

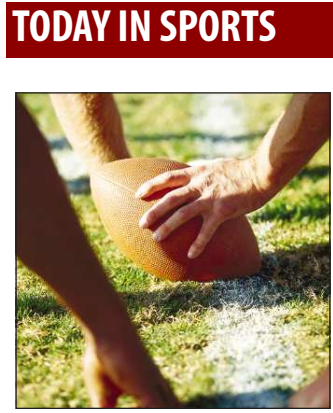
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The PAMPA NEWS



Tuesday, December 2, 2014 www.thepampanews.com Volume 110 • No. 168

75¢ Prairie Plains Perspective
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 Larry Elder on Ferguson | **p4A**

Follett-Groom playoff pictures
 Extra Innings | **p1-3B, 10B**

Gray County commissioners table two tax abatements

BY JOHN LEE
 jlee@thepampanews.com

The Gray County commissioners court met Monday morning on the second floor of the Gray County courthouse in their first meeting for the month of December. The commissioners approved the following agenda items:

- Pay bills and salaries as approved by the County Auditor.
- Consider line item transfers.
- Consider health insurance plan reinsurance renewal for calendar year 2015.

- Consider 2015 Indigent Defense grant Resolution.
- Consider tax bids of \$301 by Jesus Manuel Gallegos Gutierrez for 1141 Varnon; City of Pampa.

Following the approval of mentioned items, the court entertained a public hearing on two proposed tax abatements from Attebury Grain, LLC, and Rampa, Inc. Nobody from the public spoke about the tax abatements and the court entered into executive session for roughly an hour. County Judge Richard Peet explained that there was too much information to make a decision in a short time.

Upon re-adjournment, the commissioners announced they tabled the tax abatements to be put on the next

meeting's agenda. In the meantime, commissioner for Precinct 4, Jeff Haley, will be working with the companies on a resolution for the tax abatements.

The final item on the agenda was a request for proposal for county insurance. The commissioners narrowed it down to two, Duncan, Frasier and Bridges or Texas Association of Counties.

After heavy consideration both on risk management and other insurance claim cases, the commissioners voted to stay with Duncan, Frasier and Bridges and Traveler's Insurance. The insurance covers public of-

COUNTY cont. on page 2

Pampa Nursing Center adopts residents for Christmas gifts



Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik

The Pampa Nursing Center, located at 1321 W. Kentucky, is doing sponsorships for its residents for the holiday season. If you are interested in sponsoring, call 806-669-2551.

BY LINDSEY TOMASCHIK
 LKTomaschik@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Nursing Center has started a new tradition this year for the holidays. Due to a paperwork error and missed deadline, the center has missed out on its holiday funding to supply gifts to its residents. This blessing in disguise encouraged the staff to band together and come up with the idea to adopt a resident to splurge on this Christmas.

Rehab director Nicole Satterwhite said that the staff and community members have been very welcoming to this change.

"A lot of the staff have said it's nice to be able to do something special and to give them something back," she said. "They are the reason we have a job."

Since she began advertising the sponsorships for the residents, Satterwhite added that a lot of the residents have already been accounted for, but there's always room for any more community members who would like to help out.

"They can adopt a resident and then spend about \$40 to give them gifts," she said.

She also went through and interviewed each of the residents to find out just what they want for

Christmas this year.

Some of the general gift ideas she suggests are socks, candy, toothbrushes, blankets, small body sprays and washes. Basically any treats that they can call their own will suffice, since they do not have an abundance of space in their rooms for larger items.

Satterwhite said that they have had such a positive reception to this project that many staff members have even said they plan on doing this again next year, though they also plan to apply for their annual grant to help out as well.

"Some people have even teamed up to adopt multiple residents," she said.

All those interested in sponsoring a resident this holiday season are encouraged to stop by the Pampa Nursing Center, located at 1321 W. Kentucky, and talk to administrator Drew Potter, activity director Suzanne Oliver or rehab director Nicole Satterwhite or call and speak with one of them at 806-669-2551.

All gifts must be submitted in time for the center's annual Christmas party, which will be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 17. This event is open to the public, and resident sponsors are encouraged to come by and see the residents open their gifts.

The Pampa News now accepting children's Santa Letters

STAFF REPORT

The Pampa News has begun accepting Santa letters, and this year Santa plans to send return letters to all those who personally mail in letters to the news office.

Unfortunately, he won't be able to get response letters to each of the school-submitted letters, but all those who send theirs to 403 W. Atchison will receive a personal response from the big man.

Letter submissions have already begun and will be continued to be accepted until Monday, Dec. 15. The deadline for schools to submit their letters is Dec. 12 so that they may be published in the annual special section.

For more information on Santa letter submissions, stop by the news office, located at 403 W. Atchison, or call 806-669-2525.

The Pampa News hopes you all have been good boys and girls this year and wishes you and yours a happy holiday season.

Christmas on Main Pampa

SUBMITTED

Shepherd's Helping Hands along with Shepard's Crook Home Health are currently organizing the fifth annual Christmas on Main and Craft Show Bazaar on Dec. 6. The event will be a fun-filled day full of activities.

The goal is to entice Pampa and the surrounding communities to shop Pampa and have a great time. There will be a Christmas Bazaar with booth rents available for retailers, crafters and non-profit organizations for \$25; clubs, civic organizations or any group.

MAIN cont. on page 2

Farm Bill Decision-Aid training set Dec. 4

■ **AgriLife Extension to also offer hands-on assistance.**

SUBMITTED BY

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE
 AMARILLO – The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host a Farm Bill Decision Aid Training seminar for agribusinesses Dec. 4, according to DeDe Jones, AgriLife Extension risk management specialist in Amarillo.

The free classroom instruction will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and trainers will also be on hand from 1-5 p.m. to provide individual assistance for pro-

FARM cont. on page 2

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Weather 2A	Sports 1B-3B, 10B
Obituaries 3A	Comics 4B
Local Record 3A	Classifieds 8B-9B
Viewpoints 4A	Puzzles/Dear Abby . . 9B



PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 59 Low 36	High 45 Low 32	High 62 Low 40

Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 59. Winds south-southwest at 10 to 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:37 a.m.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a low of 36. Winds south-southwest shifting to west-northwest at 10 to 15 mph. Sunset at 5:32 p.m.

Wednesday: Cloudy with a high around 45. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds north-northeast at 10 to 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:38 a.m.

Wednesday night: Mostly cloudy with a low of 32. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds southeast at 5 to 10 mph. Sunset at 5:32 p.m.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a high of 62. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds south at 10 to 15 mph. Sunrise at 7:39 a.m.

Thursday night: Cloudy with rain showers and a low around 40. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds southwest at 5 to 10 mph. Sunset at 5:32 p.m.

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Ron Lilley, Broker

State leaders adopt spending cap for next budget

By AMAN BATHEJA
The Texas Tribune

The Legislative Budget Board voted unanimously Monday to set the state's growth rate at 11.68 percent for its 2016-17 budget, about 1 percent higher than the spending cap for the current budget.

The decision comes as state officials expect to enter the next legislative session in January with a multibillion-dollar surplus and competing factions push to ramp spending growth both down and up.

The budget board — made up of Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, House Speaker Joe Straus, and four members each of the state House and Senate — selected the rate

with little discussion, though the decision could have a big impact on next year's legislative session.

The growth rate guides how far the next budget can exceed the current one in spending on "nondedicated revenue," which are the parts of the budget that are funded by state taxes but not required to go to specific programs. In practice, the growth rate puts a spending cap on less than half of the state's two-year budget. State leaders have indicated they have no plans to attempt to "bust the spending cap" next year, a move that would require the support of a majority of lawmakers.

"It is important to remember that the limit is a cap, not an obligation," said Dale

Craymer, president of the business-backed Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. "Legislators should continue to exercise restraint as they begin work on the 2016-17 state budget."

In the past, legislatures have passed budgets within the spending cap with little trouble, prompting critics to argue that the cap should be tightened. Since 2012, the conversation has shifted as Texas' coffers have swelled by billions of dollars, in large part because of an oil drilling boom.

Along with conservative groups calling for tightening the cap, others have advocated for busting the cap to address issues like crumbling infrastructure and public ed-

ucation needs.

The Legislative Budget Board traditionally sets the growth rate based on the estimated rate of growth in Texans' personal income over the next two years. Two years ago, LBB staff provided five forecasts for personal income growth ranging from 8.71 percent to 12.21 percent. The LBB picked a mid-range figure of 10.71 percent. This year, LBB staff offered four options over a smaller range.

The comptroller's office had the most pessimistic take, predicting personal income will grow over 2016 and 2017 at 11.68 percent. Moody's Analytics had the most optimistic forecast, at 15.71 percent.

Main

Continued From Page 1

wanting to provide entertainment can call Shepherd's Helping Hands at 806-665-0356 and we will assist you in finding a location for your event and add it to the schedule of events. This

should enable businesses from other areas of Pampa to showcase their inventory as well as offer other groups a venue for fundraising.

There will also be other activities including Christmas characters stalling through downtown, carriage rides, pet contest, several local merchant open house and grand open-

ings, Festival of Trees, Soup with Mrs. Claus, Christmas parade, crafts and movies for children, pictures with Santa and the Nutcracker Ballet that evening as well as many more events.

If you have an event you would like to add to the agenda please call Pam Dalton at Shepard's Crook Home Health

at 806-665-0356

This plans to be a wonderful family day for all. For more information on the Craft Show or other things going on during the day please call Teresa Henson or Pam Dalton at Shepard's Crook Home Health at 806-665-0356 or visit the web site at www.shepards-nursing.com.

County

Continued From Page 1

officials and employees liability, employment practices liability, business

auto coverage-liability (and comp and collision), property, heavy equipment, general liability for employee benefits, general liability for the airport, law enforcement liability, crime coverage and

worker's compensation. The cost of the insurance is \$181,951.

The Gray County Commission meets at 9 a.m. on the first and 15th of each month.

If the date falls on a Sat-

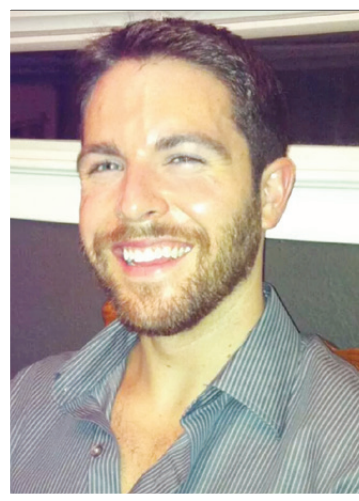
urday, the meeting will be held on Friday. If the date falls on a Sunday, the meeting will be held on Monday. The meetings are held on the second floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

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Farm

Continued From Page 1

ducers, Jones said. The day-long event will be at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd. in Amarillo.

The continued training is a part of AgriLife Extension's goal to establish a network of trained individuals who can help producers if they need assistance working through the farm program decision aid tool, she said.

"A number of agribusinesses have stepped up and requested this training so they can assist their clients with program

sign-up," Jones said.

This training will focus on the data entry process required to correctly run the farm bill decision tool developed by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University in partnership with the University of Missouri.

This tool is officially endorsed by the Risk Management Association as one of two decision aids in the country that producers should use in evaluating farm program decisions, Jones said.

The RSVP deadline is Dec. 1. Attendance is limited, so early registration is encouraged. For additional questions contact Jones at 806-677-5667.

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Obituaries

Crawford A. Hall

Crawford A. Hall, 88, died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014, in Claude Cemetery in Claude with Julie Shipman, officiating. Interment will follow at Claude Cemetery in Claude. Arrangements are under the direction of Robertson Armstrong Chapel of Claude.

Crawford was born Feb. 17, 1926 in Lorenzo to Earl and Dovie Lee Hall. He married Helen Geneva Johnston on July 21, 1947 in Dublin. He was a U.S. Army veteran. He had been a resident of Claude since 1997.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; two daughters, Linda Shipman and Kay Ann Saulsbury; two brothers and a sister.

Survivors include a son, Crawford E. Hall and wife Monica of Pampa; a brother, Weldon Hall of Altus, Okla.; three sisters, Geraldine Sharp of Dublin, Oneta Hall of Lubbock and Oleta Dodd of Springfield, Mo.; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

There will be a viewing from 8 to 10 a.m. Tuesday before the service at Claude.

The family request memorials be sent to the Ronald McDonald House.

Sign our online guest book at www.RobertsonFuneral.com.

Survivors include her children, John Raines and wife Rita of Pampa, Kenneth Raines and wife Linda of McLean, Willie Harriman and wife Darla of Fritch, Debbie Henderson of Borger, Marvin Heathington and wife Dena of Fritch, Renee Haanen and husband Michael of Borger; 21 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; mother-in-law, Bea "Babe" Heathington of Canyon; brothers, Harold McPherson and wife Carolyn of Cleburne, James Hammons and wife Mary of Cleburne; sister, Patricia McPherson-Stainthorpe of Abilene; sister-in-laws, Linda McPherson of Weston, W.V., Boots Stone and husband, James of McLean and a host of extended family.

Craig Allen Guyer

Craig Allen Guyer, 52, of Pampa, passed away Wednesday Nov. 26, 2014 in Dallas.

Memorial services will be at 3 p.m., Saturday Dec. 13, 2014 at the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ with Keith Feerer, minister, officiating.

Craig was born on March 15, 1962 in Waynoka, Okla. to Charles and Coleen Guyer. As a child he lived in Masterson, Childress and Amarillo. He graduated from Tascosa High School in 1980 and married his high school sweetheart, Lori Smith on April 10, 1982 in Amarillo. In May of 1989 he graduated with a BBA from West Texas State University in Canyon, majoring in Accounting.

He was a Certified Public Accountant. He began his accounting career in healthcare and after many years as CFO for Pampa Regional Medical Center, he went to work for Pantex. He loved his job as an internal auditor, and was employed at Pantex for the last 14 years.

