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Steers win sixth straight

See Page 1B



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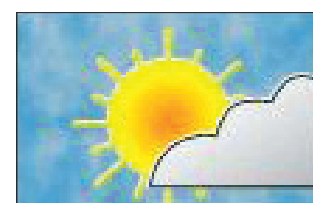
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WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 16, 2009



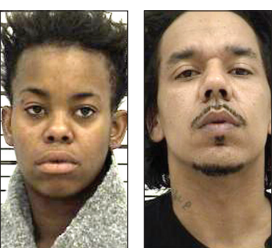
VOLUME 105, NUMBER 9

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

2 charged in vehicle burglaries

Police say they expect additional charges to be filed against pair



By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Two people were arrested this week and charged with a pair of vehicle burglaries, according to law enforcement officials, with more charges likely to come.

Shaquita Sneed, 19, of 1805

Young, was arrested Monday on four local warrants and a charge of burglary of a vehicle. Also arrested was 27-year-old Derrick Jones of Snyder, who was also charged with burglary of a vehicle.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information offi-

cer with the Big Spring Police Department, Sneed and Jones were arrested after witnesses identified them as having been involved in a vehicle burglary in the 1100 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.

"Officers responded to the La Quinta hotel in reference to a

vehicle burglary at around 3 a.m. Monday," said Everett. "Once on the scene, a witness was able to give them a description of the a vehicle and two suspects believed to have been involved in the burglary at that

See **ARRESTS**, Page 3A

UW faces six-figure shortfall

Concerns over economy blamed

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Uncertainty about the local economy is being blamed for a six-figure shortfall in United Way donations this year.

Campaign officials announced this week that the 2009 formal campaign finished far short of its goal of \$300,000.

"Right now, we're at around \$180,000," said Eve Nieto of the UW board of directors.

Big Spring has plenty of company, as many United Way campaigns across the country have suffered shortfalls. The major culprit, Nieto believes, is the economy.

"I just think people are afraid and unsure

See **UNITED WAY**, Page 3A



Washington Elementary's fourth-grade students perform "Jingle Bell Rock" during a holiday program at the local campus Tuesday evening.

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

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Shots taken, but not many

Few people taking advantage of flu vaccinations at health clinic

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 News Editor

What if they gave flu shots and nobody came? That's the bewildering dilemma the local Department of State Health Services has been facing for more than a week.

While residents in some large cities are clamoring because they have been unable to get flu shots, local health workers are at a loss as to explain why, when the vaccines are readily available here, folks in the Crossroads area aren't taking advantage.

"We've been fortunate to receive a lot of the vaccine, but the response has been very light," said Julie Cantu, a member of the nursing staff at the health clinic in College Park Shopping Center. "We've been trying to get the word out, but people are not responding. We would think

that firefighters, police, pregnant women and others would really be wanting to get the shots, but they haven't so far."

And time is running out.

The vaccines will only be available at the clinic through Friday. They will be administered from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today, Friday until 4 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday. The health department is closed from noon until 1 p.m. each day.

Throw protocols out the window.

"We are able to vaccinate the general public now. Anyone six months and older can get vaccinated," said Stephanie Ferguson, RN.

"We received more seasonal flu vaccine. We received 300 doses of shots and 30 more doses of flu mist. We were not expecting any more seasonal flu vaccine, so this was a

nice surprise for our community," said Ferguson. "If you didn't get one the first time, now is your chance. Also, this is a great opportunity for those of you who have certain children that require the

See **VACCINE**, Page 3A

9 SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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Look For LETTERS TO SANTA
 From Area Children To Santa Claus
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Coahoma boys hold on for tight home win

Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs started hot for a change Tuesday night.

But as fast as they started with 19 first-quarter points, they were equally as cold in the fourth quarter with just six as they held on to beat Post 61-55.

The Bulldogs' slow quarter was balanced by its fourth quarter defense that allowed just eight points in the final frame.

"We felt we were in control, but we

couldn't shut the door," head coach Kim Nichols said. "They couldn't either, though."

Coahoma ended the first half with a 32-24 lead. The Bulldogs scored another 23 points in the third frame, but Post kept up with 23 of its own as the score was 55-47 heading into the final frame.

"We have to tighten up on defense a little bit," Nichols said.

Josh Paniagua emerged with 18 points to lead the Bulldogs. Martin Leija, the team's leading scorer on the season, managed 13. Tanner

Ruiz scored nine points, and Lane Douglass and Isaac Garcia added seven apiece.

Coahoma will play Tahoka on Friday, but game times have changed.

The girls junior varsity will start at 2:30 p.m., followed by boys junior varsity at 3:45 p.m., varsity girls at 5 p.m. and varsity boys at 6:30 p.m.

Box Score (Coahoma only)
Coahoma 61, Post 55
Post 15 9 21 8 — 55
Coahoma 19 13 23 6 — 61

Coahoma- Paniagua 18, Leija 13, Ruiz 9, Douglass 7, Garcia 7, Hahn 4, Williams 3



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema
Freshman guard Tanner Ruiz pushes the ball Tuesday in Coahoma.



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton
The Steers' Tristian Clay passes to Jacob Falcon on Tuesday night at Steer Gym. Big Spring beat Snyder 58-42 in its third home game of the season. Tyler Tannehill scored 18 points in the game.

Steers capture sixth straight win

By JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers earned their sixth straight victory with a 58-42 win over Snyder on Tuesday night at Steer Gym.

The Steers led the entire game behind the strength of post players Matt Ritchey and Tyler Tannehill. Tannehill led the Steers with 18 points and 13 rebounds, and Ritchey added 11 points of his own and two rebounds.

Big Spring stretched its lead throughout the game from a two-point lead at the end of the first quarter to a seven-point lead at half. The Steers broke the game open with a 7-1 run midway through the third that put them up by double digits.

"Once we started to get the

ball inside-out, we started scoring more, and it made the game much easier to play," head coach Marcus Morris said.

The Steers outrebounded Snyder 33-18 on the night. Tannehill grabbed five of the team's nine offensive rebounds.

"Tonight we continued to plug away, and it wasn't always the prettiest, but we'll take it right now," Morris said. "The ball didn't move as fast as we hope it will later in the season, but it's improvement."

Guard Tristan Clay said the team is continuing to get better with practice.

"We're just trying to get up and down the court and play together more and play better," he said.

The Steers will be in action Friday in Monahans. Big

Spring beat the Lobos 60-43 in the Sandhills Tournament Championship game Saturday.

Tipoff in Monahans is 7:30 p.m.

Snyder 47, Lady Steers 41

The Lady Steers had the Snyder Lady Tigers right where they wanted them Tuesday night at Steer Gym.

After losing to Snyder by 35 points on the road early in the season, Big Spring had Snyder on the ropes when senior Linzee Yarbar drilled a three-pointer with under three minutes to play to break a 36-all tie.

"I thought we were going to win the game right there," head coach Mike Warren said.

After another bucket gave Big Spring a 41-36 advantage, Snyder

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

Folk competing for kicker job this week

Associated Press

IRVING — Nick Folk's fifth straight game with a missed field goal cost him his unquestioned status as the kicker for the Dallas Cowboys.

It probably won't cost him his job, though, at least not this week.

The Cowboys are making Folk split kicks in practice with kickoff specialist David Buehler this week, but Buehler's inexperience and his awful start to this competition on Tuesday makes this more of a change to Folk's routine that coaches hope will get him to snap out of his slump.

"I felt like we needed to do something, again, to change the atmosphere a little bit," coach Wade Phillips said.

Last week, Dallas hoped a change of holders would do the trick, turning the duty over to quarterback Tony Romo. Folk made his first kick, then missed his next one.

The Cowboys considered all their options and decided patience is the best course. The lack of a good alternative factored in, too.

"It's not like you just go out there and grab people," Phillips said. "You can grab people that haven't done it or had bigger slumps than his."

Going with the in-house option of Buehler

isn't as easy as it seems. He was drafted in the fifth round strictly for his kickoffs and has only worked sparingly on his field goals.

His rust showed Tuesday. All three of his attempts went wide right or left, not even coming close. None was longer than 35 yards, said Phillips, who emphasized how windy it was.

Kicking from the same spots, Folk wasn't much better, going 2 of 4.

"This guy's been a good one and he's young," Phillips said. "It makes me think he can come back if he's mentally strong enough. I've talked to him and he seems to be that way. ... Sometimes they get in a slump like a baseball player hitting a baseball. The good ones get in a slump, it's just not clicking for them. But the good ones come back in a streak. That's what we're hoping with him."

So, all things considered, Folks will get another chance?

"That's what I would presume right now," Phillips said.

Folk has missed six of his last nine kicks headed into Saturday night's game at New Orleans. His eight misses this season are more than he had his first two years combined. Every point is crucial for the Cowboys

See **KICKER**, Page 2B

Area Roundup: Garden City outsizes Forsan; Sands wins at home

Herald Staff Report

GARDEN CITY — Forsan head coach Robert Hillger had been looking forward to his team's matchup with Garden City for a while.

His Lady Buffs wanted a chance to topple the Garden City Lady Bearkats, ranked No. 3 in 1A, Division II.

But those hopes were quickly dashed when Garden City jumped out to a 14-point, first quarter lead en route to a 47-36 win Tuesday night in Garden City.

Lady Bearkat 6-foot 1-inch post Morgan Schwartz dropped 26 points on the Lady Buffs in the paint. Add Paige Niehues' six points to that, totaling 32 of Garden City's 47 points

that came from close range.

