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couldn't think of an answer, told her son to ask the flight attendant. So the boy dutifully asked the flight attendant, "If dogs have baby dogs and cats have baby cats, why don't planes have baby planes?"
The flight attendant responded, "Did your mother tell you to ask me that?"
The little boy admitted that she did.
"Well, then, tell your mother that there are no baby planes because Southwest always pulls out on time. Now, let your mother explain that to you."

An elderly couple were on a cruise and it was really stormy.
They were standing on the back of the boat watching the moon,
when a wave came up and washed the old woman overboard.
They searched for days and couldn't find her, so the captain sent the old man back to shore with the promise that he would notify him as soon as they found something.
Three weeks went by and finally the old man got a fax from the boat. It read: "Sir, sorry to inform you, we found your wife dead at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled her up to the deck and attached to her arm was an oyster and in it was a pearl worth \$50,000. Please advise."
The old man faxed back: "Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap."

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## IS THAT YOUR PEER?

Do you remember that program called Scared Straight? The one where they take delinquent youths and show them what life in the big house is really like? Well, I have a better idea for swaying potential offenders from a life of crime. Serve jury duty.
After 33 years of being a registered voter, I finally received the summons. Last year, I voted for a Democrat for the first time. Maybe that's what threw up the red flag for the County Clerk.
Quite bossy, that summons was. It assigned me a date and time to arrive and ordered me to park across the street for \$12 a day.
I arrived 30 minutes late. But luckily, jury duty check-in is a government-run institution so it was running 45 minutes late. After a rousing speech by the District Judge about Thomas Jefferson's sentiments about juries, we sat around a little longer. This gave me the chance to really look around at this room of my peers. It was frightening and should be a cautionary tale for anyone considering a career in crime.
At least half the room was filled with citizens wearing their pajamas. If I didn't know better, I would have thought l'd walked in on a photo shoot for People of Wal-Mart.
And from my very unscientific survey, $100 \%$ of potential jurors were first-timers. This means the future of the accused is in the hands of complete novices. And quite honestly, very few of them seemed to be paying attention to what was happening. People were texting non-stop or playing games on their cell phones. One lady was even typing away on her laptop - probably writing this awesome column. Doing a little people watching, it becomes clear which people are excited about their civic responsibility. They ask questions of the bailiff that don't need to be asked and seem generally fired up about sitting in a rectangular box with 11 strangers. Those people are called dorks.
As with slot machines and lottery tickets, my number did not come up for most of the day. Finally I was sent to a juvenile facility with the possibility of judging a knuckle-headed teenager. Oh great. I finally get out of the house and l'm strapped with the same duties I have every single day! But at the end of it all, I believe it was an eye-opening experience to see our judicial system as it grinds away seeking a fair trial for any and all defendants I was able to perform a civic duty and be a part of the Great American System. I discovered that perhaps my
nightgown or thermal underwear CAN pass for clothing.
So just remember this all you potential criminals out there: Your peers are wearing plaid flannel pants and fuzzy slippers.


By: Gina Stanley


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For Sale: 15 1/2' Tide Craft Boat. 85hp Mercury Motor. Very nice trailer. No titles. \$500 OBO. Call

2008 Honda TRX 250 EX fou wheeler. Nice shape. 2006 Toy Hauler RV, 27' by RPM, sleeps
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for more information $918-329-150$ plus acres 1200 per ac 580239 $\begin{array}{llll}\text { for more information 918-329- } & \text { 150plus acres 1200per ac } 58023 \\ 4067 \text {. } & 11 / 11 \text { 6 } & 2075 \text {. }\end{array}$ 3 br 1.5 bath, all brick, 1269 sq ft , APARTMENTS \& MOBILE garage and covered carport, extra wide driveway, lg covered patio, pills paid. Mention this ad and new metal roof, well maintained, receive $\$ 25$ off 1 st months rent close to middle and high sched, city park and pool, baseball and rodeo fields. 281-807-6540.

