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# HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

**FRIDAY**

**DECEMBER 9, 2011**



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 50

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## Suspect charged in more crimes

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A Big Spring woman, arrested and charged with the Tuesday morning aggravated robbery of a 7-Eleven, is still in custody and has been charged with other crimes, according to Big Spring police.



Cantu

As of this morning, Deborah Kay Cantu, 46, of 419 Dallas Apt. B, remained in the custody of the Howard County Detention Center. Bond has been set at \$75,000 for the aggravated robbery and \$2,000 each for two counts of burglary of a vehicle.

"We were able to clear up two cases of burglary of a vehicle and we're hoping to be able to clear up three more," Big Spring Police Department Det. Steve Henry said. "It doesn't appear Cantu was operating alone. It appears she could have had at least one, possibly even two accomplices in these crimes. However, there haven't been any additional arrests at this time. At this point, the idea of additional offenders is purely speculation."

Cantu was arrested at a home located at 509 Johnson shortly after Tuesday's robbery was reported to police, police records reveal.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, the robbery was reported at approximately 3:09 a.m. at the 1801 S. Gregg St. store.

"Officers were advised by the clerk that a Hispanic female had just robbed the store," Everett said. "She was

See **CANTU**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton  
**Santa and Mrs. Claus visit with a child during Howard College's luminaria celebration Thursday evening.**

## Turf's up!

### School board OKs artificial turf for Memorial Stadium

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Memorial Stadium is getting a major facelift. During their Thursday night meeting, Big Spring Independent School District trustees voted to set aside \$825,000 in reserve funds to purchase and install artificial turf for the stadium. But a new playing field is only the first of several upgrades planned for the 60-year-old stadium. In the near future, school district officials plan to replace the stadium's restrooms and concession stands and significantly upgrade its field house and press boxes. Memorial Stadium was constructed in the early 1950s. It is technically the property of Howard College, but is leased to BSISD. BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said upgrades at Memorial were not only needed, but critically overdue. "We can't do it all at once,"

See **TURF**, Page 3A

## Investment in the future

### BSISD enthusiastic about Early College High School Program

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

An Early College High School Program at Big Spring Independent School District would not only allow students greater access to academic and vocational opportunities, but would be a solid investment in those students' futures, BSISD trustees were told during their Thursday night meeting. The Early College High School program, a proposed partnership between BSISD and Howard College, would allow students to take college credit courses as early as their freshman year in high school. Students in the program could conceivably graduate high school with either an associate's degree in academics or vocational certification in workforce training. BSISD and Howard College have been studying the feasibility of instituting an Early College High School here for several months, and officials are enthusiastic about its possibilities, to say the least. "One of the things we want to do is take away the 'luck factor,'" BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said. "A lot of our kids wind up going to college because they luck out. We want to remove that variable. We want to make it so that if they want to go to college, they can. It's not going to be left up to chance, anymore."



Saldivar

Trustee Phil Furqueron agreed that an ECHS program would expand students' horizons.

"It will dramatically impact the dropout rate, because now, students will be able to see something beyond just high school," Furqueron said.

"Design teams" from both BSISD and Howard College have taken several trips to ECHS programs across the state. Once such trip to

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

## Needed: Kid friendly donors

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Time is running out for area residents looking to brighten the Christmas holiday for local children and seniors, as the Big Spring Salvation Army prepares to wrap up its annual Angel Tree program Dec. 14 in time to distribute gifts a week later. According to Bessie Flores, a social worker with the local charity, this year's distribution will take place at 602 Main St., a slightly more central location. "In the past we've had the Angel Tree distribution at the International Union of Operating Engineers building, located near the Big Spring Refinery," Flores said. "However, this year, the folks who operate the building that used to house Paradigm Physical Therapy have been gracious enough to allow us to use that building. "It will be a really good location for us because it has really wide, open spaces for us to lay out the gifts and sort through everything. Also, it's much more central to the people who live in the city, so I think it will help as far as folks being able to find a way there. We're really excited about it."



B. Flores

Ada Flores, who also serves as a social worker for the Salvation Army and heads up the Angel Tree

See **ANGELS**, Page 3A

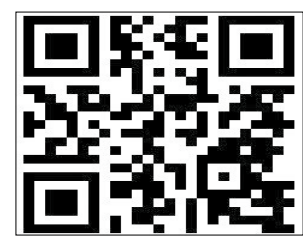


HERALD file photo  
**Hundreds of angels remain on Salvation Army Angel Trees throughout Big Spring,**



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## Obituaries

### Paul Lindell



Paul Lindell, 62, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at Hospice House in Odessa. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the First Church of God with Charles Harrington officiating.

Paul was born Sept. 28, 1949, in Abilene, Texas, to Louise and S.C. Lindell. He received his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech and had been a resident of Big Spring for 34 years, moving from Lubbock. He first taught in the Big Spring Independent School District for several years and then taught in the Forsan School District for more than 20 years, retiring in 2005. He also taught driver's education for 10 years.

Paul is survived by his wife, Linda of Big Spring; five children, Cynthia Michelle Schaffner and husband Shane of Big Spring, Lisa Mae Josey and husband Rodney of Sulphur Springs, Chris Mason and wife Tracie of St. Joseph, Mo., Alex Lindell of Austin and Cheri Kaye Barnes and husband Robin of Stanton; 13 grandchildren, Zach Angel and wife Summer, Braden Schaffner, Ambrie Schaffner, Kaci Dawn Hecker, Cameron Hancock, Kaitlyn Hancock, Taylor Josey, Caleb Mason, Luke Mason, Rachel Mason, Erin Barnes, Jaxson Lindell and Emerie Barnes; and one brother, David Lindell and wife B.J. of Dallas.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Steve Lindell.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

*Paid obituary*

### Vernon Lee Miller

Vernon Lee Miller, 92, of Lamesa, died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, in Lamesa, Texas. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Gail with Randy Hardman and Matt Farmer officiating. Burial will follow in Gail Cemetery under the direction of Branon Funeral Home. Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 9, 2011, from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Branon Funeral Home.

