



Team American Samoa thankful for the opportunity to showcase God-given talents

by T. Gasu
Samoa News Sports Correspondent

American Samoa's All-Star Head Coach Pati Pati – who wasn't too much for words – emphasized to Samoa News his sincerest appreciation and thanks to those who helped make Team Amerika Samoa's journey possible, twice now, to the Junior Prep Sport (JPS) Paradise Football Classic II held last week at the Aloha Stadium in Hawai'i.

When asked about the team's performance against the All-Star teams from California and Hawai'i, the Head Coach said, "I thought we did the best we could with the players we had. The teams from Hawai'i and NorCal had their best players, regardless of their class (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)."

He said, "We had some sophomores and juniors that did not make the trip, but it would've really helped the team."

As of the result, Team Amerika Samoa placed 4th in the classic, out of the four competing All-Star teams in the classic, as they lost both of their games. Their first loss against NorCal motivated them to either win, or be eliminated. Their second appearance against Hawai'i West was the eliminating loss for our local team. Pati told Samoa News, "Winning would have been good."

He added "We stressed to the players that this was their opportunity to showcase their God-given talents to the colleges and university football programs so that some of them would be blessed with a scholarship to further their education for free."

When asked if he thought that the trip to Hawaii was worth it, Pati said that he personally feels "that any opportunity given to our student athletes to get a scholarship to lessen the financial burden on parents, families, and the government – whether it be in sports or academic, is definitely worth it."

Pati continued, "Whether we get one, two, or ten scholarships to either Division I, Division II, or Junior College – it was a worthwhile trip."

Pati Pati who took was selected for the second time in a row to the Head Coach position for our local all-star high school football team – wanted to acknowledge and thank those who played a huge part in exposing the talent of our student athletes. "I would like to thank Honorable Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga and the government of American Samoa for having a heart for the youth of the territory."

He added, "Thank you for all that was done for us on the trip, thank you for funding this trip. Thank you to the American Samoa Department Of Educations (ASDOE) as well as JPS Amerika."



American Samoa All-Star Head Coach, Pati Pati – encouraging Adan Mao and our defensive unit during their match up against Hawaii West, their final game of the classic that was held last week at Aloha Stadium in Hawaii.

[photo: Dann Ebina]

For Special Olympians - The goal is participation

by Teri Hunkin
Special to Samoa News

Whether or not you are a fan of sports, the Special Olympics is one of the modern era's most inspiring events, and in American Samoa a group of dedicated parents, athletes and other community volunteers are moving forward with their plans to ensure that our children with disabilities will be represented in the next world Special Olympics, to be held in Abu Dhabi in 2019.

It's a long road to Abu Dhabi, and there is much to do- but the good news is that many community organizations are involved in helping these young athletes realize their dreams, which their disabilities will not deter.

The Parents of Children with Special Needs (PCSN) Network, along with the organizers of the Special Olympics of American Samoa are planning an open water swim meet for children with disabilities. If you have, or know of one of these children, please mark your calendars for this Saturday January 21, at Utulei Beach. It's an early morning event, beginning at 7:30 am.

The event will take place along with an American Samoa Triathlon, which will start at 7 am.

Organizers anticipate starting the actual water races around 8:30 am, with races to accommodate

every swimmer, whether independent or assisted— so that every child of any age and any disability may participate.

Volunteers are needed for help with this event, and the call has gone out. Volunteers please contact Sandy Scanlan or call coach Zero. Their phone numbers are listed below.

Samoa News spoke to Sandy Scanlan, the mother of a special needs child, and a driving force behind this effort. She approaches this challenge with great dignity and enormous energy.

She said, "The really exciting part is that this event will be one of many leading up to our kids going to the 2019 Special Olympics in swimming!"

Tomorrow will be the first of many Open Water Swim Competitions, and will include members of the Special Olympics of American Samoa (SOAS) along with the American Samoa Aquatics Agency (ASAA) as they partner with the PCSN Network.

The event will run concurrent with the American Samoa Triathlon, which will begin after the swim portion of the triathlon.

In the past, the PCSN Network conducted an adapted triathlon course, but this year they will conduct the swim meet alongside – and with the help of— SOAS and ASAA, the first of several leading to

the 2019 Special Olympics games.

For the past year, the PCSN Network along with the ASAA has conducted and adapted swim classes weekly for children (any age) with special needs. On January 21, these two agencies along with the SOAS will host the first ever-open water swim meet.

The goal is participation, and races will be adapted to ensure that every child can compete whether they swim on their own, or with a swim buddy, using a kick board, or being assisted by volunteers or parents. Many have been diligently practicing for this event, and on Thursdays and Saturdays they could be seen at Utulei Beach with their coaches and parents.

Now PCSN is looking for volunteers to help the kids this Saturday. Please see contact information below.

Contact information: Sandra 731-3959 (PCSN) Coach Zero 731-3013 (ASAA), or Tafa 699-7061 (SOAS)

PCSN Network is a parent-to-parent support group for parents of children with disabilities.

ASAA is devoted to ocean and water safety and conducts swim lessons, water safety classes and life guarding instruction.

SOAS is our local Special Olympic organization conducting athletic screenings, training and organizing competitions leading to the Games every four years.



Chicago Bears hire 3 assistant coaches



FILE - In this Dec. 8, 2014, file photo, Green Bay Packers' Clay Matthews sacks Atlanta Falcons' Matt Ryan during the second half of an NFL football game in Green Bay, Wis. The defenses will surely be tested when the Green Bay Packers meet the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC championship game. (AP Photo/Mike Roemer, File)

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — The Chicago Bears have hired three new assistant coaches.

Jeremiah Washburn replaces Dave Magazu as offensive line coach. Washburn last served as assistant offensive line coach under Adam Gase with the Miami Dolphins.

Curtis Modkins was hired as running backs coach. Modkins has coached for 22 years, including nine with the San Francisco 49ers. Prior to that, he spent three seasons as the Detroit Lions' running backs

coach. Modkins replaces Stan Drayton, who left to become assistant head coach at Texas.

Roy Anderson joined the staff as assistant secondary coach. He has eight years of NFL coaching experience with the 49ers, Indianapolis Colts and Baltimore Ravens. Anderson replaces Sam Games, who was fired.

The Bears also announced that the contract of outside linebackers coach Clint Hurtt wasn't renewed.



FILE - In this June 12, 2012, file photo, then-Chicago Bears special teams coach Dave Taub gestures during practice in Lake Forest, Ill. Broncos general manager John Elway began his third coaching search in six seasons with a visit to Kansas City on Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, to interview Chiefs special teams coach Dave Toub. Elway and his committee, which includes team president Joe Ellis and player personnel director Matt Russell, will then travel to Atlanta to meet with Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan over the weekend. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, File)

Leaky pass defenses to be tested when Packers meet Falcons

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers' blueprint to slow down Atlanta in the NFC championship game focuses on turning the high-octane Falcons into a one-dimensional offense.

It sounds simple enough. But this plan could be tough to execute for the Packers with their injury issues in the secondary. It's tough enough to contain All-Pro Matt Ryan and Julio Jones with a healthy defense.

