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# The PAMPA NEWS

**TODAY IN SPORTS**



Friday, September 12, 2014 [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com) Volume 110 • No. 113

**75¢** Viewpoints: Insurance Insight  
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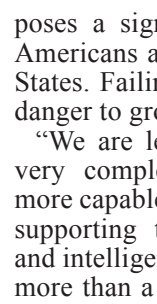
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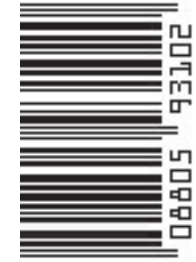
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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Weather .....	2	Comics .....	9
Obituaries .....	3	Classifieds .....	10-12
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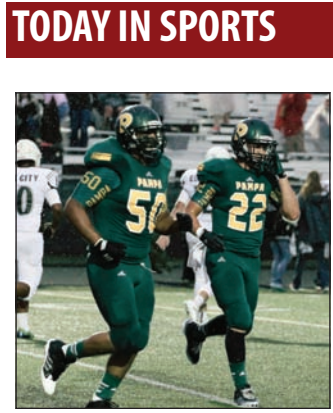


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# Viewpoints

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## Insurance Insight

# What are some trends we've seen from the group market?

The last four months of the year consist of Medicare enrollments, individual enrollments, and small and large group renewals. We've touched mostly on the individual market, so I'd like to mention a few trends we've seen with small groups over the past few weeks.



JAY CLABORN

If you ask, most brokers will mention that we expect premiums to rise across the board — individual and group insurance. On the flip side, most government agencies claim premiums will decrease as a result of the Affordable Care Act. We now have proof that one side is inherently correct, while the other side seems to be placing their foot a little further in their mouth. Over the past few weeks, brokers have been given their renewals from various insurance companies to present to their employer groups. Most companies allow for what is considered a “transitional” relief plan that basically delays

entrance into the Obamacare system for another year. Insurance companies also offer the ability to switch to an Obamacare plan upon renewal. The premiums are drastically different. Our agency services roughly 75 small group accounts. When we received our renewal notices for each group, we were expecting dire increases in premiums for the 2015 cycle. What we saw was astonishing in that premiums were not rising as much as we had previously thought for the transitional relief plans. However, that was not the case with the Obamacare plans.

On average, our employer groups will experience a premium increase of roughly 10-12 percent by accepting the transitional relief plans, which essentially will be the same plan they are on right now. If I were the chief executive officer of a small business and my broker mentioned to me that our premiums would be increasing ten percent at renewal, I would certainly be content. So what would happen if they were to convert to an Obamacare plan? They would experience premium increas-

es that range from 20 percent on the low end to 150 percent on the high end. That's right. 150 percent. For a similar Obamacare plan, premiums are averaging a 60 percent increase from their current plan's rates. Now, I will say that we have two groups that would experience a premium decrease by switching to an Obamacare plan. Two out of roughly 75.

### What does this mean for each business?

Things are not going to change that much for another year. However, once the Obama administration's delay ceases at the end of 2015, each small business will then be required to conform to the mandates of the law. Now, while employers are not required to offer health insurance (if they meet certain employee guidelines), those businesses that want to continue offering a plan will see radical changes. Instead of a modest 12 percent increase in premiums, they will have the opportunity to offer a similar plan at a much higher monthly rate. As a business owner, this should unnerve you just a little **CLABORN** cont. on page 5

# The measles are back

No, it's not a rock group. You're lucky if you can't remember. It's a disease that was gone, and now it's back. So, by the way, is whooping cough, another dreaded childhood disease



SUSAN ESTRICH

that had been effectively wiped out.

Every child is supposed to be immunized before they start kindergarten. Children with medical issues, such as a weakened immune system, are entitled to medical exemptions. These children, along with family members who cannot be vaccinated, depend on the rest of the community to protect them. According to accepted public health standards, “herd immunity” requires that 92 percent of the students in the classroom be vaccinated. By vaccinating our own children, we protect them — and those children who cannot be vaccinated and might face the worst outcomes if they were to fall sick.

While all states require certain vaccinations, parents who claim that vaccinations are against their “personal beliefs” are entitled to exemptions. The number of parents seeking such exemptions has doubled in the past seven years, and, according to an analysis by the Los Angeles Times, the rates — and dangers — are actually greatest in private schools and many of the wealthiest public school districts.

In the Santa Monica-Malibu (Calif.) Unified School District, for example, the exemption rate is nearly 15 percent. In the Montecito district in Santa Barbara, more than 27 percent of the parents are claiming it is against their personal beliefs to vaccinate. Among private schools in California, nearly 25 percent of the kindergartens are reporting vaccination rates that put them below the 92 percent rate. In some cases, literally half of the students aren't getting vaccinated. Ten percent of the public school kindergartens surveyed reported that “herd immunity” no longer protects their students.

Parents who don't vaccinate their otherwise healthy children claim that they are protecting their children's health. I

have yet to find a reputable doctor or public health expert who agrees. Measles and pertussis are potentially serious illnesses, even for healthy children. And they can be deadly for children and family members who cannot be vaccinated, already have compromised immune systems or are being treated for cancers — in short, for people who depend on the community to keep them safe.

Not vaccinating your child is both dangerous and selfish.

This is not a religious issue, at least not for the overwhelming majority of California residents who opt out of vaccination. The most dangerous schools in the state are schools populated by parents who think they know better than public health officials and, in making that mistake, are exposing not only their own children, but also their most vulnerable classmates and family members, as well as teachers and staff, to potentially deadly threats.

A few years ago, it was very “fashionable” to believe that vaccinations caused autism. I say “fashionable” because there was never one ounce of scientific proof establishing any such connection, and yet you could turn on your television and see the topic being debated as if it were one about which reasonable authorities could disagree. Reasonable authorities could not disagree. The so-called studies suggesting a link to autism were thoroughly and totally discredited. And yet the trend continues.

The number of measles cases in America reached a 20-year high last year. A preventable disease is back. California is facing a whooping cough epidemic this year.

Of course, parents should be able to raise their children as they please. I'm not one who thinks we need the state to tell us what our kids can eat for lunch or what size sodas they can buy. But vaccinations are another matter. Personal choice should not extend to exposing children to unacceptable and unnecessary risks — particularly when those being exposed are the most vulnerable among us, who have no choice.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.



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

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# Bluster and bluff in the Baltic

“I say to the people of Estonia and the people of the Baltics, today we are bound by our treaty alliance. ... Article 5 is crystal clear: An attack on one is an attack on all. So if ... you ever ask again, ‘who'll



PATRICK BUCHANAN

come to help,’ you'll know the answer — the NATO alliance, including the armed forces of the United States of America.”

That was Barack Obama in Tallinn, Estonia, last week, reissuing a U.S. war guarantee to the tiniest of the Baltic republics — which his Cold War predecessors would have regarded as certifiable madness.

From 1945 to 1989, no president would have dreamed of issuing a blank check for war in Eastern Europe. Our red line was in the heart of Germany. It said to Moscow: Cross the Elbe, and we fight.

That red line was made credible by hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops permanently stationed in West Germany.