He was born March 27, 1919, near Ranger to Riley and Nina (Fambrough) Miller. He married Ruby Pruitt in 1939 in Lamesa. She preceded him in death in 1997. He later married Flo Gordon in 2004. Vernon was a member of First Baptist Church of Gail.

He was a cattleman and horseman, having ranched in Borden County for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Flo Miller; grandsons; great-grandchildren; and a brother, Bob Miller and wife Dorothy of Lamesa.

He is also preceded in death by his parents; son, Terry Lee Miller; and an infant son, Tommy Miller.

The family suggests memorials to a charity of your choice.

## Support Groups

### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit [www.cccbigspring.org](http://www.cccbigspring.org)

### SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8

p.m.

### MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

• PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parnts, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

• Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

### Doris Lewis



Doris Lewis, 62, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, at her residence. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Holston Banks of Shiloh House of Praise and the Rev. Gary Peterson officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born April 13, 1949, in Big Spring to Helen and Charles Peterson. She worked as a secretary for Judge Walter Grice. Later, she worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 28 years as a medical records technician. She attended Shiloh House of Praise and lived most of her life in Big Spring.

She is survived by her husband, Herschel Lewis of Big Spring; one daughter, Carletta Lewis McKinney of Big Spring; one son, Anthony Lewis Sr. of Big Spring; three sisters, Joyce Molett of Clovis, N.M., Mary Threats and Charlene Rushin and husband Isaiah Edwards, all of Big Spring; one brother, Gary Peterson of San Diego; one aunt, Bessie Mae Sanders; 15 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Helen Threats; her father, Charles Peterson; daughter, Deborah Lewis; and two brothers, Larry Peterson and Cecil Johnson.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

*Paid obituary*

### Robert 'Shina' Ruiz



Robert "Shina" Ruiz, 63, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Feb. 4, 1948, in Barstow to Juanita and Jose Ruiz. He married Ledia Rodriguez on Feb. 24, 1968, in Big Spring. He worked at Fiberglass Systems for 10 years. Most recently he worked at the Big Spring Independent School District in the custodial department. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish.

He is survived by his wife, Ledia Ruiz of Big Spring; one son, Chris Ruiz of Big Spring; one daughter, Mary Jane Hernandez and husband Jason of Big Spring; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Juanita Ball and husband Wayne of Houston and Isabel Flores and husband Joe of Big Spring.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Gilberta Rodriguez.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

## Police blotter

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

• JAMIE EULALA CHANDLER, 38, of San Angelo, was arrested Thursday on a charge of hindering apprehension/prosecution of a known felon.

• ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 47, of 1405 Wood, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication with three prior convictions.

• MICHAEL EVERET BARNETT, 24, of 207 Moore Rd., was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• NICOLAS GRAIG MILLS, 31, of 614 Steakley, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.

• JOSE ORTEGA JR., 41, of 601 Abrams, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• THEFT was reported:  
In the area near Highway 87 and FM 2230.  
In the 1600 block of E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 55 inmates at the time of this report.

• BETTYE JANE MCWILLIAMS, 69, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft of service.

• CLIFFORD LEE COOK, 35, was arrested Thursday by the U.S. Marshals Service and held for disorderly conduct.

• JAMIE EULALA CHANDLER, 38, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of hindering the apprehension or prosecution of a known felon.

• JOE ORTEGA, 41, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.

• LOUIS ANTONIO SILVA, 23, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• DAVID GARZA JR., 26, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• SHIMEON RASHAD MAGERS, 28, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear (two counts), failure to appear (eight counts), expired motor vehicle inspection and no seat belt — driver.

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# Take Note

• A fundraiser to help defray medical expenses incurred by the Zayda Stallings family will be held beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sunday in front of the east doors of the Wal-Mart Supercenter. Brisket plates will be sold for \$7 and burritos for \$3. In addition, various desserts will be for sale. For more information, call Linda Burchett at 432-816-93812.

• The community is invited to a Christmas concert at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, located at Eighth and Runnels. Featured musicians will be First Presbyterian Choir, directed by Michael D. Mitchell; the Tardy Bells Handbell Choir, composed of Big Spring area retired teachers and directed by Susan Dawes; the newly-formed Children's Choir, eleven youngsters from First Presbyterian, First Christian, and St. Mary's Episcopal churches; and organist Michael D. Mitchell at the Petty-Madden pipe organ.

• Big Spring High School Christmas Concert will be held in the school auditorium at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free but officials request a donation of canned goods to benefit the Salvation Army. Everyone is invited.

# TURF

Continued from Page 1A

but we can do it in phases," Saldivar said. "In Phase One, we'll go ahead and put in artificial turf for next year ... In Phase Two, we'll get prices for the restrooms and all the other upgrades we need to do."

Past studies have shown that the cost of artificial turf vs. maintaining a grass field is basically a wash for the life of the new field. And district officials were quick to point out that an artificial field at Memorial Stadium would save the community a significant amount of water over the next several years.

Another factor to be considered, they said, was how an up-to-date stadium could be a drawing card for the community.

"We could attract a number of playoff games there," Athletic Director Philip Ritchey said. "We have a stadium capacity

of 10,000 and we're right on the intersection of Interstate 20 and Highway 87. We'd be a natural playoff site for teams from the Panhandle to the Metroplex. Over time, that would be quite a benefit to the community."

"We could get some of the games that now go to Colorado City or Sweetwater, if we had turf and nice facilities," Saldivar added.

Then, there's the simple pride factor to be considered, he added.

"When we play a team at Memorial, a lot of times, the only thing they see of our town is the stadium, and they leave Big Spring with a bad idea of what we are," Saldivar said. "For me, (the stadium in its current condition) is not really having pride in what and who we are."

Assistant Superintendent Danny Ferrell said artificial turf will cost the district around \$800,000 to purchase and install. Preliminary estimates for replacing re-

strooms and concession stands vary between \$400,000 and \$600,000 and will be firmed up in the near future, he added.

