

SECTION B



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SPORTS

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Detroit Lions tight end Eric Ebron (85) stretches over Chicago Bears inside linebacker Danny Trevathan (59) for an 8-yard reception for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game, Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, in Detroit. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

Panthers QB Newton optimistic about 'Caucasian Invasion'

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The soon-to-be for sale Carolina Panthers have two more reasons to be optimistic about making a late postseason run before owner Jerry Richardson sells the team.

Not only did rookie running back Christian McCaffrey have one of his most productive days as a pro, but the Panthers (10-4) finally got three-time Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen firmly back in the offensive mix on Sunday.

Olsen, who has missed most of the season with a broken foot, looked like his old self with nine catches for 116 yards and a touchdown in a 31-24 win over the Green Bay Packers. McCaffrey had 136 yards from scrimmage and a TD.

Panthers quarterback called it "The Caucasian Invasion." "Those guys came in and had a great game," said Newton, who threw for four touchdowns. "We are going to need that more moving forward."

Olsen had only four catches for 38 yards coming into the game. "Once you get going, it's funny how the game really starts getting into a rhythm and you feel like every ball is going to come your way," Olsen said.

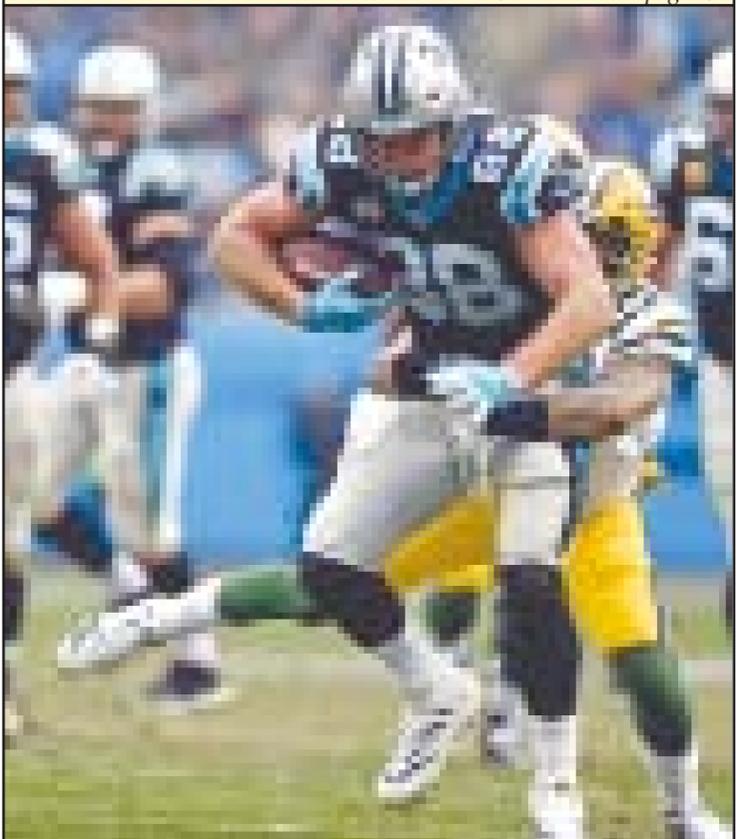
McCaffrey started the game for the Panthers and touched the ball nine times on the opening drive, which he capped with a 7-yard TD catch.

"The more football that he sees, the more that he understands," Newton said. "There is a lot of just being on the same page. That's similar to Greg. Being back for a couple of weeks now, he's starting to get back to his regular self. Finding the open zones and the open holes."

McCaffrey, who has 73 catches and five receiving touchdowns this season, is the only rookie running back in NFL history with at least 70 receptions and five touchdown catches.

DAVIS PUNISHMENT: The Panthers should be concerned about whether they'll have linebacker Thomas Davis back for Sunday's game against Tampa Bay. Davis delivered a helmet-to-helmet hit to Davante Adams, knocking the Packers wide receiver out of the game with a concussion — his second of the season.

(Continued on page 4)



Carolina Panthers' Greg Olsen (88) is tackled by Green Bay Packers' Josh Jones (27) during the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017. (AP Photo/Mike McCarn)

After win over Bears, Lions still face uphill climb

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Lions could enjoy the rest of their weekend, knowing their playoff hopes were still very much intact after a victory over Chicago on Saturday.

On Sunday, however, the scores from around the league gave the Lions little reason for excitement.

Victories by Carolina and New Orleans (10-4) left the Lions two games behind those teams with two to play. Detroit (8-6) is also a half-game behind Atlanta. The Lions lost earlier this season to the Panthers, Saints and Falcons, and Detroit has to beat out at least one of those NFC South teams if it's going to make the playoffs as a wild card.

Atlanta (8-5) plays Monday night, so for Lions fans, the scoreboard watching continues.

"You can't look back," receiver Golden Tate said after the win over Chicago. "We just got to go out and get the next one, control what we can control."

Detroit's schedule down the stretch has been manageable, and the Lions took advantage Saturday in their 20-10 victory over Chicago. Detroit is at

Cincinnati (5-9) next weekend before hosting Green Bay to end the regular season.

The Lions did pull even with Seattle (8-6) on Sunday when the Seahawks were routed 42-7 by the Rams, but even after that game, Detroit had only a 21 percent chance to make the postseason, according to fivethirtyeight.com. If the Lions win their final two games, their chance of making it would be around 50 percent.

As much as the Lions try to keep their focus on their remaining games, it's hard not to ponder what might have been.

"We did it to ourselves though," tight end Eric Ebron said. "We've got to fend for ourselves. That's kind of how it works. That's kind of how you play the game and you just roll with the punches. So, right now we're just rolling with the punches and know what we've got to do."

Detroit's loss to Atlanta in September stings in particular. The Lions had a last-second touchdown overturned after a review and lost that game 30-26.

The Falcons do have to play

both Carolina and New Orleans in the final two weeks of the regular season, but first Atlanta has a good chance to add another win at Tampa Bay on Monday night.

For the Lions, meanwhile, winning out is no sure thing. Matthew Stafford had another efficient game Saturday, going 25 of 33 for 237 yards and two touchdowns. He's completed 80.2 percent of his passes over the past three games, but the problems that have held the offense back haven't really been solved.

The Lions rushed for under 100 yards as a team against the Bears, and Stafford was sacked four times. Travis Swanson and Rick Wagner, two starters on the offensive line, were inactive.

Detroit was able to overcome those issues against Chicago. Although the Lions were outgained, they had only one turnover and forced three.

That was enough to beat the last-place Bears, but what Detroit can't do is change the past — the key games the Lions lost earlier in the season against teams that are now standing between them and a playoff berth.

