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## **Cops: Don't drink and drive**

#### By STEVE REAGAN

#### Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials want area drivers to have a safe — and sober — New Year's Eve celebration.

But those officials added that people who might be tempted to celebrate a bit too much should reconsider.

Area police, sheriff deputies and state troopers will be out in force through New Year's Eve, and they will not be looking kindly on those who are drinking and driving.

The Department of Public Safety has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward drunk drivers as part of their annual holiday oversight operation,

which has been in effect since the Christmas holiday season began earlier this month.

DPS troopers will be looking for unsafe drivers in general, and three offenses in particular: speeding, driving without seat belts and driving while intoxicated.

Officials emphasize that the agency's zero-tolerance stance extends toward both DWIs and driving without seat belts. Absolutely no warnings will be written for either, officials say, because troopers anticipate traffic will be very heavy this season, leaving no room for these type of mistakes.

Big Spring Police Department officials said the agency

will not have extra officers patrolling the streets on New Year's Eve, but the ones on duty will be on the lookout for apparent drunk drivers.

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

## 1st-class stamps 'forever'

#### **DOUGLASS K. DANIEL**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Rummaging around for 1- and 2-cent postage stamps when postal rates go up is heading the way of the Pony Express. Beginning in January, all new stamps good for 1 ounce of first-class mail will be marked as "forever.'

The move is designed to help customers cope with postage increases, a U.S. Postal Service official told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The official requested anonymity to discuss a policy that hasn't been announced formally.

Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe plans to announce the new policy Jan. 14, the official said. "I think that's a great idea," Sean Swilling, a research analyst for commercial property, said inside a downtown Washington post office during a mail run. "For me, a guy who uses snail-mail regularly, it's a hassle to get 1- or 2-cent stamps. Streamline things that would be perfect." When the Postal Service unveiled its first-class commemorative stamps for 2011 on Tuesday, all were marked "forever" instead of the current rate of 44 cents.



**Associated Press photh** 

In April 2007, the United States Postal Service introduced The Forever Stamp, and since then, more than six billion have been sold. According to the USPS, these stamps can be used to mail one-ounce letters regardless of when they were purchased or if prices increase in the future.

## Festival of Lights draws thousands, organizers claim

#### □ Display open through Friday night.

#### **By STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

As the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights enters the home stretch of its 14<sup>th</sup> annual run, almost

20,000 people have visited the holiday attracofficials tion, say.

Pat Simmons, who has directed the event since Simmons its inception, said 19,435 people have toured the festival as of Tuesday morning. The busiest night was Christmas Eve, when more than 2,200 people came through the gates at Comanche Trail Park. People from 36 states and 12 countries have visited the event, Simmons said. "I don't think we'll get the 25,000 goal I wanted, but it's going good," Simmons said. "In fact, it's gone exceptionally well. We had an attempted theft of some floodlights the other night, but other than that, things have gone well."

manche Trail Park. Visitors are asked to enter the park at the intersection of Whipkey Drive and U.S. Highway 87. Admission is free, although donations, which go toward financing future festivals, are welcome.

Aside from dozens of lighted poinsettias, which have become the event's trademark, the festival features many other attractions, including stage coaches, buffaloes, snow men, gingerbread men and angels, all brightly lit. Organizers say more than 1 million bulbs are used in the various exhibits.

Recent health issues have forced Simmons to take more of a back seat role during this year's festival. Most of the day-to-day responsibility rests with the Stewart family - Howard, Vickie, Quintinn and Stephanie.



The initial first-class stamp under the new policy will be the Lunar New Year: Year of the Rabbit stamp, to be issued Jan. 22. It will be followed by stamps commemorating Kansas statehood on Jan. 29 and, in February, the centennial of President Ronald Reagan's birth.

The Forever Stamp, first issued in April 2007 and featuring the Liberty Bell, was designed for use regardless of changes in postal rates. They are sold at the prevailing price of 1 ounce of domestic first-class postage.

The Postal Service says that See **STAMPS**, Page 3A

28 billion Forever Stamps have been sold since, generating \$12.1 billion in total revenue. The stamps without denominations already account for 85 percent of its stamp program, the service says.

The Postal Service sought a 2-cent increase in postage rates for 2011, but the independent Postal Rate Commission rejected the request. The post office is appealing the decision in federal court.

Use of the Internet as well

The festival runs nightly from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Co-

"I think they've done a great job," Simmons said.

"I couldn't have done it after my back surgery ... but I still go out there every night and open it up and close it down. Howard and his family have done an outstanding job."

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

## Storybook brings slain child's imagination to life

#### MATT SEDENSKY

#### Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — The little girl's white, four-post bed is empty, her favorite doll Natalie atop it. Her pink plate and cup are set on the kitchen table; her vitamins await. The last CD she listened to is in her little stereo, the last lesson she learned on the blackboard, the last month she was alive frozen on the unturned page of the calendar.

Since a relative's Thanksgiving Day 2009 shooting rampage at their home, Jim and Muriel Sitton have faced a horrific balancing act: moving on past the time-stopping grief of losing their 6-year-old daughter Makayla Joy,

See BOOK, Page 3A





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## Sports

## BIG HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Adam Coleman at 263-7331, Ext. 237. E-mail results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B Wednesday, December 29, 2010



File Photo Mackenzie Stone had 17 points in the Big Spring Lady Steers' win over Whiteface Tuesday in the

## Area basketball: *Tournament play* heats up for teams

#### **Big Spring girls**

SLATON — The Big Spring Lady Steers got a big boost from guard Mackenzie Stone in their win over Whiteface to open the Slaton tournament.

Stone had 17 points and three 3-pointers in the win. Holding Whiteface to three points in the first and two points in the third quarter was also key in the win.

Whiteface 3 11 2 11 - 27 Big Spring 16 13 11 3 - 43

Big Spring — Mackenzie Stone 17, Diamond Mayes 9, Bridgette Tuitt 6, LaShaunte Anderson 5, Cerbi Ritchey 4, Logan Yarbar 2

Whiteface — Villanueva 7, Davis 5 Records: Big Spring (13-3) Next game: Big Spring vs. Slaton at 6:30 p.m.

#### Forsan girls

STERLING CITY — It was a close game for the Forsan Lady Buffs, but as long as they had Ambra Hill, everything was going to fall into place.

Hill had 24 points and the Forsan clinched a berth in the championship game of the Sterling City tournament.

The win gives Forsan another victory coming off a win against Coahoma at home to open district play.

Sterling City 9 13 13 7 - 42 Forsan 11 10 14 10 - 45

Forsan - Ambra Hill 24, Shelby Roemer 9, Morgan Forshee 4, Stevie Wilson 4, Miranda Park 2, Kay'C Stanley 1, Megan Crane 1

Next game: Forsan vs. Roscoe at 4:30 p.m.

#### Forsan boys

STERLING CITY — It was a busy day for the Forsan Buffaloes Tuesday, but a win over Rankin and a loss to Sterling City put them in the third-place game against Miles at 3 p.m. today.

Kolten Self was big in the win over Rankin with 19 points, but Ty Johnson's 10 points wasn't enough to get Forsan past Sterling City. Forsan did not score a point in the final quarter of the Sterling City game.

Rankin 2 12 9 4 - 27 Forsan 8 7 22 15 - 52

Forsan — Kolten Self 19, B. Phillips 8, Ty Johnson 7,

## Spurs rout reeling Lakers

#### The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO - Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili were on the bench before the final horn, and not because of their bad shooting nights. That's how easy it was for the San Antonio Spurs.

On the other end, Kobe Bryant was also out of the game early. That's how bad it's getting for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Tony Parker scored 23 points and the Spurs, backing up their NBA-best record against the defending champions, beat a still-frustrated Bryant and the reeling Lakers 97-82 on Tuesday night.

"It's always great to beat the champion," Ginobili said.

The Spurs improved to 27-4, and if there are any doubts about that record being inflated, they can likely put those to rest this week. Next up is Dallas, one of the only teams to beat them this season, followed by games against Oklahoma City, New York and Boston.

The Lakers, meanwhile, can't seem to beat anyone.

It was another humiliation for the Lakers, who lost a week ago by 19 at home to lowly Milwaukee. That was followed by letting LeBron James and the Miami Heat leave the Staples Center with another easy victory on Christmas Day, in one of the highest-rated televised NBA games in recent years.

Bryant railed on his team's lack of focus following the Heat loss, but had a more quiet disappointment after the Spurs became the third straight team to crush the Lakers.

Bryant had 21 points on 8-of-27 shooting, at one point missing 13 shots in a row. He answered questions in clipped sentences before saying he was confident the Lakers can steer out of their stunning tailspin.

"I'm just (mad) at myself," Bryant said. "(Mad) I didn't play well."

He wasn't the only one on the Lakers. Bryant alluded to Derek Fisher's technical foul, after getting into a confrontation

See SPURS, Page 2B

#### Webb, Peterson help Vikings upset Eagles

#### The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Considering everything else the Minnesota Vikings have endured this season, it was silly to think two extra days sitting around a hotel room would bring 'em down.

No way a determined rookie quarterback named Joe Webb was going to let that happen.

Webb threw for 195 yards and ran for a touchdown in his first career start filling in for an injured Brett 118 yards and a score, help-Favre, and the lowly Vikings stunned Michael Vick and the NFC East champion Philadelphia Eagles 24-14 in the NFL's first Tuesday game since 1946.

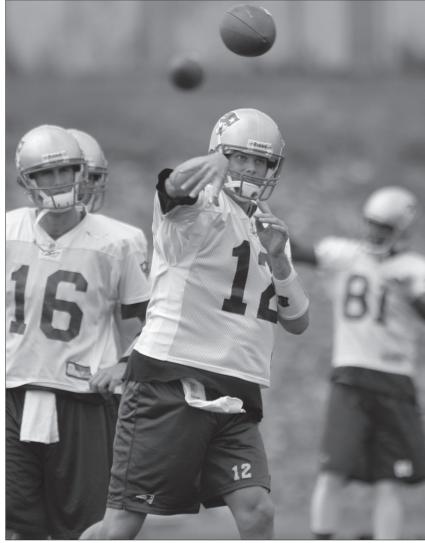
"It was a big win, especially with what we have gone through," Webb said. "It was a long trip for us and to get a win against the Eagles, we are trying to finish the season on a high note."