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1294 Pope Coelestinus V becomes Pierre/Marie Curie Pope (until Dec 13th) 1508 League of the $k$
1520 Martin Luther 1520 Martin Luther publicly burned papal edictdemands he recant calendar 1672 1672 New York Governor Lovelace New York \& Boston
1688 King James IIflees London
1690 Massachusetts Bay becomes 1st American colonial government to borrow money
1799
Metric system established in
1810 Tom Cribb (Great Britain) beats Tom Molineaus (US-Negro) in 1st interracial boxing championship (40 rounds)
1817 Mississippi admitted as 20th state 1864 General Sherman's armies reach Savannah \& 12 day siege begins 1869 Women suffrage (right to vote) granted in Wyoming Territory (US 1st) 1896 1st intercollegiate basketball game (Wesleyan beats Yale 4-3)
Henri 1st Nobel Peace Prizes (to Jean Henri Dunant, Frederic Passy)

Pierre/Marie Curie
1906 1st Americ
1906 1st American awarded Nobel Peace Prize
Roosevelt
Roosevelt
1907 Ruy
1907 Ruyard Kipling receives Nobel
prize for literature prize for literature
1910 JD Vande
1910 JD Van de Waals wins Nobel Prize
for physics
forphysics
1911 Calbraith Rogers completes 1st
crossing of US by airplane (84 days) 1911 Tobias Asser given Nobel prize
peace
1913 Kamerlingh Onnes receives Nobel prize for physics
1914 French government returns to Paris
1915 President Woodrow Wilson marries Edith Galt
$191510,000,000$ th model T Ford assembled
1918 John A Heyder becomes president of baseball's National League 1919 National League votes to ban the spitball's use by all new pitchers 1934 Fascist dictator of Latvia Ulmanis
begins building concentrationcal begins building concentration camp 1942 Hitler names Mussert "leader of Netherlands people"
1942 North Africa: 5th German pantser army forms under Colonel-General von
Arnim

## 'If she can do it, so can I'

Teresa Pratt has five children, seven grandchildren (and 1 on the way!) and has worked at McAlester Regional Health Center for 10 years. But it was the industrious ambition of her youngest daughter, now-MRHC Marketer Ashley Kennon, who inspired her to go back to school.
"She was working full time, a mother, and going to school," Pratt said of her daughter. "I said, 'If she can do it, I can do it.'" So Pratt enrolled with Virginia College and started an online curriculum in June 2012.
It wasn't easy.
"I was working full days, and then come home to the computer" to take online classes or complete assignments, she said.
"I love my work," she said. "That's why I wanted to go back to school."
Her course of study in Healthcare Reimbursement yielded some surprises.
"There were a lot of classes I didn't know I would have to take," she said. "Like anatomy. I thought, why would I need to know anatomy?
Still, she aced the program and graduated with her Associate of Science in September. And now, she's eying a bachelor's degree.
"I could have
Pratt began working for MRHC 2004, and transferred into Patient Financial Services in 201 She continues to work for the hospital as a Medicaid Biller "Teresa is an asset to our department and works diligently to complete her tasks," said PFS Supervisor Lori Slater. "We appreciate her and we are glad she appreciate her and we are


1958 1st domestic (New York-Miami) passenger jet flight-National 707 flew 111 19636 year old Donny Osmond's singing debut on the Andy Williams Show 1964 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Dr Martin Luther King J 1977 Soyuz 26 carries 2 cosmonauts to


2
1979 Piet Dankert appointed as chairman of European Parliament
1980 Soyuz $T$-3 returns to Earth 1980 USSR performs undergro nucleartest
1981 El Salvador army kills 900 1984 1st "planet" outside our solar 1985 Bill to balanc 1985 Bill to balance the federal budget passed by Congress 1986 Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel
accepts 1986 Nobel Peace

1991 Howard Spira sentenced to $21 / 2$ Racism "All different, All equal" begins years in prison for trying to extort money 1994 Nobel prize awarded to Yitzhak
from Yankees owner George Rabin ShimonPeres \& YasserArafat from Yankees owner George Rabin, ShimonPeres \& Yasser Arafa
Steinbrenner
1991 IM Pei receives $\$ 5$ million for design of Rock \& Roll Hall of Fame $\begin{array}{lc}1991 \text { IM Pei receives } \$ 5 \text { million for } & \text { teams, Raptors beat Grizzlies } 93-81 \\ \text { design of Rock \& Roll Hall of Fame } & 1995 \text { Kelly Robbins \& Tammie Green } \\ 1991 \text { Jackie Martling walks off of } & \text { win LPGADiner's Club Golf Matches }\end{array}$ 1991 Jackie Martling walks off of win LPGA Diner's Club Golf Matches Howard Stern show for 1 day 1993 Dow Jones hits record 3740.67 1994 60th Heisman Trophy Award: Rashaan Salaam, Colorado (RB)

