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# HERALD

**BIG SPRING**

**FRIDAY**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2010**



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 323      COPYRIGHT 2010      50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Unto you is born this day ... a Saviour

**A**nd it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all

the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own

city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he

was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall

be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**The blessing of baby Jesus is reenacted during the First Church of the Nazarene's Drive-Through Nativity, held earlier this month.**

—Luke 2: 1-20

## Drive safely, officials urge

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

As motorists look to hit Texas highways this holiday season, local and state law enforcement officials are warning drivers to take precautions when getting behind the wheel.



Everett

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, one of the biggest concerns travelers should have before pulling out the driveway is the

weather. "One of the biggest factors to consider is the weather," said Everett. "You can get road condition reports by calling the Texas Travel Information hotline at 800-452-9292, or pay close attention to the local weather channel. The Texas Department of Public Safety reports all road closures to both.

"Pay close attention to bridges and overpasses during freezing weather as well. Another thing to remember is to allow extra time for travel because the high level of traffic is

See **SAFELY**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**Santa and Mrs. Claus greet children at the Big Spring Kiwanis Club Christmas party, held earlier this month at Baptist Temple Church.**



"OH HOLY NIGHT! THE STARS ARE BRIGHTLY SHINING!"

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**Readers: Because of the Christmas holidays, the weekend edition of the Herald will be delivered to customers by 11 a.m. Sunday.**



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AP File Photo

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger hopes to help his team bounce back from a tough loss to the New York Jets last week.

## NFL Picks: Steelers get quick tonic for loss

**BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

That painful loss to the Jets must quickly be forgotten by the Steelers. The NFL schedule has provided Pittsburgh with the perfect tonic: a home game against Carolina.

Yes, the Panthers did last weekend what the Steelers couldn't in winning a game. But it was only the second victory in this lost season for Carolina, and expecting the Panthers to upset Pittsburgh on Thursday night is stretching things.

Had the Steelers beaten New York, they would have sewed up a playoff spot. An hour later, they found out they were in anyway through a series of complicated tiebreakers. They are tied atop the AFC North at 10-4 with Baltimore, but Mike Tomlin's team holds the tiebreaker. Win out and the Steelers are division champions.

"We're in a great position. We've clinched, which is good, and we can have a first-round bye, which

would be huge for this team — get some guys (healthy) who are banged up and rusty," defensive end Brett Keisel said. "It's all out there for us, we've just got to go take it."

The playoff bye helps every team, but the Steelers need to look closely at their home record: 4-3. They need to be much better in the postseason at Heinz Field if they do win the division, and three potential playoff opponents — the Patriots, Jets and Ravens — all have won in Pittsburgh.

Carolina, a 13-point underdog, isn't likely to do so. Yet, with Pittsburgh's offense struggling a bit and the Panthers' defense decent, especially against the pass, that's a lot of points to give up.

STEELERS, 17-7

### Washington (plus 6½) at Jacksonville

Jaguars can't afford another loss or their playoff hopes will disappear. They will welcome Rex

Grossman back to the Sunshine State by raining down sacks.

BEST BET: JAGUARS 24-13

### N.Y. Jets (plus 1½) at Chicago

Despite all the road favorites this week, we'll go with a road underdog that showed lots of moxie in Pittsburgh last weekend and now faces a team already in the playoffs.

UPSET SPECIAL: JETS, 14-13

### Dallas (minus 6½) at Arizona (Saturday night)

Two defending division winners now mired near the bottom of the standings. Their gift for disappointing seasons: a Christmas night game.

COWBOYS, 27-16

See PICKS, Page 2B

## Arizona WR Fitzgerald nears critical contract year

**The Associated Press**

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald is just 14 yards shy of his fifth career 1,000-yard receiving season, quite an accomplishment considering the Cardinals are next to last in the NFL in passing offense.

It's little solace for a player with one more year on his contract, the face of a franchise that the Cardinals dearly want to keep.

"I want to stay here. I enjoy playing for coach (Ken) Whisenhunt. I enjoy working for the Bidwills," Fitzgerald said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "They've always treated me good since I first got here. This is all I know. I can't ever say that I want to go anywhere else."

Fitzgerald last week became — at 27 years, 110 days — the youngest player in NFL history to reach 600 career receptions and the second-youngest, behind Randy Moss, to reach 8,000 career yards receiving. A week earlier, he

broke Anquan Boldin's franchise record for receptions.

He won't, however, endure repeated seasons like this one. The Cardinals (4-10) have lost eight of their last nine games going into their Christmas night matchup against the Dallas Cowboys.

"I've said it before that the most important thing for me in my career is to win," Fitzgerald said. "I've been in the playoffs the last two seasons. Obviously we're not going to make it this year, but I know what it feels like to play in the postseason and this feeling is not the one I want to have at the conclusion of my year. It's just not a good feeling."

He will leave the specifics of the job ahead to the Arizona front office.

"I'm not the guy that's pulling the trigger and saying this needs to be done or this needs to be addressed. I'm not that kind of player," Fitzgerald said. "I'm confident in (general manager) Rod Graves, I'm confident in coach

Whisenhunt, I'm confident in (president) Michael Bidwill, (director of player personnel) Steve Keim and all those guys upstairs that do such a great job in our scouting department, that they're going to get guys here and draft guys that are going to help us win ball games."

He said he will not place a deadline for a contract extension.

"I'm not going to hold a team hostage," he said. "I think that's counterproductive. I had the opportunity to do that a few years ago and, at my core, I'm a team guy. Obviously I want to be compensated for my work, no different than you or anybody else in America that's working, but I don't want it to be to the point where we can't make this thing go."

Fitzgerald is in line for his third big contract while still in his 20s. He came into the league barely 21 years old after Arizona made

See FITZGERALD, Page 2B



AP File Photo

Arizona Cardinals wideout Larry Fitzgerald will lead his team against the Cowboys on Christmas Day.



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**Bonnie McNeese**



Bonnie McNeese, 84, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, in a Lubbock hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Sharon Wiese, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

She was born Nov. 18, 1926, in Williamson County and married Leslie McNeese on April 6, 1946, in Round Rock. He preceded her in death Dec. 11, 2002.

She and her husband came to Big Spring in 1957 from Kilgore. She had worked for Smith's Transport for a number of years and was a homemaker. Bonnie was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Women's Society of Christian Service. She was a former member of the Big Spring Garden Club.

Survivors include one son, Mitchell McNeese of Lubbock; one daughter and son-in-law, Cynthia and Gary Stallings of Tularosa, N.M.; one grandson, Kneel and Linda Kaye Stallings of Big Spring; two great-grandchildren, Sage and Sawyer Stallings of Big Spring; and one sister, Tina Craddock of Austin.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, three sisters and two brothers.

Bonnie's family would like to offer special thanks to her caregiver, Manuel Limon, for all that he did for her.

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

*Paid obituary*

**Obituaries**

**Doris Vieregge**



Doris Vieregge, 68, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 24, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Joel Miller officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born June 16, 1942, in Big Spring and married Charles Vieregge in 1978. He preceded her in death Feb. 15, 2001.

Doris was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. She owned and operated D&M Garden Center for 17 years and Flo-Lite Screen Print from 1980 until retiring in 2010. She was a member of the Big Spring Art Association and the Assembly of God faith.

Survivors include one son, Jesse "Tiger" Crane III, currently serving in the United States Army in Afghanistan, and wife Susan; two daughters, Daphne Crane of Big Spring and Tina Martin of Midland; one brother, J.C. Prevo and wife Mary of Granbury; one sister, Ruby Bruns of Big Spring; and two grandsons.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Mary Prevo.

The family suggests memorials be made to American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

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PICKS

Continued from Page 1B

New Orleans (plus 2) at Atlanta (Monday night)

Saving the best for last, the top two teams in the NFC get the Monday night spotlight. Atlanta clinches the division and a bye with a close win.  
FALCONS, 23-20

Tennessee (plus 4½) at Kansas City

Chiefs need to keep winning because Chargers don't figure to slip in the AFC West. Titans have slipped to also-ran status, even with last week's win.  
CHIEFS, 19-13

San Diego (minus 7) at Cincinnati

Bengals blew a good chance for the

top overall draft pick with last Sunday's victory over Cleveland. They'll make sure they stay in the running until the bitter end ...  
CHARGERS, 24-10

Indianapolis (minus 2½) at Oakland

This is going to be tougher than many folks think. If Colts can't stop the run, they'll be in trouble.  
COLTS, 21-20

San Francisco (plus 2) at St. Louis

A Niners win and a Seattle loss ensures a losing record for the division winner. NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!  
RAMS, 20-17

Seattle (plus 6) at Tampa Bay

A Niners win and a Seattle loss ... you already know the rest.  
BUCCANEERS, 24-14

New England (minus 8) at Buffalo

Seems like the last time the Bills won a game in this series was in the old AFL.  
PATRIOTS, 28-16

Baltimore (minus 3) at Cleveland

A playoff spot awaits Baltimore with a victory. Was last week's win over New Orleans a look at the real Ravens?  
RAVENS, 24-13

Houston (minus 3) at Denver

Who cares, Part I?  
TEXANS, 33-31

Detroit (plus 4) at Miami

Who cares, Part II?  
DOLPHINS, 17-14

Minnesota (OFF) at

Philadelphia

Eagles take the NFC East and stay in running for bye with a victory.  
EAGLES, 30-10

N.Y. Giants (OFF) at Green Bay

If Aaron Rodgers plays, Packers have serious chance to win and steal wild card from Giants. But that debacle at Meadowlands against Philly will be a strong motivator for New York.  
GIANTS, 23-20

RECORD:

Versus spread, 6-7-3 (overall 115-89-13); Straight up, 8-8 (overall 147-76)

Best Bet: 8-7 against spread, 10-5 straight up.

