

SECTION B



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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

SPORTS

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Faimalo ‘Rambo’ Tapui III (2nd from left) and teammate Ryan Samuelu (2nd from right) receive Pago Youth’s men’s 2017 FFAS National League and Top 4 Tournament awards from FFAS Treasurer Amio Mavaega-Luvu (left) and executive committee member Rev. Ioane Evagelia on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017. Rambo also received the men’s 2017 FFAS National League MVP award.

[FFAS MEDIA/Brian Vitolio]

Pago Youth are men’s Top 4 winners

By FFAS MEDIA/Brian Vitolio

Pago Youth won the FFAS Top 4 tournament that ended on December 2, 2017 at Pago Park Soccer Stadium with a clean sweep of the three other

competitors.The top four teams were selected based on their positions from the 2017 men and women’s FFAS National Leagues that ended on November 11, 2017. Pago Youth won their second consecutive title in the men’s division while Royal Puma took top honors in the women’s bracket. Pago Youth completed a clean sweep of the top 4 contest with their third win in as many games, beating Lion Heart 3-1 after the latter had taken the initial lead in the game. They also beat Vaiala Tongan and Royal Puma.Pago Youth finished with nine points in the Top 4 tournament, followed by Lion Heart with four, Vaiala Tongan with two and Royal Puma with one.

The top 4 completed the competition year for FFAS, with Pago Youth officially recognized as the champions of the National League two consecutive years. The team’s captain Faimalo ‘Rambo’ Tapui III was named MVP of the 2017 National League.

Pago Youth will be FFAS’ 2019 representative to the OFC Champions League Preliminary tournament. American Samoa will host the 2018 version of the tournament with Pago youth representing the territory against Tupapa Maraerenga of the Cook Islands, Lupe o le Soaga of Samoa and Veitongo FC of Tonga from January 20-27.

The final standings for the National League are:

- No. 1 Pago Youth
- No. 2 Lion Heart
- No. 3 Royal Puma
- No. 4 Vaiala Tongan A
- No. 5 Green Bay
- No. 6 Black Roses
- No. 7 PanSa
- No. 8 Utulei Youth
- No. 9 Taputimu Youth
- No. 10 Vaiala Tongan B

Two other teams, Ilaoa & To’omata and the Tafuna Jets, were disqualified from the National League after accumulating two forfeits each.FFAS executive committee members, Rev. Ioane Evagelia and Treasurer Amio Mavaega-Luvu were on hand to out the awards on behalf of Faiivae Iuli Alex Godinet.



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San Francisco 49ers kicker Robbie Gould (9) makes a winning field goal during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, in Santa Clara, Calif.

(AP Photo/John Hefti)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

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Phone No.: (684) 248-1234
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REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ)

RFQ No: ASPA18.013.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: Friday, January 5, 2018
Issuance Date: December 18, 2017 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Quotes (RFQ) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written quotes for the:

“Water Project Vehicle”

Submission

An original and one PDF of the Quote must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **“RFQ No. ASPA 18.013.ESD-WTR Water Project Vehicle”**.

Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00pm. (local time), **Friday, January 5, 2018:**

Procurement Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

Any quote 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.

Document

The RFQ package outlining the quote requirements is available at the New Procurement Office at AS-PA's Tafuna Compound, 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 quotes and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted quotes that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Power Authority or the public.

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

Kyle Shanahan excited about way 49ers are finishing season

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers' long-term rebuilding project looks like it's accelerating with the addition of Jimmy Garoppolo at quarterback.

San Francisco has won four of its last five games for the first time since 2013 and Garoppolo's play has been the key. His 1,008 yards passing are the most by a 49ers quarterback in his first three starts in team history.

Finding a potential franchise signal caller gives coach Kyle Shanahan and first-year general manager John Lynch a chance to address other areas of the roster that need upgrades in the spring. For now, the team is coming off its first victory over a playoff contender on Sunday when Robbie Gould hit a game-winning field goal as time expired to beat the Titans, 25-23.

“I am very excited with how we're playing. It makes it a whole lot more exciting going into the offseason, because you can see it in the players,” Shanahan said. “But I also know we got a lot of work to do.”

The 49ers (4-10) have two games left, including Sunday against AFC South leading Jacksonville (10-4), which

boasts one of the NFL's most ferocious defenses. The Jaguars entered Week 15 leading the NFL in opponents scoring, takeaways and sacks, which hasn't been done throughout an entire season since the 1970 merger.

San Francisco, after starting the season 0-9, has long been eliminated from playoff contention. But Shanahan is using the end of the regular season as a measuring stick. After the Jaguars, currently the No. 3 seed in the AFC, the 49ers will travel to play the division leading Rams (10-4) on New Year's Eve.

“When you look at teams that have those type of numbers, they have as good a chance as anyone to go all the way,” Shanahan said. “So I know it'll be a huge challenge for us and hopefully we'll heal up this week and look at the tape and have a plan to try to get after them on Sunday.”

A winning performance from Garoppolo against the Jags might lift expectations even higher. He set career-highs in back-to-back weeks by throwing for 334 and 381 against Houston and Tennessee, respectively. And he's engineered fourth-quarter game-

(Continued on page B5)





Carolina Panthers NFL football head coach Ron Rivera answers a question about the allegations against team owner Jerry Richardson, and the announced sale of the team at the end of the season, during a weekly press conference at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 18, 2017.

(David T. Frost III/The Charlotte Observer via AP)



Panthers sale sparks buzz in political, business circles

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The stunning news of the rare opportunity to purchase an NFL team has quickly garnered the attention of sports figures, business investors and politicians alike.

Amid reports of sexual and racial remarks made by Carolina Panthers owner and founder Jerry Richardson in the workplace, he has unexpectedly announced that he is selling the NFL franchise after this season ends.

It was a bombshell that rocked the Carolinas, and generated shockwaves inside and out of the organization. The team Monday promoted Tina Becker as COO and gave her full control of the day-to-day operations.

Becker said in a release that “these have been some of the most difficult days of my 19 years with the Panthers.” She added that her immediate focus will be on corporate side of the organization, “while addressing the real concerns that have been raised in recent days.”

Richardson, meanwhile, stepped away from daily responsibilities to focus on the sale of the team — which will come with a multi-billion dollar price tag.

That’s what is known, but Richardson’s decision to walk away after nearly 25 years as owner has left more questions than answers about the franchise’s future — most notably, who will buy it and will they keep the team in Charlotte.

Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles said she is committed to working to keep the team in Charlotte.

“The City of Charlotte values its long-running relationship with the Panthers after more than 22 seasons of NFL football,” Lyles said in a statement to The Associated Press. “The Panthers are part of Charlotte’s fabric. We’ve celebrated victories and anguished over defeats. We understand transitions are inevitable, and we look forward to working with current and future ownership.”

The Panthers are tethered to Charlotte through the 2018 season because of an agreement on an \$87.5 stadium renovation between the city and the team in 2013. That renovation is nearly complete.

But a buyer could potentially purchase the team and move it in 2019.

Former North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, who was mayor of Charlotte when the Panthers settled into their new stadium, has seen both sides. He also was the mayor when the Hornets left town. He said another question might be about Bank of America stadium.

“Will (the new owners) ask for government subsidy to continue to improve the stadium, or, in fact, even build a new stadium, like what’s happened in Atlanta and Dallas?” McCrory said.

“That would be a tall order.”

He said it will be a business decision — and the highest bidder will get the team, to possibly do with it as they chose.

“Unless the NFL steps in and says, ‘No, you need to have a local ownership group,’” he said, “which I’d encourage them to do.”

Panthers coach Ron Rivera was “a little taken aback” when Richardson informed him Sunday night of his decision to sell the team. But he too believes the Panthers should remain in Charlotte.

“This organization has been a source of pride and goodwill and I would like to it continue,” Rivera said Monday. “This is a great community with a very supportive fan base that has been out there for us. They have been here for me and this football team and I hope that somehow it is able to stay here.”

The chance to purchase an NFL team has potential suitors coming out of the woodwork.

Rapper and actor DiTuesday, December 19, 2017 indicated his interest in purchasing the Panthers on Twitter moments after Richardson’s announcement.

Two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry, a Charlotte native, chimed in with “I want in!”

NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick has also expressed interest.

Other businessmen with Charlotte connections could show interest as well.

Speedway Motorsports chairman Bruton Smith and his son, CEO Marcus Smith, have previously expressed interest in purchasing the Panthers should the opportunity arise.

