

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

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

First United Methodist Church

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

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

For more information call 806-669-7411.

Pampa Post VFW meetings

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

call Danny Martin at 806-662-4367.

CASA of the High Plains

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

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

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

Church of the Nazarene

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

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

Area Support Groups

The following is a list of support groups that meet regularly each week in Pampa. Information for each meeting is submitted to The Pampa News office and may not be completely updated or accurate. Please notify the newsroom if a change is necessary.

The Pampa News welcomes all submitted materials for area support groups. Please include the meeting time, date and location and, if applicable, provide a contact number for each group.

■ **Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault**, meet at 6 p.m., Thursdays, at the Tralee Crisis Center, 308 S. Cuyler St. For more info, call the Center at 806-669-1131.

■ **Narcotics Anonymous — The Pampa**

Group meets at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, and at 6 p.m., Saturdays, at 805 N. Gray St.

■ **Narcotics Anonymous — Rufe Jordan Unit** also meets at 6 p.m., Mondays, and at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, at 1992 Hilton Road.

■ **Cancer Support** meets from 12-1 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Central Baptist Church. For more info, contact Beth Kean at 800-274-4673

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** Open Door Club meets daily at noon and 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky Ave. **Al-Anon** meets at noon on Mondays. For more information, call 665-9072.

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

112 W. Foster Ave.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** Keep It Simple meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Methodist church in White Deer.

■ **Pampa Caregiver Support** meets at the Pampa Nursing Center on 1321 W. Kentucky Ave. at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information call 806-669-2551.

■ **Accolade Home Care** sponsors a **Parkinson's Support Group** the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The group meets at Accolade at 1313 N. Hobart St. For more information, call Lindsey Presson at 806-665-9700 or 806-324-3230.

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PAMPA FRESHMEN GIRLS IN ACTION AGAINST CAPROCK ON FRIDAY



Photos by Zachary Green

Above left, Alexandra Galvin prepares for the tip on Friday. Above right, Alexsa Davenport watches after she released a shot. Below, Calista Bolin powers her way up for a layup. Pampa will be back in action Jan. 2 when they host Panhandle at 7:30 p.m.



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Pampa Sports

Watch the Pros - Christmas Eve Wednesday

College Football Bowls

Central Michigan v. Western Kentucky.....ESPN 11 a.m.
Fresno State v. Rice.....ESPN 7 p.m.

Watch the Pros - Christmas Day Thursday

NBA Basketball

Washington Wizards at New York Knicks.....ESPN 11 a.m.
OKC Thunder at San Antonio Spurs.....KVII 1:30 p.m.
Cleveland Cavaliers at Miami Heat.....KVII 4 p.m.
LA Lakers at Chicago Bulls.....TNT 7 p.m.
Golden State Warriors at LA Clippers.....TNT 9:30 p.m.

College Basketball

Diamond Head Classic.....ESPNU 3 p.m.
Diamond Head Classic.....ESPN2 5:30 p.m.
Diamond Head Classic.....ESPN2 7:30 p.m.

AP Sports stories of the year

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL's troubles with domestic violence were selected the sports story of the year Tuesday in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

Ninety-four ballots were submitted from U.S. editors and news directors. Voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story receiving 10 points, the second-place story nine points and so on.

NFL domestic violence received 659 points and 29 first-place votes.

The No. 2 sports story, Clippers owner Donald Sterling forced out by the NBA after his racist statements, had 518 points.

Here are 2014's top 10 stories:

1. NFL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Baltimore Ravens star running back Ray Rice knocked his now-wife unconscious in an Atlantic City casino elevator Feb. 15, but it wasn't until July 24 that domestic violence cases spiraled into a crisis roiling the NFL. Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Rice for just two games, which drew widespread derision. More than a month passed before Goodell admitted he "didn't get it right" and announced harsher sanctions for future domestic violence offenses.

But the NFL's problems were only beginning. On Sept. 8, TMZ Sports released video from inside the elevator that showed Rice punching his then-fiancee; the Ravens responded by releasing him and Goodell suspended him indefinitely. And on Sept. 12, one of the league's biggest stars, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, was indicted on felony child abuse charges for using a wooden switch to discipline his 4-year-old son. The Vikings initially planned to play him just over a week later, reversing course only after the ensuing uproar.

The year ends with Rice reinstated by an arbitrator but without a team and Peterson suspended and suing the NFL. Chastened by those and other cases, the league is pushing a new personal conduct policy, but the players' union is balking at Goodell's role in the disciplinary process.

2. CLIPPERS' STERLING BANNED: Donald Sterling had withstood accusations of racism throughout his more than three decades as owner of the Los Angeles Clippers. But when audio surfaced April 25 of Sterling spewing racist remarks, he was banned for life by new NBA Commissioner Adam Silver just four days later and forced to sell the team.

3. LEBRON GOES HOME: This time, LeBron James decided to return home. Four years after spurning Cleveland to sign with the Miami Heat, the Northeast Ohio native and four-time NBA MVP announced July 11 that he was

rejoining the Cavaliers to try to end the city's half-century title drought.

4. FIRSTS FOR GAY ATHLETES: Jason Collins became the first openly gay man to play in the big four North American pro sports leagues when he made his debut with the Brooklyn Nets on Feb. 23. The veteran center had come out 10 months earlier, a trailblazing moment that helped inspire other athletes and sports officials to follow his lead in 2014. That included Missouri All-American Michael Sam, who went on to be drafted into the NFL, though he has yet to play in a game.

5. GIANTS WIN WORLD SERIES: Madison Bumgarner pitched seven dominant innings to win Game 1 of the World Series. Then the San Francisco ace topped himself with a shutout in Game 5. He outdid himself yet again with five scoreless innings of relief in Game 7 to clinch the Giants' third championship in five years.

6. COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAYS OFF: Ohio State lost to Virginia Tech on Sept. 6. Oregon was upset by Arizona on Oct. 2, and Alabama fell to Ole Miss two days later. The rest of those teams' regular-season games still mattered because of the new College Football Playoff, which made more and more matchups meaningful deep into the fall.

7. TONY STEWART: One of NASCAR's biggest stars, Tony Stewart, was taking part in a small sprint car race in upstate New York on Aug. 9 when he struck and killed 20-year-old driver Kevin Ward Jr. A grand jury decided not to bring criminal charges against Stewart, who skipped three NASCAR races as he grieved.

8. WORLD CUP: Brazil's World Cup was a big celebration until those German goals started piling up. The expected massive protests didn't materialize, and the construction delays caused few headaches.

The major disappointment came on the field when the hosts, without injured star Neymar, were thrashed 7-1 in the semifinals by eventual champion Germany.