"We couldn't keep them off the glass, and they just killed us in the paint," Hillger said. "It was a physical game, so whenever it got physical for us, it just benefited them because they were so much bigger than us."

Morgan Forshee led the Lady Buffs with 10 points before she fouled out of the game.

After a disastrous first quarter in which Forsan scored just three points, Hillger noted that the Lady Buffs stuck with the Lady Bearkats the rest of the way.

"Our kids fought and battled and did everything they could," Hillger said. "I just have to coach better."

Hillger said playing a team the cali-

ber of Garden City's will give his group a leg up come district time.

"It's going to be great for us," he said. "It really is. We can go back and watch and learn and see what we really need to work on, because there won't be a night off in district play."

The Lady Buffs will play Rankin at home on Friday. Varsity girls starts at 4:30 p.m., followed by the boys team at 6 p.m.

Grady 47, Wink 31

WINK — The Grady Wildcats kept rolling Tuesday night with a 47-31 win over Wink on the road.

A 12-2 run in the third quarter put the game out of reach for Grady, which improved to 10-1 on the season.

Shane Teague and Dylan Cox led the way for the Wildcats with 13 and 12 points, respectively. Jacob Rodriguez was also in double figures for the 10th-ranked team in 1A, Division II.

Grady will host O'Donnell on Friday.

Wink 33, Grady 25

WINK — The Lady Wildcats couldn't manage enough offense Tuesday night as they fell to Wink 33-25.

Grady led 6-3 after the first quarter, but the team was outsized 10-10 points in the second and third quarters to give Wink a lead they would not relinquish.

Maegan Blocker and Kelly Cook

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Garden City sweeps all-district MVP awards

The state champion Garden City Bearkats earned several all-district honors this week.

Josh Colunga won offensive MVP, Marcus Cook won defensive MVP and Vance Jones won Coach of the Year for the 2009 state champions, who defeated Strawn 122-88 Saturday in Abilene.

Quarterback Blayne Batla, running back Colunga, tight end Ian Schaefer, receiver Brett Chudej, center Aaron Long and special teamer Marcus Dalton were named first team offense.

Reggie and Lane Halfmann were first team defensive linemen, and Chudej was also a first-team utility defensive player. Brian Hirt was named a first-team safety and Jesse Montes was named first-team cornerback.

Second-teamers were Reggie Halfmann, utility back and punter; Chudej, kicker; Dalton, defensive lineman.

Fort Davis' Marcus Hartnett earned player of the year, and Rankin's Dalton Mitchum earned newcomer of the year.

The Bearkats were 15-0 this season.

Big Spring softball meeting scheduled

The Big Spring softball club will hold a meeting today for all parents of Lady Steer softball players.

The meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents are encouraged to attend to help plan the softball tournament Big Spring will be hosting in March.

For more information, call Leslie Whitten at 816-6754 or coach Sparks at 270-2711.

Obituaries

H.L. Shipp

H.L. Shipp, 95, of Stanton died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, at the First United Methodist Church of Stanton with the Rev. Daniel Armstrong, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Lamesa, officiating, and Dr. Delton Chesser assisting. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

He was born Sept. 18, 1914, in Bullard and married Elnora Conner on Nov. 29, 1937. She preceded him in death Sept. 9, 1948.

H.L. served in the Civil Conservation Camp in El Paso in 1933, and then in Lamesa from 1935 to 1936. He worked as an auto mechanic all of his life, working for Blocker Chevrolet, Eiland Ford, Carl Clardy and Rhodes Motor, retiring from Blocker Oil Company in 1989. He was an avid hunter and had a lifelong love of music and playing the fiddle.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Stanton, a member of the Masonic Lodge for 65 years and served with the Stanton Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Bobby Noel and Linda Shipp of Dumas; one daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and Conrad McKaskle of Stanton; six grandchildren, Kasey Shipp of Houston, Kristi Gonzales of Dumas, Mary Caddell of Carrizo Springs, Anna McCabe of Trophy Club, Shawn Cook of Andrews and Sandy Zugg of Arlington; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; four nephews, Billy Shipp of Brownfield, Dennis Shipp and Tracy Shipp, both of Midland, and Gary Shipp of Lubbock.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite charity. Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary



Leo 'Murrel' Loudamy

Leo "Murrel" Loudamy, 90, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home State Room with Walter McCall, chaplain with Compass Hospice, officiating. Interment will follow at Miles Cemetery in Miles.

He was born Nov. 13, 1919, in Big Spring to Otha George and Nina May Loudamy. He married Mary Lee Combs on Feb. 25, 1940, in Miles. She preceded him in death March 15, 2008.

Murrel was an avid outdoorsman, fisherman, hunter and was happiest when he was "out in nature," as he phrased it. He welded decorative wrought iron for a hobby. He retired from Civil Service after 34 years as a jet aircraft mechanic, with a specialty in wing rigging. He worked at Webb AFB until it closed, then Laughlin AFB in Del Rio until retirement.

He is survived by his daughter, Patricia Low of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Lisa Page of Big Spring and Lee Ann Dorton and husband, John, of Abilene; two great-granddaughters, Amanda Morrow and husband, Dusty, of Sweetwater, and Jessica Bomar of Midland; and four great-great-grandchildren, Melanie and McKayla Morrow, and Dexter and Delighlah Bomar.

He was also preceded in death by three sisters, Avis Krueger, Veda Paget, and Georgia Hayden; and his son-in-law, Jimmy D. Low.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Suite A-5, Midland 79701; or to the American Lung Association, 8150 Brookriver Drive, Suite S102, Dallas 75247-4053.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary



Robert Moses Lindsey

Robert Moses Lindsey, 72, of Big Spring, formerly of San Angelo, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, at the VA Medical Center. Graveside services with military honors will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene with the Rev. Don Morrison of Abilene officiating.

Robert was born Sept. 28, 1937, in Shreveport, La., to Mary and Moses Edward Lindsey. He served in the United States Army from Jan. 4, 1956, to Dec. 20, 1957, and from March 1, 1965, to June 6, 1966. He was a barber.

He is survived by one son, Jerrell Lindsey of Dallas; one daughter, Erma Jean Arkansas of Shreveport, La.; three brothers; six sisters and a cousin.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Roger Lindsey.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Billy 'Fat Boy' Shubert

Billy "Fat Boy" Shubert, 50, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 14, 2009, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009, at the Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Sept. 25, 1959, in Casa Grande, Ariz. Billy grew up in the Big Spring and Lamesa areas and worked in construction and the oilfield. He served in the United States Army.

He is survived by five children and one brother.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Support Groups

TODAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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\$10,000

SALE PRICE
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2009 Ford F350 Crew Cab Lariat Powerstroke Diesel



Oxford White, Ebony Leather, 6.4 Diesel, Chrome Pkg., Lariat Plus Pkg., Tailgate Step.
Stk# 2262
MSRP \$51,205
Customer Cashback / Dealer Discount
\$10,000

SALE PRICE
\$41,205*

2009 Ford F250 Crew Cab Lariat Powerstroke Diesel 4X4



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Stk# 2231
MSRP \$53,965
Customer Cashback / Dealer Discount
\$10,000

SALE PRICE
\$43,965*

2009 Ford F250 Crew Cab Lariat Powerstroke Diesel 4X4

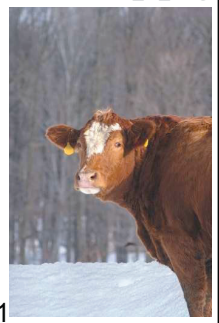


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\$10,000

SALE PRICE
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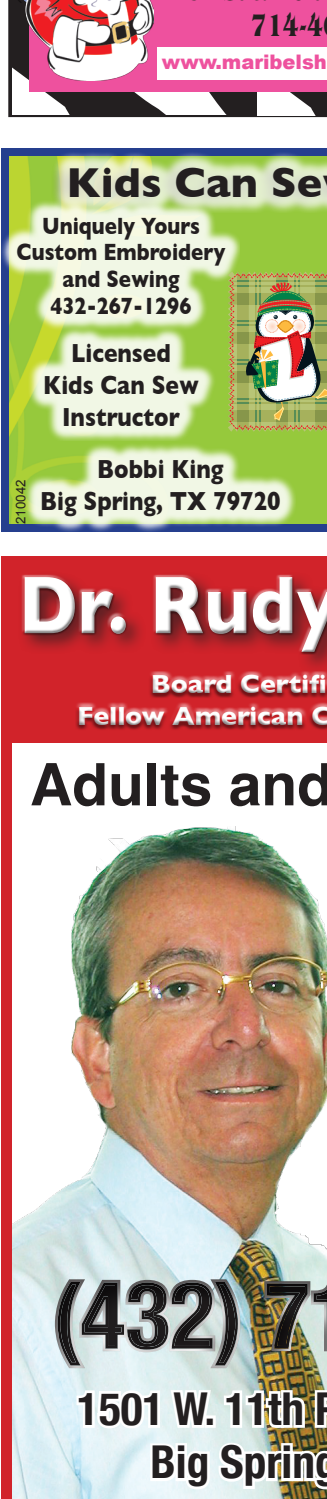
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KICKER

Continued from 1B

(8-5), who have lost two straight to blow their spot atop the NFC East. Although Folk had offseason hip surgery, he said his health is fine. He doesn't have

any specific reason for his problems, saying something different goes wrong every time. He understands that coaches and teammates "probably are questioning (me) right now," but he's trying to remain confident. "You've just got to

know that you can do it, then tell yourself you can do it and go out there and do it again," Folk said. Buehler was drafted specifically to boom kickoffs, and he's done that with 21 touchbacks. He hasn't attempted a single field

goal this season but was 26 of 33 in two years at Southern California. "Eventually, to have longevity in this league, I need to be able to kick field goals," Buehler said. "I'm not going to be a kickoff specialist my whole

career. So I need to fine-tune that and be able to be a reliable field-goal kicker." Buehler said he's been kicking a few field goals in practice, but not many and not as seriously as he needs to now. "Most of all, it's men-

tal," he said. "I mean, going out there and getting back into that rhythm and doing the consistent motion every single time. ... I'm going to be there if need be. Who knows when they'll need me, if they'll need me at all."