Craig loved spending time in the outdoors. He enjoyed camping, hiking, photography and spending time in the mountains. He was an active leader in the Boy Scouts of America for 10 years.

Craig served as an Elder at Central Church of Christ and was serving as an Elder at the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ at the time of his death. He loved being involved with the Lord's work.

Craig loved spending time with his family. He was always happy and had a contagious attitude. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Craig is survived by his wife of 32 years, Lori of the home; one daughter, Lysie Green and husband, Zac, of Pampa; sons, Chase Guyer and wife, Isabella, of Amarillo; Cole Guyer and Colby Dennis, both of Pampa; two grandchildren, Hunter and Brayden Guyer, of Amarillo; his parents, Charles and Coleen Guyer, of Amarillo; a sister, Marsha Thomas and husband Gale, of Amarillo; mother and father-in-law, Helen and Clyde Nunn of Amarillo; brother and sister-in-law Steve and Christi Smith of Wylie and a host of nieces, nephews, other in-laws and close friends.

Craig is also survived by a very special cousin, Jo Brown. Jo donated one of her kidneys to Craig on Nov. 11, 1998. He and his family were always very grateful for her gift and how it changed their lives.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Charla Gayle, and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Memorials may be made to Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ (benevolence), P.O. Box 2438, Pampa, Texas, 79065 or to the New Mexico Christian Children's Home, 1356 NM 236, Portales, New Mexico 88130 or online at <http://www.nmccch.org/>



Craig Allen Guyer

House nearing vote on 1-year package of tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are moving to pass a one-year extension of temporary tax breaks affecting millions of businesses and individuals.

Most of the more than 50 tax breaks expired at the end of 2013, so the extension would only run through the end of the month. However, it would allow taxpayers to claim the tax breaks when they file their 2014 tax returns.

The tax breaks benefit big corporations and small businesses, as well as commuters, teachers and people who live in states without a state income tax. In all, they affect about one in six taxpayers, according to The Tax Institute, the independent research arm at tax giant H&R Block.

Senate Democrats and House Republicans were negotiating to make some of the tax breaks permanent. But talks faltered last week after the White House threatened to veto an emerging package, saying it too heavily favored big corporations over families.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest expressed concerns about a one-year extension, but stopped short of issuing a new veto threat. "There are significant fiscal consequences for just a one-year extension, instead of a permanent extension," Earnest said.

A House GOP aide said the House could

vote on the one-year package as early as this week. The aide was not authorized to speak publicly about the package ahead of an official announcement.

Congress routinely passes the package of temporary tax breaks every year or two, drawing complaints from businesses that it is hard to plan from year to year. A one-year package would bring more uncertainty next year.

Among the biggest breaks for businesses: A tax credit for research and development, an exemption that allows financial companies to shield foreign profits from being taxed by the U.S., and several provisions that allow businesses to write off capital investments more quickly.

The biggest tax break for individuals allows people who live in states without an income tax to deduct state and local sales taxes on their federal returns. Another protects struggling homeowners who get their mortgages reduced from paying income taxes on the amount of debt that was forgiven.

Other more narrow provisions include tax breaks for film and theater producers, NASCAR race track owners, manufacturers of electric motorcycles, commuters who use public transportation and teachers who spend their own money on classroom supplies.

Freddie Harold ("Fred") Watkins



Freddie Watkins

Freddie Harold ("Fred") Watkins, 74, a construction contractor and cattleman, passed away Wednesday, November 26, 2014.

Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. at Lake Forest Baptist Church, 9483 West FM 515, Alba, Texas 75410, (903) 473-9523. Directions may be obtained at the Lake Fort Baptist Church's website lakeforestbaptist.org.

Betty Louise Heathington

Betty Louise Heathington, 69, passed away Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014.

A memorial service will be held 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014 at Celebration Family Church in Fritch.

Betty was born Nov. 17, 1945 in Fort Worth to Louie and Christine McPherson. She was a retired cook for Cal Farley's Boy Ranch. Betty was a member of Grace Fellowship. The cook of the family she was always willing to help people. Painting was Betty's favorite pastime, however nothing brought joy to her life like her kids, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed family and said that they are what make life interesting.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Keith "Butch" Heathington; her parents and a brother, David McPherson.

Oklahoma man arrested for drug possession

STAFF REPORT

• Curry Pendleton, 20, Shawnee, Okla., was arrested Friday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for possession of a controlled substance.

• Harvey Green, 54, Pampa, was arrested Friday by the Pampa Police Department for an outside county warrant — violation of probation — theft of property between \$20 and \$500 by check, two charges of capias pro fine.

• Jesse Perez, 20, Hale Center, was arrested Friday by the Department of Public Safety for assault causing bodily injury to a family member, failure to identify a fugitive from justice.

• Krysten Miller, 19, Pampa, was arrested Friday by GCSO for tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

• James Lee, 32, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by DPS for his second driving while intoxicated offense.

• Francisco Mendoza, 29, San Jose, Calif., was arrested Saturday by DPS for possession of marijuana — less than two ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Gwen Ora, Ganado, 27, Ark., was arrested Saturday by DPS for a fugitive warrant — unlawful taking of a vehicle.

• Eric Rodriguez, 26, Pampa, was arrested Saturday by DPS for a blue warrant.

• Marco Tamayo, 26, Pampa, was arrested Sun-

day by DPS for driving while intoxicated.

• Jaime Garcia, 24, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by GCSO for capias pro fine — violating promise to appear, capias pro fine — no valid driver's license.

• Michael Waldrip, 24, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by DPS for a blue warrant.

• Timothy Broadbent, 34, Pampa, was arrested Sunday by DPS for driving while intoxicated.

• Amber Caviness, 31,

Pampa, was arrested Sunday by GCSO for possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Shela Trujillo, 36, Ivenhoe, Calif., was arrested Sunday by DPS for possession of a controlled substance — between one and four grams, possession of marijuana — between two and four ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Ashley Lang, 23, Pampa, was arrested Monday by GCSO for public intoxication.

For the record



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Viewpoints

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Prairie Plains Perspective

Honey, I'm taking the interstate, see you next year!



DENNIS PALMITIER

There is some mighty long road between Pampa and New Braunfels. 529 miles to be Google exact, or 852 Km if you're into the metric nonsense like Arizona. As the crow flies, that distance is legally seven hours and 55 minutes. An A.D.D. moment folks... I do believe I still own the highway land speed record between Pampa and New Braunfels. I know such because I've the accumulation over the years of speeding tickets as proof... Considering in real time the necessary pee breaks, being older (much) and wiser (somewhat), the law and leg stretching needs, the distance is closer to eight or nine hours. Yep, a mighty long road it is to New Braunfels.

For the most part when motoring to New Braunfels, I don't like to use interstate highways. I'll give you an example why in a few moments. My path southward is an intersecting slice smack dab through the heart of this great state. From a starting point at Pampa's 3,150 feet of elevation, imagine if you will the scenery and vistas provided all the way down to New Braunfels' 630 feet of elevation! Driving off the Caprock from our prairie plains into the big emptiness of the rolling hills towards Abilene and on into the mesquite and oak studded Hill Country; Texas is a beautiful sight to behold. In all my years of driving the Lone Star State; I never tire of the flora, fauna and vistas.

That being said... If 50 years of sitting behind a steering wheel motoring around Texas has told me one thing, it would be to always take an alternative route rather than

the interstate because from DFW to San Antonio the interstate can be quite the lesson in futility and infuriating to the point of road rage! Conceal and carry folks... Texas has grown in population so much to the extent that traffic woes created by wrecks and congestion can make that seven-hour and 55-minute trip an actual 10 to 12-hour nightmare, so I opt for the back roads, most of the time...

When reaching Lampasas, a driver headed to New Braunfels has two options. Continuing on Texas Highway 183 takes you in to Austin and I-35, which will get you albeit a tad frazzled, to New Braunfels. Opting for 281 gets you to San Antonio, which for my needs includes a dog leg a few miles before San Antonio that will put me in New Braunfels. Taking 281 adds almost an hour to my trip, but considering Austin's traffic on I-35, it's well worth it! This Thanksgiving trip I chose 183 to Austin and I-35 to get to New Braunfels.

'Twas due to darkness and the deer hazard. Did you know Texas has a deer population totaling around four million animals? Think about that along with the fact 3,899,000 of them live in the Texas Hill Country between Lampasas and New Braunfels! For this trip I left Pampaville rather late. By doing so, one third of my time motoring on the highway would be in the dark. Out of those 3,899,000 deer, all except one of them are grazing year round alongside Texas Hill Country highways. Collisions between Texas deer and Texans autos is a driver's and insurance salesman's nightmare. Safety first!

I made it through Austin with not much grinding down of my teeth enamel, then the fun began. There was for it was easy to notice, hardly

any northbound traffic between Austin and San Marcos? Continuing south and not two feet west of San Marcos on the I-35 northbound side was an entire lanes blocking multi-vehicle wreck. As the deer bounds, it is 18 miles between San Marcos and New Braunfels. I-35 is a major north-south United States artery and is the American leg of the Pan American Highway that traverses the entire length of South America to the tip of North America. Think NAFTA and thousands of big rigs going both directions and in that think, easy to grasp that I-35 is one busy interstate highway.

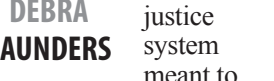
Let your imagination work what a major interstate traffic jam looks like. What I saw that night on I-35 was a surreal completely at a standstill autos and tractor trailer rigs bumper to bumper every single one of those 18 miles! For I and other southbound drivers the wreck created an hour and a half bumper to bumper rubber necking slow moving traffic jam all those 18 miles to New Braunfels!

I've heard often since my 2003 return to the prairie plains Pampans carping and whining about Hobart Street traffic jams. Pampa has no stinking traffic jams! You want to experience on any day of the week a guaranteed traffic jam? Drive I-35 to San Antonio. Make sure for pleasure's sake you start your drive at DFW. It won't take long to yearn for Pampa traffic.

Pampa resident Dennis Palmitier is a regular, unpaid contributor to the opinion page on issues that affect Pampa and Gray County. His opinions and viewpoints do not reflect those of The Pampa News or The Pampa News' staff. He can be reached at denpalm1949@yahoo.com. Anyone wishing to respond to Palmitier's viewpoints in the form of a letter to the editor can email Editor John Lee at jlee@thepampanews.com.

Don't shoot (your mouth off) before all the facts are known

We hand a man a gun and ask him to protect us. If something goes horribly wrong, perhaps in a flurry of panic, we don't rush to punish him. We make sure a criminal justice system meant to protect all citizens also protects him. We blanket him in the presumption of innocence. It's the reason juries are loath to convict and, as happened in Missouri, grand juries are loath to indict officers involved in shootings.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

So do I believe that Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson might not have confronted Michael Brown, 18, and his friend Dorian Johnson, 22, if they had been white kids walking in the middle of the street on a hot Saturday morning? Yes, I do. But I also find Wilson's explanation credible. He testified that he approached the young men because he saw cars swerving around them. It's his job to keep the community safe.

Wilson also testified that Brown prevented him from getting out of the patrol car, that Brown punched him and that Brown tried to take his gun. Physical evidence corroborates some of Wilson's story. Video of Brown shoving a convenience store clerk in what has been described as a strong-arm robbery minutes before the encounter adds credence to Wilson's account. Brown may have been unarmed, but that doesn't mean he wasn't menacing.

I do not believe that Brown deserved to die. I also don't think Wilson deserved to die, as he says he feared would happen if Brown overpowered him.

It is clear from Wilson's testimony that he was not at home in Ferguson's Canfield Green neighborhood. He called it an "anti-police area." After the shooting, he didn't want to return to his squad car, because he feared residents would identify him. When he called for backup, he asked for "a supervisor and every car you got" — but not an ambulance. Wilson's next job will not be social worker.

Still, I don't think the national media have given Wilson a fair trial. Early on, pundits jumped to conclusions about the officer's culpability. I don't know that the

shooting was justified, but I do believe there is reasonable doubt about the shooting. There is Wilson's word; there are some conflicting accounts. At this moment, the strongest argument against Wilson is suspicion, not fact. There's this stereotype about white cops and black victims, and there's a cadre of professionals intent on making sure that the stereotype speaks louder than any evidence.

A heavy media presence also allowed hotheads to preen on national TV and fanned the flames of discontent. In August, critics piled on the militarized police presence in Ferguson, which, they charged, contributed to public unrest. Remember the term "war zone"? After Monday night's riots, cable news critics were complaining again about the cops and National Guard — but this time because there weren't enough of them. Well, which is it?

Soon the camera crews will be gone. Local merchants will take down the boards they had nailed to protect their windows. Small-business owners will debate whether to stay or relocate. Monday night's looters will have to live with what they allowed themselves to become for one night. The people of Ferguson and the police who patrol their intersections will have to look each other in the eye again. Some rioters, too, will have to look at the damage they inflicted.

After St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch announced there would be no charges against Wilson, Brown's stepfather was seen exhorting a crowd to "burn" his city down. Where is the justice in that?

Brian Willingham, a church pastor and black police officer from Flint, Michigan, told The New York Times: "I now realize that we who consider ourselves leaders in the black community can't just be against racism. We have to also be against a portion of black culture that has become increasingly anti-authority and anti-social to a point of self-destruction. This is an enemy we've yet to engage in the black community. But it's a conversation I think we're forced to have now."

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



How To Write Us

The Pampa News welcomes letters to the editor. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and signatures.

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

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By E-mail:
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Ferguson obscures much bigger problems in the 'black community'

From the very beginning, this was much ado about an aberration, a tragic aberration to be sure, but an aberration nonetheless.

Michael Brown was shot and killed by Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9, 2014. Immediately, according to St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch, witnesses began to give different versions of what happened.