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Patriots rally behind Gronkowski, edge Steelers 27-24

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The New England Patriots have built a dynasty on second chances. Miss an opportunity to bury the Super Bowl champions and they will find a way to find a way, usually behind a mix of Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski, and defensive playmaking at just the right time.

It's a lesson the Pittsburgh Steelers have learned through the years, one they were determined to finally learn from this time around. Instead, more of the same.

Ben Roethlisberger was intercepted in the end zone with 5 seconds remaining, securing New England's 27-24 comeback victory Sunday built on more Brady and Gronkowski magic.

Another AFC East title, a record ninth in a row.

Another shot at home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

This one came with an assist from the NFL rule book that will add "surviving the ground" to the league's ever-expanding and ever-perplexing lexicon.

Plus, the risky decision by the Steelers quarterback not to spike the ball and set up a tying field goal, which could reverberate well into January.

"It was a tight game," said Brady, who fed Gronkowski repeatedly to set up Dion Lewis' go-ahead 8-yard touchdown with 56 seconds remaining. "We just made one more play than they did."

Same as it ever was.

The Patriots (11-3) can make sure they don't have to leave Foxborough in January if they finish up the regular season with wins over Buffalo and the New York Jets. Brady finished with 298 yards passing with two touchdowns and an interception. Gronkowski, fresh off a one-game suspension, finished with nine receptions for 168 yards, including three on the winning drive.

That drive, by the way,

started with Pittsburgh safety Sean Davis letting a tipped pass slip off his fingertips. Instead of a game-sealing interception, the Steelers gave New England another shot. Brady responded by finding Gronkowski for gains of 26, 26 and 17 yards.

"I think they were trying to challenge us and he made a lot of good plays," Brady said. "Other guys make a lot of good plays, too, but when he's open, he gets it."

It briefly looked like it wouldn't be enough.

The Steelers (11-3) played most of the game without star wide receiver Antonio Brown, who left in the second quarter with a left calf injury. Still, the AFC North champions gamely hung in and appeared to take the lead when Roethlisberger connected with tight end Jesse James for a 10-yard touchdown with 28 seconds to go.

The play was overturned on review, with official Tony Corrente explaining that because the ball shifted as James twisted his way into the end zone, it did not "survive the ground" and therefore wasn't a catch.

"He lost complete control of the football," Corrente told a pool reporter.

That decision that left James stunned.

"I guess I don't know a lot of things about football," James said. "I can't call it, obviously. They think they made the right call. I'm sure we'll see it over the next couple days."

Probably far longer than that.

Roethlisberger hit Darrius Heyward-Bey for a short gain on the next snap, but Heyward-Bey was tackled in bounds. With the clock running and no timeouts, Roethlisberger hurried to the line. Rather than spike it to set up a short kick, Roethlisberger tried to win it.

Instead, he lost it.

His pass to Eli Rogers was batted into the air, and New England safety Duron Harmon came down with it. The Patriots

(Continued on page B5)



Brooklyn Nets' Quincy Acy (13) prepares to shoot next to Indiana Pacers' Victor Oladipo, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, in New York.

(AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

Oladipo scores 26, leads Pacers over Nets 109-97

NEW YORK (AP) — Indiana Pacers coach Nate McMillan came into the season trying to figure out just what kind of contribution he would get from Victor Oladipo after he arrived in a trade for one the NBA's best two-way players in Paul George.

The second overall pick in the 2013 draft has met McMillan's expectations after spending the previous two seasons in Orlando and Oklahoma City.

Oladipo scored 26 points, reserve Domantas Sabonis had 17 and the Pacers beat the Brooklyn Nets 109-97 on Sunday night.

"He's a guy we're trying to develop into a franchise player. He's come in with a lot of confidence," McMillan said. "This year is really about developing our young guys and seeing what these guys are capable of doing. He's doing some good things."

Myles Turner added 16 points, Cory Joseph chipped in 15 and Darren Collison scored 14 for the Pacers.

The Nets' Allen Crabbe shook off his recent struggles, scoring 17 points in the first half on 5-for-7 shooting, including four 3s. He took only one shot and didn't score in the second half.

"I don't think they did anything differently defensively. I don't know," Crabbe said of his quiet second half.

Trailing by one at the end of the opening quarter, the Pacers got a jolt from Oladipo, the team's leading scorer at 24.5 points per game.

After Crabbe's 3-pointer cut the lead to 51-45 with 2:25 left in the first half, Oladipo reeled off eight straight points for a 59-48 advantage at the end of the second period.

When Brooklyn drew within five points in the beginning of the fourth quarter, Indiana's summer acquisition capped a 10-3 run with five consecutive points, landing an alley-oop dunk that drew the attention of the Barclays Center crowd.

Indiana snapped a two-game losing streak, including a 100-95 loss in George's return on Wednesday.

"I think we did a good job of getting stops, finishing possessions with rebounds and then doing our plays. We've got to do it in that order," Oladipo said. "The past couple of games we've kind of been doing one step before the other. I think we did a great job of settling down, playing our

pace, and getting stops down the stretch."

Quincy Acy, Caris LeVert and Joe Harris each had 14 points in Brooklyn's third straight loss.

Nets coach Kenny Atkinson thought his team was outworked as it was in those previous two games.

"I just felt like the whole game ... whatever that 'it' is in terms of energy and physicality, it hasn't been there," Atkinson said.

The second meeting of the season between these teams lacked the offensive spark of their first matchup, which Indiana won 140-131.

The Pacers led by 14 with 7:08 remaining in the fourth quarter before Rondae Hollis-Jefferson and LeVert combined for a 6-0 run in little over a minute to close the gap to 94-86.

Indiana then bounced back with eight straight points, including a basket by Joseph that led to a technical foul on Atkinson.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Brooklyn native Lance Stephenson, who broke into the league along with George in 2010, has enjoyed seeing the growth Oladipo has shown in 29 games.

"Vic is playing amazing. He's living up to the high expectations," said the Lincoln High School product, who was chosen by the Pacers in the second round of the draft.

"He's here early for practice. He's being a leader. He's showing it on and off the court."

TIP-INS

Pacers: Have won their last five games against Brooklyn. ... Indiana has won 13 of its last 17 regular-season games against the Nets dating to 2003.

Nets: Brooklyn waived guard Yakuba Oudara. He was signed to a two-way contract on July 21. ... According to various reports, the Nets are expected to sign guard Milton Doyle to their vacant two-way contract spot on their roster. Doyle was waived before the season but has been playing for the Long Island Nets, the team's G-League affiliate. He's averaged 21.3 points and shot 43.3 percent from the field in 17 games.

UP NEXT

Pacers: Host the Boston Celtics on Monday night.

