

City Commission approves budget changes

By LINDSEY TOMASCHIK LKTomaschik@thepampanews.com

The Pampa City Commission met on Tuesday evening at the M.K. Brown Auditorium to discuss a handful of agenda items.

There was a public hearing period to start out the meeting during which citizens who signed up to speak were given three minutes to express any questions, concerns or comments they had for the Commission.

The first citizen to speak said he would like to see the tax money spent well, and that he appreciates that the Commission considers the requests of the community. He closed in saying that doesn't want to see the water, sewer and trash rates increase.

Another resident said there should be more opportunity for community input throughout City Commission meetings because after the public comment portion, which takes place at the beginning of meetings, citizens cannot insert comments. City attorney Loyd Waters said that citizens cannot speak once the Commission moves on to discuss agenda items due to Robert's Rules of Order. A full explanation of this process can be found at http://www. rulesonline.com/.

Another citizen that spoke mentioned what mayor Brad Pingel said that city runs as a business and it's their responsibility to expand revenue and cut costs. This resident added that he believes salaries of city employees need to be reevaluated and suggested that the Commission reconsiders its meeting time (currently 4 p.m.) so more people can go. He also suggested that there should be public forum meetings once a month or so where citizens can meet with the City Commissioners and voice their concerns and any questions they may have. He closed in saying that the City Commissioners are elected to represent the people of Pampa and these representatives should not have to be overseen by the citizens at every meeting.

One woman spoke and said that many larger cities allow public comment on specific agenda items and thought that things may run more smoothly in City Commission meetings if the citizens of Pampa were able to do the same. She added that public comments at the beginning of City Commission meetings are restricted because the community has restricted knowledge as to what the

CITY cont. on page 2

Friends of the Library to hold annual book sale

STAFF REPORT

Friends of the Library is preparing to hold its annual book sale at the Lovett Memorial Library, located at 111 N. Houston St., next week.

Throughout the end of this week, setup will begin for the event, which will be held from Thursday, Oct. 2 to Sunday, Oct. 5.

New books will be added to the sale each day and donations will also be accepted.

All members of the community are encouraged to come out for special book prices every day of the event.

Hours for the sale are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information on the book sale, call Lovett Memorial Library at 806-669-5780.



Cottage Collection burglarized



United Guests eligible for cookware rewards through Jan. 6

SUBMITTED BY UNITED FAMILY

LUBBOCK - The United Family® of stores today launched a promotion for guests to earn free Lodge cast iron cookware and bakeware, with no limit on the number of pieces a guest can collect. Rewards program members will automatically earn one e-sticker for every qualifying \$10 spent at United Supermarkets, Market Street, Albertsons Market (Texas locations only), Amigos and United Express locations through Jan. 6, 2015.

E-stickers will be added and tracked to Rewards accounts automatically, and guests can easily view

UNITED cont. on page 3

Submitted photos

Above, Cottage Collection Store was burglarized and damaged throughout the store. Below Cottage Collections is located at 922 W. 23rd Avenue.

STAFF REPORT

At or around 1:30 a.m. on Sept. 20, an unknown suspect or suspects forced entry into the Cottage Collection Store, located at 922 W. 23rd Avenue in Pampa.

Once inside the store, the suspect(s) vandalized and stole various merchandise, including collectibles and antiques. The Pampa Police Department is investigating this crime and need your help to identify the suspects involved.

If you have any information regarding this crime, or know the identity of the person(s) responsible, call Crime Stoppers at 806-669-2222, visit www.pgcstips.com, or text "pampa", along with your tip, to 274637

A cash reward of up to \$400 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest or filing of criminal charges against the person(s) responsible for this offense.



Pampa Police Department to begin using new mass notification system

SUBMITTED BY PAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Pampa Police Department will utilize a new communications service, effective immediately, which allows us to send important, valuable community information directly to residents using the latest technology.

The Nixle Community Information Serinstantly via cell phone text message and/

online at Nixle's web site at www.nixle.com. Messages sent may pertain to missing or wanted person information, crime alerts, and emergency roadway closures, as well as other relevant safety and community event information.

'We actually implemented this service sevvice allows us to create and publish mes- eral months ago, on a trial basis" says Crime sages to be delivered to subscribed residents Prevention Officer Brian Massey. "After researching various mass notification systems,

or email. Notifications can also be accessed we found that Nixle offered the most user residents registered within a 1/4 mile radius, friendly interface for both the public and our staff. It is our responsibility to the public to get critical information out as quickly as possible, especially when it relates to matters of public safety that depend on fast action and support and assistance from the public, such as searching for missing persons. With this system, the information is directly delivered to the public within seconds of it being sent."

The messages can be sent specifically to

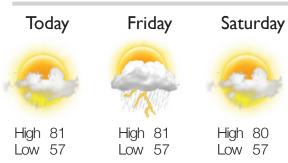
giving them the opportunity to receive trustworthy information relevant only to their neighborhood. Residents decide from which local agencies they want to receive information. Subscribers can also choose the way in which alerts are received, whether it is by email, text message or over the web.

Nixle builds on the foundations of other

PPD cont. on page 2



PAMPA FORECAST



Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 81. Chance of rain: 20 percent. Winds south at 14 mph. Sunrise at 7:34 a.m.

Tonight: Thunderstorms early with a low of 57. Chance of rain: 40 percent. Winds south at 12 mph. Sunset at 7:36 p.m.

Friday: Sunny with a high of 81. Winds south at 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:35 a.m.

Friday night: Clear with a low of 57. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds south at 12 mph. Sunset at 7:35 p.m.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high of 80. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds south at 18 mph. Sunrise at 7:36 a.m.

Saturday night: Mostly clear with a low of 57. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds south at 16 mph. Sunset at 7:34 a.m.

This information brought to you by...



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City **Continued From Page 1**

meeting will pertain.

Cindy Silva spoke out for employees. She thinks citizens need to consider the fact that the raises the city offers its employees doesn't even cover the increase in insurance rates (14 percent). She added that the city employees, those who clear the snow off the streets for example, will not stick around without higher wages.

up during the public comment portion of the meeting than a \$174,000 loss in tax was in regards to vehicles owned by the city. This citizen spoke out saying that she believes there are more than needed and that the car allowance allotted to select city employees could be unnecessary, too. She closed in suggesting that a list of city jobs and descriptions be posted in the paper, and maybe a couple could be eliminated after looking into them and seeing too much redundancy.

At this time, Commissioner Robert Dixon addressed the suggestion of a potential time change of meetings. He said that the in the past and it hasn't made a difference in attendance. He added that one year, they even tried traveling to different schools in the district for meetings to try to get more people to attend, and there was still no increase in attendance.

Next, the Commissioners moved into action items.

After approving the minutes of the Sept. 9 regular commission meeting and the Sept. 16 special Commission meeting and excusing the absence of Commissioner John Stude-

baker from the Sept. 9 regular Commission meeting, the Commissioners opened discussion on the there, budget. When they left the meeting last night, they had to go back into the budget had time to ask and make cuts to accommodate the new proposed tax rate of 0.621027. The total amount of cuts in the budget amounted to \$581,062.