The apparent would-be star witness, Dorian Johnson, was with Brown when the shooting occurred. He gave a dramatic account of a

trigger-happy bigoted cop who shot "my friend" in the back and gunned him down despite the victim attempting to surrender by placing his hands up. Other alleged eyewitnesses came forward with similar, if not identical, descriptions of an aggressive, out-of-control cop.

Several witnesses, according to McCulloch, later changed their testimony, with some admitting that they really didn't see the incident — just heard about it and so filled in the blanks in their own mind. And some witnesses were simply proven wrong by the physical evidence. Others corroborated the officer's account.

McCulloch explained why more information wasn't released in a "timely" fashion: "Those

closely guarded details, especially about the physical evidence, give law enforcement a yardstick for measuring the truthfulness of witnesses." McCulloch explained that a trail of Brown's blood led from the police car, and was found 25 feet farther away from where Brown's body lay — suggesting Brown turned and came toward Wilson, as the officer said. "Physical evidence," said McCulloch, "does not change because of public pressure or personal agenda."

After summarizing the evidence, McCulloch ended his press conference with a note of hope. He said don't let this "fade away ... we have to keep that discussion going."

But the "discussion" we should have is one we

rarely do — that is, about absentee black fathers, poor education and urban crime.

Ironically, in Wisconsin just three weeks ago, Milwaukee police Chief Edward Flynn was being criticized for inappropriate and disrespectful behavior. Flynn, during a police commission meeting related to an officer-involved shooting, was on his cell phone. Didn't he appreciate the gravity of this hearing? Later, at a press conference, he was asked why he was rude.

The chief said: "Well, I was on my phone, yes. That is true. I was following developments with a 5-year-old girl sitting on her dad's lap who just got shot in the head by a drive-by shooting. If some of the people gave a

Ferguson

Continued From Page 4A

good goddamn about the victimization of people in this community by crime, I'd take some of their invective more seriously. "The greatest racial disparity in the city of Milwaukee is getting shot and killed — hello! Eighty percent of my homicide victims — every year — are African-American; 80 percent of our aggravated assault victims are African-American; 80 percent of our shooting victims who survive their shooting are African-American. "Now, they know all about the last three people who have been killed by the Milwaukee Police Department over the course of the last several

years. There's not one of them that can name one of the last three homicide victims we've had in this city. ... But this community is at risk all right, and it's not because men and women in blue risk their lives protecting it. It's at risk because we have large numbers of high-capacity, quality firearms in the hands of remorseless criminals who don't care who they shoot. "Now I'm leaving here to go to that scene. I take it personally, OK? We're going up there, and there's a bunch of cops processing a scene of a dead kid. And they're the ones that are going to be out there patrolling and stopping suspects that may have guns under the front seat. They're the ones that are gonna take risks to their lives to try to clean this thing up, all

right? "We are responsible for the things we get wrong, and we take action. We've arrested cops, we've fired cops and so on. But the fact is, the people out here, some of them — who had the most to say — are absolutely MIA when it comes to the true threats facing this community. It gets a little tiresome, and when you start getting yelled at for reading the updates of the kid who got shot, yeah, you take it personally, OK?" Meanwhile, in an exchange with black MSNBC pundit Michael Eric Dyson, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani called the Ferguson killing a rarity. He argued that the "heavy policing" in black areas results from the need to address black crime: "I

find it very disappointing that you're not discussing the fact that 93 percent of blacks in America are killed by other blacks. We're talking about the exception. ... I would like to see the attention paid to that, that you are paying to (Ferguson). ... It is the reason for the heavy police presence in the black community. ... The white police officers won't be there if you weren't killing each other." Dyson's response? "This is a defensive mechanism of white supremacy at work in your mind." Well, at least we're "keeping the discussion going." *Larry Elder is a best-selling author and radio talk-show host. To find out more about Larry Elder, or become an "Elderado," visit www.LarryElder.com. Follow Larry on Twitter @larryelder.*

5 killed when vehicles collide in Texas Panhandle

VEGA (AP) — Five people have been killed, including four members of a New Mexico family, in a late-night collision on a rural road in the Texas Panhandle. Texas Department of Public Safety Senior Trooper Chris Ray says 30-year-old Ryan Painter of Corpus Christi died when his pickup crossed the center line shortly before midnight Saturday north of Vega and struck an oncoming Chevy van. The van was carrying 43-year-old Louis David Torres Sr.; his wife, 43-year-old Dalila Torres; a 20-year-old woman; 14-year-old boy; and 10-year-old girl. Only the boy survived. He was in critical condition Monday at a Lubbock hospital. Ray says everyone in the van lived at the same address in Hobbs, New Mexico. The two vehicles erupted in flames after colliding. Vega is about 35 miles west of Amarillo.

Tenement Museum uses novel way to teach English

NEW YORK (AP) — The actress playing a teenage Jewish immigrant in 1916 never stepped out of character as she talked about the hardships of living in three small rooms with nine family members. Her captive audience of 11 — squeezed into her tiny apartment at the historic Tenement Museum in lower Manhattan — were immigrants themselves; some recently arrived in New York City from Venezuela, Mali and other far-flung nations. The group, representing eight countries, spent several hours one recent morning at a workshop that uses the museum's exhibitions of authentic former tenants' apartments to help the recent immigrants build their language skills. Called Shared Journeys, the workshops in English for Speakers of Other Languages, or ESOL, encourage participants to imagine life in the tenement and to share and compare their own experiences to those of the early Irish, Italian, Jewish and German immigrants. Voytek Chachlowski, 55, who came to the U.S. from Poland 20 years ago, said he could easily relate

to 14-year-old Victoria Confino's story of living in cramped conditions. When he first arrived, he had to "share two rooms and one bathroom with seven people." The program is one of many immersive experiences at the museum located in a restored 4-story tenement building on the Lower East Side that housed 7,000 working class immigrants between 1863 and 1935. Seven of the original apartments are restored, complete with drab furnishings, peeling wallpaper and laundry strung over a coal stove; three others have been intentionally left as they were when the building was condemned in 1935. Kathleen Fletcher played Victoria, whose Jewish family came from Greece, for the visiting group from the International Rescue Committee, an organization that helps refugees resettle. She is one of 15 "costumed interpreters" who bring to life the stories of the tenement's residents. "It gets to the heart of the museum mission most immediately, revealing the challenges of people of the past, present and

future," she said. Jennifer Call, the Rescue Committee's family education coordinator, said her groups sometimes start off shy but the interactive experience gets them talking. "Field trips like this really bring the class together," she said. Before visiting Victoria's first-floor apartment along a dim, dilapidated hallway, the group gathered in a visitor's center classroom. There a museum worker gave a short history on Victoria's family and her job sewing aprons and introduced them to unfamiliar vocabulary words like "tenement" and "homesick" before inviting them to share their own stories. Later they reconvened in the classroom for further discussion on topics that touched on religious freedom and education. The classes are adjusted according to the level of English proficiency but always focus on the museum's mission of connecting immigrants of today with immigrants of the past. They are popular with dozens of organizations and language schools that offer English as a second language. The

adult program recently expanded to include high school and middle school students. The museum offers 150 workshops and averages about 1,700 participants a year. Victoria's story is one of six interactive experiences at the museum, each providing an opportunity to discuss social and civic issues of the day that still resonate today. They include the 1935 apartment of Rosaria and Adolpho Baldizzi, who came to the U.S. during the height of the first immigration restrictions. Discussions sometimes focus on what it means to be "American." Or visitors can choose to go to the 1897 apartment of the Levine family, who ran a small garment factory in their home. They later talk about the conditions in factories and the larger issue of acceptable working conditions. Raul Betancourt, 39, like others attending the workshop, thought life for immigrants was easier today. He quickly found an apartment through the Internet after coming from Venezuela two months ago. "Technology makes a big difference," he said.

Occidental Petroleum completes spinoff

HOUSTON (AP) — Oil and gas exploration and production company Occidental Petroleum has completed its spinoff of subsidiary California Resources Corp. California Resources is an independent oil and natural gas exploration and produc-

tion company focused on assets in California. Holders of Occidental common stock got about 80.5 percent of the outstanding shares of California Resources in November. That distribution amounted to about 310 million shares. Houston-based Occidental

Petroleum Corp. kept 71.5 million shares of California Resources. It had announced plans for the spinoff in June. California Resources will start trading on Monday on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CRC.

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Community Calendar

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 three times a month

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

State Health Services can be reached at 806-669-5323 and is located at 121 S. Gillespie St. in Pampa.

PAWS meets first Tuesdays

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

There is a desperate need for more members. PAWS members are needed to work at the shelter from 3 to 5:30 p.m. each day and to work adoption days or take animals to the vets when needed, but mostly people are needed to love and work with the animals where they will be more adoptable.

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

County Commission meetings

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

TOT Republican Women's Club

Top O' Texas

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

Jam sessions every Friday night

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

Meredith House presents live music

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

Monday night dance club

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

PPQG Meets fourth Thursdays

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets the fourth Thursday of each month, January through

October, at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center at 500 W. Francis St.

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

First United Methodist Church

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

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

For more information call 806-669-7411.

Pampa Post VFW meetings

Pampa Post VFW, Men's Auxiliary, and Ladies Auxiliary meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. There is a social hour with meal at 6 p.m. and the meetings begin at 7 p.m. For questions, call Danny Martin at 806-662-4367.

'A Day For You'

"A Day for You" Women's Conference will be held at Community Worship Center in Perryton on Saturday, Oct. 25th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featured speaker, Sheri Rose Shepherd, will empower us by her

message.

Coffee and muffins will be served in the morning and lunch will be provided at noon. No childcare will be available. Registration is requested by calling CWC at 435-2506 ext 21 or online at www.cwcperryton.org.

CASA of the High Plains

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

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

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

Editor's note: Email submissions to jclee@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.

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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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Church Calendar

Hi-Land Christian Church

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

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

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

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Cornerstone Baptist Team KID (Kids in Discipleship) meets Wednesdays at 6:30 until 8:00 pm at 2410 W. 23rd St. All

children ages 4 thru 5th graders are invited to attend. For more information call the church at 669-6509.

New Life Assembly of God

New Life Assembly of God is located at 1435 N. Sumner Street in Pampa. New pastor, Sergio Urrutia, said their mission is "New life Assembly of God is committed to fulfilling a four-fold mission. Our primary reason for being is to evangelize the lost, worship God, disciple believer and to show compassion, to build a multi-ethnic body of believers. New life commits to reaching out to Pampa in all areas of the township with special emphasis to our Latino brothers and sisters. Our worship will be a reflection of our multi-ethnic mixture of disciples including Christian Latino music, contemporary music as well as the traditional hymns and songs of the church. Outreach will have as its goal to produce new believers who in turn are able to witness effectively and make disciples who will in turn continue this

cycle. This will be effected through small group bible studies, both Bi-lingual services, and bibles."

Services are Sunday at 10 a.m. and Sundays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. **Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ**

Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ is located at 1342 Mary Ellen St. Corner of Mary Ellen and Harvester. Right across from the high school. Bible Classes start at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

For more information call 806-665-0031.

First United Methodist Church

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

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

For more information call 806-669-7411.

McLean Cowboy Church

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

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

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

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

For more information, call 806-779-0260.

Southside Church of Christ

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

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

\$4.8M Galveston beach restoration project to begin

GALVESTON (AP) — A \$4.8 million beach restoration project will begin in Galveston that's expected to take a year to complete.

Workers on Monday are scheduled to begin adding new sand along a 10-mile stretch extending past the Galveston seawall.

The Houston Chronicle reports the project will create new beaches by spring 2015 in an area that for decades hasn't had one. Another portion

of beach will be restored using some 120,000 cubic yards of sand after being washed away six years ago by Hurricane Ike.

The project is being paid for by the city, the Texas General Land Office, the Galveston Park Board of Trustees and some condominium owners.

The project also aims to construct a large dune system, which is necessary due to the rapidly eroding nature of the area.

AgriLife Extension sets Farm and Ranch Management Symposium for Dec. 3

SUBMITTED BY TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host the annual Farm and Ranch Management Symposium during the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show on Dec. 3 in the Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza, 401 S. Buchanan St. in Amarillo.

"A Focus on the Technologies and Advancements of Commodities in the Panhandle" will begin with registration at 1:15 p.m., followed by the program at 1:30 p.m.

Four Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units — two general, one integrated pest management and one drift minimization — and four certified crop advisor credits will be offered.

Registration is \$10 at the door and checks should be made payable to Potter Ag Committee, according to Nathan Carr, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Potter County.

Topics and speakers will be:

— The newest information on cotton plant growth regulators, harvest aids, bole openers, other defoliants and desiccants, Dr. Mark Kelley, AgriLife Extension cotton specialist, Lubbock.

— Management strategies for control of herbicide resistant weeds in cotton, Blaine Reed, AgriLife Extension integrated pest

management agent for Swisher County, Tulia.

— What is ALS-resistant grain sorghum and how could it affect production in the future?, Rick Kochenower, Oklahoma State University Extension agronomist, Goodwell, Okla.

— New technologies in corn production and plant development, Paul Wayland with Wilbur Ellis Co., Dimmitt.

— Latest updates on

Goss's wilt in corn and sorghum ergot, Dr. Ron French, AgriLife Extension plant pathologist, Amarillo.

— Panel discussion of Panhandle producers: What makes your operation successful and sustainable? A focus on production practices, technology and advancements. Session moderator: Rick Auckerman, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for

Deaf Smith County, Hereford.

For more information, contact Carr at 806-373-0713 or ncarr@ag.tamu.edu.

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NASA launching new Orion spacecraft on test flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA's quest to send astronauts out into the solar system begins this week with a two-lap-around-Earth test flight.

The new Orion spacecraft is not going to Mars just yet; Thursday's debut will be unmanned and last just 4½ hours. But it will be the farthest a built-for-humans capsule has flown since the Apollo moon missions, shooting 3,600 miles out into space in order to gain enough momentum to re-enter the atmosphere at a scorching 20,000 mph.