Renovation of the field house and press boxes would be done by district personnel, drastically reducing out-of-pocket costs, Ferrell said. Those renovations include new plumbing, drop ceilings, paint and heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades.

All money for stadium projects would come from reserve funds.

New restrooms and concession stands would address most of the accessibility issues facing Memorial Stadium. To correct other Americans With Disability Acts concerns, Saldivar said officials will soon formulate a master plan for further updating the facility.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

# BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

Hidalgo convinced Saldivar that an ECHS program would work in Big Spring.

"In Hidalgo, they talk about college all the time," he said. "There's poverty like you wouldn't believe down there, but the kids are fired up about going to school. That's what we need to do here."

Before the district submits a proposal to the Texas Education Agency — which must approve the program — the district must finalize exactly what kind of program it wants. Possible models for an ECHS program in Big Spring include having the students take their college courses at Howard College; having the ECHS program at BSISD, but keeping its students separate from "regular" high school students;

or having an "all in one" approach in which the program would be taught at BSISD but be fully integrated within the high school environment.

It is the latter approach BSISD officials are leaning toward.

"That would probably be the best fit for us," Saldivar said.

The design teams will continue to meet and fine-tune the district's proposal, which is scheduled to be submit-

ted to TEA sometime in March.

In other business, trustees approved:

- Policy updates.
- The district's annual investment report.
- The formation of a District Concussion Oversight Team and guidelines for concussion management.
- A bid for \$296,399 for demolition work at Big Spring High School. This is the first step in bond-related construction projects slated at

the school.

• Employment of the following personnel: Meredith Nieto, English/Language Arts Teacher, BSISD; Twyla Hernandez, third grade teacher, Moss Elementary; Carey Karvonen, kindergarten teacher, Moss Elementary; Gayla Paige-Willis, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, BSISD.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

# CANTU

Continued from Page 1A

described as heavy-set, wearing blue jeans, a dark jacket and a toboggan.

"The clerk stated the suspect was armed with a rifle or a shotgun, pointed it at the victim and demanded money. The clerk complied and the suspect fled the store on foot to the north side of the store."

According to Det. Henry, law enforcement officials received a tip from a local citizen who had given a ride to a woman matching the suspect's description.

"The citizen who had given her the ride told us he had dropped her off at 509 Johnson, so officers were dispatched to that location," Henry said. "When officers arrived on the scene, Cantu was still wearing the same clothing the store

clerk had described and the security video had shown. She was arrested at the scene."

Henry said neither the weapon nor the undisclosed amount of cash the suspect allegedly took from the convenience store were recovered at the home on Johnson Street.

"It's still unclear whether the firearm being used during the robbery was a shotgun or a rifle," Henry said. "It hasn't been recovered at this time,

however, the investigation is still ongoing."

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is encouraged to contact the BSPD at 432-264-2550 or Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS (8477) or 264-TIPS (8477).

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

# ANGELS

Continued from Page 1A

effort each year, said the program provided gifts for more than 450 local children and senior citizens last year, and is expected to provide for more than 500 this year.

"There's no doubt, the need is there each and every year," Flores said. "These are folks who, without the support of the community and the Salvation Army, wouldn't have a present under the tree come Christmas morning."

Applications were handled in October, according to Flores, and the Angel Trees, which are located at various Crossroads businesses and other locations went up in mid-November, according to Bessie Flores.

"We've set up Angel

Trees at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, Bealls department store, the Big Spring Herald and the mall, right outside Blum's Jewelers," said Flores. "We also have trees at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the Heritage Museum and the Howard County Library. We also have a tree at Higgonbotham Bartlett and two of them at Alon USA."

According to Flores, participating in the program is simple.

"They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christ-

mas gifts for that child or senior," said Flores. "It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the angel card. Once they purchase the items, they will attach the card to the gifts and bring them to our office, or drop them off where they got the card from. It's very important that they tape or tie the card to the gift, however, so we can make sure it goes to the correct child."

Ada Flores said providing for an angel from one of the trees can serve more than one purpose this holiday season.

"You're not just brightening a child or senior's Christmas. It can go a lot further than that," she said. "When we give to the less fortunate in our community, we're also sending a very, very important message to our children. We're teaching them how important it is to help others when we have the opportunity to do so. You never know, some day it could be you or someone you love who is in need."

For more information on the Angel Tree program, contact the

Salvation Army at 432-267-8239.

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

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Doris Lewis, 62, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Paul Lindell, 62, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the First Church of God.

Robert "Shina" Ruiz, 63, died Wednesday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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## BIG SPRING HERALD

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# EDITORIAL

*"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.

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Ron Midkiff</b> Publisher	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Amanda Moreno</b> Staff Writer	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## We salute:

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

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

*This week we salute:*

- All those who took part in the annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade.

- Kim Howell, Kathryn Wiseman and Jody Reid for serving as judges for the Christmas parade.

- All participants of the Living Christmas Tree.

- All community members who volunteered their time to help pack the 500 boxes for Christmas For Our Troops at First Christian Church Wednesday evening.

- Heritage Museum for hosting Breakfast with Santa and Parade Watch.

- Canterbury residents and other local vendors who participated in the annual Christmas bazaar at Canterbury South this past weekend.

- Bobby Brasel for taking the time to place American flags in his yard in remembrance of all veterans who served their country each patriotic holiday, including this past week for the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

- Veterans Family Fund for providing the family of Spc. Alfredo Hernandez with a \$500 check in recognition and gratitude for his service.

- Terry Kessler, Clinton Kessler, Baldamor Cortez, John Bryans and George Leatham for their work in repairing Lady Liberty.

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

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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 Bill McClellan at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Steve Reagan 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

## Gulnaz and the story he has to tell

**G**ulnaz is an Afghan woman who was raped. For reporting it, she was sentenced to three years in prison. Her baby — a child of the rape — cries in the background. Her punishment for appealing her sentence was that it was increased to 12 years. She has been in prison for two and a half years, and her baby is with her.

The EU commissioned a documentary examining the way Afghanistan treats victims of rape. Then they decided not to release it lest they jeopardize relations with Afghanistan. There was a flurry of publicity last week, which led Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai to pardon her.