9. SEAHAWKS WIN SUPER BOWL: Richard Sherman's Seattle defense was way too much for Peyton Manning's Denver offense.

The Seahawks flustered and flattened the Broncos with a 43-8 victory in the Super Bowl, when the weather cooperated outdoors in New Jersey.

10. SOCHI OLYMPICS: The Sochi Olympics opened amid fears of terrorist attacks and denunciations of Russia's so-called "gay propaganda" law.

The games went on peacefully, with the hosts winning 33 medals — though not in hockey. But by the closing ceremony, darkness lurked nearby in the world in violence in Ukraine.



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



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NFL Playoff Scenarios

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WEEK 17
AFC
CLINCHED: New England - AFC East and first-round bye; Denver - AFC West; Indianapolis - AFC South; Pittsburgh and Cincinnati - playoff berth.
NEW ENGLAND (vs. Buffalo)
— Clinches home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs
DENVER (vs. Oakland)
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win or tie, OR
— Cincinnati Loss, OR
— Cincinnati tie and Indianapolis win
CINCINNATI (at Pittsburgh)
— Clinched playoff spot
Clinches AFC North with:
— Win or tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win and Denver loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Denver loss and Indianapolis loss or tie
PITTSBURGH (vs. Cincinnati)
Pittsburgh clinches AFC North with:
— Win
SAN DIEGO (at Kansas City)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win, OR
— Tie and Baltimore loss or tie
BALTIMORE (vs. Cleveland)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win and San Diego loss or tie, OR
— Tie and San Diego loss
KANSAS CITY (vs. San Diego)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win and Baltimore loss and Houston loss or tie
HOUSTON (vs. Jacksonville)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win and Baltimore loss and San Diego loss
NFC
CLINCHED: Arizona - playoff berth; Seattle - playoff berth; Detroit - playoff berth; Green Bay - playoff berth; Dallas - NFC East.
DALLAS (at Washington)
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Arizona loss or tie and Detroit/Green Bay tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie and Arizona loss or tie, OR
— Win and Detroit/Green

Bay tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Arizona loss, OR
— Tie and Seattle tie and Arizona loss or tie and Detroit/Green Bay does not end in a tie
DETROIT (at Green Bay)
Clinches NFC North with:
— Win or tie
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie and Arizona loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Arizona loss and Dallas loss or tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win, OR
— Tie and Dallas loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Arizona loss
GREEN BAY (vs. Detroit)
Clinches NFC North and first-round bye with:
— Win
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie
SEATTLE (vs. St. Louis)
Clinches NFC West with:
— Win OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie, OR
— Arizona loss
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Detroit/Green

Bay game does not end in a tie, OR
— Win and Dallas loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie and Dallas loss or tie and Green Bay/Detroit tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win, OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie and Dallas loss, OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie and Green Bay/Detroit tie
ARIZONA (at San Francisco)
Clinches NFC West with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie and Green Bay loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Dallas loss or tie and Green Bay/Detroit tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Dallas loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Green Bay/Detroit tie
CAROLINA (at Atlanta)
Clinches NFC South with:
— Win or tie
ATLANTA (vs. Carolina)
Clinches NFC South with:
— Win

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If you have already opened this GIFT, then you KNOW the TRUE JOY OF CHRISTMAS. If you have left this GIFT unopened, year after year, let this be the year that you accept, and open your heart to this GREAT GIFT, and you will have received the GREATEST of all Christmas gifts, THE REAL CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

Merry Christmas!



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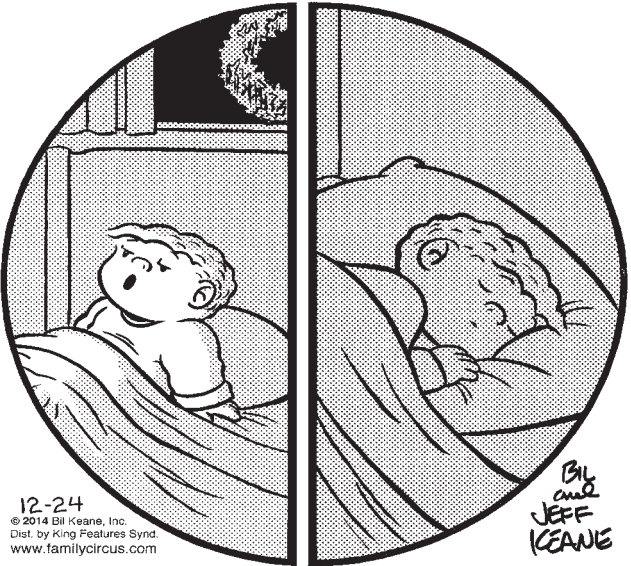
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

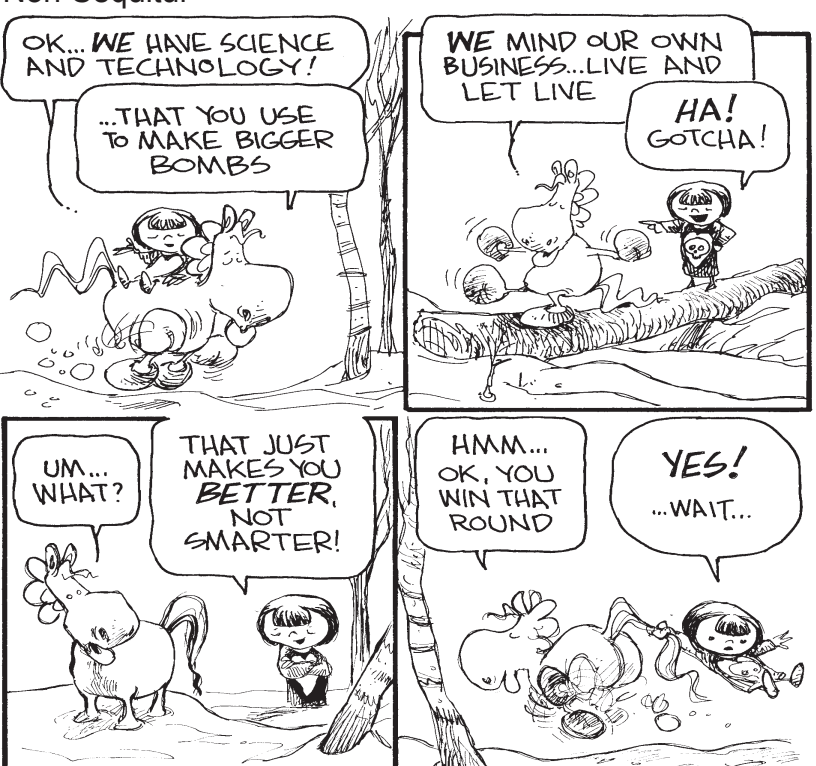


12-24
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www.familycircus.com

"Mommy! I'm too excited to sleep."