Adrian Peterson ran for

ing the 14-point underdogs knock Philadelphia out of contention for a first-round playoff bye.

The Eagles (10-5) could've secured a first-round bye with a victory over the Vikings (6-9) and Dallas and with a loss by either Chicago or Atlanta next week.

"We don't deserve it after that performance," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "Every phase was terrible. We didn't coach well enough."



**AP File Photo** 

Tom Brady will be the starting quarterback for the AFC in the Pro Bowl this year.

## Vick, Brady make Pro Bowl

#### The Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Michael Vick's sensational comeback season made a big impression throughout the NFL, not just in Philadelphia.

The Eagles' quarterback, who sat out two seasons while serving a federal sentence for dogfighting, was voted to start for the NFC in the Jan. 30 Pro Bowl in Honolulu.

Vick was selected in a leaguewide vote by NFL players, coaches and fans.

Vick made three Pro Bowls with Atlanta before he was sus-

See PRO BOWL, Page 2B

### LOCAL

## **Obituaries**

#### Wilma Cashion



Wilma Edna Walker Holley Cashion, 85, a resident of the Big Spring area for more than 80 years and a lifetime member of Salem Baptist Church, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, Dec. 27, 2010, at Briarcliff Health Center of Greenville. Visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2010 at 7 p.m. Graveside services will be Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010, at 2

p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park with her grandsonin-law. Gregory Lee. officiating.

Willis Walker and Edna Jane Graham Walker in Howard County and married Wiley Henderson Holley Aug. 10, 1943. Wilma and Wiley had four sons, daughter, Jan. They lost young Tooter as an infant and Wiley passed away in September 1960.

With determination, the help of a fine family and a "can-do" attitude, Wilma raised her young family as an Avon representative for many years. In 1966, Wilma was blessed with love again and married Omar L. Cashion and gained LaDonna, her stepdaughter and the Hanners, another fine family she loved dearly. Wilma and Omar had a great love for each other that was incredible to watch.

Omar passed away in 1999 and Wilma's health began to decline. Even though her body was failing, she spent her last years trying to keep her mind active by putting together the most challenging and often uniquely-shaped puzzles, and working word search books. Every nurse and caregiver loved her to distraction and loved her smile. She was the sweetest of patients. No matter how bad she felt, she was always "fine."

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents, Willis Max and Edna Jane Graham Walker; husbands, Wiley Henderson Holley and Omar Lionel Cashion; her son, Charles Wayne ("Tooter") Holley; and her brother, Grady Max Walker.

Wilma is survived by her brother and sister-inlaw, Ralph and Marion Walker of Big Spring; sisterin-law, Doris Hanners, of King Fisher, Okla.; son and daughter-in-law, Gene and Carolyn Holley of Wolfe City; son and daughter-in-law, Glen and Kaye Holley of Big Spring; son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Debbie Holley of Forney: daughter and son-inlaw, Jan and Richard Jackson of Angleton; stepdaughter and stepson-in-law, LaDonna and David Johnson of Cape Girardeau, Mo.; eight grandsons; one granddaughter; one step-grandson; 20 greatgrandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews in the Walker, Holley, Gladson, Cashion and Hanners families. John 3:16

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Relay for Life, Attn: Sandy Griffin, 1217 E. 17th Street, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

#### Thelma Jo Fraser



Thelma Jo Fraser, age 84, passed away at Gateway Garden **Retirement Center, Marble Falls** on Dec. 28, 2010. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010, in Midway Cemetery, directed by Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home, 5701 Hwy 277 South. Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Jo was born July 4, 1928, in Dallas to George Warren Hud-

son and Dixie Lou Northam Hudson. She married Harold Lloyd Fraser July 7, 1945, in Baird. She was Mrs. Cashion was born July 22, 1925 to Mack a longtime resident of Coahoma and past member of Coahoma Baptist Church. She was currently a

Mom loved her family. She was a loving and faith-Gene, Glen, Charles ("Tooter") and Gary, and one ful wife for 50 years. She loved the Lord and her church and loved to sing in the choir. Her hobbies

#### Ruben O. Valdez



Ruben O. Valdez, 65, of Las Cruces, N.M., passed away Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, at Mesilla Valley Hospice - La Posada. He was born Dec. 23, 1945, in Pecos to Adelina Calanche. "Pops," as he was fondly known to many, served his country honorably in the United States Army from which he retired. Ruben was a great dad, awesome step-dad, wonderful husband, the best

brother and uncle and very loving grandfather, but most of all, he was the best friend anyone could ask for. He enjoyed being a foster parent for the past 15 years and was an active member of Iglesia El Calvario UMC and loved to do anything that dealt with the Lord. One of his favorite songs was "Blue Christmas" by Elvis Presley. He was very family oriented and loved to have all his family together so he could cook for them and enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys when they played. Go Cowboys!!!

Now it's time to say, "Goodbye Pops, we have reached the end. We don't cry with sorrow, we cry with joy. You know we will always love you. The memories we made can never be destroyed."

included singing, painting, gardening and cooking.

Thelma Jo was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and two brothers, Jim Hudson and Don Hudson.

She is survived by her children, Dwayne and Kay Fraser of Stephenville, Sen. Troy and Linda Fraser of Horseshoe Bay, and Steve and Karen Fraser of Kingsland; her grandchildren, Carey and Julie Fraser of Stephenville, Chase and Tina Fraser of Boulder, Colo., Sunny and Craig Knocke of Dallas, Andrew Fraser of Austin, Matthew Fraser of Chicago, Ill., Lauren and Blair Nutting of Irving, and Taylor Fraser of Austin; great-grandchildren, Caryss Fraser of Stephenville, Chloe Fraser and Quinn Fraser of Boulder, Colo., and Davis Knocke and Conner Knocke of Dallas; sisters, Judy Burrow of Sweetwater, and Melba Hay of Hawley; and numerous nephews, nieces and close friends.

You may view and sign guestbook at www.elliotthamil.com

#### Paid obituary

Survivors include his wife, Sylvia Valdez of the family home; one son, Ruben Valdez II of Dallas; his step-children, Carlos, Yolanda, Becky, Diana, Oscar, Robert, and David, all of El Paso, and Ana Clements of Arkansas; one brother, George Calanche, also of El Paso; five sisters, Linda Montez of California, Alice Calanche of El Paso, Yolanda Hernandez of Albuquerque, N.M., and Sylvia Macias and Patricia Sanchez both of El Paso. Other survivors include 41 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother and an uncle Eliseo Valdez.

Visitation for Mr. Valdez will begin at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010, in Iglesia El Calvario UMC, 300 N. Campo Street, where the funeral service is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m., with the Rev. Raul Dominguez officiating. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 31, 2010 in Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Military honors will be accorded by a Fort Bliss Honor Guard.

Serving as casket bearers will be Isaac Macias, Carlos Ovalle, Gabriel Salazar, Brendon Rogers, Jesse Rogers, Ruben Valdez II, Larry Calanche and Chris Calanche.

Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels, 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces, N.M.

Paid obituary

#### Amalia 'Mollie Larez

Amalia "Mollie" Larez, 90, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She was born Oct. 22, 1920, in Carlsbad, N.M. to Inez and Angel Hernandez. She was a retired chef, having worked in several

restaurants, including Cosden Country Club and

La Posada. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a Catholic.

She is survived by five daughters: Julia Correa. Jessie Martinez and Cindy Hernandez, all of Big Spring; Adelinda Longoria of Santa Monica, Calif., and Mary Helen Urias of Kansas City, Mo.; two sons: Adolfo "Froggie" Larez of Monterey, Calif., and Andy Hernandez of Big Spring; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one daughter: Julia Lerma; and four sisters and two brothers.

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



## **2**A

member of Wylie Baptist Church in Abilene.



Frank Roberts

Oct. 18, 1935 Dec. 27, 2010

Frank Roberts, 75, of Fairfield and formerly of Big Spring, passed away Monday, Dec. 27, 2010, at a local hospital. Memorial services will be 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30 at the family home. Survivors include his wife of 50

years, Doris Roberts of Fairfield; daughters, Brenda Roberts of Los

Angeles, Calif., Lora Turner and husband Gary of Elm Mott, Tinnie Larimer and husband Dan of Wickenburg, Ariz., Glenda Hitchcock and husband Bobby of Elm Mott; sons, Frankie Roberts of Fairfield and Kerry Roberts of Granfield, Okla.; 13 nine Fishback with Bob's medical and travel exgrandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Thoughts and memories may be shared in the oncom

#### J.R. Bennett Jr.

J. R. Bennett, Jr., 87, of Coahoma, died Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2010, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring

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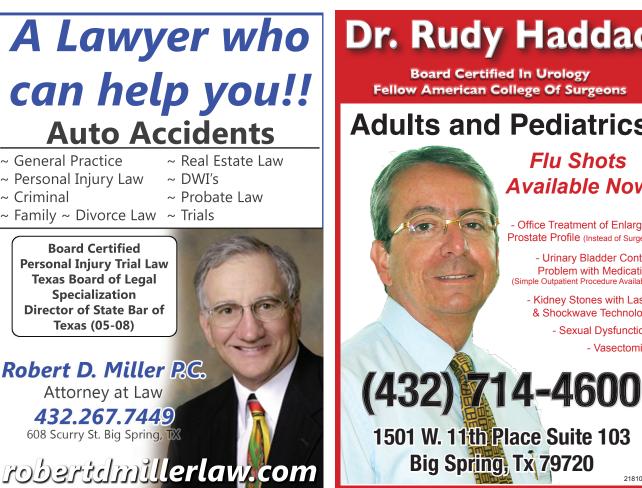


## • Big Spring's own Charley Johnson will be inducted as a member of the 2010 Class into the Tex-

as Sports Hall Of Fame on Feb. 7, 2011, in Waco. If you can't attend but would like to list your name in an official program ad that congratulates Charley for this momentous achievement, contact Ken Johnson at 940-325-4366 for details or e-mail at kenrocknj@suddenlink.net. If you want to attend the ceremonies, contact Ken about discount tickets.

• An account has been set up to help Bob and Jeapenses: Bob Fishback Medical Account 915967, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, line guest book at www.LakeShoreFuneralHome. 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 263-8393.

> • A fund has been established at Citizen's Credit Union for the Lupe Chavarria family, who lost all



## Take note

of their possessions in a recent house fire. For more information, contact the credit union at 267-6373.