Upset Special: 8-7 against spread, 8-7 straight up.

WR DeSean Jackson has a knack for big plays

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — He's built more like a ballboy than a football player, and his end zone antics drive his coach and some of his teammates crazy.

If he keeps making big plays, though, DeSean Jackson can do whatever he wants when he scores.

The diminutive Jackson — he's generously listed at 5-foot-10 and 175

pounds — is one of the most exciting players to watch in any sport. When he gets the ball, he's a threat to take it the distance from anywhere on the field.

Just ask the New York Giants.

Jackson's 65-yard punt return on the final play capped an incredible rally last Sunday and gave the Philadelphia Eagles a 38-31 win over the Giants in a battle for the NFC East lead.

Of course, Jackson didn't take the easy route into the end zone. He stuck the ball in the air and began his celebration around the 5. When he reached the 1, he ran across the field before finally crossing the goal line.

This time, however, Jackson wasn't showboating. He wanted to make sure there would be no time left on the clock when he scored.

"I did that on purpose," Jackson told

The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Trying to be a smart player."

Jackson doesn't always make wise decisions on the field. The speedy wide receiver drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty in a 30-27 win over Dallas two weeks ago after a career-best 91-yard TD catch because he stopped at the 1, turned his back to the end zone, held the ball out and flopped backward.

Cowboys still America's Team

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Although Jerry Jones calls this season "a huge disappointment" for his Dallas Cowboys, it sure hasn't hurt the bottom line.

Based on attendance, television ratings and merchandise sales, the blue star on the shiny silver helmet remains the gold standard in the NFL and perhaps all of pro sports.

It's hardly even close. Love them or hate them, everyone pays attention to the Cowboys, in good times and bad.

Their enduring popularity in a season that opened with visions of becoming the first team to play in the Super Bowl at home, then cratered midway through when they were 1-7 and fired their coach, proves that no matter the circumstance this franchise remains "America's Team."

"I don't know of any other team that would've gone through what they went through and provided the ratings punch the Cowboys did," said Fred Gaudelli, producer of "Sunday Night Football" on NBC. "Dallas is way on top of the mountain."

Wins and losses are all that matter to fans, and that's foremost to folks in the front office, too.

But they also monitor the financial standings, and that's where the Cowboys really dominate.

They are the No. 1 team in the nation's No. 1 sport, valued at \$1.8 billion by Forbes and at or near the top in other major fiscal categories. The astounding part is that they've maintained that glow despite this being their 15th straight season without winning the Super Bowl, or even reach-

ing the championship game. It is the longest drought in franchise history.

"The Arizona Cardinals have had more success lately than the Dallas Cowboys, but there isn't anyone who follows the industry that would want the Cardinals' brand over the Cowboys' brand," said Marc Ganis, president of Chicago-based consulting company Sports Corp. Ltd.

"That's in large part because Jerry Jones is one of the great marketers sports has ever seen. He finds ways to keep the Cowboys relevant, part of the national conversation."

His latest feat was building a \$1.2 billion stadium that's the most luxurious in the country, perhaps the world, and luring the upcoming Super Bowl to the North Texas region for the first time.

FITZGERALD

Continued from Page 1B

him the third pick overall in the 2004 draft. In 2007, he signed a four-year, \$40 million deal with \$30 million guaranteed. That extended a rookie contract initially of six years and \$45 million, with \$20 million guaranteed, plus incentives. He is scheduled to make \$7 million next year, the final of his contract.

"I'm not concerned about it to be honest with you," Fitzgerald said. "If the Cardinals feel I'm worthy of an extension, they're going to keep me here. If they don't, then I won't be here. I'm just going to play hard and do everything I can these last two weeks."

It's hard to imagine a Cardinals team without Fitzgerald, who in the team's 2008 run to the Super Bowl shattered nearly every playoff receiving record. If he becomes a free agent, the value of a player so productive and still so young will be enormous.

Whisenhunt said he and the front office "have been very clear that it's important" to re-sign Fitzgerald.

As for how much money it's going to cost the team, Whisenhunt said, "That's something that can be talked about at the end, but that's not something that we are going to talk about here."

Fitzgerald won't get into details of what he thinks went wrong with the team.

"That's a loaded question," he said. But it's tough to succeed in an offense with a 52 percent completion

percentage.

"You said it," Fitzgerald said. "I didn't."

The three Arizona starting quarterbacks this season have completed a combined 50.5 percent of their passes. Derek Anderson has been the best at a meager 51.7 percent.

Fitzgerald has 15 catches for 197 yards the last two games, both with rookie John Skelton at quarterback, including a season-best nine catches for 125 yards last week at Carolina.

"You know what? I really like his mentality," Fitzgerald said of the youngster. "He doesn't really show too much emotion. He doesn't get too high, too low, and he plays within himself. I like that about him. I see him as being successful and I'm going to do everything I can to help him."

Skelton is smart enough to know to throw the ball in Fitzgerald's direction as often as possible.

"I think having Larry and being a rookie quarterback, it's nice to have him out there running good routes," Skelton said. "That talent that he has will overcome a lot of rookie mistakes. Just giving him a chance and putting the ball up in his vicinity always helps."

Fitzgerald reeled off a list of players who had helped him be successful. Chief among them was Kurt Warner, whose passing touch and accuracy made Fitzgerald's job so much easier. Warner, who retired after last season, made Fitzgerald a lot of money.

"He made everybody a lot of money," Fitzgerald said.



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# Beware, thieves enjoy Christmastime, too

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer  
Santa won't be the only one making a list and checking it twice this Christmas, as local law enforcement officials warn residents to be extra-vigilant against burglars and other criminals looking to cash in on the holiday.

According to officials with the Big Spring Police Department, the number of reports of burglary of a habitation increase during the holiday season, as criminals look to fill their stockings with other people's gifts.

"We generally see an increase in the number of burglaries during Christmas," Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, said. "Criminals know shoppers are out there buying gifts for their loved ones, and they have no problem with breaking into a home or a car to make away with those items."

"You really hate to think people could be so heartless,

but they can. They couldn't care less if your children have anything under the Christmas tree or not. All they care about is what they can get."

Everett said residents should make every effort to secure their homes and vehicles, not just during the holiday season, but throughout the year.

"Criminals are going to go after whatever is the easiest for them to get to," Everett said. "So, if you leave your purse lying in the front seat of your car, don't be surprised if you find the window broken and it missing. The best thing to do is not leave any kind of valuables in your car at all. However, if you have to leave them in the car, be sure to put them in the trunk, or out of sight."

"The same principle applies to your home. If you leave your window shades open so criminals can see everything you have, chances are they are going to choose your house or apartment over

one where they have no idea what's inside. Double check the locks on all your doors and windows. Dead bolt locks are much more effective at keeping out would-be burglars than locking doorknobs."

Relationships with neighbors can also help spoil burglars' chances of pilfering through homes, according to Everett.

"Talk to your neighbors. You would be surprised what they notice, whether its a car driving by slowly to case the home, or a lookout standing outside," he said. "If you see something suspicious at a neighbors home, call the police immediately. It's much better to err on the side of caution than to find out later a neighbor's home has been burglarized."

Everett said holiday shoppers can also find themselves in the crosshairs of criminals, but, by following some simple rules, can reduce their chances of becoming a victim substantially.

"Be aware of what's going on around you," he stressed. "If you'll sit up at the front doors of Wal-Mart or the mall, you'll see people walking up and down the parking lots just looking in cars. After a minute or two you can tell they're not looking for their car or headed for their car. What they're doing is scoping out the inside of your vehicle to see if you have any packages or purses or anything laying loose like that."

"We also suggest that people keep their doors locked whenever they go inside a store, and make sure you take your keys with you. If someone gets into your car to steal a radio or wallet and they find the keys, you're probably going to lose your car. We generally recover the cars that get stolen around here, but a lot of time they're not in any kind of condition to be driven."

Everett said it may seem downright unholiday-like to be so suspicious this Christmas, but it's much safer to err

on the side of suspicion than to be caught unaware.

"A lot of people will walk outside and in between cars and really not be aware of what's going on around them," said Everett. "You need to pay attention to whether or not people are there or they seem to be watching you. I would rather have someone be suspicious of me if I'm standing out in the parking lot than to not even notice me."

"Also for the ladies with purses, we suggest that they don't just hold them by the strap and just leave them hanging. That makes them really easy to take. If they have straps on them we suggest you keep them over your shoulder so you can keep one arm over them and keep them secure. Also be sure that you don't leave money that's in your purse visible."

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

## Sorta Santa

### Santa lends a knee for surprise marriage proposal

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Santa has conspired with a love-struck California man by lending a knee for a surprise marriage proposal.

Jenny Hoang took a friend's boys to see Santa at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa on Sunday, and she was helping the kids off Santa's lap when Old St. Nick waved her back. Santa told the 27-year-old she's been very good and there's a special gift for her.

Her boyfriend of nine years, Jonathan Nguyen, suddenly emerged, got down on a knee and proposed.

She said yes, then slid off Santa's lap and kneeled down so Jonathan could slip a ring on her finger.

The groom-to-be, who

is also 27, told the Orange County Register he secretly enlisted the help of the shopping mall and Santa to pull off the surprise.

### 'Santa Claus' robs yacht club bar

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Call it a ho-ho-holdup.

Police say a man dressed as Santa Claus has robbed a Rhode Island yacht club.

Authorities say a bartender was alone in the East Providence Yacht Club Sunday night when a large man wearing a red suit, red hat, white beard and carrying a sack walked into the bar and brandished a gun.

The bartender fled and ran to a nearby business where she called 911.

By the time police arrived, the Santa bandit — as well as an undeter-

mined amount of cash from the register — was missing.