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

BSHS

Continued from 1B

Snyder came back with a bucket and a foul, and earned two more shots from the charity stripe when the Lady Tigers came up with an offensive rebound.

On the ensuing free throw miss, the Lady Steers' Diamond Mayes grabbed the rebound, when she was promptly whistled for a technical foul for throwing her elbows.

"She just got full of adrenaline right there," Warren said. "I was not mad at her at all. She got a rebound like she was supposed to."

The foul gave Snyder two points and the ball back, and the Lady Steers went scoreless for the last two minutes as Snyder pulled away

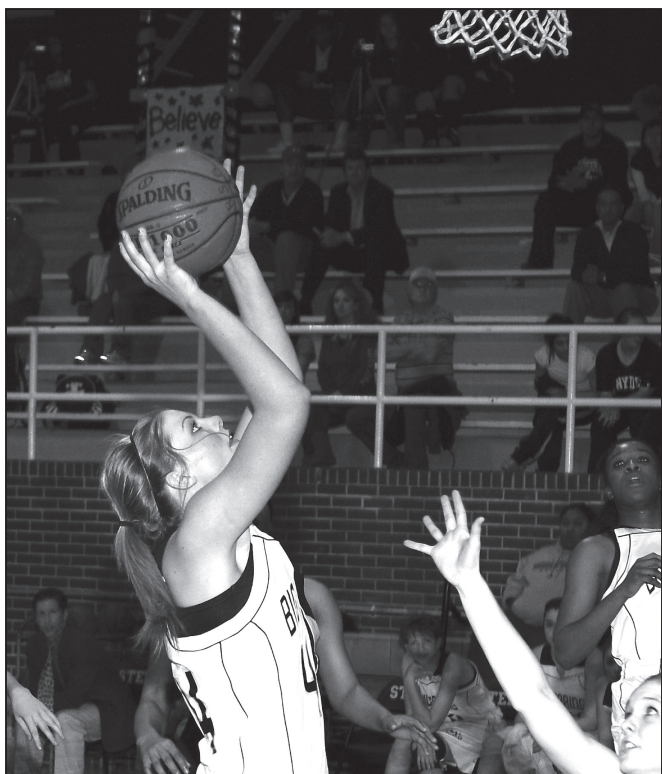
for the 47-41 victory.

"We missed some rebound opportunities at the end, and they got some putbacks that hurt us," Warren said. "We still have to put the ball in the hole all the way toward the end, and we didn't. We threw the ball away a couple times and we missed a couple shots."

Yarbar led the Lady Steers with a game-high 13 points. The Lady Steers also went 18-25 from the free throw line.

After the way the teams' first meeting went in November, though, Warren said he was pleased that the Lady Steers had a chance to win the game.

"Ever since that Andrews game (last week), I really think we've turned a corner," Warren said. "They



HERALD Photo/ Tony Claxton

Sophomore Cerbi Ritchey puts a shot up Tuesday at Steer Gym. The Lady Steers fell 47-41.

believe they're getting better."

The Lady Steers will

play Monahans on the road Friday. Tipoff is slated for 6 p.m.

ROUNDUP

Continued from 1B

scored eight points apiece to pace the Lady Wildcats. Wink's BreAnn Creech scored a game-high 14 points.

Grady will host O'Donnell on Friday. Tipoff is 5:30 p.m.

Sands 50, Southland 32
ACKERLY — The Sands Mustangs earned a home win Tuesday night as Johnny Rogers' 22 points helped his team down Southland.

Rogers' little brother, Junior, was also in double figures with 11 points. Head coach Billy

Grumbles said his team played good defense, and it scrambled and hustled to loose balls well.

The Mustangs held Southland to single digits in ever quarter but the fourth, when they allowed 11 points.

Sands will play Westbrook on the road Friday.

Sands 65, Southland 36
ACKERLY — The Sands Lady Mustangs scored 24 points in the second quarter en route to a 65-36 win over Southland on Tuesday night.

Ashli Stockton scored 21 points and Morgan

Yarbrough scored 19 for Sands. Lani Robles was also in double figures with 12.

The Lady Mustangs outscored Southland 30-11 in the second half as they pulled away for the victory.

Sands will play Westbrook on the road Friday.

Stanton 52
Borden County 43
STANTON — The Stanton Buffaloes welcomed the Borden County Coyotes to the hardwood with a 52-43 win over the football state champions Tuesday night.

Tyler Fulton scored 26 points to lead Stanton. He was the only Buffalo in double figures.

The Buffs fell behind by three in the first quarter, but they outpaced the Coyotes the rest of the way for the win. Stanton improves to 9-3 on the season, while Borden County, ranked No. 20 in the 1A, Division II poll, fell to 0-1.

Stanton will play at Colorday City on Friday. Varsity girls tipoff at 6:30 p.m., and the boys will tipoff a 8 p.m.

Box Scores

Garden City 47, Forsan 36
Forsan 3 8 10 15 — 36
GC 17 10 10 15 — 47

Forsan- Forshee 10, Hill 7, S. Jones 5, K. Jones 6, Stanley 2
Garden City- M. Schwartz 26, K. Halfmann 10, Niehues 6, A. Halfmann 3, L. Schwartz 2

Grady 47, Wink 31
Grady 11 8 12 16 -- 47
Wink 8 5 2 16 -- 31

Grady (10-1): Shane Teague 13, Dylan Cox 12, Tyler Mathews 2, Johan Wieve 5, Jacob Rodriguez 11, Zane Robinson 4
Wink: Plunkett 2, Abbott 6, Avila 4, Richardson 7, Mendoza 5, Boggess 3, Hildebrand 4.

Wink 33, Grady 25
Grady 6 6 4 9 --25
Wink 3 10 8 12 --33

Grady (5-8): Maegan Blocker 8, Kelly Cook 8, Katie Meeks 6, Julia Scheulke 2, Charmynee Arnold 1
Wink: BreAnn Creech 14, Lacey Creech 7, Celesta Turnbow 5, Caryn Curtis 3, Lindi Shackelford 3

Sands 50, Southland 32
S-land 5 8 8 11 — 32
Sands 13 15 7 15 — 50

Sands- Jo. Rogers 22, Ju. Rogers 11, Blagrove 5, Zandt 4, Armendariz 4, Ibarra 2, Guillen 2
Southland- Arguello 12, Matta 8, Hernandez 6, Mendoza 4, Martin 2

Sands 65, Southland 36
S-land 14 11 7 4 — 65
Sands 11 24 17 13 — 36

Sands- Stockton 21, Mo. Yarbrough 19, Robles 12, Me. Yarbrough 6, Gomez 4, Wigginton 3

Stanton 52, Borden County 43
BC 11 13 10 9 — 43
SHS 8 19 14 10 — 52

Borden Co.- Tarleton 18, Lamming 9, Shafer 5, Richey 5, Cooley 4, Telchik 2
Stanton- Fulton 26, Gray 9, Koonce 7, Ramos 4, Evans 4, Sidle 2

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Hidden Asset

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠9865
♥987
♦K4
♣AQ76
WEST
♠AKQJ3
♥A102
♦962
♣J5
EAST
♠42
♥6
♦108753
♣109432
SOUTH
♠107
♥KQJ543
♦AQJ
♣K8

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 1♠ 2♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

At first or even second glance, it's not easy to see how East's motley assortment of cards could help to defeat four hearts. Nevertheless, the East hand made the key contribution that prevented declarer from collecting what appeared to be 10 ironclad tricks.

West led the K-Q of spades. After

everybody followed, he could count just one more trick for his side — the ace of hearts. The question was where a fourth trick might come from.

Given South's leap to four hearts and the fact that the East and South hands could contain no more than 16 high-card points, it was hardly likely that East held either the ace of diamonds or king of clubs. So the setting trick, if there was one, would have to come from the trump suit.

If East had any heart honor — even as little as the singleton jack — the contract would be defeated automatically, since West's ten would then become a trump trick. But even if East did not have a heart honor, there was still another possibility: He might have been dealt the seemingly innocuous six of hearts.

To cater to this possibility, West led the three of spades rather than a high spade at trick three to force East to ruff. East obligingly produced the six of hearts, and declarer's five apparently certain heart tricks were suddenly reduced to four. He had no choice but to overruff the six with the jack, and West's ten of hearts later came into its own as the setting trick.

Tomorrow: Sylvia confounds the experts.
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Quiz:
How is your relationship?