Nets: Host the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.



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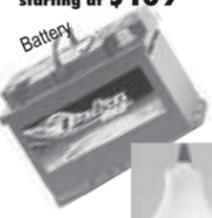
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Los Angeles Rams head coach Sean McVay, right, greets wide receiver Robert Woods, left, after Rams' Todd Gurley scored a touchdown in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, in Seattle. (AP Photo/John Froschauer)

Rams look playoff ready after thumping of Seahawks

SEATTLE (AP) — In the span of a week, the Los Angeles Rams changed the conversation from not being ready for the big games to now appearing ready and dangerous for the playoffs.

The Rams aren't in the postseason yet. But the biggest step they've taken toward a postseason return came Sunday in their 42-7 blowout of the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday. It was a big game on a big stage with postseason implications, and the Rams made the Seahawks look hapless with a dominating performance.

There is still one more step for the Rams to take in order to wrap up that postseason berth, but any question about their playoff potential was put to rest against the Seahawks.

"We're very pleased with what we did today and now we'll see if we can follow it up with a good performance next week," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "Seattle has been in the playoffs a handful of years in a row now. They have won the division three of the last four years now. We came in here and took advantage of that today."

There was a rightful bit of skepticism about the Rams (10-4) coming into Sunday. They had stumbled earlier this season against Seattle and Minnesota. And just a week ago, the Rams couldn't close out Philadelphia and lost 43-35 at home to the NFC-best Eagles.

But they took full advantage of a banged-up Seattle defense and flustered Russell Wilson to where his greatest contribution was making sure the Seahawks (8-6) didn't get shut out.

Todd Gurley was fantastic as a ball carrier with 152 yards rushing and three TDs on the ground, and another TD reception in the third quarter that gave the Rams a 40-0 lead. Los Angeles won on special teams, in field position and sacked Wilson seven times. Seattle's playmakers were spectators and the Seahawks looked closer to the end of an era than being worthy playoff contenders.

"We didn't handle Todd Gurley very well, he was on fire. But schematically, we let some things go. We made some mistakes, too, that got the ball out there," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "It's really hard for me to explain to you because this is something that I haven't seen us do, and play that far off." Gurley was the star, averaging 7.2 yards per carry. He had 144 yards rushing at half-time, including a 57-yard TD sprint in the final minute of the first half to give the Rams a 34-0 lead at the break. He's the second player in Rams

history — joining Marshall Faulk — with at least 150 yards rushing, three TD runs and a TD catch in a single game.

Here's what else to know from the Rams' dominant performance:

FIELD POSITION: It's easy to score when seemingly every drive starts around midfield. That was the case for the Rams, who had six possessions in the first half start at midfield or inside Seattle territory. Not surprisingly, the Rams scored on all six possessions, including a drive that started at the Seattle 1 after Pharoh Cooper's 53-yard punt return. The Rams' average starting position for the game was their 47-yard line.

"To flip the field consistently like our punt return unit has done has been huge for our offense to be in that spot," McVay said.

WORST LOSS: Carroll's first season in Seattle in 2010 ended with a division title, but mixed in were some of the worst losses of his tenure with the Seahawks. Included were three games allowing 40 points and a 34-point loss to the New York Giants.

Sunday's loss brought back many of the memories from that first season. It was the first time Seattle had allowed 40 points since late in the 2010 season and the 35-point defeat was the most lopsided of Carroll's tenure.

"This is the only game you've ever seen us play like this," Carroll said. "I can't remember back to Year 1 or something like that. Our expectations were that we were going to be right in the middle of this thing."

SACK ATTACK: The Rams' seven sacks of Wilson tied a season high for the Rams and matched the most times Wilson has been sacked in his career, the last coming in the 2014 season. Los Angeles did an excellent job of clogging the escape lanes, so Wilson couldn't extend plays. Aaron Donald was most troublesome with three sacks.

BAD RUSS: The stats say Wilson had a pedestrian game, but he made mistakes early that proved costly. Wilson was off-target with some early throws when Seattle was struggling to get any consistency on offense. He fumbled when he left the ball on the ground trying spin out of a sack and later lost 23 yards throwing a backward pass as he attempted to avoid another sack.

Seattle ran one offensive play in Rams territory in the first 10 drives of the game.



▶ Panthers QB...

Continued from page B1

Davis was fined \$48,620 earlier this year — his second offense — for his tackle on Tampa Bay wide receiver Adam Humphries.

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers called it an “unnecessary hit.”

“He’s a repeat offender, so I am sure that the league will deal with him according to that,” Rodgers said.

Davis was not available to speak after the game.

NO SLOWING PEPPERS: Carolina defensive ends Julius Peppers and Mario Addison combined to drop Aaron Rodgers in the fourth quarter, and the half-sack gave Peppers 10 sacks for the 10th season of his 16-year career.

His teammates see a model of consistency from the 37-year-old, who this year rejoined the franchise that drafted him No. 2 overall in 2002.

“Everyone on that defensive line, we feed off that,” defensive tackle Kawann Short said. “Just to see him come in week in, week out, putting the work in and not looking his age at all, it just makes us not even worry about the little bumps and bruises we got.”

Peppers had a career-high 14 1/2 sacks in 2008 with Carolina, where seven of his double-digit sack seasons have come.

FRIENDSHIP FOR YEARS: After Peppers sacked Rodgers he shook the QB’s hand and then patted him on the back in a show of respect.

“There’s a close friendship there,” said Rodgers, who was teammates with Rodgers

in Green Bay. “We talked at length before the game and talked after the game. He’s one of those guys you really enjoy playing with. He’s a phenomenal teammate.”

THIEVES AVENUE 2.0: It took 13 games for second-year Panthers cornerbacks Daryl Worley and James Bradberry to get their hands on a football in 2017. Now, they both have interceptions in back-to-back weeks.

One week after each picked off Minnesota’s Case Keenum, the duo intercepted Rodgers. Worley’s second-quarter interception and Bradberry’s third-quarter pick helped the Panthers get four takeaways. The interception matches Bradberry’s total of two from last year, while Worley now has three career picks.

Safety Colin Jones also intercepted Rodgers, and his pick set up a touchdown pass from Cam Newton to Damiere Byrd.

PACKERS PLAYOFF HOPES: On a day when Minnesota clinched the NFC North division, Green Bay watched its playoff prospects take a direct hit with a loss at Carolina.

Even if Atlanta loses Monday night at Tampa Bay, Green Bay will trail the Falcons by a game for the final playoff spot in the NFC with two to play. Plus, Atlanta holds the head-to-head tiebreaker by virtue of a 34-23 win at home against the Packers in September.

Seattle is also 8-6.