And the Panthers are loaded with minority owners including real estate magnate “Smoky” Bissell, Family Dollar founder Leon Levine and members of the Belk family. Developer Johnny Harris, who was instrumental in luring the Wells Fargo Championship — and later the PGA Championship — to Charlotte, could also decide to increase his ownership stake in the team.

Let’s not forget Michael Jordan. The six-time NBA champion owns the Hornets. However, Jordan’s interest level is unknown and his representative Estee Portnoy said she had no comment on the Panthers sale.

More names will surely emerge over the next several weeks, but they need to be ready to write a big check. Forbes Magazine recently estimated the Panthers worth at \$2.3 billion.

And those numbers could be low.

Forbes estimated the Buffalo Bills at a net worth of \$935 million in 2013, but the team wound up selling in 2014 for \$1.4 billion — nearly 50 percent higher than the estimate.



Los Angeles Chargers kicker Travis Coons kicks a field goal during the first half of an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, in Carson, Calif.

(AP Photo/Denis Poroy)

Chargers sign Nick Rose to be their 4th kicker of the season

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Nick Rose is the Los Angeles Chargers’ fourth kicker of the season.

The Chargers (7-7) waived Travis Coons and claimed Rose off waivers from Washington on a busy Monday that also included disappointing injury diagnoses for three key players.

Defensive lineman Corey Liuget and linebacker Denzel Perryman will miss Sunday’s game at the New York Jets after getting hurt in Kansas City. Tight end Hunter Henry might be forced to join them on the sideline with a lacerated kidney, but the Chargers aren’t yet certain about his availability.

Coons missed an extra point in the Chargers’ 30-13 loss Saturday to the Kansas City Chiefs. He had made six of his seven field-goal attempts in three games with Los Angeles,

but coach Anthony Lynn said Coons’ “leg strength was a little short,” particularly on kickoffs.

“When Nick became available, we wanted to take a look at him,” Lynn said. “We’re looking for a kicker that we can keep around here for a few years, and so right now we’re just kind of looking and evaluating guys.

“It doesn’t mean Travis can’t come back if Nick doesn’t work out, but we like the job that Nick did in Washington. He kicked it minus-4, minus-8. He had a lot of touchbacks. Got a little more leg. We’ll see.

Rose made 10 of his 11 field-goal attempts for the Redskins, who signed him in October and waived him last weekend after Dustin Hopkins returned from injury.

Rookie Younghoe Koo began the season as Los Angeles’ kicker, but lasted only four games. Nick Novak then made nine of his 13 field-goal attempts before injuring his back last month in Dallas, where punter Drew Kaser was forced to fill in on extra points.

Kickers are far from the only concern with the Chargers, who had won seven of their past nine games to storm into playoff contention before getting handled by the Chiefs. Los Angeles is now sitting behind Kansas City and wild-card contenders Buffalo, Tennessee and Baltimore, who have identical 8-6 records.

“I’m discouraged that we don’t control our own destiny,” Lynn said. “We were in position to do that, and we let it slip away. All we can control now is what we do on Sunday.”

The Chargers could win out and still miss the playoffs, but that task would be tougher without three regulars who went down last weekend.

Liuget sprained his knee, while Perryman strained a lower-leg ligament, Lynn said.

Liuget has 1½ sacks while serving as a key run-stopper and space-filler on the defensive line. Perryman has racked up 34 tackles in six games since returning at midseason from a training camp injury, leading the Chargers’ improved run defense.

Henry’s absence would be a crushing blow. The second-year pro has 45 catches for 579 yards and four touchdowns while emerging as a key target for Philip Rivers. The tight end was hurt by a blindside hit from Chiefs defensive tackle Bennie Logan on the same play on which rookie running back Austin Ekeler broke his hand. Lynn said Ekeler might attempt to play with a cast on his broken hand, but the Chargers haven’t decided yet. Receiver Keenan Allen and safety Adrian Phillips are expected to return after injuries ended their nights early in Kansas City.



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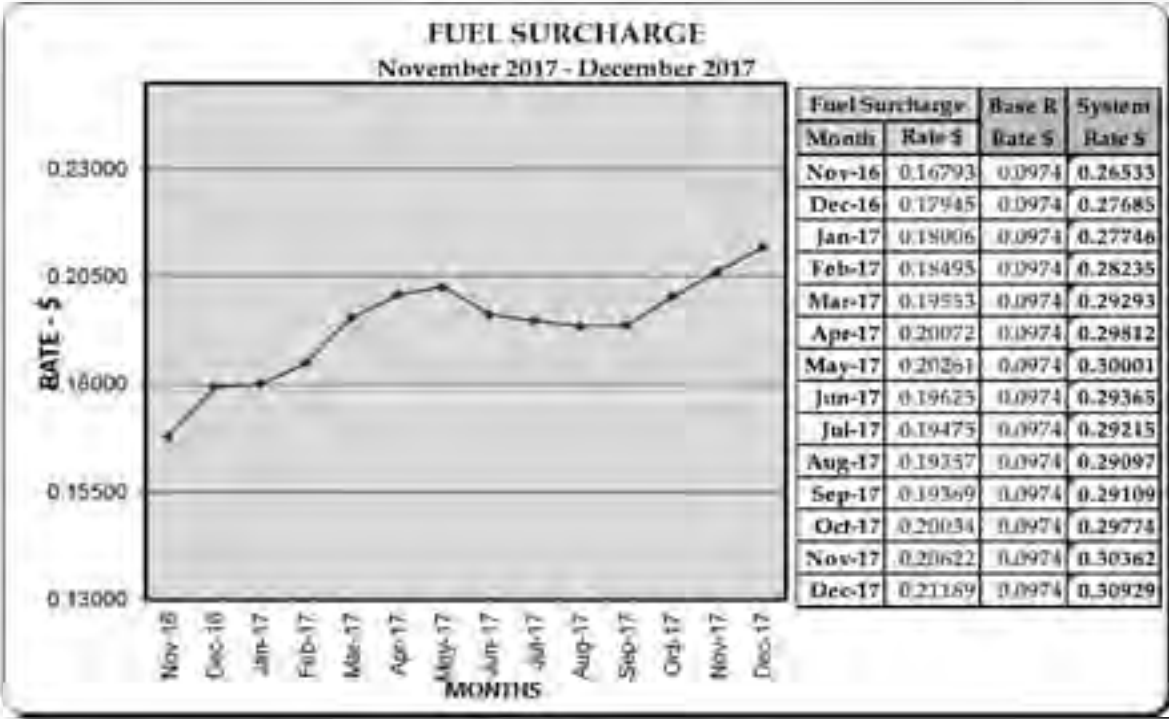
December 15, 2017

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the “base rate” and the “fuel surcharge rate.”

The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a “pass-through” revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.



The fuel surcharge rate also includes the “Renewable Reduction” from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the “Renewable

Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for December 2017			
Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.22190	0.22190	0.2219
Renewable Reduction	-0.01001	-0.01001	-0.01001
Fuel Surcharge	0.21169	0.21169	0.21189
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.30929	0.31839	0.30149

Reduction” savings. There are seven active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA’s renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.

McCarthy doesn't rule out Rodgers playing against Vikings

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Despite a bleak playoff picture, Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy left the door open for quarterback Aaron Rodgers to play against the Minnesota Vikings this weekend.

“Aaron Rodgers is sore, rightfully so,” McCarthy said Monday night, one day after Rodgers’ return from a fractured right collarbone wasn’t enough in the Packers’ 31-24 loss to the Carolina Panthers. “He was hit too many times, took two big hits. So we’re working through that. So we’ll see what tomorrow brings.”

Of course, McCarthy made the comments before Monday night’s game between the Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers kicked off — a game that, if the Falcons won it, would eliminate the Packers from playoff contention and mark the end of the team’s eight-year run of consecutive postseason berths.

Despite the return of Rodgers, who broke his collarbone Oct. 15 at Minnesota and missed the next seven games, the Packers put themselves on the brink of playoff elimination by losing to the Panthers when a late rally fell short. After throwing three interceptions while looking rusty earlier in the game, Rodgers threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to tight end Richard Rodgers with 2:43 left in the game. The Packers then recovered the onside kick and were in position to force overtime when wide receiver Geronimo Allison fumbled at the Carolina 28-yard line with 1:50 to go.