Does your partner:

<input type="checkbox"/> Embarrass you with bad names and put-downs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Tell you you're a bad parent or threaten to take away or hurt your children?
<input type="checkbox"/> Look at you or act in ways that scare you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Act like the abuse is no big deal, it's your fault, or even deny doing it?
<input type="checkbox"/> Control what you do, who you see or talk to, or where you go?	<input type="checkbox"/> Destroy your property or threaten to kill your pets?
<input type="checkbox"/> Stop you from seeing or talking to friends or family?	<input type="checkbox"/> Intimidate you with guns, knives, or other weapons?
<input type="checkbox"/> Take your money or Social Security, make you ask for money, or refuse to give you money?	<input type="checkbox"/> Shove you, slap you, choke you or hit you?
<input type="checkbox"/> Make all the decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Force you to have sex?
<input type="checkbox"/> Prevent you from working or attending school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Force you to drop charges?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Threaten to commit suicide?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Threaten to kill you?

Victim Services
263-3312

Check tomorrow's Herald for more Crossroads sports action

Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:

- RUBEN HERNANDEZ, 47, of 2707 Hernandez Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of no driver's license.
- BRANDON OLIVETTI, 17, of 2513 Dow, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of no driver's license.
- ANITA GRACE SMITH, 48, of Garland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of injury to the elderly.
- MICHELLE STOAKS, 24, of 623 Caylor, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less in a drug free zone.
- DELMA ZAMORA, 29, of 1500 E. 11th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- JANE CUELLAR, 45, of Andrews, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid – no insurance and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO

OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 800 block of State.

- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.

- JANE CUELLAR, 45, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- WILLIAM RYAN LOCKE, 35, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- BRANDON DENNIS OLIVETTI, 17, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- ANITA SMITH, 48, was transferred to

the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of injury to the elderly.

• MICHELLE LYNN STOAKS, 24, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less in a drug free zone and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.


• DELMA ZAMORA, 29, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.


Fire/EMS


The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 5800 block of RR 33. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Ranch Road 33 and K.C. Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Chickasaw. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of E. 14th Street. Service refused.

Local Weather

Thu 12/17 64/31 
A mainly sunny sky. High 64F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Fri 12/18 59/29 
A few clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 20s.

Sat 12/19 55/31 
Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.

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Lottery

- “Mega Millions”: 27-31-32-36-47, Mega Ball: 35
- “Cash 5”: 04-05-08-15-17.
- “Daily 4 Night”: 2-3-7-5.
- “Pick 3 Night”: 9-0-4.

ARRESTS

Continued from Page 1A

location.

“A short time later officers located the vehicle in the 1800 block of Young. Two suspects at that location were identified and property from the burglary was seized. Both suspects were arrested at that point.”

Everett said as the investigation continued into the early morning, with positive results.

“As the investigation continued into the morning, two more vehicle burglaries were discovered at two other local motels,” said Everett. “Property from these two burglaries was also recovered, and I expect the two suspects will be charged with two more counts of burglary of a vehicle.”

Everett said both Sneed and Jones have

been released on bond of \$1,500 each for the original charge of burglary of a vehicle.

“More charges will be filed this week,” said Everett. “The local warrants for Sneed’s arrest were not related to the burglary charges.”

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

UNITED WAY

Continued from Page 1A

what’s going to happen with our economy,” she said. “They’re just unsure about the future. I don’t think Texas has been hit as hard as other areas, but I do think people are more unsure about things right now.”

Nieto said the UW’s allocation committee recently met to divvy up revenue to the 14 local agencies that receive funds from United Way. Understandably, she said, there were some long faces.

“The hardest part for everyone, and the most

disappointing, is that, more than ever, our agencies are in need,” she said.

Despite the discouraging news, however, United Way officials are not ready to “give up the ship” on this year’s campaign.

Nieto said donations would be actively sought and sincerely appreciated. In fact, donors can earmark where they want their money to go.

“We just want to make an appeal to anyone who might want to donate,” she said. “With the exception of dues we have to make to the state and national (United Way), all the money raised stays here in Howard

County ... And if someone prefers to donate to just one of the agencies, we’ll accept that. We allow people to designate where they want their money to go.”

Agencies that receive funds from the United Way are the American Red Cross West Texas Division; Buffalo Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America; CASA of West Texas; Council on Aging; Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center; Howard County Humane Society; Isaiah 58; Northside Community Center; Salvation Army; Victim Services; Westside Community Center; Westside Day Care Center; Girl Scouts; and

YMCA of Big Spring.

Nieto noted that major fund raisers are scheduled for the spring that should help augment UW allocations.

“We’ll have our golf ball drop and golf tournament in the spring, so we’ll be getting some extra money in the near future.”

For more information on how to donate to the United Way, call 267-5201.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at

VACCINE

Continued from Page 1A

second dose and haven’t been able to find it.”

While the shots are now available to anyone, a couple of specific groups are encouraged to not miss this opportunity.

“Pregnant women are urged to come in. Anyone with a newborn to six-month-old baby is encouraged to come in,” said Cantu. “You really need to do it to protect the health of the children.”

Among other groups, also at high risk are people who have already had the H1N1 flu, also known as the swine flu.

“They especially need

to come in if they have already been exposed to the H1N1,” said Cantu. “It is expected the second time they get it would be worse than the first time.”

Anyone having any question about whether they should be vaccinated is encouraged to call the clinic at 263-9782.

“If they are busy at work, they can call after hours and leave a message and we will get back to them the next morning,” said Cantu.

She said the local office has experienced no major adverse reactions to the vaccines.

“There’s been very little reaction to it. We do ask that people wait around for about 10 minutes or so after receiving the vaccine, just

as a precaution. But we haven’t had any major reactions at all,” Cantu said.

The clinic is located in the College Park Shopping Center which is at the corner of Birdwell Lane and Fourth Street.

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LOST- PEACH colored, adult female, long haired, fluffy cat in the vicinity of West 16th & Parkview. Edward Heights area. No collar. Her name is Peachy. Husband devastated! Please call (432)263-0240.

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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OUR VIEW

Symphonic Christmas a must see

One of the joys of the Christmas season is its music, and we are certainly blessed here in Howard County. Saturday, the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra — with a host of friends — will be performing some of the most cherished carols and holiday favorites ever written during "A Symphonic Christmas."

No matter what your musical tastes, you'll find plenty in this concert to bring joy to your heart.

Special performances will be presented by the Coahoma Choir Kids, directed by Sandra Wallace, and several soloists. The entire production will be conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann.

Set in the new sanctuary of Trinity Baptist Church, it promises to be a wonderful evening of musical diversity, all with one message — Merry, Merry Christmas.

Saturday's program calls for the concert to begin with several works based on familiar carols including "Carol of the Bells," "Silver Bells" and "Carol of the Drum," also known as "The Little Drummer Boy." They will be followed by the movie classic "March of the Toys" by Victory Herbert.

According to Graumann, the symphony will then feature three arrangements by Mannheim Steamroller before the audience is asked to join the symphony by singing a selection of Christmas music in "Christmas Pop Sing-a-long."

The first part of the evening will be rounded out by "Twas the night before Christmas," which will be narrated by Malinda Flenniken.

The second part of the show will begin with "Sleigh Ride," followed by Bradley joining the orchestra for "O, Holy Night."

The Coahoma Choir Kids will present "Star Carol," "Christmas on Broadway," "Sing With Joy on Christmas Day," and, of course, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

The evening will culminate with the audience again being asked to join in a medley of sacred Christmas carols entitled, "Christmas Sing-a-long" by John Fennagin.

Make plans now to attend "A Symphonic Christmas" this Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are just \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students and are available at the Herald, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, Western Bank, KBST Radio and the Heritage Museum. They'll also be on sale at the door the night of the performance.

We hope to see you there.

LETTER POLICIES

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- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We hit the target, Lord, when we have You.
Amen

The new Don Quixote

If I were a cartoonist, I would draw a picture of Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., as Don Quixote of la Mancha — riding on a horse, charging against windmills that represent the obstacles to immigration reform — and in the cutline, I would quote him as singing, "To dream the impossible dream."

When he defends his new comprehensive immigration reform legislation this week, Gutierrez surely will become a quixotic character, fighting for beautiful and seemingly unattainable ideals. After all, there are huge windmills in this Don Quixote's path — obstacles that are bigger and stronger than ever.

Added to the long list of excuses used by anti-immigrant zealots to block significant immigration reform in the past are an economy in the tank, a considerably reduced jobs market and a scary unemployment rate.

And as a result, there are thousands of other ways for hate groups and immigrant-bashing politicians to spread their xenophobia and block legislation that would create a path to legalization for the millions of immigrants living and working here without proper documents.

Regardless of how many measures Gutierrez included in his bill to crack down on future illegal immigration, regardless of all his efforts to improve our border and national security, even

before he released the details of his bill, the anti-immigrant zealots were displaying their new ammunition for opposing any form of legalization path for undocumented immigrants. They charged that Americans need the jobs that have been "stolen" by undocumented immigrants and that (for some inexplicable reason) taxpayers would carry a bigger burden if those immigrants were legalized.

In one of Gutierrez's own hometown newspapers, the Chicago Sun-Times, the zealots were accusing him of being "un-American," of "helping make the U.S. a third world country" and of trying to reward lawbreakers with amnesty.

One of them even blamed Gutierrez for the death of an American child killed in an accident in which an illegal immigrant was driving.

"Thousands of American citizens of all ages, from infants to senior citizens have been terrorized, raped, robbed and murdered by this invading army of foreign nationals illegally in this country," noted one delusional letter.

Yet at a time when the windmills in Congress are blowing undocumented immigrants away from the health care safety net, a time when President Barack Obama, with a full agenda of higher priorities, seems to be reneging on his promise to fight for immigration reform, Gutierrez and a handful of his Sancho Panzas in Congress, mostly members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, are marching on.

