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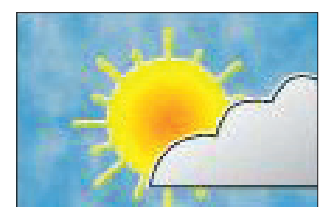
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BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 11

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Alert officer foils robbers' getaway

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring police officer who happened to be in the right place at the right time helped foil a robbery late Thursday night, as two Big

Spring men were arrested shortly after robbing the Exxon gas station on N. Highway 87.

Enrique Sabedra Jr., 39, of 1509 Sycamore, was arrested just after 2 a.m. and charged

with robbery. Also arrested was Michael Lee Munoz, 50, of 904 Abrams, who was apprehended alongside Sabedra and charged with robbery.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information of-

ficer with the BSPD, a police officer was getting ready to taking a meal break at the Travel Centers of America truck stop when he spotted the two suspects running from the gas station.

"Officer Mike Calley saw the two suspects running along Interstate Highway 20," said Everett. "It appeared the two were looking for a way to

See **ROBBERY**, Page 3A

Needed: \$60 mil for BSISD

District facilities in bad shape, officials say

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

New schools don't come cheap. That's the message Big Spring Independent School District trustees heard as they discussed ways to update local campuses during their monthly meeting Thursday night.

Dr. Michael Stevens, special assistant to the superintendent, told trustees that estimates to do necessary replacement and/or renovation to identified buildings range as high as \$60 million.

District officials have been in consultation with architects, prioritizing the district's facility needs, especially at the elementary level.

"Our biggest needs are at the elementary campuses," Stevens said. "Bauer is not fixable ... and Washington and Marcy need to be replaced."

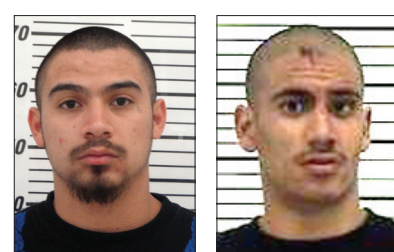
Officials want to close those three campuses, build two new elementary buildings, convert Goliad Intermediate to an elementary campus, have local

See **BSISD**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Even the historic Settles Hotel is getting in the holiday spirit, as officials with the Settles Hotels Development Company unveiled a red and white Christmas pattern in the building's lights. Thursday night's lighting marks the first time the building — which is currently undergoing renovations — has been lit up in decades.



Juarez Rodriguez

2 indicted on multiple counts here

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Two Big Spring men were indicted Wednesday on charges stemming from their Nov. 18 standoff with local law enforcement officers that caused a Howard County Sheriff's Deputy to sustain minor injuries.

Miguel Enrique Juarez, 21, currently in the Howard County Jail, was indicted on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (state jail felony), aggravated assault against a public servant (first-degree felony) and assault against a public servant (third-degree felony).

Also indicted as a result of the incident was Joe Luis Rodriguez, 17, currently in the Howard County Jail, on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (state jail felony) and aggravated as-

See **INDICTED**, Page 3A

Holiday traditions continue this Saturday with concert

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Big Spring is big on holiday traditions. You've seen the lighted parade, the living tree and the living nativity. You might have made it out to the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park. If not, there's still time.

The tradition continues Saturday with "A Symphonic Christmas," the Big Spring Symphony's annual holiday extravaganza in music. Joined by the always popular Coahoma Choir Kids, the symphony takes stage at Trinity Baptist Church, beginning at 8 p.m.



Graumann

Tickets are available at the Big Spring Herald, KBST Radio, Western Bank, Faye's Flowers, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum and Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students.

Dr. Keith Graumann, music director and conductor, anticipates Saturday's concert will be a treat for the public.

"We hope it will be the highlight

of the holidays for many of our listeners," he said.

The evening will open with works based on familiar carols, including "Carol of the Bells," "Silver Bells" and "Carol of the Drum," also known as "The Little Drummer Boy." The movie classic "March of the Toys" by Victor Herbert will follow.

The symphony will perform three arrangements by Mannheim Steamroller before the audience gets involved by singing a selection of mostly secular Christmas music in a pop sing-a-long.

See **CONCERT**, Page 3A

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Colts preserve unbeaten season over Jags

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Peyton Manning completed every pass early and one big one late, exactly what the Indianapolis Colts needed to stay unbeaten.

Manning threw for 308 yards and four touchdowns, including a 65-yarder to Reggie Wayne to go ahead for good, and the Colts beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 35-31 Thursday night to improve to 14-0 for the first time in franchise history.

The wild game on a cool night included 714 yards, 43 first downs, 10 lead changes, six punts, several big

plays and just two turnovers.

"This was an old-time shootout at the OK Corral," Colts coach Jim Caldwell said.

Jacksonville had a chance to win in the closing minutes, but David Garrard overthrew Mike Thomas on a third-and-10 play with about a minute to play. Jacob Lacey intercepted the ball, and the Colts ran out the clock.

Indianapolis extended its NFL-record winning streak in the regular season to 23 and became the third 14-0 team in league history, joining the 1972 Miami Dolphins and 2007 New England Patriots. New Orleans can

join the list with a victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Saturday night.

"This is who we are," Wayne said. "We're built for 60 minutes. It won't be pretty all the time, but we're getting it done."

The Jaguars (7-7) lost for the third time in four games and no longer controls their fate in the AFC wild-card race.

"We were close, so close, to being in this locker room celebrating," cornerback Derek Cox said. "But there's no moral victories. It's about winning ... It's not in our hands anymore. But we still have two games left."

See **COLTS**, Page 2B



AP PHOTO/Phil Coale

The Colts' Jacob Lacey sealed the game with a late interception.



HERALD FILE PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Senior Matt Ritchey (9) tackles an Everman defender during the Steers' loss Nov. 30 in Mineral Wells. Ritchey, along with junior lineman Jonathon Molina, were named second team All-State.

Five Steers make All-State teams

Herald Staff Report

Two Big Spring Steers made the Associated Press All-State team, and three more were on the honorable mention list released Wednesday.

Matt Ritchey earned second-team linebacker honors, and junior Jonathon Molina earned second-team offensive line honors. Monte Anderson and Thaddeus Straughter earned honorable mention all-state honors at running back and wide receiver, respectively, and Derrick Anderson was an honorable mention defensive line selection.

"That's a big honor," head coach Phillip Ritchey said. "I've always felt like the AP poll was pretty hard to get on there. I think us having the season we did, getting into the AP top 10, when the voters see Big Spring next to the names, they remember us having a good team."

Ritchey, a senior and Baylor commit, led the team with 134 tackles while recording four sacks and a fumble recovery.

Monte Anderson was left off the first and second teams despite rushing for 2,183 yards and 20 touchdowns on the season. Straughter

caught 45 balls for 848 yards and 15 touchdowns. Quarterback Tyler Tannehill did not make the list despite throwing for more than 3,000 yards and 37 touchdowns.

"I was really surprised the stats he had, didn't at least get on the list," Ritchey said.

The Steers advanced to the third round of the playoffs this season, and finished with an 11-3 record. Big Spring got off to its best start in school history this season with a 7-0 mark before falling at Abilene Cooper 21-18.

Seventeen seniors will graduate this year.

All-Academic teams released

The Texas High School Coaches Association All-Academic teams were released Thursday, and several area players made the list.

Big Spring's Ritchey made the 4A first team, seniors Ben Merworth and Tannehill made the second team and senior Pavel Plakhotny was an honorable mention.

Coahoma's Judson Chevalier made the 2A first team. Forsan's Aaron Johnson made the 1A second team and Ryan Flores was an honorable mention. Stanton's Caleb Ramsay made the second team.

Former coach Knight speaks at Indiana

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Bob Knight felt right at home in Indiana.

For more than 90 minutes Thursday night, Knight recounted tales from his coaching days, stories from the recruiting trail, lessons he passed along to players and, oh yes, even a new critique of the NCAA.