Yet Truman did not use force to break the Berlin Blockade. Ike did not use force to save the Hungarian rebels. JFK fulminated, and observed, when the Wall went up. When Leonid Brezhnev sent Warsaw Pact armies into Czechoslovakia, LBJ did nothing. Why did these presidents

not act? None believed there was any vital U.S. interest in Eastern Europe worth a war with Russia.

And, truth be told, there was no vital interest there then, and there is no vital interest there now. If we would not risk war with a nuclear-armed Russia over Hungary or Czechoslovakia half a century ago, why would we risk it now over Estonia?

Cold War presidents routinely issued captive nations resolutions, declaring our belief in the right of the peoples behind the Iron Curtain to be free. But no president regarded their liberation worthy of war.

What has changed? When did the independence of the Baltic republics, miraculous and welcome as it is, become so critical to us that if Russia intrudes into Estonia, we will treat it as an attack on our homeland?

In 1994, George Kennan called the expansion of NATO into the old Soviet bloc “a strategic blunder of potentially epic proportions.”

Yet we not only brought into NATO all the Warsaw Pact nations, George W. Bush brought in the Baltic republics.

To see the folly of what we have done, consider Ukraine, which has been involved in a military and political collision with Russia ever since we coluded in the overthrow of its pro-Russian regime.

As neocons cheered the ouster of the corrupt and incompetent, but demo-

cratically elected, Viktor Yanukovich, Vladimir Putin moved to secure and annex Crimea, and pro-Russian separatists sought to break away from Kiev and achieve independence or reunification with Russia.

A question arises: Why do not the pro-Russian separatists of Donetsk and Luhansk have the same right to secede from Ukraine, as Ukraine had to secede from the Soviet Union?

And why is this quarrel any of America's business? Was it the business of Czar Alexander II when the 11 Southern states seceded from the Union and, then, West Virginia seceded from Virginia?

Under the new government of Petro Poroshenko, Ukraine sent its forces to the southeast to crush the separatists. They failed. Rising casualties and a separatist drive on the city of Mariupol have apparently persuaded Kiev to seek a ceasefire and peace.

Needless to say, those who celebrated the overthrow of the pro-Russian regime in Kiev are now apoplectic at Kiev's apparent defeat.

Yet, on Sept. 5, the New York Times wrote, “The Americans have no illusion that Ukraine could ever prevail in a war with Russia.”

That is realism. But if Ukraine's cause is militarily hopeless, what would be Estonia's chances in a clash with Moscow? Estonia has three percent of

Ukraine's population and is less than one-tenth its size. If Moscow decided to take Estonia, it could do so in 48 hours.

And should Putin engage in so rash an act, what would NATO do?

Would 28 NATO nations declare war and send troops? Would the United States declare war on Russia and conduct air strikes on Russian forces inside and outside Estonia?

Would we send aircraft carriers into the Baltic Sea? Would we start a war with Russia that could lead to early use of tactical atomic weapons, devastating Estonia and causing massive deaths?

How would NATO save Estonia without destroying Estonia?

To eliminate second thoughts about our war guarantee to Estonia, some in Washington are calling for permanent U.S. bases and the stationing of U.S. troops in the Baltic states, so that any Russian incursion would lead to U.S. casualties and a definite clash with Russia.

Presumably this threat would deter Russia in perpetuity.

But if it doesn't deter Putin, or if a future Russian ruler regards it as a bluff and chastises Estonia, what do we do then? Put the B-2s on alert and go to DEFCON-2, as we did in the Cuban missile crisis?

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

# Community Calendar

## Claborn

Continued From Page 4

bit. Now, as a broker, if there is a problem that is currently unsolved, I like to find a silver lining and pursue that modus operandi. However, I do not see a silver lining when it comes to premiums for small employers beginning in 2016. We have one more year of delayed action that will allow us to breathe a little bit, but my guess would be that the small group market

will shrink, while employers dump their employees into the federal marketplaces. After all, small businesses are the essence of capitalism, capitalism is epitome of a free republic, and our government believes that it is the republic.

*Jay Claborn is a licensed, certified health insurance broker that specializes in individual and small group health insurance. He has been published by various online magazines and periodicals around the state on the continuously evolving Affordable Care Act. He is a member of the Lubbock Area Association of Health Underwriters, as well as, the National Association of Health Underwriters.*

## Let your elected leaders know what you think

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<http://thornberry.house.gov/>

### State Rep. Ken King

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Canadian, TX 79014  
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Capitol Office:  
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Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0736  
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[Ken.King@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Ken.King@house.state.tx.us)

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Amarillo, TX 79101  
806-374-8994  
806-374-4607 fax  
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[www.seliger.senate.state.tx.us/dist31.htm](http://www.seliger.senate.state.tx.us/dist31.htm)

### U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz

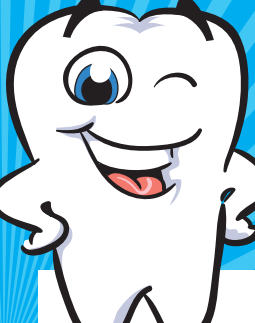
Austin Office  
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Phone: 512-916-5834  
[www.cruz.senate.gov/index.cfm](http://www.cruz.senate.gov/index.cfm)

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### City Commission meetings

The Pampa City Commission meets at 4 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 3 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. For more information, call 665-4752 or 806-874-3211. The clinic is located at 736 S. Cuyler St.

### 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.

*Editor's note: Email submissions to [jcllee@thepampanews.com](mailto: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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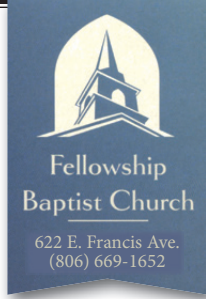


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- Feeding Disorders
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Stroke/Aphasia
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## KJV Conference September 14-17 with Dr. David Bryant

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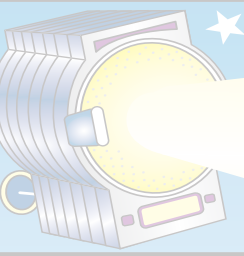
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# Pampa Entertainment

## Amarillo Symphony season premieres with triumph on Sept. 19 and 20

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### AMARILLO SYMPHONY

AMARILLO — The Amarillo Symphony, (www.amarillosymphony.org), the leader of orchestral music in the Texas Panhandle since 1924, announces the return of Grammy Award winning classical pianist Garrick Ohlsson and also the premiere of a commissioned piece by composer in residence Chris Rogerson in conjunction with the opening of its 90th Anniversary season of celebration on Sept. 19-20.

"The Amarillo Symphony celebrates the return back to Amarillo 32 years in the making of one of the most celebrated and important artists of our time," said Jacomo Rafael Bairos, Music Director and Conductor. "Garrick Ohlsson puts his full technical

proWess on display for what has been coined the most difficult concerto ever written for piano, Rachmaninoff's powerful Concerto No. 3. Join us for Triumph, an observance of the last 90 years, and a celebration toward the next 90."

In celebration of the 90th Anniversary season, the Amarillo Symphony commissioned a piece by composer in residence Chris Rogerson, which will be premiered this September at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Rogerson composed "The Way Through" to celebrate the tough, independent yet progressive spirit that has enabled the Amarillo Symphony to reach this 90th pinnacle. Chris Rogerson has been praised for his music's "virtuosic exuberance" and "haunting beauty."

The Amarillo Symphony is thrilled to present Triumph to the Amarillo community.