Pingel broke it down for the audience saying that since the Commission did not raise the tax rate, the upcoming fiscal year's general fund of just more than \$2.8 million is less than last Another issue brought year's (\$3,000,047). This decrease is a little more revenue.

> Next, city manager Richard Morris said that work on the budget started on budget in February, which is earlier than usual, to give time to go over it carefully, and they had to go and make changes over the budget in a 24-hour period.

> City Commission meetings have all been advertised to keep public informed and that there have been numerous budget workshops and meetings since February that concerned citizens could have attended.

He then went into the Commission has tried this items that were taken replace a vehicle, the city out of the operating budget to accommodate the proposed tax rate. These items included removing money set aside for new windows at City Hall, removing funds set aside for the annual seal coat project it's often difficult to pur-(\$200,000), \$40,000 for chase used vehicles. The the city's leased properties, cutting some of the funds from the vehicle allowance purchases happen when the and \$17,000 from the water city is able to purchase lofund, again amounting to a cally and quickly, and they total of \$581,062.

These cuts provided the hicles with between 8,000 city with a balanced budget and 10,000 miles. to fit the proposed tax rate.

From the Commissioners questions any they had about the budget. Commissioner Chris Porter wanted to know how city vehicle replacement works and what determines what needs to be replaced.

Morris and public works director Donny Hooper both tackled this question. The vehicle replacement fund was put into the budget about 10 to 12 years ago. The money from this fund goes toward the purchasing of vehicles. When they purchase new vehicles, that means that the old vehicle simply cannot be passed down through any more city departments. This usually happens after it has been passed down three or four times and at Morris added that the that point is dead. Before the replacement happens, the city looks at the vehicle's service record, mileage, what kind of problems they are having with vehicle and the amount of repairs that vehicle has undergone at that point.

When it comes time to tries to buy work model trucks. They spec out what they need in a vehicle before the point of purchase, and specs vary depending on department needs. Due to the spec requirements, last used vehicle purchased in 2011-12. Used vehicle try to purchase used ve-

City analyzes salaries ev-

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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).

KHAKI'S KORNER, 113 W. Kingsmill, "After Hour Sale", Thurs., Sept. 25th, 6-8pm. No Early Birds.

OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, Sept. 28th, 2-4pm. 1911 N.

the operating budget on first reading. Next, the Commissioners approved two more ordinances, one on second and final reading approving a settlement agreement between the alliance of Xcel Municipalities and Southwestern Public Service

Company and the second approving on first reading adopting an Amended water conservation and drought contingency plan.

OF CHERT

said

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to find ways to save money

The Commissioners vot-

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Morris.

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Dixon

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In closing, Pingel thanked the city staff for preparing the amended budget overnight and recognized them for the work that they have put in the past couple of days.

The next City Commission meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Friday at City Hall. The Commissioners will be voting on the second reading for the budget and first reading of the tax rate.

PPD

Continued From Page 1

public-to-public communication services, such as Twitter, Facebook and MySpace, but adds a key component: security. When citizens receive information from our agency via Nixle, they know it can be trusted.

"What is also important to point out is that at our current level of subscription, the service is provided at no cost to the department," said Massey. 'It will actually save us money from our previous mass notification system, which included an annual fee." Residents of Pampa and those in neighboring communities can immediately begin receiving pertinent information via text message, email and web by registering at www.nixle.com, or by texting their zip code to 888777. We are very excited to have you experience it for yourself.



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KHAKI'S KORNER, 113 W. Kingsmill, Fri. Sept. 26, 10-5:30pm & Sat. Sept. 27, 10-4pm. Sale Continues!

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

Fall Mums, Pansies & More are here! Brandon's Greenhouse, 410 E. Foster, east door, 10-5:30, 669-1911. (Closed Wed. & Sun.)

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United

Continued From Page 1

their progress toward the free cookware online or using the new "United Market" iPhone and Android application. E-stickers balances will also be tracked at the bottom of each receipt. Guests can redeem e-stickers simply by presenting their desired piece of cookware to the cashier, along with their phone number or alt-id through Jan. 20, 2015.

"Our cookware promotion has always been very popular among our guests," said Robin Cash, loyalty marketing manager for The United Family of stores. "This year, we are proud to offer guests the opportunity to more easily collect and redeem stickers using our new rewards program, rather than tracking hundreds of physical stickers.

A Rewards account is required to participate in the free Lodge cookware promotion. If not already a member, guests can join for free online at www. unitedsupermarkets.com/ shopmoresavemore, using the new "United Market" mobile app, or by visiting in-store kiosks at any of the company's 61 retail grocery stores in West Texas and Dallas-Fort Worth. Guest may also purchase the Lodge cookware and bakeware for full retail.

(Editor's note: A full list of the nine items is available at United Supermar-

are designed to nest for easy storage. The precise castings and tight-fitting lids absorb and retain heat extremely well, making them versatile and suitable for marinating, baking, roasting and serving. Qualifying purchases exclude tobacco, fuel, money orders, FTD wires, catering rentals, Western Union, lottery, United, Albertson's, Peet's, Visa, Mastercard and American

Lodge cookware's rectangular and oval shapes

kets.)

Express gift cards, as well as Greendot, Netspend, Paypower, Reload it and

Now in its 98th year of operation, United Supermarkets, LLC - d.b.a. The United Family® – is Texas-based grocery а chain operating in 26 markets across north and west Texas. A self-distributing company with its headquarters in Lubbock and distribution centers in www.unitedtexas.

Businesses won't have to return **BP** spill payouts

work

NEW ORLEANS (AP) within days of their cleanup - BP wants its money back hundreds of millions of dollars of it — but a federal as BP contends, those payjudge said Wednesday that ments can only go to people the oil giant must keep its diagnosed before that date, promises to the companies it and any plaintiffs diagcompensated for losses they nosed later must prove in blamed on the 2010 Gulf oil court that their illness was spill.

BP argued that a flawed Plaintiffs' attorneys asked funding formula enabled him to change his mind, many businesses to overes- arguing that the cutoff date timate spill-related claims, would keep most of the afand some "weren't warranted at all." U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier agreed several weeks ago to change the compensation formula for any future payments, but he ruled Wednesday that a deal is a deal when it comes to money BP has already paid out.

Univision pre-paid cards. **About United Super**markets

Lubbock and Roanoke, United currently operates 61 retail grocery stores and 29 fuel & convenience locations under five unique brands: United Supermarkets, Market Street, Amigos, Albertsons Market and United Express, along with ancillary operations R.C. Taylor Distributing, Praters and Llano Logistics. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Albertson's LLC. For more information, please visit com.

Obituaries

Silas Don McBee

Silas Don McBee, 67, of Skellytown, died Sept. 24, 2014 in Skellytown.

Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 2014, at Memory Gardens Cemetery



Silas Don **McBee**

in Pampa, with Steve Huckins, of In the Garden Ministries in Skellytown, officiating. Military honors are courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. McBee was born Aug. 30, 1947 in Borger. He had been a lifelong resident of Skellytown. He married Mary Ann White on Nov. 24, 1972 in Crabtree, Ark. Don was a heavy equipment operator with B & B Sol-

vent for 20 years. He was a Baptist, and was a member of the VFW Post #1657 in Pampa. Don was veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving during the Vietnam War and received the Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, William Haywood and Beadie Elizabeth Wheat McBee, two brothers and four sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Mary McBee of the home; three sons, Don McBee, Jr. and wife Sarah of Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif. and Dewayne McBee and James McBee, both of Skellytown; two daughters, Angel McBee and Dallas McBee, both of Skellytown; two sisters, Doris Pickering and Wynona Thomas, both of Borger and seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas 79065.

The family will receive friends from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014, at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home.

Sign the online guest register at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

Jo Ann Reedy

Jo Ann Reedy, 69, of Lefors, died Sept. 22, 2014 in Amarillo.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Jo Ann Reedy

Mrs. Reedy was born July 12, 1945 in Madera, Calif. As a young girl, her family moved to Arkansas for a short period of time, and then returned to California where she was reared and attended school. Jo Ann married Roy Reedy on Aug. 24, 1976 in Reno, Nev. In 1991, they moved to the Gray County area where she resided up until her death. She worked at Walmart for several years. In her spare time, Jo Ann loved to grow things, and especially enjoyed gardening. She also

loved the outdoors where she enjoyed fishing and camping. She will be remembered as an easy-going, happy-golucky woman with a great personality. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Nancy Turner; her first husband, Danny Newkirk; a sister, Mary Helen Redfern and three brothers, Franklin Turner, Desmond Turner and Bonnie Turner.

Survivors include her husband, Roy Reedy of the home; three daughters, Sandra Palmer and husband Charles, and Barbara Newkirk, all of Bakersfield, Calif., and Carol Palmer and husband Robert of Taft, Calif.; one son, Michael Newkirk of Bakersfield, Calif.; four stepchildren, Deborah Reedy of Aurora, Ore., Kristen Reedy of Hendricks, Nev., Daniel Reedy and wife of Colo., and Russell Reedy and wife of Boca Raton, Fla.; sister, Connie Foster and husband Tobie of Rosie, Ark.; brother Oren Turner and wife Kathy of Ulm, Ark.; numerous grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas 79065. Sign the online guest register at www.carmichael-

whatley.com.

Small businesses helping workers buy health plans

When Monty Hagler learned care law. As those policies his employee insurance pre- come up for renewal, owners miums could rise as much as will have to decide whether 38 percent, the small business owner decided he couldn't afford coverage that complies with the health care overhaul. He considered a variety of

plans from different carriers, or bare-bones.

'Unless we dramatically changed our plan and went with the most basic plan, I said, 'this is not sustainable."" says Hagler, owner of RLF Communications, a Greensboro, North Carolina-based marketing company.

So Hagler told his 12 money starting in May to buy their own insurance, than what he could offer. He joined a growing number of small business owners who employees bought their in- premiums under the plan she are forgoing coverage and surance on the North Caropaying staffers more to com- lina exchange, while others Under the plan, an employee pensate for the lost benefits. Health insurer Wellpoint said last month its roster of small businesses has shrunk by 12 percent so far this year. Nearly 3 percent of 1,600 small businesses surveyed by the Society for Human Resource Management plan to give employees subsidies next year so they can buy their own coverage on private insurance exchanges. LOSING COVERAGE AT WORK Insurance brokers are getting more inquiries about individual coverage, a sign to them that many people are losing coverage at work. The brokerage HealthMarkets Inc. has had a 40 percent pickup in applications for individual insurance since the open enrollment period for insurance ended March 31. Spring and summer are normally a slow period for policy purchases. "We're seeing this happen with increasing frequency and we're believing we'll see it with greater frequency this fall," says Ken Fasola, CEO of HealthMarkets, based in North Richland Hills, Texas. If policy cancellations do rise this fall, it would likely be due to the fact many small businesses renewed their coverage before Jan. 1, 2014, when policies were required

to buy the new insurance.

Owners like Hagler aren't required to offer insurance. The health care law exempts companies with fewer than 50 workers. But many of but they were too expensive these owners provided coverage because insurance is a come out ahead. You will get benefit that helps retain staffers and recruit top talent. But workers may get a better deal on government-run health insurance exchanges, especially if they qualify for government subsidies that will lower premium costs for individuals and families. The governstaffers he would give them ment will subsidize coverage on the exchanges for individuals earning up to \$45,960. coverage likely to be better The income limit for a family of four is \$94,200.

NEW YORK (AP) — to comply with the health and accountants recommend business clients are also dropowners talk to a tax professional to see what their options are

A better deal?

Some owners bring in insurance brokers or benefits consultants to help workers find new insurance.

"We explained to them, you probably are going to a stipend and a subsidy and coverage will be better than what you were going to get with the group plan," says Ashley Hunter, owner of HM Risk Group, an insurance brokerage based in Austin, Texas.

The coverage now available to individuals in Texas is more comprehensive than the insurance Hunter provided her own staffers under a group plan. And it's cheaper. About half of Hagler's Hunter paid 80 percent of dropped as of this month. paid \$140 a month. But with the stipend and government subsidy, the employee is paying \$24.12 a month, Hunter says.

ping coverage for their workers

Workers can do better on their own because they have more options than businesses, says John O'Donnell, president of Insurance Consultants of Central Florida.



Under that deal, claimants agreed to drop their lawsuits, and BP agreed that manifest." no future court action could change their payments.

latest attempt to control its which began with an explosoaring liability from the spill, which may be nearing \$50 billion.

peal it," company spokes- rig and killing 11 workers. man Geoff Morrell said. excessive payments."

pensation for cleanup workers whose chronic medical until after the deal's cutoff cordingly. date of April 16, 2012. The settlement entitled cleanup to \$50 billion, including workers with chronic con- more than \$27 billion that ditions including rashes BP says it has already paid and breathing problems to to settle damage claims, and receive up to \$60,700 if the company's stock price the problems first surfaced has suffered.

fected workers from collecting. Many of these workers couldn't afford to pay doctors right away, and neither patients nor doctors knew what medical tests were required before the settlement was signed, they argued.

linked to their spill work.

Barbier ruled in July that,

The plaintiffs' attorneys said the cutoff date was meant for people with "diseases, like cancers, that would likely take years to

BP is still facing a financial nightmare from the The ruling thwarts BP's nation's worst oil disaster, sion that tore open the oil company's Macondo well on the floor of the Gulf of "BP disagrees with to- Mexico, destroying the day's decision and will ap- Deepwater Horizon drilling Just as the company "We asked the Court, as a struggled to contain the spill matter of equity and fair- over the following weeks ness, to order the return of and months, it's now trying to contain its estimated li-Barbier said he would rule ability. The London-based later on the issue of com- company told shareholders at one point that its total exposure would be \$40 billion, problems weren't diagnosed and markets responded ac-

The estimate is now close

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got insurance through their spouses' plans or bought it privately.