BIL and JEFF KEANE

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads

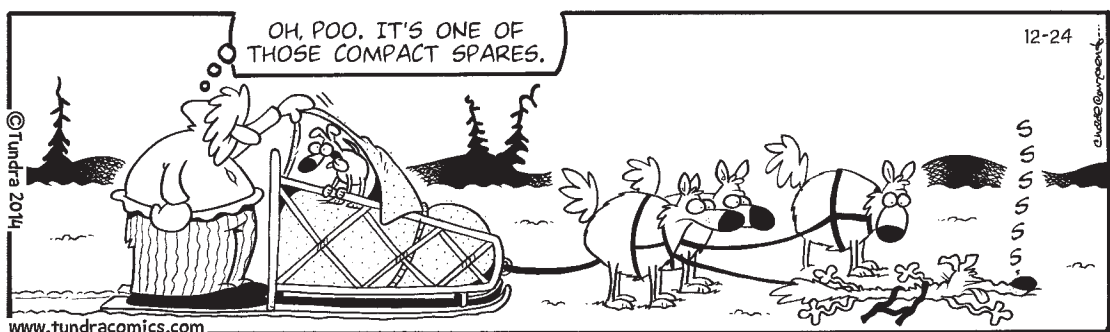


daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 25:
Your focus will be on the quality of your daily life and your financial security. You will work to enhance both areas. You might be unusually fortunate when it comes to dealing with others. Remember, Lady Luck can take you only so far! If you are single, you might not even notice someone new in your environment for a while. When you do, you will have a lot to smile about. If you are attached, you will find your sweetie to be extremely receptive and loving during the next 12 months. Make the most of it. **PISCES** knows how to get your attention.
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 seem to get caught up in the excessive emotions of the day. You'll feel fortunate just to see a child's glee as he or she opens up gifts. The laughter and fun around you could take a toll, so you might feel ready for a quiet walk or nap by mid-afternoon. Tonight: Not to be found.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. This person might feel isolated on this holiday, and your call will mean the world to him or her. A discussion with a friend could be quite emotional. Surround yourself with loved ones, and even a grump or two! Tonight: Speak your mind.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your words will mean a lot to a loved one who can be rather controlling. Recognize the emotional power behind the holiday, and look at the big picture. Don't forget to touch base with a loved one you care a lot about. Tonight: Relax and watch a favorite holiday movie.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Deal with someone directly. A discussion could offer you some insight and understanding into this person's behavior. Try to look at the situation from a different perspective. Indulge others with your time, as well as with your gifts. Tonight: Honor the spirit of the moment.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You seem to have a great time no matter where you are or whom you are with. This Christmas holds a very special meaning for you, and it shows. Make time for a talk with an important friend; it could be more im-

portant than a present ever would be. Tonight: Join friends.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could feel way below your normal level of activity. You have been so busy making sure that everything is done, you probably are very exhausted. The relief of everything being over might encourage you to relax and squeeze in a cat nap. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might be enchanted by a child's excitement about what is going to happen next. Later in the day, you'll want to seek out a favorite spot. Between Christmas dinner and getting together with friends, you will have no complaints. Tonight: Consider an early bedtime.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You'll feel the need to take care of those in your immediate surroundings. A surprise visit or gift could lift the mood of the day and solidify the moment. A private discussion, possibly on the phone, does need to be kept a secret. Tonight: Add some mischief to the moment.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to turn a situation around quickly. If you or the other party involved can stay away from the materialistic part of the issue, you'll be able to transform the situation. Someone could help you ease up a bit. Tonight: Asleep at the drop of a hat.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Do something just for you this morning. You might be more uptight than you realize. You could discover that someone has picked the perfect gift for you. You love the holiday festivities, and you are likely to go overboard. Tonight: Share a favorite piece of music.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could feel as if you're running around in all directions. Somehow, this holiday has unusual significance this year. You might want to defer to others if you are involved in making dinner and cleaning up. Tonight: Enjoy the moment with loved ones.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could be exhausted by the morning calls or hectic activity. Smile through a problem, and open up to a delightful day that happens only once a year. Get into the mood of the holiday, and you will connect with others. Tonight: Favorite place, favorite people.

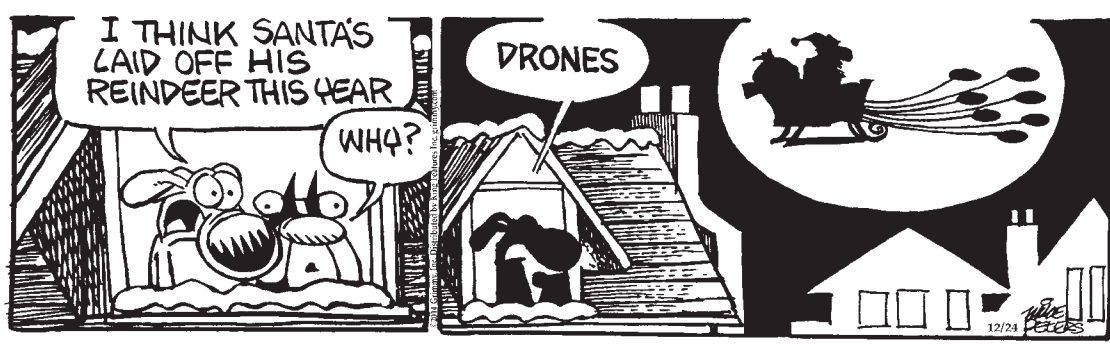
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