A condition was set that she must marry her rapist, becoming, it appears, his second wife.

This is how Afghanistan treats its women.

A hundred thousand American soldiers are risking their lives every day to protect this nation.

Osama bin Laden is dead. If we leave, as we should, some say there will be civil war.

If you ask me, there is already civil war against the women of Afghanistan.

No one can say with certainty how many women like Gulnaz are sitting in prison or afraid to report their victimization, knowing that if they do, they will be imprisoned, and if they

complain about it, they will be imprisoned even longer.

America must protect itself from terrorism. But bin Laden is dead. Every day, brave young Americans give their lives not to protect us from terrorism, but to protect the people of Afghanistan from one another.

Why?

I have long believed that in so many fundamental ways you can judge a country by how they treat their women. I don't expect Afghanistan to turn around and support rape crisis centers in every city. Currently, the only hope for women in Gulnaz's position is to find refuge in one of the secret safe houses that women have risked their lives to create for other women.

Gulnaz's story is almost as shocking as the EU's decision not to tell it.

Who are we protecting?

Why are we so afraid to tell these stories?

Why are we spending billions of dollars to build a country that treats its women this way?

For many reasons, the United States should withdraw from Afghanistan and focus its efforts on fighting terrorists who threaten us rather than nation building. We can't afford it. No one even can say for certain how many trillions we have spent when the hidden costs of contract soldiers and support are taken into account. No one can explain to me why it is worth American lives if it is civil war and not terrorism that we are fighting against.

But if there are any remaining

doubts, Gulnaz's story should be their answer.

Since I was raped three decades ago, I have spent much of my professional life fighting for legal reform so that no woman would suffer humiliation at the hands of the system after the humiliation at the hands of a rapist. But my fights — and believe me, I am proud of what so many of us have accomplished — seem trivial in comparison to the hardships and humiliations Gulnaz and so many women like her face. Without the publicity, she would have been in prison for another decade. Even with it, she might be forced to marry the man who raped her.

I don't expect Afghanistan to adopt our system of an independent national judiciary, of life tenure and a civic faith in the rule of law. To try would almost certainly be counterproductive. But I cannot sit by silently as we support a system of injustice, whether administered by trial judges or the United States-supported president.

Gulnaz deserves better. And so do the 100,000 Americans who are giving their lives to protect and preserve those who terrorize their sisters and daughters.

*To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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## Like a hot apple pie with that?

**D**id I ask for a hot apple pie with that?

The conversation went along those lines, before turning into a dispute over whether I could physically pull the pompous little twit through the drive-through window or not.

I never said I would, only that I could. But looking back, I may have been wrong. She may have only been in her early 20s, but she probably had me by more than a couple hot apple pies.

Look, I know you have a job to do and I can only assume it is not the most glamorous position in the world, but give me a break.

Not everyone in the world is susceptible to whims of fancy and can be easily convinced to purchase something they never intended to purchase. The idea of going shopping is completely foreign to some of us. We go to a store to buy something in particular.

So, no, I do not want a hot apple pie with my order. If I did, I would have ordered one.

It is almost as bad as those

super-chain stores, — you know the ones — which are trying to get you to buy a warranty on the product you just purchased from them. I don't need a warranty on a DVD player. Trust me when I say if the thing doesn't work, I will be bringing it back.

Furthermore, if I wanted to stupid-size my order for the incredibly low price of 89 cents, I would have mentioned it when I placed my order.

Buy this, buy that. You need this, you need that.

Shut up already. You have no idea what I need or want. I came to your place of business to buy something. Leave me alone and I will do just that. Continue with the pressure sales technique and I will go somewhere else. It has gotten to the point where the only person I will even give the time of day is the kind, elderly man who greets me at the door and says, "Welcome to ... Where-Ever."

Put all the tabloids with their splashy, shock-inducing headlines by the counter you wish; I am still not buying one. I came to get batteries, nothing more.

Wait. Did all of you know President Obama fathered a child with an alien? I would tell you more about that, but I did not buy the stupid magazine! Though I must confess, for a

green alien with four eyes and tentacles, she did look rather cute and he is only human, after all.

I would give anything to be able to go into a store, get what I want, pay the cashier and leave unhindered, but you and I know that will never happen.

The world is trying to make every dollar it can and believe me when I say they see us all coming. They believe if we are willing to spend five dollars, then we should be willing to spend six. If we spend \$80, then \$100 is not outside the realm of probability.

Unfortunately, for the most part, they are right. As I sat here writing this piece, I came to a point of understanding. It is our own fault. They do what they do, because we have shown them we are just silly enough to fall for what we should immediately see as a marketing ploy based on our own ignorance.

Hopefully, the Mayans were right and this failed experiment will end soon.

Just an opinion.

Would you like a hot apple pie with that?

*Robert Griffin is the sports editor at the Big Spring Herald. He can be reached by email at [sports@bigspringherald.com](mailto:sports@bigspringherald.com) or by phone at 263-7331 ext. 237.*



SUSAN  
ESTRICH





## Church News

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship is Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in our sanctuary at 810 Scurry. Sunday school, led by Pastor Don Rosentreter, is in the parish hall after worship.

Wednesday noon Bible study studies "Held in High Esteem." Bring a brown bag lunch.

We continue to collect supplies for the Candelaria Medical Mission and a complete list is available at the church.

### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist is at 10:30 a.m.

Safe Guarding God's Children Training class will be Saturday at 9 a.m.

Second Sunday luncheon is Sunday after the morning service.

St. Mary's Vestry is meeting Monday in the library at 6 p.m.

The Daily Grind with God — Coffee Hour meets Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the parish hall.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

### Gateway Baptist Church

Gateway Baptist Church is located at 2302 Gatesville Road. Sunday service is at 10 a.m. for Sunday school and 11 a.m. for worship service, with Pastor Jim Mills leading the service.

Sunday evening service starts at 6 p.m. and Wednesday evening service at 6:30 p.m. Both evening services are followed by a fellowship meal. Revelations is being studied in both evening services. The dress is casual for all services at Gateway.