“I’m disappointed like every man on the sideline is. It was an opportunity,” McCarthy said. “Obviously there was extra energy in our locker room with Aaron playing. I wish that energy would have been consistent throughout our team for the whole time. That’s a disappointment.”

Rodgers worked hard to convince the team’s brain trust and medical staff to allow him to play against the Panthers, and he admitted afterward that he did not play well, completing 26 of 45 passes for 290 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions (71.5 rating). He also ran six times for 43 yards, although he took harder hits in the pocket than he did when he scrambled.

What McCarthy and the medical staff must now weigh is whether Rodgers should play if the Packers have no postseason to play for. After the game against the Panthers, Rodgers hinted that he wanted to play Saturday against the Vikings — the team that derailed his season — regardless of the playoff picture, saying, “I’m a competitor. Until they tell me otherwise, I’m expecting to play.”

McCarthy, meanwhile, railed against veteran Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis’ blind-side, helmet-to-helmet block on wide receiver Davante Adams, who was in the league’s concussion protocol Monday but lashed out at Davis on Twitter earlier in the day. The NFL suspended Davis for two games for the hit as a “repeat offender,” but McCarthy remained livid that Adams was injured on what he called a “dirty” hit.

“There’s no place in this game for those types of hits. That’s been made loud and clear,” McCarthy said. “That hit was totally unnecessary yesterday. As far as any type of rule changes, what they want to add, that’s obviously for future discussion. The player has been suspended, whatever you think about that. But Davante was in a position that he shouldn’t have been hit like that, and that was clear.

“I like (Panthers coach) Ron Rivera. I’ve always respected the play style of his football team. But that hit was a dirty hit.”



Green Bay Packers’ Aaron Rodgers (12) blocks Carolina Panthers’ Thomas Davis (58) during the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.

(AP Photo/Bob Leverone)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
Phone No.: (684) 248-1234
bids@aspower.com

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:**

Procurement Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
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.

Document

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

► Kyle...

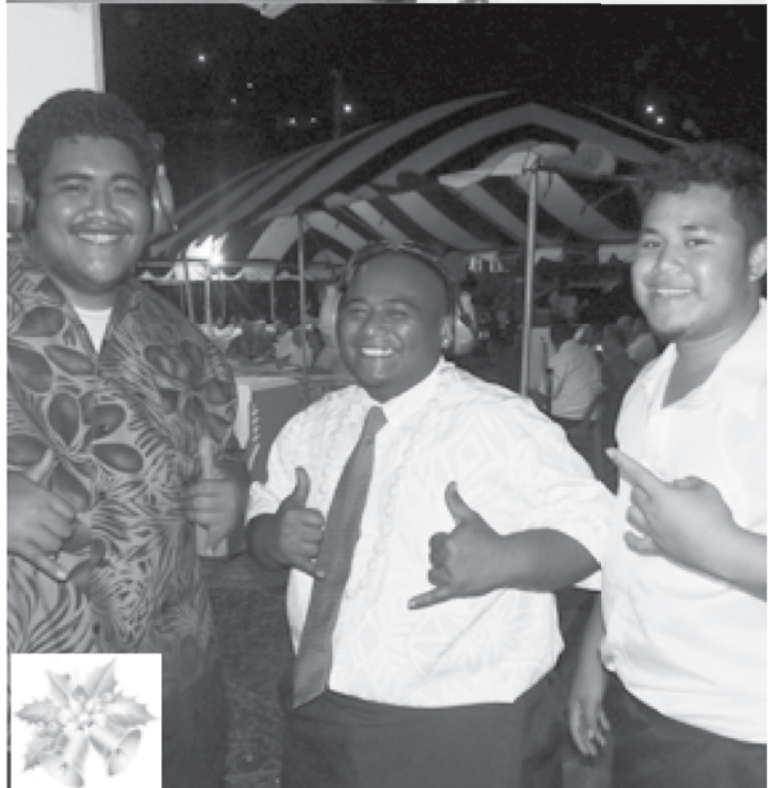
Continued from page B2

winning drives in two of his three starts.

But the real test, according to Shanahan, will be how Garoppolo handles adversity. He mostly avoided it while going 5-0 as a starter dating back to last season when helped the Patriots win two games during Tom Brady’s suspension to start the year.

“I’m sure some day he will lose and guys have rough

games,” Shanahan said. “I don’t care how good you are or if you’re the greatest quarterback of all time. ... In order to see how guys are doing, you’ve got to see how they respond to adversity and how they can do it over the long haul. Jimmy is going to get that opportunity and we’ll see, and I feel pretty confident he’ll handle it the right way.”



Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley (30) rushes against Seattle Seahawks cornerback Shaquill Griffin (26) in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, in Seattle. Gurley had four touchdowns and the Rams won 42-7.

(AP Photo/John Froschauer)

Blowout loss leaves Seahawks needing help in playoff chase

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — Pete Carroll was notably somber on Monday and understandably so. Even a day later, the most lopsided loss of his Seattle Seahawks tenure was still stinging.

“A difficult day yesterday that didn’t get anywhere near the expectations that we had,” Carroll said. “We ran into a day, like some of us know, our hard days, they don’t always go like you like.”

Seattle has generally thrived in important games with something at stake. In this case it was the NFC West lead and a much easier path toward a sixth straight playoff appearance. And it was coming two weeks after one of Seattle’s more complete performances in recent seasons with a convincing 24-10 win over Philadelphia.

All of those factors made the 42-7 blowout loss to the Rams so shocking, and tough for the Seahawks to accept. There were few answers, other than it was a complete thumping by the Rams.

“I think that’s why our expectations were so high and why we’re so disappointed about it today,” Carroll said. “But we have to move on from it.”

Moving on was a theme for Carroll on Monday and he’s right in trying to be optimistic. The Seahawks (8-6) still have fleeting playoff hopes, but have no room for error the rest of the way if they intend on finding their way to the postseason. Wins over Dallas and Arizona seem like absolutes, and the Seahawks will likely need help from others.

But that only addresses the now. Sunday’s loss to the Rams felt like a tipping point for the finest era in Seahawks history. They are becoming less the brash, unapologetic bullies of the NFC West

and more an older, expensive roster likely in need of some remodeling.

It’s big picture stuff that the Seahawks will need to address in the offseason but was on everyone’s mind in the aftermath of such a deflating loss to the new upstarts in the division.

“That wasn’t anything like it’s been since I got here,” Seattle center Justin Britt said after the loss. “The Rams are a hell of a team this year and they have a lot of depth and really good players. It’s kind of the same story every week.”

There were many reasons why the Rams were so dominant but none appeared more bothersome to Carroll than Seattle’s inability to slow down Todd Gurley and the Rams’ run game. Seattle held Gurley to 43 yards rushing in its Week 5 victory and believed even with the losses on defense due to injury they could keep the Rams’ run game in check.

But Seattle’s defensive front was out of position on too many plays in the first half and watched Gurley run wild. Gurley had 144 yards rushing in the first half and found huge running lanes as Seattle failed to stay disciplined up front and didn’t tackle well in the back end.

“When they running crazy on us like that, that’s no fun at all,” safety Earl Thomas said. “They celebrating and stuff. That’s not what we’re used to. It definitely sucks.”

The Rams finished with 244 yards rushing, the second-most allowed since Carroll arrived in Seattle. Only Kansas City’s 270 yards rushing in 2010 — led by 173 yards from Jamaal Charles — topped the Rams’ performance.

“We got a little bit anxious, tried to get at the quarterback too much, got out of our run lanes and gave them some stuff,” Carroll said.

Playoffs not in cards for Raiders after latest loss

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Coach Jack Del Rio still doesn't understand how Dallas got a first down by the width of an index card in a key play of a game that dealt a crippling blow to the Oakland Raiders' already slim playoff hopes.

Dak Prescott's fourth-down sneak gave the Cowboys a first down by the narrowest of margins after a measurement that included props and helped set up the go-ahead score in Dallas' 20-17 win Sunday night.

"Nothing really surprises you after 32 years, things happen in this league," Del Rio said Monday. "But, that was unusual."

The key play came when the Cowboys went for it on fourth-and-1 from their 39 with about five minutes left in a tie game. Prescott dived into the pile on a sneak, and the officials took some time to untangle the mess and spot the ball.

Referee Gene Steratore called for the chains to come out, but even then it wasn't clear if the ball had cleared the first-down threshold. He tried to slide an index card between the tip of the ball and the end of the chain before awarding Dallas a first down.

Steratore said after the game he had decided it was a first down before the odd measurement, but Del Rio isn't buying it.