This 90th Anniversary is an incredible milestone and is a testament to the dedication, love, support and passion that the Amarillo community shares for the Arts. Without our amazing supporters, patrons and community leaders, giving the Amarillo Symphony their heart and soul for nearly a century, the organization would not be here to continue presenting not only the most beloved classics of all time, but thrilling new concert experiences as well.

Single tickets are available for \$15, \$30 or \$45 plus applicable fees. Season subscriptions are still available for the seven concert series starting at only \$98. You can purchase single tickets on our website at www.amarillosymphony.org or call us at 806-376-8782 to reserve your

season subscription.

For more information about Triumph or to purchase tickets, please visit www.amarillosymphony.org or call 806-376-8782.

### About the Amarillo Symphony

Founded in 1924, the mission of the Amarillo Symphony (www.amarillosymphony.org) is to infuse the Amarillo community with an unbridled enthusiasm for the performance and discovery of great orchestral music. The Amarillo Symphony is the only professional orchestra in the Texas Panhandle and offers an array of successful youth educational programs in addition to regularly scheduled concerts.

The 2014 season is sponsored in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts. Learn more about the Amarillo Symphony at www.amarillosymphony.org.

## Country singer Merle Haggard: still on the road

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Even Merle Haggard gets nervous about stepping onto a stage when the audience is filled with songwriters, record label executives and fellow artists.



Merle Haggard

"Well, it's glorious but it's also tough because all the pressure is on you," Haggard said after recently playing two sold-out nights at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee. "You've got all those people out there that call you a legend and an icon and all that stuff. You kinda gotta prove it."

But judging from the cheering and ovations, Haggard — who helped create the twangy electri-

fied Bakersfield Sound in country music — still knows how to impress a crowd.

At 77, he tours the country about two weeks each month and recently bought a new tour bus, a sign that he's not interested in retirement from the road. His band, the Strangers, now includes his wife, Theresa, and 21-year-old son Ben, as well as band leader Norman Hamlet, who has been with Haggard since the 1960s.

"It's real tempting to let it all go, but it's taken many years to get to where I am at," Haggard said. "To divorce myself of it earlier than I have to is really not something I want to do."

Haggard had lung surgery after a cancer diagnosis in 2008, and he said an early, but incorrect, diagnosis had him thinking he had only a short time to live.

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## Movies at Pampa Cinema 4

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Sunday - 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.,  
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### The Giver - Rated PG-13

Friday - 7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.  
Saturday - 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday - 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.,  
Monday/Thursday - 7:15 p.m.,

### Sin City: A Dame to Kill For - Rated R

Friday - 7:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m.  
Saturday - 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m.  
Sunday - 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.,  
Monday/Thursday - 7:30 p.m.

### When The Games Stands Tall - Rated PG

Friday - 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.  
Saturday - 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.  
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Cabot Corporation has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 2554, which would authorize continued operation of the Cabot Pampa Plant located at 11561 US Highway 60, Pampa, Gray County, Texas 79065. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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# PampaSports

## THE PAMPA HARVESTERS TAKE ON ELK CITY



Above left, Omar Tovar (50) and Colton Thompson (22) jog off the field during Pampa's game against Elk City on Friday night. Above middle, the Pampa Harvester cheerleaders try to keep the crowd engaged despite the cold and wet weather. Above right, Jayson Thomas (9) makes a touchdown grab during the game Friday night. Thomas unofficially had two catches for 47 yards and a touchdown in the 50-49 loss. Below, Harvesters kicker Trevor Turner kicks an extra point in the rain on Friday. The Harvesters return to action tonight at Hereford. Kick-off is at 7:30.




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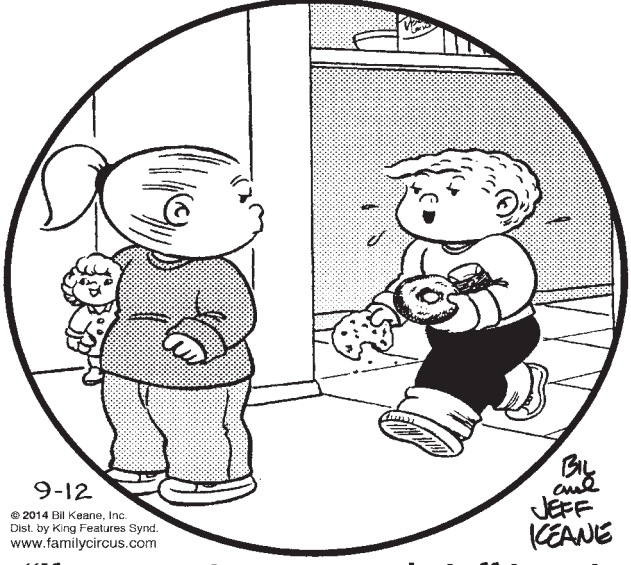


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# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



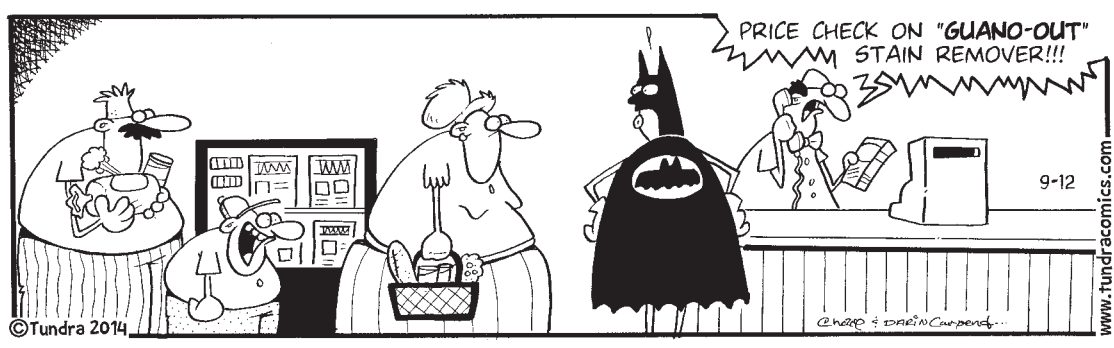
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JEFF KEANE

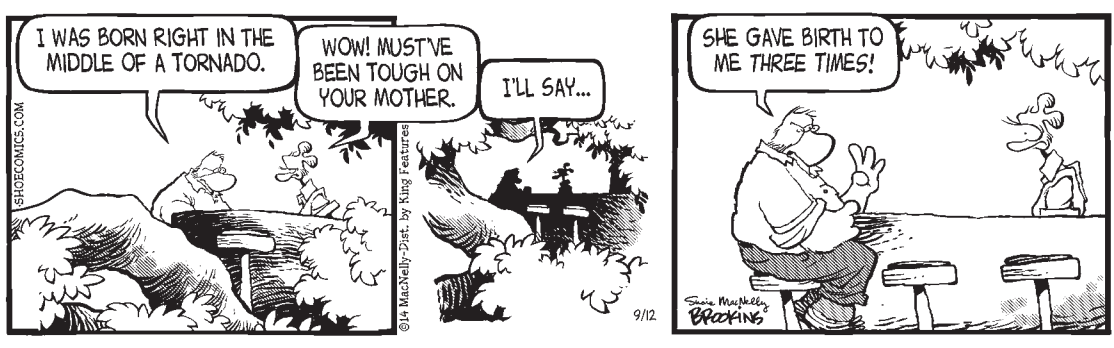
**"If you want some good stuff to eat, just keep asking Mommy questions when she's on the phone."**