Just like old times, except this speech had some poignant moments, too.

"You know, I've always been a Kenny Rogers fan and I always liked that song where he says 'You've got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away and know when to run,'" Knight said. "I've tried to follow that philosophy, and I should have run at Indiana when the trustees and the administration had gotten too far apart and that's probably as much my fault as it was theirs."

Knight, who wore a green sweater, instead of his trademark red one, said he had been advised by three different people early in his career that he was too strong-willed to stay at Indiana forever. Instead of heeding that advice, though, Knight said he couldn't find a better basketball environment and stayed right up until the moment Myles Brand fired him in September 2000.

It's close as Knight has gotten to admitting he may have made a mistake in Bloomington.

Those who paid \$50 for the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame fundraiser didn't offer regrets, they came to hear the man they still revere and Knight welcomed the two standing ovations he received.

"I'll always take great pleasure in having been part of the heritage of basketball in Indiana," he said.

It was a rare trip to the state where Knight was treated like a royalty, and it was his first public appearance in Indiana since skipping his own induction into the Indiana University Hall of Fame last month.

Before the induction, new athletic director Fred Glass made a personal plea to reunite The General and the university, to no avail. Knight said then that he didn't want to distract from the induction of others into the Hall of Fame.

It may not have been the only reason he didn't go.

"I would have loved to have seen him back for the induction," said longtime broadcaster Chuck Marlowe, who writes to Knight on a regular basis. "But he explained to me that 'You do know there are

See **KNIGHT**, Page 2B

Wyoming walk-ons excited to go bowling, will face Fresno State

Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. — They practice every day like everyone else.

They make tackles, run and catch the ball and sprint up and down the field like the other guys.

But usually they receive a lot more punishment than they dole out. And their reward?

They get to do it all over again the next week.

That's life as a walk-on football player at the University of Wyoming and for most walk-ons at the college level. Some end up earning a scholarship

and playing time over their careers, while some never do.

Others give it a chance for a while, but eventually find more productive and less painful things to do during their college experience.

Two former Laramie County football student-athletes have endured the ups and downs of being freshmen walk-ons this season.

For 2008 Cheyenne Central graduate Nick Owen, he couldn't be happier with his decision.

Owen went to UW last year but just took classes. But something was missing.

"It sounds like a cliché, but I just missed the crap out of football," he said.

He called UW assistant coach Matt Rahl and asked if he could walk on. Two days before the start of fall camp in August, Owen learned he was on the team.

"To be a walk-on. I think about it all the time, and I just smile," he said. "It's a privilege and an honor to be on the team. I'm just excited to be playing football."

But playing football means going against the starting offensive unit during practice, and at 6-foot-1, 210

pounds, he is a grossly undersized defensive lineman.

That means he takes a pretty good beating.

When interviewed for this story Monday, Owen had a decent-sized cut on his right leg that had just stopped bleeding.

"You've got to put in to get stuff out," he said. "I keep telling myself that. Maybe I'll earn a scholarship, maybe I won't. The main thing is I'm playing football, and that's what I want to do."

Owen was a good player at Central, but he wasn't a standout.

Sports in brief

Area basketball games

Big Spring at Monahans, 6 p.m./7:30 p.m.

Coahoma vs. Tahoka, 5 p.m./6 p.m.

Forsan vs. Rankin, 4:30 p.m./6 p.m.

Stanton at Colorado City, 6:30 p.m./8 p.m.

Grady vs. O'Donnell, JV starts 4 p.m.

Garden City at Sundown

Sands at Westbrook, JV starts 4 p.m.

Game times for Coahoma basketball changed

Changes have been made to Coahoma's weekend basketball schedule.

The junior varsity girls game against Tahoka will start at 2:30 p.m. today, followed by JV boys and varsity.

A girls junior varsity and varsity game is scheduled for Monday at Seminole. Time to be announced.

The seventh grade junior high tournament is Jan. 14-16, and the eighth grade tournament is Jan 21-23.

Big Spring softball clinic to be held Jan. 16

Big Spring softball coach John Sparks will hold a winter skills softball clinic coming up.

The clinic will teach basic softball skills and will be held Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Girls in grades three through eight are welcome. The cost is \$25.

Contact John Sparks for more information or to sign up at 432-270-2711.

EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Members of the Big Spring Kiwanis Club who arranged to have Santa Claus and presents waiting for a group of children from Westside Day Care Center last week. Members of the club have sponsored the event for more than 20 years. Money for the toy give-away was raised through various projects during the year, including the club's nuts and candy sale and its annual pancake supper.

- All those involved in the First Church of the Nazarene's Drive-Through Nativity, which had its 23rd annual performance during the weekend. More than 100 members of the church annually take part in the project, which is staffed in two shifts.

- Pat Simmons; Howard, Vicki and Quantinn Stewart; and all the other volunteers involved in the 13th annual run of the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park, which debuted Tuesday and will continue through Dec. 31.

- Bebe McCasland, on her having published "The Scoop from Bird Poop," a collection of columns that have appeared in the Big Spring Herald. McCasland, who is licensed to rehabilitate wild birds, held a book signing Saturday at the Heritage Museum.

- Mona Lue Ton, pastor of the Spring Tabernacle Church, and all those involved in the church's annual toy giveaway held last Friday.

- All those who coordinated, worked or donated to the 2009 United Way of Big Spring and Howard County Campaign. While the campaign officially came to a close last week far short of its \$300,000 goal, United Way officials are still actively seeking donations to help lessen the shortfall.

- Nolan Dominguez and Emily Bacon, the winner and runner-up, respectively, of the Kentwood Elementary School Spelling Bee.

- Michael Allen Johnson Sr., the Hangar 25 Air Museum's December Veteran of the Month, who was honored during a reception Tuesday evening.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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

May You, Lord, be the key relationship in everything we do.

Amen

The legend of Scaredy Squirrel

I have been at war with the hated tree rat population for some time. You might call them squirrels. Often portrayed as cute and smart by Nazi propagandists, they are actually satanic hedonists who get in my attic and party like it's 1999.

They destroy my bird feeders and run off my — well, every kind of bird you can imagine. They nearly caused me to burn my own house down about 15 years ago when I decided to fire off some firecrackers in the attic to run them out. Did you catch the word fire in firecracker? Yes, I did, too.

Anyway, my passionate desire to eliminate the region of squirrels is just as fervent as my love for a book about a squirrel. Its an illustrated children's book I like to read to the munchkins around here called Scaredy Squirrel.

Scaredy Squirrel is a squirrel who refuses to leave his own tree because he is phobic about spiders, germs, poison Ivy, sharks

and killer bees. He spends his life atop a tree called familiar, on a place called safe.

Then one day a bee gets too close to comfort and Scaredy falls out. But before he hits the ground, Scaredy Squirrel discovers he is no ordinary tree rat, he is a flying squirrel.

AIN'T SKEERED

Last week I was hunting deer on the famous Burk Ranch near Eagle Pass and I thought about Scaredy Squirrel.

This trip was a dream for me and it could have been ruined by my ever-present fear of heights. The cold front came through and not only was the blind some 30 feet straight up, the little ladder I had to ascend was covered in ice.

While I am sure there was nothing graceful about how I got up there and into the blind, it was powerful for me. I prayed harder than I have in a long time and about an hour later I blasted a trophy 10-point and enough does to feed folks at my next outreach.

God wants you and me to conquer fear. If we are full of fear, we are not full of passion. If we are not full of passion, then we are not full of life.

I think it breaks God's heart when we stay in familiar, safe places bound by invisible chains of fear.

A long long time ago a prophet named Zephaniah promised Israel of a day of restoration when God would not only remove their fear, but put strength in their hands.

We don't use the term slack hand today, but we do use the term limp wrist. It's associated with the idea of being a weakling or a pansy. When we let God take away our fear he also takes away the thing that keeps us from having zeal and passion for life.