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Bring this note when you join and receive a box of Weight Watchers snacks through Oct. 31. Weighin is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

## Dr. Rudy Haddad

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## **PRO BOWL**

**2**B

Continued from Page 1B

pended by the league and served jail time for running a dogfighting ring. This season, he has gone from a seldom-used backup to the NFC's leading passer, the catalyst for Philadelphia's dynamic offense.

He wasn't really interested in talking about the Pro Bowl after the Minnesota Vikings upset the NFC East champion Eagles 24-14 in the NFL's first Tuesday game since 1946.

"I'm not worried about the Pro Bowl right now," he said. "There's so many things going on in my head. I appreciate the Pro Bowl, but as of right now, I can't even focus on that. It's in oblivion right now."

Besides Vick, the Eagles had four other players selected.

Atlanta, which leads the NFC with a 12-3 record, had the most Pro Bowlers with seven, including quarterback Matt Ryan, receiver Roddy White and defensive end John Abraham.

New England (13-2), the AFC leader, had six Pro Bowlers, led by QB Tom Brady, the league's top passer who will make his sixth trip to the game providing the Patriots don't make the Super Bowl. The game will be played the Sunday before the title game at Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

Baltimore, Green Bay and Dallas also had five players voted in Tuesday.

Four rookies were chosen, with DT

"It's a tremendous honor, obviously being a rookie and getting my feet wet in the NFL. I can't expect anything more."

Ndamukong Suh of Detroit a starter

for the NFC. Cornerback Devin Mc-

Courty of New England, kick returner

Marc Mariani of Tennessee and cen-

ter Maurkice Pouncey of Pittsburgh

"It's a tremendous honor, obviously

being a rookie and getting my feet wet

in the NFL," Suh said. "I can't expect

anything more ... it's only going to

make me want to work harder to get

Altogether, there were seven first-

The only teams not represented

Also chosen from the Eagles were

receiver DeSean Jackson, tackle Ja-

son Peters, cornerback Asante Sam-

uel and placekicker David Akers.

Philadelphia was playing Minnesota

on Tuesday night and Vick was not

available before the game to com-

The other Falcons were tight end

Tony Gonzalez, fullback Ovie Mughel-

li, running back Michael Turner and

Joining Brady in Honolulu from the

Patriots will be McCourty; guard Lo-

gan Mankins, who missed a portion

of the season in a contract dispute;

special teamer Eric Weems.

were Buffalo, Cincinnati, Seattle and

timers on the NFC squad, 14 newcom-

made the AFC squad.

back there again."

ers for the AFC.

Tampa Bay.

ment.

Ndamukong Suh, Detroit Lions' lineman on making the Pro Bowl as a rookie

> linebacker Jerod Mayo; safety Brandon Merriweather; and nose tackle Vince Wilfork.

Starting for the NFC with Vick will be White and Detroit's Calvin Johnson at wide receiver, Dallas TE Jason Witten, Atlanta's Turner and Mughelli in the backfield, Peters and Carolina's Jordan Gross at tackle, the Giants' Chris Snee and Saints' Jahri Evans at guard, and Dallas center Andre Gurode.

On defense for the NFC will be ends Julius Peppers of Chicago and Abraham, tackles Suh and Jay Ratliff of Dallas, linebackers Clay Matthews of Green Bay, DeMarcus Ware of Dallas and Patrick Willis of San Francisco, cornerbacks Samuel and Charles Woodson of Green Bay, and safeties Nick Collins of Green Bay and Adrian Wilson of Arizona.

The NFC punter is Dallas' Mat McBriar, while Chicago's Devin Hester is the kick returner.

Backup quarterbacks for the NFC are Ryan and Drew Brees.

"First off, it's truly an honor just to be in the conversation of being a Pro Bowl player, but to make it two years in a row, I'm real fortunate and appreciative for the opportunity," Matthews said. "Hopefully we'll be busy at the time."

Joining Brady on the AFC's starting offense will be WRs Reggie Wayne of Indianapolis and Andre Johnson of Houston, TE Antonio Gates of San Diego, Jacksonville running back Maurice Jones-Drew and Houston fullback Vonta Leach, tackles Joe Thomas of Cleveland and Jake Long of Miami, guards Mankins and Kris Dielman of San Diego, and Jets center Nick Mangold.

The AFC starting defense features Indianapolis ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis, Wilfork and Baltimore tackle Haloti Ngata, linebackers Ray Lewis of Baltimore, James Harrison of Pittsburgh and Cameron Wake of Miami, cornerbacks Darrelle Revis of the Jets and Oakland's Nnamdi Asomugha, and safeties Troy Polamalu of Pittsburgh and Ed Reed of Baltimore.

Baltimore's Billy Cundiff is the placekicker, Oakland's Shane Lechler the punter, Mariani the kick returner and Montell Owens of Jacksonville the special teamer.

Colts QB Peyton Manning made his 11th Pro Bowl as a backup to Brady. He joined Brett Favre as the only quarterbacks selected to at least 11 games.

San Diego's Philip Rivers is the other AFC quarterback.

"Wow, No. 12 feels like No. 1," Lewis said. "I tell my teammates that I am going to train to be a Pro Bowl player that season, and my focus paid off again this season. This never gets old."

## SPURS

Continued from Oage 1B

with Richard Jefferson, about the attitude throughout the team.

The Lakers dropped to 21-10, marking the first time since 2007 they've reached 10 losses this early.

"We're all moody," Bryant said. "Fish got a tech today and he's the basketball version of Barack Obama. Everybody's a little moody right now."

DeJuan Blair had 17 points and 15 rebounds, leading an unlikely Spurs cast that buried the Lakers in the fourth. Jefferson scored 17 points and George Hill had 10 while the Spurs coasted toward the end, almost remarkably, while Duncan and Ginobili were reduced to non-factors on offense. Duncan was 1 of 7 from

points. Ginobili made only 3 of 12, finishing with nine points. "It means Tony Parker

the field and had two

was amazing tonight," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Ron Artest and Andrew Bynum had 10 points apiece for the Lakers. When the buzzer sounded, Bryant was the first off the bench and headed back to the locker room.

It's only December, but Bryant hasn't treated the slump as a mere blip.

After James and Dwyane Wade coasted to a 14-point win in Los Angeles on Saturday, Bryant seethed over a second straight home loss. He said it was as though the games "mean more to our opponents than a row and turned the they do us" and grumball over four times. bled over the focus of The slump finally ended the two-time defending with 4:44 left in the third quarter on a wide-open champs. Bryant came out like 3-pointer.

he was trying to set an example. He scored eight of the Lakers' first 10 points - all within the first 3 minutes - and attempted 10 shots in the first quarter alone.

Covered by Hill in the second quarter, Bryant drew his third technical foul in three games when the two confronted each other under the basket. They continued talking back to the other end of the court.

"I just wanted him to know that you might be an NBA All-Star and the MVP, but I won't back down from anybody," Hill said.

For all that intensity, Bryant had a miserable night.

After making four of his first five shots. Brvant missed 13 shots in

## BASKETBALL

Continued from Page 1B

Brendan Roman 6, Bracken Schreiner 4, D. Bagnall 4, Patrick Robles 3, Elgin Suazo 1

Sterling City 12 5 24 5 - 46 Forsan 6 10 9 0 - 25

Forsan - Ty Johnson 11, B. Phillips 10, Bracken Schreiner 2, Kolten Self 2 Records: Forsan (7-8, 1-0 in district

play) Next game: Forsan vs. Miles at 3 p.m. today

#### Coahoma in the Mary Tatum Holiday Classic

The Coahoma Bulldogettes are gearing up for the Mart Tatum Holiday Classic at Reagan County High School today. They face Irion County at 3 p.m. today in the main gym.

The Bulldogs face Ballinger at 4:30 p.m. today in the main gym.

and Klondike High Schools

Trinity 43, Grady 40 Grady 49, Southland 25 Grady vs. Plains at noon today

#### Stanton boys Alley Hoop Classic at Iraan High School

Stanton 58, Crane 43 (Monday) Stanton 51, Garden City 38 (Monday)

Stanton 63, Midland Classical 36 Stanton 45, Iraan 42

#### Garden City boys Alley Hoop Classic at Iraan High School

Garden City 56, Midland Classical 34 (Monday)

Stanton 51, Garden City 38 (Monday)

Crane 62, Garden City 47

#### Stanton girls Alley Hoop Classic at Iraan High School



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#### Other scores Grady boys Cotton Classic at Grady and Klondike High Schools

Grady 64, Trinity 32 Grady 48, Southland 23 Championship game: Grady vs. Ira at 1:30 p.m.

#### Grady girls Cotton Classic at Grady

Stanton 40, Garden City 28 (Mondav)

Stanton 45, Kermit 32 (Monday) Stanton 37, Nueces Canyon 36

#### Graden City girls Alley Hoop Classic at Iraan High School

Stanton 40, Garden City 28 (Monday)

Garden City 60, Iraan 26 (Monday) Garden City 40, Crane 28



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. . . . . . .

## LOCAL/WIRE

Sunrise Sunset

7:48 AM 5:54 PM

## **Police Beat**

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Tuesday and early Wednesday:

• MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE, 48, 908 W. Fourth, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• DAVID LYNN DOW, 27, 1402 Tucson, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.

• JAMES CARSON, 50, 200 N. Scurry, was arrested on two warrants from other agencies.

• ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 26, 406 S. Douglas, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/second offense.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart.

• THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of Johnson.

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Tuesday (63 prisoners were reported in the county jail):

• BILLY WAYNE ALDRIDGE SR., 50, was jailed on a charge of no driver's license.

• MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE, 48, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

• DAVID LYNN DOW, 27, was jailed on Tom Green County warrants charging driving while intoxicated/third or more offense, bail jumping and failure to appear.

• ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 25, was jailed on a charge of driving while intoxicated/second offense.

• ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

• SAMANTHA JUNE VASQUEZ, 22, was jailed on charges of driving while intoxicated, resisting arrest, search or transport, and possession of marijuana under two ounces.

• TIFFNEY TINDOL, 31, was jailed on a warrant charging criminal mischief/impairing or interrupting public service.

## Sheriff

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Tuesday and early Wednesday:

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter. Service was refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of Longshore and Martin. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

#### **Today's Weather Local 5-Day Forecast** Sun 1/2 Sat Fri 12/31 Mon 1/1 1/3 1/4 55/29 52/25 54/31 59/33 63/34 Partly cloudy and More sun than Mix of sun and Plenty of sun. Highs Mostly sunny. Highs windy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s. in the low 60s and ows in the mid 30s the upper 20s. the mid 20s. the low 30s.