1995 1st meeting of NBA expansion win LPGA Diner's Club Golf Matches 1995 Worst snowstorm in Buffalo history, 37.9" in 24 hours (Starting Dec 9 at 7 PM, breaks previous record of $25.3^{\prime \prime}$ in 1982


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Navigating Your Way through the Nutrition Facts Panel
Shoppers tend to make common food shopping mistakes because they are sidetracked from a healthy
diet with the best of intent. They find it hard to navigate the wording that is so common on all packaging. Most of them fail to check the serving sizes. Packages often looks like one serving but in looks like one serving but in
reality if much more. Candy bars, bottles of tea, snack packages of crackers and cookies are to name a few. One 20 ounce bottle of tea says 90 calories per serving but since the bottle is 2.5 servings, you consume 225 calories.
Titles are misleading also. Titles are misleading also.
Words such as lean, natural, organic, energy, grain really sound good but if you check the nutrition facts, this food in question is not on target for being low in fat, sugar and salt.
Beware of the assumption of "healthy". Chicken and turkey are not always healthful choices because

| $\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{H O S P I C E ~ O} \\ & \mathcal{H O L I D A} \end{aligned}$ <br> Tuesday 4:00p. 801 E <br> Please join us to tea living wills and voluntee and $m$ <br> To fonor bring an orname | F McALESTER <br> OPE $\mathcal{N} \mathcal{H O T L S E}$ <br> December 9, 2014 <br> .m. - 6:00 p.m. <br> Wyandotte <br> rn about fospice services, d advance directives, s opportunities, eet our staff. <br> your loved one, nt for our memory tree. <br> nents Provided |
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additional ingredients are often high in fat and sodium. Some yogurt products are comparable to ice cream with their sugar and fat content.
"Sort of Healthy" claims may "Sort of Healthy" claims may qualify for being an up by the facts. For example, whole grain and reduce fat may still contain a lot of salt, fat and sugar. Look at the nutrition facts label for too many calories. This is more prevalent in large items like cakes, packages of cookies, cakes, packages of cookies, and some frozen dinners. You need to check to see just how many total calories you
are buying. are buying.
Too much sodium is a given especially with canned goods, boxed rice and pasta mixes, frozen dinners and many grain products. Check the daily value and try to find items that have $5 \%$ or less of
the daily value for sodium.
Sugar is the same way. A package of cereal that shows 12 g of sugar means that you are getting 3 teaspoons per serving with 4 grams of sugar equaling 1 teaspoon.
Finally, look at saturated fa and trans-fat. Trans-fat free can still be high in saturated fat. The bottom line is, take time to read the nutrition facts panel. Or
For more information in Pittsburg County, call 918-423-4120 or log onto www.oces.okstate edu/pittsburg. LaDell Emmons is the Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Educator for the Pittsburg County Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (ladell.emmons@ okstate.edu). Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability or status as a veteran and is an Equal Opportunit Employer.

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## 5 5)

The holiday season is a time to say thanks for the plethora of food we're lucky to have available. These feasts would not be possible
without the hard work of family farmers throughout the country. Although many folks like the idea of farm-totable, people rarely have a chance to talk to a farmer. I had that opportunity -- and learned the truth about these five common
misconceptions about farming:

1. There is a Hass avocado shortage in the United States.
There is currently no hortage of Hass avocados Approximately 1.8 billion pounds of avocados are
expected to be shipped in the U.S. at the end of 2014. This is up from 1.69 billion pounds in 2013.
"Hass avocados are known as the 'year-round avocado' because of their all-season availability. Hass avocados sold in the United States are grown in California, Mexico Peru, Chile, New Zealand and the Dominican Republic. The Hass produce section are worldwide. That assures you of a ready supply of fresh fruit 365 days a year." Jamie Johnson, global producer of Hass avocados and co-founder of Rancho Simpatica
. Dairy farms are not sustainable.
Sustainability has long been core to dairy farming we just didn't call it that, we

called it stewardship. On our farm, and on farms across the country, we grow our own feed for the animals [and] use manure from the cows to put back on the fields as fertilizer to grow the crops. Some farms even use methane digesters to create energy to run farms (and sometimes neighborhoods). "For most of us -- small or large -- we live and work on the land with our families. In fact, 97 percent of dairy farms are family-owned. I want to use the best science and innovations to care for my animals and my land. We are a second generation farm, and for me to be able to say that the farm is better than it was a generation ago means we are doing something right to help preserve resources while
still helping provide milk to help nourish people. Jerry Messer, dairy farmer in North Dakota with 240 dairy cows
2. Grape farmers only work in the spring.
"We spend a lot of time tending to every vine. Even in the winter, we're outside pruning and preparing for next year's Concord grape crop and harvest. It's we're only busy a few weeks were only busy a few weeks in the spring, take the summer ofl and come back crop. It's a year-round endeavor to produce a
delicious, pleasing fruit with the taste and quality that