Co-owner Tony Perry told WLNE-TV he's just glad no one was hurt.

There were no immediate arrests.

### Thief pays firm for hammer stolen decades ago

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania tool-supply company says somebody mailed a \$45 check to pay for a hammer stolen decades ago.

Lynne Gramling, president of Central Contractors' Supply Co., told the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat that the check arrived earlier this month.

It included an anonymous letter that says the writer stole a hammer 25 to 30 years ago. It reads, "Enclosed is \$45 to cover the hammer

plus a little extra for interest. I'm sorry I stole it, but have changed my ways."

Gramling is donating the money to the Salvation Army.

As for the check, she wants the sender to know: "It was a gift from the heart and I appreciated it."

### 2 women dressed as Santas arrested at Ohio mall

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Police and mall security in Ohio arrested two women dressed as Santa Claus and then cleared out the rest of a group they say was spreading too much holiday cheer.

Miami Township police say Dayton Mall security called them Saturday to help with "an unruly group," including a "large number of people dressed as Santa." The group came

to the mall in two buses as part of "Santarchy," a worldwide event in which people in various cities gather to dress as Santa and publicly have a jolly good time.

Police say some in the Dayton group were intoxicated and sang off-color songs.

Group members say they sang standard Christmas carols and handed out candy to children and gag gifts to adults. They acknowledged some earlier drinking, but denied any criminal conduct.

This was the second year for the Santarchy Dayton, according to

its website. Among its stated rules are ho-ho-ing like Santa and "gotta drink like Santa." The rules warn against messing with children, police, mall security or the mall Santa.

## SAFELY

Continued from Page 1A

going to increase how long it takes to get where you're going."

Everett said planning your trip — as well as your route — ahead of time can really pay off in the event of an emergency.

"If you're traveling to see family, be sure to tell them what your route will be," said Everett. "That makes it a lot easier when we have to go out and look for someone. Also, be sure to keep emergency items in the vehicle, such as first-aid kits and blankets. No one wants to think about what can go wrong out on the road, but it's always a good idea to be prepared."

Officials with the Texas Department of Safety are also urging motorists to be prepared when taking to the roadways, whether driving across town or across the state. "Please drive carefully. Crashes can happen in just a second, so pay attention," said David Baker, assistant director for the Texas Highway Patrol. "We want everyone to arrive safely this weekend. Be patient, slow down and drive sober."

DPS expects a large number of travelers on

the road and encourages drivers to leave themselves plenty of time to get where they're going. Baker said driver's should avoid bad driving habits that lead to road rage, such as:

- Not using turn signals
  - Driving in the passing lane
  - Tailgating, flashing lights or honking
  - Using high beams in traffic
  - Not allowing adequate time for a given trip.
- When confronted with aggressive drivers, the DPS recommends that you:
- Put your pride in the back seat and move aside.

- Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes.
- Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities when the incident occurs.
- Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.
- Make sure everyone is buckled up.

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# Holiday lights can mean more than meets the eye

MARTHA IRVINE

AP National Writer

A string of illuminated glass bulbs, hung for the holidays, may seem like no big deal, so common it's easy to pass them without really noticing. But we humans are simple beings who sometimes communicate best in the most basic ways.

Lights on a cold, dark night can be a welcome, even heartwarming sight. And in gloomy economic times, or other trying circumstances, they can mean even more.

One study found that outdoor holiday displays can tell a lot about a neighborhood. Whether found in wealthy or working-class areas, they represent a community's spirit or "social capital," even indicating how well neighbors care for one another, says David Sloan Wilson, a professor in Binghamton University's departments of biology and anthropology.

"One way that neighborhoods express their feelings of neighborliness is to decorate the house, not the inside but the outside," Wilson says. "It is an expression of goodwill, basically."

A simple gesture, yes — but one that touches and comforts people, and brings them together.

Here are a few stories about the impact holiday lights can have, from a big city neighborhood that united to light its main street to a small town that came together to try to brighten the holiday for a dying boy.

## Sparkling Harlem

It was as if Scrooge had invaded New York's Harlem neighborhood. Or so residents implied.

Facing an impossibly tight budget, the board that oversees the neighborhood's main thoroughfare, 125th Street, made a difficult decision: It cut funding for holiday lights.

When residents saw their normally festive business district looking spiritless, they complained, loudly.

"It was a bad Christmas in the office," recalls Barbara Askins, president and CEO of the 125th Street Business Improvement District. The lack of holiday lights last December had riled residents more than any issue in recent memory.

This year, with the budget woes persisting, Askins had an idea. What if she and her staff could persuade the community to donate the \$60,000 needed to decorate the entire length of the street?

The "Harlem, Light It Up" campaign began this fall, with fundraising parties and even a song and music video.

Big donations came in from nearby Columbia University and the City College of New York. Businesses, churches and community organizations pitched in. Residents gave what they could, the smallest amount \$10.

It added up quickly. And the lights — many of them incorporated in new sparkling decorations of snowflakes and shooting stars — were purchased and installed along the bustling street.

Earlier this month,

on a bitterly cold night, hundreds of people filled a neighborhood plaza for the official lighting. They cheered. They drank cocoa and hot apple cider provided by local businesses.

It had all been worth it, Askins thought, smiling to herself. And the feeling was confirmed the next day when she received an e-mail from a longtime 125th Street resident who thanked her.

The street, the woman wrote, "feels like home now."

## Birds of a Feather

The retirees of Loon Lake Lane and surrounding streets in Lincoln, Calif., are a close flock.

After moving in six years ago, one neighbor handed out wooden cut-outs of ducks that he'd made. People painted them and put them in their yards. Some had lights. Some included tiny ducks to represent their grandchildren.

By the time they finished, there were 99 ducks.

Imagine, then, what it's like during the holidays at this retirement village north of Sacramento.

There's a time each year when everyone lines the streets with "luminarias," small lanterns made with brown paper bags filled with a bit of sand and a tea light candle. And folks put out decorative deer — then kid each other when a wind gust blows one over. But what neighbors have always liked are strings of lights.

Trouble was, rising utility bills were cramping the styles of these retirees — until they noticed the solar panels going up at Tom Zurek's house two years ago. Before long, several in the flock followed.

Now 85 percent of their electric power comes from the sun gathered by a system called Sun-Run, and holiday displays on Loon Lake Lane are among the most lavish in the area.

Some have gone "absolutely crazy" with lights, Zurek says. As the holidays approach, the neighbors, who normally play golf or get together for poker, share electrical cords and assistance.

"Everybody is here to help everybody," the 62-year-old retiree says. "It's just a cohesive group. I've never been in a social environment like this one."

Zurek, who monitors their solar power supply, says this year his electric bills have totaled less than \$100, even with all the holiday lights.

## Lights, With Honor

Matt Matdes, a New York firefighter, knows all about heroes.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, he and his co-workers have become symbols of bravery for a nation. But for him, it's all about the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces.

Matdes still remembers his grandfather talking about going off to World War II and missing his first Christmas with his own son, Matdes' father. So Matdes, who also owns a seasonal decorations store on the side, was quick to volunteer when he heard about the Decorated Family Program for military families that his store's parent company began seven years ago.

He gathered up his brother and some buddies one recent Saturday and headed to Hempstead, N.Y., to put string after string of lights on the home of Shelia Irby, a member of the Air Force reserve. All of the decorations were donated by him.

They were there because Irby's 21-year-old son had submitted his mom's name, since she had been away for the past two Christmases on active duty.

"This is our first real Christmas together in a long time," son Rayvon Johnson, a college student, says. "I wanted it to be special."

He also wanted the lights to be a surprise, so Matdes and his crew put them up when Irby was away for the weekend.

"Oh my goodness! Oh my goodness!" she exclaimed when she first saw the lights, which trimmed the roof line and windows.

She took photos of them. She hugged her son.

And even now, she continually peeks out at the lights and finds herself smiling.

"Lights, to me, are about joy," she says. "And to know that someone did this for me — well, that makes it even more special."

## 'One Last Christmas'

There was nothing more doctors could do for 2-year-old Dax Locke. So his devastated parents brought him back to their central Illinois home, in October last year.

All they could hope for, at that point, was to have one last Christmas with their son, who had a rare form of leukemia.

Julie Locke remembers hating to leave the security of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, where Dax had undergone two unsuccessful bone marrow transplants. She hadn't heard much from anyone from home in a few days.

"Are they forgetting about Dax?" she wondered.

Then she and husband Austin drove into their neighborhood in Washington, Ill., a small town outside Peoria. It wasn't even Halloween, and yet the houses were covered in red, green and white holiday lights and decorations — all of it for Dax.

The Lockes broke down and cried as they looked at all the lights, some spelling out Dax's name.

When their rosy-cheeked, towheaded little boy awoke, even as sick as he was, he grinned with delight.

Neighbor Trish Hurtgen had no idea that the decorations would spread through town the way they did, even going up in other parts of the country and on overseas military bases.

She had simply made a flyer and gone door to door with her family, asking nearby neighbors to decorate for Dax.

"I can't say that we

ever expected it to be what it turned out to be. But that's often how life is. Sometimes people respond in ways you'd never imagine."

Dax did live to see that last Christmas. He died Dec. 30, 2009, in a hospital room near his home that nurses also decorated with strings of multi-colored lights.

His story and the community's response inspired Matthew West, a Nashville-based singer, to write a newly released song titled "One Last Christmas." It's one of many ways people are supporting a fund the Lockes started in hopes of raising \$1.6 million, enough money to run the St. Jude hospital for one day. So far, the Lockes have raised about \$250,000.

This will not be an easy Christmas for them. There is no tree in their home, only stacks of presents that Julie Locke has purchased and wrapped for children from disadvantaged homes.