Get out of your tree or into your stand, which ever the case may be. None of us are going to be here for very much longer and we just don't have time to be bored.

Zephaniah 3:16 in that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

The Rev. Troy Brewer pastors Open Door Ministries near Joshua and can be contacted through his websites, www.freshfromthebrewer.com and www.troybrewer.com



'Bucket-kicking' in 21st century

As kids, it was risky business to mimic full-grown adults. There were more boundaries then, when lines in the dirt could have passed for deep-plowed fields.

"I see in the newspaper that old so-and-so kicked the bucket," an adult might say.

As a rule, the expression wasn't used for close kin, but grown-ups tossed it around regularly for deceased folks on the outer edge of their acquaintance.

We youngsters knew that "bucket-kicking" meant that someone had died, and that if we repeated it, we'd best say "passed away." This was the delicate expression usually chosen by ministers, next-of-kin or political figures — particularly those running for office. (One long-time politico always "signed in" at the funeral home, hoping that next-of-kin might think that he and the departed were bosom buddies.)

My first journalism professor jarred our impressionable psyches with stern instructions about writing obituaries.

Among his threats were forfeiture of two letter grades for misspelling the name of the deceased, with full "death penalty" meted out for committing an additional "no-no" — the "flowering up" of the event.

"The deceased don't go to their eternal reward, fade into the sunset, cross that mighty river or enter into heavenly rest," they die," the prof insisted.

That was then; this is now. In yesteryear, newspaper obituaries were typically run free of charge. Then, they were written in basic news style and of modest length. One editor considered most of them to be immodestly

long and he decreed that they be shortened. This 19-word obit hit his desk the next day: "Joe Blow peered up into the elevator shaft, wondering if the car was coming. It was. Joe was 37."

Now, when most of them are run on a "dollars-per-inch" basis, the rules have changed. Have they ever!

Since the space is "bought and paid for" (in the words of my Uncle Mort), obituary submissions usually are printed as submitted — within the generous bounds of accuracy and common decency. Otherwise, editors look the other way, and if the deceased has "entered those heavenly gates, graduated to that land beyond the clouds, or claimed a room in that mansion in the sky," so be it.

Somewhere midway between the austere obit preparation "back then" and the current "almost anything goes" approach today suits me fine.

Some of them today underscore the "puckish" personality of the deceased.

It's a "lead-pipe cinch" that certain people, aware that their demise is at hand, may write their own obituaries, leaving only "time and place" dates to be filled in. How else would you explain one that appeared recently in a major Texas newspaper?

Listed among the woman's survivors were "her favorite ex-husband and his favorite new wife."

One of my best friends on life's highway was the late George Dolan, whose daily column in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* brightened days of thousands of loyal readers for some three decades. Though he never thought so, he was as funny at the lectern as in print. He could enjoy a night of "baby-like" sleep, wake with no column topic in mind and still turn out a classic several seconds before his deadline. However, he faced three nights of insomnia before — as he put it

— "committing a speech."

He was amused when his editor asked employees to prepare their own obituaries, "in the event of need." So, he did. "Pallbearers were credit managers of Fort Worth's eight leading department stores," he wrote. "They carried me when I was alive, so they might as well finish the job." Dolan added that "guitarists strummed 'Aloha' on Hawaiian guitars." His running buddy, legendary columnist Blackie Sherrod (who, like Dolan, hailed from Temple) summed him up this way: "Just before they made Dolan, they broke the mold."

Cancer claimed Dolan in 1988 at age 65. They crowded into Fort Worth's First United Methodist Church to honor the life of this brilliant writer who found humor in the ordinary and had no use for formality. That may best explain his burial attire — red striped pajamas and the worn-out robe he'd pattered around the house in until noon or later most days. He had a pipe in one hand and a newspaper in the other.

As the organist played "Sentimental Journey," a man, 30-something, remembered "stern" instructions two decades earlier during his newspaper carrier days. "Throw it on the roof," Dolan warned, "And that's where you can expect to find your payment."

That bicycling teen likely wasn't discombobulated by the "threat."

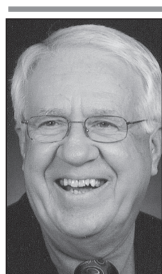
In fact, he probably was smiling, four houses down the block, as Dolan's cackle faded.

Dolan didn't laugh, he cackled — in a manner that only he could.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and author living in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Send inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



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HERALD

Church News

First United Methodist

Many thanks to the congregation for the generous gift to March to the Manger last Sunday. Contributions will go to designated mission giving, including the local Salvation Army and the Methodist Home.

This Sunday, Eddie Vandewalker will present the Chancel Choir as well as the Crown of Thorns praise group in a special Christmas music worship service. Guest cellist Javi Betancourt of San Angelo will also participate. Our pastor, the Rev Sharon Wiese, will bring another of the advent series sermons, "A Gift Worth Celebrating." Services of worship are held at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages are held at 9:45 a.m.

Family Fun Night activities will begin meeting again in January as will the Noon Bible Study and Luncheon and CDO. Watch for more information regarding start-up dates for many activities which do not meet during the last two weeks of December.

Thursday evening at 6 First Methodist will observe one of the most special services of the entire year, Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service. Families gather from far and near to celebrate Christ's birth. This year, before you open a gift or finish that last-minute baking, take time to worship with us. Our pastor will bring a message of "The Gift of Jesus." We will observe open communion and then with our individual candles lit we sing "Silent Night" and go out into the crisp winter night that is Christmas Eve.

We wish for you and yours a merry and blessed Christmas from all of us at First Methodist Church located in the heart of downtown Big Spring where families grow in Christ.

Chapel of Faith

Chapel of Faith, located at the corner of E. 14th and Goliad streets, invites you to come to Sunday services as Pastor Scott Willis brings a message of hope and inspiration. This week's message will be "Belonging," based on Luke 1:39-55. Services start each week at 10:30 a.m.

A big thank you goes out to all who helped decorate the church, prepare and serve the meal last week as the congregation celebrated a very successful 2009. This is the beginning of the festivities that mark this time in the Christian year — the birth of our Savior. On Christmas Eve, beginning at 6:30 p.m., there will be a candlelight service and communion will be served. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the wonderful music and message. This service is open to all who believe in Jesus.

Everyone is welcome at Chapel of Faith. It is a small, informal church whose mission is to share God's love. See you Sunday.

Peace on earth, good will toward men

It's the season for peace and good will — the season for singing and bell ringing. Many of our great hymns of faith, even the carols of Christmas, have been hewn from the rock of despair. Like lyrics of stone chiseled from the soul, leaving scars that only God can heal, these time-tested hymns of faith surfaced from within the hearts of the wounded. Words extracted from the depths of pain and written into a song, have carved out hope for all who dare to sing.

One of the best known carols of faith flowed from the pen of American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on a Christmas Day in the midst of the Civil War. Driven by grief from the death of his wife and the crippling war injuries sustained by his son, Longfellow wrote of hearing bells at Christmas and hanging his head in despair. In the poem that he titled "Christmas Bells," Longfellow wrote of hate being strong and mocking the song of "peace on earth, good will to men."

As if some metamorphic change had occurred, the poet continued his verse: "The world revolved from night to day, a voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, good will toward men."

Almost a decade after they were written, someone set the words of "Christmas Bells" to music. Since that time these words have been sung to several different tunes and recorded by many popular singing artists.

Although the words of Longfellow have spanned parts of three centuries, the promise of peace on earth and good will to men did not originate with him. In the Christmas story recorded by Luke in the Bible, an angel appeared to a group of shepherds watching their sheep by night. The angel was accompanied by a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14 KJV).

As another Christmas season approaches, wars are still being fought, battles of grief still rage, and for many hate is strong. However, many poets, shepherds, and others have discovered that battles are won only with the weapon of faith in God and peace and good will are found in our own hearts.