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consumers have come to expect from us." -- Harold Smith, Welch's family farmer owner in Brocton New York, with 75 acres 4. Peanut farms are operated by giant corporations.
"Peanuts and peanut butter are a staple food in American homes; in fact, 94 percent of U.S. households have one or more jars of peanut butter in their pantries. For that reason, many people think peanut farms are operated by giant
corporations to keep up with the demand. The reality is, however, that 99 percent of peanut farms are familyowned, small businesses averaging less than 180 acres. Many farms have been in those families for generations." -- Gayle White, owner and operator of White Farm and Ranch in Oklahoma
5. Bigger farms equal bad farms.
continued on page 13



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＂I am a typical American rancher．Along with my husband，two daughters and one employee，we take care of everything that happens on our family ranch $24 / 7 / 365$ ．Yet most people are surprised that I＇m the face of＇big ag．＇ My size of operation puts me in the top 2 percent of American ranches．Our
family ranch is organized as a corporation because t simplifies estate planning and ownership between family members． Farms have gotten bigger out of necessity，and I know the public worries about the loss of the small family farm．But larger operations still represent all we value about family

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farms．As a full－time rancher，you can bet Ilook at my cows each morning with one question in mind：How do I do what I love better every day？＂ Barb Downey，fourth generation cattle rancher， Downey Ranch，Inc． Kansas Whether you buy food Whether you buy food from your local farmers market，local butcher or just＂made in the USA，＂ take the time to speak to a farmer in your area．They are a wealthof information！Local farmers at the farmers market are always happy to answer questions about the foods they sell and their farming practices． Also，ask your local farms if they open their doors to the public for annual festivals or tours－－many

Toby Amidor，MS，RD CDN，is the owner of Toby Amidor Nutrition and

## Senate President Pro

 Tempore applauds Court decision upholding tax cut proposal as constitutional Senate President Pro Tempore Brian Bingman today applauded the Oklahoma Supreme Court＇s ruling that Senate Bill 1246 does not violate the state Constitution Bingman was the principal author of the measure，which will reduce the tate＇s income tax rat Oklahoma＇s revenues grow． ＂The state Supreme Court got this one right，＂said Bingman，R－ Sapulpa．＂The language and intent of State Question 640 are very clear －to prevent tax increases without a vote of the people or asupermajority．Thankfully，the Court has correctly ruled that tax cut proposals like Senate Bill 1246 are not also subject to the requirements of this constitutional amendment Tuesday＇s ruling is amendment． Tuesday＇s ruling is excellent news for all Oklahomans．A ruling of unconstitutionality would have denied meaningful tax relief to hardworking taxpayers，while creating tremendous uncertainty for employers．＇

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author of the cookbook ＂The Greek Yogurt Kitchen＂（Grand Central Publishing 2014）． She consults and blogs for
various organizations， including FoodNetwork com＇s Healthy Eats Blog and Sears＇FitStudio

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## MISSING PERSON

The McAlester Police Department is currently looking for Gregory Allen Faulkner. Faulkner was last seen on November 5th 2014 near Oak crest apartments in McAlester Oklahoma. Faulkner is 27 years old with brown hair and blue eyes. Faulkner is approximately 5 foot 7 inches tall and weighs approximately 160 Lbs. Faulkner is from Henryetta, but came to McAlester for a job. Faulkner never showed up for work. Faulkner spoke with his girlfriend on the evening of the 5th around 8:30 p.m. That is the last time that anyone has had contact with him.

Faulkner's family said that it is not like him to not have contact with family for more than 2 or 3 days. If anyone has any information on the whereabouts of Greg Faulkner, please contact Sgt Chris Morris at the McAlester Police Department (918)423-1212 or (918)421-4944.