Sunrise Sunset

7:47 AM 5:53 PM

Sunrise Sunset

7:47 AM 5:54 PN

#### Texas At A Glance

Sunrise Sunset

7:47 AM 5:52 PM

Sunrise Sunset

7:47 AM 5:51 PM



## **STAMPS**

Continued from Page 1A

as the economic downturn have been

## BOOK

Continued from Page 1A

and helping to realize her unfulfilled dreams. One of Makayla's hopes — to someday publish a book — has now come to life in "The Bear's Castle," a simple story of a little bear who wants to make all his wishes come true. It is accompanied by a recording of the girl's initial telling of the story.

"We are trying to bring something good out of the ashes that is our life at this point," cited for a 3.5 percent decline in mail volume from 2009 to 2010.

The Postal Service lost \$8.5 billion in the year ending Sept. 30, even after trimming more than 100,000 jobs in recent years, and estimates it will lose \$6 billion to \$7 billion in the next year. One of its proposals for dealing with its financial troubles calls for cutting delivery to five days a week

Online: U.S. Postal Service: www.usps.com

must approve.

#### **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

instead of six, a change Congress

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Wilma Holley Cashion, 85, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Amalia "Mollie" Larez, 90, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The girl's mother said

run for more than a month after the shootings. He is jailed and has pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder charges and could face the death

When a children's book illustrator, Tyler Hollis, heard of the girl's killing and her proclivity for writing, she offered her help. Makayla had penned several stories while being homeschooled by her mother and had always wanted to publish a book. Within a few months, "The Bear's kayla's words.

"Listening to that little voice telling the story," she said, trailing off as her voice cracked and her eyes welled. "She was so incredibly intelligent and bright and smart."

A glimpse of that comes through in a visit to the Sittons' home, where Makayla's writings remain just as she left them, her Bible judiciously filled with her markings and notes, her artwork hung in the living room. Despite all this, the Sittons, both 49, said they softly: "The silence is remain thankful for the horrible." time they had with their daughter and that they Dragon China Buffet each spent a special moment with her before she went to sleep that Thanksgiving night.

tucked away in her room, which she said was "where only good things happen."

Jim Sitton eventually returned to work as a television news cameraman. Muriel Sitton, a former television producer who had devoted her recent years to her only child, remains at home each day, tormented by emptiness.

"This house used to be full of little girl giggles, the energy of a little girl, and now it's just an empty house," Jim Sitton said. "Can you hear that? Just deadly silent."

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EXP. 12/31/10

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Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

(NOT FOR CARRYOUT)

ment in this beachside town since the night a family tradition turned into a massacre.

"How do you cope with that?" asked the girl's father. "You don't heal, time doesn't heal. The hole is still there."

Thanksgiving always was the family's favorite holiday. Some 16 people gathered at their home Nov. 26, 2009, including a last-minute guest, Muriel Sitton's cousin Paul Merhige.

tional dinner and then gathered in a horseshoe around their brown Castle" was born. Baldwin piano to sing mostly Makayla's mother reand dance, church songs. As the corded the girl's storynight wore on, police telling one day, the simsay Merhige left the ple tale of a little bear house, only to return who wanted to make all his wishes come true. with a gun. Killed that night were He meets a unicorn, and Merhige's twin sisters, the two live together one of whom was preghappily ever after in a nant; his aunt, who was castle. Muriel Sitton's mother; "It had a perfect beginand Makayla, who had ning and an end," the been tucked into bed not girl's mom said. long before. Others were The project was a labor hurt, including one relof love for Hollis, too, ative who spent three whose own adult daughmonths in a coma. "I have been waiting **For Delivery** 20 years to do this," Jim 263-2222 Sitton said he heard 2602 Gregg St. Merhige say during the BRING IN THIS AD FOR FREE DRINK shooting. with purchase of buffet Merhige was on the **Myers & Smith Funeral Home And Chapel** Family Owned Since 1985 2010 nniversari **Bill & Charlsa Myers Owners** www.myersandsmith.com

penalty if convicted.

They enjoyed a tradi-

ter died four years ago. The hardest part, she said, was hearing Ma-

Jim Sitton said.

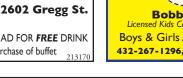
A foundation bearing Makayla's name carries on her love of dance and music, and it receives all profits from sales of the book. An annual concert has been started in her honor. And her plans for a Christmas pageant are coming to fruition.

Her parents hope children who open the storybook will find some joy in one of her creations, a tiny fragment of the happiness she brought to her family. Yet they can't paper over the past, so it simply remains untouched in their home in a manicured develop-

Her father prayed with her and kissed her and told her he loved her. Her mother told her how proud she was, how much she loved her, and blew kisses. She was

**Bobbi King** 







#### NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson. Ector. Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields beginning January 16, 2011. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212

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## CLASSIFIED

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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BLAST MASTERS has positions available for:

\* Crew Tech Must have valid Texas Drivers License, will train, Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., Pick up application. No phone calls please.

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

**COME JOIN** the Team at Parks Fuels, need a person to do data entry, filing, verifying invoices, and other secretary duties. Apply at 303 East 1st Street.

**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

#### Help Wanted

EZ PAWN, Now Hiring 2 Full time & 1 Part Time Sales and Loan Representatives. Must have High School/GED, pass background & drug test. Apply online at www.ezpawnjobs.com HIGGINBOTHAM BARTLETT is now hiring for CDL driver and warehouse/rental positions. Both must have clean driving record and be able to pass drug screen and criminal check. background Warehouse/rental needs experience with small engine repair. No phone calls please. Apply in person at 1900 E. FM 700.

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PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab now hiring charge Nurse for 10pm-6am shift. Competitive pay plus benefits. Great family working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway or on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net

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\*Must have strong people skills and be outgoing \*Must be self-motivated \*Must be able to travel and have own dependable transportation \*Must have high school diploma but college degree and/or college classes is preferred

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The *Big Spring Herald* supports all local and area schools and wishes them the best in all their endeavors BIG HERALD

## **O**PINION

**S**COTT

JIMENEZ

## DITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan** News Editor

## **OUR VIEW**

**Fireworks safety** is responsibility for all to embrace

hile an apparent mix-up in dates prevented Howard County commissioners from passing a ban on fireworks just before Christmas, forcing officials to informally request that firework vendors not sell rockets that include sticks and fins, it's time for citizens of this community to do the right thing by not buying or setting off those type fireworks.

Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan has spoken with several local fireworks vendors, requesting they abstain from selling rockets that include sticks or fins this holiday season.

"The vendors I've talked to have all been very cooperative, and are willing to help us on this matter," Sullivan said. "The problem with those particular rockets are they can go long distances, well out of someone's sight. However, make no mistake about it, a roman candle can start a fire just as fast, or even faster."

And while no ban means no fines for using dangerous fireworks in the county this holiday season, fireworks are never legal within city limits.

Since a real danger exists, regardless of whether or not fireworks have been banned, local law enforcement officials figure to be approaching the situation with little or no tolerance.

"People who want to drive out into the county and shoot their fireworks from the roadway are going to be in some very hot water if they get caught,' Sullivan said. "They will be in violation of the current burn ban, and if a fire causes any kind of damage, they are going to be looking at a charge of reckless damage. Add that to littering, and you're looking at approximately \$1,500 in fines.'

## A happier New Year...

e all make New Year's resolutions that sound oh-sogood - at the time. But, do they sound so good a month or two after New Year's?

Sometimes the best (and the hardest) resolutions are the ones we make to become a better person.

The following resolutions are things we all can do, and doing them helps us live better lives. Try adding one

of these every month:

• Spend less than you earn. Stay out of debt. Save money. Practice self-denial and patience. • Live a simple life. Simple is

better. Don't clutter up your life with too many things.

• Live one day at a time. Make the most of today. Take time to enjoy life.

• Think positively. Fill your mind with useful, uplifting thoughts and images. Read, listen and watch very selectively.

• Be thankful. Form the attitude of gratitude. List your blessings. Be glad for your opportunities.

• Make your moods. Cultivate peaceful attitudes. Rise above your feelings.Talk cheerfully.

• Be generous. Help others whenever you can. Give your time and your money to worthwhile causes.

• Maintain good motives. Work for the good of others, not just yourself. Avoid selfishness.

• Practice the Golden Rule. Try always to treat others as you would like to be treated.

• Be cooperative. Resist the common tendency to want things your way. Yield to the other person more often. Try to see another's point of view.

 Learn to relax. Take time to restore yourself.

Get a hobby.

 Maintain balance in your life. Devote the proper amount of time to all aspects of your life: spiritual, family, community, career, physical, mental, material.

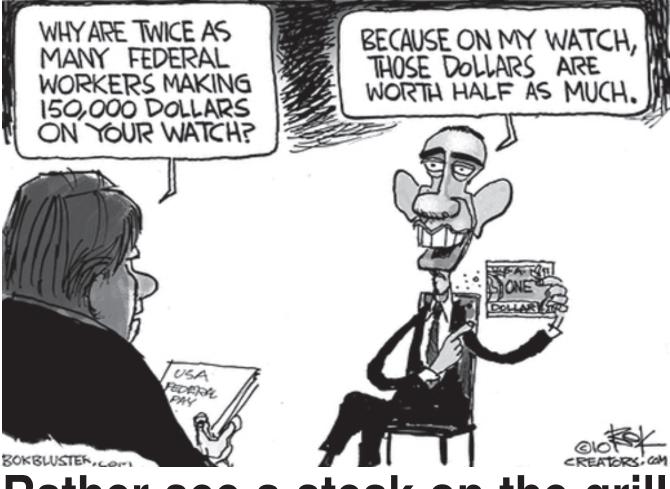
The best place to learn how to balance these aspects of your life is in church by studying, and then practicing your faith.

These resolutions make more sense, and I believe, are easier to accomplish, if we live them through our faith.

They all lead up to living and being the person God wants you to be.

I pray that you have a Happy New Year!

Scott Jimenez is a local chaplain



## Rather see a steak on the

s newspaper reporters. it's no secret we're privy to the details of some of people's stupidest decisions. In made a few passes over his backyard, although it seems somewhat unclear exactly what their presence indicated.