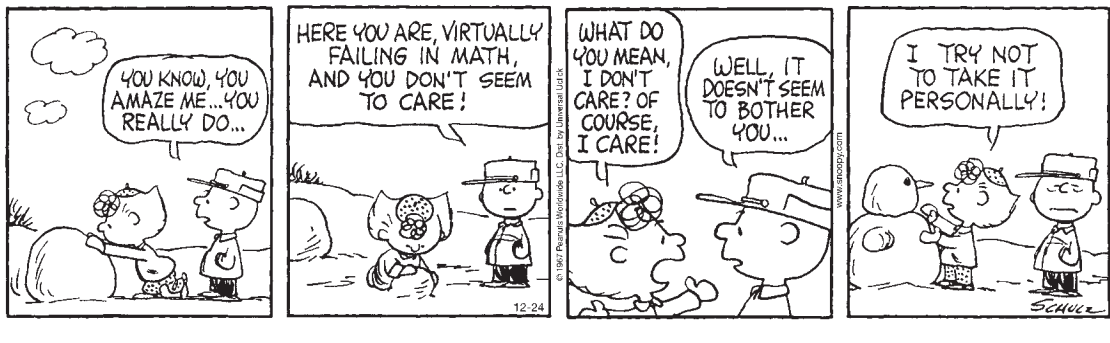
Marvin



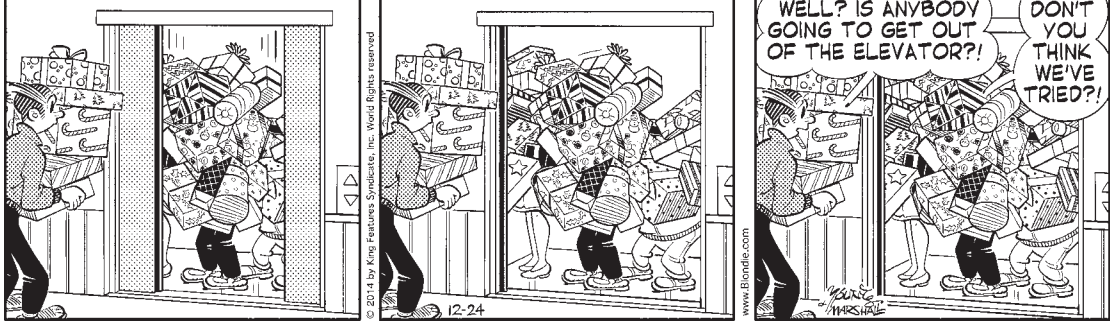
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-25

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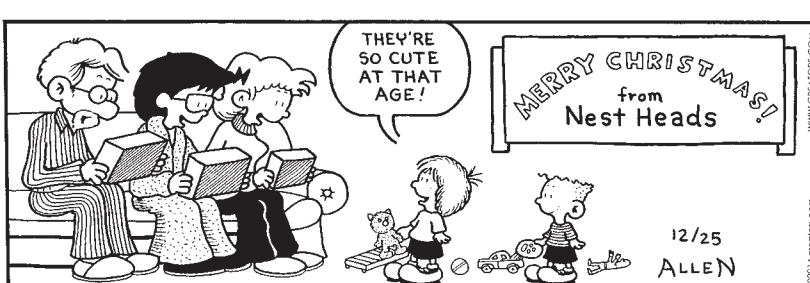
"Look, Daddy! Santa Claus DID come to town!"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads

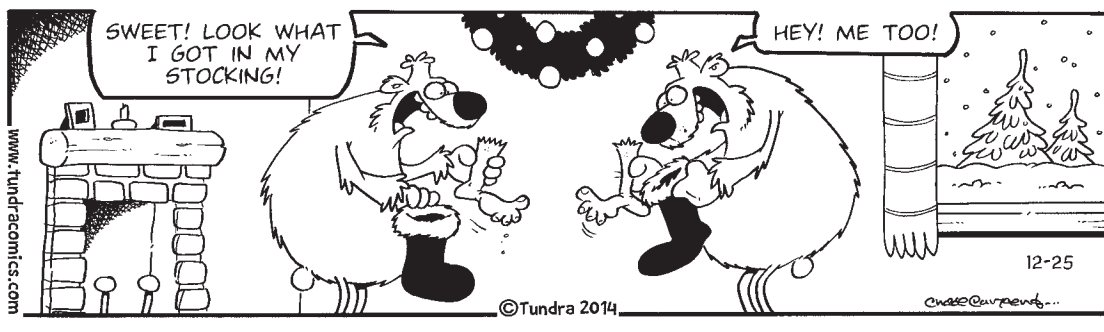


daily horoscope

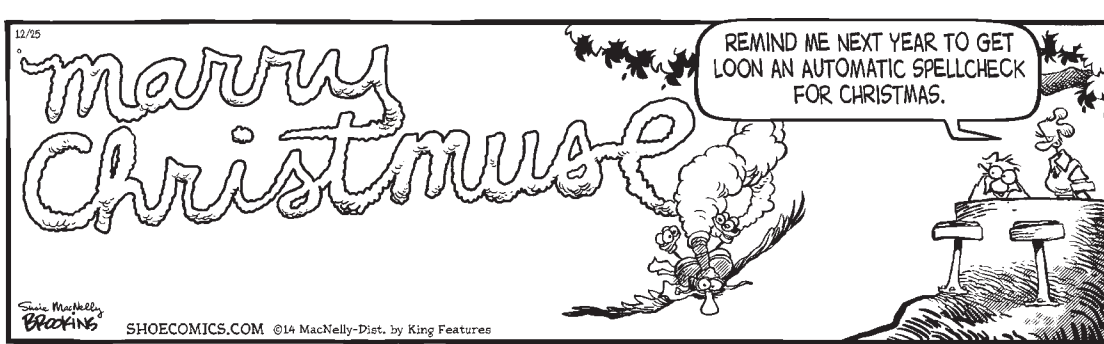
HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 26, 2014:
 This year you'll put your best foot forward in nearly any situation, yet it is likely to result in some unusual outcomes. You often come up with unique ideas, some of which are workable. You also know how to communicate these ideas and other matters effectively. If you are single, you might meet someone who sweeps you off your feet. Be aware that you might fall victim to wearing rose-colored glasses, refusing to acknowledge the negative. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy your time together, whether it is playing Scrabble or going to a concert. You also appreciate each other more. PISCES has a way of influencing you.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★ Your intuition will point you to the right path. You could be dealing with a headstrong parent or friend. Follow your hunch and see how you land. You might be confused by a disconnection between a person's words and his or her actions. Tonight: Till the wee hours.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Make and return calls. You could be surprised by some information and want to verify what you hear. You are likely to have many questions. Reach out to someone at a distance whom you care about. Good news might be heading your way. Tonight: Take an overview.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You have a way of handling a personal matter differently from how many others do. You'll feel inspired to follow a role model you respect. A discussion with a close friend might help you detach from a volatile matter. Tonight: Take off for the weekend if you can.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You might be more flexible than you have been in a while. You will be able to identify with someone else and go along with his or her desires. Someone could want to share a very special moment with you. Be responsive. Tonight: Let others do the entertaining.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Remain sure of yourself, and know where you are heading. Be direct with others. You might cause some flak along the way, but is it not better to be open? Someone who gives you feed-

back on a daily basis seems to be full of opinions. Tonight: Say "yes" to a loved one.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Others make it clear that they want to be dominant and call the shots. Your ability to work through a problem will emerge. Your imagination seems to come to the rescue every time. Be direct in how you deal with others. Tonight: Go along with a friend's plans.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might want a change to take place in your domestic life. You could toss some ideas around and let a brainstorming session evolve. You will know when the correct idea pops up. Consider focusing on what is practical as well. Tonight: Get some much needed sleep.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Focus on the quality of your communication, and you will be able to make a difference that counts. Your vision of possibilities finally will be heard. A child or loved one might not be as clear as you would like him or her to be. Tonight: Don't shy away from others.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You could be unusually intense when dealing with a close family member. You might gain a different perspective after speaking with a friend. You likely will feel the need to revise your budget. Do it, and you will be a lot happier. Tonight: Make it easy and stay close to home.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You'll ask questions and have a lot to deal with. Your sense of humor will emerge as others start sharing their holiday stories. Begin writing thank-you notes, touch base with friends and share more of what has happened to you. Tonight: Make it easy and uncomplicated.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You might want to revamp your finances on account of the past few weeks. You know what you need to do. Test out some ideas on a friend to determine whether they are grounded. You could meet someone new on the way to an errand. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ You intuitively zero in on what you want. You might want to check out a situation a few times, then pinch yourself to make sure that what is happening is real. You have wished long and hard for what is about to become a reality. Enjoy it! Tonight: Just be yourself.