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Oil \& Gas Forecast 2015 Webinar: Big Data Analytics Is a Priority for Driving Profits and IOT

December 10th Session Featuring Jim Crompton of Noah Consulting, Hortonworks and Platfora Will Reveal Big Data Trends to Watch Next Year and Best Use Cases for NativeHadoop Analytics and Machine and Sensor Data Oil \& gas companies are on the forefront of the Internet of Things (IoT) revolution because operators and service providers have been working with machine and sensor data for longer than practically any other industry. But 2015 will be a year of significant transformation due to a predicted explosion in data volumes and varieties created at every point in the pipeline, and new technologies that will help companies convert this data into profits.
On Wednesday, December 10th, technology and oil \& gas industry experts will
convene to provide a forecast of the top trends for 2015 and provide ideas and use-case scenarios that highlight how big data analytics could provide an additional 4-8\% improvement in annual operational efficiency. These experts will also explain why approximately $90 \%$ of oil industry executives rate big data analytics as a top priority, and yet fewer than a third have implemented solutions to date.
Who

- Jim Crompton, oil \& gas analytics and data management expert, Noah Consulting
- Don Hilborn, solutions engineer, Hortonworks, a Hadoop Distribution Company
- Molly Stamos, principal sales engineer, Platfora Big Data Analytics
When
- Wednesday, December


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Christmas Light Safety Tips

The McAlester Police friends. Department would like to Christmas is also a time the cause of many wish everybody a safe and when many people accidental fires during the happy holiday season. decorate their homes holiday season. But there Christmas is a time of inside and out. These are steps you can take to giving and making beautiful decorations also memories with family and can be dangerous.


Check and see if the lights malfunction and possibly have been tested at the catch on fire.
factory before putting Keep a Watchful Eye
them up, if there is no Even though your indication that they have been tested for safety then don't use them.
Human Error
There are many of us that are guilty of hooking too many Christmas lights on a single extension cord. You never want to have more than three sets of lights plugged into one another. This will overload your outlet, which could cause a fire. Also be sure to keep the Christmas tree lights away from heat sources, such as heating vents or
fireplaces. Heat sources could overheat the lights, causing them to

Christmas tree is all decorated and you want to display it to your neighbors all night long, this is an unsafe practice. When Christmas tree lights are left unsupervised, your house can burn down. Never ights on all night or while you are away from home. If they spark or overheat and begin to smoke, there is no one at home that will be able to put out the fire or call for help before it consumes the entire home.
Also make sure to keep all fluids away from the tree,

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with the exception of the water at the base for live trees. When using live trees, it is very important to make sure that there is enough water in the tree stand base to prevent the tree from drying out. A dried-out tree with lights on it can quickly cause a fire.
Keep an eye on your pets also, some animals like to chew on chords. This could short your lights out and be dangerous to the animal or cause a fire. Check the cords daily for any possible damage. Some Information contained in this article was taken from Jennifer Wiley, EHow Contributor. Officer Jeremy Busby is

Neighborhood Watch Programs, Child Safety Programs and Fraud Prevention programs The programs are free, and if you would like to schedule a program, contact Officer Busby at (918)423-9657 or jeremy.busby@cityofmcal ester.com. If you have any information on a crime, contact the McAlester Police Departments Criminal Investigation Division at (918)421-4917 or Email Sgt Chris Morris
chris.morris@cityofmcale ster.com. You may remain anonymous. To report any other criminal activity, contact the McAlester Police Department at (918)4231212 or if it is an Emergency dial 911. Have a great week and don't forget to buckle up! Detective/Public Information Office Sgt Chris Morris

Tip of the week: If you are ordering packages online and having them shipped to your house, be sure and check the tracking and know when they will arrive. If you are going to be away from home, talk to a trusted neighbor and have them pick the package up for you. Thieves drive around looking for packages on doorsteps to steal.


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David Cantrell Extension Educator Agriculture Man Winter" greeting us rather rudely, cows are going to require maintain body condition throughout the next few throughout the next few the standing ferage in the the standing forage in the pasture will provide much of the energy requirements of the cows. However, snow cover in many areas, as well as low quantities of grass may require that harvested and stored hay is made vailable to the cows. Here available to the cows. Here come the common questions, how much hay will the cow eat voluntarily How much hay do I need to plan to feed this winter? How much hay do I need to put out for the next few days?
These questions are all part of the decisions that ranchers must make each winter. Intake in forage fed to cattle is generally limited by the forage capacity of the digestive tract. Forage intake is also correlated