Linebacker Clay Matthews is eager to take on the next test when the Packers visit the Georgia Dome on Sunday.

"I think that's easier said

than done. But that's ultimately what we strive for each and every week," Matthews said about slowing down Atlanta's fifth-ranked rushing attack to create favorable pass-rushing situations. "It's about stopping the run and getting after the quarterback."

The Falcons' own leaky pass defense will also be stressed.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers has been nearly unstoppable of late, with 21 touchdown passes and one interception over an eight-game winning streak that stretches back to the regular season.

"We love a challenge," Falcons cornerback Robert Alford said when asked if he was insulted by predictions of a high-scoring game.

But the conditions do seem ripe for a shootout, just like when Atlanta beat Green Bay 33-32 in Week 8. The Packers were ranked 31st out of 32 teams in the regular season in pass defense (269.3 yards per game); the Falcons were 28th (266.7 yards) in the league.

Rush just three or four defenders against Rodgers and he can make quick, accurate throws to keep the chains moving, or look for creases to run for a first down. Blitz Rodgers and he can extend plays outside the pocket.

This is part of what makes Rodgers elite, Atlanta cornerback Jalen Collins said.

"Just his ability to get out the pocket once a play breaks down and make plays with his feet, whether it be finding an open guy down the field or scrambling for a few yards or a first down," Collins said. Like the Packers, the Falcons have lost key players in the secondary.

Collins, a second-round draft pick in 2015, stepped up after top cornerback Desmond Trufant went down with a season-ending shoulder injury in early

November. Safety Kemal Ishmael, a part-time starter, also had season-ending shoulder injury in December. In nickel defenses, the Falcons have had to rely heavily on undrafted rookie cornerback Brian Poole.

The Falcons could get a break if some of the receivers on the Packers' lengthy injury report can't go. Top wideout Jordy Nelson (ribs) was limited in practice at midweek, while coach Mike McCarthy has said second-leading receiver Davante Adams (ankle) may not practice until Saturday.

The injuries are serious enough that the Packers might have already declared Nelson and Adams out if it were the regular season, McCarthy said.

"But obviously this is a different time and this is a different point where we are in the season," he said Thursday. "Everybody understands what's on the line here."

That includes veteran safety Morgan Burnett, an important piece in the secondary for his solid work against the run and pass. Burnett didn't practice at midweek because of a quadriceps injury suffered in last week's win over Dallas.

Having Burnett would help Green Bay match up against Falcons running backs Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman, who combined for 85 catches and three touchdowns in the regular season.

"We know that Morgan is a very strong person and he's going to do everything in his power to play in this game," said rookie Kentrell Brice, who could step in if Burnett can't play.

But the Falcons' biggest threat in the passing game is the 6-foot-4 Jones, who had six catches for 67 yards and a score last week against Seattle. Cornerback has been one of the areas hardest hit by injuries this season.



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Bills agree to hire Rick Dennison as offensive coordinator

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Newly hired Bills coach Sean McDermott is placing his trust in former Denver Broncos offensive coordinator Rick Dennison to oversee Buffalo's run-heavy attack.

And it might help, too, that Dennison has a connection to quarterback Tyrod Taylor, whose long-term future has been in question in Buffalo.

The Bills on Thursday announced an agreement to hire Dennison as their offensive coordinator. He has 22 years of NFL coaching experience, including the past two running the Broncos' offense.

Dennison fills a key role on the Bills' staff since McDermott was hired last week to replace Rex Ryan, who was fired in the final week of December. The 42-year-old McDermott is a defensive specialist in taking over as a first-time head coach.

Dennison inherits a LeSean McCoy-led offense which has topped the NFL in yards rushing in each of the past two seasons, and also scored a league-high 29 touchdowns rushing last year.

Buffalo is coming off a 7-9 finish and extended the NFL's longest active playoff drought to 17 seasons.

One question mark remains



Buffalo Bills NFL football team new head coach Sean McDermott poses for a photograph with team co-owner Terry Pegula, left, co-owner Kim Pegula and team General Manager Doug Whaley during a press conference, Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, in Orchard Park, N.Y. (AP Photo/Jeffrey T. Barnes)

quarterback, with the Bills having until mid-March to determine whether to activate the first year of the five-year contract extension Taylor signed in August.

Dennison was the Ravens' quarterbacks coach in 2014 when Taylor completed his

fourth and final season in Baltimore as Joe Flacco's backup. Taylor signed with Buffalo the following offseason and has a 15-14 record as the team's two-year starter.

Receiver is another question mark. Starter Sammy Watkins' season was hampered by a

nagging left foot injury, while Robert Woods and speedster Marquise Goodwin are eligible to become free agents in March.

Dennison has been a coach on Denver's three Super Bowl-winning teams: a year ago, and in 1997 and '98 as a special teams assistant.

Though the Broncos won the title a year ago, their offense struggled in finishing 16th in yards gained and 19th in points scored during what became quarterback Peyton Manning's final season.

The Broncos (9-7) missed the playoffs this season, and their offense took a big step back with untested starter Trevor Siemian taking over at quarterback. With Dennison and head coach Gary Kubiak sharing the play-calling duties, Denver finished 27th in yards gained and 22nd in points scored.

Dennison's tenure in Denver ended with Kubiak retiring following the end of the season due to health concerns, and the team hiring Vance Joseph last week.

Dennison also worked under Kubiak as the Houston Texans' offensive coordinator from 2010-13. Before coaching, Dennison was a Broncos linebacker during a nine-season career spanning 1982-90.

McDermott previously filled three spots on Buffalo's offensive staff, including hiring Juan Castillo to serve as offensive line coach and run-game coordinator.

Former Vikings coach Leslie Frazier has been hired as Buffalo's defensive coordinator.



DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS 2017 (First Quarter) COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF TRAINING AND EVENTS

DATE	PROJECT/ACTIVITY	DATE	PROJECT/ACTIVITY
January 23 - April 13	Culinary Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MWF Instructor: Malia Lui	January 23 to March 31	Walk and Talk Program 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm (M/W/F)
January 23 - April 13	Flower Arrangement Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) T/TH Instructor: Malia Lui	January 23 to March 31 (Tutuila) January 23 to March 31 (Manu'a)	Wrestling Program 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH) 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)
January 23 - April 13	Elei/Hand Print Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MTWTH Instructor: Tou Collins	January 23 to March 31	Gymnastics Program Kinder gym - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (M-F)
January 23 - August 25 (Tutuila)	Sewing Training 8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 1) M/W 8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 2) T/TH 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 3) M/W 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 4) T/TH	January 23 to March 31	Health and Fitness Program 5:30 am to 6:30 am (M-F) Morning Session 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm (T/TH) - Afternoon Session
September 5 - December 7 (Manu'a - Fitiuta, Ta'u, Faleasao)	Every Day Instructor: Johanna Samana	January 23 to March 31	Weightlifting/Powerlifting training 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)
January 23 - March 8	Basic Computing/Resume Preparation/Job Application/Interview Preparation Session 1 - M/W/F, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	January 23 to March 31	Volleyball training 6:30 am to 7:30 am (M-TH)
January 23 - April 13	Basic Samoan Oratory Language and Cultural Training 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm (M/W)	January 25 to March 29	College Prep for Student Athletes 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (W)
		January 23 to March 31	National Football Training 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (F)
		February 6 - 10	Coaches National Level 1 Certification Course 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm (M-F) Instructor: Ethan Lake
		February 7 - April 6	Teen Mothers and Parenting Training Session 1 10 am to 12 pm (T/TH)
		March 14	Service Providers Fair - Mulugaveve