"I thought everything was in place to get an accurate call and I saw space and in my opinion, it should have gone the other way and a turnover on downs. I haven't had a chance to call and get the explanation. I mean, I'm sure there will be some kind of

explanation, but whatever it is, I'm going to disagree with it," Del Rio said. "I know what I saw, I saw it myself from the sideline. But I also saw plenty examples on Twitter. The guy ran out there with the camera and put the camera right down on it, so the whole world got to see what it was. It's not like we're making something up. The guy with the camera was right there. So how you can look at that and then get up with a smirk. I don't know, that's hard to take."

Oakland still had a chance to win after holding Dallas to a field goal on that drive, but Derek Carr fumbled while trying to stretch the ball over the goal line on a scramble and the ball rolled out of the end zone for a touchback that gave the Cowboys the ball.

The Raiders head into the final two games with only the slimmest of postseason chances. They must win at Philadelphia and the Chargers, then hope Buffalo and Tennessee each lose twice, Miami wins twice and Baltimore gets at least one tie or win in the final two games to get in as the sixth seed in the AFC.

Oakland's playoff odds are estimated at less than 1 percent, according to fivethirtyeight.com. Still, Del Rio doesn't plan to shift playing time with an eye on evaluating younger players ahead of next season.

"We're going to play to win," he said. "We're just going to play to win. We're going to do everything we can to get over this 'close but no cigar' finish we had."



Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh answers questions during a news conference after his team defeated the Cleveland Browns in an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Ron Schwane)

Ravens' path to playoffs involves getting 2 wins at home

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens path to the playoffs is devoid of tie-breakers, scoreboard watching or lengthy plane trips.

For the Ravens (8-6) to end a two-year hiatus from the postseason, all they have to do is win their last two games — both at home against teams that long ago were eliminated from playoff contention.

Now that's a home stretch to savor.

Then again, coach John Harbaugh is taking nothing for granted as he prepares his team for Saturday's game against Indianapolis (3-11) and the New Year's Eve finale against Cincinnati (5-9).

"We're going to need to play our best football to accomplish what we're trying to accomplish," Harbaugh said Monday.

Judging by past performances, the odds are stacked heavily in favor of the Ravens.

Baltimore is 58-20 at home during the regular season during Harbaugh's 10-year run, including 15-7 in December. The Ravens have allowed an NFL-low 16.4 points per game at home over that span and have an average victory margin of 14.2 points.

They're 4-2 in their own stadium this season, including a 40-0 rout of Miami and a 44-20 win over Detroit.

In their road finale Sunday, Baltimore avoided the temptation of looking past winless Cleveland. After a slow start, the Ravens outscored the Browns 10-0 in the second half and pulled away to a 27-10 victory.

Not long after the final whistle, the players began thinking about facing Indianapolis. Although it's going to take two wins to get into the postseason, the Ravens will worry about the Bengals next week.

"If you look ahead, you set yourself up for a trap," quarterback Joe Flacco said. "All we can focus on is feeling good about this game and looking forward to the next game."



Oakland Raiders quarterback Derek Carr (4) fumbles the ball into the end zone in front of Dallas Cowboys strong safety Jeff Heath (38) during the second half of an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017. The play was ruled a touchback and the Cowboys got possession. The Cowboys won 20-17. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

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A Lion Heart player, left, and Pago Youth opponent compete for the ball during their round 3 match of the 2017 FFAS Top 4 Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 at Pago Park Soccer Stadium.

[FFAS MEDIA/Brian Vitolio]

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- Manage land issues, prepare leases, contracts and other legal documents.
- Provide legal advisory services on matters relating to the company's FCC regulatory processes and compliance.
- Identify legal and commercial risks and proactively propose solutions to mitigate risks.
- Provide legal advice and support on sales distribution and marketing of its products and services, and HR matters
- Support and advise the company on matters relating to debt recovery litigation
- Work closely with the Am. Samoa Government's Attorney General's office for applicable corporate and other legal matters and the Governor's office for telecommunications regulatory matters.
- Member of management team contributing to the overall management of business operation

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS REQUIRE

- Bachelors Degree and Juris Doctorate
- Minimum of 2 years experience and proven experience as legal counsel, preferably in a corporate environment
- Licensed to practice law in American Samoa
- Excellent working knowledge of Am. Samoa legal system and corporate law and procedures
- Adequate knowledge of US Federal laws and regulations; knowledge of FCC regulations is an added advantage
- Good understanding of Am. Samoan land ownership system
- Excellent analytical, written and oral communication skills
- Fluent in the English language (essential) and the Samoan language (desirable)
- General knowledge of relevant telecommunications products and services
- High degree of professional ethics and integrity
- Sound judgment and ability to analyze situations and information
- Strong leadership and organizational skills
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- Professional presentation skills

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NFC North champion Vikings check one box, aim for the next

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With the NFC North title in hand, the Minnesota Vikings have guaranteed themselves a home game to start the playoffs. Now it's time to schedule it for the second weekend in January, rather than the first.

"We're still playing for seeding. We would like to play, if possible, every game at U.S. Bank Stadium," head coach Mike Zimmer said. "I know we're going to get one, but we're kind of greedy."

After beating the Cincinnati Bengals 34-7 on Sunday, the Vikings (11-3) shifted their attention toward Green Bay for a game this Saturday night against the rival Packers (7-7). Following months of dismissals of the bigger post-season picture, perfecting the company line about their singular focus on just the current opponent, they've finally given themselves permission to speak openly about securing at least second place in the conference and the first-round bye that comes with it.

"We want to get back out here and play in front of these fans who have been amazing all year," running back Latavius Murray said. The Super Bowl, for those who haven't heard, is conveniently located in Minnesota this season. No team has ever played in the big game in its home stadium.

"Everything we want is still out in front of us," quarterback Case Keenum said.

That's why the Vikings, though they proudly wore their gray division champion hats after the game, were relatively

restrained with their celebration. "Because we have a lot of work to do," wide receiver Adam Thielen said. That dream scenario of playing the entire postseason at home probably won't materialize. Philadelphia has a one-game lead on the Vikings and the tiebreaker edge, so one more win by the Eagles will give them the top seed. They host Oakland (6-8) and Dallas (8-6) in their last two games. A loss by the Vikings to the Packers would also seal home-field advantage for the Eagles. The Eagles, now playing without starting quarterback Carson Wentz, could always lose their first playoff game, though. That would create an opportunity for the Vikings to host the NFC championship game, an event that hasn't been held in Minnesota since the 1998 season. Even if the Vikings beat the Packers on Saturday night, they'll have to wait until Sunday afternoon to learn whether or not they've wrapped up a bye. If Carolina (10-4) wins the NFC South, that would require the Vikings to finish ahead of the Panthers because of their loss to them on Dec. 10. The Panthers host Tampa Bay and play at Atlanta to finish their schedule.

Where the Vikings would get a break if they were to lose to the Packers is from New Orleans (10-4), the team they beat in the season opener. The Saints beat the Panthers twice and would thus win a tiebreaker for the division title, so if they win out against Atlanta and at Tampa Bay they'll relegate the Panthers to a wild card spot.



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TELL ME A STORY: THE CLEVER GIRL AND THE BEAR

(A RUSSIAN FOLKTALE)
*adapted by Amy Friedman and
 illustrated by Meredith Johnson*

Once upon a time, an old man and woman had a pretty little granddaughter named Masha. The grandparents were usually careful never to let their beloved granddaughter get into trouble, but one day Masha’s friends invited her to go into the forest to see the frost that was lacing tree branches.

“Father Frost has filled the forest,” her friends said. “It’s so beautiful.”

Masha begged her grandparents to let her go.

Though they were nervous, they gave their granddaughter permission, and as she departed, they called after her, “Keep close to your friends.”

Masha and her friends wandered through the forest staring at the frost coating the trees. Masha was so dazzled by the beauty that she did not keep her eye on her friends, and before long she discovered she was all alone.

She called out to her friends, “Hello, where are you?”

Her friends did not hear her, so they did not answer.

After a while, Masha began to grow cold. She kept wandering, hoping she would come upon her friends, but when her fingers began to feel numb, she worried she would never be saved. Suddenly, she saw a little hut ahead of her. She knocked on the door.

When no one answered, Masha lightly pushed on the door, and to her delight, it opened. She walked inside, wondering who lived in this place.