The dry run, if all goes well, will end with a Pacific splashdown off Mexico's Baja coast. Navy ships will recover the capsule, a la Apollo, for future use.

This initial Orion is rigged with 1,200 sensors to gauge its durability for the day when astronauts do climb aboard during the decade ahead. Advertised destinations include an asteroid to be corralled in lunar orbit for human exploration in the 2020s,

followed by Mars in the 2030s.

"We're approaching this as pioneers," said William Hill of NASA's exploration systems development office. "We're going out to stay eventually. ... It's many, many decades away, but that's our intent."

Lockheed Martin Corp. built the capsule and is staging the \$370 million test flight for NASA.

Orion is NASA's first new spacecraft for humans in more than a generation, succeeding the now-retired space shuttles. Unlike the capsules under development by two U.S. companies for space station crew transport, Orion is meant for the long haul, both in time and space; it would be supplemented with habitats for potential Mars trips.

"We need a spacecraft that's going to be sturdy enough and robust enough" to carry astronauts well beyond low-Earth orbit for weeks and months at a time, said Lockheed Martin's Bryan Austin, a for-

mer NASA shuttle flight director who will oversee Orion's maiden voyage.

"That's how Orion really separates itself from the commercial field. They're there to get you to station and back. Of course, we're there to be hardened enough to sustain it for that long duration."

For this orbital tryout, a Delta IV rocket will hoist Orion from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Liftoff is scheduled for 7:05 a.m. EST, just after sunrise. The rocket, with Orion and its launch escape tower at the tiptop, stretches 242 feet high.

Future Orion launches will use the mega rocket still under development by NASA, known as SLS or Space Launch System. The first Orion-SLS launch is targeted for 2018, unmanned, followed by the first piloted mission in 2021.

No one at NASA is pleased with such a poky pace. At best, it will be seven years before astronauts fly Orion — any-

where. By comparison, it took eight years from the time President John Kennedy announced his intentions of landing a man on the moon — before John Glenn had even rocketed into orbit — to Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's lunar boot prints in 1969.

Given the present budget situation, "it is what it is," said Kennedy Space Center's director Robert Cabana, a former astronaut. And the presidential election ahead could bring further delays and uncertainties.

In any case, don't confuse Orion with NASA's old-time Apollo capsules.

For one, the 11-foot-tall Orion is designed to hold four astronauts, one more than Apollo. For relatively short outings of three weeks or so, Orion could accommodate six.

"People often ask us, 'Hey, this thing looks like a capsule, it looks like Apollo,' and people will confuse that with 'it's not new,'" said Scott Wilson, NASA's Orion produc-

tion operations manager. While physics drives the capsule's outer bell shape, "everything else in the capsule is state-of-the-art," he said.

"Everything, from the thrusters, from the environmental control systems, to the structure itself" is benefiting from all the advances in technology, Wilson said. With no one on board, this first Orion will have hunks of aluminum in place of seats for ballast, simulators instead of cockpit displays and, obviously, no life-support.

The heat shield on Orion's base, designed to protect the craft from the searing temperatures of atmospheric re-entry, is 16.5 feet across and is the biggest, most advanced of its kind ever made, according to NASA. On this flight, Orion will reach close to 4,000 degrees, not quite the 5,000 degrees that would be generated from a moon mission, but close enough for a shakedown.

That's why Orion will aim for a 3,600-mile-high

peak altitude, more than 14 times higher than the International Space Station — to pick up enough speed to come back fast and hot.

NASA is pulling out all the stops for Orion's inaugural run. The space agency has teamed up with the nonprofit, educational Sesame Street Workshop to promote not just this mission, but the effort to send astronauts to Mars. Comics, video and graphics are building up the countdown.

"The astronauts of the 2030s and beyond are today's preschoolers," NASA explains on its website.

There's even a new countdown clock to herald the event.

Last week, Kennedy Space Center took down its familiar launch countdown clock dating back to the Apollo program; officials said it had become too expensive to fix and maintain. A new multimedia display went up in its place, just as long at 26 feet, but taller at 7 feet.

Cyber Monday shoppers give retailers sales bump

NEW YORK (AP) — Retailers rolled out discounts and free shipping deals on Cyber Monday, with millions of Americans expected to log on and shop on their work computers, laptops and tablets after the busy holiday shopping weekend.

But with retailers extending their online deals into

"Cyber Week" and even "Cyber Month," some shoppers aren't quite seeing the jaw-dropping deals they were hoping for online.

Still, the day is expected to be the biggest online shopping day again, as it has been each year since 2010. As of noon,

online sales rose 9.2 percent compared with last year, ac-

cording to IBM Digital Analytics. That is good news for retailers after a Thanksgiving weekend that saw fewer shoppers and lower spending than last year, according to some estimates.

Courtney Lane Greenley, 25, from Alexandria, Virginia, was feeling regret Monday that she didn't buy a knife block and cutlery earlier in the week, when she saw better deals online. She saw a deal on Amazon, which has been running limited-time "lightning offers," for some Rachael Ray cookware on Friday that was under \$100, but on Monday it cost more than \$100.

"I should have pulled the trigger earlier," she said.

Jack Kananian, of Brunswick, Ohio, 31, was more satisfied with his purchase. He waited months to buy a computer because he wanted to wait for Cyber Monday deals. He found one on HP's mobile site and bought it via his smartphone on Monday, a computer with a touch screen for \$550 marked down from \$800.

"I've been taking a look at different prices, but I bought it once I saw the deal, it was the best price I saw by far," he said.

Forrester analyst Sucharita Mulpuru said that because

people are expected to shop on Cyber Monday, retailers can play it safe.

"Cyber Monday offers aren't super compelling, but don't need to be," she said. "It's been the biggest shopping day of the year for the last few years, so they know that people are going to come."

Karen Manley, 44, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, took advantage of cyberdeals well before Cyber Monday. She started shopping online early last week, and snagged deals including puffer vests from Aeropostale that she bought before Thanksgiving that were \$46 marked down

to \$14, plus free shipping. She planned to hit Dillard's and Forever 21 sites after work to look for Ugg shoes and sweaters for her three children age 13, 15 and 18, as well as free shipping offers.

"It's easier and more convenient to shop online," she said.

Research firm comScore said late Sunday that e-commerce spending for the first 28 days of the November and December shopping season totaled \$22.7 billion, up 15 percent from last year. Sales jumped 32 percent to \$1 billion on Thanksgiving Day and 26 percent on Black Friday to \$1.51 billion.

The firm expects people to spend about \$2.5 billion on Cyber Monday alone. The NRF predicts 126.9 million people will shop online this year, down 4 percent from last year.

ComScore Chairman Gian Fulgoni said the strong spending online so far stems from the "overall health in consumer spending, responsiveness to the strong deals being offered online, and perhaps some shoppers opting to stay home on Thanksgiving rather than head out to the stores that opened their doors early."

On Monday, Gap and Banana Republic offered 40 percent off all purchases. Amazon offered up to 45 percent off some Samsung TVs and a deal later in the day for its Amazon Fire TV video streaming box marked down to \$69 from \$99.

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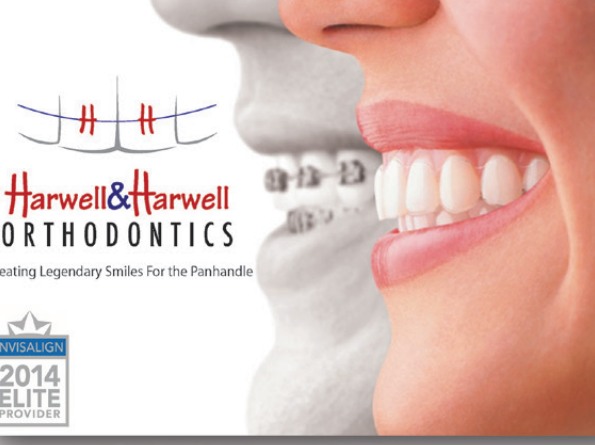
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Paychex details components of President Obama's immigration plan likely to impact employers

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Following President Obama's announcement to address the nation's immigration system using his executive authority, Paychex, Inc., a leading provider of payroll, human resource, insurance, and benefits outsourcing solutions for small- to medium-sized businesses, is outlining aspects of the president's plan that could impact employers. "Changes to the country's immigration system mean changes that employers will have to prepare for," said Martin Mucci, Paychex president and CEO. "At Paychex, we take a leadership role in helping business owners navigate complex government regulations. We'll be watching this issue closely in the coming months to help businesses ensure they are up to speed on the president's plan."

Here are highlights of the president's plan relevant to employers:

1. Pathway to temporarily stay in the U.S. President Obama's plan offers a pathway to allow more than 4 million undocumented immigrants the ability to temporarily stay in the U.S. Under this provision an undocumented immigrant who is the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident and who has been in the country for at least five years may apply for deferred action and employment authorization for a period of three years.

2. Timeline for implementation and mandatory

requirements. According to the White House, the application process will begin in the spring of 2015. Those who qualify will be required to pay taxes and file returns on wages earned but will be issued a Social Security card. These individuals must also pay a penalty, pass a background check, and learn English in order to be approved for the temporary status.

3. Expanding work authorization for high-skilled workers. The president's plan will address streamlining legal immigration to boost the economy by expanding work authorization for high-skilled workers. In addition, modest increases are expected for businesses seeking additional visas for skilled foreign workers.

It is still unknown if Congress will take action to pass what the president calls "responsible immigration reform legislation." In the event that does happen, the president has stated that any programs puts in place now as a result of his executive action will no longer be needed.

As the nation's leading provider of payroll and HR services for America's small businesses, Paychex monitors the political and regulatory environment surrounding issues impacting its 580,000 clients nationwide.

About Paychex
Paychex, Inc. (NASDAQ:PAYX) is a leading provider of pay-

roll, human resource, and benefits outsourcing solutions for small- to medium-sized businesses. The company offers comprehensive payroll services, including payroll processing, payroll tax administration, and employee pay services, including direct deposit, check signing, and Readychex®. Human resource services include 401(k) plan recordkeeping, section 125 plans, a professional employer organization, time and attendance solutions, and other administrative services for business. A variety of business insurance products, including group health and workers' compensation, are made available through Paychex Insurance Agency, Inc. Paychex was founded in 1971. With headquarters in Rochester, New York, the company has more than 100 offices serving approximately 580,000 payroll clients as of May 31, 2014. For more information about Paychex and our products, visit www.paychex.com.

Texas OKs extra \$86M for border security 'surge'

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas has approved spending another \$86 million on border security as it begins replacing previously deployed National Guard units with state troopers as part of its ongoing "surge."

The Legislative Budget Board's 10 state Senate and House lawmakers unanimously approved the

extra funding Monday. They did so despite Democratic concerns about a "militarized" border. Some Republicans also worried that the National Guard may yet be needed because of unintended consequences of President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration.

Gov. Rick Perry ordered

up to 1,000 guardsmen to the Rio Grande Valley in July, but they'll head home by April.

The additional funding means state troopers and more surveillance cameras can take their place.

Illegal crossings into Texas have slowed dramatically since a surge of immigrants this summer prompted Perry's order.

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Hispanics targeted in 2nd year of health overhaul

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — Between the avocado and grapefruit displays, Adolfo Briceno approaches customers in the bustling Hispanic supermarket to ask whether they have health insurance. Turn left at the bucket of flower bouquets, he tells dozens of shoppers on a recent Saturday, to spot the table covered with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina logo and its Spanish-speaking agent. A local Mexican music

radio station is doing a live remote broadcast from outside the grocery and periodically mentioning Blue Cross, backing up a line of people curious about coverage in front of the harried agent.

Such atypical approaches to selling health insurance policies are playing out across the country since the second round of open enrollment under the federal Affordable Care Act opened in mid-November. Insurance companies and

some states are focusing heavily on signing up eligible Hispanics, a group that accounts for a large share of the nation's uninsured but largely avoided applying for coverage during the first full year the health care reform law was in effect.

Hispanics accounted for just 11 percent of those who enrolled in the private policies sold during the initial sign-up period, which ended in March.

Substantially boosting the overall number of enrollees beyond the 6.7 million who signed up the first year will depend on reaching people who have been uninsured for years or never been insured, and that will mean heavily targeting Hispanic communities.

After talking to the Blue Cross agent while shopping at the Winston-Salem supermarket, Gabriela Camacho, 21, learned that policies for her 41-year-old mother and 46-year-old father will likely cost less than \$100 a month each after government subsidies.

"We have a lot of bills from the hospital for my dad," said Camacho, a military spouse whose health care is covered through her husband, a Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune.

Before chancing on the

agent, she had seen billboards for Blue Cross, the state's dominant insurer, during her drive from the Camp Lejeune area.

The signs reminded her of the current enrollment period, which ends Feb. 15.

Jose and Virgen Cardosa were happily surprised to meet the Blue Cross agent at the store because they have lacked coverage since emigrating from Cuba last year. They have worried about how they would cope if one of them suffers an emergency health condition "and if you go (to a hospital) and they won't take care of you," Virgen Cardosa said through an interpreter.

The married couple heard about the signup period on Spanish-language TV, she said.

President Barack Obama's recent executive order dealing with immigrants not in the country legally, which in large part will help parents of children born in the U.S., will not make immigrants eligible to buy health insurance in federal exchanges set up under the health care law or to apply for tax credits that would lower the cost of insurance.

Still, reaching Hispanics who are eligible and per-

suading them to sign up are top priorities for the law's supporters.

In North Carolina, Hispanics represented just 2 percent of the total enrolled during the first year. Hispanics are almost half New Mexico's population but made up less than a third of the enrollees.

In Nevada and New Jersey, Latino enrollment was 10 percentage points or more lower than their presence in the population.