REACHING OUT TO A CHILD

A joint effort by the Restoration Ranch Ministries and Baptist Temple Church provided gifts during an Angel Tree Party for more than 50 area children who have a parent in prison. The event took place Tuesday at the Dora Roberts Community Center Lake Room.

Courtesy photos

Baptist Temple

This Sunday, during our 11 a.m. worship service, our sermon will be from Luke 2:1-20, titled "The Gift Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes." Sunday at 6 p.m., we will have a candlelight service.

We are going into holiday mode for the Christmas break. We will not have services Wednesday, Dec. 23 in order to allow our members to spend time with family. We will only have morning services Sunday, Dec. 27 and will not have evening service that day.

Also, our weight-loss support group SPEED (Shedding Pounds Eagerly Every Day) is taking a Christmas break and will resume meeting on Tuesdays beginning Jan. 5.

We are temporarily postponing our 12-Step Recovery group that meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. because of Dean Thomas's (director of the group) surgery, but will start this group again after the New Year.

We have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday. Our worship services are at 11 a.m. And 6 p.m. Sunday. We also have activities for all ages Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

For more information, call us at 267-8287 or check us out on the Web at btcbigspring.org.

East Fourth Street Baptist

We want to give a big thank you to Jerry and Diane Oliphant, the Flower Committee and others who helped in the preparation for the Hanging of the Greens. The Family Worship Center is absolutely beautiful with all the trees and the white poinsettias. Everyone who participated, whether it was singing, reading, hanging greenery, operating the sound system, lighting candles, placing the angels, hanging the peppermint canes, or who came just to enjoy, thank you for making this a successful 10th anniversary of our Hanging of the Greens.

We combined our Lottie Moon Offering with this event this year and our goal was set at \$1,000. We have well surpassed that goal. Thanks again for everyone's participation.

The children and youth performed the musical of Christmas In The Good Old Days, this past Sunday.

They did a great job. Thanks to Donna Jernigan (director) and Denise Weaver (pianist) for all the work they did in getting this musical put together.

Our adult choir will present the Lights of the World, Sunday at 11 a.m. This is a musical worshipping the Christ of Christmas. We invite you to come to our Family Worship Center and let us share this time with you.

Other opportunities to come hear God's Word is in Sunday school which begins at 9:45 a.m.; worship service at 11 a.m. and Sunday evening service at 6 p.m. Wednesday we have an Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting; Youth and Children's Bible Study. These all begin at 7 p.m. A nursery is provided during all these services. On Saturday a Men's Bible Study is at 7 a.m. in the conference room.

East Fourth is located at 401 E. Fourth St.; our phone number is 267-2291.

First Presbyterian, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study met Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. and choir practice was at 6 p.m.

Anyone wishing to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone may call the church office at 263-4211. The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary, and the proceeds benefit our youth group.

Lane Reynolds will provide refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday morning. Jamie Walker is lit-

urgist.

This Sunday, everyone is invited to a breakfast in the parlor from 9:30 to 10:45 to celebrate our own Myra Robinson's 90th birthday.

During the worship service, we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering, which is used to serve neglected former pastors and their families and Presbyterian racial ethnic schools, including Pan American School in Kingsville.

The lectionary for the fourth Sunday of Advent is Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45. The chancel choir will be joined by the children of the church in Natalie Sleeth's "The Lion and the Lamb" for the anthem. "Awake, Shepherds, Awake" by David Lantz is the offertory anthem.

Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Thursday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our Web site: www.fpCBS.org

First Presbyterian, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray, and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

Tom continues to lead a Bible study, along with Big Spring's new pastor, Craig Holstedt, on the week's lectionary in the library of First Presbyterian, Big Spring, on Wednesday at 5:17 p.m.

We will have a Christmas Eve worship service at 11 p.m. to welcome Christmas Day. Please come and bring your family and friends.

This Sunday following worship, we will have a congregational meeting to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect elders for the Class of 2012. The lectionary for the fourth Sunday of Advent is Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55.

First Church of the Nazarene

Thank you for attending our Drive Through Nativity. We pray the presentation was enjoyable and brought the Christmas spirit to each every person. We welcome you to continue celebrating the true meaning of Christmas and look forward to you visiting us again.

Please join us for Sunday morning fellowship at

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 7A

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

What a productive day! The Capricorn moon waxes industrious, and we're not only willing to work hard, we're also thoughtful enough to find the smartest way to go about our business. Many who were at cross-purposes will find that they are now on the same page. Communicate to avoid duplicating work that's already been done by someone else.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like a light breeze blowing through an open window, your presence will fill the room with a welcome freshness and flush out the sense of lingering stagnation that had been bringing everyone down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Travel is in your short-term future. It comes by necessity this time and not choice, but the outcome is still the same. You like going away because you like

coming back. It makes being at home all the more enjoyable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A song you hear on the radio today reminds you of a time when you were not as happy as you are now. It's a signal for you to acknowledge the many ways you've grown.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are usually so even keel. However, when an event really gets to you, you can react without thinking. Sometimes this leads to trouble, but today it makes you a hero.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Where things come easily, determination is not necessary. But you've chosen a competitive arena in which to play, and so you'll need more than the usual grit and stamina in order to succeed. Don't quit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will exhibit childlike qualities in the best sense of the word. You will laugh often and easily and see things as though for the first time. Your sense of wonder will be infectious.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An urge to get out of

town is tempered by a need to be financially conservative. Fortunately, with you and travel, a little goes a long way. There is a place near enough that will provide a sense of escape at a nice price.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It might annoy you when someone refuses to discuss important matters in favor of retelling a joke or making fun of a situation. You'll recognize when a thoughtful approach is needed, and you'll keep the others on track.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A cherished memory comes in handy. Recalling a missed friend or relative brings comfort when you feel lonely and gives you an opportunity to recognize the great gift true companionship is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you haven't been sleeping as well as you usually do, the spell of restlessness will be broken tonight. The issue will work its way through your emotional system. You'll see an improvement from here on out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It might not be fun to think about balancing your checkbook or changing the oil in your car. And perhaps the mundane tasks can wait while you indulge in a daydream or an intriguing conversation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your knack for setting people at ease is as natural to you as your ability to perceive potential problems before they blow up. Taken together, you are a workplace leader par excellence.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 18). Your personal life evens out. Events that disrupted your flow in the past will no longer be a part of your experience. Your powers of concentration increase. You'll work at peak performance for longer than you used to. Loving companions make this month a blast. Be generous in January. March opens up new income. Pisces and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 21, 5, 43, 51 and 17.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Enjoy the harmony and happiness around you

without guilt. This is a wonderful time. **TAURUS:** You'll be better able to enjoy your adventures once you fix something you're struggling with at home. **GEMINI:** If you want someone to love you, spend time with that person. **CANCER:** Do the work it takes to get yourself in a delicious mood. Your upbeat, magical energy is so attractive. **LEO:** First impressions are extremely important, and you will make one that counts. **VIRGO:** You accept people for who they are, and they become even more in attendance of your nurturing love. **LIBRA:** The details matter. The thought you put into your appearance will pay off, and you will be extremely well received. **SCORPIO:** Show your emotions, especially when you are thrilled to meet someone. **SAGITTARIUS:** You'll be energized by those who are willing to take chances just like you do. **CAPRICORN:** A friend's relationship advice is sound. Use it discreetly to improve your love life. **AQUARIUS:** Work to

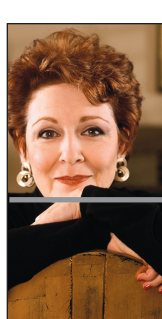
overcome your reluctance to express your deepest feelings. **PISCES:** Dedicated and loyal, you'll attract kindred souls.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Capricorn and Sagittarius have many of the same ambitions, but they go about them in different ways. Capricorn is likely to get out the book and follow the instructions laid out by those who've been successful. Sagittarius jumps right into the adventure and accepts help along the way. This weekend, they'll meld their styles of operation and gain great respect and affection for each other along the way.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Dear Margo: And happy holidays to you, too!