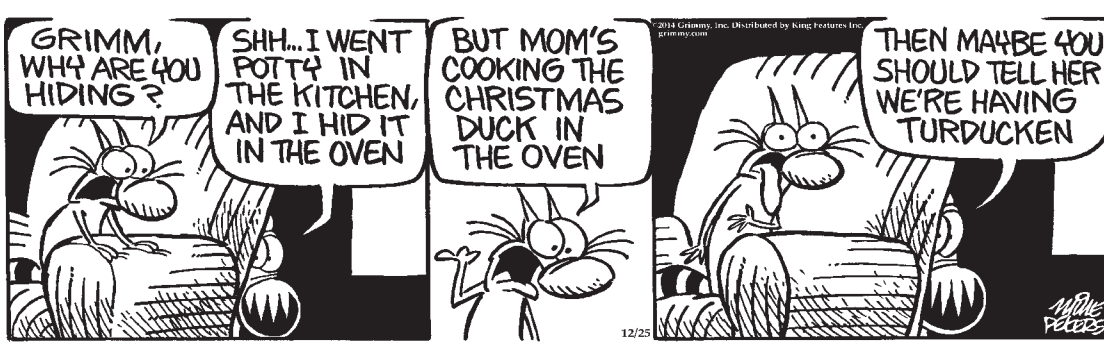
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



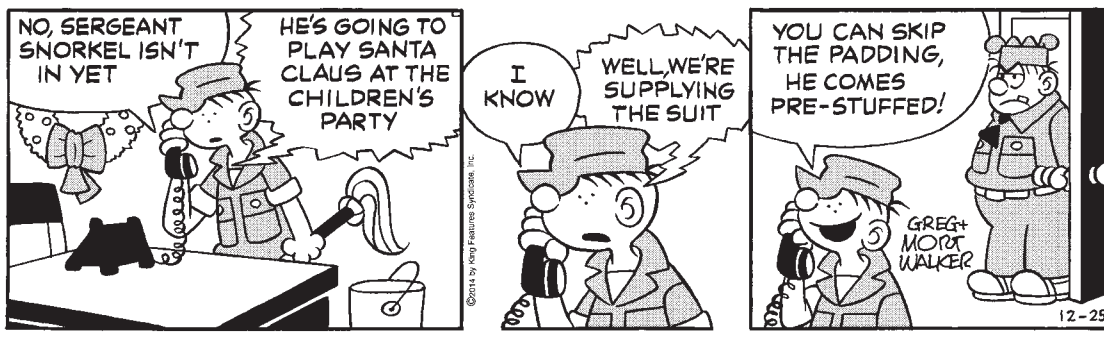
Zits



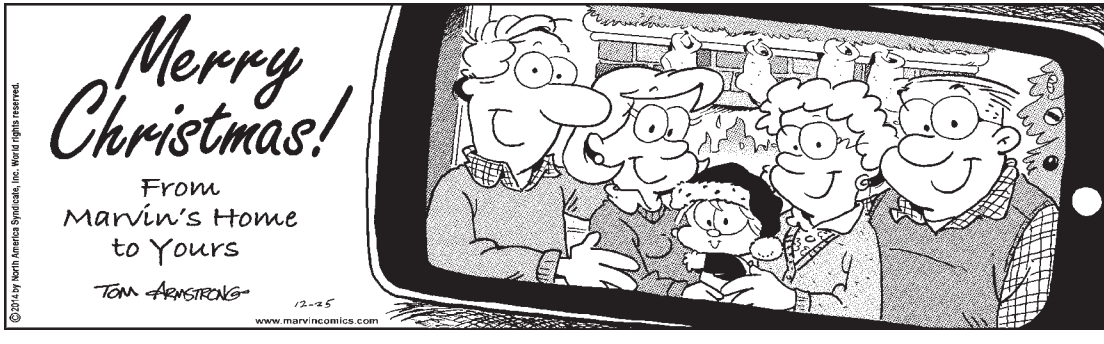
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



PAMPA CHEERLEADERS AND CROWD AT THE PAMPA-CAPROCK GAMES FRIDAY NIGHT



Photos courtesy of Charla Shults

Above left, the Pampa community watches on as the Pampa girls play host to Caprock Friday night. Above right, the Pampa High School cheerleaders pose for a picture during warmups of the guys game against Caprock.

German police hunt stolen pigeon

BERLIN (AP) — Police in Germany are looking for a missing pigeon, and any finder could be in line for a 10,000-euro (\$12,250) reward.

Duesseldorf police said Tuesday that the 6-year-old male homing pigeon, named AS 969, was stolen at some point on Saturday night from a locked aviary in the city's suburbs.

They say the light gray bird is valued by its owner at 150,000 euros (\$184,000) and police suspect the thief or thieves were "connoisseurs" as it was the most valuable in an aviary full of other homing pigeons.

The owner offered a 10,000-euro reward for the bird's recovery.

Leg lamp stolen from NY store's display

NORTH TONAWANDA, N.Y. (AP) — Who took the leg lamp belonging to Ralphie's "Old Man" from a New York store's annual tribute to "A Christmas Story"?

The owner of the Yankee Spirits liquor store in North Tonawanda says his annual window display honoring the holiday classic includes memorabilia from the 1983 film, including several versions of the now-iconic leg lamp.

The store's surveillance video shows a man in a gray hoodie and sunglasses walking into the store and glancing around before he grabs a large leg lamp and leaves.

Store owner Gary Brennan tells Buffalo's WIVB-TV even his customers are angry about the theft.

In the movie, Ralphie's father wins a prize that turns out to be a garish lamp in the shape of a woman's leg in a fishnet stocking. Ralphie's mother "accidentally" breaks it, leaving the Old Man heartbroken.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, my husband of four years disclosed to me that he's transgender. We have a 3-year-old who has medical problems, which has resulted in numerous surgeries. Our lives have changed beyond belief, and I'm afraid our marriage has been damaged beyond repair.

He has come out of the closet, and I have gone into one to protect his secret and hide my heartache and devastation. The pain I feel is mostly for the lifelong struggles my husband has endured, but now I'm feeling the loss of my husband and our happy future together because I can't be the wife he needs.