Call 644-2835/644-2836 to register for any of the programs/courses at the Department of Youth & Women's Affairs Office in Pago Pago. Deadline for registration is Thursday, January 19, 2017 @ 4p.m. Fa'afeso'ota'i mai le matou ofisa ile 644-2835/644-2836 auā le resitara mo polokalama o lo'o fa'apea ona faailo atu i le kalena. E tapunia le resitara o vasega ile Aso Tofi, Ianuari 19, 2017 ile 4p.m

Orientation for all programs/courses is scheduled for Friday, January 20th, 2017 at 9a.m-10a.m & 3p.m - 4p.m

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Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan watches practice Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017, in Flowery Branch. The Falcons host the Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship football game on Sunday in Atlanta. (AP Photo/John Amis)

Falcons' Shanahan will have another meeting with 49ers

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) — Kyle Shanahan remains focused on helping the Falcons win their first Super Bowl championship.

No matter what happens, Atlanta's offensive coordinator appears certain to land his first head coaching job.

Shanahan said Thursday he plans to talk again with the San Francisco 49ers about their coaching vacancy, with all signs pointing to him landing the position. He is the only apparent candidate, and the 49ers are the lone team that hasn't hired a coach.

"I'm definitely excited about that," Shanahan said. "But it's not really something that I know what the situation is right now."

The son of former NFL coach Mike Shanahan interviewed with the 49ers when Atlanta had a bye week during the wild-card round. He said they would arrange another meeting, most likely next week after the Falcons face the Green Bay Packers in the NFC championship game. He insisted that he doesn't yet have a formal offer from the 49ers.

If the Falcons win, Shanahan would have time for a follow-up meeting before the Falcons head to Houston for the Feb. 5 Super Bowl.

Under NFL rules, he couldn't take over the job until Atlanta's season ends.

"It makes it pretty easy for us," Shanahan said. "Regardless of what happens in this game, win or lose, you can talk to them again when your season's over or if you get another bye week. So I think I'll get that opportunity next week whatever happens, and I plan on doing that."

The 49ers are seeking a replacement for Chip Kelly, who was fired after his only season in San Francisco. The team went 2-14, the second-worst record in the league.

Shanahan would be the 49ers' fourth coach in four seasons. They are also seeking a general manager, a decision that would likely need the approval or at least the input of the new coach.

The 37-year-old Shanahan emerged as one of the NFL's top assistants this season, directing an offense that paced the league in scoring and produced one of the leading MVP candidates, quarterback Matt Ryan.

"I'm looking forward to having those con-

versations next week," Shanahan told reporters. "Really, until then, I don't have much else for you guys. It makes it very easy to focus on Sunday."

The relationship between Shanahan and Ryan didn't take off right away. The quarterback endured one of his worst seasons in 2015, and the Falcons slumped badly over the second half to finish 8-8. The team's leading career receiver, Roddy White, criticized Shanahan for reducing his role in the offense.

But Ryan fully embraced the outside zone scheme in Year 2. He completed nearly 70 percent of his passes for 4,944 yards and 38 touchdowns, with just seven interceptions.

"We found a way to clean up some of the mistakes we made, whether it be in the red zone or turnovers," Ryan said. "I think Kyle would do a great job if he ever does get the opportunity. I think he would be an excellent head coach. But we've got enough on our plate this week. I think everybody's focus is kind of on that."

Julio Jones, the Falcons' All-Pro receiver, said Shanahan is a big reason for the team's offensive success, which included an NFL-record 13 players catching touchdown passes.

"He's a player coach. He understands. He gets it. He listens," Jones said. "He just really takes it in throughout the game. If you see something, like, 'Hey, I want this,' he's going to give it to you because he has that much trust in you to make it happen."

Shanahan was left as San Francisco's only candidate after New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels pulled out Monday and Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable followed suit on Tuesday.

Shanahan spent two years as Houston's offensive coordinator before moving to Washington in 2010 to handle the same job for his father. They were fired after the 2013 season, and the younger Shanahan spent one lost season in Cleveland with Johnny Manziel before getting a call from Quinn, a former Seattle defensive coordinator who landed his first head coaching job in Atlanta.

Quinn said he was drawn to "an offense that had real balance."

Now, it looks like Shanahan will get a chance to take that offense to the Bay Area.

Packers' Davante Adams may be game-time decision on Sunday

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers' Davante Adams has missed a second day of practice with an ankle injury, and the receiver may not know until warmups before the NFC championship game on Sunday whether he'll be able to play against the Atlanta Falcons.

Adams hurt the ankle during the 34-31 win last week against the Dallas Cowboys. He said that he's feeling better, though he was unsure whether he will feel well enough by Saturday to take part in Green Bay's final practice of the week.

Adams might still be able to play after testing out the ankle in warmups before the game on Sunday afternoon, even if he sits out practice on Saturday.

"It would take a lot to keep him off the field, Adams said Thursday, "because I want to be out there with my team, but until Sunday I will not know."

Receiver Jordy Nelson practiced on a limited basis for a second straight day on Thursday. He missed the Cowboys game with broken ribs.

Nelson led the team this season with an NFL-high 14

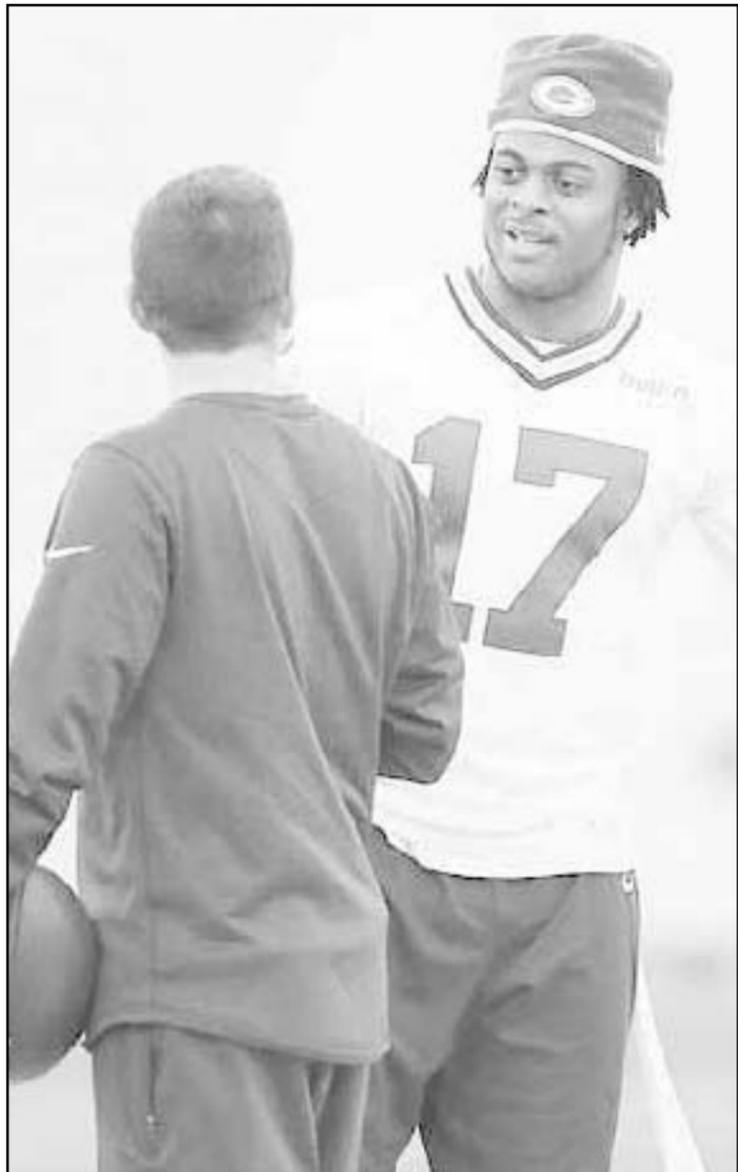
touchdown catches, while Adams had 12. They were quarterback Aaron Rodgers' top two targets in the Packers' prolific passing attack.