In his letter, the book roaster

However, those people's personal agendas, beliefs and politics fail to make the act anything less than childish and foolhardy.

Does anvone remember Terry Jones, the Florida preacher that announced to the world earlier this year he was going to burn 1,000 copies of the Muslim holy book? Jones, 58, was perhaps the unlikely face of what's become a small but international movement that preys on growing hostility and uneasiness regarding those of Muslim faith. Jones cancelled the burning after government and military officials condemned the move, saying it could bring on a whole new wave of attacks on U.S. Citizens and service men and women serving abroad. Of course, there was the underlying reason so many people opposed Jones' plans, which were mainly hopes the idiot wouldn't make Americans look like mindless dolts to the international community by taking a page from Nazi history and having a book barbecue. With at least one local resident burning a religious tome in a stereotypical manner that lumps good-hearted Muslims in with idiots with bombs strapped to their chests, it's not hard to see why America continues to be labeled uneducated troublemakers throughout the world. Needless to say, a nice, juicy steak would have made much better use of the barbecue pit and flames than a book. I wonder if he'll bother to burn this edition of the Herald, since I'm failing to agree with his manner of thinking? If so, let's dance around the flames in Kubrickian glee, flinging the burning pages to the heavens. I suppose if you're going to be a dunderhead about something, you might as well go for broke.

Sullivan said the number of grass fires and wildfires he and his firefighters are responding to has been steady since the colder months began.

"We've been responding to anywhere from two to three fires a day," Sullivan said. "The surrounding counties have seen a pretty serious upswing in bungee jump from their fires in the past few weeks, but we seem to be holding steady at this point. However, I'm not foolish enough to think it's going to stay that way."

Indeed. And, as we noted earlier, it's time for the in his car with a lit public to not be foolish enough to indiscriminately discharge fireworks. Be responsible and safe as you ring in 2011.

#### How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinons.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205

· By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at Bill editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

• By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

#### LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

Sign your letter.

· Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

 We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

· Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

· Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## **A SMALL PRAYER**

#### by K. Rae Anderson

With Your help, Lord, we can take things as they come.

fact, it would seem those half-

baked ideas and plans provide us with a great deal to print, whether it's some guy trying to his apartment balcony or checking the gasoline level match.

THOMAS **J**ENKINS

thing I've come to expect. Every day, when I come

This is some-

to work and check the AP wire, I prepare myself for stupidity and irrationality on an epic scale. It's not that I think people are necessarily stupid, just that they do stupid things, usually before they've given the matter adequate thought.

Have you ever slipped on a slick sidewalk, and, while scrambling to your feet thought, "Man, I'm glad no one saw that?" We all have, in one way or another. Few people actually enjoy being embarrassed, especially when it's the sort of idiocy folks are likely to remember — and remind you of - for years to come.

So, imagine my surprise when a local resident wrote a letter to the editor spotlighting his own moment of, well, stupidity. Again, bear in mind I'm not calling this person stupid. However, what he did ranks right up there.

In short, a local resident drove to Midland to purchase a copy of the Koran, the Muslim equivalent of the Christian Bible. He then notified the assistant pastor of a nearby church he would be burning the book in his barbecue pit Sept. 11 in memory of the lives lost in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

While in the process of burning the book, a Texas Depart-Amen ment of Public Safety helicopter

assumes, "Apparently, that Christian church had influence over the state police to visit me because of my ethics about mass murdering innocent men. women and children is different from theirs."

Now. I'm sure some readers will applaud this man as a patriot standing up for what he believes in, although I'm sort of unsure exactly what burning a copy of a religious tome actually signifies.

At one point in history, the Nazis — you remember those whack-jobs, goose stepping through the mid 1900s - burned books throughout Germany that contradicted their ideology. Were they patriots?

Of course, the Nazi's plan was very different. They scoured Germany for these books in an attempt to destroy all traces of their teachings and ideas. It was an attempt to simply erase ways of thought that did not agree with their own. Oddly enough, the Bible was one of the books the Nazis routinely torched.

Having studied theology extensively in college, books like the Koran — as well as the Tibetan Kangyur and Tengyur, Hindu Smriti, Islamic Hadith, The Tanakh (Hebrew Bible) and many, many others — have maintained a sense of mystery and interest for me through the years. As my theology professor used to say, it's always good to know what the other guys are thinking and teaching.

So, to see someone burn a book, much less a book of mysticism and great religious importance to millions of people, is nothing short of horrifying. Granted, I've seen Satanists burn the Holy Bible, separatists burn copies of the United States Constitution and American-hating foreigners burn the U.S. flag.

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



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## News in brief

#### New York airports struggle to ease blizzard backlog

NEW YORK (AP) — Snow plows churned through the night, snack bars stayed open late and cleaning crews scrubbed round-the-clock to keep the terminals clean as New York's airports struggled to clear a huge backlog of flights that has stranded thousands of passengers across the United States.

Jetways were packed at New York's Kennedy airport, where at least three airliners — two Cathay Pacific planes and a British Airways plane — were stuck for more than seven hours on Tuesday while they waited for an open gate.

On Tuesday night the airport remained filled with passengers on cell phones and laptops, trying to rebook flights, make hotel reservations or figure out alternate plans. Lines at counters for rental cars, ground transportation and lost luggage remained long throughout the day.

More than 5,000 flights were canceled at the three main airports in New York — 1,000 on Tuesday alone.

But the blizzard that hit the northeast on Sunday crippled more than just air travel. Streets across New York remained unplowed, with hundreds of buses and dozens of ambulances stuck in the snowdrifts. Subway lines and commuter trains were running slower because of signal problems and short-circuits caused by the snow. In New Jersey, tow trucks worked to clear abandoned cars from the interstates.

#### U.S. commander: Troops defend towns, fight Taliban on Afghan soil, but border can't be sealed

WASHINGTON (AP) — American troops are for cusing on fighting Taliban militants and defending vulnerable towns on Afghan soil, as it has become practically impossible to stop insurgents from slipping across Afghanistan's vast border with Pakistan, a senior U.S. military commander said.

"To secure the border in the traditional sense" would "take an inordinate amount of resources," Army Col. Viet Luong acknowledged Tuesday. It also would require far more cooperation from the tribes inside Pakistan who often provide Taliban fighters safe passage, he said.

Other senior U.S. military officials have said they hope the Pakistan military does more to shut down Taliban hideouts. But the U.S. has denied reports that American forces are pushing to expand special operations raids inside Pakistan's tribal areas to target militants.

Luong said he is choosing to fight insurgents outside Afghan villages, where they are more vulnerable anyway.

"It's naive to say that we can stop . . . forces coming through the border," said Luong, who oversees troops in a part of eastern Afghanistan that includes the volatile Khost province and 162 miles of border.

#### Fuel consumption falls by 20 percent in Iran after subsidy cuts quadruple prices

Gasoline prices quadrupled and bread prices tripled after the cuts came into effect Dec. 19, part of a government effort to boost Iran's ailing economy by reducing the massive drain on the state budget from the subsidies.

The economic shock has brought heavy criticism from reformists and even from some hard-liners the political base of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad — who say the price hikes are too fast and steep. There have been fears of unrest among a population already struggling economically, though so far there has been no serious outbreak of protests or violence.

Ahmadinejad has called the subsidy cut plan the "biggest surgery" in Iran's economy in half a century and vowed to fully cut all subsidies by the end of his term in 2013. The government says it is paying some \$100 billion in subsidies annually, although experts believe the real amount is about \$30 billion.

Under the subsidy-cut plan, the government says part of the budget savings will be returned to the people through cash payments. Every family member has already received the equivalent of about \$80 for two months.

#### Skier: Nearly 2 feet of fresh snow at Maine ski resort softened fall after chair lift fails

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine (AP) - Allof that snow from the recent Northeast blizzard proved to be a blessing for at least one of the skiers who tumbled from a chair lift at a Maine ski resort.

Rebecca London, who was aboard the crippled lift, credited fresh, ungroomed snow for softening her landing Tuesday; the resort said it got 20 to 22 inches of snow a day earlier.

"The snow was all soft," said London, of Carrabassett Valley, whose goggles also protected her face when it hit the chair lift's retaining bar during the 30-foot fall.

At least eight others — including three children — were taken to hospitals after the double-chair lift at Sugarloaf derailed during a busy vacation week at the popular resort 120 miles north of Portland Dozens of skiers remained on the crippled lift for more than an hour until the ski patrol could get them down.

An investigation will determine whether the accident was wind-related or mechanical, officials said The ski resort was being buffeted by winds gusting up to 40 mph a day after the blizzard blew through A witness said he saw a Sugarloaf employee working on the lift before the derailment.

#### Ivory Coat president clings to power despite West African nations' threat of military action

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Laurent Gbagbo clung to power on Wednesday as West African leaders conferred on what to do next after he rebuffed their ultimatum to step down or face military intervention.

The presidents of Sierra Leone, Benin and Cape <sup>7</sup>erde were to brief Nigeria's president Wednesday in Abuja, Nigeria, after they left Ivory Coast without Gbagbo, whom they hoped to accompany into exile. Nigeria is the most powerful member of the 15-nation regional bloc ECOWAS, which has vowed to use "legitimate force" if Gbagbo does not relinquish power.

The military option apparently remained on the table for ECOWAS, which has sent combat troops to at least three African states in the past two decades.

Tensions have escalated in Ivory Coast, the world's main cocoa producer. A crowd in a pro-Gbagbo neighborhood on Tuesday surrounded a small U.N. convoy and wounded a peacekeeper with a machete, the U.N. said. Gbagbo has ordered peacekeepers out but the U.N. mission in Ivory Coast said after the attack that it "reiterates its determination to pursue its work in the service of the Ivorian people."

The United Nations declared Gbagbo the loser by of presidential elections on Nov. 28. The U.N., which was tasked with certifying the results of the election, the United States and other world powers have insisted Gbagbo leave the presidency.

#### Belgian Third World activist priest admits sexual abuse

#### of minor 40 years ago

BRUSSELS (AP) — A Belgian priest and promi nent Third World development activist has admitted he sexually abused a minor 40 years ago, according to the director of the development aid organization he founded.