## Tundra

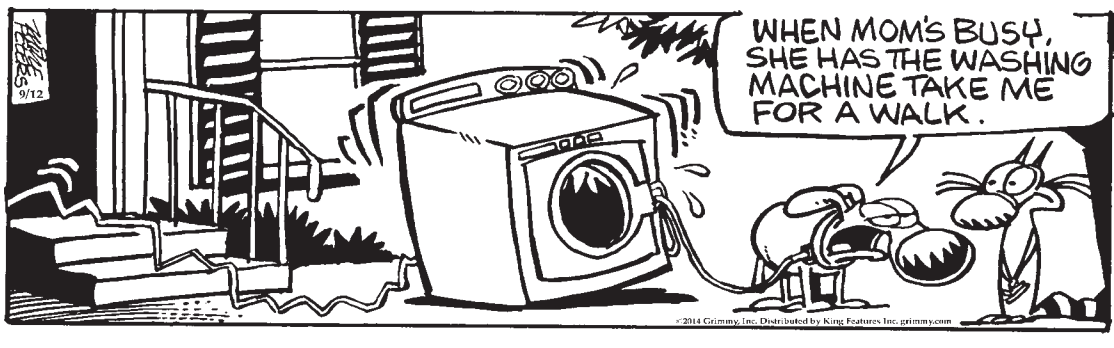


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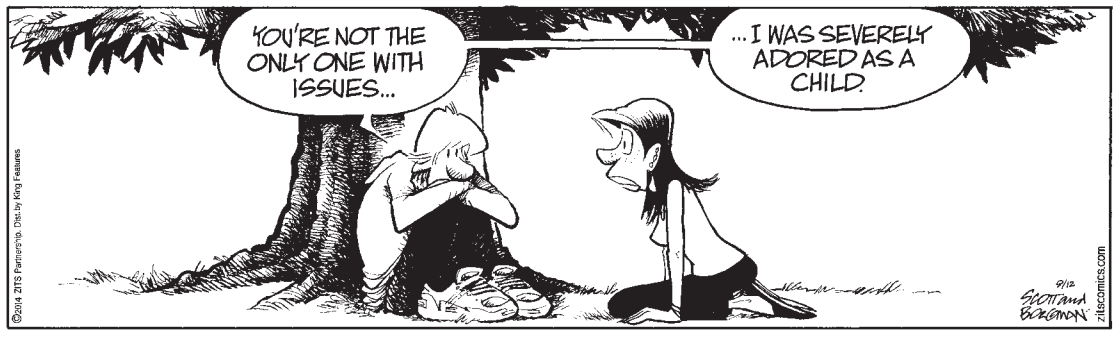
## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grim



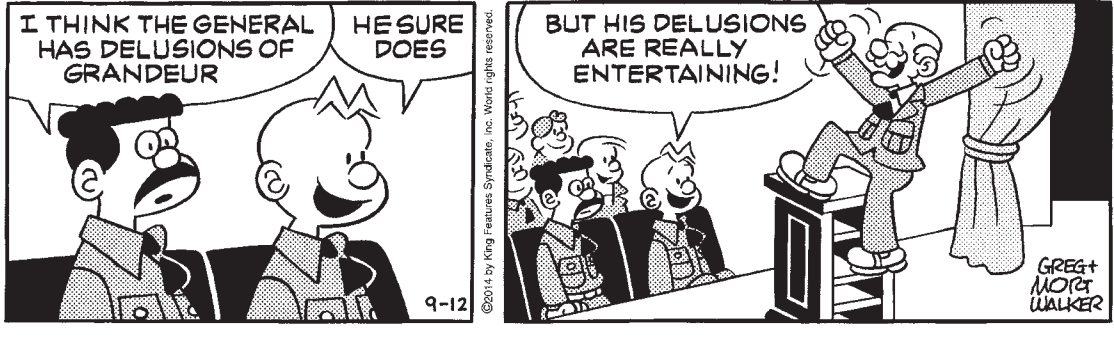
## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