"In the regular-season mindset, I would think none of them would play in this game," coach Mike McCarthy said Thursday. "But obviously this is a different time and this is a different point where we are in the season. Everybody understands what's on the line here."

Rookie receiver Geronimo Allison also missed a second straight day of practice with a hamstring injury.

The Packers are left with starter Randall Cobb, along with third-year player Jeff Janis and rookie Trevor Davis at receiver. Janis and Davis each had touchdown catches when the teams met in the regular season in October, when Cobb missed the game with ankle injury and then-receiver Ty Montgomery sat out because of illness.

Montgomery has since been moved to running back, though he remains pass-catching threat out of the backfield.



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Davante Adams (17) talks with Green Bay Packers Director-Football Operations Eliot Wolf during NFL football practice inside the Don Hutson Center Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017 in Ashwaubenton, Wis. The Green Bay Packers play the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC championship game, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017. (Jim Matthews/The Green Bay Press-Gazette via AP)



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) winds up to throw the ball as quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (10) stretches during an NFL football team practice, Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass. The Patriots host the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC championship game Sunday. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

Respect abounds as Patriots host Steelers in AFC title game

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — There are few things that Bill Belichick respects more than history in the NFL.

And few teams elicit as much praise from the Patriots coach as the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Part of it is the reverence that Belichick holds for the way Steelers founder Art Rooney and his family has operated a franchise that's remained among the league's best, winning multiple Super Bowl titles more than 30 years apart. It is a model emulated when Robert Kraft bought the Patriots in 1994 and six years later hired Belichick, who has nurtured a "Patriots Way" that has helped bring four Lombardi trophies to New England.

Those histories will collide when two of the most successful programs of the 2000s meet in Sunday's AFC championship game.

"They've been tough to deal with going all the way back to coach (Chuck) Noll in the '70s," Belichick said. "They were pretty consistently tough to deal with through that entire period of time, which has been all of my years in the league."

Either New England or Pittsburgh has been a part of nine of the 17 Super Bowls since 2000, winning six championships between them.

"They have a lot of wins over there," said Patriots receiver Julian Edelman. "It's nothing but respect for the Steelers. I went to school in Steelers Country over in Kent State. Half the school was in a Steelers jersey. I've known about that whole faithful for a while now."

But for all their individual successes, the teams have met only four times in the playoffs. The Patriots have won three of those matchups, including the last two in the AFC title games

in 2005 and 2002 at Heinz Field. Both times New England went on the win the Super Bowl.

Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger has been a part of both of the Steelers' recent championships, but the 34-year-old's only playoff meeting with the Patriots was the 2005 loss when he was a rookie.

He has spoken often about his respect for the Patriots and Tom Brady, which included him requesting a jersey from Brady prior to Pittsburgh's loss to New England back in October. Big Ben missed that game because of knee surgery. This is the latest opportunity to play in "the lion's den," he said.

"They are the best in the world," Roethlisberger said. "They are the gold standard, if you will. So you want to have that opportunity to go up to play the best."

Brady is 6-2 in head-to-head matchups with Roethlisberger, but Roethlisberger didn't play in the Patriots' Week 7 win in Pittsburgh because he was recovering from surgery on his left knee.

Including the two playoff wins, Brady is 9-2 overall against Pittsburgh, including a 4-0 record at home. Roethlisberger is 3-6 all-time against New England.

History aside, Brady said he is expecting to get the best from Pittsburgh, which started the season 4-5 but has won its last nine.

"(Roethlisberger's) been a leader for that team for a long time and they've won a lot of games with him behind the center," Brady said. "It's going to be a great game."

Here are some things to watch for in Sunday's game:

WHAT VIDEO?: Most of the early part of the week was consumed by the fallout from

video of Steelers coach Mike Tomlin using an expletive to describe the Patriots during a postgame speech to his team following its divisional-round win over Kansas City. Unbeknownst to Tomlin, the speech was aired on a social media livestream by receiver Antonio Brown. But Patriots special teams captain Matt Slater said it wouldn't provide any extra motivation.

"We're playing in the AFC championship game. If you can't get motivated to play in this game, then you're in the wrong sport," he said.

Wade Phillips eager to work for young boss McVay with Rams

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Wade Phillips has done just about everything in his four-decade NFL coaching career, so he wasn't exactly worried by the prospect of working for a head coach less than half his age with the Los Angeles Rams.

A week after 30-year-old head coach Sean McVay said the 69-year-old Phillips would be his defensive coordinator, their partnership finally was made official Thursday after Phillips signed his deal with the Rams. "With Sean, between us, we're 50 years old and we've got 23 years of experience, so I think that'll work out all right," Phillips said with a laugh.

Phillips begins his 40th NFL season as a coach with the Rams, the 10th franchise to employ him. He was a head coach at Dallas, Buffalo and Denver, and he served as an interim head coach for New Orleans, Atlanta and the Houston Texans.

Phillips might seem to be an unlikely partner for McVay, the youngest head coach in modern NFL history. But they have a strong family connection: Phillips' son, Wes, was the Washington Redskins' tight ends coach for the past three seasons under McVay, their offensive coordinator.

"Wes just talked great things about him all the time," Wade Phillips said. "And then I met him, and he was very impressive. And then when he started

the process, he asked me if I would consider coming with him if he got a head coaching job. I said, 'Well, I don't have a contract, so sure.'"

The Rams are rebuilding after finishing 4-12 in their 13th consecutive non-winning season, and the son of famed coach Bum Phillips has been one of the NFL's top defensive minds for decades. He spent the past two years reaching another career height with the Broncos, coordinating the dominant defense that won the Super Bowl last season and finished fourth in total defense this season.

"Wade has seen it all in our league, and I believe that his wealth of knowledge and experience will be a tremendous asset to our entire coaching staff and players," McVay said in a statement. "Our defense has been one of our core strengths, and I expect it to continue to grow and thrive under Wade's leadership."