Kim Sink, the company's director of projects and production, says she's grateful Hagler gives her a stipend that covers two-thirds of her \$711 monthly premium.

"I'm tickled that he still helps me. Most employers don't in this day and time," she says.

Giving workers extra compensation to help buy insurance can result in higher income tax for the employees, and it can also mean employers will owe payroll tax on the money. Benefits attorneys

Many of Hunter's small







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Two antichoice parties

Democrats often call themselves "pro-choice." Republicans defend "freedom."



JOHN STOSSEL

say they are "prochoice," they are talking about abortion. Some act as if a right to legal abortion is the most important freedom in America.

But Democrats aren't very enthusiastic about other kinds of choice. They don't want you to have the right to choose your kids' school, work without joining a union, buy a gun, pay people whatever you contract to pay them if they choose to work for you, buy things you want to buy without regulations constantly interfering and so on.

Liberals, such as my Fox colleague Alan Colmes, say individualism is not enough. "Collective,' sounds like communism," says Colmes on my TV show this week (yes, Alan, it does), "but we do work and live in a society where there is a collective well-being.' He thinks I should be grateful for regulations that limit access to guns and that force people to negotiate via labor unions instead of individual contracts. But if we were really grateful, it many things social conwouldn't be necessary to force us to abide by those rules.

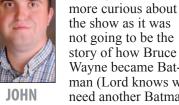


'Gotham' not a superhero show despite comic book name.

I will admit it. When I first heard about "Gotham," I thought, "Not another Batman-related show/ movie.'

Upon further





LEE

story of how Bruce Wayne became Batman (Lord knows we need another Batman origins movie).

Instead, they are trying to take the crime drama angle for the dark, crime-filled metropolis that is Gotham City.

The pilot, which aired on Monday evening, starts with a teenage woman, who seems to be Selena Kyle, a.k.a. Catwoman, up to her well-documented thievery and climbing through the streets of Gotham. She comes across a small family of a married couple and their pre-teen son, as you can guess Bruce Wayne with his parents.

The standard aggravated robbery with murder story is told and we are flashed to a scene at the local

jail involving a young detective James Gordon (Ben McKenzie) and his partner Harvey Bullock (Donal Logue).

These two have a

very unique partner

dynamic as James

moral, ethical and

Gordon is set in his

judicial ways. There

are mentions that his

father was a district

attorney; and that

taking his job at

Department.

James Gordon was

in the military before

Gotham City Police

Bullock on the

other hand, knows

has enough mob

you question his

about the corruption,

connections to make



Ben **McKenzie**



Donal Logue

Gordon promises the young Bruce Wayne that he will find who killed his parents. Thus opens up the first episode's plot-line.

character.

Gordon and Bullock take off on this investigation and it leads them to a Mario Pepper's house where a pearl necklace belonging to Mrs. Wayne is conveniently found.

Gordon learns Pepper was framed by the gang lord Carmine Falcone along with, even worse, his partner

Detective Bullock.

The purpose for framing Pepper for Falcone and Bullock was to show the city the swift justice for the slaying of the beloved Waynes.

Gordon is disgusted by this, obviously, but learned from Falcone "the way it works 'round here," which basically is: the mob controls GCPD and you can't do anything about it.

Gordon speaks with the young Wayne and asks for his forgiveness on telling him he caught the murderer when he didn't and tells him to give him another chance and that he will clean up the police department in the process.

This is obviously a brief summary of the pilot episode and I hope you take the time to check out the episode. There are appearances by other characters from the DC Comics Batman franchise. They are already developing an Oswald Cobblepot (The Penguin) storyline and Bullock works with Edward Nigma (The Riddler).

I hope this series continues to get better so it doesn't go the way most FOX series' go. I don't understand why FOX has a hard time with ratings on their non-reality shows. "Gotham" does have, however, tough competition on Monday nights at 7 p.m. NBC has "The Voice," ABC has "Dancing With the Stars" and CBS has "The Big Bang Theory" all to compete with "Gotham."

Gotham airs on Monday nights at 7 p.m. on FOX. Let me know what you think.

John Lee is the editor of The Pampa News and a self-proclaimed nerd. He can be reached at jclee@thepampanews.com. Follow him on Twitter @jcl1987.



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Unfor-

tunately.

believes

neither

party really most of these rules are needed to protect society as a whole. When I challenge the war on drugs, asking, "Don't I own my own body?" he answers, "It is your body, John, but the consequences are paid for by the broader society."

anti-gay marriage, anti-

in a few cases, anti-free

speech.

drugs, anti-gambling and,

Tony Perkins, president

of the conservative Fami-

ly Research Council, says

For example, when he was a police officer, Perkins "had to go into homes [such as in] one case where there was an infant that was on the mother's body, and the mother was dead from an overdose. I had to wait for child protection to come. And that child became a ward of the state, which we all pay for."

The neglect of that child is a terrible thing, but where does this logic lead? I asked him if he'd ban alcohol and cigarettes, since those kill far more people. He said, "We restrict who can buy cigarettes, who can use them."

in letting individuals do what we

I want to try doing things my own way. I should be able to. As long as I don't harm someone else's body or property.

Democrats constantly increase limits on individual choice. President Obama won't let people work in unpaid internships, and health officials in liberal cities ban trans fats from restaurants.

I like the way Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.) summarized liberals' love of crushing choice: "It's light bulbs. It's toilets. It's cars. You name it. Your freedom of choice is gone. For a party that says they are the prochoice party, this is the most anti-choice administration we've seen in a lifetime.'

Republicans have their own list of ways in which they want to control us. Many are not just anti-abortion (as is Sen. Paul); they're also

But we impose those restrictions only on children. Adults are free to smoke. Adults should be free to do anything we damn well want to — as long as we don't do · directly harm others.

Perkins worries that controlled substances can be habit-forming. I worry more about people becoming habituated to being controlled.

I wonder just how servatives would outlaw if they thought the public would accept the bans. Perkins doesn't approve of gambling, gay marriage, plural marriage, sex work or making a political statement by burning a flag.

And some of those things harm people. But we should use law to punish those who harm others, not to micromanage their lives.

Meanwhile, liberals keep adding new things to their own list of items to control: wages, hate speech, high-interest loans, plastic shopping bags, large cars, health care, e-cigarettes, Uber, AirBnB and more.

One choice America needs urgently is an alternative to politicians who constantly want to ban more things.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on Fox News and author of "No They Can't! Why Government Fails, but Individuals Succeed." For other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit www.creators. com.



Letter to the Editor Where's the Prayer?

This past Friday night my wife, Shari, and I were where we always are when there is a home Harvester football game; three rows up, seats 13-15, on the 50 yard line. We have had those seats now for more than 20 years and love supporting the coaches, the players, the band and everyone else who helps make those games possible. Concerning this past Friday night I have four praises and two boos.