How do I know that I've tried every option to make this work, especially when I am the only one regularly seeking therapy? When do I resign myself to the fact that my expectations of our marriage will never be achievable? And how do I say I want out without risking his (her) well-being?

— LAST STRAW IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR LAST STRAW: It would be helpful for you to get emotional support in addition to the counselor you have been seeing. There are no "magic words" to tell your husband you can no longer live with the new person he's becoming.

However, I know of a group that can help you. You would benefit greatly by contacting the Straight Spouse Network, a group that was started by Amity Pierce Buxton, Ph.D., in the '80s. It offers peer support, as well as an online (worldwide) network of support groups. Just knowing you're not alone with this problem should be comforting. Find it at www.straightspouse.org.

DEAR ABBY: I have been communicating for three months with a gentleman I met on an online dating site. He says he wants to meet me in person, but every time we get close to

setting a time and place, something comes up and he can't keep the date. We live in the same city, so traveling isn't the problem. When I ask why he's canceling our date, the answer is different every time.

I am beginning to think he just wants to communicate via email or chat. We have web-cammed and know what each other looks like, so that is probably not the issue, either. Should I keep waiting him out or just end it? — PUZZLED IN INDIANA

DEAR PUZZLED: By now it should be obvious that you are carrying on a conversation with someone who doesn't keep his word. He may be married or have misrepresented himself in some other way. If you want a real, flesh-and-blood relationship with someone, stop wasting your time with this person. Move on and don't look back.

DEAR ABBY: With Christmas almost here, I'm wondering how much it would cost today for all of the gifts in the carol "The 12 Days of Christmas"? — JUST CURIOUS IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

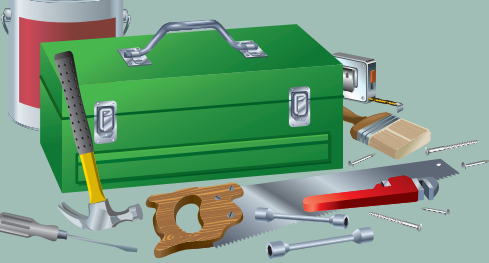
DEAR JUST CURIOUS: According to an Associated Press story published this year quoting the annual analysis by PNC Wealth Management, those 364 items — purchasing them each time they are mentioned in the song — would set the giver back \$116,273. Not to belittle those birds, trees, golden rings and various musical artists, perhaps the money could be better spent? *****

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

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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

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

Help Wanted

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

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NURSES Unlimited, Inc. is seeking attendants in the Pampa area to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep & light housekeeping, part-time. EOE. Call 1-888-859-0631

OLD Production Chemical Co. in Pampa area looking for exp. Class A Haz-Mat, Tanker & Air Brake Endorsed Drivers, also Service Techs & Account Reps. Experience helps but not req. Must have clean driving record & drug test to apply. Send resume to 10932 US Hwy. 83, Canadian, TX 79014

PAMPA ISD is accepting applications for Bus Driver . Please apply online www.pampaisd.net or 1233 N. Hobart to pick up application. Pampa ISD is an EOE.

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Legals / Public Notice

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to construct a 120-foot Monopole Telecommunications Tower with a 10-foot lightning rod in the vicinity of East Atchison Avenue, Pampa Gray County, TX 79065. The Site location is East Atchison Avenue, Pampa, Gray County, TX 79065 (NAD 83) 35° 32' 24.701" N, 100° 56' 56.947" W. A prefabricated equipment shelter and generator would be located within a 50 foot by 50 foot fenced compound at the site. The site will be accessed via a 12-foot wide access driveway from East Atchison Avenue. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to Aarcher, Inc. c/o Chris Baker, via email at cbaker@archerinc.com, or 910 Commerce Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 or (720)837-5159 referencing AARCHER Project Number-090023.03.4266.

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A X Y D L B A A X R
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.

12-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q G O P G Q G I I B S Q V Z D E R G D
G F L P F N U B E Q Z D Q U T Z L G B
D P G D U F . — B U H V I H K K T P
I P U I T P

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD SO IRRESISTIBLY CONTAGIOUS AS LAUGHTER AND GOOD HUMOR. — CHARLES DICKENS

DOUG BOYD MOTOR CO.

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R4279 \$13,995



2011 FORD EDGE
P4342 \$17,995



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P4105 \$21,995



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R4127 \$22,995



2007 FORD EXPLORER SPORT
R4371 \$11,995



2002 CHEVY SILVERADO
P4033 \$12,995



Mike



Steve

SANTA KNOWS

WHAT YOU REALLY WANT THIS YEAR!

GOOD THING WE KNOW TOO



2011 GMC SIERRA 1500
#G4055A SLE CREW CAB

\$27,572



2011 CHRYSLER 300C
#4142A BASE ALL WHEEL DRIVE

\$21,580



2011 NISSAN MURANO
#4138 SV SPORT

\$18,201



2009 TOYOTA COROLLA
#4136A XRS

\$11,282



2011 KIA SOUL
#4139A BASE HATCHBACK

\$10,604



2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE
#4132A 1LT

\$11,989



2013 KIA FORTE LX
#4134A

\$10,983



2012 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
#4146A CREW CAB

\$29,302

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2010 INFINITI G37 #T4054B.....\$18,732

2014 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING #4165A.....\$15,981

2011 TOYOTA TUNDRA GRADE #T4156A.....\$28,211

2014 GMC ACADIA SLT-1 #4171A.....\$29,193

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★ ★ NO BIG CITY HASSLE, JUST SAVINGS ★ ★

2010 BUICK LUCERNE #C4101A.....\$14,039

2014 GMC TERRAIN SLE-1 #4170B.....\$23,860

2006 MINI COOPER #T4097B.....\$10,368

2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT #T4163B.....\$13,743

2014 TOYOTA TUNDRA 1794 #4173A.....\$42,129

2007 CHEVROLET SILVERADO #G4039A.....\$13,449

2013 TOYOTA CAMRY SE #4167A.....\$17,690

2003 JEEP WRANGLER #T4164A.....\$9,165

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#T4083B CONVERTIBLE

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2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
#4152A

\$13,949



2005 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
#T4133A SPORT

\$10,682



2010 CHEVROLET IMPALA
#4141B LTZ

\$15,980



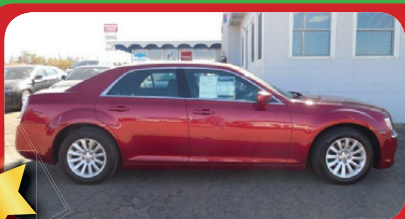
2009 LINCOLN MKS
#4160A BASE

\$17,582



2013 HYUNDAI TUCSON
#4162A LIMITED SPORT

\$20,230



2012 CHRYSLER 300
#4159A

\$16,929



2007 DODGE RAM 1500
#G4032B QUAD CAB

\$10,594

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for more than 10 years and have two children. My wife has a hard time making decisions, which has resulted in some issues such as hoarding, never having gotten a living room set, not replacing old carpets (which is causing potential health issues), not buying a new car or painting the house.