Gregg Williams was Jeff Fisher's defensive coordinator last season with the Rams, who haven't made the playoffs since the 2004 season in St. Louis. Williams left for the Cleveland Browns shortly after the regular season ended with the Rams losing the final seven games in their homecoming season.

But Williams' defense was one of the NFL's top groups until a late-season fade, and Phillips is grateful he won't be starting from scratch.

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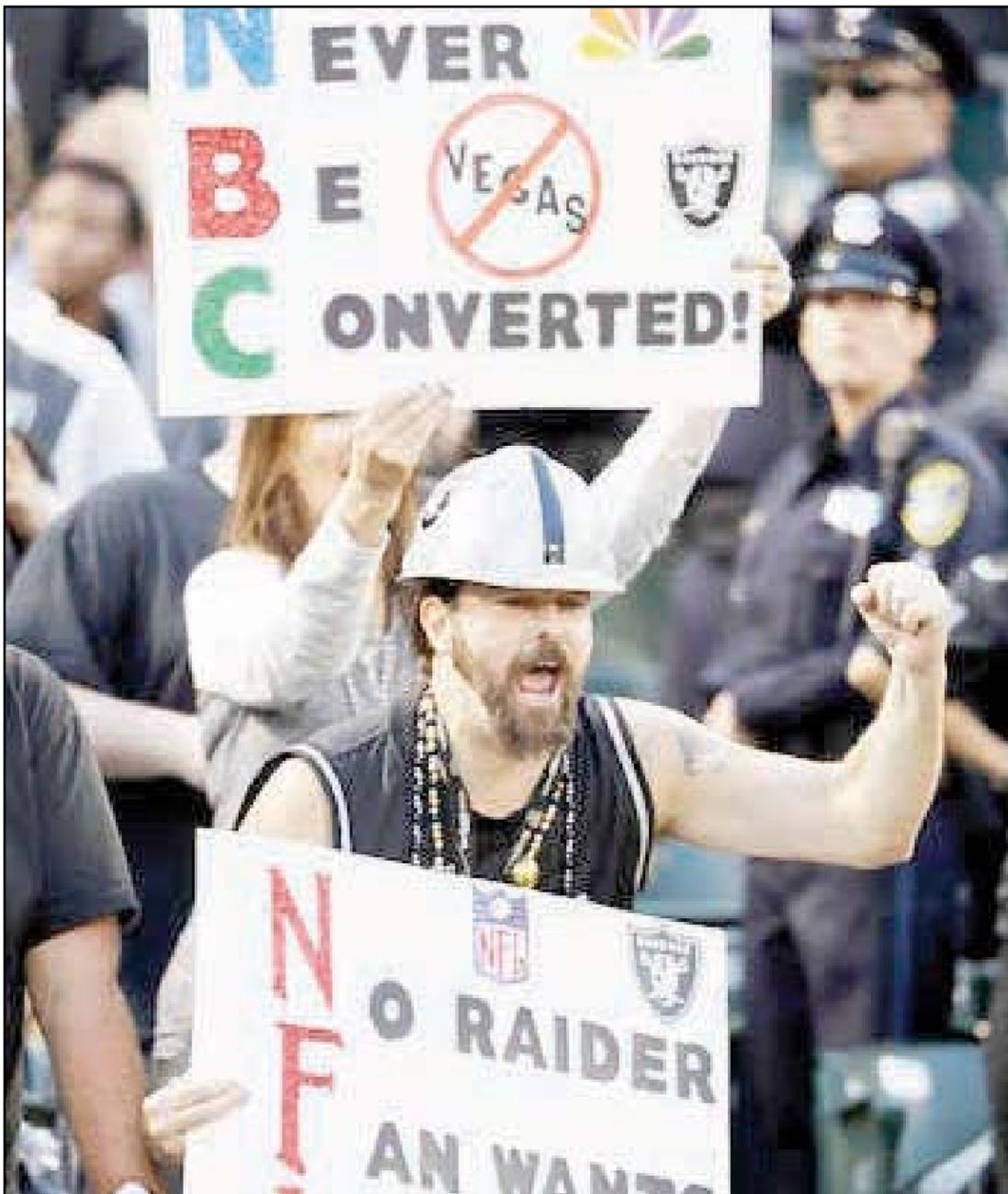
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Bay Area investors still working to keep Raiders in Oakland



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Oakland civic leaders and deep-pocketed investors fighting to keep the Raiders from moving insist they are still in the game despite team owner Mark Davis formally applying to the NFL to relocate to Las Vegas.

A local investment group that includes Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott said Thursday they continue to negotiate with government officials, the team and the NFL to build a \$1.25 billion, 55,000-seat stadium in Oakland.

“We are in this game and we are playing to win,” Lott’s group said in a statement. The statement said the Raiders’ filing Thursday was expected and done to “keep its options open in Las Vegas.”

The Raiders have been seeking to replace their dilapidated home for years.

The Coliseum has suffered from sewage backups and other infrastructure problems. It’s also the only remaining NFL stadium to also be home to a baseball team — the Athletics — and lacks many of the modern, money-making features of new stadiums.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf has been negotiating with Davis and investors to find a new home for the team in the city but has said public financing is not an option. She and other local boosters support the bid by Lott’s group to keep the team on Oakland.

“Only Oakland brings the Raiders and the NFL a competitive stadium proposal, along with legacy and loyalty,” Schaaf said in a prepared statement.

The city and Alameda County still owe a combined \$100 million for upgrades made to the stadium in 1995 to lure the Raiders back to Oakland after the team spent the 14 previous years playing in Los Angeles. The city and county were left holding the bag after personal seat licenses failed to cover the cost of the \$220 million renovation that added more than 10,000 seats and luxury boxes.

The city is willing to give the team 60 acres of land on the Coliseum site to build a new stadium.

The local investors are competing with a Las Vegas plan

that calls for \$750 million in hotel room tax revenue, \$650 million from billionaire casino owner Sheldon Adelson’s company and \$500 million from the Raiders and the NFL.

League owners are expected to vote on the proposed move in March.

Local boosters argue that Oakland offers a better football venue than Las Vegas, a transient tourist town with no professional football history. They say the San Francisco Bay Area’s television market dwarves the Las Vegas region’s and that it will cost the team \$500 million to relocate.

“I think we continue to offer a far superior deal,” said Scott Haggerty, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Haggerty is also on the board that manages the Coliseum.

“I think that Mark Davis has been very patient in trying to come up with a stadium plan and I don’t blame him for keeping his options open,” Haggerty said. “But the Raiders belong in Oakland.”

Haggerty and others also say that a Raiders move out of the region threatens to alienate fans who re-branded the team after it left Oakland after the 1981 season and played for 14 years in Los Angeles only to move back to the Bay Area.

Davis has said the team will continue to play in Oakland until the Las Vegas stadium is finished, likely by the 2020 season. The Raiders have two one-year options to play at the Oakland Coliseum in 2017 and 2018 and are already taking season ticket renewals for next season.

“I’m incredulous this could happen again,” said 57-year-old Jim Zelinski, a lifelong Oakland resident and Raiders fan. “I’m disgusted, to be quite frank.”