Praise No. one goes to our Harvester football players and coaches and all the staff members for working so hard. The outcome wasn't what any

of us wanted, but the effort was. A big THANK YOU to everyone for working so hard.

Praise No. two goes to the PHS band. Once again you not only looked sharp, but you sounded great as always.

Praise No. three goes out to the Harvester players who went to the north end zone and kneeled in prayer to Father God. I'm not sure you realize how thrilling it is for those of us in the stands who believe in God and prayer to watch you kneel and pray. It brings tears to my eyes every time and is my #1 highlight of every game.

Praise No. four goes to the band for honoring the Creator of the heavens and the earth in the description of your halftime performance. Too many hide from God or try to hide God. Honoring the Creator was awesome.

Boo No. one goes to the Texas University Interscholastic League for sticking its nose once again into business that has nothing to do with sports. They've done their very best to kick public prayer out of sporting events, but now they even want to control when and how the "moment of silence" may be done. I wish they would

just mind their own business of sports and leave prayer and reverence to local citizens. BOO!

Boo No. two: As per UIL's new regulation, the "moment of silence" was removed from just before the National Anthem to after the players took the field. Only one problem with that; whoever was supposed to remember to announce the "moment of silence" forgot and there was no "moment of silence" this past Friday night. BOO!

Mike Sublett Pampa

Insurance Insight Do I need to do anything this year if I have health insurance?



process for individuals and families enrolled in the state and federal marketplaces. In that report, the buzzwords "automatic" and "re-enrollment" were common. According to HHS, individuals and families currently enrolled in a marketplace plan, whether you have received

a tax credit or not, will be "automatically re-enrolled" when your plan is up for renewal on Jan. 1. This is in order to make the process of renewing a current plan as "smooth and seamless" as possible. So, in order to stay on your

current health plan, an enrollee can simply carry

on as is without contacting the marketplace, their health insurance carrier, or their broker. This is an ideal situation for all parties involved...except the insured, the broker, and the insurance carrier.

So why is this seemingly "smooth" transition from

CLABORN cont. on page 6

PampaSports

THE PAMPA NEWS FOOTBALL PICK 'EM



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Green Bay Packers at Chicago Bears	Bears	Packers	Bears	Packers	
Buffalo Bills at Houston Texans	Bills	Bills	Bills	Bills	
Tennessee Titans at Indianapolis Colts	Colts	Colts	Colts	Colts	
Carolina Panthers at Baltimore Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	
Detroit Lions at New York Jets	Lions	Lions	Lions	Lions	
T.B. Buccanneers at Pittsburgh Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	
Miami Dolphins at Oakland Raiders	Dolphins	Dolphins	Raiders	Raiders	
Jacksonville Jaguars at San Diego Chargers	Chargers	Chargers	Chargers	Chargers	
Atlanta Falcons at Minnesota Vikings	Vikings	Falcons	Falcons	Vikings	
Philadelphia Eagles at S.F. 49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers	
New Orleans Saints at Dallas Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Saints	
New England Patriots at Kansas City Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs	Patriots	Patriots	

The Pampa News FOOTBALL FOOTBALL FICKEM		n49.91	A9.91 Fell	In 48-101	en stand
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Texas Tech at (24) Oklahoma St.	OSU	OSU	TTU	OSU	
(1) Florida St at North Carolina St.	FSU	NC St.	FSU	FSU	
Louisiana Tech at (5) Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	
Arkansas at (6) Texas A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	
(7) Baylor at Iowa St.	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	
(8) Notre Dame at Syracuse	Syracuse	ND	Syracuse	ND	
Wyoming at (9) Michigan St.	Mich St.	Mich St.	Mich St.	Mich St.	
Memphis at (10) Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	
Tennessee at (12) Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	
Missouri at (13) South Carolina	Mo.	SC	SC	SC	
(16) Stanford at Washington	Wash.	Wash.	Stanford	Stanford	
New Mexico St. at (17) LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	
Oregon St. at (18) USC	USC	USC	USC	Oregon St.	
South Florida at (19) Wisconsin	Wis.	Wis.	Wis.	Wis.	
Illinois at (21) Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Illinois	Nebraska	
Cincinnati at (22) Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	
UTEP at (25) Kansas St.	KSU	KSU	UTEP	KSU	



Watch the Pros

Football New York Giants at Washington Redskins....CBS 7:30 p.m. College Football

Texas Tech at (24) Oklahoma St.....ESPN 6:30 p.m.

Directly from the Dugout

Rangers play spoiler late in season.

gize for not having an ar- Martin and J.P. Arencibia you don't need much to ticle last week as my wife each homered in the game. and I went on a cruise for Those home runs along our one-year anniversary. with an Elvis Andrus dou-Today's article will be ble were the only bright Chirinos each had an RBI rather lengthy due to the spots for Texas in this one. as well. Final: Rangers 2, amount of games I missed Final: Angels 7, Rangers Braves 1. so please bear with me. 3. Also due to the length I article like I have in the past

the country was the per- bullpen was stellar as fect time to go on a run. Since the last article I wrote, Texas has won 10 out of 12 games. During that time they swept the Braves, eliminating them from the playoffs, swept the Athletics, won two out of three versus the Angels and have currently won two games so far in the series with the Astros

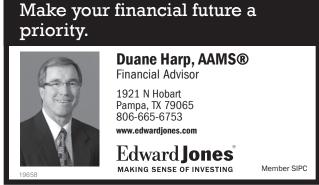
Nick Martinez gave up four runs, two earned, in six innings of work Sept. 11 against the Angels. This was the last Rangers loss before going on a seven game winning streak. Robbie Ross, Spencer Patton and Alexander Claudio all gave up one run each in relief. Neftali Feliz pitched one scoreless inning. The Rangers went 1-7 with runners in scoring position and left

Derek Holland started his first start as a Ranger will not include a prospect off the series with the on the 13th against the to watch at the end of the Braves on Friday the 12th. Braves. He went six in-Once again Holland was nings and gave up just stellar. He went seven in- two runs. Roman Mendez, The Rangers must have nings, struck out six and Kirkman, Patton and Neal decided that my leaving only allowed one run. The Cotts all pitched scoreless

Michael Kirkman, Phil Klein and Neftali Feliz all combined to keep the Braves off the board. The Texas offense did not do so hot, but when the First off I want to apolo- six men on base. Leonys starter only gives up a run come out on top. Ryan Rua and Arencibia each had a double. Rua and Robinson

Lisalverto Bonilla made

well Shawn Tolleson, RANGERS cont. on page 10





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Oakland Athletics at Texas Rangers..FSSW 7:05 p.m. Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees...MLBN 6:05 p.m.

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Claborn

Continued From Page 4

year one to year two causing consternation among the broker community and insurance carriers? Here is why..

When the federal marketplace determined how tax credits would be adjusted for each individual or family, they used what is called the "benchmark plan." A benchmark plan is the second-lowest cost silver plan that is available to each member of the household. The credit is then calculated as equal to the total cost of the benchmark plan that would cover the family minus the individual or family's expected contribution for coverage (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities). Sifting through the insurance and federal jargon, one can decipher that "automatic re-enrollment" would be ideal if the benchmark plan stayed consistent from year to year. The problem? The benchmark plan will change every single year.