"We have waited patiently

for a workable solution to our immigration crisis to be taken up by this Congress and our President," Gutierrez said in a statement. "The time for waiting is over."

Apparently tired of the excuses of some of his fellow Democrats who promised to reform our immigration laws, Gutierrez said his bill is being "presented before Congress recesses for the holidays so that there is no excuse for inaction in the New Year."

He said the legislation is the product of months of collaboration with civil rights advocates, labor organizations and members of Congress. "It is an answer to too many years of pain — mothers separated from their children, workers exploited and undermined security at the border — all caused at the hands of a broken immigration system," Gutierrez said, noting that we deserve an immigration system that we can be proud of.

When Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra created the fictional Don Quixote, in 1602, the windmills represented evil giants, which were not unlike the ones that will pounce on Gutierrez in the next few months.

The original Don Quixote could make us believe in impossible dreams, so perhaps the new Don Quixote can inspire this country to re-establish its proud tradition as a compassionate nation of immigrants.

March on, Don Quixote! This time, the windmills will fall!

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Peace among enemies? All is possible

The "season of goodwill entered the trenches" were words that I read describing what some call the "Christmas Truce of 1914." Others refer to the event as a "shining episode of sanity from among the bloody chapters of World War I."

While the details of this event have often been embellished in hindsight, there is one conclusion that is never denied — the fact that Christmas managed to bring so-called mortal enemies together as friends for a time.

Some say the soldiers exchanged cigarettes and cake. Some say they joined in song and in a game of soccer.

Whatever, it is indisputable that at least some of the men who were lined up in trenches along the Western Front — sometimes no more than 30 yards away from each other — on the first Christmas of the first World War, ceased fire and had the courage to meet one another face to face in no-man's land.

The beauty of this moment was that it was spontaneous, unplanned, not orchestrated or scripted. With no interference by generals and politicians, the lower ranks — whose life expectancy during World War I was maybe two weeks — figured out how to create peace.

No, the peace did not last. Generals on both sides eventually ordered that the fighting continue. And there would not be another Christmas truce in the next four years of war.

I came upon this information only recently and I don't recall ever learning it when I studied history in school.

Most history books I've looked in since only give the incident a fleeting mention as if it was pretty much inconsequential. But the more I ponder it, the more hope-filled I become.

I'm reminded of an e-mail forward titled "Polar Bear: I come in peace" that made the rounds months ago. It was a collection of photographs featuring a polar bear's approach to a team of tethered sled dogs in the wilds of Canada's Hudson Bay. It was noted by Stuart Brown that the photographer, Norbert Rosing, was sure he was soon to see the demise of his dogs. But that didn't happen.

The photos he took, to our point of view, might conclude that the bear and dogs played together. And it was said that the bear returned many nights to "play" with the dogs.

Some dispute the interpretation of "play" and say rather the animals were just being curious of each other.

Regardless, nobody died during the exchange — the point that captured my attention at the time.

And again, it seemed that peace was possible — dare I say natural — among supposed enemies.

I can't help but think that among the disciples of Jesus were also some unlikely friends — fishermen, political activists and a tax collector who might never have become friends if not for Jesus.

Jesus often associated with and helped those that some among him would have defined as their "enemy."

And I can't help but remember when Jesus was captured in the Garden of Gethsemane when a disciple cut off the ear of one of the arresting soldiers. Jesus stopped his disciples from fighting and healed the soldier's ear. (Luke 22:51)

Jesus had much to say about

those we perceive as our enemies including, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Luke 6:27-28)

Oh I know we live in difficult times these days when such instructions may seem impossible or crazy. We don't often know who to trust. And there are those who are so consumed by their fears, hatred and misconceptions, that all they can think about is killing their enemies. How can peace be possible with such people? How could we ever be friends with people who want to kill us?

Almost ten million died during World War I and millions more were wounded. I suspect among those killed were many of the same ones who found a way to create peace on Christmas in 1914. If only they could tell us how they did it. Apparently both sides wanted peace that Christmas — if only for a day.

I suppose wanting peace is a good beginning.

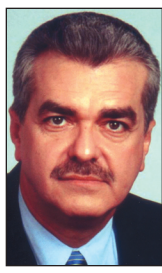
For me, the Christmas Truce of 1914 showed that living in peace is the most natural action for humankind. Peace is our God-given nature that Jesus aptly illustrated for us during his lifetime. And if peace is more natural than war, then peace among all enemies is possible.

Surely if peace is possible for some — if possible in the midst of battle — then peace under any circumstances and at any future point in time can be a reality.

We can live in the manner God intends for His creation.

The thought of this peaceful possibility gives me hope.

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly by numerous websites and newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com



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News in brief

On brink of historic health care overhaul, Obama urges pragmatism over ideology

WASHINGTON (AP) — History may be calling but time's running out to act by Christmas, so Senate Democrats are coming to terms with the idea they won't get everything they want from health care overhaul.

For the second time in less than two weeks, President Barack Obama cajoled restive Democrats on Tuesday, urging them not to lose perspective amid intense intraparty battles over government's role and reach in health care. The public plan liberals hoped for appeared dead in the Senate, as did a Medicare buy-in scheme offered as a fallback.

"The president and vice president pointed out that you take your victories when you can and nothing prevents you from fighting on for the things you believe should have been achieved," said Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I. "But why spurn a victory in hand?"

"There was frustration and angst," Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., a leading liberal, said after the meeting at the White House. "Everybody has things they want, and they didn't all get what they want and that includes me, big-time."

But Obama got their attention, said Rockefeller, describing a health care remake to cover tens of millions now uninsured as "the biggest thing since Social Security."

Troop shortage hampers U.S. effort to stem flow of Taliban into Afghanistan

KHAN NESHIN, Afghanistan (AP) — Only a few hundred American troops are policing the southern border of one of Afghanistan's major smuggling areas, leaving open a vast expanse of desert that the Taliban use to shuttle in weapons and fighters from Pakistan.

This dusty hamlet 75 miles (120 kilometers) north of the border in Helmand province was the Taliban's key transit point from Pakistan before the Marines arrived in July. Since then, the Marines have set up a series of patrol bases east and west of Khan Neshin to disrupt the Taliban's supply lines.

But the battalion deployed at only about 50 percent of its authorized strength, and one of its three companies is posted in central Helmand. That leaves several hundred Marines to cover roughly 6,000 square miles (15,000 square kilometers) — an area larger than Connecticut.

As a result, the Marines may have trouble curbing Taliban supply lines as thousands of fresh troops pour into the province as part of President Barack Obama's surge.

"I would like to push closer to the border, but I can only go as far as I can support," said Lt. Col. Michael Martin, commanding officer of 4th Marine Division, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

Danish police say hundreds of protesters trying to disrupt U.N. climate talks

COPENHAGEN (AP) — More than 100 climate activists were detained Wednesday for trying to



President Barack Obama waves as he leave the Senate Democratic caucus on Capitol Hill in Washington earlier this month.

break into a U.N. conference where 193 nations are deadlocked in talks on a deal to curb global warming, police said.

Protesters said they wanted to take over the global conference and turn it into a "people's assembly."

Police spokesman Johnny Lundberg said the activists were arrested for attempting to pass through the security perimeter set up around the suburban conference center. There were no reports of injuries.

A separate group of activists from Friends of the Earth staged a sit-in protest outside the security area because they were not being allowed into the conference even though they were accredited.

A working group dealing with core issues at the conference debated until just before dawn without setting new goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions or for financing poorer countries' efforts to cope with rising seas, drought and other results

of global warming.

Evangelist Oral Roberts dies at age 91

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Oral Roberts, who helped pioneer TV evangelism in the 1950s and used the power of the new medium — and his message of God's healing power — to build a multimillion-dollar ministry and a university that bears his name, died Tuesday. He was 91.

Roberts died of complications from pneumonia in Newport Beach, Calif., according to his spokesman, A. Larry Ross.

The evangelist was hospitalized after a fall on Saturday.

Roberts rose from humble tent revivals to become one of the nation's most famous and influential preachers. Along with Billy Graham, he pioneered religious TV, and he played a major role in bringing American Pentecostalism into the mainstream.

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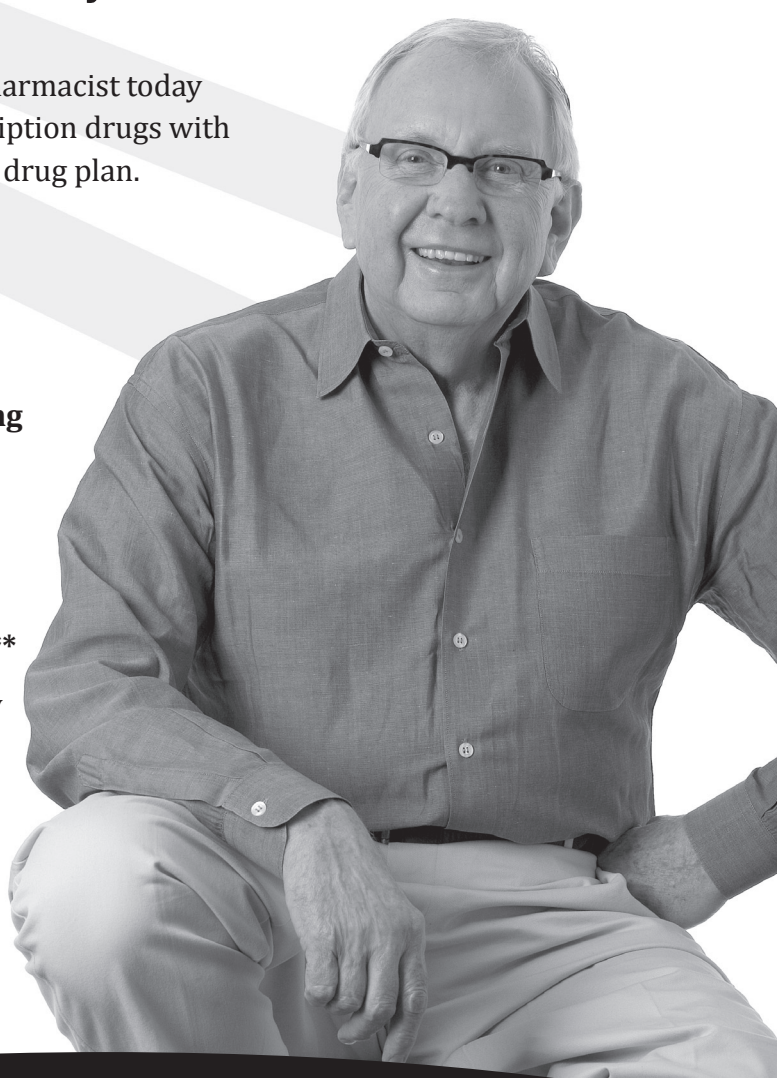
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In **Sunday's Big Spring Herald**