It happened that an enormous bear lived in the hut, but he was out hunting. Masha made herself comfortable, sitting by a chair to watch out the window for her friends. As evening fell, it grew too dark for her to see. Masha was feeling very anxious. To her surprise, the door suddenly opened and the bear walked in.

When he saw Masha, he was pleased. “I’ve always wanted my own human,” he said. “You will live here with me forever, and you will cook my breakfast and supper. If you don’t agree to be my faithful servant, I will eat you.”

Masha could not stop weeping for a long time, but she obeyed the bear’s wishes. She cooked and kept house and looked after the hut as best she could. Whenever the bear set off to go hunting, he looked at her and said, “Don’t you dare go away. Wait for me, or I will hunt you down and eat you. And if I cannot find you, I will eat up your grandma and grandpa!”

For months, Masha dreamed of ways she could escape, but the forest surrounded her. She had no one to ask for directions home, and so she could only sit and think, plotting and planning and

imagining the day she returned to her grandparents’ house.

One day when the bear returned from the forest, Masha said, “Please let me go to the village today. I want to buy a gift for my grandma and grandpa. I know they miss me very much, and you are so kind that I know you will take it to them and let them know I am safe.”

The bear laughed. “I can’t let you go. You’ll get lost in the forest,” he said. “But tell me what you want for your grandparents, and I will get it and take it to them.”

This was exactly what Masha had hoped he would say. That afternoon, while the bear was hunting, she baked an apple pie and a pumpkin pie and wrapped them up and placed them in a big basket. When the bear came home, Masha showed him the basket with the pies. “You will take this basket to my grandparents, but be careful not to open it along the way,” she explained. “It’s full of pies, and I don’t want you to be

tempted to eat them on your way. I am going to climb to the top of the biggest oak tree outside our door to watch and make sure you don’t open it.” The bear promised he would not open the basket. “Now go outside and check the weather,” Masha said. “I don’t want you to have to walk such a long way in the bitter cold.”

The bear walked outside to check the weather, and as he did, Masha crawled into the basket and covered herself with the pies. When the bear walked back inside, he picked up the basket, strapped it to his back and started off for her grandparents’ house. On he trudged, up and down hills, along a winding trail. The basket was so heavy that he was soon breathing heavily. He sat down to rest. Soon his mouth began to water at the thought of those delicious pies. “I think I’ll just eat one,” he said. When Masha heard this, she called from the basket, “I see you there, bear. I see everything. Stand up now and take the pies to my grandma and grandpa just as

you promised!”

“My, she has sharp eyes,” the bear said. He quickly stood up and walked on, faster than before.

When the bear arrived in Masha’s grandparents’ village, he found their house and banged on the gate.

“I have a gift to you from your granddaughter!” he cried. By then, the village dogs had sniffed the bear and rushed from every yard, barking and yelping and howling. The bear became so frightened that he put down the basket and raced away. When the old man and woman saw the basket, they lifted the top, and there was their pretty granddaughter, alive and well. All three wept with joy as they lifted her out and hugged her and kissed her.

“I am fine,” Masha told her grandparents, “and I learned to be clever because I had to.”

They agreed and lived happily ever after, proud of their granddaughter’s courage, wit and wisdom.

The Clever Girl and the Bear



Meredith Johnson



FILE - In this Feb. 8, 2002, file photo, U.S. champion Michelle Kwan practices for the women's short program for the Winter Olympic Games at Salt lake Ice Center in Salt Lake City. A committee studying the possibility of Salt Lake City making a bid to host another Winter Olympics says it would rather host the games in 2030, but would be ready if for some reason they are needed for 2026.

(AP Photo/Doug Mills, File)

Salt Lake City aiming for bid for 2030 Winter Olympics

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah officials studying the possibility of Salt Lake City making a bid to host another Winter Olympics said Monday they would rather host the games in 2030, but could be ready if they're needed for 2026.

Hosting the games after the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles would provide a better opportunity to raise sponsorship dollars, said Fraser Bullock, co-chairman of the committee and a key player in the city's 2002 Olympics. Los Angeles has exclusive rights to negotiate first with potential sponsors to help fund their games, meaning hosting the games before them would be more complicated than after, Bullock said.

"But if nobody else bids for 2026, we would certainly be available," Bullock said.

Denver and Reno, Nevada have also expressed interest in the U.S. Internationally, cities considering making a bid include Sion, Switzerland; Calgary, Canada; and Sapporo, Japan.

The Salt Lake City committee held its second meeting Monday, discussing in broad strokes budget, venues, staffing, transportation and environmental issues.

The group is leaning toward recommending that the city make another bid but will issue its full report to state leaders on Feb. 1. It will include a budget estimate and other detailed plans.

Salt Lake City's pitch would be centered on being able to host the Olympics for less money than other cities by using existing venues. Some venues need improvements and refurbishing, but officials say they wouldn't have to build anything from scratch.

It's likely to still cost \$1.2-\$1.6 billion, officials have said.

"Our budget will be a fraction of every other bid city that is out there," Bullock said.

Even though the 2030 Olympics would normally be awarded in 2023, Bullock said Utah must have its bid ready much earlier. Bullock says there's a chance the International Olympic Committee awards the 2026 and 2030 games at the same time in 2019.

That's what the IOC did in September for the first time ever, awarding the 2024 Summer Olympics to Paris and the 2028 Summer Olympics to Los Angeles.

Salt Lake City would first have to persuade

the United States Olympic Committee it's a better candidate than Denver and Reno because the country can only put one city in the bidding per cycle.

The USOC has until next March to pick a city for 2026, though chief executive Scott Blackmun said earlier this month that officials believe the 2030 Winter Olympics are more realistic. He said though they are still keeping open the possibility of making a bid for 2026.

Denver, which famously rejected an offer to host the 1976 Winter Olympics, has assembled a committee to take a tough-minded look at whether the city should pursue a bid for another Olympics. Denver Mayor Michael Hancock has asked the group, which includes former Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning as well as Gov. John Hickenlooper and the heads of companies such as Vail Resorts and Liberty Global, to look at whether the Olympics could be privately financed, gauge community support and study the possible environmental impact.

Among the international cities with interest, Bullock said he thinks Sion, Switzerland, is the best candidate. But, he said the European country needs to generate support first from its residents and lawmakers. Utah officials say they have polling that shows nearly nine in 10 state residents approve the idea of hosting the Olympics again.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert thinks Salt Lake City should make the bid, saying that the state still reaps benefits from hosting the 2002 Winter Olympics, which not only brought billions in spending but invaluable exposure.

"Foreign direct investment in Utah comes with this exposure," Herbert said. "It was a great door opener for us on international business."

If Utah officials decide to bid, they may have to answer questions about a bidding scandal that marred the 2002 Games and resulted in several International Olympic Committee members losing their positions for taking bribes.

Bullock said he's not worried because the 2002 Olympics were a success and the current IOC members remember that and not the scandal.

"We have a new group of IOC members who think of Salt Lake City very fondly," Bullock said.

NFC North champion Vikings check one box, aim for the next

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With the NFC North title in hand, the Minnesota Vikings have guaranteed themselves a home game to start the playoffs.

Now it's time to schedule it for the second weekend in January, rather than the first.

"We're still playing for seeding. We would like to play, if possible, every game at U.S. Bank Stadium," head coach Mike Zimmer said. "I know we're going to get one, but we're kind of greedy."

After beating the Cincinnati Bengals 34-7 on Sunday, the Vikings (11-3) shifted their attention toward Green Bay for a game this Saturday night against the rival Packers (7-7).

Following months of dismissals of the bigger postseason picture, perfecting the company line about their singular focus on just the current opponent, they've finally given themselves permission to speak openly about securing at least second place in the conference and the first-round bye that comes with it. "We want to get back out here and play in front of these fans who have been amazing all year," running back Latavius Murray said. The Super Bowl, for those who haven't heard, is conveniently located in Minnesota this season. No team has ever played in the big game in its home stadium. "Everything we want is still out in front of us," quarterback Case Keenum said. That's why the Vikings, though they proudly wore their gray division champion hats after the game, were relatively restrained with their celebration.

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playing the entire postseason at home probably won't materialize. Philadelphia has a one-game lead on the Vikings and the tiebreaker edge, so one more win by the Eagles will give them the top seed. They host Oakland (6-8) and Dallas (8-6) in their last two games. A loss by the Vikings to the Packers would also seal home-field advantage for the Eagles.