She is always saying, "I'll decide tomorrow, next week, etc.," but it never happens. She refuses to accept that she has a problem and seek help. I'm ready to give up on her, but I'm worried for the children. What should I do and where can she find help? — **CAN'T MAKE A DECISION**

DEAR CAN'T MAKE A DECISION: Give your wife a deadline by which to make a decision about the deferred "projects,"

then make the decision for the both of you. Your wife can find help by asking her doctor for a referral to a licensed mental health provider, but it won't happen until she is willing to admit to herself that she needs it and finally decides to deal with her indecisiveness.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and I haven't spoken in five years. She didn't go to my wedding, nor has she met my children. I want to make up with her and the family, but our argument is not the reason preventing me from reaching out. It's my stepfather.

He has been my dad since I was 5. When I was a teen, he got caught "peeping" at me inappropriately. When my brother discovered it, they got into an altercation. The whole family knows about it, but my mother took no action other than blaming me and telling

me to be more careful.

Now, with my own daughter, I worry it could happen to her one day. I miss my family, but am I better off leaving things how they are and remaining strangers? — **ESTRANGED IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR ESTRANGED: Yes, because you know your stepfather is a peeping Tom — which has been known to escalate — and your mother was willing to tolerate it rather than insist on his getting the help he needed.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired and can schedule our lives pretty much as we like. However, one thing we disagree on is the scheduling of meals. Formerly, we ate at 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. Now my husband wants to eat lunch at 10:30 and dinner at 4 o'clock. It's making me crazy! Pretty soon we'll be eating breakfast the night before.

I have tried talking to him about this, but it makes no difference. Since he does most of the cooking, he just goes

ahead on his own schedule. I married him "for better or worse," but not for "brunch"! Help, please. — **ANNOYED IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR ANNOYED: I think much depends upon why your husband has changed the schedule. Has he told you why? If it's health-related, accommodate him. If you're not ready to eat when he needs to, have him put some food aside for you to reheat and eat later — or prepare your own meals.

DEAR READERS: I wish each and every one of you a joyous and meaningful holiday. Merry Christmas, everyone. Love, **ABBY**

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

A XYDLB A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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

12-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

L K P W J V R O J , R F L K W S U , W J S X Q A W H O L V W X H . A Q A P F V W R A G A S X Q A , A Q A P F V W R A G A M W Q A , W V ' J L K P W J V R O J . — U O S A A Q O H J P X M A P J

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND ENJOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. — YOUR PUZZLE PEOPLE

BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the following seven-letter sets can be rearranged to spell out a common word that starts with **RE** or **DE** and/or ends with **ER** or **ED**.

LEVEL

A C D E H R R

A E G L R R U

E E F O R R V

D E E L O S U

Yesterday's Answer: PANTS, SKIRT, VEST 12.24

BANANAGRAMS!

There is one letter that, when added to all of the six-letter words below, can be used to form new seven-letter words. Find the letter that works for all four words, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

LEVEL

B A R E L Y

R A D I O S

D E T A I N

D E C E I T

COMMON LETTER

Yesterday's Answer: CHARRED, REGULAR, FOREVER, DELOUSE 12.25

SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Intermediate

SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Funny fellows
5 Make finer
9 Love affair
11 Showy parrot
12— peso (Mexican currency)
13 Acrobatic
14 Golfer Ernie
15 Wonderful event
17 Spectacular failure
19 Give permission to
20 Innsbruck's area
21 Bear's lair
22 Final letter
24 Pasture grazer
26 Italian seaport
29 Heir, often
30 Shackle
32 Small boat
34 Nest item
35 Suspect's story
36 Bravery
38 Christina of "Monster"
39 Find charming
40 Opponents

DOWN

1 Dwindled
2 Lucky charm
3 Passes
4 Family vehicle choice
5 Long story
6 Winter dripper
7 Collapsed
8 Online message
10 Date move
11 Stallion's mate
16 Outlawed
18 In — (lined up)
21 Comic Carvey
23 Swiss city
24 "Gangsta's Paradise" rapper
25 How to serve chicken à la king
27 Spotted cat
28 1990s veep
29 Muffler's kin
30 1102, in old Rome
31 Long-plumed bird
33 Basics
37 TV spots

Yesterday's answer

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

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CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Classic Christmas gift
5 Eyelashes
10 Game with mallets
11 Planters
12 Declare
13 Christmas decoration
14 Christmas pullers
16 Christmas exchange
20 Baby
23 Spanish gold
24 "Keen!"
25 Prepare to propose
27 Playing marble
28 Disrobed
29 Christmas decoration
32 Christmas activity
36 Christmas decorations
39 Clarinet cousin
40 For each blood fluids
42 Rushing sound: Var.
43 Christmas decoration

DOWN

1 Rigging support
2 Cherish
3 "The Time Machine" tribe
4 Perfectly memorized
5 Hearts
6 "If — a Rich Man"
7 Pasture
8 NYC subway
9 Fireplace bit
11 Adorable
15 Bond foe
17 Christmas song
18 Christmas symbol
19 Hawked
20 Fond of
21 At hand
22 Forest youngster
25 Casino game
26 Annual statement amount
28 In itself
30 Needs a massage
31 Fire starter
33 "Yeah, right!"
34 Director Ephron
35 Bike part
36 Bar concern
37 Wall St. debut
38 Joe, in Italy

Yesterday's answer

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

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ODDS OF A CHILD BECOMING THE NEXT TOMMY HILFIGER: 1 IN 23 MILLION

ODDS OF A CHILD BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM: 1 IN 68



Photo by Jade Albert

Learn more at
autismspeaks.org/signs

Some signs to look for:

- No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months
- No babbling by 12 months
- No words by 16 months



AUTISM SPEAKS
It's time to listen.