AmericanProfile

The cold, hard facts

The cold, hard facts are that in this country every winter, many people are homeless and have to sleep on the streets. For 40 nights each winter, Peter Larson, 15, sleeps in a cardboard box to bring attention to the homeless. Plus, beating household clutter and cinnamon rolls.

AmericanProfile

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The sky may be dark tonight, but under the Sagittarius new moon, hope is alive. And if you don't feel particularly optimistic, you may be in the most hopeful position of all. "Isn't it the moment of most profound doubt that gives birth to new certainties? Perhaps hopelessness is the very soil that nourishes human hope." —



HOLIDAY MATHIS

VAACLAV HAVEL (March 21-April 19). Your anticipation builds as you get closer to the date of an event on the horizon. Indeed, the hope you gather along this journey may be even sweeter than what you'll experience upon your arrival — so savor this feeling.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The world may be alive with possibilities, but your soul has a vision all its own, and it's singular. In fact, you are so driven to do one particular thing that it will be difficult to do anything else until

the act is accomplished. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Something you hear in the media will move you in a way you weren't expecting. This produces a feeling of connection with the rest of humanity. Our commonalities outweigh our differences.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In the past, you have been accused of taking life too seriously. Since then, you've tempered sincerity with a spirit of playfulness, with the result that you work hard and laugh hard, too. Others will be affected by your joyful mood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are considering a change of venue. Should you pick up and move or just make a significant change in your current routine? The stirring in your soul isn't going away. In fact, it seems to be getting louder.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Why everyone picks the same day to pay attention to you might be a mystery, but it's a welcome one. Even people you don't know that well seem to make tiny efforts to befriend you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep it light. With so much trouble going

on in the world, why muck around in heavy issues? Better to be funny, cheerful and friendly. Others quietly depend on you to lift them from their doldrums.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just when you thought all your hard work was for naught, you receive a compliment from the right person, and the problem you were working on breaks open into something easily manageable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Where talent and perseverance meet, success is soon to follow. But don't forget the people who help you along the way. You'll be reminded of how precious your loved ones are to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). More people should ask your opinion. You have a keen sense of the subtle intricacies of human interaction and an innate compassion that assumes and encourages the best in people.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be reminded of all that could go wrong, and that's not such a bad thing. You need people around you who see the

problems. Though they might come across as "downers," they also will help you avoid a pitfall.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's nothing out of the ordinary to celebrate, and yet, in some small way, you'll do so anyway. A spirit of optimistic possibility hovers around you, lifting the corners of your mouth and making your peers glad to be working with you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 16). Your personal magnetism is turned up this year. You'll make friends and charm everyone you meet. You'll strike upon a worthwhile venture in January and use your social power to make money in February. April brings travel. June asks you to work hard. You'll prove your loyalty to someone in August. Leo and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 43, 29, 35 and 17.

GEMINI FORECAST 2010: A strong need to express yourself takes hold this year. You will be gathering new influences and placing yourself in the way of inspiration and profound beauty through January

and February. This begins an emphasis on developing your talents, which will guide your activities through the rest of the year. Supporters come from many places; your family and friends will offer much. Members of a professional community will also notice and include you. June reveals a new way to make a living.

Highlights: Money and Career: Pace yourself. Some degree of risk will be warranted; however, there will be a way to advance professionally without making a huge investment or going into debt. Keep researching and asking questions until you find a route that is financially doable.

Love: Your curiosity and genuine interest in others make you extremely desirable. Social opportunities will be abundant in January and May. Someone will want a more formal arrangement in September. You'll be attracted to that rare and brave soul who craves the same level of excitement, intellectual stimulation and adventure as you do.

Personal Development: Mastering the domestic arts will improve your daily life. Consider making a study of cooking, feng shui or another homey topic.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Former Mouseketeer Christina Aguilera is a fiery Sagittarius with four major planetary influences in this adventurous station. Though high-spirited theatrics are a favorite pastime of Sagittarians, Aguilera was born under a grounded Taurus moon, indicating a mellow side to her personality. In 2010, Aguilera will join Cher and dancer Dita Von Teese, among others, in a musical film titled "Burlesque."

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News in brief

AP source: Obama writes letter to Kim Jong Il in effort to restart nuclear talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has written a personal letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il as part of an intense effort to draw the reclusive nation back to nuclear disarmament talks, a senior State Department official said Tuesday.

The letter was delivered to North Korean officials last week by Obama's special envoy for North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, during a visit to Pyongyang aimed at restarting the stalled negotiations, the official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the diplomacy, would not describe the contents of the letter but said they fit with Bosworth's general message.

"The North Koreans have a choice: continued and further isolation or benefits for returning to the six-party talks and dismantling their nuclear weapons program," the official said.

The official was not aware whether Kim had responded to Obama's missive. Bosworth's visit did not include a meeting with the North Korean leader.

Abbas: Peace deal is possible in 6 months if settlements are frozen for that time

JERUSALEM (AP) — A comprehensive peace deal can be reached between Israel and the Palestinians within six months if Israel completely freezes its settlement construction, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said in an interview published Wednesday.

Abbas told the Israeli daily Haaretz that he proposed the six-month freeze to Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak in a pair of a recent telephone conversations.

"I suggested to him (Barak) three weeks ago that Israel freeze all construction in the settlements for six months, including east Jerusalem," Abbas told the Israeli daily Haaretz. "During this time we can get back to the table and even complete talks on a final status agreement. I have yet to receive an answer."

Barak's office refused to respond to Abbas' comments. But a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Palestinians should "stop making excuses."

Bail hearing for Pa. police officers accused of cover-up in fatal attack

SHENANDOAH, Pa. (AP) — After taking part in a fight that left a Mexican immigrant mortally wounded on the street, teenagers Brandon Piekarsky and Derrick Donchak fled. They didn't get very far before running into two police officers responding to a 911 call about the assault.



AP Photo/Time Magazine

This photo released by Time Magazine Wednesday shows Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who the magazine named as its "Person of the Year" for 2009.

These were no ordinary officers. Patrolman Jason Hayes dated Piekarsky's mother, and Lt. William Moyer's son played with Piekarsky on the high school football team. Their commanding officer, Chief Matthew Nestor, was a friend of Piekarsky's mother and even vacationed with her.

Rather than place the popular white football players under arrest, the officers let them go — beginning a cover-up in their racially tense coal town, federal prosecutors allege.

The Department of Justice said Tuesday that Hayes, Moyer and Nestor have been indicted on obstruction charges for trying to "impede, obstruct and influence the investigation" into the July 2008 beating death of Luis Ramirez by tampering with evidence and witnesses or lying to the FBI.

The former athletes, who were acquitted of the most serious state charges against them in May, are charged with a federal hate crime for attacking Ramirez in a park as they headed home from a party, the Department of Justice said.

Japan aims for U.S. billions with bullet trains, but European rivals have head start

NAGOYA, Japan (AP) — On a desolate stretch

of track just before midnight, when all passenger lines have been put to bed, a juiced-up Japanese bullet train goes online and accelerates to over 200 miles per hour. The 700-ton train, about a quarter of a mile long, whooshes by rice paddies in under five seconds.

There are no locals around to witness the train glide to a stop at a deserted Kyoto Station, but that's not the point. This is an accelerated sales pitch aimed squarely at the U.S., where Japan is competing with European train makers for a new high-speed train network that could deliver contracts worth hundreds of billions.

Diplomats, business leaders and journalists were crammed in to watch special speedometers record the feat last month, the first time operator Japan Central Railway Co. has allowed outsiders to join a test run. Rivals abroad said Japanese trains weren't up to spec, and JR Central wanted to set the record straight.

"In France and Germany they have been saying we can only do 280 kilometers (170 miles) per hour, so we had to demonstrate," says company chairman Yoshiyuki Kasai.

That Japan's bottle-nosed bullet trains — known here as the "shinkansen" — can hold their own against overseas models has long been a point of pride. But now a massive sales race is underway. While the majority of services to date have been built in Europe, where makers like France's Alstom and Germany's Siemens dominate, governments around the world are looking to upgrade as existing lines age.