The Eagles, now playing without starting quarterback Carson Wentz, could always lose their first playoff game, though. That would create an opportunity for the Vikings to host the NFC championship game, an event that hasn't been held in Minnesota since the 1998 season. Even if the Vikings beat the Packers on Saturday night, they'll have to wait until Sunday afternoon to learn whether or not they've wrapped up a bye. If Carolina (10-4) wins the NFC South, that would require the Vikings to finish ahead of the Panthers because of their loss to them on Dec. 10. The Panthers host Tampa Bay and play at Atlanta to finish their schedule.

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"We've been saying for a while that these wins don't really mean anything yet, and yesterday we were able to accomplish something with it and get the division," right guard.



Minnesota Vikings defensive end Brian Robison celebrates after a sack during the first half of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, in Minneapolis.

(AP Photo/Bruce Kluckhohn)

Washington State's Leach agrees to \$20 million extension

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State football coach Mike Leach on Monday agreed to a five-year, \$20 million contract extension.

The extension agreement came after Leach's name was linked to other jobs, most notably at Tennessee, in recent weeks. The Cougars went 9-3 in the regular season and are preparing for the Holiday Bowl against Michigan State.

The revised contract agreement will pay Leach \$3.5 million in 2018, \$3.75 million in 2019 and \$4 million annually from 2020-22. Leach will also obtain a one-time retention bonus of \$750,000 if he stays with the school through the 2020 season.

Leach's pool of money for assistant coaches will be bumped by \$400,000 for the 2018 season, and the school acknowledged the need for a new indoor practice facility.

"Coach Leach has led a spectacular turnaround in the fortunes of our football program during the last six years, and we want to keep him in the Cougar family for a long time to come," school President Kirk Schulz said in a news release.

Schulz said the success of the football program had benefited the entire university.

"Intercollegiate athletics are a critical front door to every university," Schulz said.

This season, Leach guided the Cougars to a third consecutive bowl appearance, a first for a WSU head coach. He is also the first coach at WSU to post three consecutive winning seasons since Jim Sutherland did so from 1957-59.

"I would like to thank President Schulz and Washington State for their commitment to Cougar football," Leach said. "We have accomplished some great things in our time here and my staff and I are excited to lead WSU Cougar football into the future."

Washington State is digging out of a multimillion-dollar budget deficit, including in athletics. Leach, formerly at Texas Tech, was paid \$3 million this season.

In his six seasons at Washington State, Leach is 38-37 and has qualified for four bowl games in the past five years. Before he arrived, WSU had only gone to 10 bowls in its history.

Additionally, WSU's attendance has gone from 76.1 percent of capacity in 2011, the year before he arrived, to 97.1 percent this season.



The Rams bench reacts as running back Todd Gurley runs for his third touchdown in the first half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, in Seattle. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

Rams on verge of securing first division title since 2003

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Somewhere in Sean McVay's house are two hats celebrating division titles from his time as an assistant coach in Washington.

A win at the Tennessee Titans on Sunday would get McVay his first as a head coach and give the Los Angeles Rams their first NFC West crown since 2003.

"Those are tough to get," McVay said Monday. "That's a special accomplishment, to be able to win a division. To win games in this league is so hard, and you appreciate every single opportunity. When you do win, you certainly cherish that, especially division championships."

After their 42-7 win at the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday to take a two-game lead in the division with two games remaining, the Rams (10-4) can assure themselves a home playoff game by winning at Tennessee this week or beating the San Francisco 49ers at home on Dec. 31. It would be the first playoff game in Los Angeles since the Raiders defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 20-10 at the Coliseum in the divisional round on Jan. 13, 1991.

McVay has continually preached an emphasis on process over results, but will acknowledge the opportunity to seize the tangible benefit of the team's hard work as soon as this weekend.

"We don't shy away from what is at stake, but we do keep our same approach in terms of just kind of that weekly rhythm, but absolutely something you talk about," McVay said.

The Rams' surprising turnaround has plenty of people talking about various ways of recognizing it. McVay, in his first year at the helm, is a leading candidate for coach of the year honors. Plenty of players are likely to be included when the Pro Bowl rosters are announced Tuesday. Even running back Todd Gurley is starting to get mentioned as a possible option in most valuable player voting.

McVay will gladly lead the charge for Gurley's candidacy, coming off his eruption for 152 yards rushing and four total touchdowns against the Seahawks, as a way of saluting his resurgent third season and the Rams' revival. Gurley's performance was the result of the offensive line and

receivers getting physical in the run game and quarterback Jared Goff's game management, and McVay said it can be extrapolated throughout the entire season.

"I'm obviously going to be biased to Todd, but I think if you just look at it from a production standpoint he's been as productive as any player," McVay said. "He's got over 1,800 all-purpose yards, 17 touchdowns leading the league, over 630 yards receiving. He has a great game yesterday, but Todd will tell you that success he's had is a credit to his teammates."

Outside the uptick in Gurley's workload against the Seahawks, which McVay joked about after receiving some criticism for only giving him 13 carries in the 43-35 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, there hasn't been much the head coach has had to change this season. A tweak to the midweek schedule has been one of the few exceptions.

McVay will hold a walkthrough instead of a practice Wednesday after having to reduce the level of activity on each of the past two Wednesdays because of poor air quality caused by the Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara. It isn't a significant change as the Rams were already using Wednesdays to give veteran players like left tackle Andrew Whitworth, center John Sullivan and outside linebacker Connor Barwin an extra day off. After seeing a "fresh" and "fast" team against the Seahawks, McVay believes the reduced physical workload had a beneficial effect on the entire roster on game day.

"As long as they continue to understand how important it is to just be locked in, great focus and concentration from a mental standpoint, we feel like that's going to be the best thing and that's the approach we'll take this week again," McVay said.

NOTES: Linebacker Mark Barron was limited against the Seahawks with a knee injury that McVay believes was exacerbated by the cold weather. McVay expects Barron to play against the Titans, where the forecast on Sunday includes a high of 44 degrees and a mix of rain and snow showers.



FILE - in this Oct. 21, 2017, file photo, Washington State coach Mike Leach watches from the sideline during the second half of the team's NCAA college football game against Colorado in Pullman, Wash. A person with direct knowledge of the meeting says Leach met with Tennessee athletic director John Currie to discuss the Volunteers' coaching vacancy. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side intended to make the meeting public. The meeting was in Los Angeles earlier Thursday, Nov. 30, and Leach was scheduled to fly back to Pullman. (AP Photo/Young Kwak, File)



Columbus Blue Jackets center Pierre-Luc Dubois, right, hangs onto Boston Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy (73) as they fight during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Monday, Dec. 18, 2017.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

⊗ DeBrusk has goal, 2 assists as Bruins beat Blue Jackets 7-2

BOSTON (AP) — Led by their young players, the Boston Bruins put up their highest scoring game of the season.

Rookie Jake DeBrusk set up second-period power-play goals by David Backes and fellow rookie Charlie McAvoy and added a goal of his own. Tuukka Rask stopped 16 shots to keep up his hot stretch, and the Bruins beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 7-2 on Monday night.

Brad Marchand, Danton Heinen, Torey Krug and Patrice Bergeron also scored for the Bruins, who halted a two-game skid. Rask improved to 6-0-1 in his last seven starts. McAvoy also had an assist and his first career NHL fight.

“It was an opportunity for them to show their abilities and their talents,” Backes said of the young players. “They didn’t disappoint one bit.”

Josh Anderson and Seth Jones scored, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 38 saves — including a penalty shot by Tim Schaller — for the Blue Jackets.

“We have to take it right on the chin like we did tonight and try to get better for the next game. That’s all we can do,” Columbus coach John Tortorella said. “Right through our lineup we weren’t good. Obviously, this is the result.”

Columbus lost for the third in four games and was dominated in the first two periods when they fell into a 3-0 hole.

Leading 1-0 in the second, DeBrusk made his two very nice cross-ice passes, helping the Bruins converted on consecutive power plays just over five minutes apart.

On the first, DeBrusk skated deep down the left wing and sent a pass across to Backes, who one-timed a shot into the net.

DeBrusk then set up McAvoy’s goal with a pass across the slot from the bottom of the right circle. McAvoy one-timed it into the net before Bobrovsky could get to the other side of the crease.

“It’s fun hockey. It’s nice to see those guys finish,” DeBrusk said. “It’s nice to find those seems and nice that we converted as well. The

more seems you find, the more chances you’ll get.”