Dear Margo: My husband and I have a circle of friends who get together regularly for barbecues, days at the beach, etc.



MARGO
HOWARD

All of us get along spectacularly, except for one of the wives. She is the most self-righteous, mean-spirited, unpleasant person I've ever had the "pleasure" of knowing. (Her husband, however, is great fun.)

Recently, she took it upon herself to reserve a chalet for a weeklong getaway without consulting anyone else, including her husband, and announced via e-mail that none of us had to worry about making Christmas plans since she'd already taken care of it.

She then told us how much it would cost each family. As you can imagine, we all were incensed.

I sent an e-mail thanking her, but said we would not be going. I found out later that all the families had declined and she was furious.

This I learned when she cornered me at a party to ask why we weren't going. I fibbed and said we already had plans.

She called me on it: She had already asked my husband what we'd planned, and he said, "Nothing special." Perhaps because of the martinis I'd had I told her we were not interested in spending Christmas with her because she is hell to be around and she was the reason nobody was going.

She started crying and shouting that she just wanted to have a nice Christmas.

Then she mentioned how much she was obligated to pay for two people in a 20-person chalet.

posed to feel for saying something that I meant?

She will not accept my apology, and I think she's only mad about the cost anyway. — *Martinis Speak the Truth*

Dear Mart: You tried a little white lie, she called you on it, and you wound up telling her the truth.

I am only sorry you needed "Dutch courage," because I think this woman was so out of line that someone needed to give her the straight goods.

Just as you say you think she's really only mad about the cost, so I think your apology was meant just to keep the peace, which seems impossible now, so ta ta to the most self-righteous, mean-spirited, unpleasant person you've ever had the "pleasure" of knowing. — *Margo, honestly*

I've Asked, But He Won't Tell

Dear Margo: I have a friend I think is being abused. He is very jumpy when people touch him and often comes to school with bruises that he refuses to explain. (We are high-school juniors.)

I know his father is dead, and that he lived with his mother and stepfather until his mother died, so I'm assuming his stepfather is abusing him.

My friend refuses to talk about it, but I don't know how to help him if he won't acknowledge the problem.

What can I do to help him get out of this situation? He looks more and more miserable every time I see him, and it breaks my heart. — *Upset For My Friend*

Dear Up: Because you are high schoolers, I'm fairly certain there is a guidance counselor or school nurse who could help.

Since your friend, perhaps from embarrassment, cannot tell you

what is going on, I would go to the counselor or the nurse, tell what you know, and ask that person to become involved.

I think this would be easier for your pal, and also, a grownup will

know how to deal with the problem, relative to city agencies, should the stepfather be the offender.

You sound like a good friend to have, and I admire your concern. —

Margo, indirectly

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a

high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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6:PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy! Wheel	Gancho	Two Men Two Men	News Ent. Ton.	12 Cora-zones	News Millionaire	Name House	Scrivner	PBS News-Hour	Before Dinos		UFC Fight Night	Bones (DVS)	Blige	Movie: The Santa Clause	NFL Live Football	NBA
7:PM :30	Supernanny	Supernanny	Nombre-Amor	Dollhouse	Frosty Frosty	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Law & Order	Name Madagascar	Door-Wis-dom	Wash Wk NOW	Clash of Dino.	Movie: All I Want for Christmas	UFC: Best of 2009	Movie: The Nativity Story	The Unit	(7-50) The Santa Clause 2	College Football: NCAA Division I Championship: Teams TBA.	NBA Basketball: Clippers at Knicks
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9:PM :30	20/20	20/20	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons Friends	NUMB3RS	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Church Cortes	Sanchez	Christmas at Luther	Clash of Dino.	Movie: All I Want for Christmas	UFC: Best of 2009	Movie: The Nativity Story	The Unit	Phineas So Raven	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Warriors	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond	News TMZ	Noticias Titulares	News Letterman	Church Cortes	Sanchez	Charlie Rose	Clash of Dino.	Movie: All I Want for Christmas	UFC: Best of 2009	Movie: The Nativity Story	The Unit	Phineas So Raven	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Warriors	
11:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Desmadrugados	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late		Late Night-Jim	Church Cortes	Sanchez	Mark McGee	Clash of Dino.	Movie: King Kong, Charles Grodin	Video Justice	Movie: Cheaper by the Dozen	Wendy Williams	Suite Life Cory	NFL Live SportsNation	
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DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

HAGAR



"I UNDERSTAND THE 'NAUGHTY OR NICE' THING, BUT DOES IT REALLY MATTER IF KIDS TAKE BATHS?"



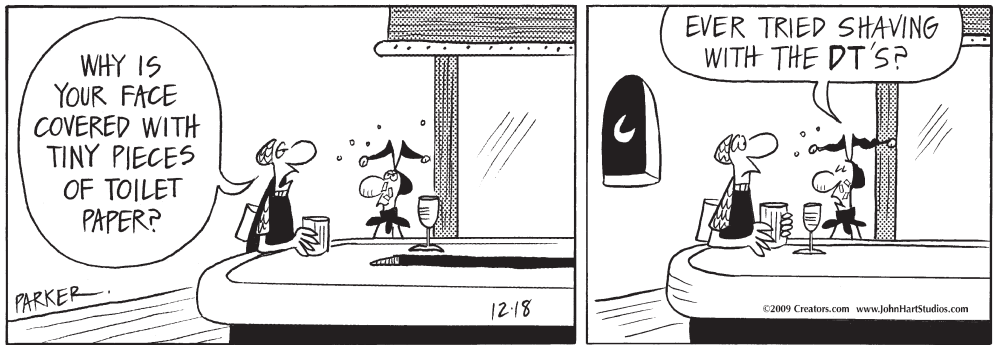
"If I'm not allowed to touch anything, why am I here?"



BC



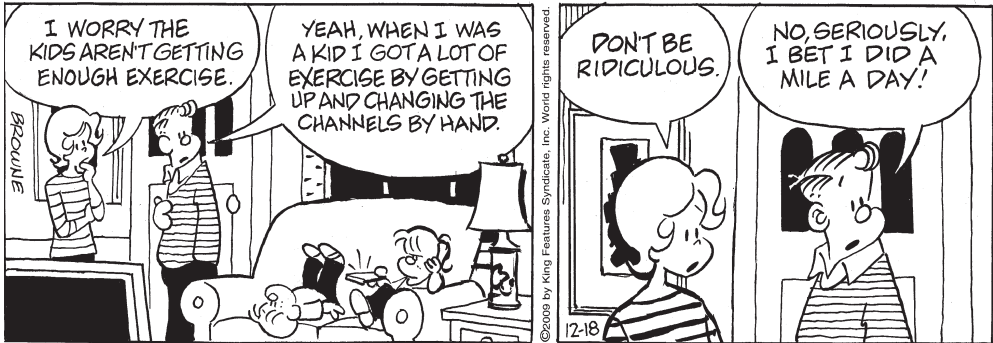
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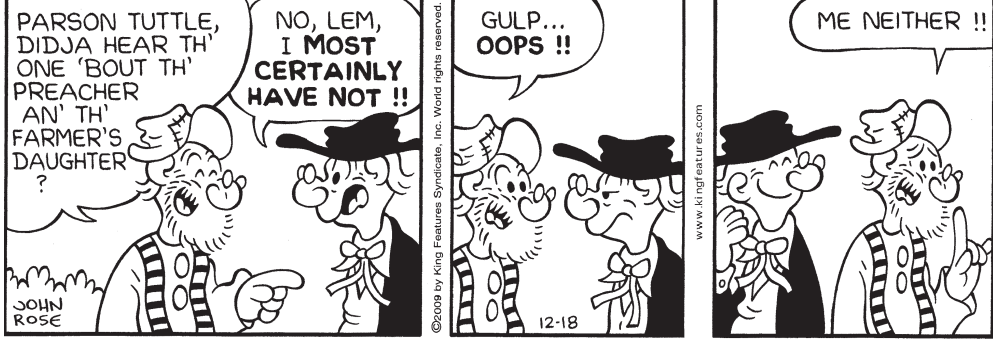
HI AND LOIS