Upcoming events:

Dec. 16-18: The DuoPraise Ministries with David Garrett and his wife Karen, from Mesquite, Texas will be singing, praising and preaching. Services will begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

Gateway has a clothing ministry and food pantry open Thursday's from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for individuals needing assistance with these items.

### First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church is located at 911 Goliad St. Sunday fellowship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. Worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. On Dec. 11 the Rev. Kenneth McIntosh will deliver the message "Restore Us, O God: Joy" from Psalm 126.

Wednesday the choir and youth group will meet at 6 p.m. and the CWF Evening Circle will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday the Christian Education committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Saturday the membership committee will meet at 11 a.m.

Isaiah 58 is located at 107 Runnels. Client hours for Isaiah 58 Mondays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Isaiah 58 needs volunteers to help unload the truck Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and to help clients. Contact the church office for information or to volunteer.

For questions or further information, call the church office at 432-517-4821, email fcbs125@yahoo.com or view our website at www.fccbig-spring.org.

### Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive. Our church phone number is 432-264-7818. Our website is <http://www.m2ctexas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/>.

Our e-mail address is [aliveinchrist@crcom.net](mailto:aliveinchrist@crcom.net).

Sunday services are at 9 a.m. Sunday school is at 10:15 a.m.

The readings are Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8, 19-38. Anyone interested in reading, contact Doline Budke.

The flowers this week are given by Nancy and Scot Herrin in celebration of their anniversary. If you are interested in donating flowers, sign up on the flower chart. The general consensus is to plan on using the flowers two or three weeks.

Pastor Carroll Kohl is on KBYG every morning for a devotion sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 a.m. and 6:50 a.m. for "Morning Meditation Thoughts." Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on KBYG Sunday morning.

Sunday at 11:30 a.m. there will be a Voters' Assembly after Sunday school. Monday the LWML will serve coffee, juice and refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the church.

Wednesdays, Mid Week School has a 6 p.m. meal. Practice for Children's Christmas Program is from 6:30-7 p.m. During the children practice, everyone else is welcome to play (or learn to play) dominoes or 42.

Last Wednesday, we had the second of our Advent services. Pastor Carroll Kohl will be preaching. Our remaining Advent service is set for Wednesday for 7 p.m.

The LWML will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at Jeanie Knocke's home. This meeting will be our Christmas salad and ornament exchange.

The Elders will meet Thursday, as well, at 7 p.m. at the church.

Saturday, Dec. 17, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., the Children's Christmas Program practice and party is scheduled. Each child is asked to bring a generic \$5 gift to exchange.

December 18 will be the Congregational Christmas Party and Chinese Auction. Bring a "finger food," a "white elephant" item to be auctioned and your change for the auction.

Children's Christmas Program will be Dec. 21, Wednesday. Practices for this program are Wednesday evenings between 6:30 and 7 p.m. There is still time for your children to be involved.

Thank you to the individuals who helped with the Christmas For Our Troops boxes. Your donations will help make Christmas a very special time for those away from home.

The Board of Assimilation will not meet until Jan. 24. Other boards and groups are continuing to meet and make plans for the various activities of the church.

### First United Methodist Church

Garrett Hall has been transformed from Living Christmas Tree to Angel Tree mode for tomorrow's party honoring prisoner's kids.

The festivities begin at 11 a.m. with refreshments, gifts and a visit from Santa Claus.

Sunday, Pastor Bill Ivins will host a new member fellowship in the parlor just off of Garrett Hall. The meeting begins at 9:45 a.m.

Pastor Ivins will lead both services of worship Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. His sermon title is "Christmas 365 Days a Year" with scripture text from Matthew 1: 18-25. Sunday-school classes are at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday is the deadline for ordering poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary Dec. 18. Plants can be placed in honor or memory of someone special. A complete list of donors will be included in the bulletin later this month.

Monday, Dec. 12, the Children's Day

## Reflections Decorations

Last weekend the first strings of light were stretched across rooftops, lawns and windows. They punctuated the otherwise dark neighborhood with brilliant flashes of light. And, with each passing day, other houses added their glow.

This weekend we pulled the Christmas boxes from the attic where they have been patiently waiting since they were packed away last January. Candles, candy canes and crocheted snowmen took their places, surrendering center stage to the nativity. The branches of the tree that stands proudly in the window bowed with the weight of memories: cardboard stars that were cut out by chubby little hands long ago, names printed on them with backward letters; ornaments that remind us of vacations where we laughed and played.

We hung stockings on the fireplace mantle, annual symbols of expectation. They once held the names of our children. This year, they bear the names of our four grandchildren, reminding us of their sparkling eyes and heart-melting smiles.

A large part of Christmas is preparation, expectation and anticipation. It feels right to me. That is the way God sent his son, after centuries of preparation, expectation and anticipation. The prophets foretold His coming centuries before. From Genesis to Revelation, the scripture points to Him. Isaiah said, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful,

Out will present their Christmas program at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Wednesday, there will be a Happy Birthday Jesus Birthday party. The teachers have been busy planning fun crafts, songs and scripture building up to our Savior's birth. That day will conclude our CDO for the holiday season.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, the Bible study and luncheon will be held in Garrett Hall at noon. The meal will be catered by cowboys, with serving beginning at 11:50 a.m.

Real Life Wednesday will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the serving of the meal followed by a church-wide Christmas special featuring singer, songwriter and ventriloquist Brent Vernon, who is currently conducting his "Wonder-filled" Christmas Tour. There will also be an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest in which everyone is invited to participate.

Youth EPIC will be involved in the Ugly Sweater Contest this Wednesday and on Dec. 18.

They will also be involved in Video Scavenger Hunt. There will be no youth activities Christmas week, but plans are underway for a New Year's party and dance Dec. 31.

The Tardy Bells, a musical group made up of retired teachers, will meet for bell practice Monday, Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. There will be no Noon Bible or Real Life Wednesday on Dec. 21 or Dec. 28.

Candlelight Communion Service will be at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve.