Hispanics fared a bit better in Arizona, where they comprise 30 percent of the state's population and made up 24 percent of enrollees.

The numbers do not offer a complete picture because applicants are not required to report their race or ethnicity.

Of the more than 10 million Hispanics eligible for coverage under the Affordable Care Act. During the first enrollment period, 80 percent were projected to be eligible for government subsidies that help lower monthly premiums, Medicaid in the states that opted to expand the program or coverage for their children, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

A variety of factors have contributed to the

relatively paltry sign-up numbers for Hispanics so far. Reports by the Urban Institute and the health research group of accounting and consulting firm PwC describe the fear of deportation for family members who are in the country illegally, language barriers, worries about privacy, concerns about affordability and a general unfamiliarity with insurance markets.

"Hispanics have tremendous consumer purchasing power, but our research shows that they have also been more likely than other consumers to delay health care, and don't have great trust in the U.S. health system," said Frank Lemmon, a PwC consultant who advises U.S. health care companies.

Both government and insurance officials have been working to build that trust.

U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell last month held a Google Hangout with Hispanic bloggers and conducted television interviews on Univision and Telemundo.

In Arizona, a coalition of community groups is holding phone banks and town halls with the two largest Spanish-speaking media networks. Enrollment drives organized by advocacy groups have taken off in Florida, New Jersey, Arizona, Texas, Georgia and Illinois. California's state-run exchange has boosted marketing efforts through Spanish-language media.

Blue Cross plans in Texas and North Carolina, the largest health insurer in both states, are dispatching logo-bearing recreational vehicles to attract Hispanics at community events.

The Texas company has an online tool that directs people to Spanish-language health resources and insurance brokers.

The North Carolina insurer has built a network of about 80 brokers statewide with Spanish-speaking staffers.

"Culturally, this population works better with relationships, especially when you're talking about complex and personal issues such as health insurance," said Jasmine Smith, senior diversity marketing manager for the North Carolina insurer.

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Trove of medals at Texas base honors service

SIG CHRISTENSON
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Retired Air Force Reserve Maj. Edmund Zander flew hundreds of missions in World War II as a navigator in the Pacific, often ferrying GIs into combat zones and wounded troops to safety.

Living in a Plano retirement community decades later after relocating from the Schertz area, he sought to replace a few missing medals and got a big surprise.

A small staff working out of a basement office on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph was about to mail the medals when he stopped by while in town.

Among the many medals that program official Kipp Nave handed to him that day was one Zander didn't know he had earned: a rarely granted Presidential Unit Citation.

A tour inside the Medals Room, as it is called, reveals a treasure trove of awards — thousands stacked from floor to ceiling. It holds everything from the Medal of Honor, Silver Star and Purple Heart to citations for service in conflicts since World War I.

It's like the Air Force's little Fort Knox, holding \$2.1 million worth of med-

als. Until last week, no journalist had set foot in the room. The Air Force has never said anything about the program at Randolph, which started in the 1960s. Now it wants veterans to know about the repository, especially World War II veterans, who are dying at a rate of more than 500 a day.

Some veterans ask for replacement medals as a way to close the loop on their lives and leave the awards to loved ones. Vietnam veterans who turned their back on the war after coming home frequently come to the Air Force after re-evaluating the conflict and their role in it. In other cases, children of deceased veterans ask for replacement medals in hopes of learning more about their father's or mother's service.

Often, they get citations they didn't realize existed.

"Years and years later, decades later, they came back with medals I didn't even know I had," said Mike Dickerson, a Navy veteran of Vietnam and the spokesman for the Air Force Personnel Center, whose basement holds the Medals Room.

There's a story behind every request.

The Air Force civilian overseeing the program, Will Brown, helped a fam-

ily upgrade a Bronze Star citation for an airman killed in Vietnam. He met with the family at the personnel center and shared their evidence with officials in the Pentagon.

"The family felt that he, based on the research they had found, should have something more deserving," Brown, chief of the personnel center's recognition and evaluation program, told the San Antonio Express-News (<http://bit.ly/1vbHghH>).

The airman was posthumously given a Silver Star.

Just how many medals have been given over the years is impossible to know. A typical veteran or family member gets six to nine medals.

Boxes of medals rise 6 feet high and line the shelves of the Medals Room. The eight-member staff, mostly made up of Goodwill Industries' contractors, researches the medal requests, a process that can take 90 days.

Federal law grants veterans and their families a free, onetime replacement set of awarded military medals and ribbons. Like Zander, many people go to their congressional representatives to obtain medals, but they can file paperwork directly with the personnel

center. Dozens of medals are in stock there, some of them well-known, such as the Medal of Honor, and its equivalent, the Air Force Cross, but there are some here no one has likely heard of, except for those who've received them.

One is the Antarctica Service Medal, which has an emblem of an airman in heavy winter clothing on one side and the words "Courage, Service, Devotion" on the back.

The Women's Army Corps Service Medal hangs from an olive-drab ribbon with yellow trim. A likeness of Gen. John J. Pershing anchors the World War I Occupation of Germany Medal.

The last of soldiers and airmen from that conflict are gone, but the medal remains in stock in case a veteran's family wants a replacement.

Researching cases isn't always easy, in part because documentation is more difficult when veterans' memories have faded. Brown and his staff, led by Nave, a Goodwill contractor, search records in the National Archives and historians' offices in hopes of finding facts.

"Obviously, we can only work with what we have,"

said Brown, 48, who lives in Schertz and is an Air Force veteran of the Gulf War.

That was more than enough for Zander, 89.

At 18, he joined the Army Air Corps and was trained to be a navigator after scoring well on a set of tests. He was commissioned a second lieutenant six days before turning 19 and was sent to the Pacific.

There, he was part of eight campaigns in places with familiar names — the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Luzon and Okinawa. And long after, the

Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with silver and bronze stars symbolizes his journey.

A shadow box holds that medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Asked what those medals mean to him, Zander talked of a close high school friend who was drafted into the infantry and killed at Normandy on D-Day. He talks of his faith in God, of being thankful for his fate.

Betty Zander, 86, finishes the thought.

"I think it means more than anybody could ever imagine," she said.

Supreme Court asked to halt Texas execution

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys who contend a Texas death row inmate set for execution this week is too mentally ill for execution have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to halt the punishment.

Scott Panetti is set for lethal injection Wednesday for the 1992 shooting deaths of his in-laws at their

home in Fredericksburg in the Texas Hill Country.

Panetti's lawyers Monday told the high court the 56-year-old inmate's execution would violate constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

Justices have prohibited the execution of people who are mentally impaired

but have allowed capital punishment for those with mental illnesses as long as they have a factual and rational understanding of why they're being put to death.

Another appeal for Panetti before a federal appeals court seeks an execution delay for additional competency evaluations.

Police: 4 dead following 3 shootings in W.Va.

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — State police say four people are dead in three shootings in north-central West Virginia.

State police spokesman Lt. Michael Baylous says two of the shootings hap-

pened in the Westover area and the other occurred in the Cheat Lake area in Monongalia County. All three shootings occurred Monday.

Baylous identified the two victims from the Cheat

Lake shooting as 39-year-old Sharon Kay Berkshire of Westover.

911 director Mike Wolfe says police are searching for Jody Hunt in the case.

More details weren't immediately available.

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PampaSports

SIX-MAN FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ACTION FRIDAY BETWEEN FOLLETT AND GROOM



Photos courtesy of Butch Noble

The Follett Panthers and Groom Tigers play in division two of six-man Class 1A football. They met in Pampa on Friday night for a showdown to decide who would punch their ticket to state. In a rather low scoring game for six-man football, Groom came out on top 38-32. Groom will play the Loraine Bulldogs in the semi-final game at 6:30 p.m., Friday in Littlefield. Loraine is a small town just west of Sweetwater. The winner will then meet the winner of Throckmorton and Calvert in the state championship game on Saturday, Dec. 13. Congratulations to the Follett Panthers on a great season and best of luck to the Groom Tigers as they continue their quest for a state championship.



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EXTRA INNINGS

■ You can't always get what you want.

Everyone is familiar with the old saying, you can't always get what you want.



ZACHARY GREEN

Today I am once again taking a minor detour from the sports path.

That is because I want to talk about the man, and his family,

that taught me not to care so much about sports. The man is Craig Guyer, he was my father-in-law and he passed away peacefully with his family on Wednesday in a Dallas hospital.

I was only able to spend two years with him, but my life has been blessed to have that time with him.

Sure, my parents taught me good values and morals, but the college lifestyle and single lifestyle can kind of throw you for a curve.

Well, in came the Guyers who took me in as one of their own and basically straightened me out again!

I have learned to not get so frustrated when my favorite teams lose because its just a game and life goes on.

I have learned to never ever make plans to watch or attend a sporting event over family.

If you might have noticed, that is why I had to leave after the JV game on Monday night last week. We got a call that things were not good.

So I hopped in our church van and drove all night so that his sons and daughter could be there by his side. We got to Dallas about 4 a.m. and a few hours of shuteye before heading up to the hospital to see him.

Craig lived his life in such a way that he knew where he was going. The last two months, since he found out he had cancer, he was preparing.

When he couldn't sleep he would read his Bible because that is what gave him the comfort and peace that no medicine or doctors could provide.

He faced many health battles throughout his entire life since the age of 17. One doctor referred to him as a walking miracle.

Craig's ultimate dream was that he wanted to see all of his kids be raised and graduate.

He got all that and more as he was able to walk his only daughter down the aisle on Sept. 14, 2013.

Now as the family continues to mourn they focus on the great memories they have.

There were a number of **GUYER** cont. on page 3B

Watch the Pros

College Basketball

Pittsburgh at Indiana.....	ESPN2 6 p.m.
Stephen F. Austin at Memphis.....	ESPN2 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Wake Forest.....	ESPNU 6 p.m.
Niagara at St. John's.....	FS1 6 p.m.
Mount St. Mary's at Seton Hall.....	FS2 6 p.m.
Syracuse at Michigan.....	ESPN 6:30 p.m.
Rockhurst at St. Louis.....	FCS 7 p.m.
Nebraska Omaha at Kansas State.....	FCSC 7 p.m.
Illinois at Miami Fla.....	ESPN2 8 p.m.
North Carolina State at Purdue.....	ESPNU 8 p.m.
Northern Illinois at DePaul.....	FS1 8 p.m.
Ohio State at Louisville.....	ESPN 8:30 p.m.

NHL Hockey

Dallas Stars at Toronto Maple Leafs.....	FSSW 6:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay Lightning at Buffalo Sabres.....	NBCS 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Flyers at San Jose Sharks.....	NBCS 9 p.m.

Soccer

Stoke at Manchester City.....	OLN 1:40 p.m.
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Game times and channels are subject to change.

The PAMPA NEWS Sports Briefs

Girls Basketball

Varsity at Nazareth Tournament.....	Dec. 4-6
JV and Freshmen at Miami Tournament.....	Dec. 4-6
Varsity hosts Randall.....	6 p.m. - Dec. 9 - McNeely
JV hosts Randall.....	7:30 p.m. - Dec. 9 - Cavalier
Freshman hosts Randall.....	4:30 p.m. - Dec. 9 - McNeely
Junior High v. Bushland.....	5/6:15 p.m. - Dec. 8 - PJHS

Boys Basketball

Varsity v. Embury Rains.....	1:30 p.m. - Dec. 5 - AAC in Dallas
Varsity hosts Randall.....	7:30 p.m. - Dec. 9 - McNeely
JV hosts Randall.....	6 p.m. - Dec. 9 - Cavalier
Freshman hosts Randall.....	4:30 p.m. - Dec. 9 - Cavalier
Junior High v. Bushland.....	5/6:15 p.m. - Dec. 8 - PJHS

Swimming

3A State Invitational.....	Dec. 5-6 - Keller
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Wrestling

Randall Dual Tournament.....	8:45 a.m. - Dec. 5-6 - Randall
Junior High Rider Duals.....	3:30 p.m. - Dec 4 - Boys Ranch
Tucumcari Dual.....	5 p.m. - Dec. 8 - McNeely

*Game times and locations are subject to change. Please refer to the Pampa ISD Athletics Department website for an updated schedule. You can reach it by going to www.pampaisd.net and then clicking Athletics Department under the departments tab. *

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PampaSports

Is the other shoe dropping in Dallas?

ASSOCIATED PRESS

These are the Dallas Cowboys I've been expecting all along.

You know, the team that plays zero defense, fails to convert third downs and yells at each other on the sidelines.

It's so bad that even Jason Witten seems to have come unglued.

But why now? Why did Dallas choose this moment — with eight wins in hand and a very good shot at a playoff spot — to let it all come crashing down?

Short answer: Because this is what the modern day Cowboys do. Carpenters saw, cobblers fix shoes and the Cowboys find new and exciting ways to fall apart on the football field.

It's become a rite of fall. While retailers across the nation unload products on Black Friday, Dallas holds its very own special fire sale. All momentum must go! No reasonable pass will be defended! Every opportunity to commit a killer penalty will be taken advantage of! We want to cause you AGONY!

Some people right now are reading this and thinking, "But wait, aren't the Cowboys still 8-4? Isn't this going a bit overboard?"

Well, my friend, I've been down this road too many times to keep my cool and remain positive. This isn't the San Antonio Spurs we're talking about, although it sure seems lately like some Dallas players are acting as if Gregg Popovich gave them the day off.

The Cowboys were lucky enough to escape New York with a win after phoning in the first half against the Giants. But the Giants being who they are, they allowed Dallas to turn it on in the second half and steal one away with a late Tony Romo drive and a key defensive stop.

But on Thanksgiving we all saw what happens when you try to apply that same formula against a good team — you get run out of the building and embarrassed on national television.

It's not just that the Cowboys lost to the Eagles — there's never any shame in losing to a genuinely good NFL team. It's the way that Dallas played — seemingly without urgency, focus or energy.