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SAVE \$8,500

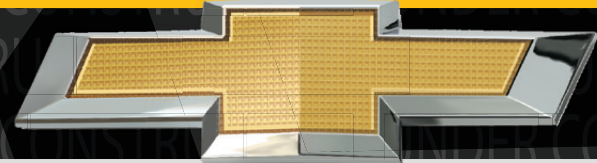
\$5,000 Customer Cash
+ \$1,000 Bonus Cash
+ \$1,500 Trade Assistance
+ \$1,000 Buyer Cash



2014 CHEVY SILVERADO
2500/3500 CREW CAB

SAVE \$7,500

\$4,000 Customer Cash
+ \$1,000 Bonus Cash
+ \$1,500 Trade Assistance
+ \$1,000 Buyer Cash



2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
4-DOOR DOUBLE CAB LT AL STAR 4WD



SAVE \$5,000*

\$1,500 Trade Assistance + \$2,500 Total Cash Allowance + \$1,000 Buyer Cash
* When you trade in an eligible vehicle

FIND NEW ROADS™

2014 CHEVY SILVERADO
1500 CREW CAB LT ALL STAR 4WD

SAVE \$4,500*

\$2,000 Trade Assistance
+ \$2,500 Total Cash Allowance
+ \$1,000 Buyer Cash



* When you trade in an eligible vehicle

2014 CHEVY CRUZE
EXCLUDES LS/LS CASH ALLOWANCE

SAVE \$2,000

\$2,000 Consumer Cash



2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
REGULAR CAB LT



SAVE \$5,500*

\$1,500 Trade Assistance + \$3,000 Total Cash Allowance + \$1,000 Buyer Cash
* When you trade in an eligible vehicle

2014 CHEVY EQUINOX

SAVE \$2,750

\$2,000 Trade Assistance
+ \$750 Bonus Cash



2014 CHEVY IMPALA

SAVE \$3,500

\$1,500 Consumer Cash
+ \$1,000 Buyer Cash
+ \$1,000 Bonus Cash



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2014 CHEVY TAHOE
SAVE \$4,500
OR **0% APR** plus **\$1,000 Bonus Cash**
for 36 months W.A.C.
\$1,000 Bonus Cash + \$3,500 Customer Cash



2014 CHEVY
SUBURBAN

SAVE \$4,500
OR **0% APR** plus **\$1,000 Bonus Cash**
for 36 months W.A.C.
\$1,000 Bonus Cash + \$3,500 Customer Cash



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SAVE UP TO **\$5,000**

\$4,500 CUSTOMER CASH + \$500 BONUS CASH

NEW 2014 GMC SIERRA HD CREW CAB DIESEL

SAVE UP TO **\$6,000**

\$4,500 CUSTOMER CASH + \$500 BONUS CASH + \$1,000 DIESEL ALLOWANCE

NEW 2014 GMC ACADIA

SAVE UP TO **\$2,500**

\$2,000 CUSTOMER CASH + \$500 HOLIDAY CASH



NEW 2014 GMC SIERRA 1500



0% PLUS \$2,000

BONUS CASH

APR FOR 60 MONTHS

0% APR for 60 months is for qualified buyers. Monthly payment is \$16.67 for every \$1,000 you finance. Some Customers will not qualify. See dealer for details.

NEW 2014 GMC SIERRA 1500



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\$2,000 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH + \$2,500 CONSUMER CASH

NEW 2014 GMC TERRAIN



2.9% PLUS \$500

BONUS CASH

APR FOR 60 MONTHS

2.9% APR for 60 months is for qualified buyers. Monthly payment is \$17.92 for every \$1,000 you finance. Some Customers will not qualify. See dealer for details.

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MAKE ROOM
DURING OUR
CONSTRUCTION



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0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS with approved credit
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NEW 2014 TOYOTA AVALON HYBRID



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TOYOTA CASH. TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

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TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

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0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS with approved credit
TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

NEW 2015 TOYOTA CAMRY HYBRID



1.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS with approved credit
TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

NEW 2014.5 TOYOTA CAMRY HYBRID

0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS with approved credit
TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY



NEW 2014 TOYOTA PRIUS



0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS with approved credit
\$1,000

TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY TOYOTA CASH. TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

NEW 2014 RAV 4



0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS with approved credit
TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

NEW 2014 TOYOTA TUNDRA



0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS with approved credit
\$1,000

TOYOTA CASH. TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

NEW 2015 TOYOTA PRIUS



0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS with approved credit
\$500

TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY TOYOTA CASH. TIER 1+ AND TIER 1 ONLY

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CULBERSON-STOWERS TOYOTA

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We want to Thank each and every Client and Customer for Making 2013 a Wonderful Year and for Giving Panhandle Pains Realty the Opportunity to Help You Find Your Dream Home.

We look forward to another Wonderful Year in 2015 with More Changes and Growing of the Real Estate Industry. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!



Linda Laycock
 Broker
 BROKER®, GRI
 (806) 662-1312

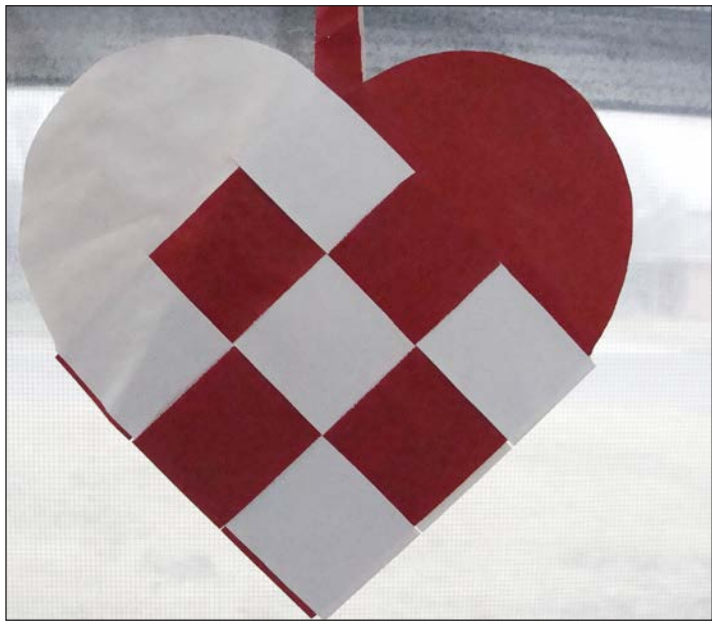


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CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AROUND THE TOWN



Submitted photos
Above left, here is a picture of one of Judi Smith's Christmas decorations. It's a traditional Danish heart, made of strips of paper and woven together. The Danes hang these on their Christmas trees or put them in windows. My husband, of Danish descent, has made these for many years. Above right, Christmas lights displayed at 1121 Charles. Below, Brekyn, 11, and Rylee, 8, Kilcrease show off their Christmas spirit.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS

and Happy New Year!

May the coming year bring peace, love and happiness to you and those you cherish. As we reflect on the blessings of the past year, your patronage and friendship are counted among them.

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MERRY Christmas

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From our family to yours!

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*Silent Night
Holy Night
All is Calm
All is Bright*

As we celebrate this sacred season, we hope all the peace, harmony and contentment of faith illuminate your holiday. May the warmth of His love touch your heart and lift your spirit on Christmas Day and all year.

Christmas is such a special time for us, and as we celebrate the reason for the season, we also celebrate the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our friends and neighbors here in town, and we really appreciate your trust in us. Thank you for your kind patronage and your friendship.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and many blessings. Rejoice!



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