There will be only one service of worship on Christmas Day, it will be held at 10 a.m.

Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).

The Bible says when Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary took the child to Jerusalem where they met some remarkable people who had been waiting a long time for this moment. They met an old man named Simeon who had been waiting for many years for God's promised Messiah.

The Spirit of God had revealed to him he would not die until he saw the Lord's Christ. When he saw the child, Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed God saying, "My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:25-35). Mary and Joseph had hardly recovered from Simeon's amazing declaration before they met Anna, an 84-year-old widow who had been fasting and praying in the Temple for years waiting for the Messiah.

"At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem." (Luke 2:36-38). I guess that's why I like this time of year with all the decorations. It reminds me of God's preparation and God's promise. It reminds me of the One who is worth waiting for.

He has come, and He is coming.

*Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit [www.tinsleycenter.com](http://www.tinsleycenter.com). Email [bill@tinsleycenter.com](mailto:bill@tinsleycenter.com).*



BILL  
TINSLEY

### First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The lectionary Bible study, led by Tom and Craig Holstedt is at 5:17 p.m. at First Presbyterian in Big Spring and will meet Wednesdays following worship in the church social hall.

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4:30 p.m., following the Tour of Homes, the public is invited to a Christmas musical in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring.

Presenting music of the season will be First Presbyterian Choir; the Tardy Bells Handbell Choir, composed of Big Spring Area Retired Teachers; the new children's choir, with children from First Presbyterian, First Christian and St. Mary's Episcopal and Michael D. Mitchell, organist.

Our congregation is invited to take part in an informal Casseroles and Carols event Sunday evening, Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m. at First Christian Church in Big Spring, along with First Presbyterian Big Spring and St. Mary's Episcopal churches. Bring a casserole and be ready to sing Christmas carols.

The lectionary is Isaiah 61:1-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 3:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

### First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, at 5:17 p.m. in the church library has

See **CHURCH**, Page 6A

## Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And  
Criminal Law

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# Area churches form a three-church choir



COURTESY PHOTO  
First Presbyterian, First Christian and St. Mary's Episcopal join together for a Christmas musical by Nancy Koger. Children in the three-church choir are, back row from left to right: Lyndee Walker, Jake Patterson, Alanna Salinsa, Brody DeLeon, Alex Reagan. Front row from left to right: Mason Patterson, Mia Burch, Mika Jensen, Mason Walker and Mike Jensen.

## CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

sumed weekly meetings. The children's choir and the chancel choir practice Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Donna Amonett is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." Liturgist is Danny Kennemur. The Weldon Jones family lit the Advent Candle during worship last Sunday. Communion servers were Paula Farquhar, Kay Kennemur, Lane Reynolds, Mark Morgan and John Yater. Ushers for the month are Susan Holstedt, John Yater, Jamie and Baylor Walker.

The children's Sunday school group is studying "The Gift of Jesus," using the Christmas story from Luke. Sunday, Dec. 25, the children invite everyone to join them in the fellowship hall for the cooking component of this study.

The adult covenant class began a new quarterly study Sunday: "God Establishes a Faithful People." The Discovery Class will begin a study by Lee Strobel called "The Case for Christ."

At 4:30 Sunday afternoon in the sanctuary, the public is invited to a Christmas musicale, featuring Presbyterian Choir; Tardy Bells Handbell Choir, composed of Big Spring Area Retired Teachers; the new Children's Choir, with children from First Presbyterian, First Christian and St. Mary's Episcopal; and Michael D. Mitchell, organist and choir director.

Tuesday the Working Women's Bible study group will meet at 6 p.m. in the parlor to study Lesson 3 "Greatly Honored Are the Humble."

Sunday, Dec. 18, we are invited to bring a casserole to the fellowship hall at First Christian Church at 5:30 p.m. to join with their congregation and St. Mary's Episcopal and First Presbyterian Coahoma for "Casseroles and Carols."

The lectionary is Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:47-55; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28. The choir will offer "Magnificat" by S. Elvey as the anthem and "The Moon and Stars Were Shining" arranged by Shackley for the offertory. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. Next Sunday, Dec. 18, there will be a called congregational meeting following worship. We will also re-

ceive the Christmas Joy Offering that morning.

Listen on KBST 1490 AM at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211.

Visit our website [www.fpcbs.org](http://www.fpcbs.org).

## Spring Creek Fellowship

Join us for the United Blood Services Blood Drive on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Our goal this time is 19. Check their website to see how you can pre-register online at [www.unitedbloodservices.org](http://www.unitedbloodservices.org). Contact Barbara Harkness for more information.

Pastor Derrick will be presenting a sermon series titled "Keep the 'mas' in Christmas." Join us in hearing about 'more' for Christmas.

Candlelight service is Saturday, Dec. 24. We will also have a special Christmas morning service at our regular time.

Volunteers needed for a "Christmas in November" project for a local sister in Christ. If you have carpentry, electrician or plumbing skills and would like to get involved, contact Derrick at 935-3036 for more information. Material donations would be appreciated, too.

Our "Manna House" food pantry is low on supplies. Please do what you can to help us stock up for the winter and spring. Contact Casie Fillingim & Jennifer Boyd for more information.

"Free Indeed," a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship, is in need of donations of new underwear, socks, coats, etc. for the cold months ahead. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated, as well.

Sunday School classes are available for all ages. Classes meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. "Holy Grounds Café" is open from 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. with snacks and fellowship. Worship is scheduled from 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Christmas Day and New's Year's Day schedule will be "Holy Grounds Café" at 10:15 and Worship at 10:45 a.m. No Sunday School classes.

Fellowship begins each Wednesday evening with a meal at 5:30 p.m. Children's Activities, Youth Worship and Adult Prayer Meeting start at 6:15 p.m. The Praise Team meets at 7:00 p.m. There will be no Wednesday Meal on Dec. 21 & 28, 2011.

Youth meets Wednesday evenings for Jr. High and Sr. High students. Plans for Sunday evening events and field trips are in the works!

A weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast & Fellowship is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. each Saturday in the dining room at the church. All men are invited and encouraged to attend.