It looked to all the world like the Cowboys learned minutes before kickoff that the Eagles had not in fact forfeited the contest to mighty Dallas.

And that's perhaps the most alarming thing for Cowboys fans — not that their team lost, but because they apparently chose a matchup of 8-3 teams for the division lead to roll out their most uninspired performance of the season.

To me, it had all the hallmarks of a special type of NFL game. One that counts as more than one loss and offers up a glimpse of the rest of the season.

Put simply, I think that the Cowboys got flat-out exposed.

Teams tend to revert back to their true selves throughout a season. You saw the Seahawks defense look like world champions on Thanksgiving in San Francisco, while the Dallas defense looked like one of the world's worst.

When you can't stop the run or the pass, the word "playoffs" has a way of disappearing quicker than Turkey Day leftovers.

And to borrow a line from Woody Paige, Cowboys fans need to go ahead and look at the remaining schedule.

Dallas ends the season on the road in three of its final four games, with the only home game being against Andrew Luck and the Colts. Not exactly a gimme.

The home stretch starts with a contest this Thursday in Chicago against a Bears team that has been disappointing but isn't short on weapons offensively. And if Eli Manning can light up the Cowboys' secondary, then Jay Cutler is capable of doing the same.

Dallas then heads to Philly for a shot at redemption — pardon me while I chuckle — before coming home to host Indy. The Cowboys close the season on the road in Washington for what Dallas fans have come to know as, "The Kiss of Death Game."

Now I know that it's entirely possible that the Cowboys can still get into the postseason, but just getting there isn't what you play for. And after seeing what the Eagles did to them on Thursday — and what Green Bay did to Philly earlier this season — I

just don't think this team has a realistic shot to make it to the Super Bowl.

Dallas' level of play of late has left much to be desired, and the seams appear ready to burst completely.

And maybe it was to be expected. It's almost impossible to lose three defensive starters to injury and still find ways to stop the NFL's best offenses.

And it's also incredibly tough to keep running the football against some of the more stout defensive lines when they know what's coming.

It appears that the Cowboys are once again poised to limp to the finish line.

Go ahead and prove me wrong, Dallas.

(Seriously, please do. I'm still a fan — just a very pessimistic one at this point.)

Tucker Stephenson is the sports editor of the Seguin Gazette.

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Guyer

Continued From Page 2B

vacations and stories they have in their memories to reflect on.

That is what he would want also. To die in Christ, knowing where he was headed, was the greatest thing Craig could have done to comfort the family.

His favorite Bible verse was Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God."

His favorite hymn was "Seek Ye First."

Craig Guyer did both of those things. Perhaps even greater during the last two months of his life.

I am going to miss you Craig, along with many other people, but you left a lasting impact on the lives of so many people.

One more story before I wrap it up.

Craig, even in his last days, was making an impact on people's lives.

He was telling the nurses thank you for every little thing and had a smile on his face the entire time, even though his lungs were quickly filling up and he couldn't breathe.

Another doctor also said he was always happy when he knew he was going to see Craig, because he knew no matter the situation, there would be a smile there waiting for him.

Hug your loved ones real tight, always tell them you love them and quickly forgive each other of any wrong doings.

You don't ever want to regret something you said to a loved one when it's

too late to ask for forgiveness.

Craig Guyer, we will never forget you.

To finish the rest of the Rolling Stones song, "but if you try sometimes you just might find you get what you need."

Not only did Craig get all that he wanted and more, he got everything he needed as well.

I love you, we love you Craig and we hope that we can live our lives just up to half the potential of the man you were so we can give you that "special handshake" again one day on the other side.

Zachary Green is the sports editor at The Pampa News and youth minister at the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ. He can be reached at zgreen@thepampanews.com or on Twitter: @okiecowpoke14.

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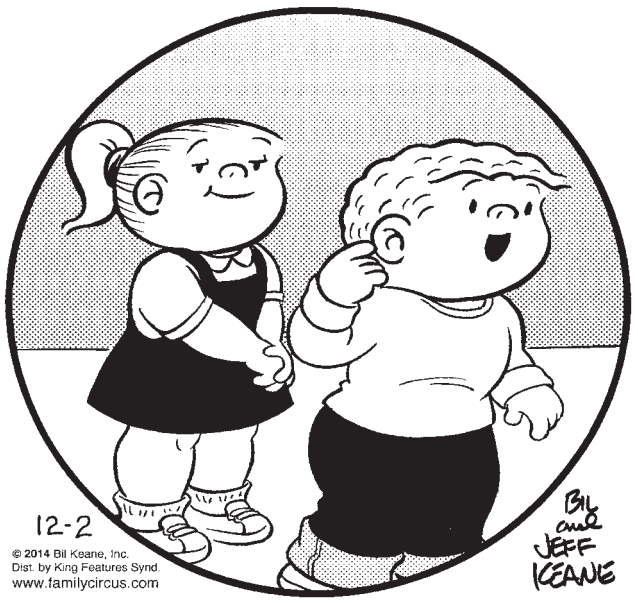
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-2

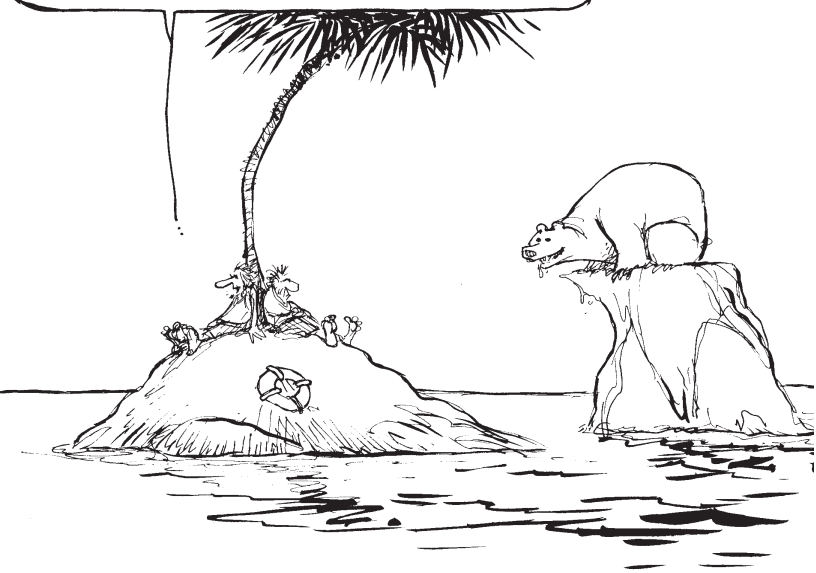
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Bil and Jeff Keane

"Dolly tickled my ear with a little secret."

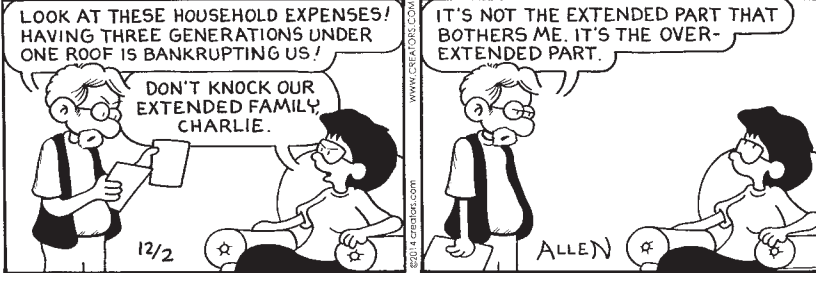
Non Sequitur

OK...THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'VE COME AROUND TO AGREE WITH ME ABOUT THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE. SO WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014:
 This year you often waver between opposite points of view. You might wonder whether you need to be more logical or more emotional with your responses. You probably will try various combinations of both until you find your voice. If you are single, you are unusually alluring. Late summer through your next birthday is a prime time to meet someone significant. If you are attached, this magnetic quality will bring your sweetie even closer to you. You frequently might disagree, so you can expect a lot of kissing and making up. **TAURUS** is stubborn like you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★ You continue to be unusually creative. Your dream life could be more active than you realize. Listen to your thoughts as you wake up. Discussions could revolve around finances. If you don't like what you are hearing, hold off on making a decision. Tonight: Out late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ You finally will feel in control and in touch with your needs. An associate might be difficult, no matter what you say or do. Reach out to someone at a distance, with whom you see eye to eye. Discussions are likely to be animated. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ Make it OK to have a quiet day at home. You could need some downtime, and now might be the best time for the next few weeks. Squeeze in a nap if you can. Others will miss your presence, but you will benefit from slowing the pace. Tonight: Work on being a couch potato.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Today you will take the correct path to where you want to be. Your sense of humor allows others to be more forthright. A meeting could provide a lot of insight about your finances, work and overall image. Say "no" to impulsive behavior. Tonight: You decide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might not have a choice regarding a key matter. Air out your feelings, but do not expect anyone to be in agreement. Perhaps someone else will suggest a different path. Listen to your feelings, but also be willing

to negotiate. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★ You will want to seek out more information to help you better understand what's going on in a certain situation. You even might want to reach out to an expert on the topic at hand. Be willing to head in a different direction if you need to. Tonight: Weigh pros and cons.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Listen to a key person carefully, and you'll get a different perspective on things. Remain confident that what you both agree on will turn out to be an excellent plan. Deal with a personal matter that might involve your home. Tonight: Visit with a dear friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Honor changes in your mood, and take note of others' behavior. You might be taken aback by an unexpected turn of events that could make you uncomfortable at first. Allow a partner or associate to take the lead. Your creativity seems endless. Tonight: Follow the leader!

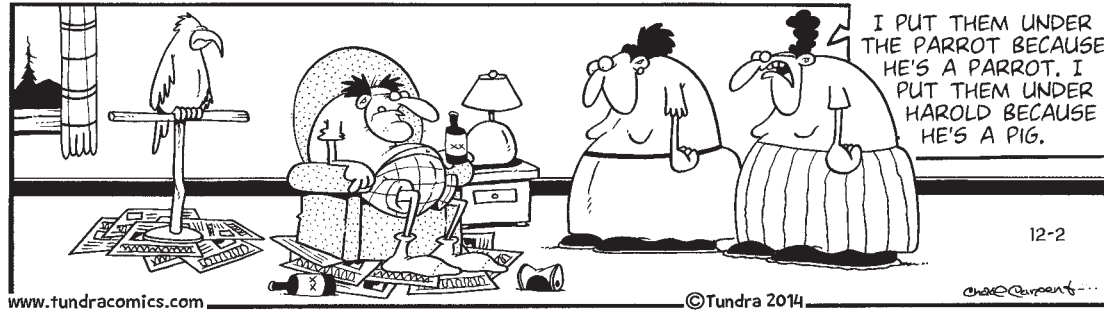
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★ Stay levelheaded when dealing with someone in your day-to-day life. Use your intuition to help ground this person. A change in how you handle your finances might be appropriate. Others will be inspired by your ideas and might start to think like you. Tonight: Choose a stressbuster.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You could be changing your perspective about a key relationship. What your inner voice says might not be valid, but it will be reflective of your personal agenda. Work on detachment and attaining a different, yet perhaps novel, perspective. Tonight: Be frisky.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ Stay calm when dealing with someone who can greatly affect your personal life. Where your friends are is where you'll want to be. Reach out to those who support you and demonstrate loyalty and caring. Join them for an adventure if you can. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Keep asking questions to get past an immediate obstacle. You could be surprised by how easy it will be to resolve this issue. Your circle of friend is transforming along with your goals. Don't be surprised if some of your new friends start to drift away. Tonight: Be available.

Tundra

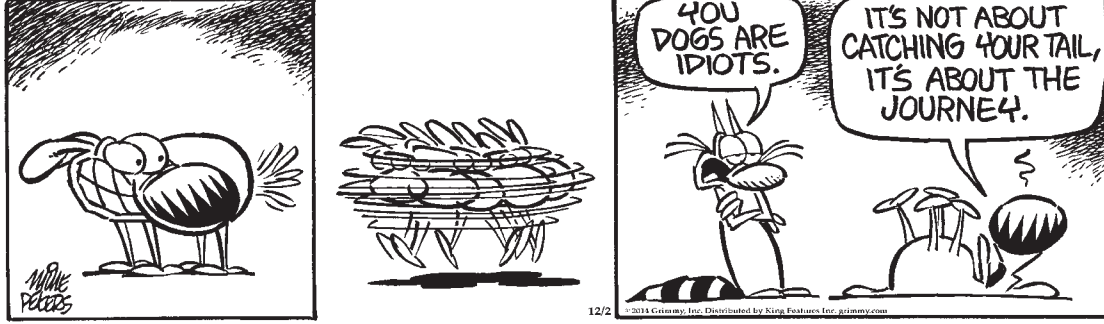


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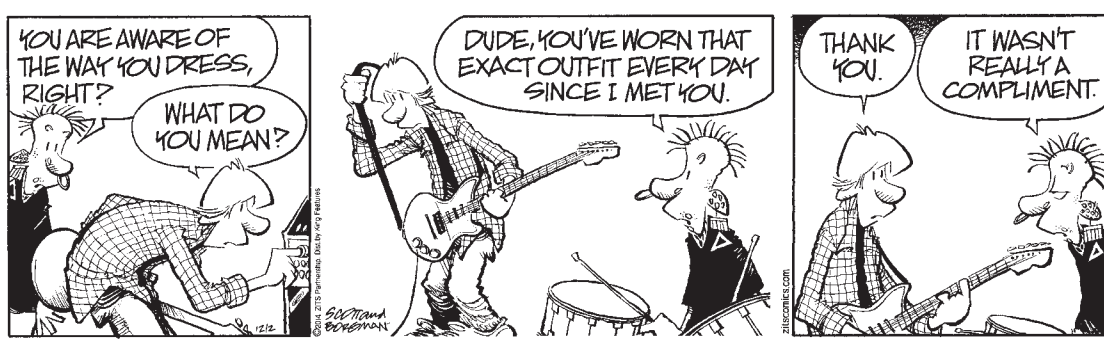
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Mother Goose and Grim