Fed poised to keep rates at record low to feed recovery, lower unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Focused on keeping the recovery going and driving down double-digit unemployment, the Federal Reserve is poised to leave interest rates at a record low.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues, at the end of their two-day meeting Wednesday afternoon, will likely to strike an upbeat note about the progress the economy is making. But they'll also caution that now is not the time to be complacent against risks.

Signs are growing that the economy is on the mend. Consumers and businesses are spending again. The housing market is stabilizing. Manufacturing is growing. And layoffs are moderating.

But there's much uncertainty about how the recovery will fare next year after government stimulus starts to fade. Loans are also still difficult for many people and businesses to get, a force putting a damper on an energetic economic rebound.

Against that backdrop, the Fed is all but certain to keep the target range for its bank lending rate at zero to 0.25 percent, where it's stood since last December.

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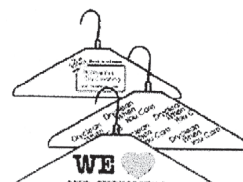
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1 :PM :30	One Life to Live	One Life to Live		Judge Mathis	As the World Turns	America	The Dr. Oz Show	Raymond	Moody	Delicious	Wrecks to Riches	October, Scott Glenn	CSI: Crime Son	Cold Case	Ja Rule	Phineas	Best of	SportsCenter
2 :PM :30	General Hospital	General Hospital	Tormenta	The People's Court	Let's Make a Deal	Caso Cerado	The Doctors	Payne	Light of the Southwest	Life 2 Martha	Wrecks to Riches		CSI: Crime Son	Cold Case	Jamie F. Phineas	Phineas	Scott Van Pelt	Lines
3 :PM :30	Millionaire	Judge J. Flaca	El Gordo y la Flaca	Judge A. Court	Bonnie Hunt Show	Caso Cerado	Dr. Phil	Jim		Maya WordGirl	Wrecks to Riches	Movie: The Green Mile, Michael Clarke Duncan	CSI: Crime Son	Law & Order	Game	Suite Life	SportsNation	NFL Live
4 :PM :30	Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	Primer Impacto	Deal No Deal	Smarter News	Al Rojo Vivo	News Inside Ed.	Friends	Gospel	Fetch	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Son	Law & Order	Chris	Suite Life	Lines	Around Interrupt
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticiero	News NBC	Seinfeld	Cortes	BBC	MythBusters		CSI: Crime Son	Law Order: CI	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Around Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News Ent. Ton.	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News Ent. Ton.	12 Corazones	News Millionaire	Name	Mark	PBS News-Hour	MythBusters		UFC Fight Night	Bones	Wizards	College Basketball		NBA
7 :PM :30	Landing Middle	Landing Middle	Nombre-Amor	So You Think You Can Dance	Christine Gary	Más Sabe el Diablo	The Sing-Off	Payne	House	Christmas-Mor	MythBusters	Movie: First Blood, Brian Dennehy		Bones	Movie: Sugar Hill, Theresa Randle	Movie: Tinker Bell, Lucy Liu	College Basketball	NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Thunder
8 :PM :30	Family Cougar	Family Cougar	Sortilegio	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Pobres	Payne	Payne	Light of the Southwest	Great Performances at the Met	MythBusters		Die Forensic	Die Forensic	Phineas	Phineas		
9 :PM :30	(01) East-wick	(01) East-wick	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Browns	Browns		MythBusters	Movie: Rambo: First Blood Part II	Ways Die	Movie: Surviving	Game	Montana		NBA Basket-

DENNIS THE MENACE



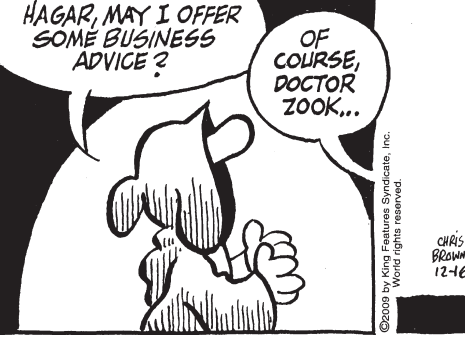
"How 'bout all of us coming to the North Pole an' pickin' out what we want for Christmas."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

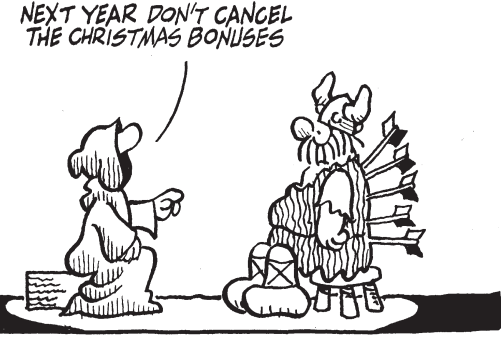


"I'll go get some of my lions and tigers!"

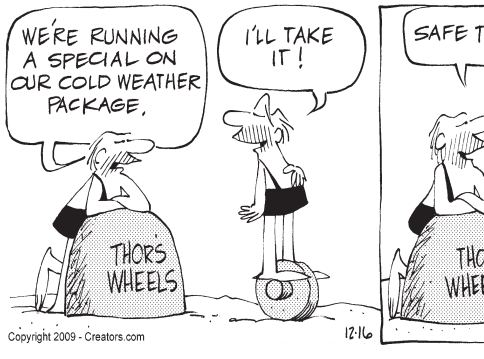
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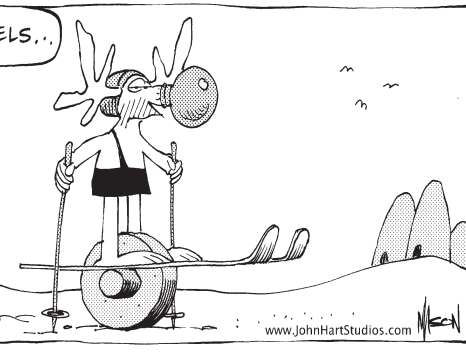
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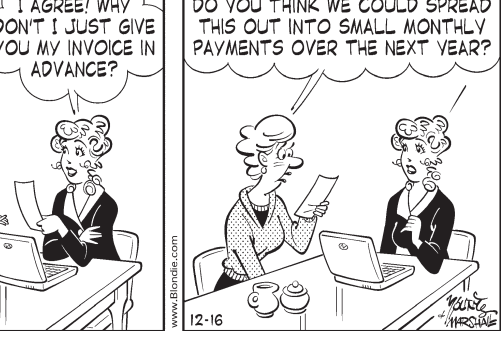
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2009. There are 15 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea overboard to protest tea taxes.
 On this date:
 In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.
 In 1770, composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany.
 In 1809, the French Senate granted a divorce decree to Emperor Napoleon I and Empress Josephine (the dissolution was made final the following month).
 In 1859, Wilhelm Grimm, the younger of the story-writing Brothers Grimm, died in Berlin at age 73.
 In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known

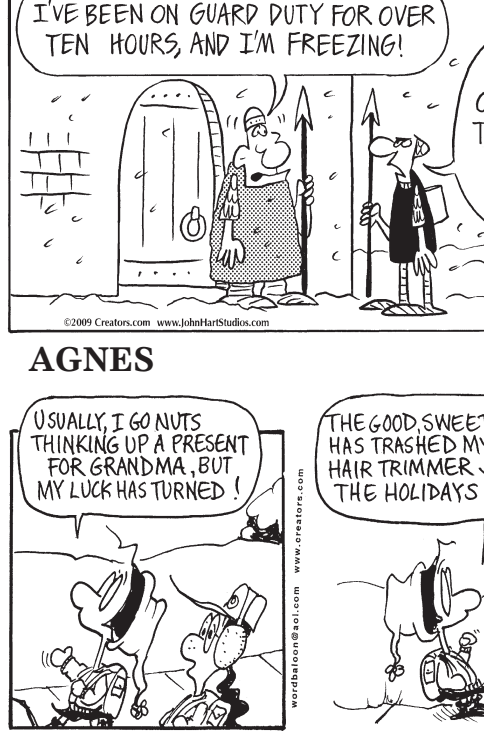
as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.
 In 1909, Nicaraguan President Jose Santos Zelaya resigned in the face of a U.S.-backed revolution.
 In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces in Belgium (the Allies were eventually able to beat the Germans back).
 In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."
 In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.
 In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.
 Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 73. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 72. Actress Liv Ullmann is 71. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 68. TV producer Steven Bochco is 66. Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons is 65. Pop musician

Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 64. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 63. Actor Ben Cross is 62. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 60. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 58. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 50. Actor Sam Robards is 48. Actor Jon Tenney is 48. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 46. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 39. R&B singer Michael McCary is 38. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 27. Actress Anna Popplewell is 21.
 Thought for Today: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." — British science-fiction author Arthur C. Clarke (born this date in 1917, died in 2008).
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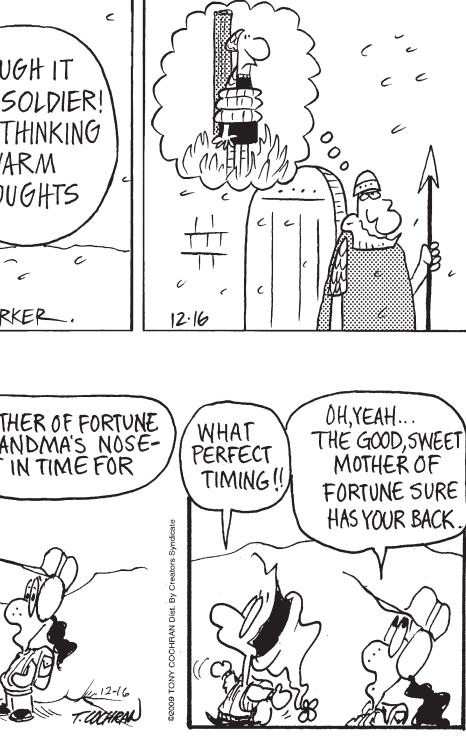
Answer to previous puzzle