So what does this mean? This means that if an individual or family elects to automatically re-enroll in their current plan, their tax credit will automatically renew as is while the benchmark plan to determine tax credits has been altered. In most insurance circles, the majority claim insurance premiums will rise between eight to 12 percent on average. Based on a 10 percent premium increase, each individual or family would be required to eat the cost of that premium increase. Why? When the government automatically re-enrolls each individual with their current tax credit, the adjusted premium is not taken into consideration. Therefore, the premium tax credit stays the same, while the cost of the plan has increased 10 percent. So what does this look like in an example? Let's look at it this way...

The Smith family enrolled last year through HealthCare.gov and was able to secure a premium tax credit of \$452 per month. While the ordinary cost of their plan would have cost them \$983 per month, their tax credit lowered their cost to \$531 per month. When their plan comes up for renewal in December 2015, they decide to automatically re-enroll. The Smiths fully believe that they will continue to pay the same premium for the same plan. When January rolls around, they receive their invoice from their insurance carrier. They are shocked to find that instead of the \$531 they pay each month, they are now being asked to pay \$629 per month. Moreover, they have seen an adjustment with some of the benefits. They contact their broker who tells them that since they elected to automatically re-enroll, the Smiths essentially decided to absorb the cost of the premium increase. The Smiths are now furious and stuck paying almost \$100 more each month for a less-comprehensive plan. So how do you prevent a situation like this?

You need to be extremely vigilant when you receive your renewal notice in October or November. The notice will come from your insurance carrier if you went direct, or it will come from the Department of Health and Human Services if you went through the marketplace. This notice will explain how the renewal process will work both through the marketplace and directly through insurers. There are going to be several ways to re-enroll in the coming months.

You can contact Health-Care.gov through phone, or you can visit Health-Care.gov to answer a few questions, receive an eligibility notice, and select a plan based on the updated information. If you went direct, there will be a hotline or a website that you can update your information and enroll in a similar plan.

This will be crucial to ensuring that the plan you select is the correct plan for you and your family while also preventing any premium surprises from occurring. You can also contact your agent or broker to help with this.

There are bound to be some minor changes to the plans offered, so make sure you are aware of any benefit changes that may affect you.

If your income, household size, dependent status, etc. have changed, you will need to be ready to provide that information also. It will be crucial in determining a new tax credit or verifying your current one.

Be prepared to shop around. Most likely the benefits have changed, and the particular plan that may work best for you and your family is not the plan that you are currently enrolled in. Therefore, looking at other plan options will allow you to assess whether or not you need to remain on your current plan or look elsewhere.

Lastly, this is the first time that a renewal process like this has occurred. I guarantee there will be errors, omissions and copious problems throughout the process. Just like we saw last year with the rollout of HealthCare.gov, there are always issues that arise with new programs. This will be no different. There are many outlets to answer your questions should any arise. In conclusion, without proper care and attention to detail, many individuals and families will be in for a rude awakening on Jan. 1. However, if you are diligent in understanding the process and making sure you have your I's dotted and your T's crossed, you will be able to endure the re-enrollment process.

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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.

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what you want to do. Sept. 26, 2014: This year you will be able to pull VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** Check your finances before you make any plans. You could be taken aback by everything you have to do. Lighten up, and just get done what you must. Delight a friend or loved one by inviting him or her to join you once you are free. Tonight: TGIF! Enjoy the moment. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You might need to clear the air and express your thoughts with a specific person or possibly several people. Do it in the morning, when your audience will be more receptive. Understand what is happening with a emotional and intense for you. financial issue. Tonight: Honor your budget.

white rabbits out of a black hat. You will be unusually fortunate as well. You will manifest at least one of your goals. Your circle of friends expands, and you enjoy your life more. If you are single. Cupid is nearly at your beck and call. If you want a committed relationship, you will have many potential sweeties to choose from. If you are attached, your good luck seems to run off into your relationship. A problem with possessiveness could occur. If it does, that will need to be handled. SCORPIO might be too

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)

more verbal than usual. You could be overwhelmed by everything you hear. Deal with people directly if you really want to be effective. They will appreciate your time and attention. Tonight: Be imaginative when making plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You might want to understand what is happening with a loved one. Asking questions still might not open him or her up. Simply observing this person could reveal much more about what is going on. Schedule a late lunch. Tonight: The party goes on and on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

open with those around you. Though you might start the day with a Friday mentality, a daily issue could dominate your thoughts by the afternoon. Brainstorm with someone you find to be very creative. Tonight: You might want to head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You could have a difficult time getting started in the morning, but by the afternoon, you seem to be up for nearly anything. You'll be able to shorten your to-do list if you maintain your focus. Listen to your feelings. Tonight: Make calls to a loved one at a distance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Schedule an important discussion in the morning, when you are more open. By the afternoon, you'll need some quiet time to ponder a personal matter. You have had so little time to yourself lately that you'll really

SČORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your mood might shift dra- $\star\star\star\star$ You might find others to be matically from the morning to the night. It appears as if you have held vourself back and worried way too much. Once you start a conversation in the afternoon, you could be delighted by the feedback you get. Tonight: Add some romance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Use the morning to focus on a specific goal, and understand what your objectives are. Take news with a grain of salt. You might want to pull back and get more facts before making any decisions or acting on the news. Tonight: Not to be found. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You could be taken aback $\star\star\star\star$ You'll need to be more by a situation that pops up from out of nowhere. You'll want to understand more of what a friend expects from you. Realize what is happening within your immediate circle. Don't do anything you don't want to. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Keep reaching out to a friend or loved one at a distance. An authority figure might make a demand that you'll feel you must respond to. Make no financial decisions right now, as you easily could make a mistake. Tonight: Read between the lines.

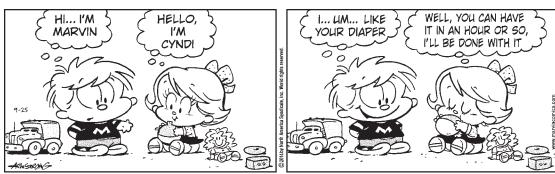
PIŠCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ A conversation in the morning might not resolve a minor issue as you might have hoped it would. You will need to have this conversation all over again later. A trip could be in the offing. Don't allow anything or anyone to interfere. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

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Marvin

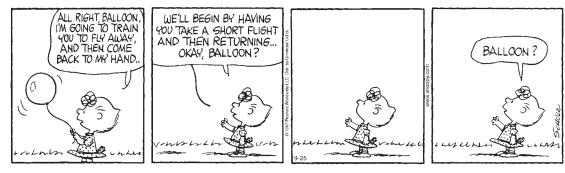
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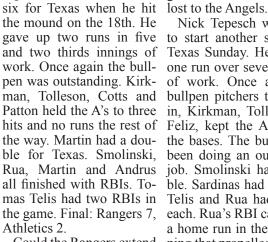
innings in relief. Rougned Odor had a double and two RBIs in the game. Andrus also got an RBI in the game. Final: Rangers 3, Braves 2.