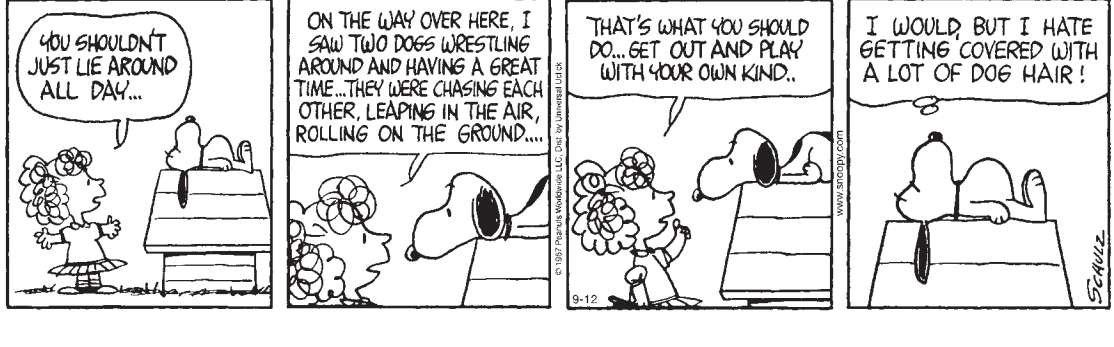
## Marvin



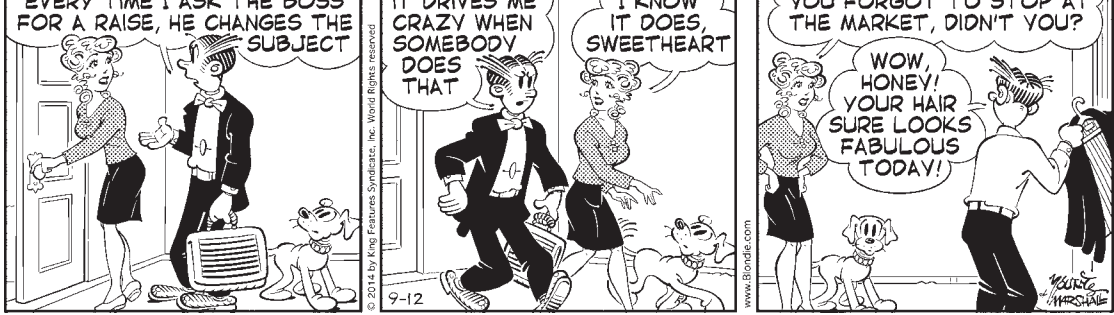
## Hagar The Horrible



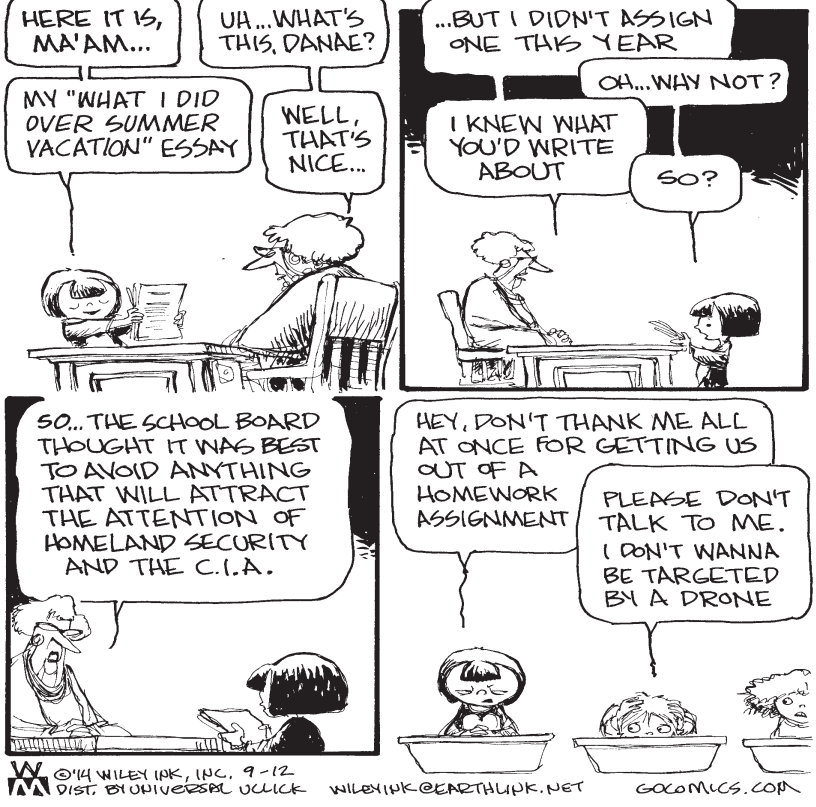
## Peanuts



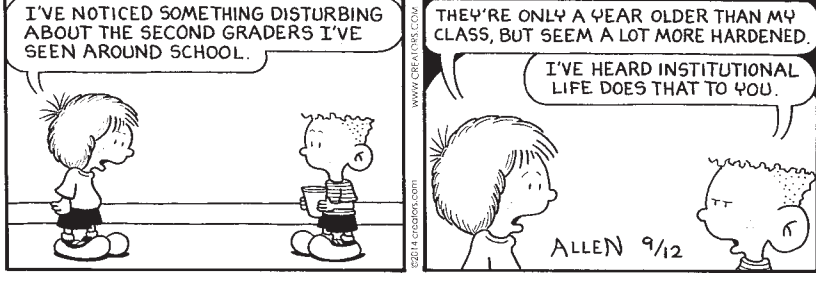
## Blondie



## Non Sequitur



## Nest Heads



# daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014:  
 This year you complete a 12-year luck cycle. You might want to identify what works in your life and what doesn't; it is important to enter the new 12-year luck cycle with only what is valid in your life. Start looking at your life from a different perspective. If you are single, be aware that you could choose someone who is emotionally unavailable. Be careful. If you are attached, your creativity will soar, and it will spice up your relationship. Schedule a special trip you often discuss together. TAURUS helps you understand different cultures and styles.  
 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)  
 ★★ Others tend to see you as being full of surprises. You could witness a conflict occur between your desires and someone else's wishes. Be careful, as this person could become unruly. Reach out to a friend you see in a daily setting. Tonight: Make it your treat.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 ★★ You'll achieve exactly what you want, but a key friend or loved one might let you know how off base he or she feels you are. Your imagination is likely to take over, which will allow more fun into your day. A romance could be blossoming. Tonight: As you like it.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
 ★★ Think about what was said in a discussion. Though you can be a Chatty Cathy, right now you'll need to be in deep thought. Be more in tune with what is going on around you. You suddenly might understand why a loved one seems so angry. Tonight: Play it low-key.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 ★★ Focus on what is happening within your immediate circle. A loved one could be closed off right now. You might try to pry this person open to no avail. Go off and enjoy yourself, and soon you will discover that he or she just needs some space. Tonight: Do what you want.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 ★★ You could be more in the limelight than you have been in the recent past. Be more forthright about your plans when trying to squeeze in everything you want to do. A child might try to draw you in to a fun happening. To-

night: Choose a favorite stressbuster.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 ★★ You could be wondering what plans would be the most fun to pursue. Opt to head in your chosen direction or go for a drive. Listen to news more openly. Put greater emphasis on trying a new type of adventure that involves some travel. Tonight: Follow the music.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 ★★ Plan on getting together with others later in the day. You also might want to deal with a loved one directly. Schedule some quality one-on-one time with this person. Your instincts tend to work well with this person, so be sure to follow them. Tonight: How about a friendly dinner?  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 ★★ You'll accomplish what you want despite a morning tiff or two. Your irritable mood might have pushed others away, so make a point of clearing that up. Friends and loved ones will appreciate your company at a get-together. Tonight: And the party goes on.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 ★★ You might be overly concerned with certain details that need handling. You will get a lot done, especially with Mars dropping into your sign today. Your social side will demand self-expression, no matter what is going on. Tonight: Don't push others as hard as you usually do.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
 ★★ You might want to touch base with a loved one or indulge your sweetie. What is stopping you? Understand your limits, and fulfill your obligations first. A friend could be disappointed, as he or she might have been looking forward to spending time with you. Tonight: Where the fun is.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 ★★ You might be stuck in a certain routine more than you realize. One-on-one relating could prove to be most rewarding. You have a way of combining romance with friendship that is unbeatable. Tonight: You could be surprised by how plans fall into place.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 ★★ You'll discover that everything will fall into place if you just relax and go with the flow. News from a friend could put an obstacle in your path. Others are likely to come forward and let you know how important you are to them. Be spontaneous. Tonight: Flirt the night away.





# TOP OF TEXAS CLASSIFIEDS

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<b>General Services</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>	<b>Legals / Public Notice</b>
HOUSE cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563.	<b>TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWAL PERMIT NUMBER 2554</b> APPLICATION Cabot Corporation has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality	Permit Number 2554, which would authorize continued operation of the Cabot Pampa Plant located at 11561 US Highway 60, Pampa, Gray County, Texas 79065. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=35.51&amp;lng=-101.015&amp;zoom=13&amp;type=r">http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=35.51&amp;lng=-101.015&amp;zoom=13&amp;type=r</a> .	The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and organic compounds. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on August 28, 2014. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Amarillo regional office, and the Lovett Memorial Library, 111 North Houston Street, Pampa Gray County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Amarillo regional office of the TCEQ. The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a	technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met. <b>PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.</b> The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. <b>The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published.</b> After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to	all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process. After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing. <b>OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING</b> You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the	application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. <b>If no hearing request is received within this 15-day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.</b> According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn. <b>A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from</b>	<b>the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility. If the request is made by a group or association, the one or more members who have standing to request a hearing and the interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.</b> If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. <b>If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact relating to relevant and material air quality concerns raised during the comment period.</b> Issues such as a property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the	Commission's jurisdiction to address in the proceeding. <b>MAILING LIST</b> In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application. <b>AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION</b> Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html">www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html</a> , or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you communicate with the TCEQ electronically, please be aware that your email address, like your physical mailing address, will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea informacion en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. Further information may also be obtained from Cabot Corporation, P.O. Box 5001, Pampa, Texas 79066-5001 or by calling Ms. Jennifer Flores, Environmental Manager at (806)661-3130. Notice Issuance Date: September 9, 2014.

## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

7	1				5			8
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9				1				
	3					4	7	
	7	2	3				6	
5		7						
	6			2				4
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Level: Advanced

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## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay male college student who is out and comfortable with who I am — 99 percent of the time. When I was in high school, I tried to come out to my parents and it didn't go smoothly. They had an emotional crisis for a day, then shrugged it off as "just another teenage phase." After the panic mode was over, they bought me off with an expensive car and continued believing I'm straight.

I make no attempt to hide who I am because I expect to be treated the same, regardless. But it's awkward whenever I am asked by either parent, "Do you have a girlfriend?" or, "How are you doing with the ladies?"

Do you have any advice on what I should say in response, given my parents' emotional reaction? — **IT'S WHO I AM IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR WHO I AM: It is obvious that your parents are in denial. If you haven't told them again about your sexual orientation, you should.

If you are unable to summon up the words to tell them what they are waiting for isn't going to happen, then contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays — [pflag.org](http://pflag.org)), not only for your own sake, but also for theirs. In light of your parents' reaction the last time you leveled with them, they may need emotional support to accept that you are gay, and PFLAG can provide it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for a year. We dated for four years before the wedding, and we have a son together. The child and I have never met any of my husband's immediate family. I have never spoken to any of them over the phone, either.

He has met all of my family members. I have asked repeatedly to meet his, and he tells me he's planning a family trip to visit. He seemed annoyed when I brought it up. What should I do? — **LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA**

DEAR LEFT OUT: That you have had no contact with these people in the five years you've been in the picture is, frankly, beyond strange. It appears there may be some things your husband hasn't told you. He may be ashamed of his family, on the outs with them, or they were never told about his involvement with you and/or the existence of their grandchild.

Because you have now been a member of their family for a year, pick up the phone, call your in-laws and introduce yourself.

DEAR ABBY: Please help to settle a debate between my husband and me. Is it all right for a woman to give relationship advice to her friend?

I have a friend who is struggling in her relationship, and I have tried to help with advice I feel is appropriate and positive. Is this wrong, or should I stay out of it like my husband suggests? — **GOOD FRIEND IN TEXAS**

DEAR GOOD FRIEND: Part of female friendship is sharing experiences and advice with each other. However, remember that if your friend is "struggling" in this relationship, in the final analysis, she's going to have to resolve the problems herself. If she is unable to do that without coming back to you again and again, then her relationship probably won't last in spite of your best efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Ribald</p> <p><b>5</b> Cribbage needs</p> <p><b>9</b> Folder's phrase</p> <p><b>11</b> One way to read</p> <p><b>13</b> Score speed</p> <p><b>14</b> Singer Patsy</p> <p><b>15</b> Yale player</p> <p><b>16</b> Concentrated</p> <p><b>18</b> Tennis category</p> <p><b>20</b> Tiara feature</p> <p><b>21</b> Be in accord</p> <p><b>22</b> Bar assn. members</p> <p><b>23</b> Seth MacFarlane film</p> <p><b>24</b> "Veep" carrier</p> <p><b>25</b> Declare</p> <p><b>27</b> Oozes</p> <p><b>29</b> Ship record</p> <p><b>30</b> Shot one under par</p> <p><b>32</b> Violent weather</p> <p><b>34</b> History chunk</p> <p><b>35</b> Bye, in Baja</p> <p><b>36</b> More polite</p>	<p><b>38</b> Lariats</p> <p><b>39</b> Public outburst</p> <p><b>40</b> Capital on a fjord</p> <p><b>41</b> Purposes</p>	<p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Solemn ceremonies</p> <p><b>2</b> Hilary Swank movie</p> <p><b>3</b> Dealing (with)</p> <p><b>4</b> "Nope!" opposite</p> <p><b>5</b> Accords</p> <p><b>6</b> "Legally Blonde" heroine</p>	<p><b>7</b> Cracking up</p> <p><b>8</b> Western sight</p> <p><b>10</b> Slogged away</p> <p><b>12</b> Judges</p> <p><b>17</b> Once called</p> <p><b>19</b> Got bigger</p> <p><b>22</b> Not yet up</p> <p><b>24</b> Wading birds</p> <p><b>25</b> Worship site</p> <p><b>26</b> Haitian practice</p> <p><b>27</b> Comic Caesar</p> <p><b>28</b> Peaceful</p> <p><b>30</b> Low singer</p> <p><b>31</b> Is bold</p> <p><b>33</b> Seasonal song</p> <p><b>37</b> Hosp. ward</p>
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**NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!** Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

Yesterday's Answer: MONKEY, BOAR; BONOBO, WHALE

9.12

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# PampaSports

## Harvesters prepared for game at Hereford

BY FORREST GRIMES  
fgrimes@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvester football team plays their first road game of the season tonight at Hereford.

Coach Greg Poynor said Hereford is a well-coached team.

“Coach Delozier, I know him, he always does a great job and this team is no exception,” he said.

Poynor said Hereford is a good team offensively.

“They have a quarterback who can run and throw,” he said. “He impresses us a lot on video. They have a good running back. He’s kind of a shorter, strong scat back type. They have really good receiver and line, offensively.”

Poynor said Hereford also has a good defense.

“They’re just very very sound,” he said. “They do what they do, and do it really well. They’re athletic

on that side of the ball too. They have a couple of linebackers that are probably the best linebackers we’ve seen this year. So it’s going to be a tall order. They’re a good football team. We’re going to have to play well.”

Poynor said he has been pleased with the way his offense has played the first two weeks.

“I’ve been really proud of our offense the last two weeks, and it looks like it might be bad weather again,” he said. “We just got to keep doing what we do and that’s whatever they’re giving us. There is a weak place in every defense, and we have to do a good job finding that. Hopefully, we can do that a little faster than we did Friday night.”

Poynor said their defense will have to play better than they did last week.

“I think for one thing

we have to tackle well,” he said. “We didn’t tackle very well Friday night, and that’s the first time through two scrimmages and a game that I feel like we didn’t tackle very well. We’ve got to concentrate on that, and we’ve got to be very disciplined. They run a lot of counters.”

Poynor said their practices have gone well despite last week’s tough loss.

“Our practices have been awesome,” he said. “I was really proud of our kids. It was a tough loss, 50 to 49. It was a great game. It was a thrilling game, but I felt like our kids shook that off in a hurry, came back on Monday and we’ve had three really good practices.”

Pampa and Hereford kick off tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Hereford.

Refer back to page 8 for pictures from last week’s game.

## Olympian Pistorius found not guilty

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—In a lengthy verdict phase climaxing Oscar Pistorius’ trial, the judge said Thursday he can’t be found guilty of murder but that he was negligent in the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, raising the possibility he’ll be convicted of culpable homicide.

Judge Thokozile Masipa said she felt the double-amputee Olympian acted negligently when he fatally shot Steenkamp through a toilet door in his home in the predawn hours of Valentine’s Day last year. In a moment of high-drama, she then stopped reading out her judgment in the six-month-long trial and adjourned until Friday. A formal judgment in the case that has riveted much of South Africa and the world is expected on Friday.

If Pistorius is acquitted of murder, he could still be sent to jail for years if convicted of culpable homicide.