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Therefore, the hay or forage requirements are calculated equirements are calculated body weight of the cow. Average Report for 12/4/2014 Receipts: 1594 \#1 Heifers

with forage quality. The more rapid rate of digestion and passage of higher quality forage results in considerably higher dry matter intake compared to lower quality forage that is lower in digestibility Lactation represents the greatest need for additional energy beyond that needed for maintenance. An average milking beef cow requires $50 \%$ more TDN or energy than she does when dry. It should be noted that lactating cows consume more forage compared to gestating cows due to the gestating cows due to the increase energy demand Note the Following table: Table. Forage Capacity of Beef Cows
Forage Type and Maturity Stage of Production Forage DM Intake as \% of Body weight
Low Quality i.e. dry winter forage, mature grass hay straw Dry, Pregnant $\begin{array}{lll}\text { Lactating } & 1.8 \quad 2.2\end{array}$ Average Quality i.e. boot stage legume, early bloom grass hay Dry, Pregnant Lactating
$2.2 \quad 2.5$
High Quality, i.e. early-mid bloom legume, fertilized pre-boot grass hay Dry, Pregnant
Lactating
$2.5 \quad 2.7$
Large cows will require more energy than will small

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Set!
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buas
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What to buy at the dollar stores this holiday season
The cost of holiday shopping can
quickly add up - not just the quickly add up-- not just the
amount spent on jifts butalso on amount spent on gifts but also on
everything else associated with everything else associated with
celebrating the season. For example, consumers are
expected to spend an average of expected to spen an anerage on
$\$ 104.74$ on food, $\$ 53.68$ on decorations, $\$ 29.18$ on greeting
cards and $\$ 20.30$ on flowers, cards and $\$ 20.30$ on trowers,
according to the National Retail Federation. That's nearly $\$ 208$ on holiday-related items other than gits. Throw in the presents,
and consumers are expected to and consumers are expected to
spend a total of about $\$ 804$, on average, this holiday season. average, this holida
according tothe NRF.
One way to spend significantly less on many items on you
holiday shopping list is to holicay shopping gilitr is to
purchase them at dolla stores
 Dollar and Dollar General. You
probably won't be able to gel ${ }_{m}^{\text {prost of the gifts your family and }}$ friends want at these discount on a variety of items you'll need to help celebrate the holidays. Here are 10 things you can save a
lot of money on by purchasing Iot of money on by
them ata dollar store. Christmas cards.
Rather than spend $\$ 5$ or more on a pack of holiday greeting cards even big-box store, you can get box of 14 to 20 cards for $\$ 1$ at a dollar store.
Disposable bakeware.
If you don't have all the bakeware you need to fix a big holiday meal (or just don't want to spend hours scrubbing pans), you can get
disposable aluminum bakeware in all shapes and sizes for just a buck at the dollar store. We did
find a few pieces of disposable find a few pieces of disposable
bakeware at Walmart for a few cents less than a dollar, but most were priced at $\$ 2$ to $\$ 3$
wrap and bags.
Gift wrap sold at dollar stores
might not be of the highest quality, but considering it's going to be ripped apart and thrown away, it's really not worth
spending more than a dollar. Gift wrap can cost $\$ 3$ and up for a roll at other retailers. You'll also find ribbon and gift bags of all sizes
for just a buck. We found a few for just a buck. We found a few
small holiday gift bags for 97 small holiday gift bags for 97
cents at Walmart, but larger bags cents at Walmart, but larger bags
cost $\$ 2$ to $\$ 4$. cost $\$ 2$ to $\$ 4$.
Holiday deco
Holiday decorations
The dollar store is your place if holiday décor. For example large holiday décor. For example, large
red bows (the type you might put red bows (the type you might put on a wreath- cost $\$ 1$ versu
more at big-box retailers. Holiday mugs.
If you need an inexpensive gift
If you need an inexpensive gift
for your child's teacher or a co-
for your child's teacher or a co-
worker, we found plenty of
holiday-themed coffee mugs filled with candy for just \$1 at dollar stores.

Paper plates and napkins.
We found packages of 18
holiday-themed paper plates and holiday-themed paper plates and 24 napkins for $\$ 1$ each at Dollar Tree. We did find holiday paper
plates and napkins for 97 plates and napkins for 97 cents at Walmart, but there were only eight plates in a pack and 18
napkins in a pack. However, for sturdier disposable sturdier disposable plates that get a better deal buying in bulk get a bettor calubying in bulk at a warehouse club
Picture frames
already has everything an who already has everything, a framed
photo of the grandkids can be a great gift. You'll find plenty simple but nice frames for \$1 apiece at dollar stores.