The Bruins owned a 28-14 edge in shots on goal after two periods, dictating play for most of the game. Columbus had just one shot on goal by a forward in the opening period.

Anderson converted a feed from Alexander Wennberg 8:32 into the third, but Heinen scored to seal it. Boston then scored three more.

“In the third period we fell apart,” Anderson said. “I don’t know what happened.”

Rask made a solid pad stop on Cam Atkinson’s partial breakaway with the Bruins on a power play early in the second.

Marchand made it 1-0 when he one-timed a drop pass from Bergeron inside the right post for his 14th goal with 5:12 left in the first.

Earlier in the period, Schaller missed a wide-open net when he hit the left post on a rebound with Bobrovsky out of position.

NOTES: McAvoy got into a fight in the third period. Injured Bruins D Adam McQuaid watched the replay on a TV in the press box, smiled and said: “He just needs an assist now,” referring to a Gordie Howe hat trick of a goal, assist and a fight. ... Marchand has at least a point in a career-high nine straight games after missing his previous six with an injury. ... Boston C David Krejci was sidelined with an upper body injury and wasn’t expected to travel to Buffalo. ... Columbus LW Markus Hannikainen was back in the lineup after being a healthy scratch the previous three games. ... The teams face each other one more time this regular season — on March 19 in Boston. The Bruins lost the only other meeting; 4-3 in a shootout in Columbus on Oct. 30.

UP NEXT

Blue Jackets: Host the Maple Leafs on Wednesday in the teams’ first meeting this season.

Bruins: Travel to Buffalo and face the Sabres on Tuesday. They lost 5-4 in overtime at home on Oct. 21 in the only other matchup this season.

Bulls beat 76ers 117-115 for 6th straight win

CHICAGO (AP) — Nikola Mirotic and Kris Dunn each scored 22 points, and the Chicago Bulls topped the Philadelphia 76ers 117-115 on Monday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Mirotic and Dunn each hit huge shots down the stretch as Chicago rallied past Philadelphia with a big finish in the fourth quarter. Mirotic also grabbed 13 rebounds, helping the Bulls remain unbeaten since he returned Dec. 8 after missing the start of the season with facial fractures after he got into a fight with teammate Bobby Portis during practice.

Seven players scored in double figures for Chicago. Justin Holiday scored all 20 of his points in the first half, and Portis finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Ben Simmons had 19 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for the Sixers, who lost for the sixth time in seven games. Dario Saric scored 20 of his 27 points in the second half.

Philadelphia played without Joel Embiid, who rested on the first night of back-to-back games for the Sixers. The 7-foot center, who scored 34 points in Friday night’s triple-overtime loss to Oklahoma City, did not make the trip to Chicago.

But Simmons and Saric helped Philadelphia get in position to stop Chicago’s win streak in the fourth quarter, up 107-99 with 3:49 left. The Bulls responded with one of the best stretches of their suddenly interesting season.

Lauri Markkanen made a 3-pointer, Mirotic blocked Saric’s shot on the other end and

Dunn made a tying 3-pointer with 2:46 left — part of a 15-2 spurt for Chicago. Dunn’s jumper made it 114-109 with 1:05 remaining.

Simmons had a chance to tie it in the final seconds, but missed wildly and Mirotic grabbed the rebound.

Richaun Holmes had 14 points and seven rebounds for Philadelphia, which went 14 for 33 from 3-point range. J.J. Redick finished with 12 points.

Holiday got hot at the end of the second quarter, scoring 15 points in the final 4:38 of the first half. The scoring spree began with consecutive 3s and also included a four-point play and an impressive reverse jam, helping Chicago to a 67-59 lead at the break.

TIP-INS

76ers: T.J. McConnell had 11 points, six rebounds and five assists. ... Philadelphia out-rebounded Chicago 47-39.

Bulls: Markkanen returned to the starting lineup after missing three straight games due to back spasms. The rookie missed his first five shots and finished with 10 points on 4-for-11 shooting. ... Mirotic spun Saric around late in the first quarter and then drained a 3-pointer right over him. Mirotic grinned as he ran up the court and the Bulls’ bench celebrated.

UP NEXT

Sixers: Host Sacramento on Tuesday night. The Kings have dropped three of four.

Bulls: Host Orlando on Wednesday night. The Bulls beat the Magic 105-83 in Orlando in their first matchup of the season on Nov. 3.



Philadelphia 76ers’ Robert Covington, center, battles Chicago Bulls’ Bobby Portis (5) for a rebound as Bulls’ Nikola Mirotic (44) watches during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 18, 2017, in Chicago. The Bulls won 117-115.

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

BUSINESS & SERVICE *Directory*

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FOR LEASE

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HELP/JOBS

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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

USED MOTOR OIL? Take it to a LUBE CUBE. Drop off used motor oil at a service station near you. Protect the land, protect our drinking water. ASEPA 633-2304

HURTING? ABUSED? Free peer-to-peer teen counseling at Teen Challenge for peer pressure, suicide prevention, drug & alcohol prevention. TC open Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm & Fri 9am-noon. 699-2635/2636 Teen Hope 699-2641

FEELING DOWN and like there is no one to talk to? Contact Catholic Social Services, 8 am - 4 pm, 699-5683 or 699-6611. Where someone is there to listen.

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy Parker December 19, 2017

ACROSS

- 1 Noted New York island
6 Pimples
10 Recipe abbr.
14 Helmsley of hotels
15 Alumni
16 Pro ____ (in proportion)
17 It sets the mood on shows
20 Not in bed
21 Do characteristic work?
22 Army rank, informally
25 A dozen dozen
26 Area under a concha
30 Drying oven
32 Creating dissension
35 Work a joystick
41 90 degrees in the neighborhood?
43 VCR button
44 Certain commandment violator
45 Dispatch
47 Sweet ending?
48 Mower's path
53 Ecstasy's counterpart
56 Foxhound kin
58 Type of network

- 63 Vastly innovative
66 Displaying affection
67 In the raw kitchen
68 Kind of bag
69 Large shopping bag
70 Wheelless vehicle
71 Loses, as fur
DOWN
1 Exile island for Napoleon
2 King of Shakespeare
3 Sites
4 Squid's squirts
5 Wise mentors
6 "Many years ____"
7 Vineyard of France
8 Loire River city
9 Watery swirl
10 More on the mark
11 Low-voiced singer
12 Slob's homes
13 International agreements
18 Chromosome molecule
19 Car ad abbr.
23 Defeat soundly
24 Causing deep cuts

- 26 Off in the distance
27 Dramatically reduce
28 Barge relative
29 Sewing case
31 Mexican munchie
33 Hotel relative
34 Gambler's concern
36 Abbr. on some remotes
37 Persia, once
38 Poker pay-in
39 Souvenir garments
40 Transgresses
42 Taro root
46 Bawling out
48 Elevator passage

- 49 Shout of great joy
50 "You ____ kidding!"
51 Barter
52 Screened from view
54 SSW opposite
55 Favorable answers
57 Ages upon ages
59 Great Salt Lake state
60 Baptism or bris, e.g.
61 Bunched in with
62 Part of a telescope
64 Wordy tribute
65 Actor Beatty

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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EUGENIA LAST

Tuesday,
December 19,
2017

THE LAST WORD IN
ASTROLOGY



Happy Birthday: Taking a serious look at life, what you have accomplished and what you still want to achieve will encourage you to take an innovative and enthusiastic approach to reaching your goals. Satisfaction and peace of mind will become as important to you as the rewards you get for the effort you put in. Romance is highlighted. Your numbers are 6, 10, 22, 29, 34, 44, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Channel your energy into helping others and ensuring that you use your skills, knowledge and experience wisely. Take your time and learn as you move forward. Discipline and personal growth will result in better days ahead. Travel and self-awareness are featured.★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Open up a heartfelt conversation with someone you love. Explain your thoughts and share your ideas. Communication will open the doors to unity and a better understanding of how you can make your life better.★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let your conscience be your guide. Do the right thing and you will be praised for both your courage and resilience. Make noteworthy comments and bring about personal changes that will boost your reputation. Romance is highlighted.★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make relationships a priority. Do whatever it takes to please someone you love. Social events, shopping sprees or activities involving young family members will bring you joy. Use your imagination and you'll come up with a great idea.★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let the last-minute changes others make interfere with your plans. Follow through and don't hesitate to take advantage of any opening that you can turn into an opportunity. Personal changes will enhance your enthusiasm about reaching your personal goals. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Getting out of the house or visiting people who will add to your enthusiasm and lift your spirits should be your choice. Engaging in social events with old friends or doing something with children in the family will brighten your day.★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let what someone else is doing affect your mood. If you can't help, opt to get out of the way. The time spent away from home or with friends will be informative and help you make decisions regarding your personal life.★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Making plans with friends and relatives will give you something to look forward to. A short trip will ensure that you get everything done on time. Be realistic when it comes to your spending habits. Offer someone you love a unique gift.★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look for a new way to use old tools, skills and methods. An industrious attitude will help position you for the future. Working alongside your peers, family members and friends will bring rewards. Personal changes will bring good results.★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotions will be close to the surface. Share your thoughts, but don't put yourself in a compromising position. Someone will twist your words if you are not precise and to the point. Listen carefully and don't divulge personal information★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be secretive about your whereabouts as well as your thoughts and feelings. You have to be positive about what you want and the plans you are going to put into play before you reach out and share with others.★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of any financial, legal or contractual updates that have to be done before the year comes to a close. It's important not to let what others do fluster you. Stick to your plan and you will come out on top.★★★★