"Before all of this, I was no gem about helping others," the 26-year-old mom concedes. "I've definitely changed, definitely grown up."

She can't begin to repay the kindness that people have showed them — the hot meals, the stacks of packages left on their doorstep. Cookies and cards, many of them from people they don't even know, continue to arrive even now.

This year, a few holiday lights also started appearing early at houses around their home. There weren't nearly as many as last year, but still enough to know that Dax is not forgotten. One neighbor wrapped lights around the swing set the boy loved so much.

The Lockes find comfort in these silent expressions of support for their family, which now includes a new baby, Madeline.

One day, she will hear the story of her big brother — the boy who lit up a neighborhood.

Online:

"One Last Christmas" song and video: <http://bit.ly/gwWuVF>

Dax Locke site: <http://stj.convio.net/goto/Dax.Locke>

"Harlem, Light It Up" video: <http://bit.ly/eoNE6d>

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while we were still sinners."  
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# Church News

## First United Methodist Church

This evening First Methodist Church will hold two Christmas Eve Candlelight services, the first at 6 p.m. The second service, for those who work late or have just arrived back home will be at 10 p.m. These are perhaps the most beautiful, most special services of the year as families gather to remember the reason for the season and to observe this Christmas tradition of attending church as the beginning of their celebration.

This week Sunday School classes will be held at 10 a.m. with only one service of worship following at 11 a.m. Pastor Sharon Wiese will bring the message, "Unto You A Child is Born." The children will celebrate Jesus' birthday and will have a blessing of their toys during the children's sermon. There will be beautiful Christmas music featuring special guest musicians.

This season our church has been blessed with beautiful music in many forms. The Living Christmas Tree, last Sunday's special presentation featuring the chancel choir, Crown of Thorns praise group and guest musicians and the congregation lending their voices to familiar hymns has been a true gift of time and talent.

Please note the office schedule for the holidays — the offices will be closed through Monday, reopening on Tuesday. For the New Years holiday, offices will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 30, and reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 4. Both the noon Bible study and luncheon, as well as Children's Day Out program, will resume regular schedule on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

From the pastor, staff and congregation of First United Methodist Church, we send Christmas blessings to one and all. May your day be filled with love and thanksgiving for God's gift of His Son.

## Chapel of Faith

You are invited to attend Chapel of Faith church, located at the corner of E. 14th and Goliad streets, as we learn more about God's word and His love for each of us.

We will be having communion Friday at 6:30 p.m. The Rev. Scott Willis' message will be "God Clothed in Human Flesh." Please invite family and friends.

The Rev. Scott Willis will be preaching this Sunday. The title of his sermon is, "The Holy Name of Jesus," based on Matthew 2:1-23. Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m.

Encouraging words: "Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart..." — Washington Irving

We encourage you to attend the church of your choice. However, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to visit the Chapel of Faith. You will be warmly welcomed.

Remember, God loves each of us so much that He sent His son to die for our sins that we might live for Him now and with Him eternally.

## First Presbyterian Church, 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.

The weekly Lectionary Bible Study, led by Tom and the Rev. Craig Holstedt, at FPC Big Spring at 5:17 p.m. on Wednesdays will not meet Dec. 29.

We will have a Christmas Eve worship service in the sanctuary beginning at 11 tonight to welcome in Christmas Day.

The lectionary for Christmas Eve is Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; and Luke 2:1-20.

The lectionary for the first Sunday after Christmas is Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; and Matthew 2:13-23.

We wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

## First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible Study, led by the Rev. Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, which usually meets at 5:17 p.m. in the church library on Wednesdays, will not meet on Dec. 29. The choir met at 5 p.m. Thursday to prepare for the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

The Encouragers Support Group met Monday in the fellowship hall for its Christmas party. The Session met at 6 p.m. in the church library for the monthly meeting.

The combined group with our youth and those from St. Mary's Episcopal and First Christian will meet in our fellowship hall Wednesday, Jan. 5. A sign-up sheet is available for people to offer to provide supper for the group each week.

Jennifer Patterson will provide refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday morning; ushers for the month are Joe and Patti Horton, Sue Carter and Louise Hitch. The youth — Shawn Walker, Donavan Salinas and Charlie Boling — served as liturgists last Sunday.

The traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service begins at 6 p.m. this evening. Along with Christmas hymns and lectionary, the choir will offer "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High" by Michael Pavone and "Arise, Shine, Jesus Has Come" by Becky Slagle Mayo.

The lectionary for the first Sunday after Christmas is Isaiah 63:7-19; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; and Matthew 2:13-23. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The choir will offer "A Christmas Antiphonal" by Hal Hopson; during the offertory they will sing "Silent Is the Night" by Jay Althouse. The Noisy Offering will be collected during the service. This offering goes to help feed the hungry in our community and around the world.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST AM 1490, 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 website: [www.fpcbs.org](http://www.fpcbs.org). On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Holstedt.

The staff and membership of First Presbyterian wish everyone a happy celebration of the nativity of Jesus Christ and a blessed New Year.

## Signal Mountain Emmaus Community

The Signal Mountain Emmaus Community Gathering is the second Thursday of each month at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 N. Birdwell. Babe chick meeting is at 6:30 p.m., Worship at 7 p.m.

The next meeting will be Jan. 13.

At this month's gathering we are having a make-up reunion. We want to honor all pilgrims and LDs unable to attend their reunion. We also want to honor all those who attended walks outside our community. Please join us for a potluck meal at 6 p.m.

For more information, go to [Signal-Emmaus.org](http://Signal-Emmaus.org)

## East Fourth Street Baptist Church

We invite you to attend our Christmas Eve service, silent Lord's Supper in honor of the King of Kings.

Service will begin at 7 this evening. Our Sunday morning services will begin with Sunday school at 9:45 and worship at 11. Our evening service has been dismissed for this Sunday.

East Fourth Street Baptist is located at 401 E. Fourth St. Our pastor is the Rev. Keith Weaver. Come and let us share this time of worship with you. For more information, call the church office at 267-2291.

## Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

Our motto is "Celebrating and sharing God's love and grace in our lives." We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood subdivision in Big Spring. Our phone number is 264-7818. Our website is [www.lutheran-online.com/aliveinchristbstx](http://www.lutheran-online.com/aliveinchristbstx).

We would love to have you join us for church on Sundays at 9 a.m. with Sunday school at 10:15.

Pastor Don Rosentreter will be preaching this Sunday. The sermon title will be "The Gift that Keeps on Giving" from Luke 2:1-12.

Angela Newton is our organist. This week's acolyte will be McKenna Alsbrooks. Our elders are Richard von Hassell and Richard Knocke. The liturgy will be read by Richard Knocke. The readings are Isaiah 63:7-14, Psalm 111, Galatians 4:4-7 and Matthew 2:13-23.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated the beautiful poinsettias that adorn our altar area this

# The Christmas miracle

It's a miracle! After several years of trying to watch the Christmas movie

classic, *Miracle on 34th Street*, without being interrupted or falling asleep on the couch, I finally saw the movie — end to beginning. Thanks to the back-to-back scheduling of the movie channel, I have now pieced together the whole story. It is a heart-warming tale about a disillusioned mother, a skeptical child, an idealistic young lawyer and a wise old man named Kris Kringle who believes that he is Santa Claus.

As the story entangles and unravels, the white-bearded Mr. Kringle makes a significant statement about faith to a little girl named Susan. The

quote, attributed to George Seaton, who directed the movie, says "Faith is believing in things when common sense tells you not to."

As I think about this definition of faith, I am reminded of another young woman who was given some unbelievable news. In the Bible, the gospel writer Luke tells how Gabriel, the Angel of the Lord, appeared to a girl named Mary. According to the Scripture, Gabriel came to Mary, addressing her as the "favored one." After calming Mary by telling her not to be afraid of seeing an angel and reminding her that God was with her, Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive and bear a son who was to be named Jesus. Her baby would be great, and He would be called the Son of the Most High. He would sit on the throne of this father David and reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom would have no end.

When Mary ques-

tioned the angel about how all this could be, she was told: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God ... For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 2:35, 37 NASB).

As we celebrate Christmas this year, with or without Santa and all the clatter and clutter that he brings, perhaps we, like Kris Kringle in the movie about a *Miracle on 34th Street*, should remember that faith is believing when common sense tells us not to. A miracle has happened on your street and on mine. It's the miracle of a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger — a gift for all those who believe that nothing is impossible with God.

*Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at [brwheat@suddenlink.net](mailto:brwheat@suddenlink.net).*



BONNIE WHEAT

Sunday. Your generous and loving spirit is the foundation of our church and a testament to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last Sunday our congregational Christmas party was very well attended. All who came enjoyed the fellowship, laughter and wonderful and delicious foods. Thank you to all of the cooks, planners and preparers for this fun-filled evening.

The Children/Congregational Christmas Celebration that was held Wednesday had a new twist to the time-cherished story of the birth of Jesus. Thank you to all of the children,

readers, soloists and everyone who worked behind the scenes and made this a special evening. Thank you to the Board of Education for preparing the "goody" bags.

Remember the Christmas Eve service will be held at 6 tonight. Pastor Carroll Kohl's sermon, "God's Saving Love Frees Me," will be based on Isaiah 9:2-9 and Luke 2:1-20. Bobby Roever will be reading the lessons. Please join us. Communion will be served.

On Sundays, the adults are still studying the meanings behind the

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 6A

## The Heritage Museum Board of Directors, Nancy Raney and Tammy Schrecengost would like to thank each of you that participated and patronized the Heritage Museum during our Arts At The Museum, Christmas Tree Forest, Angel Art Show and Breakfast with Santa.