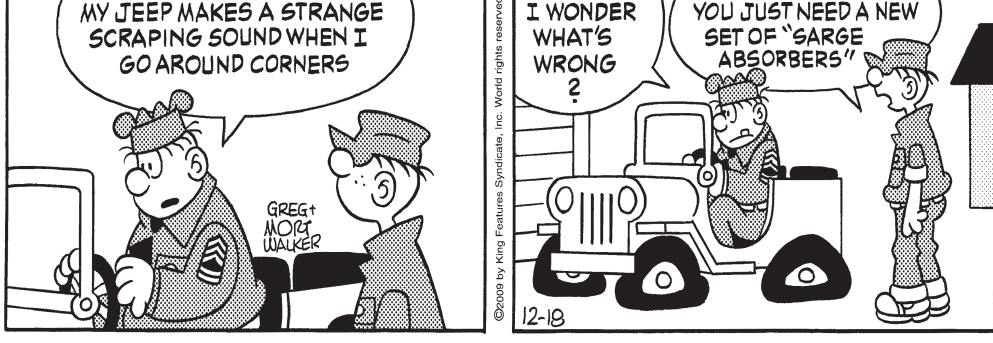
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2009. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

On this date:

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson, widowed the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt at her Washington home.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler ordered secret preparations for Nazi Germany to invade the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, in a pair of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the wartime relocation of

Japanese-Americans, but also said undeniably loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first public, full-scale commercial nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line. (It was taken out of service in 1982.)

In 1958, the world's first communications satellite, SCORE, or Signal Communication by Orbiting Relay Equipment, nicknamed "Chatterbox," was launched by the United States aboard an Atlas rocket.

In 1969, Britain's House of Lords joined the House of Commons in making permanent a 1965 ban on the death penalty for cases of murder.

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

In 1980, former Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin died at age 76.

Today's Birthdays: Television writer-producer Hal Kanter is 91. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is 82.

Actor Roger Smith is 77. Blues musician Lonnie Brooks is 76. Actor Roger Mosley is 71. Rock singer-musician Keith Richards is 66. Writer-director Alan Rudolph is 66. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 63. Blues artist Ron Piazza is 62. Movie director Gillian Armstrong is 59. Movie reviewer Leonard Maltin is 59. Rock musician Elliot Easton is 56. Actor Ray Liotta is 54. Comedian Ron White is 53. Actor Brad Pitt is 46. Actor and professional wrestler "Stone Cold" Steve Austin is 45. Actor Shawn Christian is 44. Actress Rachel Griffiths is 41. Singer Alejandro Sanz is 41. Country/rap singer Cowboy Troy is 39. Rapper DMX is 39.

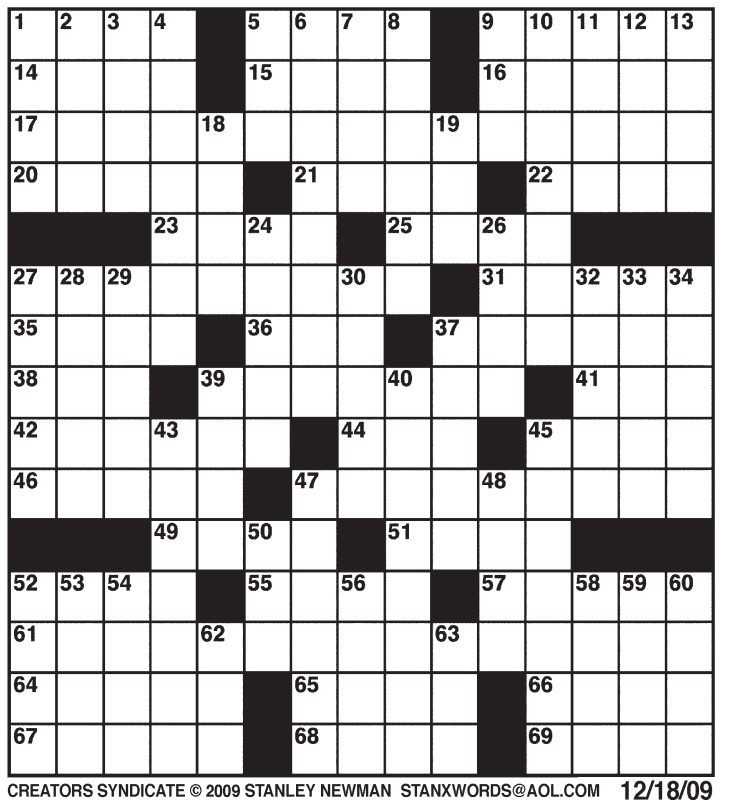
Answer to previous puzzle

JESSE	EEG	SNAIL
ORION	DEE	HINDI
WINDCHILL	FACTOR	LEG
HATS	ODESSA	HAN
GUYS	STRINGBEAN	TACH
WREST	ELUDE	NRA
AMUSE	FEZ	ASTOR
LES	DOONE	SLICE
EXEC	BRASSTACKS	EPEE
HEM	ASTROUS	SEAR
GOO	STRIKEUP	THEBAND
PAUSE	SEA	GAZED
STEER	AWL	GRASS

Newsday Crossword

SHINING EXAMPLE by Bruce Venzke
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Essential part
- 5 Starchy side dish
- 9 Where Lost can be found
- 14 Comics canine
- 15 Surfing mecca
- 16 ___ Lama
- 17 START OF A QUIP
- 20 Plaintive poem
- 21 Frat letters
- 22 Female rabbits
- 23 Natural successor
- 25 Reheat, perhaps
- 27 PART 2 OF QUIP
- 31 Very: Mus.
- 35 It means "height"
- 36 Half of dos
- 37 Gives voice to
- 38 Small
- 39 Unsuccessful, as batters
- 41 Small, in rap artists' names
- 42 Dunce
- 44 Foamy fare
- 45 Monopoly pair
- 46 Slowpoke
- 47 PART 3 OF QUIP
- 49 Something sought at sinks
- 51 Ink cartridge color
- 52 Pasture portion
- 55 "___ ever so humble ..."
- 57 Be noncommittal
- 61 END OF QUIP
- 64 Be an omen of
- 65 Voice quality
- 66 Voiced
- 67 Gets, as profits
- 68 Gymnast Korbut
- 69 DC team, in headlines
- DOWN
- 1 Quince or pear
- 2 Pastoral poem
- 3 Precious resource
- 4 Snow White ... song
- 5 Put down grass
- 6 Canine caper clue?
- 7 Syllables of concern
- 8 In the course of
- 9 Spots of a sort
- 10 Least disguised
- 11 Muse of history
- 12 Point of view
- 13 Goes head-to-head
- 18 Tatiana's turndown
- 19 Frankfort sch.
- 24 Alaskan native
- 26 Kit ___ (candy bars)
- 27 Croquet venues
- 28 Trap, in a cold way
- 29 Legal analyst van Susteren
- 30 Video-game pioneer Bushnell
- 32 Bud of baseball
- 33 "If I Were ___ Man"
- 34 Dot on a globe
- 37 Medicine bottle phrase
- 39 City near Mauna Loa
- 40 Deciding upon
- 43 Sees the light, perhaps
- 45 Ate
- 47 Accepting of
- 48 Grandstand shouts
- 50 Legal org.
- 52 Way off
- 53 Inform, with "in"
- 54 Music of India
- 56 Fan favorite
- 58 TV toon explorer
- 59 Summertime pest
- 60 Otters' prey abbr.
- 62 Time-sheet
- 63 Mad Hatter's serving