Nonetheless, Zelinski has co-founded a fan organization that is lobbying the Raiders and the NFL to keep the team in Oakland.

“We want to combat the narrative that most Raider fans are neutral and don’t care if the team moves to Las Vegas,” said Zelinski, who must decide by next month if he wants to renew his season tickets. “The Raiders need to do the right thing.”



file photo, Oakland Raiders fans hold up signs about the team’s possible move to Las Vegas during an NFL football game between the Raiders and Denver Broncos in Oakland, Calif. The Oakland Raiders have filed paperwork to move to Las Vegas. Clark County Commission Chairman Steve Sisolak told The Associated Press on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017, that he spoke with the Raiders.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, File)

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Curry, Durant, LeBron, Irving to start NBA All-Star Game

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Curry won a tiebreaker to join Golden State teammate Kevin Durant in the lineup, while LeBron James and Kyrie Irving also gave Cleveland two starters in the NBA All-Star Game.

Curry and Houston's James Harden beat out Russell Westbrook for the two Western Conference backcourt spots Thursday in the new voting system that included players and media for the first time this season. They will join frontcourt choices Durant, Anthony Davis of New Orleans and Kawhi Leonard of San Antonio.

The rest of the East lineup for the Feb. 19 game in New Orleans is Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee and Jimmy Butler of Chicago in the frontcourt and DeMar DeRozan of Toronto in the backcourt. He beat out Boston's Isaiah Thomas in another tiebreaker.

Fan voting accounted for 50 percent in the new system, while current players and a media panel each made up 25 percent.

James is the leading scorer in All-Star Game history and is set to become just the fifth player to start at least 13 games. He said it meant something extra being the leading vote-getter among fans with nearly 1.9 million votes.

"I think from the standpoint of people enjoy the way I play the game, they respect the way I play the game and at this point in my career I'm still doing something right," he said earlier Thursday. "Makes me proud, makes my family proud and my support system so it's cool in that sense."

He and Durant had the highest possible scores across all three voting groups, but the new process eliminated Chicago's Dwyane Wade, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid and Golden State's Zaza Pachulia, who would have been elected by fans under the old format.

But they didn't rank high enough to hold onto spots when player and media votes were counted, though Curry did.

Fan voting served as the tiebreaker, and the two-time MVP's 1.8 million votes trailed only James. So even though he ranked third behind MVP candidates Harden and Westbrook in the other categories and ended up with the same weighted score as them, he got one spot and Harden the other after earning nearly 200,000 more fan votes than his former teammate.



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) is fouled while driving to the basket by Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook (0) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017, in Oakland, Calif.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

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SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT): The Department of Education of Testing and Evaluation will administer the SAT on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the Tafuna High School at 7:30am. Registered candidates are asked to bring their admission ticket, a valid photo ID or Passport and two #2 pencils. **No Admission Ticket, No Valid photo ID or Passport = NO TEST** [01/20]

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.

AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS PROGRAM 3:00pm-4:00pm, Monday to Friday. Now open to Adults. Tafuna Tennis Courts.

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).

WANT TO BE HEALTHY? Stop talking about it and start doing something about it. The "Daniel Plan" is a fun way to get healthy. Join us every Saturday at 8:30am at the Alliance Office in Nu'uuli (Rose, Vargas Bldg, floor level). For more info, call Mona 256-1459 Sessions are FREE.

TIRED OF BEING STUCK? Come and check out Celebrate Recovery, a 12-step program for any addictive or compulsive behavior ranging from drugs & alcohol to anger management, gambling, grief & loss, as well as for victims of abuse (physical or sexual), (e.g. molestation). Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. The road to recovery is not meant to be traveled alone. For more info call Mona at 258-4957.

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.

WOMENS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS of all ages to help in the Fala. Support your hospital, donate your free time by calling 633-1222 Ext. 199. All proceeds from Fala 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, after hours 258-6302. Where someone is there to listen.

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy Parker January 20, 2017

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nest egg nugget
 - 4 One in the reeds
 - 10 Jazz singing technique
 - 14 Mai _____ (cocktail)
 - 15 Exercise that gets the heart pumping
 - 16 Checked-off type of list
 - 17 Retaliated and how
 - 19 Prefix with "European"
 - 20 Turns around an axis
 - 21 A scolding and then some
 - 23 Places where weddings become official
 - 25 Didi of "Grease"
 - 27 Team's best starting pitcher
 - 28 Things locked in battle
 - 29 Place where chemicals are mixed
 - 30 Was in harmony
 - 32 Mr. in India
 - 33 Some, but not all
 - 35 Phrase on a buck
 - 40 Sexual desire
 - 41 Security for a tightrope walker
 - 43 Wash dishes, perhaps
 - 46 Away from WSW
- DOWN**
- 1 Old TV's "_____ Academic"
 - 2 Fink
 - 3 You can really take off from here
 - 4 Transpires
 - 5 Makes cookies
 - 6 Bubbles, moons and the like
 - 7 President McKinley's first lady
 - 8 (As written)
 - 9 Coin that's not legal currency
 - 10 Start to wake up
 - 11 Casual talk
 - 12 Provide evidence for
- 13 Drove (along)
 - 18 _____ Bator, Mongolia
 - 22 Pear variety
 - 23 Satisfied sounds
 - 24 Folktale stuff
 - 25 Light automatic rifle
 - 26 Like an angle greater than 90 degrees
 - 29 Hang around
 - 31 Traveler's rest
 - 33 Major-league athlete
 - 34 Organ attachment?
 - 36 Romanian currency
 - 37 City-related
 - 38 Thing requiring a balancing act
 - 39 Self-referencing, as a work of art
 - 42 Good service indicator
 - 43 Muslim greeting
 - 44 They've got brains
 - 45 Parting shot
 - 47 "Hark! The _____ Angels Sing"
 - 48 Throws in
 - 51 Heavenly body with a tail
 - 52 Run-amok elephant
 - 54 "Meet Me _____ Louis"
 - 55 Float gently, as an aroma
 - 58 Skipper's word of approval
 - 59 Home office locale, often
 - 60 Catch a bug?
 - 61 Field marshal?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