### A special thank you goes to:

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**CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** located in Austin, TX seeks an experienced Commercial Superintendent for a remodel project at the VA Hospital in Big Springs, TX. Must have previous experience as lead foreman/super and a minimum of 5 yrs experience with OSHA certification. We are looking to fill this position immediately. Send resumes to resumessa2010@aol.com.

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Must have a current license. Bilingual a plus. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/applications to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM RD 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. EOE. No phone calls please.

**NEW FULL-TIME Position: Certified Medical Assistant-** In a busy community health center in Lamesa. The Certified Medical Assistant works as part of the clinic provider team and assists the physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in the provision of primary health care. The Clinic Nurse provides limited direct patient services and performs specifically designated independent procedures.

Must have a current license. Bilingual a plus. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/applications to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM RD 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. EOE. No phone calls please.

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### Instructional

#### HOT ITEM!!

Bellydance class starting Tuesday January 4th Big Spring YMCA 7:30pm. Ladies 18-80. \$45/month. Contact Victoria 432-230-5456 (after 12/28) or victoria.white.cotton@gmail.com for information.

### Items for Sale

**NIX SHELLED** Pecans. Will deliver in town. Call 432-267-1180 or 816-4644.

**SEASONED OAK** Firewood. \$325.00 Full Cord & \$180.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

### Lost and Found

**LOST MALE** boxer, brown & white, no collar, Kentwood area, call 432-517-4772.

### Pets

**FREE PUPPIES,** boxer/shepard mix, call 432-816-9208.

**FREE TO** good home small mixed breed dog, 7 months old. Call (432)213-6659.

**NEED LOVING** home, 3 month old male kitten and 7 month old female kitten with shots, for more information call 432-213-4466, 263-3868.

### Real Estate for Rent

**1101 DOUGLAS--** Very Clean 1 Bdrm, Central Heat/Air, washer, dryer, stove and refrigerator. References required. \$600. month, \$600. deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

**1635 SQ.** ft office space for lease at 1308 Scurry, Suite A. Completely remodeled, ample parking. Would make great Dr. office or clinic. Call (432)714-4001 for details or viewing.

**2 SMALL** Houses- 3 Bdrm & 2 Bdrm. \$500. each. Call Diane 951-797-3752.

**3/2 HOUSE,** Forsan ISD, on 3 acres. \$1,000.00 month, \$1000.00 deposit. Spacious w/stove, fenced, carport, horse stalls & more. References Required. Call (432)816-9130 or (432)935-3457.

**403 GALVESTON** 75x50 Shop/Warehouse with large fenced yard. \$750/\$750. Call (432)213-2319.

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING** 1903 Gregg Street. Recently Remodeled. \$500.00 Month, \$500.00 deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

### Real Estate for Rent

**419 WESTOVER-** Nearly Remodeled 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, 1 car garage. Large family room & den. Great neighborhood. \$925 a month, \$800 deposit. Call (432)770-1430.

**4200 PARKWAY,** 3 bdr/1bth, newly remodeled, with carport, fenced yard, no pets, non-smoker preferred, no HUD, \$800.00 month, \$500.00 deposit, call 432-270-3849.

**BUILDING FOR** Rent- 501 East 1st Street (Big Spring). \$350 month, \$350 deposit & 1 year lease required. Please contact Lucy (432)263-5000 for more information.

**BUY or RENT** 1 Thru 6 bdrm Homes. 24 Hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, Pool with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Rosa.

**COUNTRY LIVING.** Just outside city limits. 1 Bedroom with CH/A, washer & dryer. Call (432)263-7769 for more info.

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No application fees  
Senior Discounts  
1425 East 6th Street  
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Smaller 3 Bdrm/1 bath. **NEW** carpet, refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer. Fenced yard, Pets Okay. \$595.00 Month, \$595.00 deposit, Call 210-464-7879 before noon or after 8pm.

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\*Varies Discounts  
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### Real Estate for Sale

**900 ACRES** 1.5 miles of Colorado River, Highly improved. Saba County. Beautiful Game Ranch. \$4,500,000.00. OBO. Must Sell. Call 903-326-4851, 903-872-2022 or 325-623-5651.

### Real Estate for Sale

**HERE'S FLORIDA!** Florida Manufactured Home Magazine. A guide to finding and buying a manufactured home in the Sunshine State. Call to request your FREE copy today! Toll Free: 1-888-739-3530 Or Visit our website www.flmanufacturedhomes.com

**NEW 3BDR/** 2bath on half acre lot. Forsan ISD, \$3975 down, \$588 a month. WAC. 432-517-0062.

### Vehicles

**1996 TOYOTA** Camary LE. Good shape. One Owner. 4 Cylinder. \$2,000.00. Call 254-780-6618.

### Legals

**AGENDA**  
Glasscock County Independent School District Board of Education  
Public Meeting  
To Discuss The 2010 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)  
January 10, 2011  
7:00 pm  
Boardroom of Administration Building (308 West Chambers, Garden City, Texas)  
1. The Public Meeting will be combined with the regular scheduled meeting of the board of trustees.  
#6784 December 17 & 24, 2010

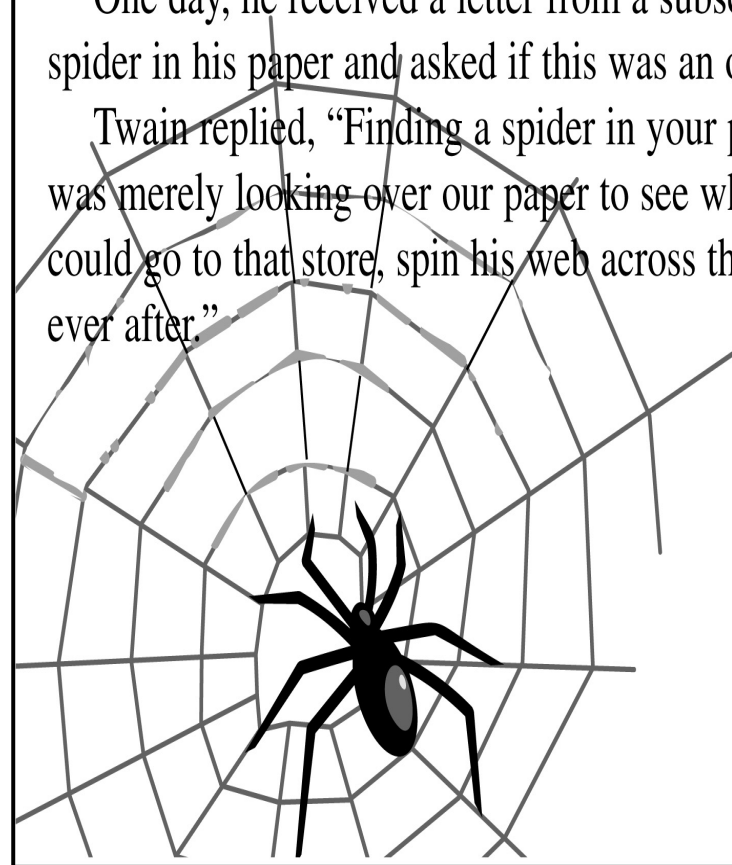
**DON'T PAY** to find work before you get the job. For free information about avoiding employment service scams, write the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 800-876-7060.

# The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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# Yes, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** "Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Philip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) Sun in September, 1897. Her Letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcelius Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" — the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897 and has since been produced in every conceivable form, in every quarter of the globe.

The publication of Virginia's question and Francis Pharcelius Church's response is an annual tradition at the *Herald*. We hope you enjoy it.

...

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

*"Dear Editor:  
I am 8 years old.  
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Clause.  
Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.'  
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia O'Hanlon,  
115 West 95th Street"*

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There

would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

# Keep Jesus in the center of your heart

In the Bible, the birth of Jesus is recounted very eloquently in the Gospel of Luke. Here we are taught of Mary, the young betrothed girl who is chosen to be the mother of God's only son. This story has been told throughout the ages with Jesus at center stage (as it should be), Mary, the shepherds and the wise men in supporting roles. Joseph is barely mentioned but his obedience to God was integral to the events leading up to and after the birth of Christ.

College Baptist Church Pastor Ken McMeans

used a one-man performance to enlighten us to the role Joseph accepted as the betrothed of Mary. Entering the sanctuary in simple period tunic, robe and sandals, Pastor McMeans took us on a journey back in time to visit a simple carpenter betrothed to a young girl whom he believes has betrayed and dishonored him — a kind man who even before he knows the truth chooses a path of honor. Joseph chose to put Mary away quietly so no harm would come to her or the child she carried. By rights he could have had her stoned to death for being with child before they were married, but he didn't. Enters the angel to impart a divine truth to Joseph, his betrothed did not betray him but had accepted the role of mother to God's only son.

People talk, they always do, so everyone knew Mary was pregnant and she wasn't yet married to Joseph. Yet here he was, standing with her. Was he the father or was she seeing someone behind his back? Whispers, everywhere he turned, whispers; still, Joseph carried on. Then the decree from Caesar stating every man must go to his ancestral home to be counted in a census. He couldn't leave Mary. He wasn't under law to take her but he couldn't leave her at the mercy of those who believed she had betrayed him. There was no telling what they would do to her and the child while he was gone; she must travel with him. So they set out. What a trip, having to stop often for rest and ... well, let's just say traveling with a pregnant woman is an experience and one that usually puts you late to your destination.

They arrived in Bethlehem late and Mary was telling him the time had come. Frantic, anxious, frustrated and angry, he asked everyone for a place to stay. How could this be? This was God's plan but He hadn't reserved them a proper place to stay? The son of God couldn't be born in a place for animals! No time to worry about that, the child is coming, now! All done, everything cleaned up, everything done but there is still only him and Mary and the

child, Jesus. Joseph looks at this helpless baby, God's son, and realizes God expects him to raise His child. How do you teach and guide the son of God? He is so tiny yet he holds the hope of the world within his little body. Joseph reaches out to touch the child, pulls his hand back unsure of how to approach the Savior.