The Panthers can clinch a postseason berth with a win next week against the Buccaneers.



Washington’s Jaylen Nowell, center, drives the lane between Seattle’s Aaron Menzies, right, and Matej Kavaz, left, in the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Friday, Nov. 24, 2017, in Seattle. Washington won 89-84. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

Washington holds off Loyola Marymount 80-77

SEATTLE (AP) — Each time the Washington Huskies seemed to be on the verge of pulling away, Loyola Marymount countered — right up until the final minute.

Jaylen Nowell hit an off-balance jumper with 30 seconds left as the shot clock was winding down to give Washington a four-point lead, and the Huskies held on for an 80-77 victory against LMU on Sunday.

Nowell, who led Washington with 21 points, said he didn’t have any question the jumper was going in.

“I always have confidence in my shot,” Nowell said. “I don’t really have doubts.”

Noah Dickerson scored 13 of his 20 points in the final five minutes as Washington fought to take and hold the lead. The teams went back and forth throughout the game, and Loyola Marymount led with three minutes to go.

We just can’t keep putting ourselves in those situations,” Washington coach Mike Hopkins said. “There’s so many times we get up seven or we make a great run and we just give it back.”

James Batemon scored a season-high 29 points for LMU (5-5). Steven Haney had 14 points and Cameron Allen added 12 for the Lions.

Washington big man Sam Timmons had nine points and a season-high 11 rebounds before fouling out with five minutes to play.

Washington trailed 34-28 at halftime, going more than seven minutes without a field goal — on 0-for-11 shooting — to end the first half.

Washington turned it around quickly in the second half, going on an early 11-0 run featuring three dunks and 3 by Nowell.

The flow of the game was choppy at times, as the teams combined for 53 fouls. Three Loyola Marymount players fouled out. Despite having plenty of opportunities, both teams also struggled at the foul line — Washington shot 61 percent on free throws, and the Lions made 60 percent.

SCORING CHANGE

As the game ended, the scoreboard said 80-78, but after the game the official score was changed to reflect a 2-pointer which was incorrectly added as a 3 on the scoreboard.

BIG PICTURE

Loyola Marymount: This was the second time this season the Lions lost a close game against a Pac-12 opponent. Loyola Marymount fell 78-74 at Oregon State on Dec. 2.

Washington: The Huskies were coming off a pair of big games — an upset of then-No. 2 Kansas on Dec. 6 and a loss to No. 12 Gonzaga on Dec. 10 — and seemed to struggle with energy at times against the Lions.

“Early in the game, our lack of energy, you could just feel it. You could see we needed a spark,” Hopkins said.

HE SAID

“Bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep, bleep.” -Hopkins, when asked what he told the team at halftime after going into the locker room after missing its final 11 first-half shots.

UP NEXT

Loyola Marymount will finish its non-conference schedule at home Friday against Cal State Fullerton.

Washington plays the third of four straight home games Tuesday against Bethune-Cookman.



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USC beats Santa Barbara 98-87, snaps Gauchos' 7-game streak

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chimezie Metu scored a career-high 31 points and Southern California beat UC Santa Barbara 98-87 on Sunday night, snapping the Gauchos' seven-game winning streak.

Elijah Stewart added 19 points, Jonah Mathews had 16 points and Nick Rakocevic had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Trojans (6-3). Jordan McLaughlin had a career-high 19 assists.

Gabe Vincent and Max Heidegger scored 17 points each for the Gauchos (8-3), who fell to 1-14 in the all-time series. Leland King II added 15 points.

USC hit five 3-pointers in the first seven minutes of the second half and opened a 73-48 lead, its largest of the game. Metu had consecutive long-range baskets.

The Gauchos answered with a 21-6 spurt, including eight by Vincent, to close to 79-69. But they never got closer.

Metu took over from there, scoring eight of USC's next 10 points and extending the Trojans' lead to 89-73. He had four dunks in the second half, two of them coming back-to-back during his offensive spurt. The junior forward had 20 points in the second half.

McLaughlin's 3-pointer pushed USC's lead to 98-78.

The Gauchos cut their deficit to 38-30 before the Trojans closed the half on a 14-3 run to lead 52-33 at the break. Stewart and Mathews scored five points each and Rakocevic added four.

BIG PICTURE

UC Santa Barbara: The Gauchos' longest winning streak since 2015-16 ended in their first game after a weeklong break. Still, they are in the midst of a major turnaround under coach Joe Pasternack. Last season, the Gauchos were 1-9 through their first 10 games and finished with a 6-22 mark, which helped cost coach Bob Williams his job after 19 years. At 8-3, Pasternack is off to the best start of any first-year coach in school history.

USC: The Trojans have won two straight after losing three in a row. They beat a hot team in the Gauchos and did so in convincing fashion while in the midst of playing eight games in 18 days. They began the season with seven games in 34 days and went 4-3 in that stretch.

UP NEXT

UC Santa Barbara: Hosts San Diego Christian on Tuesday.

USC: Hosts Princeton on Tuesday in the first of two potential matchups this season. The Tigers and USC both play in the same tournament in Hawaii at Christmas.



Southern California's Chimezie Metu (4), Bennie Boatwright (25), Jonah Mathews (2) and Elijah Stewart (30) look on from the floor during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against SMU in Dallas, Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017. SMU 72-55. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

Allen, Anderson help Delaware beat Delaware St. 68-59 in OT

DOVER, Del. (AP) — Freshman Ryan Allen scored five of his 15 points in overtime and Kevin Anderson had his first career double-double to help Delaware beat Delaware State 68-59 on Sunday night.

Allen, who hit a career-high tying four 3-pointers, has scored in double figures in each of his last six games and Anderson, a freshman guard, had 12 points and a career-best 12 rebounds. Ryan Daly added 13 points and a career-high eight assists,

Darian Bryant scored 12 points and Eric Carter had 11 for Delaware (4-6).

Allen's fourth 3 capped a 7-0 run to open the overtime and, after Joseph Lewis hit 1 of 2 free throws for Delaware State (2-9), Carter made back-to-back layups to make it 66-56 with a minute to go. The Hornets committed two turnovers, didn't make a field goal and missed 2 of 6 free throws after regulation. Jonathan Walker led Delaware State with 16 points.

► Patriots...

Continued from page B2

had their fifth straight victory in a series that would feel more like a rivalry if the outcome wasn't always the same.

"We're not going to look back and second-guess anything or anybody," Roethlisberger said. "We lost a game and I threw a pick in the end zone at the end of the game to lose it." Roethlisberger completed 22 of 30 passes for 281 yards with two touchdowns and the pick. Le'Veon Bell ran for 117 yards and added another 48 receiving. Still, it did little to take away

the sting of a near miss.