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OCEAN	VATS	QUIT
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AGNES



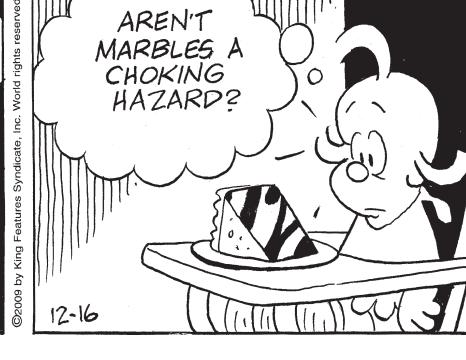
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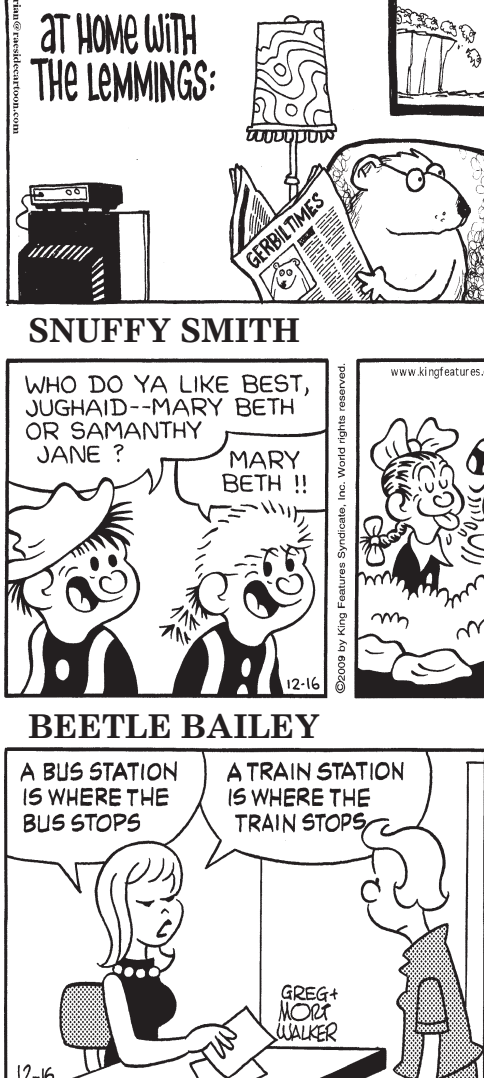
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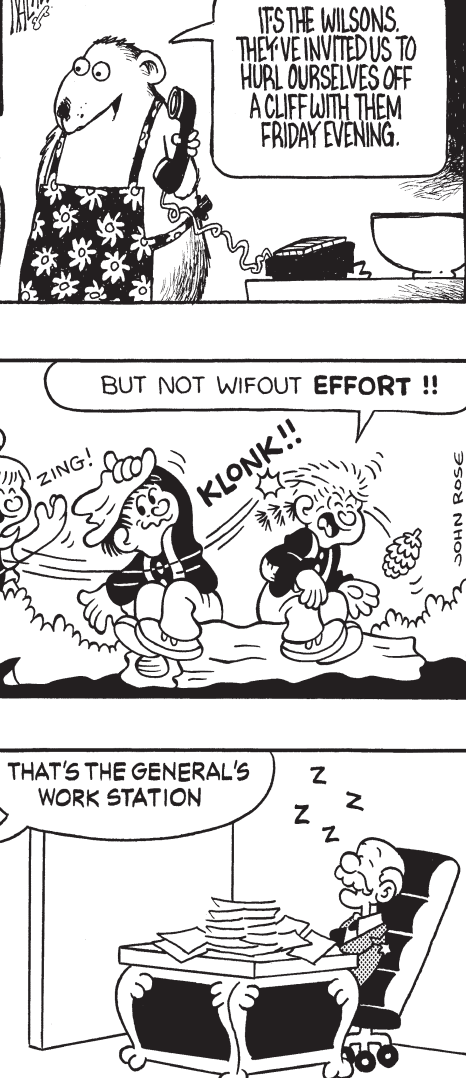
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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Beer, slangily
 - '80s New York governor
 - Oaf
 - Home to most
 - Mork, by birth
 - High point
 - Chicken coating brand
 - "The buck stops _"
 - Jukebox word
 - "Absolutely!"
 - Auth. unknown
 - Decade divs.
 - Univ. dorm supervisors
 - Keyboard key
 - French fowl dish
 - Parks of civil-rights fame
 - The chosen few
 - Little League coach, probably
 - Scarlett of fiction
 - "Mazel _!"
 - Shell out
 - Raggedy doll
 - Secret hoard
 - Nervously irritable
 - Dukes of Hazzard auto
 - Compact _ player
 - Archer-bow wood
 - Light touch
 - Self-satisfied
 - World Baseball Classic team
- DOWN**
- Smart-mouthed
 - Theater job
 - Calls up, in the past
 - Rice wine
 - DayQuil competitor
 - City, informally
 - Sign off on
 - Whip up
 - Having no sequel
 - Grand _ Island (Freeport's locale)
 - Without limits
 - Abysmal grade
 - Plow pair
 - Hosiery shade
 - Quick portrait
 - Prospectors' finds
 - Patriotic women's org.
 - Luau greeting
 - Chauffeur uniform
 - Cadre of friends
 - Whirling water
 - Highway
 - "This can't be!"
 - Desert features
 - Top guns
 - Part of RPM
 - Points a finger at
 - Silly laugh
 - Upper class
 - Flock females
 - Naples "You're welcome"
 - Security system part
 - Small fry
 - Pygmalion playwright
 - Long skirt
 - LP problem
 - Verdi opera
 - Molecule part
 - _ room (play area)

SIDESTEPS by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman
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News in brief

Dead rodents, skinny snakes found in raid

ARLINGTON (AP) — A raid on an exotic animal delivery company in Texas found starving snakes, hundreds of reptiles packed in shipping crates and rodents that had killed and eaten each other, officials said.

Dozens of people with the city of Arlington and animal welfare groups took inventory Tuesday of the animals — estimated at 20,000 — and removed them from the U.S. Global Exotics during the raid. The Arlington-based company, which advertises that it delivers exotic animals worldwide, did not respond to a telephone message seeking comment and its Web site was down on Wednesday.

“Sometimes animals die, but the amount of animals dead far exceeded what you would normally see at any company like this,” said Jay Sabatucci, manager of animal services with the city of Arlington. “Animals were not fed, not fed properly, overcrowded and attacking each other. Some were in an environment not proper for them, such as snakes in a 72-degree room with a lamp over them, which is not enough heat and could cause them to die.”

The company’s warehouse held mostly reptiles and rodents and also spiders, sloths and hedgehogs, but it was unclear how many were dead, said Maura Davies, a spokeswoman with the SPCA of Texas. Veterinarians treated the most severely malnourished animals, she said.

Hundreds of rodents were crammed in small containers covered with wire, and many had killed and eaten each other, Davies said. Other animals were kept in feeding troughs, and there were numerous stacked shipping containers still holding turtles and other reptiles that had been sent to the company, Davies said. About 200 iguanas were in one small room, she said.

A hearing will be held within 10 days to determine if the animals will be returned to the company or stay in

the care of the animal welfare groups, Sabatucci said. The city is considering filing criminal charges against the owner, he said.

In-state tuition for illegal immigrants challenged

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas law that allows illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates at colleges and universities is facing a legal challenge.

David A. Rogers with the Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas says the lawsuit filed in Houston alleges the state is violating federal law and seeks an injunction to halt the practice.

The lawsuit, filed Monday, names the University of Houston, Houston Community College and Lone Star College systems.

A spokesman for UH declined comment Tuesday. HCC officials say their attorneys were reviewing the lawsuit. A Lone Star spokesman declined comment.

UH law professor Michael A. Olivas, who helped draft the Texas statute, says federal law allows states to pass their own legislation regarding in-state residency for undocumented students.

New wins runoff for San Angelo mayor

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Businessman Alvin New has won the runoff to become mayor of San Angelo.

Unofficial results of Tuesday’s voting had New defeating John David Fields. Tom Green County elections administrator Vona McKerley said New received about 61 percent of the vote.

New and Fields on Nov. 3 were the top vote-getters in a seven-candidate field to replace Mayor J.W. Lown (LAHN).

Man dies in Houston crane accident

HOUSTON (AP) — A crane collapse

in Houston has killed a 41-year-old man.

Police say the accident happened at a printing company.

Police say Cesar Barrios Gomez of Houston was dead at the scene.

Authorities say Gomez had been trying to maneuver the crane to another location when the base failed and the crane topped.

The victim was pinned beneath the equipment Monday night.

Police told the Houston Chronicle that the crane had a maximum capacity of one ton and that Gomez allegedly overloaded it.

Tyler police replace stolen presents

TYLER (AP) — Thieves who ransacked a house in Tyler were so thorough that they even stole the family dog’s treats.

Some police officers who responded to the burglary took on the spirit of the season and used their own money to buy replacement Christmas presents.

Police are seeking the burglars who broke into the home of Erika Velazquez and her family, stealing her husband’s wedding ring, electronics and presents for her 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son.



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