The case of Francois Houtart came to light after the victim's sister came forward in reaction to a campaign to nominate the priest for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Bernard Duterme, director of Cetri, says Houtart resigned from the organization's board in November

Houtart, who is currently in Ecuador, didn't immediately respond to phone calls and e-mail Wednesday, but in an interview with Belgian newspaper Le Soir, Houtart is quoted as saying he twice touched "the intimate parts" of a boy he describes as his cousin 40 years ago. He calls the incident "inconsiderate and irresponsible."

#### SKorea's leader calls for urgency in dismantling NKorea's nuclear program

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said Wednesday that urgent progress must be made next year in dismantling North Korea's atomic weapons program ahead of a key anniversary that could spur Pyongyang to bolster its nuclear capabilities.

President Lee Myung-bak said diplomats must quickly persuade the North to abandon its nuclear aspirations because Pyongyang is pushing to create a "powerful, prosperous nation" by 2012. The year is the 100th since the birth of Kim Il Sung, the revered guerrilla fighter-turned-political leader who founded the communist state in 1948 and the father of current leader Kim Jong Il.

That push could involve more aggressive behavior, and a South Korean Foreign Ministry-affiliated think tank, the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, warned in a recent report that North Korea could be planning another nuclear test for next year.

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Fuel consumption has fallen by a fifth since the government began slashing energy and food subsidies earlier this month, a top government official said Wednesday, claiming an early sign of success in the controversial program.

The two Koreas are still technically at war because their 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. Last month, the North shelled southern-held Yeonpyeong Island along the disputed sea border, killing four people.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The moon in diplomatic Libra at the start of the day encourages outreach. Get out and be seen. Shake hands and turn heads for all the right reasons. Mercury becomes sta-

tionary and will soon move forward through lucky Sagittarius, releasing a wave of good for-

tune



HOLIDAY MATHIS

social arrangements. Go on and make some plans.

for travel and

ARIES (March 21-April 19). So many people complain about their jobs. That's why it may be hard for you to believe, but you will actually be seduced by your work and the promise of expanding yourself through it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Take pleasure in your surroundings. A life that is bereft of pleasure is a setup for overindulgence and destructive habits. If you can't delight in your surroundings, you need to change them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do you really have to know how the ride works in order to sit back and enjoy it? No. In fact, there are times when knowing too much ruins the experience. Consider that maybe it's better not to ask too many questions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a nervous feeling that wells up in you when that certain someone is around. What thoughts are going through your head when you talk to this person? Change the inner game, and the outer game will change, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Do not shirk away from the conflict. The drama forces you to go deeper into yourself and learn who you really are. It is exhilarating to jump in the ring. Tell yourself the fight is just getting good.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Things aren't progressing as fast as you'd like them to, and you'll be tempted to take matters into your own hands. However, it is much advised that you follow the correct protocol.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The perfect balance of connection and disconnection will be represented in a relationship. You'll enjoy activities that allow you to do your own thing right alongside someone who is doing his or her own thing.

(Oct. SCORPIO 24-Nov. 21). There are no quick fixes today. You have to put something into it in order to get something out of it, and both sides of the equation take time. Luckily for you, you're willing to do the work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not always appropriate to mind. speak your However, today, when you come out and say what you're really thinking, something wonderful happens. Taurus people are lucky for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take a break from your philanthropy in order to give yourself something you really want. If you can't be generous with yourself,

it will be difficult for you to be generous with others.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you think adversity builds character, just wait until you see what success does. Those who can be graceful at the center of the swirl are gifted indeed, and you are one of them.

(Feb. PISCES 19-March 20). Apparently, no one got the memo about how they are supposed to act around you. Furthermore, someone seems intent on riling you up. You prove your self-control by being gentle and easygoing through it all.

**TODAY'S BIRTH-**DAY (Dec. 29). You can feel the fates smiling on your personal life this year. The adjustments that occur over the next three weeks make everything run smoothly. You eliminate a source of worry or unnecessary aggravation in January. March brings new influences. You're the life and soul of the party in June. Libra and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30,

1, 24, 39 and 19.

ASTROLOGICAL **QUESTIONS:** "I am a college professor who recently started dating one of my former students. We didn't get together until after the class ended. She earned a "C" in the course. Now she wants to take another course that I teach. We have been keeping our relationship on the down low, but I'm afraid that if something goes awry in our relationship, it will adversely affect the classroom dynamic. What should I do? I'm a Capricorn, and she is a Scorpio."

You are in dangerous territory for reasons both astrological and collegiate. First, you need to slyly find out exactly where your college stands on the subject of consensual relationships between professors and students. Many college campuses ban such relationships. Secondly, as a mature Capricorn, you will be able to compartmentalize and manage your feelings, keeping them out of the classroom. However, your young and deeply romantic Scorpio will not. Her passion will not suc-

cumb to reason, and this goes double in the event that her heart is wounded. Your fear is wellfounded, and you should do everything you can to persuade her away from your class.

**CELEBRITY PRO-**FILES: Ted Danson has accomplished the nearly impossible. He's a Hollywood veteran who, after more than 30 years on television, still ranks as "cool" among 20-yearolds. Of course, he does have the advantage of being a Capricorn and, thus, endowed with the kind of patience and humor that ranks with any generation. His natal moon and Saturn in Leo means entertainment is in his blood.

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

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**Dear Annie:** My mother passed away two years ago. She had been with "Biff" for about 13 years. Biff is a jerk.

Most of the family discontinued all contact with my mother because no one could stand him. I tolerated him, but he made me uncomfortable. When I was a teenager, he made sexual comments to me, and I moved out of the house as soon as I could.

He was also verbally abusive of my younger brother. Biff only behaved this way when Mom was at work, and when we told her, she did nothing.

I am now 32, and even though my mother is gone, Biff is determined to stay in my life.

He refers to my 3-yearold as his "granddaughter." He visits us at my work, where my daughter is in a daycare program.

My husband and I are expecting our second baby soon, and there is no reason for Biff to consider himself relat-KATHY MITCHELL ed in any way to this MARCY SUGAR child. My daughter will be starting a preschool program soon. When I told Biff, he said he would come to my house to see her. Annie, I do not want him coming into my home.



#### Annie's Mailbox ®

reason for him to hang around.

He has a grown daughter and two grandchildren of his own. He makes no effort to push himself on them — only me. Biff is verbally violent, and I am afraid he will erupt if I ask him to back off.

How do I handle this mess? Is it possible to get rid of this man without any major blowup? -Frightened

**Dear Frightened:** Biff has been your stepfather for 13 years and believes he is part of your family. Set some boundaries, and maintain your distance. Insist he call before coming over.

Try to arrange meetings at neutral places, such as playgrounds or the zoo, and when your husband can be with you.

Keep the visits brief, and gradually let them become less frequent. If he yells, leave. If his verbal abuse becomes physical, call the police.

Dear Annie: My husband's childhood friend, who is almost 50, is getting married for the first time, and the wedding is in the Bahamas.

Traveling to the wedding and staying at the resort is a great expense. Do we still need to give a

**Dear Bewildered:** A gift is expected, but should be something you can afford. A combined gift card is fine. So is a bottle of wine. But do make sure there is a card with your good wishes.

Dear Annie: I'm a 21-year-old woman, and I go commando, just like the daughter of "Worried Mom of Britney Spears Wannabe."

Many of my friends also go commando, but none of us uses tampons. If our "natural secretions" can be washed out of our panties, they can also be washed out of our jeans.

Most pants are thick enough that staining is not noticeable on the outside.

Why on earth would any sane woman want to wear a tampon when she doesn't have to? It puts them at risk for infections and toxic shock syndrome, as well as discomfort that is simply not necessary. — Commando Girl from New York

**Dear N.Y.:** We were surprised at the number of women (of all ages) who like to go commando. We find it less hygienic than wearing panties, and we prefer not to wash our jeans every day. But to each her own.

I need a way to tell Biff that there is no longer a

gift?

Money is tight, and since we don't often see this friend, I think what he truly wants is our support and presence. Still, it feels strange not giving something.

Would it be OK for several of his friends to each contribute a small amount and combine it into one gift card the newlyweds could use to purchase one big gift they would enjoy? What is the correct thing to do? — Bewildered with the Bahamas

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com © 2010 CREATORS.COM



## News in brief

#### Woman in disbelief that pastor broke into her home

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas woman says a pastor who's accused of stealing valuable items from her house knew she wasn't home and that the clergywoman's excuse that she was trying to protect her belongings is unbelievable.

In an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" Wednesday, Serita Agnew says she was "devastated and in disbelief" when Dallas police told her they had arrested Sandy McGriff on Christmas Eve after she climbed through a broken window at Agnew's home and removed two fur coats.

Agnew says the two women had spoken about 30 minutes earlier.

She says McGriff's assertion that she was investigating a possible burglary "does not make sense," and that the pastor had lied to police by saying Agnew asked her to stop by.

McGriff is charged with burglary and resisting arrest.

#### Polygamist sect leader due back in Texas court

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs is due in court for his final pretrial hearing with still no word on whether he has a Texas attorney.

A pretrial hearing in the aggravated sexual assault case against Jeffs is set for Wednesday morning.

The 55-year-old is scheduled to stand trial Jan. 24 but says he's had trouble finding in-state representation.

The ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints also is charged with felony bigamy and assault, with trials on

- those charges to come y later.

The case stems from the 2008raid of the Yearning For Zion Ranch in Eldorado, where authorities seized over 400 children. Most were eventually returned to their families, but seven men in the sect have been convicted on child sexual abuse charges.

#### Sheriff says 'large cat' killed goats

SKELLYTOWN (AP) — Authorities are warning residents in the eastern part of Carson County in the Texas Panhandle to be alert after a several goats in a pen were killed by what the sheriff suspects was some kind of "large cat."

Carson County Sheriff Tam Terry says the tracks left behind after the Tuesday morning attack in Skellytown were larger than a bobcat.

He tells the Amarillo

Globe-News, "Everybody thinks it's a mountain lion, but we don't have a way to verify that. There are tracks, indications it was a cat larger than what we normally see."

As a precaution, Terry said everyone on the east side of the county was notified of the attack using a reverse 911 calling system.

Skellytown, population about 600, is about 60 miles northeast of Amarillo.

#### Infant's body found in Houston trash bin

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police say the body of a baby girl with the umbilical cord still attached was found in a box near a trash bin at a gated apartment complex.

Houston police Sgt. Will Gonzales says a maintenance worker found the box Tuesday morning near an overflowing trash bin.