While the judge did not announce a verdict, she said the prosecution had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Pistorius committed premeditated murder. She also ruled out a lesser murder charge, but said Pistorius may be vulnerable to being convicted of culpable homicide — in other words a negligent killing. “I am of the view that

the accused acted too hastily and with excessive force,” Masipa said of Pistorius actions on the fatal night last year.

The world-famous athlete has acknowledged firing four shots through a toilet door in his home, hitting Steenkamp in the head, arm and hip area and killing her. He says he mistook her for an intruder. The prosecution alleges the athlete intentionally killed his girlfriend, a model and budding reality TV star, after a loud argument, which was heard by neighbors.

Culpable homicide normally carries a five-year jail sentence in South Africa when a firearm is used,

but it can be changed by a judge depending on the specific circumstances of the killing.

“Culpable homicide is a competent verdict,” the judge said.

Masipa said there were “just not enough facts” to support the finding of premeditated murder in Steenkamp’s fatal shooting.

As the judge spoke, Pistorius wept quietly, his shoulders shaking as he sat on a wooden bench.

Masipa earlier told Pistorius, 27, he could remain seated on the bench while she read her verdict out and until she asked him to stand for the judgment.

### Watch the Pros

#### Baseball

NY Yankees at Baltimore Orioles.....MLBN 12 p.m.  
Cleveland Indians at Detroit Tigers.....MLBN 6 p.m.  
LA Dodgers at SF Giants.....MLBN 9 p.m.

#### College Football

Toledo at Cincinnati.....ESPNU 6 p.m.  
Baylor at Buffalo.....ESPN 7 p.m.

#### High School Football

Brynes (S.C.) at De La Salle (Calif.).....ESPNU 9:15 p.m.

#### Basketball

FIBA World Cup Semifinals.....ESPN2 3 p.m.

#### Soccer

Seattle vs. Salt Lake.....NBCSN 9:30 p.m.

#### Golf

LPGA Evian Championship.....GOLF 6:30 a.m.  
PGA Tour Championship.....GOLF 12 p.m.

#### Auto Racing

Truck Series in Joliet, Ill.....FS1 7:30 p.m.

## Texas Tech renews series with Hogs

LUBBOCK (AP) — It’s been 23 years since Texas Tech and Arkansas faced off in what was the two teams’ final pairing before the Razorbacks joined the Southeast Conference.

The Red Raiders (2-0) remained in the Southwestern Conference until its demise in 1995, and they joined the Big 12 the following season. Texas Tech won that 1991 game 38-21 in Lubbock.

This Saturday’s game pits a team that’s had difficulty stopping the run, Texas Tech, against a team ranked 11th in the nation in yards rushing (324.5 yards per game). The Red Raiders bring the nation’s 11th-best total offense (570 ypg).

Red Raiders coach Kliff Kingsbury, whose team has won two closer-than-expected games by a combined margin of 11 points, called the Razorbacks’ offense the “biggest challenge” this season. Texas Tech had to come from behind to beat UTEP 30-26 last week.

“They’ve been moving bodies,” he said of Arkansas’ five 310-plus-pound offensive linemen. “You watch them up front against Auburn, against Nicholls State and they’re tough. Those running backs do a great job finishing runs.”

Arkansas coach Bret Bielema, who’s in his second year in Fayetteville, called his three running backs “elite” in the Razorbacks’ program. But he knows about the potential of the Red Raiders’ passing attack. Arkansas (1-1) snapped a 10-game losing streak when they beat Nicholls State 73-7 last week.

“The bottom line is, Texas Tech’s offense is out there against our defense and it doesn’t really matter what they do on offense, it matters what we do and how we’re able to defend them,” he said.

Some things to watch Saturday:

#### Razorbacks’ Running Attack

Arkansas grinds out most of its offense on the ground, getting 648 yards of its 1,012 total yards on rushes. The Razor-

backs are led by sophomore Alex Collins (207 yards and three TDS on 23 carries) and junior Jonathan Williams (178 yards and two TDs on 11 carries). “I think Alex Collins has probably had as good a three weeks of practice since he’s been here, ... and Jonathan Williams, any chance he gets, continues to impress,” Bielema said.

#### High Octane Offense

The Red Raiders have gotten off to slow starts in both their wins, and Davis Webb this week acknowledged he hasn’t been himself, despite throwing for 730 yards and seven TDs. He’s also thrown two interceptions in the first half of the first game. “I’m really looking forward to the third game because I felt like the first two games were off for everybody,” Webb said.

#### Turnovers

The Red Raiders haven’t forced a turnover all season and have lost the turnover battle in 10-straight games, during which they’re 5-5. Texas Tech has lost the ball three times this season; Arkansas is even in turnover margin. “I don’t know if it’s lack of confidence or what it is, but we’ve got to

find a way,” Texas Tech’s defensive coordinator Matt Wallerstedt said of forcing turnovers. “Odds surely are going to swing our way one of these days.”

#### Time Of Possession

Arkansas wants to do what other teams know have learned: keep the Red Raiders offense off the field. Texas Tech ran just 59 plays vs. UTEP, which held the ball for 39 minutes. “The more that we can monopolize the clock a little more efficiently, we can operate and do certain things — it’s only going to help our defense,” Bielema said.

#### Penalty Problem

In two games, the Red Raiders been flagged for 25 penalties for 204 yards. Last week, Texas Tech got two odd ones: for a sideline interference and having two players with the same number on the field simultaneously. Texas Tech trails only Oregon State (13) in penalties per game. Kingsbury has harped on eliminating penalties. To “play as poorly as we have at times and have all the mistakes and penalties and still be 2-0, we’ll build off that,” he said. “It’s got to go up from here.”

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## Hidden Hills Sr. Scramble 9/10

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Tom Grantham  
Larry Heard  
Dale Butler  
Frank Snow

**3rd — 64**  
RD. Stephens  
Ken Burkett  
Ray Covalt  
Doug Reeves

**2nd — 63**  
Jerry Stephens  
Johnny Gilbert  
Carl Johnson  
John McGuire  
Jim Cantrell

**4th — 65**  
Rod Porter  
Jim Bridges  
Bob Henderson  
Howard Musgrave  
Jim Jensen

## Hidden Hills Mon. Scramble

**1st — 29**  
Clint Miller  
Kurt Foster  
Danny Duree

Gerrell Owens  
Brandon Montgomery

**2nd — 30**  
Jerry Stephens

**3rd — 30**  
Judson Eddins  
Lynn Allison  
Mike Lowery



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- Recipe: Cookies for a cure
- 'Scandal' star Jon Tenney goes home to Princeton, N.J.

# AmericanProfile

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## Directly from the Dugout

### ■ Manager Ron Washington resigns amidst bad season

BY ZAC GREEN  
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The Texas Rangers will now be in the market for a new manager this offseason. Ron Washington stepped down from the reins of the Texas Rangers on Friday. It was a shock to many and no one really knows the reason why.

Some pundits believe there was an argument with general manager Jon Daniels over his decision to shut down Yu Darvish for the rest of the season. However, others believe that was simply the straw that broke the camel's back and there had been problems between those two for a long time.

The Rangers have tabbed Tim Bogar as the interim manager to finish out the season. This was his first season on the Rangers staff, as he was the bench coach. He has been a minor league manager before with a 362-266 record in five seasons.