Colby Lewis pitched on the 14th to try and go for the sweep of the Braves. He gave up just one run in seven strong innings. Claudio gave up two in relief and Jerome Edwards pitched a scoreless inning. Luis Sardinas had two doubles, Rua, Michael Choice triple and three RBIs. Sar-RBIs. Chirinos, Martin and Andrus each had an RBI as well. Final: Rangers 10, Braves 3.

Nick Tepesch took the mound on the 16th against the Athletics. He went six innings and gave up three runs, one earned. Mendez, Cotts and Feliz combined to keep the A's off the board the rest of the way. Adrian Beltre had two doubles in had a home run and two nal: Rangers 12, Angels 3. RBIs. Chirinos and Odor each had an RBI in the game. Final: Rangers 6, Athletics 3.

the 17th looking to continue his dominance. That he did by striking out five batters and holding the A's to one run over six and a third innings of work. Tolleson, Kirkman, Klein and Ross all combined for scoreless innings of relief. Odor had two doubles and an RBI. Adam Rosales had a double. Arencibia had a home run and three RBIs. Martin and Andrus each had RBIs as well. Final: Rangers 6, Athletics 1.

Nick Martinez was hop-



series against the AL's best Angels 1. Angels last weekend? Boand Andrus each doubled nilla hit the mound for his up let's get to Monday up two runs over five inertson and Beltre all had the game. Jake Smolinski two RBIs in the game. Fi- hit and RBI in the game

mound last Saturday in hopes of extending the win streak to eight games. be done by the Angels. Bellinski, Rosales and Odor all each doubled in the game. had RBIs in the game. The Chirinos had a home run offense was not enough to and RBI in the game. And icit however. Final: Angels the game. Final: Rangers 2, 8, Rangers 5.

You have to go back to Sept. 6 to see a game in lengthy article the recap which the Rangers lost that for Wednesday's game will was not to the Angels. They be included in next week's have either won all their season recap article.

ing to make the win streak games since then or just

Nick Tepesch was ready gave up two runs in five to start another streak for and two thirds innings of Texas Sunday. He allowed work. Once again the bull- one run over seven innings pen was outstanding. Kirk- of work. Once again the man, Tolleson, Cotts and bullpen pitchers that came Patton held the A's to three in, Kirkman, Tolleson and hits and no runs the rest of Feliz, kept the Angels off the way. Martin had a dou- the bases. The bullpen has ble for Texas. Smolinski, been doing an outstanding Rua, Martin and Andrus job. Smolinski had a douall finished with RBIs. To- ble. Sardinas had a double. mas Telis had two RBIs in Telis and Rua had an RBI the game. Final: Rangers 7, each. Rua's RBI came from a home run in the ninth in-Could the Rangers extend ning that propelled Texas to this streak to seven with a victory. Final: Rangers 2,

Now that we have caught as well. Choice also had a second start ever. He gave where the Rangers started a series with the Astros. dinas finished with four nings. Ross allowed one Holland hit the mound run from the bullpen but again to continue his nice Claudio, all held the Angels up three runs, two earned, scoreless when they came in seven innings of work. in to pitch. Andrus, Rua Yet again we see an amazand Chrinios each doubled ing bullpen performance each outing. I think Texas in the game. Smolinski had as Mendez and Feliz keep relishes in the spoiler roll a home run in the game. the Astros off the board the though and if Lewis can Rosales, Andrus, Chirinos rest of the way. Odor had a and Rua all had RBIs in the triple in the game and three game. Smoliski, Dan Rob- RBIs. Guilder Rodriguez got his first major league letics 3. after spending 13 years in Colby Lewis took the the minor leagues. Final: Rangers 4, Astros 3.

Tuesday and struck out five for Tepesch. In his last 10 Derek Holland hit the Lewis gave up eight runs, batters in six and two-thirds starts all but one start he mound again for Texas on seven earned, in five in- innings of work. He did not allowed three runs or less. nings of work. Kirkman, allow a run in the game. Patton and Mendez didn't Patton and Cotts came in allow any more damage to to keep the Astros at bay. Cotts did allow one run to six losses in his last 10 tre had three doubles in the but got the save anyways. game and two RBIs. Smo- Rua, Arencibia and Beltre overcome the eight run def- Robertson had an RBI in Astros 1.

> an already Due to

second at 86-71. Seattle is in third at 83-74. Houston baseball, but barely as Arizona sits at 63-95.

The Rangers can play spoiler one last time when they host the Athletics for a four-game series this weekend. If the Rangers win this series or even take two games it will likely mean the end of the Athletics dream season despite all of the trades Oakland made.

Hammel (10-Jason 11, 3.54 ERA) takes the mound for Oakland Thursday against Colby Lewis lately and only given up between one and three runs keep the Athletics under five runs Texas will win. Prediction: Rangers 5, Ath-

Friday Oakland sends out Scott Kazmir (14-9, 3.63 ERA) against Nick Tepesch (5-10, 4.14 ERA). Things Nick Martinez pitched on have finally been clicking Kazmit on the other hand has been struggling as of late and has only two wins starts. I have to give the nod to Texas in this one. I do think Kazmir will do better and it will be a pitching duel though. Prediction: Rangers 4, Athletics 2.

Jeff Samardzija (7-12, 2.88 ERA) matches up with Texas' Derek Holland (2-0, 1.31 ERA). Since coming off the DL this year Holland has pitched wonderfully. He has had five starts

woman

as of Wednesday morning. all but one. He also has al-The Angels remain in first lowed two runs or less in all If this is a win or miss the at 97-61. The A's are in of those starts. He only has playoffs game for Oakland two wins but has pitched well enough to be 5-0. Sais fourth at 69-89. Texas mardzija has pitched reis in last at 64-93. Texas is ally great as well. This one no longer the worst team in should be a pitching duel and I think a ninth inning run by either team will be the difference. I gotta roll with the hot hand of Holland in this one. Prediction: Rangers 1, Athletics 0.

Sonny Gray (13-10, 3.21 ERA) matches up with Nick Martinez (5-11, 4.61 ERA) in the finale of the 2014 season. This game could really be a win or miss the playoffs game for the Athletics. But perhaps if the first three games go as I hope they will for Texas, the Rangers (10-14, 5.34 ERA). Lewis would have already spoiled 10 out of the last 12. Just the rest of the relievers that run. Watch out Yu Darvish has been terrible aside from the Oakland hopes. Martiday, Klein, Edwards and next season. Holland gave a couple of starts recently. nez has performed well as games and the long offsea-Hammel has been solid of late just like pretty much son and come back ready to

Here are the standings and gone seven innings in Gray has been a great pitcher for the Athletics as well. I have to go with the A's in this one. Prediction: Athletics 4, Rangers 2.