Gonzales says the worker didn't look in the box, but placed it in a golf cart to move it to another bin. When the box fell off the cart, the body fell out.

Gonzales believes the child was born Monday night or early Tuesday.

#### SUV driver killed in crash with school bus

CROSBY (AP) — Authorities say the driver of an SUV was killed in a collision with a South Texas school bus carrying a girls' basketball team.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office says the accident happened Tuesday night outside



Crosby. The bus was carrying the Crosby Independent School District ninth grade girls' basketball team.

Sgt. Glen Wolverton told The Houston Chronicle that nine players, the coach, the coach's daughter and the 69-year-old bus driver were taken to a hospital. Their injuries are not considered lifethreatening.

The team was returning from a tournament in Liberty, about 20 miles away.

Wolverton said the SUV was traveling north when a vehicle in front of it slowed down or stopped to turn left. The SUV then moved into oncoming traffic and struck the bus headon.

#### Willingham lawyers ask court to reconsider rebuke

AUSTIN (AP) — Innocence Project attorneys who say a Texas man convicted of arson was wrongly executed have asked an appeals court to reconsider its rebuke of a judge who held a recent hearing in the case.

Lawyers for the family of Cameron Willingham asked the 3rd Texas Court of Appeals to reconsider its Dec. 22 ruling that Judge Charlie Baird "abused his discretion" by not recusing himself or referring a motion for his recusal to another judge. The Austin American-Statesman reported the development Tuesday.

Baird presided over an October hearing into whether Willingham was wrongly executed for setting a 1991 fire that killed his three daughters.

Although Willingham was executed in 2004, many of the nation's foremost fire experts, some of whom testified in October, now say the blaze was accidental. Baird told the newspaper that while the reconsideration issue remains unresolved, he is not required to refer the recusal motion to state District Judge Billy Ray Stubblefield, the administrative judge for the region that includes Travis County.

Neither the motion for reconsideration pending before the appeals court nor the recusal motion pending before Baird are likely to be resolved before Baird's retirement at the end of the year.

The case will likely fall to Baird's successor, former Travis County prosecutor Karen Sage, officials said.

Some of Willingham's relatives and attorneys from the Innocence Project, an organization that specializes in wrongful conviction cases, are trying to clear Willingham's name and get the state to acknowledge he was wrongly executed.

#### Man condemned for post-9/11 slaying loses appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has rejected an appeal from a white supremacist convicted of killing an Indian man during a shooting spree that started after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Mark Stroman, 41, of Dallas, has said he was angry at people of Middle Eastern descent after the terrorist attacks. He was convicted in the October 2001 slaying of Vasudev Patel, who worked at a gas station convenience store in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite.

Patel, 49, a native of India who moved to Texas in 1983 and was a naturalized U.S. citizen, was one of three people shot — and two killed by Stroman, according to trial testimony.

The New Orleansbased 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in its decision dated Monday that Stroman believed the U.S. government "hadn't done their job so he was going to do it for them" and retaliate for the terrorist attacks. Its ruling moves him one step closer to execution.



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W WW W WW W Ch	ARD O	5	YOU G PROING V WHACK PROING W WHACK	AT MAKES O VHACK WH WHACK, VHACK WHACK ? 	ACK ~	ONLY! <u>NO</u> <u>CHECKS</u>	UNDE CEILIN 2000 8 VALUABLE 20 PERSONAL	NG FAN.	th tw th tw d Hi G G G G G G G th bi Cl th	Today is We e 363rd day o days left : Today's istory: On Dec. 29 Oklahoma uthrie to O e state legis Il which wa harles N. H e move wa ourt, the U.S	ednesday, I of 2010. Th in the year. Highligh , 1910, the was move klahoma ( lature appn as signed b askell. (Alta as challen	bec. 29, trere are t in capital d from roved a y Gov. though ged in Count	nassacre t Dakota as Sioux India J.S. troop hem. In 1916, he so-cal vho'd wiel- vith Czar N lered by a noblemen i In 1934, renounced Javal Trea In 1940, d Germany co bombs on vhat came	the Wound ook place an estim ans were 1 s sent to Grigory H led "Mad ded great licholas II, group of n St. Peters Japan the Wa ty of 1922. uring Worl lropped in London, so to be know at Fire of I	in South ated 300 killed by disarm Rasputin, Monk" influence was mur- Russian sburg. formally shington Id War II, acendiary etting off n as "The	Jon Polit Yvonne H Patricia Comediau 51. Rock Reid (TH Chain) i Cudlitz Dexter H is 45. Ac Clark is 4 is 44. M Wachows Jennifer Patrick singer-m is 40. Actor	o is 60. Sin Elliman is Clarkson n Paula Pou singer-mu ne Jesus s 49. Actor is 46. Ro olland (The ctor-comedi 44. Actor Ja fovie dire ski is 45 Ehle is Fischler is usician Glu tor Kevin V	s 63. Actor ger-actress 59. Actress 1 is 51. undstone is sician Jim and Mary or Michael ck singer Offspring) an Mystro ason Gould ctor Andy 8. Actors 41. Actor s 41. Rock en Phillips Veisman is 38. Actor

upheld the action.) On this date:

In 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh,

N.C. In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized in Boston

Second Great Fire of London."

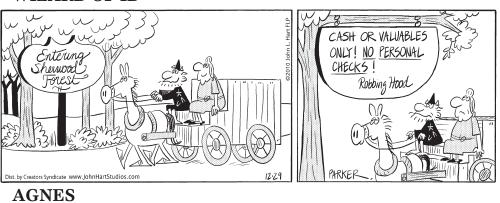
In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.

In 1986, former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan died at his home in Sussex, England, at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Inga Swenson is 78. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 76. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 74. Actor Jon Voight is 72. Country singer Ed Bruce is 71. Rock musician Ray Thomas is 69. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 64.

Mekhi Phifer is 36. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 35. Actress Katherine Moennig is 33. © 2010 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle STRAY FLOE HAW OWA OBB DOI UNS I ND ER HOO DU SODA ABATEOSLO BONES TRE TIERODS NONE REE OODFIGHT A E R T R I OAR ATE





#### **HI AND LOIS**



#### THE OTHER COAST









#### **BEETLE BAILEY**







HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF I TOOK THE NEWSPAPER AWAY FROM YOU WHILE YOU WERE

STILL READING IT?



Jockey Laffit Pincay, Jr. is 64.

10 Hold back

11 Adds to the

language

12 Choir voice

18 Pygmalion

23 Busts, oils, etc.

24 Gravity-powered 45 Triple-decker

13 Existed

writer

vehicle

25 Pull apart

26 Ratio phrase

**27** Had a good

mention of

launch

29 Oil source

28 Makes

sch.

6

#### EYED SPENT ELSE

**PILEUP** by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

microbrews

37 "Naturally!"

38 Pro \_\_ work

40 Raffle tickets

41 Aggregations

44 Fountain order

43 \_\_-Magnon

cookie

48 Get wind of

49 Zoning unit,

50 Take the bait

52 All the time

mention . . ."

maybe

51 Ardor

53 "Not to

36 Many

#### Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Choir voices 6 Earth tone 11 Enclosed part of 64 Handle a locomotive 14 Like most people 15 Easily fooled 16 Soccer chant 17 Insincere expression of gratitude 19 Ending for "inhabitant" 20 Skirt edge 21 Turn away from 22 Gabbed away 24 Minor misunderstanding 25 Management
- levels 27 Go ballistic
- 31 Vacant, as an
- apartment
- 33 Feedbag filler 34 Took the gold

**35** Frog cousin 36 Prefix for

physics

- 38 Yawn inducer 39 UFO crew
- 40 Whodunit lead
- 41 Carried
- 42 Infield feature
- 46 Wipe clean
- 47 River of Florence
- 48 Was wearing
- 50 Ran in the wash
- 51 Sky safety org.
- 54 "Green" prefix 55 Senators' milieu
- 59 Comics bark
- 60 Please greatly
- 61 Trevi fountain coins

62 Rink official 63 Produced planks, perhaps efficiently

#### DOWN

**1** Rubber duckie's place 2 US Open tennis stadium

- 3 The King and I land
- 4 Fernando
- Valley 5 Result of a
- leaky pen 6 Running by itself
- 30 Place for a 7 "High Hopes" lyricist

4 5

8 Step on it

2 3

- 9 Actress Mendes 32 "It wasn't me!"

pants patch 56 Very much like 31 Lone Star State 57 Handle clumsily 58 Rainbow gradation 11 12 13 9 10 7 8

14						15						16		
17				1	18		1		$\uparrow$			19		1
20				21	$\mathbf{T}$					22	23			
			24		1			25	26			$\vdash$		
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31	32						33					34		
35					36	37		1	$\square$		38			1
39				40						41				1
42			43					44	45					
		46			+			47	1					
48	49						50		$\uparrow$			51	52	53
54				55	56	57					58			
59				60						61				
62				63						64				
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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2010 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/29/10

**F**EATURES

## A year of iPads, Betty, 'Glee' and Palins

Bristol Palin, perhaps

foreseeing she'll be a hit

on the upcoming "Danc-

ing With the Stars,"

signs with a speakers

agency. Her mom tells

a crowd: "If you thought

pit bulls were tough,

you don't want to mess

with mama grizzlies."

And the uber mama

grizzly is the subject of

a comedic monologue

by none other than the

president: He tells the

White House Corre-

spondents dinner that

he's popular on Twitter

and Facebook — "or as

Sarah Palin calls it, the

Winner, most ill-ad-

vised remark: BP's Tony

Hayward, who apolo-

gizes this month for his

"I'd like my life back"

most ill-advised media

interview: Gen. Stanley

McChrystal, fired after

criticizing the Obama

administration in Roll-

ing Stone. Winners,

most surprising mari-

tal split: Al and Tipper

Gore, previous winners

of most surprising lip-

lock at a political con-

vention, who announce

their separation after

40 years of marriage.

PALIN watch: Reports

emerge of a thawing in

relations between exes

Bristol Palin and Levi

Johnston. More on this

WONDER WOMAN

gets a wardrobe change

from DC Comics - no

more star-spangled hot

pants. Once an awk-

ward-looking teen, Chel-

sea Clinton is a beauti-

ful bride in Rhinebeck,

N.Y. - and Americans

are clearly still obsessed

with royal weddings.

President Obama goes

on "The View," reveal-

ing a huge gap in his

pop culture knowledge

later ...