Friday, January 20, 2017

Happy Birthday: Be a good listener and make worthwhile suggestions, and your popularity will grow. Don't share personal information or let others know too much about your plans until you have everything in place. The respect you gain and the reaction you get will set you up for an opportunity to do something that brings you great joy as well as a higher income. Your numbers are 1, 6, 15, 22, 32, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to familiarity. Spend time with the people you know and trust. Avoid situations that will put you in jeopardy or lead to dealings with institutions or authority figures. Explore what is possible and alleviate guesswork about what to do next. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share your feelings, discuss plans and get involved in events that are important to you. A day trip or attending a retreat will be uplifting and help you make decisions that will alter your life and your relationships. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Play the game if necessary when it comes to negotiating or dealing with money matters. Listen and derive what works for you and what doesn't, and carry on in the direction that will help you maintain a secure position and future. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your feelings and you will get a good response. Dealing with children, your partner or even someone you do business with will be much easier if you are honest and offer reasonable solutions to existing dilemmas. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look at your options. Making a change that will influence your financial life will need special consideration. Don't base decisions on your emotional needs. Make choices because they will have long-term positive effects. Self-improvement is a good place to begin. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A partnership will give you the boost you need to make your dreams come true. Dealing with peers, children or your lover will help you get a clear picture of how you can accomplish your goals. Romance is featured. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of unfinished business to avoid complaints. It's important to find out what's important to others before you make choices that will affect the lives of others. An emotional reaction, indulgence and excessive spending or behavior will be your downfall. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will surface. Channel this energy into love, romance and making your personal life better. Working on a creative project will bring stellar results that will inspire you to expand your interests and share your joy with someone you love. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work on creative endeavors or toward improvements that will help your community or a cause that concerns you. It's what you put out that will count when you tally up what you have and haven't achieved. Give your all. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An emotional plea will work wonders. Your ability to manipulate a situation will help you get ahead. A change in the way you do things will draw positive attention. Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look for a new and diverse way to utilize your talents in order to get ahead. You'll gain insight if you take a course or set up a meeting with someone who is heading down the same path as you. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your imagination and creativity to get what you want. Negotiating a deal or contract or discussing joint ventures looks promising. Make personal changes that will encourage more confidence to follow your heart and your dream. Romance is highlighted. ****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, thoughtful and creative. You are astute and productive.

Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

COUPLE'S LONG, JOYFUL MARRIAGE IS BASED UPON THREE PRINCIPLES

DEAR ABBY: Many of your published letters come from unhappy married women. Some of them seem unable to get objective advice that would make themselves and their marriages happier. I'm fortunate to be happily married (33 years) to a wonderful woman who has a clear perspective. Three pearls of wisdom she could share:

1. Don't sulk because your husband can't read your mind. Trust him; he'd like to help. And listen to your tone as you point out how he can.
2. The way you talk about him to your friends is an expression of your fidelity. Talk about him honestly, but with respect. If you do, he'll admire and encourage your close friendships and take a sincere interest in your friends as people. If your MO is to grouse and complain about him, in his mind and heart he will feel you're abandoning him.
3. Be clear that while your husband might say he'd like to treat you like a queen, you're both better off being equals -- partners, side-by-side. In our marriage, there is no "better half." There are two halves.

It's amazing how much joy we have experienced during our years together, based on this simple foundation. My esteem for my wife only grows each year -- something that seems impossible, but then again, fantastic things usually do. -- PETER, A GRATEFUL HUSBAND

DEAR PETER: Thank you for sharing those words of wisdom because they apply to husbands as well as wives. There's a saying: The higher the pedestal, the longer the fall. Partners who treat each other as equals and with respect -- and the key word is "respect" -- usually have long-lasting and happy unions. Those who complain behind a spouse's back, who denigrate rather than elevate, do not make themselves look better or their marriages healthier. I'm glad you wrote.

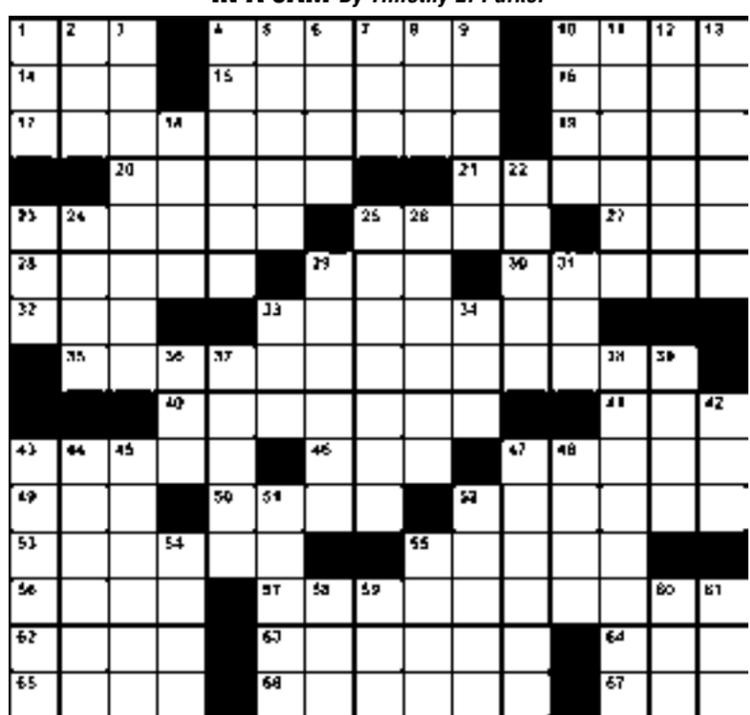
DEAR ABBY: How do you deal with adult "children" who ignore issues about their health? My 30-something son had a root canal a few days ago. His face is swollen, he has lost sleep and is in pain. His wife has tried everything to get him to get it checked out, and she just called me in desperation.

Why does he do this? It isn't the first time she and others have begged him to take care of himself. She's pregnant and they have two other small kids. He has insurance, so it's not about money. It's just so stressful for those of us who love him. He works for himself and is a high-energy guy and a great dad. -- QUESTIONING MY SON'S SANITY

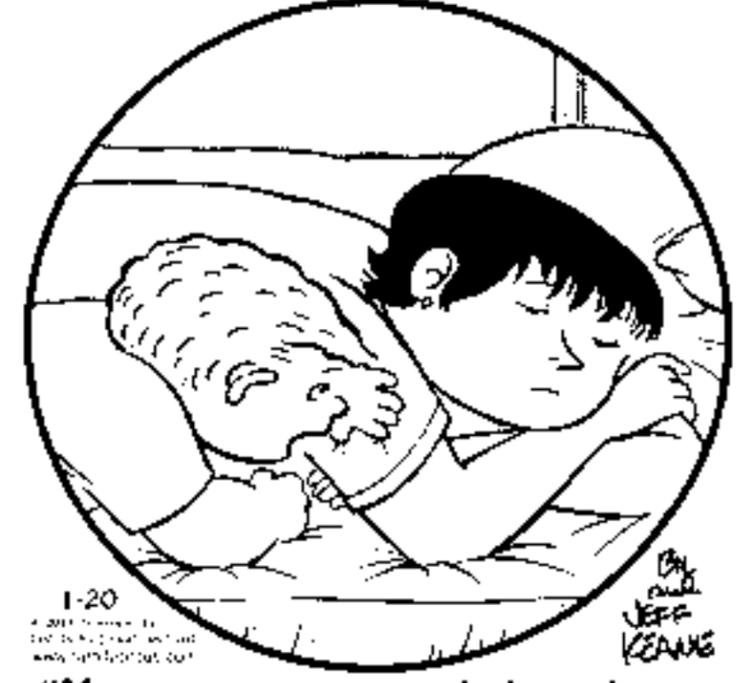
DEAR QUESTIONING: Some men feel that acknowledging pain is showing weakness. They think that if they just "gut it out" a while longer, things will get better. And while many of them do, many also don't.

Pick up the phone and tell your daughter-in-law to call the dentist who did the root canal and ask whether what her husband is experiencing is normal. And if the answer is that it's not, she should tell her husband that "the surgeon wants him to come in for a recheck" to be sure his wounds haven't become infected.