DR:C Mmal, hrap coppossribution,



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Time, here I sit all alone. Time has moved in and my dark hair has turned gray, and my smooth skin is now lined, time is now quick to move. Time has moved in and slow I am, but thankful I am, I look across the yard and see my offspring, young and old, and I know time has been good to me, time has caught up with me.

Yes, I would like to say Happy Thanksgiving and thank the people that put out the meal this year and a special thank you for all the trouble the gentleman from Stuart went through to get the meals out to North Town, he had trouble finding addresses, but you do not know how thankful we were, there are many that just cannot get out anymore, you all are a blessing.

Two years ago an over the road truck driver lost his life, part of the problem was because it was foggy, he did not realize that there was a stop light up ahead, two years later I have called everyone that I can think of, no one will fix the two warning lights hanging over the freeway, which just means you have to open a little box and fix the lights. I have called city mangers, DOT, Antlers DOT, Oklahoma DOT, Midland Traffic Control, I have called everyone I have told the police and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, no one will fix those lights. Southbound from Durant on Hwy 69 just before you get to the big Casino, those two lights have not worked in over two years, please someone do that before someone else loses their life. Thank you.

This is for Sound Off. I am staying at a shelter House and once again somebody brought in some donations and another employee took off and took them home. Are we ever going to get the donations people bring in for us?

Black Friday......A once cherish holiday shopping day has now is secondary to Pre Black Friday Sales on Thanksgiving Day! What happened to not thinking or worrying with a profit margin on Thanksgiving? Isn't this a time to spend with family being thankful, not fighting with the lady next to you with a full shopping cart over a five dollar savings on a set of sheets? Lord help us all!

I received a notice from the high school that we would be fined due to not having a doctors note for days out teen missed during illness. So you are telling me, we have to pay because we used common sense to keep her home until she was well? Now we are forced when illness arises to make an unnecessary doctors visit. Silly!

How smart are dogs? Every morning I walk down my driveway to get the paper, and my neighbors' two dogs down run down the fence barking at me like they've never seen me before. Same when I return -- bark, bark, bark. After lunch, I go check my mailbox: Bark, bark, bark. Later in the afternoon, I do my daily walk around the block. Again same scene. These dogs have lived next to me for more than eight years. You would think they know who lam by now.

On the subject of misuse of handicapped parking by able-bodied people, it also happens with restroom stalls. Today I needed a handicapped stall, but it was in use by a mother and her four kids with the youngest in a grocery basket. The wait was too long for me, resulting in an extreme hardship for me having to use the regular stall. There is a family restroom at the back of this store that could have accommodated this family and should have been used by them -- it is intended for the use of a parent who needed to assist one's children. I suppose they just didn't want to walk that far. Never mind that the other person couldn't walk that far. Please, people, be considerate of others who may no longer be able to use conventional spaces or accommodations.

If we find out who is behind all there terrible remarks against our daughter, you will be suspended! She has been through enough and this just tipped the scale. Shame on anyone or any parent that condones this behavior.

Am I the only one who'd prefer my bank be open all day the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and close at noon the Friday after instead of the other way around?

If there wasn't enough for these McAlester kids to worry about, we now have been plagued with a new app in their phones called Yik Yak. Students can now anonymously slander, slam, cut down and treat another with from what I have read the most disrespectful comments to date. As a parent, I watch everything my teen downloads and teach her to respect others. Parents, take the time to know what your teens are up to and the terrible things out there that promote cyber bullying.



Study outlines options for cost savings in
Oklahoma's school districts
Oklahoma's school districts can redirect more funding to teachers and classrooms by streamlining and consolidating administrative costs, offering parents more choices for their children and eliminating waste, said Sen. Kyle Loveless.
The Oklahoma State Senate Education Subcommittee on Appropriations held an interim study Wednesday spurred by legislation authored by Loveless last session. The bill would have consolidated administrative spending for more than 200 Oklahoma school districts with 250 or fewer students, which Loveless said could have resulted in more than $\$ 35$ million in savings to be redirected to classrooms.
"Today was just to look at all the efficiencies that need to be improved in public education so that we can get more tax dollars to actual teaching," said Loveless, R-Oklahoma City.
Heather Kays, a research fellow specializing in education with The Heartland Institute, said school districts can share costs on a regional basis in some administrative functions and capital expenses to provide the benefit of scale.
"Places where that makes a lot of sense are things like payroll administration, human resources, employee benefit coordination, accounting, printing services, state aid planning, textbook and substitute teaching coordination, safety and risk management and staff development," Kays said.
Kays also outlined in-depth studies that analyzed examples of school choice programs such as charter schools. The studies showed students in public and charter schools achieved educational benefits and taxpayer money was spent more efficiently in a number of existing models available for Oklahoma to follow
"You have very specific examples of it working well, and the laws already exist elsewhere," Kays said. "You can model them after that, and you can just make it so that it fits Oklahoma Kays said
better."