Speak the blessings, enjoy the harvest

You may not consider yourself influential, but we all hold sway over others. Though you may not see yourself as a leader, you carry clout regardless. Somebody looks up to you. Even if you are a teenager, someone values your opinions. Therefore, it is vital that we speak good things into the lives of those we impact. Negative words tend only to destroy, while positive, faith-filled words enhance. Children learn from their parents. Therefore, it is vital that parents continually speak encouraging words to them rather than negative. The Bible reminds us that with our words we bless others or curse them. The old testament saints clearly understood the power of speaking blessings. As the



JERRIE STOCKS

family patriarch approached senility or death, the sons gathered alongside their father. He laid hands on each son's head, from eldest to youngest, and spoke loving, faith-filled words over each of them about their future. These words carried much spiritual authority and had the ability to bring success, prosperity, and health into the future of the children. Oftentimes, the children fought over the father's blessings. They were not fighting over land, cattle, or even money, but over the words spoken by their father. They knew if they received the father's blessings, great wealth and success would be a natural by-product. Positive, reassuring communication affects your children's future for the good. Your words have the same kind of power that the Biblical patriarchs had. Proverbs 6:2 says, "You are snared by the words of your mouth; you are taken by the words

of your mouth." When you speak favor rather than criticism into the lives of your children, you are speaking abundance and blessings. Negative statements bring a curse into their present and future and God holds us responsible. We are instructed from the book of Proverbs to, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." It is the parents' responsibility to train the child to be obedient, which will then carry over into adulthood. The Jewish patriarchs knew about imparting the blessing to their children. If you are a parent, speak positive words over your children even when you are correcting them. Yelling and screaming only leads to rebellion in a child or teenager. Start speaking blessings rather than curses today. When you do, positive changes will occur. It may take some time, but they will undoubtedly come. The Rev. William T. Ligon

Sr., the author of numerous books on family life, tells the story of his grandson, Stephen, who was not doing well in school. He had failed the sixth grade the previous year and was now getting failing grades for the second year. He and his wife were at road's end as to what to do. They had prayed, talked, counseled, and punished him by taking away certain privileges, all to no avail. The teachers told the couple their grandson was a trouble maker and wanted him removed from their classes. Some weeks later, Rev. Ligon was invited to a seminar taught by a Jewish Rabbi on the subject "Imparting the Blessing to Your Children" (Numbers 6:27). After the seminar, Rev. Ligon eagerly shared the valuable teaching he had learned with his wife, D.J. They realized that this was the paradigm shift they had searched for to help their grandson. Both grandparents began speaking blessings over

their grandson and in only a matter of a few weeks, changes began to manifest in Stephen's life. His grades soared. He was quiet and attentive in class. Stephen gained numerous friends and displayed an abundance of energy. His teachers were amazed. His grandparents reported that he was sleeping throughout the night, and was quick to do his homework. Children are priceless gifts from the Lord, described in the Bible as "olive plants round about the table" (Psalms 128:3). If you desire to see changes in your children's attitude, start blessing them with praise in every area of their lives. I am certain that you will be quite surprised by the transformation that takes place. Isaiah 54:13 says, "All your children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children." God bless. Send your comments to jjs-tocks1@suddenlink.net

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

9:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts, followed by worship service at 10. Children's church services, for ages 4-11, are in the fellowship hall Sunday mornings, also at 10.

Wednesdays, our Naz Family classes begin at 6:30 p.m. with for all ages. There are classes that not only feed you spiritually but also allow you to kick back and relax. NazKidz (ages 4 years through third grade) meets in the classrooms at the north end of the fellowship hall for Bible class. NazWhiz (fourth grade through sixth grade) meets in the fellowship hall to become Bible "whizzes!" Youth Explosion with Pastor Cal, for seventh through 12th graders, is also Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Adults can choose one of the following options: The Coffee Class is studying Joy Comes in the Morning from Max Lucado's book, "He Still Moves Stones." Another is the study of the Nazarene Holiness movement and how it relates to our lives today. Or, you may be a part of a study of The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith by Timothy Keller. Can't come on Wednesday nights? Our solution is Life Groups. Thursdays at 7 p.m. the College and Young Adults Life Group meets with Pastor Cal. Sunday evenings at 6:30 is the Harvest Life Group (for young families) and Financial Peace University at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions about the Church of the Nazarene, call 267-7015 or e-mail us at church@nazfamily.org. Also look us up on our Facebook and Twitter under Big Spring First Church of the Nazarene.

First Christian

Join us as we celebrate the Christmas week beginning this Sunday with our choir and children combining to present the nativity story during the morning worship. Following worship, we will enjoy a potluck Christmas dinner that will feature a visit by a very special guest with treats for all the young ones.

Wednesday, we will volunteer at the Festival of Lights as our gift to the Big Spring community. Our time slot will be from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

On Christmas Eve, you are invited to a special service called Carols by Candlelight which will start at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come enjoy a hymn singing of popular Christmas carols, a special moment with the children and a Christmas prayer. The service will begin with the lighting of the Christ Candle by the Greg Moore family and it will end with the congregation carrying the light of Christ out into the darkness.

If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join us as we take time to remember and celebrate the birth of the baby that changed the world.

Alive in Christ Lutheran LCMS

Pastor Bob Boyce will be preaching this Sunday. Holy communion will be observed. The poinsettias are given by Daniel, David and Dolline Budke.

Angela Newton is our organist. This week's acolyte will be Jonathan Byrd. Our elders are Bobby Roever and Darren Byrd. The liturgy will be read by Kent Ivey. The readings are Micah 5:2-5a, Psalms 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10 and Luke 1:39-45 (46-56).

On Christmas Day, the liturgy will be read by David Carlisle. The readings are Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalms 2, Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12), and John 1:1-14 (15-18).

This is your last chance to donate clothing and toys for the "Home Town Christmas." If interested, either bring your items to church or take them to Jeanie Knocke at Wells Fargo. During this season of giving, remember that Jesus encourages us to remember ALL of His children.

The LWML had its Christmas Ornament/Salad Dinner the 17th. Everyone enjoyed the ornament exchange as well as the food and fellowship.

Our traditional Christmas children and congregational program will be Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Join us for this beautiful celebration of God's love. Several children have solos and will play their musical instruments.

Thank you to all the people who helped with the lights on the bridges at the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park this past Saturday.

Mid Week School is held Wednesday evenings with a light meal served at 5:30 p.m. Mid Week School classes and confirmation classes are at 6 p.m. There will be no Wednesday evening meal until after the Christmas holidays. Meals and Mid Week School will resume Jan. 6.

An 11:30 a.m. Bible study hour at church on Thursdays is being well attended. The next meeting will be Jan. 14. A light meal will be available. You do not need to be a member of our congregation in order to attend any of our Bible studies.

Youth Ministry 2010 Synposium has been scheduled for Jan. 8-10 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel at the Galleria in Houston. Mark your calendars to attend this very challenging growth opportunity to help youth develop a Christian worldview.

January 11, the LWML will serve refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the church. The LWML will meet Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the church. The Elders meet Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at the church.

We are located at 2805 Lynn St. in the Kentwood Subdivision in Big Spring. Our phone number is (432) 264-7818. Our Web site is www.lutheranonline.com/aliveinchristbstx. We would love to have you join us for church on Sundays at 9 a.m. with Sunday school following at 10:15.

Friends of Unity House

Friends will be concentrating on the deep metaphysical (spiritual) meanings of Christmas.

We encourage everyone to participate with millions of others from all nations and walks of life in World Healing Day, Dec. 31.

Birdwell Lane Baptist

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.

Church News contributors:
The Herald will not publish a Christmas Day newspaper.
Next week's Church News will be printed in Thursday's edition. The deadline for submitting Church News next week will be 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Judge sides with inmate over reading material

DETROIT (AP) — A judge says he'll probably allow a Michigan prison inmate to receive literature from a group that has been declared a security threat by the state Corrections Department.