IN A JAM By Timothy E. Parker



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Mommy, are you ready to wake up or should I go back to playin' quietly?"

1-20
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By
and
JEFF
KEANE

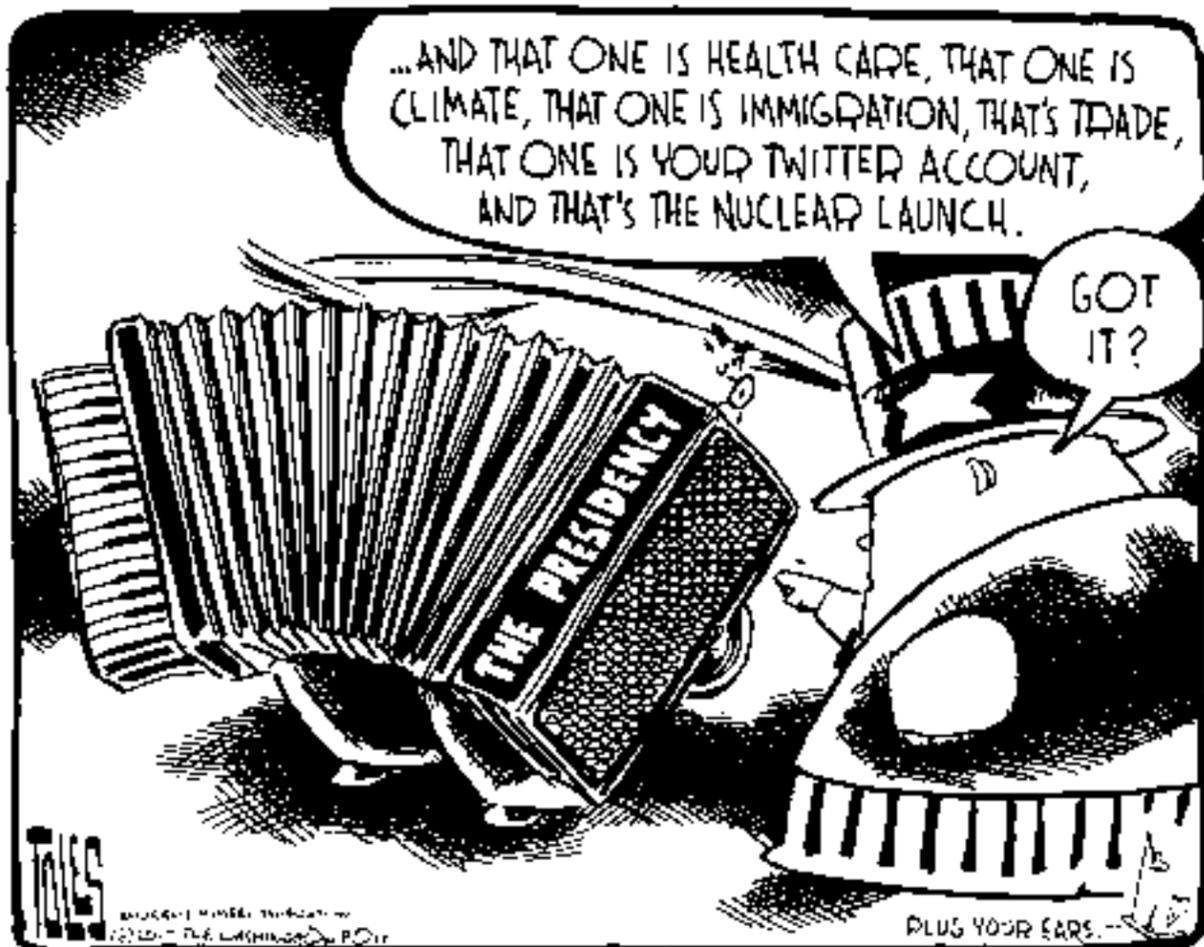
Calvin & Hobbes ©

by Bill Watterson

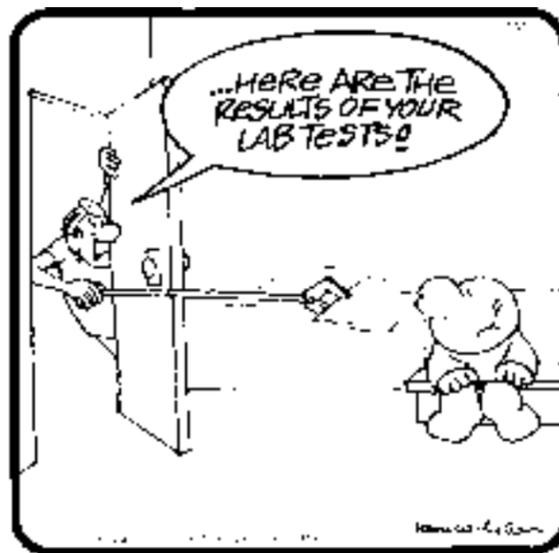


PEANUTS ©

by Charles M. Schultz



ZIGGY ©



Sudoku Pacific

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

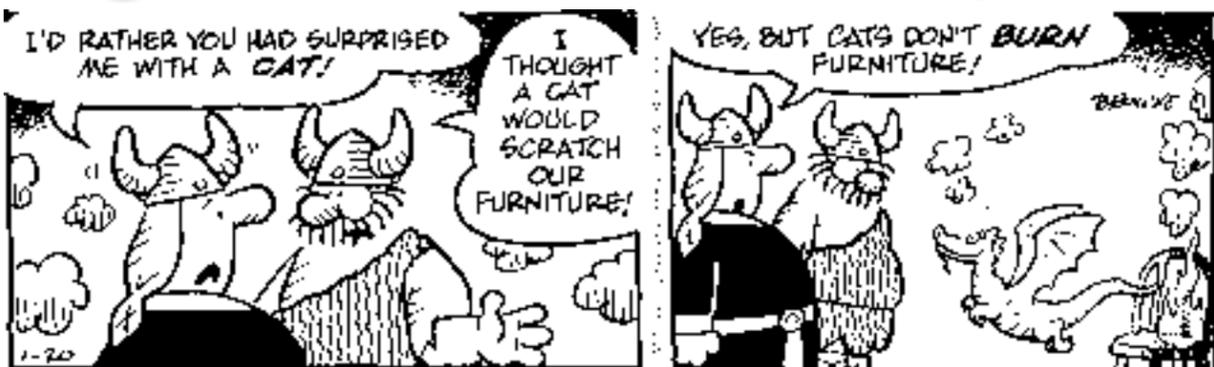
Thursday's Puzzle Answer

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

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Hagar the Horrible ©

by Chris Brown



GARFIELD ©

by Jim Davis



HURRICANE SEASON



VAITAU O AFA

November - April / Novema - Aperila



**ARE
YOU
PREPARED**

UA E TAPENA



**BE HURRICANE
READY**

**SAUNI MA TAPENA NEI MO AFA
MA MATAGI MALOLOS**



Report any landslides, flooding or other emergencies that need assistance to the EOC at 699-3800 or call 911.
Afa e va'ala tulaga l sologa ma lologa, vala'au ane mo se fesoasoani l le 699-3800 (EOC), po'o le 911.

Message from ASDHS – TEMCO
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