Our "Between the Lines" Women's Ministry will meet this month Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011 from 2-4 p.m. at the church. We will be having a "Red Dress Tea Party" and all ladies of all ages are invited to attend. Bring an ornament to exchange!!

If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, please contact the church office.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane in Big Spring, Texas. (Across from Denny's). Contact us at (432)714-4584 or visit our website at [www.spring-creekfellowship.org](http://www.spring-creekfellowship.org)

## sudoku

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

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades.

<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠ A 10 9 7	♠ Q J 8 3
♥ K Q 3	♥ 9 8 7 5 2
♦ 10 4	♦ Q 7
♣ A K J 10	♣ Q 4

<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠		

North leads the diamond two. South cashes the A-K and shifts to the four of hearts. How would you play the hand?

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the jack of hearts. How would you play the hand?

<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠ A Q 6	♠ 7 4 2
♥ 3	♥ A 8 4
♦ A 7 2	♦ K Q 6 5 3
♣ A K Q J 10 4	♣ 7 2

1. There is much more to the play here than meets the casual eye. Oddly enough, you should play the three of hearts on South's four! To play the king or queen amounts to giving up on the hand.

Let's see why. You start by assuming that South has the king of spades,

since you cannot make the contract unless he has that card. But once you make this assumption, it follows that South cannot also have the ace of hearts, as he would not have passed originally with the A-K of diamonds, the king of spades — which circumstances compel you to assign him — and the ace of hearts.

Your only real chance, therefore, is that South has the J-10-x or J-10-x-x of hearts, in which case your low heart play will draw North's ace without wasting your king or queen.

To play an honor on South's four would be tantamount to conceding defeat without attempting to avoid it.

2. Win the heart, draw trumps and cash the ace of diamonds. If both opponents follow suit, the slam can be assured by leading another diamond and playing low from dummy! This guards against a 4-1 diamond division and guarantees 12 tricks.

If you play the queen on the second round of diamonds and the suit divides 4-1, you'll have to fall back on a spade finesse. It would be wrong to subject yourself to that risk when conceding a diamond trick gives you a sure thing. True, this will cost you 20 points more often than not, but that is a very tiny premium to pay for ensuring the slam.

Tomorrow: Doubling the odds.

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## State briefs

### Accident in Denton kills 1 worker

DENTON (AP) — Police say a forklift accident at a North Texas business has left a worker dead. Denton police say the accident happened Friday morning when the forklift overturned. Police told the Denton Record-Chronicle (<http://bit.ly/tm7JKv>) that the man, whose name wasn't immediately released, had dropped off a pallet in the parking lot of the business. Police say the worker was backing away when a wheel on the forklift got stuck in a pothole. Police say the man tried to free the equipment and raised the forks. Investigators say the machine's weight shifted, causing the forklift to overturn. The driver tried to jump to safety but was caught beneath the machine.

### Sex assault trial of ex-cop goes to jury

EL PASO (AP) — A West Texas jury continues deliberations in the trial of a former El Paso police officer charged with sexually assaulting a woman while on duty. The El Paso Times reports the case against Zake Rivera went to the El Paso County jury Thursday afternoon. The officer was arrested Feb. 24 after a woman complained that he forced her to perform a sex act on him when he answered a family disturbance call in January. Police say Rivera and another officer were interviewing the woman and her husband separately and out of view of each other. Rivera's attorneys contend the act was consensual, while prosecutors argued he exploited a mentally unstable woman who feared going to jail.

### Wealthy districts sue over school finance

AUSTIN (AP) — A coalition of at least 120 wealthy Texas school districts has filed a lawsuit challenging the state's school finance system. The lawsuit alleges that the state's system of paying for public education is inadequate and unconstitutional. The Texas School Coalition is made up of more than 120 Texas school districts that give money back to the state under the so-called Robin Hood school funding plan. Six districts are named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit. The schools argued Friday that because so many districts are taxing at the maximum allowable rate, the school property tax has effectively become a statewide property tax, which is unconstitutional in Texas. They're also arguing that the Legislature hasn't been putting enough money into the system to meet the constitutional mandate for an "adequate" education.

### No free holiday parking in Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The shopping tradition of free parking for the holidays in one South Texas city has been halted due to the lagging economy. Corpus Christi officials, for more than 20 years, have covered downtown parking meters with "Happy Holiday" bags to encourage shopping.

### sudoku

ANSWERS

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


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The Corpus Christi Caller-Times (<http://bit.ly/uxTfBs>) reported Thursday that downtown annual sales tax revenue has declined since 2007, dropping from \$662,000 to about \$612,000 last year. Assistant city manager Oscar Martinez says lackluster sales haven't offset lost parking revenue, between Thanksgiving and the start of the new year. Martinez says the city would lose an estimated \$30,000 if it didn't charge for parking during the holidays. Critics say downtown workers take advantage of the free meters, making it tough for shoppers to find a place to park.

### Some Texans object to insurance-related delay

AUSTIN (AP) — More than a dozen Democrats

in Texas House have opposed state efforts to delay new federal rules on health insurance company administrative costs. Texas is among a number of states seeking waivers from immediately requiring insurers to spend no more than 20 percent of customer premiums on administrative costs and profits. The rule would apply to coverage for individuals and small businesses. Violators would have to rebate the difference to customers. The Texas Department of Insurance has raised concerns that companies will leave the state. The agency wants the requirement phased in by 2014. Fifteen House members Thursday wrote to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to object to delays. Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon of San Antonio says consumers need all the help that they can get.



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► News briefs

**Gunman's motive still unclear after Va. Tech officer fatally ambushed**

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — The Virginia Tech police officer who was gunned down in a campus attack joined the force six months after the university was the scene of the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history. He was a proud policeman who recently invited a friend to ride along with him, which made his death during a traffic stop even more puzzling.

Deriek W. Crouse, an Army veteran and married father of five, was killed Thursday after pulling a driver over in a school parking lot. Police said the gunman walked up, shot the officer and then fled on foot before he apparently killed himself nearby. The deceased suspect was not involved in the traffic stop.