"I'm not into moral victories right now," Roethlisberger said. "We just lost a game. It doesn't sit well. But the season is not over."

SHAZIER STOPS BY

Pittsburgh received an early emotional jolt when cameras cut to injured linebacker Ryan Shazier sitting in a private box less than two weeks removed from spinal stabilization surgery. The crowd at rainy Heinz Field roared as Shazier, who appeared to be seated.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA18.009.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: Wednesday, January 3, 2018
Issuance Date: December 06, 2017 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

"RFP No. ASPA.18.009.ESD-WTR, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE (VFD) and MAG METER PROJECT"

Submission

An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP No. ASPA 18.009.ESD-WTR, Supply and Delivery of Additional Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) and Mag Meters"

Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Thursday, January 3, 2018:**

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Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened or considered and will be determined as being non-responsive.

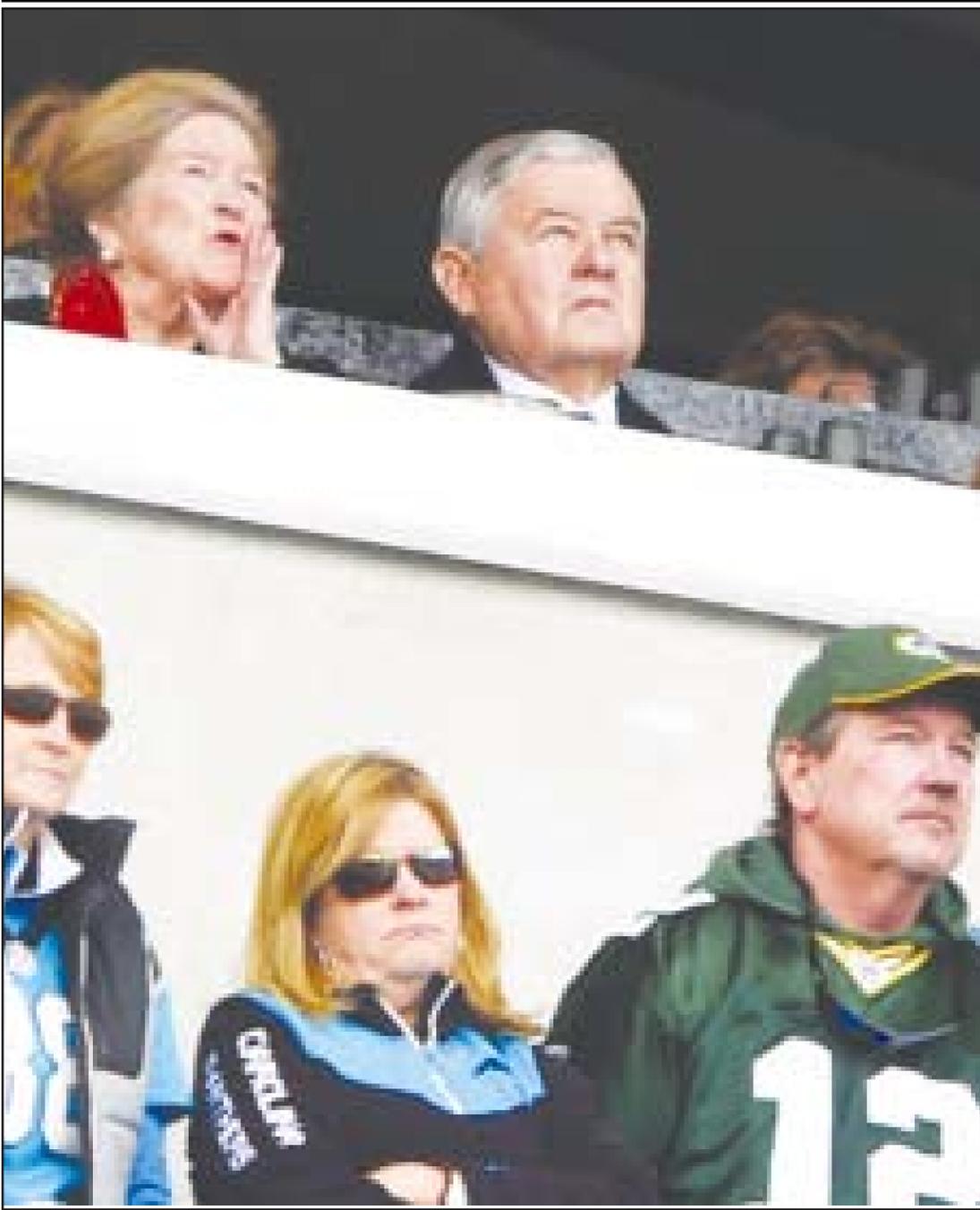
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The RFP package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA's New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: **Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director**



Facing misconduct investigation, Panthers owner selling team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Facing a growing investigation that accuses him of sexual misconduct and using racist language at work, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson announced Sunday that he will sell the NFL team after the season.

The team announced on Twitter that Richardson is selling the team, linking to a five-paragraph letter by the franchise's only owner.

"I believe it is time to turn the franchise over to new ownership," Richardson wrote, saying he wouldn't begin discussions until after the season. The Panthers, who lost in the Super Bowl two seasons ago, are in playoff position again.

"I hope everyone in the organization, both on and off the field, will be firmly focused on one mission: to play and win the Super Bowl," said Richardson, 81.

Richardson's letter did not directly address the investigation or allegations against him.

The NFL awarded Richardson, a former player with the Baltimore Colts, an expansion franchise in 1993, and he has been the team's only owner.

"There has been no greater mission or purpose in my life

than to have brought and NFL franchise to Charlotte," Richardson wrote. "The obstacles back then were significant and some even questioned whether or community could or would support professional football. But I always knew that if given the chance the Carolina would rise to the occasion. And you have."

Richardson attended Sunday's win over the Green Bay Packers at Bank of America Stadium and was photographed sitting beside his wife Rosalind in his luxury box.

He did not speak to reporters.

The NFL had no comment on the upcoming sale of the Panthers.

"While I will no longer be the team owner, I will always be the Panthers Number One fan," Richardson's letter said.

The Panthers are tied to Charlotte through June of 2019.

The city of Charlotte and the Panthers reached agreement on improvements for the team's stadium in 2013. The plan called for the city to contribute about \$87 million for renovations to Bank of America Stadium in exchange for a six-year hard tether to keep the Panthers in Charlotte.

⊗ Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, top center, watches during the first half of an NFL football game between the Carolina Panthers and the Green Bay Packers in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017. (AP Photo/Mike McCarn)



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Hellebuyck stops 24 shots, Jets beat Blues 4-0



Winnipeg Jets' Mark Scheifele (55) screens St. Louis Blues goaltender Jake Allen during third period NHL hockey action in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.