JULY:

Winner,

socialized media."

JUNE:

comment.

#### JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer Politics and pop culture. Remember when they used to be, well, separate? In recent years these two worlds have seemed to inch ever closer, or maybe to overlap, but in 2010, nobody traveled between them more successfully than Sarah Palin.

No longer Alaska governor (wow, that does seem a long time ago) but omnipresent on the political scene nonetheless, she also had a multi-format presence in our culture: as a TV commentator, a bestselling author, and of course, a reality show star. Heck, she even almost won "Dancing With the Stars" — oh wait, that was daughter Bristol.

No matter. In our annual look at pop culture moments, Sarah Palin, with some help from her family, gets star billing.

#### **JANUARY**:

The iPAD tablet debuts, briefly raising the vexing philosophical question: Do we really need yet another gadget? Answer: Yup, apparently we do. Ending a dreadfully botched experiment, NBC removes Jay Leno from 10 p.m., restoring him to 11:35 and thus displacing CONAN O'BRIEN, who is, shall we say, a little annoyed. SARAH PALIN, no doubt annoying opponents who were hoping she'd eventually disappear, becomes a commentator at Fox News Channel. An actual career shift, or a canny step toward a 2012 run? She's not telling. Maybe by the end of the year ...

#### FEBRUARY:

The spry, sly BETTY WHITE scores big in a



ical understatement in a carefully stage-managed appearance that will be analyzed ad nauseam. PALIN watch: During a speech to tea party activists, the words "energy," "tax" and "lift American spirits" are seen scribbled on her hand. Later, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs will mock her with the words "hope" and "change" scribbled on his own palm. Somehow, we think Palin will not only recover but turn this into a catchy joke ...

#### MARCH:

We were right. On Leno's "Tonight Show," Palin flashes "Good evening and welcome to 'The Tonight Show'" on her palm. She also says she's going to play TINA FEY in an upcoming Vegas show (ba dum-dum.) But there's much more from Palin this month: Publishers announce she's working on her second book. Heavyweight TV producer Mark Burnett pitches her Alaska-themed reality show, which lands at TLC. There's room for politics, too: Palin lends a hand to former GOP running mate John Mc-Cain by appearing at his campaign rally. And in a Facebook post, she makes waves by declaring: "Don't Retreat, In-

stead - RELOAD!"

#### **APRIL:**

A month of reprises. WOODS returns to golf at the Masters, his first competition in nearly five months. (He ends up tying for fourth.) And FEY, who made so much hay out of her 2008 "SNL" run as Palin — "I can see Russia from my house!" — reprises the role as guest host, introducing a mock "Sarah Palin Network" with shows like "Tea Party Wheel of Fortune," "Are You Smarter than a Half-Term Governor?" and "Hey Journalist, I Gotcha." The real Palin, who first introduced herself to the world as a hockey mom, makes one of her many endorsements, calling a Minnesota governor hopeful a "straight talking hockey dad."

#### MAY:

After a disappointing "American Idol" season, SIMON COWELL exits the formidable but slumping franchise. Speaking of slumping franchises, the second "Sex and the City" movie, set largely in Abu Dhabi, debuts to some of the most scathing reviews in memory. not to mention accusations that it lampoons Muslims. PALIN watch:

nounce, is back on.

#### AUGUST:

RIHANNA, who made headlines in 2009 when she was assaulted by then boyfriend Chris Brown, collaborates with rapper Eminem in a chart-topping song, "Love the Way You Lie," that graphically depicts a physically abusive relationship. The debate: Is the song a tool to fight domestic violence, or does it glorify it? And remember the party-crashing Salahis? Well, they're baaaack ... this time as reality stars, in "The Real Housewives of DC." The pop culture hero of the month, though, is STEVEN SLATER, the JetBlue flight attendant who, having had quite enough, leaves his job — and career — via the plane's emergency chute, beer in hand. PALIN watch: NEVER MIND! Bristol Palin refudiates, er, breaks off her engagement to Johnston, after he tells her he may have fathered a child with another woman.

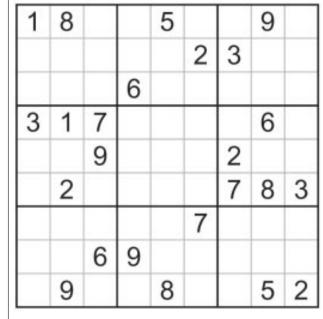
#### SEPTEMBER:

You're LADY GAGA and you want to make a sartorial statement at the VMA awards. Tough proposition, since you look pretty unique all

See **YEAR**, Page 8A

## 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





Snickers Super Bowl ad, beginning an incredible year for the 88-year-old actress that will include a Facebook-generated "Saturday Night Live" hosting gig. As Betty rises, TIGER speaks: "What I did was not acceptable," the fallen golf great says with economwhen he can't say who Snooki and The Situation are. PALIN watch: The word "refudiate," her unintentional splicing of "refute" and "repudiate," enters the lexicon. Bristol and Levi promptly "refudiate" their breakup — the engagement, they an-

## Contract Bridge

## By Steve Becker **Choosing the Right Line of Play**

East dealer.	
East-West vulner	able.
NC	ORTH
♠ A 8	3
♥94	
	9742
◆ A J	
WEST	EAST
◆ J 9 4 3	◆ 10 7 5
♥Q 10 8 5 2	♥J76
♦ 6	• A 10 8 3
<b>4</b> 875	<b>♣</b> K 6 2
	UTH
♠ K (	
♥Aŀ	K
♦ Q J	5
♣Q 1	1094
The bidding:	
East South	West North
	Pass 3 NT
Opening lead —	
o pomo read	

**Declarer is often confronted** with a choice of several lines of play. Obviously, he should try to select the most promising one, but it is not always easy to find the approach that offers the best chance.

**Consider this deal** where West leads a heart against three notrump and declarer wins East's jack with the ace. What should South do next?

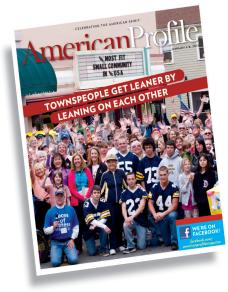
It would clearly be wrong to try a club finesse at this point — first, because the contract would be in great jeopardy if it lost, and second, because the club finesse can just as

easily be taken later on, if necessary. The proper suit to attack initially is diamonds. If the suit divides 3-2 (the normal expectancy), South is sure to score at least 10 tricks without risking the dangerous club finesse. Furthermore, he has a much better chance of finding the diamonds favorably divided than of finding West with the king of clubs. However, despite the decided advantage of attacking diamonds rather than clubs, it would be wrong to lead a diamond from the closed hand at trick two. The correct play by declarer is to lead a low spade to the ace followed by a low diamond from dummy.

After East follows low, as he should, South wins the trick with the queen. Declarer must now be careful of his next step. Sheer momentum might cause him to lead another diamond. But this would be a serious mistake (and would be fatal in the actual case because of the 4-1 diamond division).

Instead, South should now take the club finesse because, by doing so, he is sure to make nine tricks even if the finesse loses. But if, at trick two, he leads a diamond from his hand or attempts a club finesse, or, on the recommended line of play, continues diamonds after the queen wins at trick three, it eventually costs him the contract.

## In **Sunday's** Big Spring Herald



## Healthy Towns

Forming perhaps the ultimate weightloss support group, three small towns united their citizenry with a common goal of losing extra pounds.

AmericanProfile

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**Tomorrow:** Born of despair. ©2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

## **8**A

Continued from Page 7A

the time. What are you gonna do, dress up in raw meat or something? The (Yup.) movie "SOCIAL NETWORK" debuts, becoming an instant Oscar frontrunner and beginning Facebook co-founder MARK ZUCKERBERG's year of pop culture fame. PALIN watch: Apparently they wanted Todd Palin first, but it's Bristol who makes her debut on "Dancing with the Stars." Mama apparently didn't tell her not to come — so she dances a cha-cha, to Three Dog Night's "Mama Told Me (Not To Come)." Satirist BILL MAHER gets a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame and thanks "George Bush, Sarah Palin and the pope."

#### **OCTOBER:** So many of us love

the fun, creative Fox hit "GLEE." But those ultra-sexed-up photos a couple of cast members pose for in Esquire this month? Not so much, especially Lea Michele's spread-eagled number in panties — in a high school locker room. And we've seen strange political ads before, but maybe not THIS strange: "I'm not a witch," says Delaware Senate hopeful Christine O'Donnell. "I'm you." In November, voters would decide not to elect ... themselves. PALIN watch: A Washington think tank finds that Obama was the most joked-about political figure this year. Coming in second? A certain former Alaska governor.

#### **NOVEMBER:**

There will be a real royal wedding! Brit-

ain's Prince William proposes to Kate Middleton, promising an April 29 extravaganza. But otherwise, on our pop culture clock, it's a Palin month. "Sarah Palin's Alaska" premieres on TLC, and her second book, "America by Heart: Reflections on Family, Faith and Flag," hits stores. A reality show, a best-selling book, and a bunch of her "mamma grizzlies" headed for office after the midterm elections ... what more can you ask?

Features

Bristol Well, Palin makes the finals on "Dancing," setting off a furious debate over whether the voting is just all politics. Winning, she says before the finale, "would be like a big middle finger" to the Palin haters; she ends up coming in third. FEY accepts her Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, and she, too, thanks ... you betcha!

Christmas is the happiness that lights our children's eyes.

Christmas is a song of bells ringing through the skies.

> Christmas is a time of peace, of contentment deep within,

(Christmas Is...")



#### **DECEMBER:**

Sorry, JULIAN AS-SANGE: Facebook may be nearly 7 years old, but ZUCKERBERG, its 26-year-old CEO, is Time Magazine's Person of the Year, the youngest since Charles Lindbergh in 1927. Assange, the WikiLeaks founder and a top contender for the honor, sure is ticked

off - oh wait, that's the faux Assange, in a popular SNL skit skewering both of them. OPRAH WINFREY launches the final season of her talk show with a typically understated gesture — bringing her entire audience on an eightday trip to Australia. SNOOKI and her "Jersey Shore" mates — are you listening, Mr. President? - snag a spot on Barbara Walters' annual list of most fascinating people.

Who else is on the list? Sarah Palin, the only person to be on it three times in a row. And at year's end, though she's dropping more and more hints of a 2012 presidential run, she's still not telling.