The panel also heard a presentation from Brent Bushey, executive director of the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center, a nonprofit that provides member school districts with subsidies and other programs aimed to stretch funding dollars and provide better educational opportunities for students.
"We have a very simple mission: to work with public schools, to empower them and to find ways to both improve their school performance as well as drive down costs," Bushey said. The resource center assists school districts with programs including financial management, instructor training, technology systems management and legal services.
Loveless pointed to information study the by speakers at the study that indicated school district consolidation and eliminating waste could lead to significant savings by school districts, which could directly benefit Oklahoma students. "The issue here is the duplication. If there's just a little bit of waste, multiplied over 500 districts, that needs to be addressed," Loveless said. "Looking at it and discussing it and not just ignoring the problem is what we need to move forward." For more information, contact: Sen. Kyle Loveless, 405-521-5618.


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Annual Arts \& Humanities Christmas Concert Scheduled for Saturday, December 13th MCALESTER, Okla. - McAlester Area Arts \& Humanities Council is hosting the Annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2014, at the S Arch Thompson Auditorium. This year's theme is A White Christmas. McAlester Area Arts \& Humanities Council would like to thank our sponsors, the Wanda Bass Foundation, Dr. Dunagin, First

National Bank, and the Bank N.A We have more sponsorships. available.
McAlester Community Choir with Orchestra will be performing songs such as A White Christmas, Run to Bethlehem, For Unto Us a Child is Bethlehem, For Unto Us a Child is Born, and a special tribute to Alfred
Burt Carols and so much more. A White Christmas Concert is free of charge.
For more information or to become one of our sponsors, contact McAlester Area Arts \& Humanities Board President Cara Dorrell at (501) 944-6071.

## Barrel Racing

 Futurity World Championship-Dec 09, 2014 to Dec 13, 2014The annual Barrel Racing Futurity World Championships come to Oklahoma State Fair Park. Put on by the Barrel Futurities of America, this five day event is one of the premiere barrel racing events in the country. Watch cowboys and
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RES（Mar 21．April 20 ）Don＇t turn down ofters that incude sports activities orchidren Accent the inevitable A change is as good as a rest Dont go looking tor change
TAURUS（Apr．21－May 21）Passion is about the best way for you to relieve tension．Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule．Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day youll shine． GEMIN（May 22－June 21）Dont let children or elders put demands on your time．Your communication skills are at an all－time high．Uncertain changes regarding your personal life are evident．
CANCER（June 22－July 22）Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you．Watch for empty promises that may give you false hope．You are ahead of your time，and trying to stay in one spot could be asking bo much
LEO（July 23－Aug 22）You need to be sure that you arent in your present relationship because it is convenient．Your emotions may get the better of you．Your creative ability will surface，giving you good ideas for ways of making money．
IIRGO（Aug． 23 －Sept．23）Hidden assets can be doubled if you play your cards correctly．You may feel a need to make changes to your legal documents．Romantic ncounters will be tull of excitement．
LBRA（Sept．24－Oct．23）Try not to judge too quickly．You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive．Do your own thing without drawing attention to it． SCORPIO（Oct．24－Nov．22）You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you．Avoid letting family get involved in your personal life．You hould be making plans to spend some ime with the ones you tove．
SAGITTARIUS（Nov．23－Dec．21）Dont let your personal problems interfere with your professional responsibilites．You can get a promotion i y you put in a little extra detail． Changes in your domestic situation will prove to be favorable in the long run．
CAPRICORN（Dec 22．－Jan．20）You can make monev if you concentrate on producing services that will make domestic chores easier．Be prepared to counteract the damage that adversaries are about to create．Comfort is a necessity．Check your motives
AQUARIUS（Jan． 21 －Feb．19）Your moneymaking opportunities will flourish．You will gain knowledge through your adventure．If you haven＇t already，don＇t be afraid to start jour own small business on the side．
PISCES（Feb．20－Mar．20）Ty to communicate if you wish to help．Pleasure trips or friendly get－togethers will be satistying and intellectually stimulating．Minor healh problems will cause setbacks if you havent taken proper care of yourself．


ASTROLOGY UPDATE

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