Many fathers approach their newborn children with uncertainty and even a little fear so how do you approach the realization that the child you will raise is the son of God? Can you teach them your trade knowing that someday he will be called to fulfill a destiny that will save the world? Joseph took on a job larger than life yet his role is reduced to a few verses in the Gospel of Matthew. By bringing Joseph to life for a short time we are drawn into the truth that God came to us in the flesh and He did this so we would know He has experienced human life firsthand.

May you have a wonderful Christmas filled with joy and love and may you remember to keep Jesus in the center of your heart and celebrations this day and all year.

Have a wonderful day! —Kathy Daniels

### Keeping Christmas

Christmas time is here again,  
Time for fun, family, and friends;  
Lots of gifts, and food galore,  
Ribbons, bows, lights, and more,  
But before the festivities begin,  
Bend your knee and give thanks to Him.  
For this time when love abounds,  
Came about because Christ came down;  
Down to earth, His gift to share,  
Everlasting life to all men, everywhere.  
So keep this season of our Lord,  
And this New Year go out and spread His word.

Note: College Baptist Church will have a Christmas Eve service at 6 tonight. Everyone is invited.

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Bidding Quiz

**You are South**, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:  
**North** East **South** West  
 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass  
 1♠ Pass ?

**What would you bid now** with each of the following five hands?

- ♠AK♥KQ982♦94♣Q973
- ♠875♥AJ86♦AQ3♣KQ4
- ♠K6♥QJ9743♦QJ8♣A6
- ♠J94♥AJ763♦J75♣52
- ♠QJ72♥AQ762♦K5♣K8

(Today's quiz assumes that you are playing jump-bids by responder on the second round are forcing to game. If you play that such jumps are merely invitational, some of your responses would be different than those given here.)

\*\*\*

- Three clubs.** With an opening bid opposite an opening bid, this is obviously a game-going hand, but the best contract is unclear at the moment.  
 Three clubs (forcing) informs partner of your values and makes him aware that you are interested in reaching game in clubs, hearts or notrump, depending on his hand.
- Three notrump.** This shows balanced distribution (no void or singleton) and 16 or 17 points, and therefore is a mild slam try. Two notrump would show 13 to 15 points and limited interest in a slam.
- Three hearts.** Here you can play game in notrump if your partner is so inclined, but you should first shoot for game in hearts, since you have a six-card suit. If partner can't support hearts and bids three notrump, you intend to pass.
- Pass.** The chance of making a game is remote, so the only real problem is to find the best partscore contract. There is no good reason to think that searching for a better spot than one spade would pay dividends. Partner might take any further action by you seriously, and it would be wrong to run such a risk unnecessarily.

Note that the opening bidder's change of suit is not forcing. The forcing principle applies only when responder names a new suit.

- Four spades.** A jump to three spades would show 13 to 15 points, so four spades shows 16 to 17 and at least mild interest in a slam. In these cases, distributional points are added to the raw high-card values.  
 The sequence in question is completely different from the case where dealer opens with one spade and responder jumps to four spades, which announces lots of trumps and distribution but very limited high-card strength.

**Tomorrow:** Guilty or not guilty?  
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## CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

various symbols of our church. The Sunday school lesson is over the evangelists, apostles and their symbols within the church.

The youth lessons are Bible-based material and are beginning with Genesis. This Sunday, the youth will study Jacob's Dream (Genesis 27:41-28:22).

Mid Week classes have been postponed until the new year.

A website offered by The Lutheran Hour Ministries is at [www.jcplayzone.com](http://www.jcplayzone.com) and promises fun and Christian educational based games and videos.

Merry Christmas to all of our wonderful guests, friends and neighbors. May God continue to bless you during this time and the coming New Year.

Scheduled meetings include: Jan. 10, the LWML will serve refreshments at the VA; the Board of Education will meet Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at the church. The LWML will meet Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. at the church. The Elders meet Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at the church.

**Cordially Invite You to Attend our Services**

### TRINITY BAPTIST

1701 E. FM 700 267-6344

*"I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month."*

*(Better Homes and Garden)*

**Randy Cotton**  
Pastor

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Service broadcast over KBYG 1400 AM on your dial	Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evangelistic Service.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.
--	--

### Holy Trinity Catholic Parish

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, serves the Howard County Catholic faith community. Our church office is located at 610 S. Main in Big Spring. Our office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can reach us at 432-714-4930. E-mail us at [htcch@crcom.net](mailto:htcch@crcom.net) or fax us at 432-714-4932.

Our new mass schedule for those interesting in attending our services is:

Saturday services is at 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus campus, 508 N. Aylesford.

Sunday services are at:

8:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus campus (bilingual service).

10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary campus, 1009 Horn St.

Confessions are offered on Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus campus before mass.

Upcoming holiday services are as follows:

Las Posada – Preparing for La Natividad, a tradition that dates back to the 16th century. Includes a procession led by children, adults and musicians. Day 1 was Dec. 22, beginning at 2203 Runnels, on to 2100 Merrily and 2612 Cindy. Day 2, was Dec. 23,

beginning at 508 Father Delaney, then to 504 N. Doublas and ending at Sacred Heart Parish for the Christmas Eve mass and refreshments.  
 Mass schedule: Christmas Eve, 5 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish and 10 p.m. at Immaculate Heart Parish.  
 Christmas Day: 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

### ANSWERS

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



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# PARENT'S CORNER: The origins of Santa Claus

There are some very interesting stories about the beginning of "Santa Claus" that I would like to share with you.

Santa comes to us from several sources. There is one very old Finnish legend of an evil gnome with god-like powers, named Joulupukki who was originally a really bad guy. He came from the north, flying (or riding) on possibly a buck since joulupukki means yule buck.

He would demand gifts from the people of Finland and if these gifts were not satisfactory, Joulupukki would wreak havoc upon the people.

There is a similar tradition in Iceland where a family of evil ogres (called Jolasveinar), who would capture and allegedly eat the children, if the gifts of the people were not satisfactory.

In time, the story was changed such that only naughty children were captured. This story was apparently perpetuated to make children behave.

Then there is a story of a man-like god named Thor (in some countries he was known as the Yule Elf). He had bright red hair

and flew through the air in his chariot being drawn by two goats.

He was a benevolent god who would bestow gifts to humans in return for porridge, especially around winter solstice. It was said that red was "his" color.

Kriss Kringle is said to be a modification of the German word: Kristkindl, which means Christ Child. In Germanic countries, the Christ Child is said to visit good little children with gifts around Christmas time.

Apparently there was never a real person named Kriss Kringle and the Christ child never really went around giving gifts to children; however, there allegedly was a Catholic Bishop named

Nicholas, who was stationed in Myra, in present-day Turkey, who was said to have been extremely benevolent to children.

After his death he was beatified by the pope and he became the patron saint of children.

In Great Britain, Santa is known as Father Christmas, but his direct ancestor is a spirit who regularly appeared in medieval times. The old-fashioned Father Christmas was depicted wearing long robes with sprigs of holly in his long white hair. Children write letters to Father Christmas detailing their requests, but instead of dropping them in the mailbox, the letters are tossed into the fireplace. The draft carries the letters up the chimney, and

theoretically, Father Christmas reads the smoke. (I wonder if that's where the Indians got the idea of smoke signals?)

From the English we get a story to explain the custom of hanging stockings from the mantelpiece; Fa-

ther Christmas once dropped some gold coins while coming down the chimney and the coins would have fallen through the ash grate and been lost if they hadn't landed in a stocking that had been hung out to dry.

Since that time we

have continued to hang out stockings in hopes of finding them filled with gifts. Aren't stories fun to learn and remember?

*Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.*



DARRELL RYAN

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At this special time of year, we'd like to express our gratitude to our many good neighbors, along with our sincere best wishes for a very merry and bright holiday season to all.



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Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we wish our Patients and Friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From Dr. Shroff and his Staff




L to R: April Martinez, Dee Clawson, LVN, Christina Menchaca, Paragna Shroff, Dr. Shroff. Not present, Angie Martinez.




218579


## Christmas Coloring Contest Winners!



**Ryleigh Pirraglia**  
Age 5



**Logan Terrazas**  
Age 9



**Nathan Letz**  
Age 10

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# Dear Margo

by Margo Howard

## He Cannot Sell Her on the Cell

Dear Margo: I'm writing to complain about my girlfriend and her use of the cell phone. But this is not what you think.

Her daughter and I are frustrated because she doesn't use her cell phone! She buries her phone in her purse and never thinks about it when home at night.

I can't tell you the number of evenings I've wanted to share some tidbit of my day, only to get voice mail. The disappointment isn't worth it, and I've pretty much given up calling her at night.

It doesn't stop there. Her daughter and I have equal frustration with text messaging.

For example, when out at the mall, it is really convenient to shoot a quick text like: "@nordys meet me in shoes 5min."

But as you can guess, she never checks her phone, so this means we spend 30 minutes wandering through the mall trying to find her.

I know it is popular to rage about how rude people are with cell phones. While I'm not suggesting taking calls during dinner, there are two sides to every story.

Her attitude seems to be that cell phones and text messages are silly gadgets and mature adults don't use them. What do you think: Do

we have a right to complain? — *Dating a Dinosaur*

**Dear Date:** Your bum luck, you have written about your predicament to another dinosaur!

I forget to turn my phone on, for two years I didn't even know its number, and I needed "tutoring" on how to text in order to be in touch with one of my kids.

My cell phone message repeats that of my friend Dahlia: "You have reached the bottom of Margo's handbag."

We dinosaurs are trainable, however. When I travel or am in a huge store with my husband, I make it a point to turn the thing on.