Dion Hardaway is suing the state. He says he lost work and school privileges in prison until he renounced his membership in a group called Nation of Gods and Earths/Five Percent.

The group promotes black empowerment and is an offshoot of the Nation of Islam.

U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn said Thursday he'll likely issue a preliminary injunction in Hardaway's favor.

Still unsettled: Whether the state will be ordered to stop labeling Nation of Gods a security threat. Cohn says a trial is possible.

In August, another judge recommended that Cohn recognize the group as a religion.

Club News

Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association

The Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association met in Howard College's Cactus Room, Dec. 14 with 41 members and two guests present. The invocation was given by Don Green.

The "Tardy Bells," a bell ringing group composed of retired school personnel, presented a Christmas concert. Susan Dawes, retired music instructor, is director of the group.

The nominating committee submitted the following slate of officers for 2010-2011: President, Bettie Cox; first vice president, Bonnie Wheat; second vice president, Jean Wynn; and recording secretary, Charlene Shanks.

A motion was made by Loyce Phillips and seconded by Eloise Wynn, that the slate of officers be elected by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Chairman Loyce Phillips presented the following items of interest: 1) The Attorney General ruled against the \$500 supplemental check for retirees. However, the Texas Legislature did not provide the funds needed. 2) The TRS Board reviewed health and pharmaceutical manager contracts and will continue with Aetna and Caremark. 3) The TRS investment fund continues to gain ground, but still is not actuarially sound. The fund will need help from the state legislature if retirees are to expect a permanent increase in their pension checks. 4) A special mailing is being prepared by TRTA to explain to all members how they can get the attention of the state legislature.

TOPS 0021

TOPS 0021 met Monday evening after a week off due to winter weather. There were seven TOPS and one KOPS present.

Leader Laura Sickles called for the TOPS cheer and the group responded with vigor. The TOPS pledge was led by Frank Sickles, followed by the KOPS pledge led by Ethel Cassady. The TOPS welcome song was then sung by all members present and led by Carol Smith. Reading of the minutes was dispensed with this night.

Roll call was led by Hughetta Roberts. This told us the club had a total weekly loss of 6.75 pounds. Carol Smith proved to be the best weekly loser with a three-pound loss. Hurrah for all the TOPS losers.

During the business portion, Laura Sickles announced the turkey contest was going well. Next week we will announce the winner of a holiday turkey for the best loser of the contest.

Next week will be the TOPS Club Christmas Party with a gift exchange and dinner at a local restaurant. Every member is encouraged to participate in the fun.

There was no program for this evening and the meeting was adjourned early.

TOPS meets every Monday evening in the fellowship hall of the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad. Everyone who has a weight challenge is invited to attend. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting is called to order at 6 p.m. Please come and meet with us. TOPS does work.

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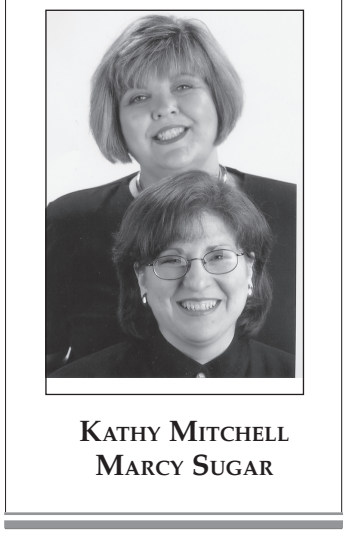
Dear Annie: For two years and counting, I have been attracted to a married man. We became friends at work and would go out to lunch occasionally. I would flirt, and he would reciprocate. I know he was attracted to me.

Recently, I was laid off from this job and decided to tell him my true feelings. He seemed shocked. He said he was flattered and hoped he hadn't done or said anything I might have

misinterpreted.

All of the lunches, flirting and body language were not my imagination. I want to see him to talk more about this situation, and also to be in his company as a friend. What do you recommend?— Confused and In Love

Dear Confused: We recommend you find someone else. This man may have encouraged your flirtation, but he is now telling you that there has never been anything more. He is mar-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

ried. He is not interested. Any further approach from you will look like desperation and stalking. Stop.

Dear Annie: I have been dating "Carol" for a year. We have a great relationship and only seem to argue about one thing— she refuses to spend the night. We have been intimate since we started dating, and I have told her it's important to me that she stay over once a week, but she hasn't done it yet. She says she has anxiety issues and doesn't sleep well. She won't try sleep aids because her father was addicted to prescription pills. I have tried everything possible to help her work on this and make her feel comfortable, but it doesn't help. Yet she managed to stay a week with me in Mexico and another weekend in Chicago.

If I so much as mention that she's not trying very hard, it turns into an argument. Carol also has lied to me a couple of times. I found out six months into our relationship that she is three years older than she claimed (making her five years older than I am), and she also said she has a college degree when she doesn't. She apologized, saying she thought I would think less of her if I knew the truth.

My friends think I should end it, but Carol is not a compulsive liar, just a very insecure person. Also, she is unemployed, and the job market is so competitive, I can understand why

she lied about a college degree.

I want her to spend the night because it would show me how much she cares. I want to be with her, but should I after the lying and the fact that she won't make an effort to stay until morning?— Mr. T

Dear Mr. T: A lot of women lie about their age, so we'd let that slide. The college degree is a more serious fabrication, especially if she uses it to land a job. There could be many reasons why Carol doesn't want to spend the night, and you don't need to make such a big deal out of it. But is it possible there is one more lie? Might she be married or have a child, and this is why she doesn't sleep over? The bottom line is, if you are dissatisfied with the relationship and you cannot effect change, it is better to break it off sooner rather than later.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Frustrated in Mississippi," who is seven months pregnant and a co-worker yelled, "Here comes Fattie" when she walked up the stairs. Other co-workers have made unkind comments about her size. If I were at work (pregnant or not) and someone said, "Here comes Fattie," I would consider this to be contributing to a hostile work environment, and I would report the matter to human resources.— N.Y.

Dear N.Y.: An excellent idea if it qualifies under the regulations, and she should check it out with the human resources department.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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In observation of the Christmas Holiday, The Big Spring Herald will observe the following deadline schedule:

RETAIL / CLASSIFIED ADS

THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH
Deadline Monday, Dec. 21st, 3:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25TH
No Paper Christmas Day

THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH
Deadline Monday, Dec. 21st, 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 27TH
Deadline Tuesday, Dec. 22nd, 10:00 a.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 28TH
Deadline Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, 10:00 a.m.

Merry Christmas!

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Landtroop set to run against Heflin again

Special to the Herald

PLAINVIEW — Republican small businessman Jim Landtroop will announce his candidacy for state representative, House District 85, Monday, following his official filing for the office.

"Our district is conservative," said Landtroop. "And, it is time we have a legislator who represents those values. West Texans are disappointed with what the Democrats are doing. Nearly three quarters of the residents in our district think that Nancy Pelosi and the

Democrats are taking the nation in the wrong direction. I agree and that is why I am running for state representative."

Landtroop ran for the post in 2006 and was defeated by Democrat Joe Heflin of Crosbyton by a 217-vote margin.

Landtroop is a member of the National and Texas Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Plainview Chamber of Commerce, the Plainview Lion's Club and the National Rifle Association. He also serves on the board of directors for the local United Way and American Cancer Society. As head coach, Landtroop led the Plainview Christian Academy's boy's

varsity basketball team to the state semifinals this year. Jim is an elder and helped found Plainview Bible Church.

Landtroop has been a gubernatorial appointee to the Brazos River Authority Board and serves on U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer's financial advisory committee.

He received a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and attended Dallas Theological Seminary. Married to his wife, Cathy, for 16 years, the two have three children, Braden, 14; Kenneth, 12; and Lauren Grace, 9.

House District 85 covers 16 West Texas counties, including Hale, Floyd, Crosby, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Jones, Stonewall, Fisher, Borden, Howard, Glasscock, Sterling, Reagan and Irion.



Landtroop

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