(Trevor Hagan/The Canadian Press via AP)

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Connor Hellebuyck was happy to have a hand in helping the Winnipeg Jets get some payback.

Less than 24 hours after Winnipeg was shut out in St. Louis, Hellebuyck made 24 saves as the Jets returned the favor with a 4-0 victory over the Blues on Sunday night.

"We kind of deserved this one because (of Saturday's 2-0 loss). I thought we were the better team," said Hellebuyck, who sat out the loss in favor of backup Steve Mason. "It's very satisfying and I think it's better for the guys in this room because now they know that they did play the right way and they continued to play the right way."

Hellebuyck got his second shutout of the season and eighth of his career. It came one night after Carter Hutton stopped 48 shots for the Blues in their win at home.

Jake Allen was back in goal for St. Louis and finished with 42 saves in the loss.

"Too many shots against. That's not us," Blues coach Mike Yeo said. "We're typically one of the top teams in the league for shot suppression and chance suppression. A little bit too easy to play against the last couple games."

Patrik Laine got his team-high 16th goal of the season, and Adam Lowry, Mark Scheifele and Josh Morrissey also scored for Winnipeg. Morrissey also had an assist, and Andrew Copp and Jacob Trouba added two each to help the Jets improve to 2-4-1 in their last seven games.

Lowry got the Jets on the scoreboard at 4:32 of the second. Brandon Tanev brought the puck behind the St. Louis net and was hit by two Blues players with the puck popping loose. Copp picked it up and sent a pass in the crease to Lowry, who put it in for his fifth of the season.

Laine used a wrist shot on Allen's blocker side to get his league-leading 10th power-play goal of the season with 4:47 left in the second while Alex Pietrangelo sat in the penalty box for cross-checking.

Scheifele scored his 15th when he re-directed Morrissey's shot from near the top of the circle at with 8:06 left in the third to make it 3-0.

Morrissey then capped the scoring less than two minutes later with his shot from the high slot.

Jets coach Paul Maurice liked the way his team responded in the return game at home.

"They're a little frustrated things didn't go their way (Saturday). They handled it the right way," Maurice said. "It's

always a very fine line. You need to stay in the game, the style of game you play best and they did that."

The Jets outshot the Blues 12-9 in a scoreless first period, with both goalies making some key saves.

NOTES: D Pietrangelo was back in the Blues' lineup after the captain missed four games with a lower-body injury. He logged just over 20 minutes of ice time. ... Winnipeg went 1 for 4 on the power play while St. Louis was 0 for 4.

UP NEXT

Blues: At Calgary on Wednesday night in the second of a four-game trip.

Jets: At Nashville on Tuesday night to open a three-game trip.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) is helped by a trainer after being injured during the first half of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.

(AP Photo/Don Wright)

Steelers' Brown leaves with calf injury, taken to hospital

Steelers star receiver Antonio Brown left the team's highly anticipated matchup against New England in the second quarter Sunday with a left calf injury.

Brown left in obvious pain after getting his left leg tangled up with a pair of New England defenders. He was helped to the medical tent, then taken to a hospital for further examination.

Brown, the NFL's leading receiver, had two catches for 24 yards before leaving the game.

Pittsburgh rookie running back James Conner left with a sprained knee in the fourth quarter.

The Patriots lost running back Rex Burkhead with a knee injury in the first half. He did not return as the Patriots rallied to beat the Steelers 27-24.

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers lost one of his top wide receivers when Davante Adams left in the third quarter because of a concussion. Adams took a helmet-to-helmet hit from Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis on an interception return by Colin Jones.

As Adams was running to make the tackle on Jones, Davis appeared to launch himself at Adams with a peel-back block, immediately sending the wide receiver to the ground and out of the game. Davis was flagged for a 15-yard penalty.

Also, Packers linebacker Nick Perry suffered an ankle injury in the third quarter and did not return.

Panthers wide receiver Russell Shepard left the game in the second half with a shoulder injury and did not return.

49ers wide receiver Aldrick Robinson suffered a concussion in the first quarter. He went to the locker room with head and wrist injuries after he was hit hard by Titans cornerback Adoree' Jackson along the Tennessee sideline.

Robinson was stretching out trying to make a catch when he got slammed and went down for several minutes with 5:24 to go in the opening quarter.

Titans cornerback Logan Ryan sustained an ankle injury in the second quarter against San Francisco.

Jets defensive lineman Leonard Williams,

whose interception set up his team's field goal late in the first half, left in the third quarter against New Orleans with concussion symptoms.

Saints tight end Michael Hoomanawanui left in the first half with concussion symptoms. Right guard Larry Warford went out with concussion symptoms late in the first half after he tried to make a tackle on Williams' interception.

The Giants had safety Landon Collins and linebacker B.J. Goodson leave after aggravating ankle injuries. King suffered a concussion on his 57-yard TD catch which ended with a dive into the end zone.

Eagles nickel cornerback Patrick Robinson left in the second half to be evaluated for a concussion. Eagles tight end Trey Burton, who caught a TD pass, was limited in the second half by cramps.

Texans center Nick Martin (ankle) and right guard Jeff Allen (concussion) left in the second half against Jacksonville. Linebacker Benardrick McKinney injured a shoulder making a touch-down-saving tackle on a punt return.

Jaguars wide receiver Marqise Lee injured his right ankle in the first quarter and was later ruled out.

Cardinals wide receiver Brittan Golden broke his right arm on a punt return against Washington. Defensive lineman Robert Nkemdiche left with a wrist injury. Linebacker Karlos Dansby suffered a calf injury. Redskins rookie linebacker Ryan Anderson suffered a sprained knee in punt coverage. Anderson came in dealing with an ankle injury.

Bills cornerback E.J. Gaines was carted off in the fourth quarter with a knee injury. Dolphins cornerback T.J. McDonald left in the fourth quarter against Buffalo with a shoulder injury.

The list of missing Bengals starters grew when left tackle Cedric Ogbuehi (shoulder) left in the first quarter against Minnesota. Right tackle Andre Smith limped off in the fourth quarter.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh said wide receiver Jeremy Maclin (knee) and DT Carl Davis (lower leg) will undergo MRIs on Monday, but he doesn't think either injury is serious.