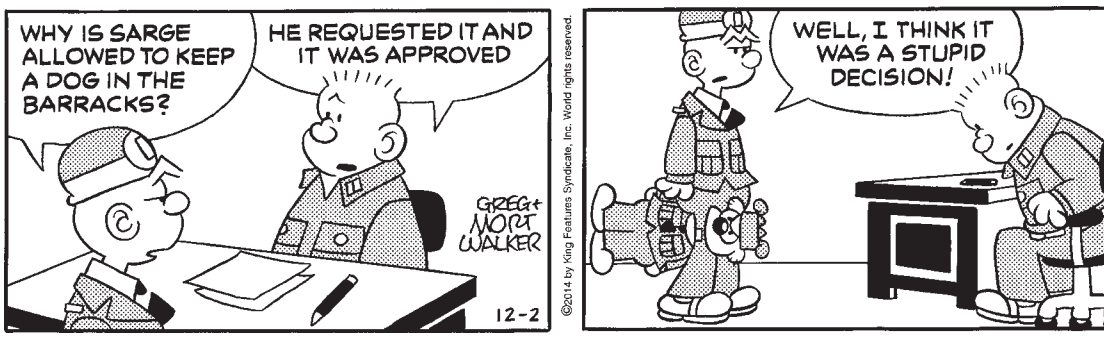
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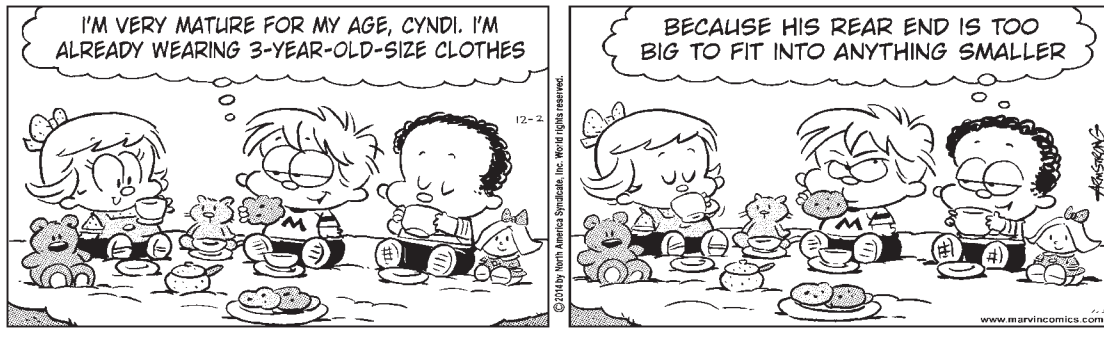
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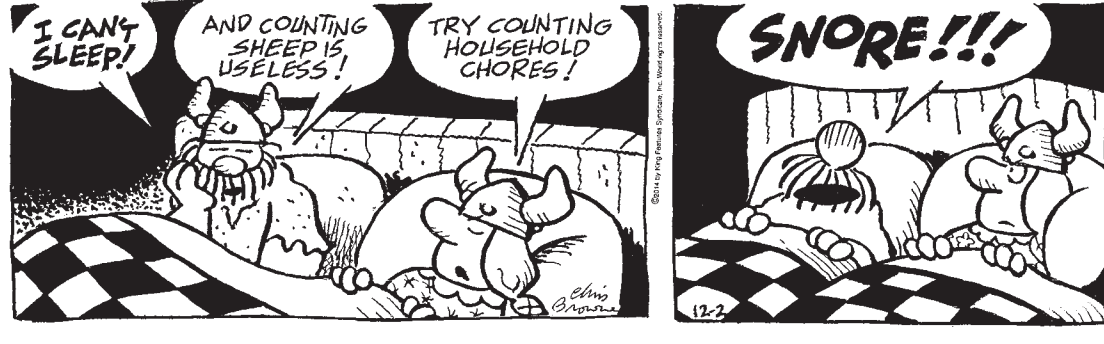
Beetle Bailey



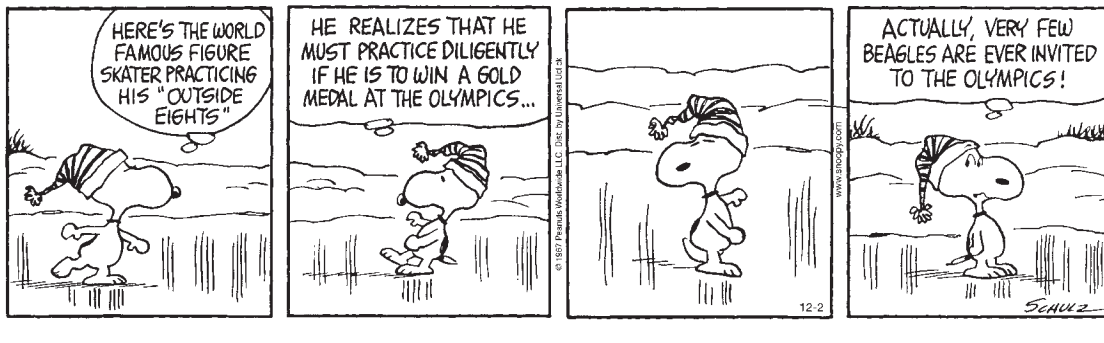
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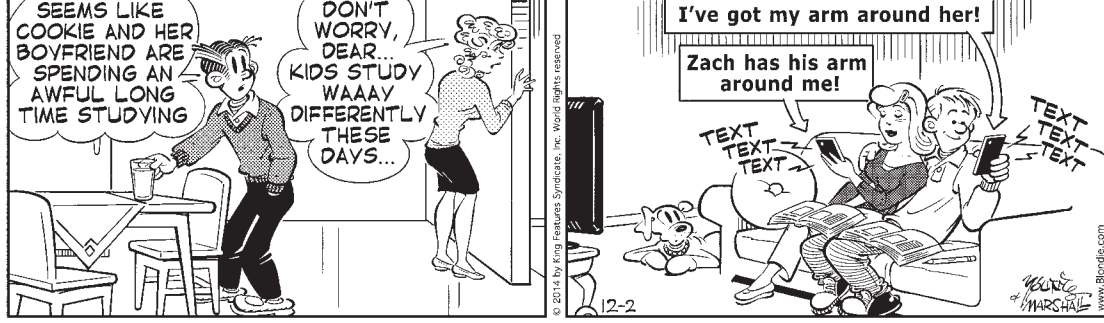
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Around The Globe

Extremists attack two Nigerian state capitals

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP) — Suspected Islamic extremists struck in two state capitals in northeastern Nigeria on Monday, with a deadly double bombing at a crowded market and an attack on a police base. The attacks were the latest in a week of violence linked to Islamic militants that has killed more than 170 people in northern Nigeria. Rescue workers were evacuating the dead and wounded from the Maiduguri market, the same one where two female suicide bombers killed at least 70 people a week ago, said trader Bala Dauda. "I can't say how many were killed or injured but I have seen very many victims dripping with blood, others with parts of their bodies dismembered by the blasts," Dauda

told The Associated Press by telephone. Monday's blasts also were caused by "two girls," said witness Mallam Muhammad. Police spokesman Gideon Jubrin said it's too early to give a toll in Maiduguri. After the explosions, young men in vigilante groups barricaded some Maiduguri roads to try to ensure safety in the city. These community defense groups and security forces are accused of summary executions and other rights abuses of people they believe are extremists. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the Maiduguri blasts but people blamed Boko Haram, the Islamic extremist group that has

carried out many such attacks in a 5-year insurgency that has killed thousands and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes. In Damaturu, explosions and gunfire erupted before dawn Monday causing some residents to flee into the bush and others to cower in their homes. Damaturu, the provincial capital of Yobe state, is some 135 kilometers (85 miles) west of Maiduguri, which is the capital of Borno state. The militants targeted a rapid-response police base on the outskirts of Damaturu, said resident Garba Musa. "It has been burned down completely," he said. The Defense Ministry headquarters said a fighter jet was repelling the attackers.

A helicopter gunship was hovering over the town. "We are still under fire," Premium Times news website quoted Yobe state police Commissioner Marcus Dandladi as saying. "Kindly sympathize with us. There is nothing I can tell you now." Civil servant Abdullahi Abba said his family was hiding in the bush. "We've been hearing these gunshots and bombs since the early hours and felt unsafe staying at home." He said they hoped to trek to the nearby town of Tarmuwa. "We don't know where to hide, the shooting is all over ... We are running for our lives," said resident Musa Abbas. The attacks on the two state capitals show an acceleration of the extremist violence in

northeastern Nigeria. Boko Haram, the West African nation's homegrown Islamic extremist group, has been striking with increased frequency and deadliness since the military declared the insurgents had agreed to a ceasefire in September. On Friday, bomb blasts and gunfire killed more than 100 people praying at the main mosque in northern Kano, Nigeria's second largest city. Boko Haram is holding a

couple dozen cities and towns along Nigeria's northeast border where it has declared an Islamic caliphate. The extremists frequently attack moderate Muslims they accuse of collaborating with the secular government and are holding hundreds of hostages, including 219 schoolgirls kidnapped from Chibok town. There are fears they may be using some kidnapped girls as suicide bombers.

Egypt militant group says it killed US oil worker

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian militant organization allied with the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the killing of an American oil worker. Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, which now refers to itself as the Sinai Province, said on its official Twitter account late Sunday that it killed William Henderson. It published pictures of his passport and two identification cards. It did not say when or how it killed him. The passport said he was a 58-year-old from Texas and his identification cards said he worked for Texas-based energy company Apache Corp. and Qarun Petroleum Co., a joint venture with Egypt. Apache said in August that one of its supervisors had been killed in an apparent carjacking in Egypt's Western Desert. The company did not identify the man. The Enid News & Eagle in northwestern Oklahoma published an obituary for a man named William Henderson in August, saying he had "passed suddenly" while working in Egypt. It said he had worked for Apache for 28 years and was 58 when he died.

the West Bank and Tel Aviv. Five of the Palestinian assailants were killed by Israeli security forces. Netanyahu has accused Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas of inciting Palestinians to violence, but the head of Israel's internal security service refuted that contention in testimony before a parliamentary committee last month, saying that Abbas did not bear direct responsibility. **Bahrain's pro-government bloc dominates vote** MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Pro-government candidates took the majority of contested seats in Bahrain's parliamentary election on Sunday, although 13 independent Shiite candidates won mandates despite a boycott by the main opposition group, official results showed. The Shiites, a majority in Sunni-ruled Bahrain, lost seats compared to the previous vote four years ago, in large part due to the boycott by the al-Wefaq group. In total, only five candidates from established political organizations won seats — the lowest number since elections in 2006. It was the country's first full parliamentary elections since Shiite-led protests against the Sunni monarchy erupted in February 2011. Bahrain's parliament, or National Assembly, is comprised of 80 seats — 40 royally-appointed in the upper house and 40 elected seats in the lower house. The lower house has limited powers to question ministers. Its members cannot pass laws unless the king signs off. Among the winners were three women, all of them Shiite. Four seats also went to male candidates from Sunni Islamist blocs, including two from the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Menbar group. The Western-allied Arab nation hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet and is part of the U.S.-led coalition striking the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. The United States called the elections "an important opportunity to address the legitimate aspirations of all Bahrainis" even though some mainstream political groups did not participate, according to a statement released by State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki. She added that the U.S. encouraged the Bahraini government and political organizations "to continue to work towards national reconciliation" and "work in good faith to resolve existing tensions."

The U.S. embassy declined to comment on the militant group's claim, and Apache could not immediately be reached for comment. Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, a Sinai-based jihadi group, has carried out scores of attacks mainly targeting Egyptian security forces, particularly since the July 2013 overthrow of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. Last month it pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, which controls vast swaths of Syria and Iraq. In a separate statement late Sunday, the Egyptian group claimed to have carried out more than 10 attacks in the past four weeks. It said it blew up six army and police armored vehicles, killed seven police officers and conscripts, and demolished the house of a man accused of being a spy for the army. The northern part of the Sinai Peninsula has been under a state of emergency since the group attacked an army checkpoint in October, killing 31 soldiers. **Israeli lightly wounded in West Bank attack** JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian woman stabbed and slightly wounded an Israeli civilian before being shot and wounded by Israeli security forces in the West Bank on Monday, the military said. The Israeli military said the attacker was taken for medical treatment, and Israeli media reports said she was seriously wounded. The Israeli was treated at the scene. Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have soared in recent months, mostly because of Palestinian fears that Israel is trying to change the status quo at a sensitive holy site in Jerusalem by allowing Jews to pray there. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly denied the claims, but some ministers in his right-wing government want to permit Jewish prayers at the hilltop compound. Jews refer to the site -- their holiest -- as the Temple Mount because it was the location of the ancient Hebrew temples. Muslims refer to it as the Noble Sanctuary, and it is their third holiest site, after Mecca and Medina. Over the last six weeks 11 Israelis have been killed in five separate Palestinian attacks — mostly in Jerusalem, but also in

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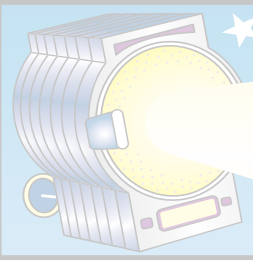
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First boyfriend for singing star Susan Boyle at 53

LONDON (AP) — The magnificent and shy singer Susan Boyle has her first boyfriend at age 53 — a Connecticut doctor she met on her recent U.S. tour who may soon visit her in Scotland. “That’s the plan,” Boyle’s spokeswoman, Nicola Phillips, said Monday. “She met someone when she was in America and the idea is that he can come here.” Boyle and the doctor met at a hotel in Clearwater, Florida, Phillips said, add-

ing that Boyle is “definitely” happy to have met someone. The church volunteer from a small Scottish town became a global sensation when she sang the “Les Miserables” number “I Dreamed a Dream” on TV contest “Britain’s Got Talent” in 2009. At first she seemed uncomfortable on stage, but she silenced skeptics as soon as she started to sing. Boyle said at the time she had never been kissed.