I think your girlfriend might accept this compromise. Maybe you three could name it "Nurdy's Rule." Good luck. — *Margo, wirelessly*

## Here's What She Said

**Dear Margo:** Ha! I am the dinosaur girlfriend, and this would be my answer if I were writing as you: Really?

This is the worst thing you can think of to say about your girlfriend? That she doesn't constantly use her phone and have it on?

Do you realize how many men would kill to be in your shoes?

I suggest you think about how truly fortunate you are to have someone who hangs on your every word (no matter that you are often misguided or mistaken) as opposed to chatting with or texting her friends while you

struggle to get her attention.

Why don't you write back to me sometime when you have a REAL problem? — *Margo, Rolling Eyes in Disbelief*

**Dear Roll:** It is unusual — and fun — for me to hear both sides of a story. Each of the three

The Leo moon brings a whopping dose of heart to the day's festivities, and the Capricorn sun shines on our traditions. Pulitzer Prize-winning Aries Ellen Goodman wrote, "Traditions are the guideposts driven deep in our subconscious minds. The most powerful ones are those we can't even describe, aren't even aware of."

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You respect words and have a rich vocabulary. You'll pick up a few more choice terms as you spend time with a book or in conversation with a particularly expressive someone.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). If you never reflect on your past, you won't have an understanding of how far you've come. But if you spend too much time reflecting, you won't go anywhere new. Strike a balance.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have an excellent imagination, though today you won't have the luxury of letting it run wild. You'll need to tame it in order to concentrate on the important business of the day.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You like order, but you're not a slave to it. When things get out of place, don't rush to clean up the mess. Savor it first. It's evidence that change and growth, essentially

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22).

of you — you, your daughter and the boyfriend — has a valid point. I do, however, think you all can meet in the middle somewhere. (See "Nurdy's Rule.")

Just as an aside, I prefer our way (yours and mine) to that of people who have their cell

phones glued to an ear and think nothing of talking any time, any place, to whoever calls. Prime example of bad behavior: Robert Gibbs, from the White house, was on live TV texting! — *Margo, conservatively*

*Dear Margo is written*

by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to [dearmargo@creators.com](mailto:dearmargo@creators.com). Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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MARGO HOWARD



HOLIDAY MATHIS

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

You have been known to leave your belongings in other people's territory. This reminds them of you after you have left. But will the remembrance be positive? That depends on what you leave behind.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The work that's before you is rather exacting. Luckily for everyone involved, you find this kind of thing relaxing. In one afternoon, you'll get through what would take others a week to accomplish.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your public image gets a boost now. You don't mind being the center of attention, especially when you are the one most qualified to explain or exemplify the main reason for the gathering.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are highly responsible and wouldn't dream of shirking your duties. However, when someone offers to handle a responsibility, there's no reason why you shouldn't share the burden.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a time to say "let's go" and a time to say "no, thanks." You're no stranger to trouble, but you know better than to seek it out. A friend who is less experienced will need your guidance.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you usually find it appropriate and necessary to put business first and emotions second, your heart is softer now — so soft, in fact, that you may be able to feel the feelings of others.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't like to talk a lot and draw attention to yourself. However, there are

times when it's important for you to speak up — like today, when you have the information that everyone else needs to know.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You tend to be quiet around people you don't know, especially when those people are boisterous and rowdy. As much as you'd like to join the party, you have to first be sure that it's a party worth joining.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 24). The friendships that mean so much to you make for laughs, fun times and travel. But you're also more business oriented than ever. You find goals that excite you and pursue them with passion. Your vision becomes more real because of the work you do in January. Greater freedom is yours in March. Leo and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 14, 32 and 49.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** ARIES: You'll get rid of what is unnecessary in order to make room for the new. TAURUS: You ask questions with a positive theme and get answers that draw people in close. GEMINI: A challenging person will make you work hard to win his or her heart — then again, you love a challenge. CANCER: Others are drawn to your comfortable, beautiful home. LEO: You admire someone who has lived through rough times. You make his or her life easier. VIRGO: You charm your beloved because you are courteous, well mannered and genuine. LIBRA: You'll have much to contribute to the conversation because you're up on

the times. SCORPIO: Your drive is so attractive to a certain ambitious someone. SAGITTARIUS: You're easy to talk to, and someone will open up to you like never before. CAPRICORN: You are exciting because of the control you have over your emotions. You can be warm or cool, whichever the situation calls for. AQUARIUS: Trusting others consumes less energy than doubting them. PISCES: You're often lucky, and if you're not, you smile and shrug it off knowing there is always next time. Because of this habit, you'll be luckier still.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** With the sun in Capricorn and the moon in Leo, these two signs come into the spotlight. This is not a coupling that is so easily figured out. But when they work together to establish rules and routines on which they can agree, they collectively become a force in the world that is greater than the sum of its parts. Together, they become healthier and more creative, popular and successful than they were alone.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).  
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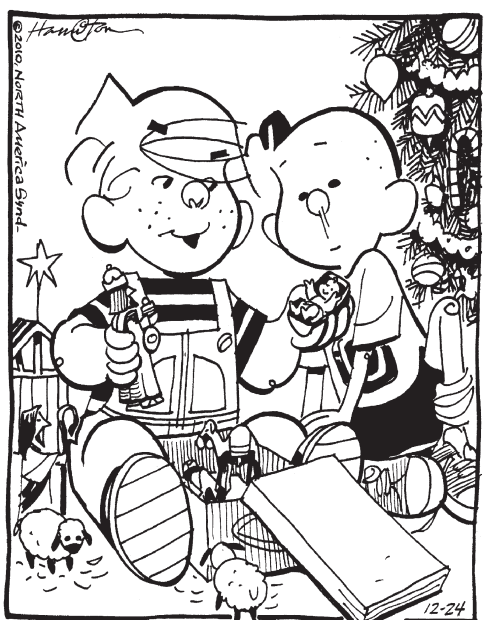
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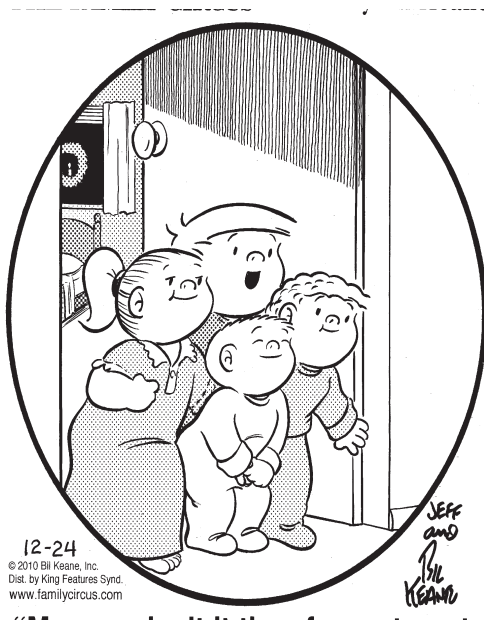
Table with 29 columns representing different TV stations and their programming schedules for the day of Dec 24, 2010.

DENNIS THE MENACE



HERE'S A WISE MAN, SOME SHEEP, AN' LOOK! IT'S BABY JESUS IN A CAR SEAT!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

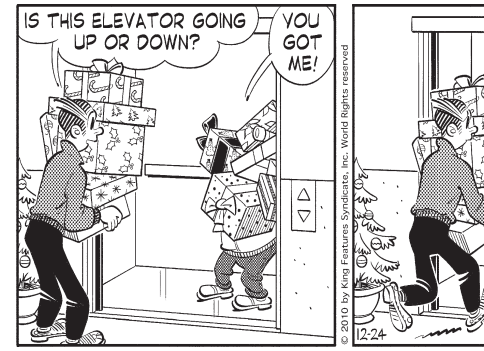


Mommy, isn't it time for us to get nestled all snug in our beds?

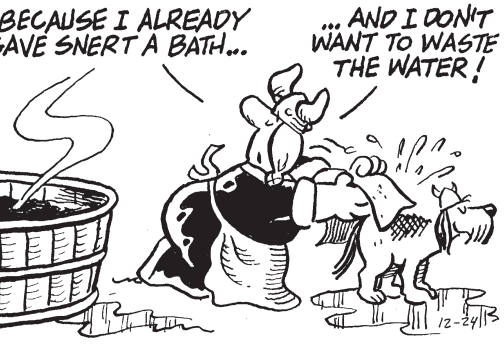
HAGAR



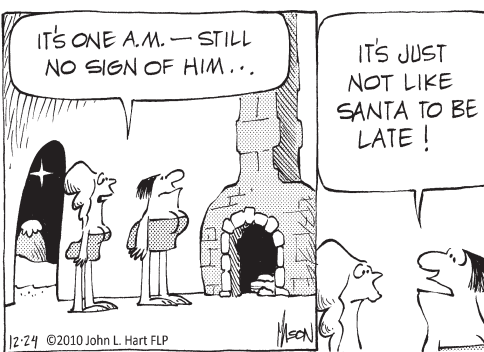
BLONDIE



BECAUSE I ALREADY GAVE SNERT A BATH...



BC



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2010. There are 7 days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast. On this date: In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama — who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India — died in Cochin, India. In 1809, legendary American frontiersman Christopher "Kit" Carson was born in Madison County, Ky. In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium. In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn. called the Ku Klux Klan. In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation Overlord. In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC-TV. In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds, one second for each day of captivity. Karl Doenitz, the last leader of the Third Reich following the suicides of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels, died in West Germany at age 89. In 1990, Canadian teenager Tammy Homolka died after being drugged and sexually abused by her older sister, Karla, and Karla's fiance, Paul Bernardo. Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 90. Author Mary Higgins Clark is 83.