The Rangers have one more chance to play spoiler. This time to the Athletics a team that has played spoiler against Texas many times before. Let's return the favor and send the A's packing this weekend!

Folks I will talk more on this when I have a chance to next week but be prepared for a much better season next year.

Some of the moving parts that I have been watching all season have started to click for Texas and that's why they have reeled off stick through these last four all of the Rangers have. cheer Texas on next season.

Answer to yesterday's																				
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DEAR ABBY: I always like Colette at all. They are they should be that your thought that "Lana," my who she really is, I found ting on the dryer. out she has had several afriage. I still love my wife and feel I could forgive her and regain my trust in her. The problem is, she says she is trying to recover from her actions, so she can no longer hear about my probmy questions. Lana is now saying I need to see someone to discuss our issues with. We are already seeing a marriage counselor, but I suspect he is too connected to us as a couple. What do you think? – LOST IN LIMBO think the marriage counselor should have made that in order for trust to be rebuilt it takes LOTS of dialogue and listening on the part of both spouses. And painful as it may be for Lana, she owes you the answers to your questions. That said, I think she is correct in suggesting you talk to someone individually. With the help of a licensed psychotherapist someone who is there JUST FOR YOU — you may be able to rationally decide whether your wife is capable of being the person you assumed she was, and if staying married to her is the best thing for you. DEAR ABBY: My mother died a few years ago after a prolonged illness. My father has found a new lady ("Colette") to share his life, and they are now engaged. My problem is my sisters. We are all adults with families of our own. They don't

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

rude to her and behave like father has been able to wife of 14 years, and I had spoiled children. Colette is find happiness after losthe perfect marriage. When very different from Mom, ing your mother. Not all I discovered she was hav- but our family has always widowers are able to do ing an affair, it hit me like been open-minded and tak- that. Stress that his dea train wreck. After many en pride in our conviction sire to remarry is a tribweeks of trying to discover that "normal" is just a set- ute to the relationship he Colette isn't after Dad's because men who had unfairs throughout our mar- money, nor is she forc- fulfilling marriages usuing her way into our lives. ally don't want to commit She's also not trying to re- again. place Mom. It appears she genuinely cares for our dad, nothing to gain by alienwhich I can understand. He's a good man, smart, attractive and fun to be with. lems or respond to any of He's enjoying life and has they will drive her — and lots more life to live. The your dad. Then suggest only thing that mars his that if they can't resolve happiness is my sisters' at- their grief, they join a titudes. What can I do to support group or consult help them? I don't want a therapist for help. to be too harsh because I know they are still grieving, but I hate to see them drive a wedge into what Abigail Van Buren, also DEAR IN LIMBO: I remains of our family. -JOY IN TEXAS **DEAR JOY: Please ac-** her mother, Pauline Philclear to you and your wife cept my sympathy for the lips. Contact Dear Abby loss of your mother. Per- at www.DearAbby.com of haps you should remind P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeyour sisters how grateful les, CA 90069.

had with your mother Point out that they have ating Colette and a lot to lose, because the more they treat her with dis-Dad is happy as a clam. respect, the farther away

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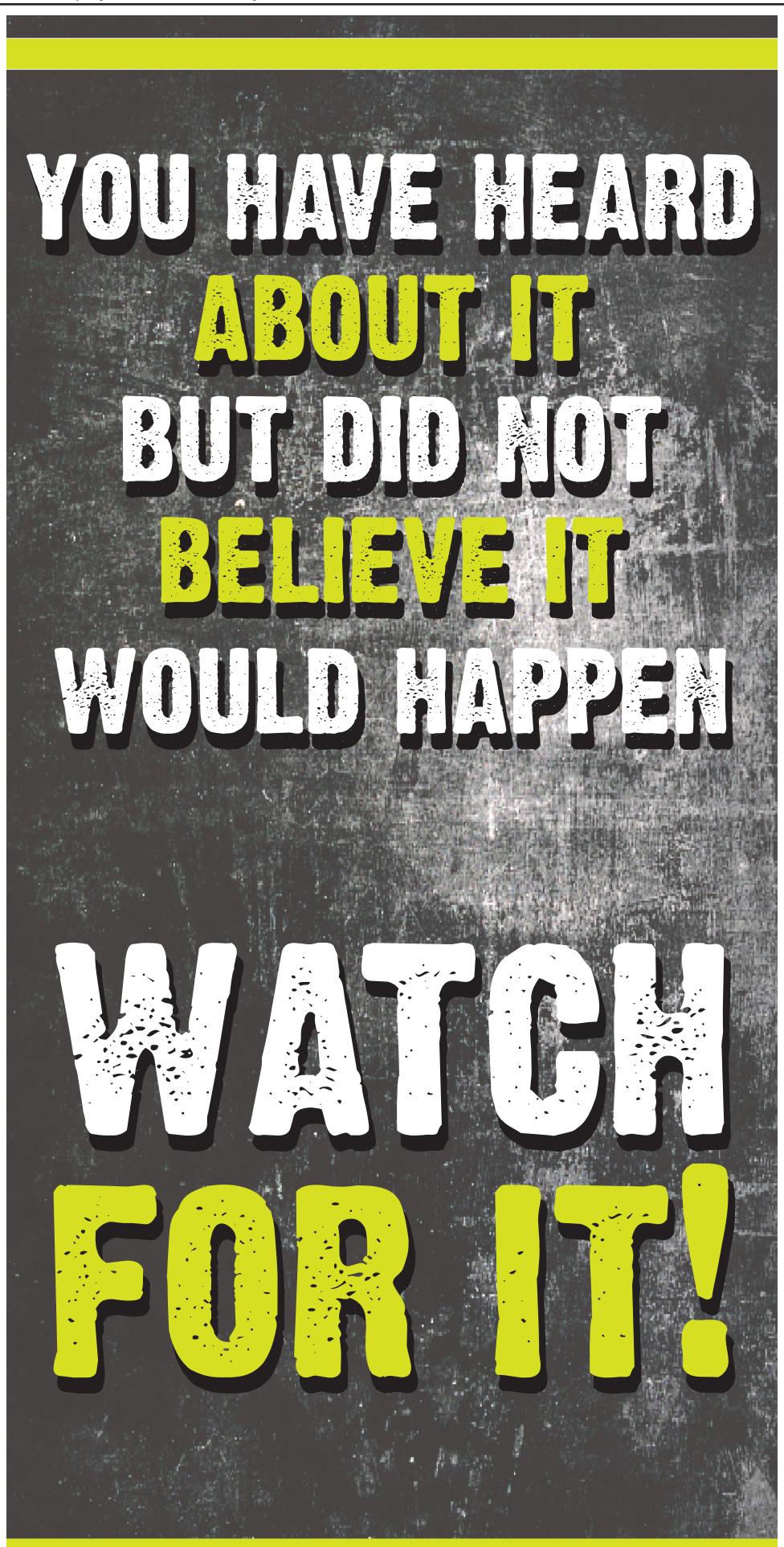
Dear Abby is written by known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by

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