The contrast between her timid, occasionally nervous manner and her matchless soaring voice won Boyle millions of fans throughout the world, and she has followed her TV breakthrough with a string of successful record releases. She has received an honorary doctorate, performed for Pope Benedict XVI and wowed audiences in Las Vegas. But the pressures of performing have sometimes overwhelmed her, and she was treated for nervous exhaustion after

her “Britain’s Got Talent” run focused national attention on her. Boyle told The Sun newspaper that the doctor she met in the U.S. was a “perfect gentleman” and that they enjoyed each other’s company. She said the relationship was in “early days,” but she hopes he will visit her in Scotland. The singer was diagnosed last year with Asperger’s syndrome, a form of autism, and had learning disabilities as a child.

Jacqueline Woodson responds to racist joke

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Author Jacqueline Woodson addressed Daniel Handler’s (aka “Lemony Snicket”) racist joke, Friday, with an unflinching response in The New York Times. Handler previously made offhanded comments about Woodson being allergic to watermelon while hosting the National Book Awards. Woodson was accepting an award in the young adult category for her latest book “Brown Girl Dreaming.” Amid waves of criticism and backlash over the comments, Handler has since apologized and donated \$110,000 to the grassroots organization We Need Diverse Books while Woodson issued an indirect statement through her publisher.

Woodson’s essay in the Times takes Handler’s comments head on, though. Titled “The Pain of the Watermelon Joke,” Woodson explores her own background and the evolution of her understanding of the racially charged significance of the watermelon. By the time she was 11-years-old, she explains, the fruit had become repulsive to her. “By making light of that deep and troubled history, he showed that he believed we were at a point where we could laugh about it all. His historical context, unlike my own, came from a place of ignorance,” Woodson writes. Like her previous statement, Woodson uses the es-

say to re-frame the situation by focusing on positive change in a time when the lack of diverse voices in literature has become all-too apparent. Woodson’s mission, she explains, is “to write stories that have been historically absent in this country’s body of literature, to create mirrors for the people who so rarely see themselves inside contemporary fiction, and windows for those who think we are no more than the stereotypes they’re so afraid of. To give young people — and all people — a sense of this country’s brilliant and brutal history, so that no one ever thinks they can walk onto a stage one evening and laugh at another’s too often painful past.”

Fans go wild over 88-second ‘Star Wars’ teaser

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, a helmetless storm trooper appeared in frame, panicked and sweaty in the middle of vast desert landscape, kicking off the first official look at “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” After months of leaked images and idle speculation around director J.J. Abrams’ film, Disney and Lucasfilm on Friday debuted an 88-second teaser trailer for the seventh entry into the blockbuster franchise online and in about 30 North American theaters. The dark, energetic teaser, which has been watched nearly 3 million times on YouTube, blasts viewers with quick, disjointed images of classic and slightly altered “Star Wars” images, like TIE Fighters, X-Wings, droids and the Millennium Falcon. Set to a new John Williams score, audiences get a peek at newcomers John Boyega (the storm trooper in question), Daisy Ridley, Oscar Isaac and a mysterious caped man in a frozen forest carrying a three-pronged light saber. Many assume the sinister, lumbering figure to be Adam Driver, who is rumored to be playing a villain in the highly secretive movie. Andy Serkis is responsible for the haunting voiceover narration throughout the short spot, which previews a world 30 years after the events of “Return

of the Jedi.” Despite some negative reaction, overall, fans were not disappointed, even with the sobering knowledge that the actual film doesn’t hit theaters till Dec. 18, 2015. “That ‘Star Wars’ trailer gave me the tingles,” director Edgar Wright said on Twitter. “Language and emojis fail to express what’s in my heart at this moment,” actress Anna Kendrick added emphatically. “Guardians of the Galaxy” director James Gunn also weighed in, writing, “Because everyone keeps asking me my opinion, I LOVED the Star Wars trailer. It infused me with a giddy-little-kidness.” Commenters on the longstanding “Star Wars” fan site TheForce.net were similarly delighted by the visuals, which seemed to pay homage to the grungy aesthetic of George Lucas’s original trilogy. There may have been no plot clues to be gleaned from the advertisement, but fan interest has certainly been piqued with the exciting array of images and the notable lack of original cast members Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. It might be some time before audiences get another opportunity to feast on new “Episode VII” images, but fan excitement, much like the force, is definitely awake.

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ABC’s Muir to do brief Facebook newscast

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC’s “World News Tonight” anchor David Muir will do a one-minute newscast each weekday for Facebook, touching on the day’s top stories and trending topics online. The “Facecast” will usually be posted in the early afternoon, and was set to start Monday. ABC said Facebook users will see the report in their news stream if they have “liked” “World News Tonight,” or else will be able to find it on the newscast’s Facebook page. ABC said it was the first

newscast created specifically for social media by an evening news anchor. Called “Facecast: The One Thing,” the brief newscast will feature video and updates on breaking news, the economy, politics and sports.

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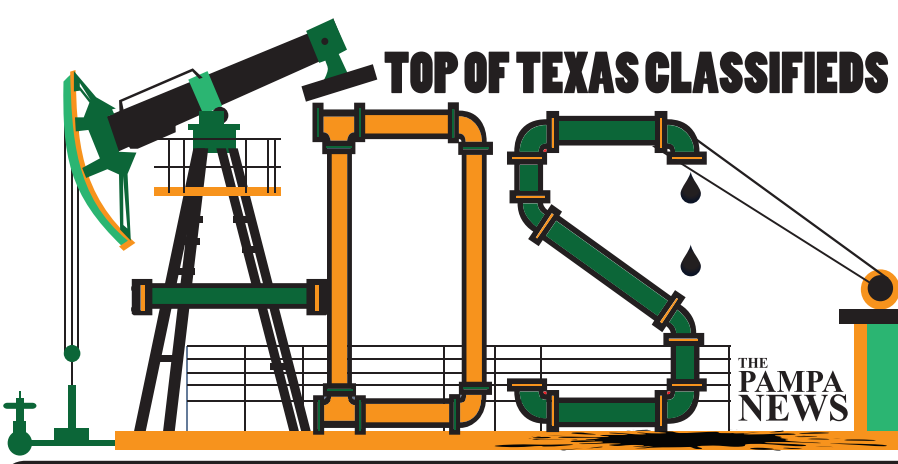
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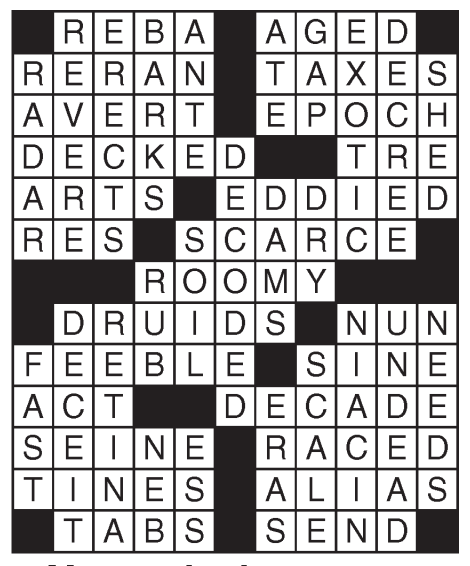
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Since the moment my oldest son, "Ryan," enlisted in the U.S. Army, our family has been concerned he would be deployed. Although Ryan graduated from high school near the top of his class and had prepared for university, his plans were thwarted when deployment orders came to face off with ISIS in a combat engineer role. He leaves soon for the Middle East.

Abby, I need your insight in understanding why I am not falling apart. My other children are, my relatives are, and people I speak to are stunned that I'm holding it together. I try to explain that I support my son and must be strong for my family, but am I in denial? Everyone else is falling apart

while I, who adore him and can't envision a life without him, seem to be holding steady. What's going on with me? Am I a flawed mother? I feel like I'm disappointing others who would prefer to see a soldier's mother grieve and agonize over her son's departure, anticipating the worst. Your thoughts are most welcome. — **BAFFLED IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR BAFFLED: You are not "flawed." Not everyone handles emotionally charged situations in the same way. While you may be numb with shock, you may also be calm, stoic and not show your feelings openly. It's also possible that you may be "postponing" any negative emotions until if and when it's neces-

sary to experience them. My reaction is that no one should judge you — least of all yourself right now. DEAR ABBY: I'm the father of a beautiful, intelligent 9-year-old daughter I'll call Stella. About three years ago, her mother married a man from an affluent family and moved three hours away. In order to be closer to Stella, I moved there as well. I have been divorced for six years now, and my relationship with my daughter has not improved during that time. I spend every Thursday afternoon with her and every other weekend. She recently joined a basketball team, and I go to her practices and games. My biggest concern — and pain — is, whenever Stella is with me she cries for her

mother. It hurts, because I have tried hard to foster a relationship with my daughter and have been unable to. I took her to Disney World and she spent half the time crying. I ask myself if I am only hurting her or if I should continue to see her. Can you give me some advice? — **DISAPPOINTED DADDY IN TEXAS**

DEAR DISAPPOINTED DADDY: Have you talked to Stella's mother and asked her what's going on with your daughter? By age 9 she's a little old for separation anxiety. Not knowing everyone involved, my first reaction is to wonder if there has been parental alienation happening. My second is to suggest that you enlist the help of a licensed family therapist to find out why Stella acts this way every time she's alone with you. If the problem is that she is immature, ride things out. If it's something more, then it's important you get to the bottom of it. *****

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

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Pampa Sports

Texas Tech rallies to beat Air Force 63-62

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas Tech guard Robert Turner remembers when his former team, New Mexico Junior College, blew a 16-point lead en route to a loss in its second-round NJCAA national championship tournament game last March.

So when the Red Raiders trailed by 19 points with 13 minutes remaining and nine points with 2:40 left Sunday, he didn't worry.

He figured his team could rally against Air Force.

"Two minutes is a lot of time," Turner said. "That nine-point deficit in 2 minutes is a piece of cake if you keep giving effort and keep playing hard."

The Red Raiders finished their late rally for a 63-62 home win against Air Force.

Turner's free throw with 23 seconds remaining, after he missed the first attempt, gave his team its final point.

He finished with 19 points, and teammate Devaughtah Williams scored a career-high 21.

The Red Raiders improved to 4-1 for the eighth time in nine seasons.

They trailed by 19 points, 46-27, with 13 minutes left but went on a 25-10 run over the next 8:37 to cut the deficit to four, 56-52, with 4:23 remaining.

"It's kind of nerve-racking," Turner said. "You want to get it back at one time, but you've got to take it one possession at a time. Every possession really counts being down that much."

The Falcons (3-3) nearly made Texas Tech's late rally for naught after going on a 6-1 run to extend their lead to nine points, 62-53, with 2:40 remaining in the game.

But the Red Raiders scored the final 10 points. Williams provided seven of those, including two on a dunk with 26 seconds left following a 5-second violation by Air Force.

The bucket evened the score at 62.

Turner stole the ensuing in-bounds play and was fouled, leading to his game-winning free throw.

The Red Raiders outscored Air Force 47-30 in the second half.

"They were a different team in the second half," Falcons coach Dave Pili-povich said. "They played with a little bit of an edge, especially as it got under the 10-minute mark. We didn't handle the ball very well. We turned it over too many times in the second half."

The Red Raiders struggled with turnovers early, which allowed the Falcons to build an early lead.

With 15:40 remaining in the first half, the Red Raiders committed four turnovers over the next 3:54, allowing Air Force to extend a 7-6 lead to 14-6.

Three late first-half turnovers gave the Falcons a 32-16 halftime lead.

"We're very fortunate to get the win today," Red Raiders coach Tubby Smith said. "We had to make some big plays down the stretch, and we did it."

Texas Tech's Mahomes sets record with 598 yards passing

ASSOCIATED PRESS Texas Tech's Patrick Mahomes owns the best passing day of the season by a quarterback who doesn't play for Washington State.

Mahomes obliterated the Big 12 freshman record with his 598 yards passing in Saturday's 48-46 loss to Baylor.

His teammate, Davis Webb, set the previous record of 462 yards against West Virginia last year.

In his last three outings — against Texas, Oklahoma

and Baylor — Mahomes is 80 of 150 for 1,304 yards and 14 touchdowns, with two interceptions. Six of those TD passes came against Baylor.

His 598 yards passing were the most by a Texas Tech QB since Graham Harrell threw for 646 in 2007.

The only better passing performances this season were by Connor Halliday (734 yards) and Luke Falk (601), both of Washington State.

Kentucky still firm No 1; defending champs out

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Those young Kentucky Wildcats still have a firm grasp on the No. 1 spot in the AP Top 25 poll.

Kentucky (7-0), outscoring opponents by an NCAA-best 36.8 points a game, again got 62 of 65 first-place votes Monday in the new rankings.

No. 2 Wisconsin (7-0) was on top of the remaining ballots.

Arizona and Duke re-

mained third and fourth. Louisville, Texas, Virginia, Wichita State, Gonzaga and Villanova rounded out the top 10.

North Carolina (5-1) dropped seven spots to 12th after losing to Butler, one of five poll newcomers at No. 23.

Defending national champion Connecticut (3-2) dropped out of the poll from 24th after their second straight loss, 55-54 at home to Texas.

Correction

In Saturday, Nov. 29, edition of The Pampa News. In the caption on page 3B, it should have read, "Below left, Reata Collins tries to dodge a blocker for a 3-pointer." We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Got A Sports Story or Photo?

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