In addition to Darvish the Rangers have also shut down Tanner Scheppers and Shin-Soo Choo for the rest of the season.

Nick Tevesch hit the mound for Texas on Wednesday hoping to give the Rangers one win in their series with the Royals. He allowed four runs, three earned, over the course of six and two-thirds innings of work. Alexander Claudio and Phil Klein kept the Royals scoreless over the final one and a third innings of the game. The offense was up to its same old

same old ways. The Rangers were 1-15 with runners in scoring position and left nine men on base. Dan Robertson, Adrian Beltre and Elvis Andrus all doubled in the game with Ryan Rua plating the only RBI of the contest for Texas. Final: Royals 4, Rangers 1.

Robbie Ross pitched for Texas on Thursday in the series opener with the Mariners. He might as well forget he even played in this game. He allowed six runs in just one and two-thirds innings of work. Jerome Edwards allowed three more from the pen in two-thirds of an inning. Lisalberto Bonilla gave up one run over three innings of work. Michael Kirkman, Spencer Patton and Neftali Feliz pitched the other three and two-thirds innings for Texas and kept the Mariners off the board. Unfortunately the damage was already done with the nine runs allowed by the first two pitchers. The Rangers went 1-4 with runners in scoring position and left seven men on base. Rougned Odor homered and Alex Rios also scored an RBI in the game.

That was all the offense Texas had. Final: Mariners 10: Rangers 1.

Scott Baker hoped to have a better outing than Ross in game two. He did not, though, as he gave up five runs in four and a third innings. Shawn Tolleson also allowed two runs in one and two-thirds innings. Claudio, Roman Mendez and Neal Cotts went the final three innings and did not allow a run from the Mariners. There was a little more offense from Texas in this one but still not enough to get over the seven run hump left by the first two pitchers. The offense went 3-10 with runners in scoring position and left nine men on base. Leonys Martin doubled in the game. Adam Rosales homered in the game and finished with two RBIs. Odor also had an RBI in the ball game. Final: Mariners 7, Rangers 5.

Nick Martinez hit the mound in game three of the series for Texas. He pitched well by only allowing two runs over six innings. Klein pitched a scoreless inning of relief. Cotts allowed two runs in one inning of work and was tabbed with the loss. Patton and Kirkman combined to pitch an inning of scoreless ball. The offense was downright miserable and went 0-10 with runners in scoring position and left nine men on base. Rua had a double and RBI in the ball game and Michael Choice also added an RBI for the only other Ranger run. Final:

Mariners 4, Rangers 2.

Derek Holland pitched in the finale of the series with Seattle hoping to snap the eight game losing streak for Texas. It was only his second start since returning from the DL. He pitched outstanding once again. Holland went seven innings, struck out five and kept the Mariners off the board. Tolleson recorded a hold by pitching a scoreless eighth inning and Feliz got the save by pitching a scoreless ninth. Feliz is now 8-9 in save opportunities since gaining his closer role back. The offense for Texas was still miserable and went 0-7 with runners in scoring position and left five men on base. Martin had a triple and he was brought home by Beltre in the sixth. That was the game's only run. Final: Rangers 1, Mariners 0.

The Rangers now face a three-game series with the hottest team in baseball, the Los Angeles Angels. Thursday's game was after press time but I will recap Tuesday and Wednesday's games.

Colby Lewis pitched a lot better than he has recently in Tuesday's game. He gave up three runs, two earned, and just five hits while striking out four batters through seven innings of work. Kirkman pitched a scoreless one-third of an inning but then the wheels came off. Roman Mendez and Robbie Ross each allowed three runs in just a third of an inning. Patton came on and pitched a scoreless ninth frame after the damage had been done. The Rangers went 1-7 with runners in scoring position and left eight men on base. Rua had a double and two RBIs. Beltre hit a solo home-run in the ballgame. That was all the offense Texas could muster. Final: Angels 9, Rangers 3.

Nick Tevesch pitched on Wednesday and gave up three runs in four and two-thirds innings of work. Klein came in and gave Texas a scoreless inning and a third. Edwards allowed a run in just two-thirds of an inning. Bonilla allowed three runs, two earned, in just two-thirds of an inning. Tolleson pitched a clean two-thirds of an inning. Cotts gave up a run in the final inning of the game. The Rangers offense was stagnant again going 1-7 with runners in scoring position and they left six men on base. Rua had an RBI, the only run of the game for Texas. Final: Angels 8, Rangers 1.

This weekend Texas will have the chance to spoil some playoff hopes. The Atlanta Braves were one and a half games back of the second wild card for the Nation-

al League as of Tuesday.

Derek Holland (1-0, 0.64 ERA) will be making his third start this season against Alex Wood (10-10, 2.90 ERA) on Friday. Holland will be looking to match his first two starts where he has gone 14 innings and struck out 11 batters all the while limiting opponents to just one run. Wood has pitched well all season and will be looking to do more of the same. I think both pitchers have great starts the question will be whether or not the Texas offense can get going. I am going to be optimistic and say yes. Prediction: Texas 3, Atlanta 1.

Scott Baker (3-4, 5.52 ERA) will be facing Julio Teheran (13-11, 3.00 ERA) in Saturday's game. Baker has really done a great job. He gives up a few runs here and there but can put together three or four good starts. Teheran is about the same way. He almost always gives up one or two but limits the damage. This could be another close one but I can't put my trust in the Texas offense two nights in a row. Prediction: Atlanta 5, Texas 3.

Sunday's finale will feature Colby Lewis (9-12, 5.42 ERA) against Mike Minor (6-10, 4.58 ERA). Both pitchers have had up and down seasons. Lewis has been getting worse as of late. He hasn't allowed fewer than four runs since Aug. 5. Meanwhile Minor has been progressively better. He hasn't allowed more than four runs since Aug. 1. I think the Braves handle this one with ease. Lewis just seems to have lost his stuff this season. Prediction: Braves 7, Rangers 2.

The Angels remain in first place of the AL West with a 90-55 record. Oakland stays in second at 81-64. Seattle is in third at 79-66. Houston is fourth at 65-81. Texas rounds out the division at 54-91.

There is a chance the AL West can see three teams go to the playoffs. Oakland, Seattle and Detroit are battling closely for the two American League wild card spots. It will be interesting to see if the AL West can claim three teams in the playoffs.

Travis Demeritte is this week's featured player for the prospect watch. He is rated ninth in the Texas farm system. He is playing second and third base for the Hickory Crawdads, a class A affiliate. His projected call up date is in 2017. He was a compensation pick for the loss of free agent Josh Hamilton. He homered in his first minor league at-bat. Scouts say he has the tools to produce for power and average but his pop stood out more than his hitting ability during his first full season. And like most of the other prospects we have talked about they say he needs to cut down on his strikeouts. They also added that he only has average speed and that his arm and bat would profile well at third base. This season he has only batted .211 but has had 25 home runs. Strikeouts are a major concern as he has struck out 171 times. Lets hope Demeritte, like many other Ranger prospects, can work on his strikeout problem and get it fixed.

Folks, my colleague Forrest Grimes will be writing your Rangers update next week as I will be on vacation. I will return for the final two articles of the 2014 season. I will also try to do one or two during the winter meetings as a lot of action goes down then. Let's hope for the Rangers to play some spoiler this weekend against the Braves!

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