KARAOKE FANS HAVE MORE LOVE FOR SINGING THAN TALENT

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Karen," loves to sing karaoke along with many others, most of whom are vocally challenged. Listening to some of them can be grueling when we go out. Karen knows many of these "performers," and when they finish, she goes and tells them what a great job they've done. When I asked her why she gives the false compliments, she said, "I don't want to hurt their feelings."

Well, the same goes for Karen. The other singers compliment her to the point that she now believes she has a competition-worthy voice. In reality, while her voice isn't terrible, it's nowhere near what she thinks it is.

My wife is the love of my life and the nicest person I've ever known. I'm concerned for the future if someone should ever be honest with her about this because, so far, no one has been. Should I tell her the truth to save her from potential public embarrassment, or should I keep my mouth shut? -- COVERING MY EARS

DEAR COVERING: Unless your wife decides to audition for "American Idol," the chances of her being booed off stage are slim. You don't have to sing her praises, but I see nothing positive to be gained by diminishing her pleasure in performing. The word from here is: Keep your lip zipped.

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful, kind sister-in-law I'll call "Margaret." Our sons were born in the same year. She has chosen to keep her son home, while I am sending mine to day care. Both boys are toddlers now. The problem is, my son is socialized, while hers is not.

Margaret's son is mean and unwilling to share or play with my child. He lacks empathy and seeks only adult attention. Because of his lack of socialization and outright unsafe behavior, I don't want my son around him. Am I wrong for not wanting him to be exposed to this behavior?

My husband says it's good for our little one to learn how to deal with mean behavior, since it will make him "tough." However, I don't feel it's our child's job to learn to be tough at such a young age. -- DAY CARE ACCEPTING MOMMY

DEAR DAY CARE MOMMY: Perhaps your son should see this cousin only when they will be closely supervised. Your child may learn to "toughen up" later, but at the age of 2 or 3, it's a bit premature. The child who may be in for trouble is his cousin, because learning concepts like sharing and empathy enable children to successfully socialize with others throughout their lives.

DEAR ABBY: I know for a fact that gifts I have given to family members are often immediately given away. Should I confront them about this? I'd like to suggest that instead of giving the gift away they please return it to me. Of course, I know I could just quit giving them gifts. But I'd like for them to know the reason, instead of appearing to be stingy. Anxious for your opinion. -- ANXIOUS IN FORT WORTH

DEAR ANXIOUS: This is a delicate situation, but it can be handled if you're careful not to cause embarrassment when you tell your relatives you know what they've been doing with your gifts. Perhaps, rather than say you will just quit giving them gifts, you should offer to give them gift cards for a store they like. That way they can have something they will enjoy.

12/19

HOW I WON THE RACE By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20									21					
				22		23	24				25			
26	27	28	29			30			31					
32				33	34				35	36	37	38	39	40
41									42					
43								44						
					45	46					47			
48	49	50	51	52		53			54	55				
56					57				58		59	60	61	62
63							64	65						
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-19

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"Why doesn't somebody give Santa Claus a razor for Christmas?"

Ripley's Believe It or Not!



THE U.S. LAUNCHED THE "VOYAGER 1" SPACECRAFT TWO WEEKS AFTER LAUNCHING ITS TWIN, "VOYAGER 2."

Submitted By
Dan Pauline, W. Lafayette, OH.

Forty-Eight U.S. STATES CONTAIN A VOWEL IN THE FIRST TWO LETTERS OF THEIR NAME — FLORIDA AND RHODE ISLAND ARE THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS.

Submitted By
Richard Gibson, Lafayette, LA.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MEANING OF TRUE HAPPINESS?

IS IT MONEY, CARS AND WOMEN?

...OR IS IT JUST MONEY AND CARS?

WELL-L-L-L?

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To the members of the school Board; On my way to school today I lost a mitten.

If it weren't for you people, I would not have to go to school and would not have lost it. Therefore, I demand that you pay!!!!

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Hagar the Horrible®

by Chris Brown

WISE MAN, YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ON THIS MOUNTAIN FOR TWENTY YEARS! HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF LEAVING?

NO - ISOLATION IS MY CALLING...

BESIDES, MY CAVE IS RENT-CONTROLLED!

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GARFIELD®

by Jim Davis

I WONDER WHAT OPIE WOULD LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS

HE WASN'T SURE

SO I TOLD HIM HE MIGHT FIND SOME IDEAS ONLINE

STINKY, SMELLY THINGS

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Sudoku Pacific

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

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

12/19

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Monday's Puzzle Answer

12/18

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

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Baylor center Kalani Brown, center, scores past McNeese State center Cinthya Rivas, left, and guard Gabby Guidry, right, in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017, in Waco, Texas.

(Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune-Herald via AP)

Brown’s 18 points leads Baylor past Nicholls State, 85-43

THIBODAUX, La. (AP) — Kalani Brown in a return to her native south Louisiana, and No. 6 Baylor defeated Nicholls State 85-43 on Monday night.

Lauren Cox scored 15 points on 7-of-8 shooting for Baylor (10-1), which also finished with a 55-23 rebounding advantage en route to its seventh straight victory.

Freshman Moon Ursin, also playing near home, made her first career start and delighted a throng of green-clad fans behind the Baylor bench. She scored her most points yet with 11.

Tykeria Williams scored 21 for Nicholls State (5-5), but she had little help as the Colonels saw their four-game winning streak snapped.

Kristy Wallace added 14 points for the Lady Bears, who

outshot Nicholls 55.9 percent (33 of 59) to 28.3 percent (17 of 60).

Nicholls was able to keep the game competitive throughout the first quarter, largely because the Lady Bears’ shooters needed a few minutes to find their range.

Baylor led just 12-10 late in the first period and was still as close as 23-17 early in the second period when Tia Charles fed Cassidy Barrios for a layup.

Juicy Landrum, who finished with 11 points, hit a 3 to begin Baylor’s onslaught, igniting a 10-1 run that became a 35-4 surge that spanned until late in the third period and made the score 58-21.

BIG PICTURE

Baylor: Coach Kim Mulkey got what she wanted: a return to the state where she grew up for herself and a pair of New Orleans-area players whose families filled the stands behind the Baylor bench. Mulkey’s son, former LSU baseball star and current St. Louis Cardinals minor leaguer Kramer Robertson, attended the game. The Bears also got the lopsided non-conference victory most expected.

Nicholls State: Nicholls State brought energy and effort before a larger-than-usual crowd at on-campus Stopher Gymnasium. But the Colonels struggled to score against a Baylor squad that had a height advantage at every position, not to mention the disparity in talent and depth.

UP NEXT

Baylor is off through Christmas before opening Big 12 play at Kansas State.

Nicholls State faces a second straight test against the Big 12, visiting Iowa State on Thursday night.

Dragic scratched from Heat’s lineup with strained elbow

ATLANTA (AP) — Heat guard Goran Dragic was scratched from the starting lineup because of a strained left elbow, leaving Miami with just nine healthy players Monday night against the Atlanta Hawks.

Coach Erik Spoelstra said Dragic tested his elbow before the game, but it was too sore for him to shoot. Dragic leads the Heat with a 16.6 scoring average and has started all 29 of Miami’s games. Tyler Johnson started in Dragic’s spot.

Forward James Johnson is sidelined after leaving Saturday’s home win over the Los Angeles Clippers with bursitis in his right ankle.



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