Federal health administrator Anthony S. Fauci is 70. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 66. Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 65. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., is 64. Actor Grand L. Bush is 55. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 55. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 54. The president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-ze-ye), is 53. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 53. Actor Anil Kapoor is 51. Actor Wade Williams is 49. Designer Kate Spade is 48. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) is 47. Actor Mark Valley is 46. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 40. Singer Ricky Martin is 39. Author Stephenie Meyer ("Twilight") is 37.

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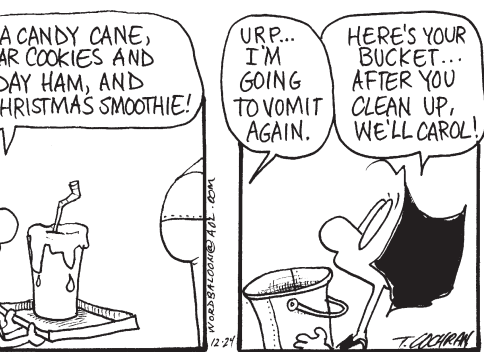
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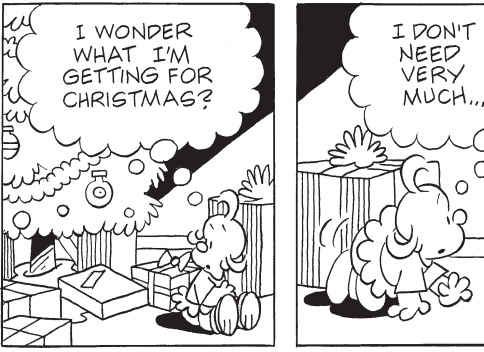
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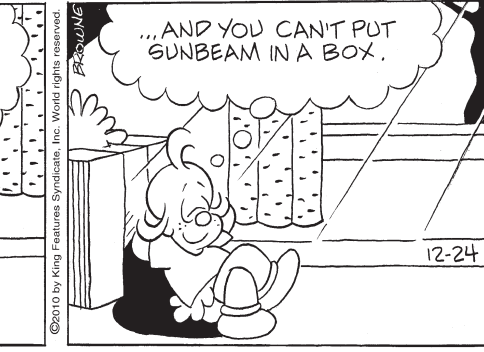
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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Salmon, for one element, often... 7 Address element, often... 15 Savage... 16 Apex for some models... 17 Make comfortable, perhaps... 18 Wakes up... 19 Bookcase locale... 20 Sporters of twelve stars... 22 Fight Club heroine... 23 Cassandra's theme... 25 Celebration of deliverance... 27 Obi-Wan after Alec... 28 Diminutive... 30 2009 Panasonic acquisition... 32 Dull finish... 33 Does some spin doctoring... 35 Thing pursued "with forks and hope"... 37 Gazebo-like... 38 Budgetary metaphors... 39 Repetico repetition... 41 Solitary... 45 Access... 46 Stream sources... 48 "A merry heart good like a medicine...": Proverbs... 49 Treats like a chump... 51 Retro refusal... 53 Patient... 54 Cost... 56 Flier's choice... 58 Give in to pressure... 59 Red menace... 61 Cuban Missile Crisis mediator... 63 Lickety-split... 64 Main protector... 65 Listed... 66 Certain chopper... DOWN: 1 Moved effortfully... 2 Iconographic cloud... 3 Brand extension... 4 Draw... 5 Genderizing suffix... 6 Relax... 7 Plumy-tailed pets... 8 Hammers obliquely... 9 Bygone fleet member... 10 Andy Griffith Show acknowledgment inspired by Holiday... 11 Jazz singer inspired by Holiday... 12 Breaker Morant setting... 13 Without high expectations, maybe... 14 Citizen Kane's best friend... 21 Not in good form... 24 Armani's headquarters... 26 Venerable perfume... 29 Sound by the bay... 31 Year in the Han Dynasty... 34 Serenade, in a way... 36 Part of NASDAQ... 38 Earring parts... 39 Multilayered meal... 40 Party feature... 41 Just... 42 Infusion aid... 43 Magnanimous cry... 44 Squeaking mouse, e.g... 45 Azerbaijani's language family... 47 Occasion for hand-holding... 50 Convey... 52 Sidewalk hazard... 55 Beast... 57 James in the Grammy Hall of Fame... 60 One reading Kafka... 62 Yonder clipper

SATURDAY STUMPER by Brad Wilber

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

Word search grid with letters and numbers for Saturday Stumper.



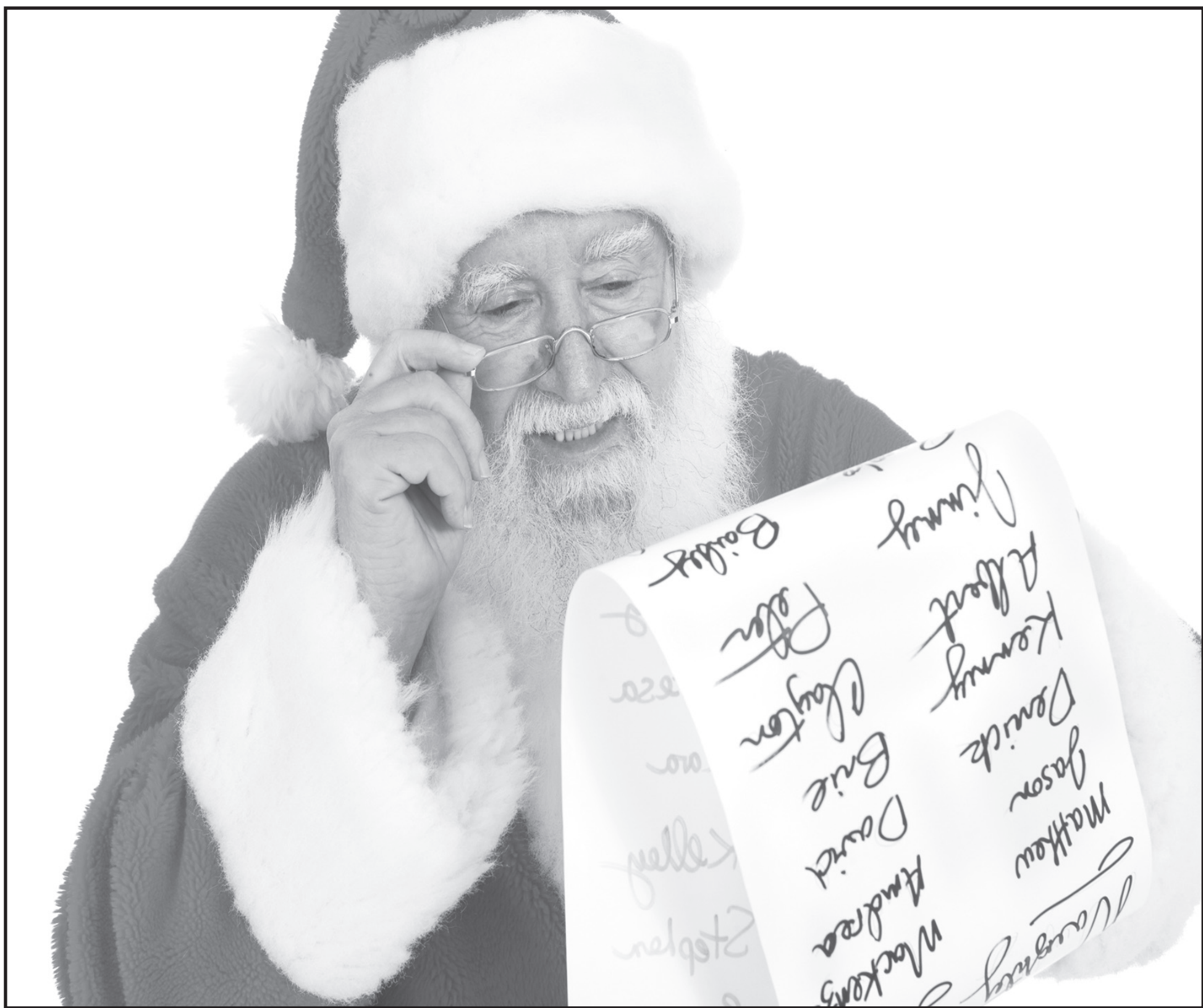


*Merry Christmas, Friends!*

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Donnie & Gail Lampier  
along with the friendly staff at

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Call 267-1127 for all your Holiday Needs!

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Merry Christmas



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Merry Christmas

Happy Paw-lidays!



**Pampered Paws Resort**

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Merry  
Christmas!

**Rick Hamby  
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wonderful Christmas and all the very best in the  
new year.

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Merry  
Christmas



**ATS**

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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from the residents  
of Canterbury North  
and Canterbury  
South and all its  
staff.

We wish you and  
your family a very  
Merry Christmas.



**Canterbury**  
1700 S. Lancaster  
432-263-1265



## Merry Christmas!



**Dr. Rudy Haddad  
& Staff**  
1501 W. 11th Suite 103  
432-714-4600



**Thank you, Big Spring.**

At this time of giving thanks,  
we want you to know we are thankful for you  
and for your continued trust and confidence in us.

*Roofs by Nicholas*

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**Merry  
Christmas**  
and  
**Happy  
Holidays!**

From The Friendly  
Staff at

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at  
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Christmas Eve  
till 7 pm  
Closed Christmas Day

**404 E. FM 700**  
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**With Warm Wishes  
at Christmastime**

Here's hoping your holiday is blessed  
with the perfect combination of peace,  
harmony and joy. Thanks for making us  
feel so at home here. We look forward  
to seeing you again next year.

**Merry Christmas!**  
From All Of Us!  
**Bargain Mart**  
403 Runnels  
264-9107

# MERRY CHRISTMAS