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REPUBLICAN PARTY OF AMERICAN SAMOA GENERAL MEETING on Monday, December 18th at 5:30pm at the KS Mart Conference Room. Pls contact John Raynar at 258-0693 or Sailitafa Samoa 252-8129. [12/18]
FONOTAGA A LE PATI RIPAPILIKANA A AMERIKA SAMOA i le Aso Gafua, Tesema 18 i le 5:30 i le afiafi o le potu fono a le KS Mart i Iilili. Faamolemole faafeso'ota'i Sailitafa Samoa 258-8129 po o John Raynar 258-0693. [12/18]

ARE YOU UNDER 18 AND NEED A PLACE TO STAY? Do you feel unsafe at home? Call 699-4357 (HELP) or message us on Facebook @PasefikaYouthProject. All contacts and information are strictly CONFIDENTIAL. Remember to call 911 if you have an emergency. American Samoa Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter.

MANA COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE is now holding support groups for people who suffer from mental illness or any form of disability. Join me every Friday @ 12Noon @ the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. For more info call Liz Mailo @ 272-3257 or 699-0272.

FEELING ALONE? Come to SURVIVORS TAKING ACTION THROUGH SHARING, a support group for victims of violence (physical or sexual). Join me every Thursday at 12:00 noon @ the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. You don't have to do it alone. For more info, call Liz Mailo @ 272-3257 or 699-0272.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORK. A parent to parent support group for families with children with disabilities. Contact Sandy 731-3959 (English), Ivorie 770-6678 (Samoan).

SAMOAN SAINTS ORGANIZATION Roadside Clean Up on the 21st and 29th of this month until the end of the year. All are welcomed. Meet in front of Lupelele Elementary School, 5:30pm, rain or shine. Do it for our beautiful island. Contact Jay @ 254-0651 for more info.

URGENT HOMES NEEDED FOR ADULT DOGS being trapped at Lyons Park!! Majority of adult dogs trapped are healthy & very friendly but will be humanly euthanized if no one claims them after 48 hours of being held. PLEASE HELP! Call Mona at 258-4116 or 699-9445.

ASOA General Meetings. Will be held each month on the 3rd Friday at 10am at ASOA Center in Tafuna on Tasi St. All seniors welcome. Questions, call 699-1131

WHEELCHAIRS Old, Battered or Banged up. Pls donate, in any condition to ASOA so we may be able to help someone in need. Call Marysita 770-1838 or 699-1131

SCUBA FISHING BAN It is unlawful to possess any spear while using SCUBA. Marine & Wildlife Resources. 633-4458 / 252-0445.

OMENS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS of all ages to help in the Fale. Support your hospital, donate your free time by calling 633-1222 Ext. 199. All proceeds from Fale sales donated to purchase equipment for LBJ.[till]

HUNTING BAN ON WILD BIRDS & BATS is still in effect - it is unlawful to kill or hunt wild birds & bats. Dept. of Marine & Wildlife 633-4458 / 252-0445

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy Parker December 18, 2017

- ACROSS**
- 1 Junket
 - 5 Ellington's "Take ___ Train"
 - 9 Word with "fire"
 - 14 Migraine precursor
 - 15 Breadstick alternative
 - 16 Russian villa
 - 17 Some shiny monthly issues
 - 20 Word with "common"
 - 21 Party to
 - 22 Ship wood
 - 23 Offered, as farewell
 - 25 Promising
 - 27 City in Washington
 - 30 Isn't wrong?
 - 31 Male pronoun
 - 34 Roundish hairstyle
 - 35 Simpleton
 - 37 Ascended
 - 39 Numbers and Acts, for two
 - 42 Overly bold
 - 43 Pound down
 - 44 Like some dorms
 - 45 Despite that
 - 46 Fancy pitcher
 - 48 Discharges from the body
 - 50 Arabian Sea gulf
 - 51 Every fourth year
- DOWN**
- 1 The many at a yard sale
 - 2 Reign
 - 3 De-wrinkle
 - 4 Balanced reading materials?
 - 5 Start of advice, often
 - 6 Bro or dude kin
 - 7 Spirited self-assurance
 - 8 Mathematical procedure
 - 9 Cutting tool (var.)
 - 10 Pastor's flock
 - 11 Zits
 - 12 Tall flightless bird
- 13 Costume part
 - 18 Clothing line
 - 19 Unknown, briefly
 - 24 Carpenter's groove
 - 26 Halfhearted guess
 - 27 Striped cat
 - 28 "Mentioned" prefix
 - 29 Zagreb native
 - 30 Church part
 - 31 Traveling types
 - 32 Ocean landmass
 - 33 Tournament favorites
 - 36 Number of occurrences in a time period
 - 38 Thin page material
 - 40 Cast off, as skin
 - 41 Olympic sword
 - 47 Gradually withdraw
 - 49 Fete
 - 50 Freud con-temporary
 - 51 Twisted cotton thread
 - 52 Singer Levine
 - 53 Wary (var.)
 - 54 Dublin's country, to some
 - 56 Silly sort
 - 58 Machu Picchu's place
 - 59 Large containers
 - 60 "Hey, there!" quietly
 - 62 Affirmative material
 - 63 "___ Goes the Weasel"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	D	A	M	A	L	I	S	P	E	C	S		
C	U	R	T	A	I	L	E	D	P	A	T	I	O	
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EUGENIA LAST

**Monday,
December 18,
2017**

THE LAST WORD IN
ASTROLOGY

Happy Birthday: Explore your options, but be realistic when it comes time to make life-altering decisions. Friendships will be the force prompting you to take on new interests and experiences. Business trips, meetings and research opportunities will help you make the right choices while also avoiding anyone who is trying to take advantage of you. Romance is encouraged. Your numbers are 5, 14, 21, 28, 33, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on what you can learn from the experiences you encounter. Take a closer look inside and be aware of how you treat others. More gratitude and understanding will encourage stellar relationships. Romance will improve your personal life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ease into conversations. Listen carefully and don't let tempers mount. A hectic schedule will make it difficult for you and those around you to be considerate. Set a good example and you will alleviate discord. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Truth matters. Be careful how you word the messages you send to others. A chance to do the right thing must not be tainted with a desire to stand out or to make someone else look bad. Think before you speak. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your feelings and make suggestions. Don't wait for someone else to go first. Follow through with your plans and look for opportunities to explore new beginnings. Expand your friendships and your interests. Participate in festive events. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get into the swing of the season. Preparing for fun with friends or family or getting involved in events geared toward people of all ages will bring you joy and improve your outlook regarding your personal life and future. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Difficulties will arise if you get into a dispute over money or living arrangements. Concentrate on events that take place outside your family dwelling. Give touchy matters a chance to settle down, especially when they involve close friends. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make travel plans. Taking time to be with someone you haven't had much time for this past year will bring you joy as well as information that will make you think hard about your future. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Check out your professional options and explore new ways to bring in extra cash. A change in the way you handle your money or make investments will result in greater stability. Take care of matters that are time-sensitive. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take action. If you say you are going to do something, follow through. You will gain admirers and impress anyone who has been skeptical regarding your knowledge and skills. Take control and you will make a difference. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't procrastinate. Raising your profile, reputation or status will give you a chance to enjoy some of the finer things in life. Gains can be made, but don't overspend when you should be saving up for something special. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make a difference to someone less fortunate than you if you volunteer your services, skills or time. A short trip, reunion or reconnecting with people from your past should not include excessive behavior. Protect your reputation. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your imagination and you will come up with a great plan or idea that will help you get a handle on some of the problems you've been facing. Try not to let others interfere with your plans or your personal life. ****

Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

DAUGHTER SEARCHES FOR WAYS TO SHARE CHRISTMAS WITH MOM

DEAR ABBY: My parents have been divorced for 15 years. Dad is remarried; my mother lives alone. My brother and I alternate holidays every year, and this year he was supposed to host our mother. Instead, he just informed me he has decided to invite our father and his wife to dinner, leaving our mother no place to go. I would love to invite her to my in-laws' house, but my husband doesn't want her to come. When I told him he could take the kids to his family's house, he got very upset and told me I should consider him and our children first, before my mother. So, what should I do? Should I leave my mom home alone on Christmas, or stay with her so she's not alone? -- WORRIED ABOUT MOM IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WORRIED: Has your brother told your mother he won't be celebrating Christmas with her? If he hasn't, he should let her know NOW. Because your husband refuses to share Christmas with your mother, I assume their relationship is strained. If that's the case, it may be time for her to start mending fences. As to whether you should sacrifice Christmas with your husband and children to be with her, I'm not sure you should. Your mother would be wise to learn to be more independent than she appears to be, and a way of doing that would be to start making plans of her own. If there is a church celebration, or an opportunity to volunteer in your community, suggest she investigate it. Also, consider seeing her on Christmas Eve, or for brunch or for lunch if she can't join you for dinner.

DEAR ABBY: I have my college degree and will be heading to graduate school next year. I suffer from ADHD, for which I cannot take medication. ADHD affects many aspects of my life, especially in a professional setting. It makes it difficult for me to do basic things, such as show up to work on time, remember appointments and plan and prioritize tasks.

I'm working with my psychologist on strategies to help me better manage daily life. But in the meantime, how can I communicate to my professors and employers that my troubles with "basic professionalism" stem from an actual diagnosed disability, and not laziness or lack of effort? -- GRAD SCHOOL-BOUND

DEAR GRAD SCHOOL-BOUND: Ask your psychologist to provide you with a letter stating your diagnosis that you can show your professors and employers. If you have written proof that you suffer from a diagnosed disability, they may be willing to work with you rather than be judgmental.

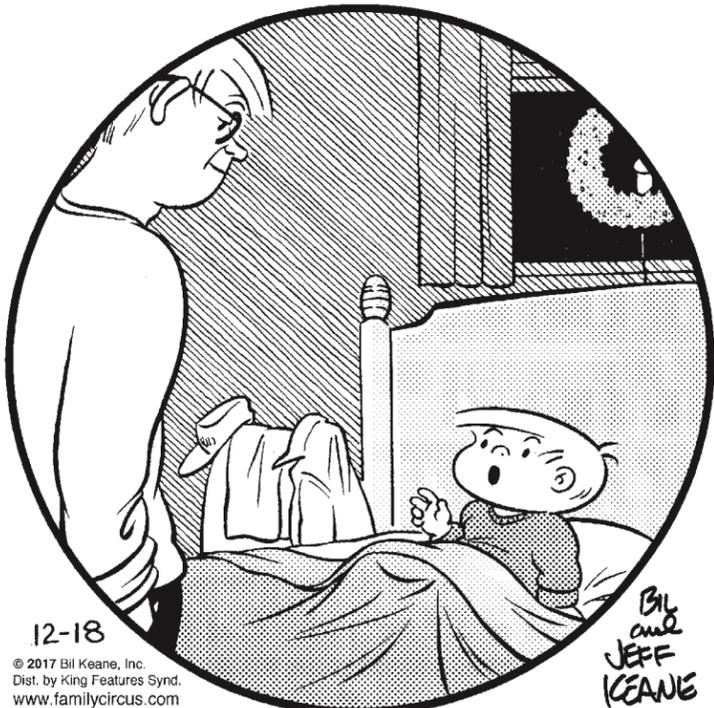
DEAR ABBY: I was at a friend's wedding and introduced myself to the groom's father. Because I was carrying something in my right hand, I extended my left hand. I'm no dead-fish guy, but the "lobster's" grip was so tight it crushed my ring into my finger, causing a bruise. I made no comment at the time, but now I am seething over his behavior. What might I have said, or should I say in some similar encounter? -- SORE IN SILICON VALLEY

DEAR SORE: Some men, in an attempt to prove their masculinity, tend to overdo it. It was within your rights to say, "Oww! Loosen up!" In the future, transfer whatever you're carrying in your right hand so you can observe the social amenities.

READING LIST By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
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64					65					66		
67					68					69		

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-18

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Bil and Jeff Keane

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Submitted By Dan Paulon, W. Lafayette, OH.

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COME ON, LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH THIS TIME, ALL RIGHT?

WHERE ARE YOU? LET'S GO!

SHE'LL NEVER LOOK HERE.

12-18

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I HAVE THE TERRIBLE FEELING THAT, AS I GROW OLDER, IT'S NOT GOING TO GET ANY EASIER

12/18

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO PROTECT MYSELF?

TRY WEARING A HELMET... FIVE CENTS, PLEASE!

THE DOCTOR IS IN

12/18

WHAT DO YOU THINK? HAVE WE SHRUNK THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ENOUGH YET?

Zinke

PLANET EARTH

WAIT. WHY DO I STILL NEED ROOMS FOR YOU?

ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION
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ONLY 7 SHOPPING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS AND ONLY 372 MORE UNTIL THE NEXT ONE

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Hagar the Horrible © by Chris Brown

WE'VE BEEN MARCHING AIMLESSLY FOR WEEKS! WHERE ARE WE?

IT'S ELEVEN THIRTY AND FORTY-ONE SECONDS OKAY... WE'RE IN SWITZERLAND!

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GARFIELD © by Jim Davis

ONE WEEK TO CHRISTMAS, POOKY! CAN YOU STAND THE EXCITEMENT?!

DON'T BE FOOLED. UNDER THAT CALM EXTERIOR, HE'S A QUIVERING MESS

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JIM DAVIS 12-18

Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

12/18 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Saturday's Puzzle Answer 12/16

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

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White. XWRT104TFDW

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Electric Range
White. XACR2303MPW

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