Police said they don't know what motivated the officer's killing or whether there was any link between the shooter, who has not been identified, and Crouse.

"At this point, we haven't been able to establish any kind of immediate connection between the officer and the shooter," State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller told The Associated Press late Thursday. "That's obviously something that's being looked into."

State police said in a news release early Friday that ballistics tests confirmed Crouse and the deceased suspect had been shot by the same handgun. The tests have "officially linked the two fatal shoot-

ings," the release said.

**Accuser's claim he screamed during attack raises questions about ex-Penn State coach's wife**

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Grand jury reports alleging child sex abuse by former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky are also raising questions about whether his wife knew about his alleged pattern of preying on boys — or how she couldn't have known.

One accuser told the grand jury that Dottie Sandusky was home when he screamed for help while her husband sexually attacked him in a basement.

But Dottie Sandusky broke more than a month of silence Thursday, calling the accusations against her husband false and declaring that she continues to believe that he is innocent.

Lawyers not involved in the case say that evidence made public so far does not prove Dottie Sandusky did anything wrong — for instance, there's no proof she heard the alleged screams — although prosecutors almost certainly are interested in talking to her.

"Certainly if the activities are alleged to have occurred in the home, yeah, the prosecutors are going to figure, 'Jeez, you were in the house at the time this was going on? You must have known something,'" said Bruce Antkowiak, a former federal prosecutor and a law professor.

**Rehab work scheduled for Interstate 20**

STANTON — Jones Brothers Dirt and Paving Contractors Inc. plans to start work east of here the week of Dec. 12 on a project that will refurbish 3.7 miles of Interstate 20.

Jones Brothers will remove and replace the top layer of asphalt in the driving and passing lanes of Interstate 20.

Barricades are expected to be put in place Monday and actual work is expected to begin Wednesday, weather permitting.

The \$1,790,694.02 contract should take less than two months to complete. The work zone, which ends at the Howard County line, will have single lane closures as

work progresses.

There are no exit or entrance ramps in the work zone, so access to Interstate 20 will not be restricted at any time. Traffic is scheduled to flow in both directions on Interstate 20 for the duration of the project.

The speed limit in the work zone will be 60 miles per hour. Motorists are asked to use extreme caution in the work zone. The two major causes of work zone accidents are unsafe speeds and following too closely. In fact, rear-end collisions are the most common accidents in work zones. Please obey all warning signs and any flag crew members in the area.

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# Lady Steers take down Alpine easily

By Robert Griffin

Sports Editor  
MIDLAND — The Lady Steers are

off and running in the Monahans tournament, defeating Alpine in the first round by a resounding score of 59-15.

Big Spring held Alpine scoreless in the first quarter, while jumping out to a 18-0 lead. Though Alpine found the net in the second period twice, their four points did not measure up to the Lady Steers' 11 and the two teams hit the locker rooms with Big Spring ahead 29-4.

Alpine would steadily improve, scoring five in the third and then six in the final frame, but Big Spring never let up, adding 16 and 14 points respectively in the two final quarters.



Diamond Mayes

Diamond Mayes would lead the Lady Steers in three categories, registering 12 points and seven rebounds, along with five steals. Logan Yarbar found double digits as well, scoring 10 points in the game, while Ritchey and Vanderbilt each added eight, Stone and Anderson put up six and Bridgette Tuitt added five.

Big Spring put on a teamwork clinic, registering 19 assists to Alpine's none, while dominating in the paint. The Lady Steers grabbed 46 of their points up close, while their bench showed its depth, by scoring 20 points.

The 9-3 Lady Steers will play Pecos today at 2:30 p.m. before heading into Saturday's action, which has them scheduled to play Lamesa at 11:30 a.m. and Kermit at 4 p.m.

## Briefs

### Bowl-A-Rama Christmas tournament

Bowl-A-Rama of Big Spring will host their second annual Christmas tournament Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

Bowlers must be checked in by 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$25 if paid by Dec. 13 and \$30 afterward. The tournament is open to all bowlers and the handicap is 100 percent of 230.

Eight places will be paid, including a \$150 first place prize and \$100 for second. For more information, visit the website at: www.bowlarama.com.

### Hawk Buddies B-ball program

Howard College's Earl Diddle and Jamie Fisher will be hosting a basketball clinic Dec. 10 for girls in grades K-8. The fee is \$20 and space is limited to the first 100 kids. For more information, call Coach Diddle at 264-5043 or Coach Fisher at 264-5155.

# Lady Buffs claim win

By Robert Griffin

Sports Editor

The Lady Buffs grabbed a first-round win Thursday in the Borden County tournament, defeating Borden County's JV squad 61-13. Forsan grabbed an early 18-2 lead and never slowed, scoring 12, 15 and 16 points respectively in the three remaining quarters.

Borden County scored two points in the first, second and fourth quarters, but managed to put up seven in the third.

The 7-4 Lady Buffs forced an astounding 30 turnovers (23 on steals), while only giving up the ball 12 times in the game.

Cheyenne Galloway led the Lady Buffs with 14 points and five rebounds, while Ali Knight put up 13 points and seven rebounds. Knight's seven rebounds co-lead the team, along with Raegan Haggard and Marie Ortiz. Raegan also added 10 points and Ortiz put up six.

Brittney Hergert was responsible for eight points and five boards. Jahnia Willard recorded six points, two rebounds and two assists. Kayla Tilley scored four points for Forsan to round out the stat sheet for the big win.

"We are getting better offensively everyday and we are beginning to shoot the ball better from the perimeter," Coach Robert Hillger said of the team. "This is a great tournament for our kids to see some teams we don't normally play and we always get tested here. It is great preparation for such a tough district that we play in."

# Steelers best Cleveland Browns

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The adrenaline had long since worn off by the time Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger slowly — very slowly — trudged toward his locker following the Steelers' 14-3 win over Cleveland on Thursday night.

As he talked to reporters, his sprained left ankle heavily taped, all Roethlisberger could think about was the chance to sit down.

"I feel like my ankle is about to explode," he said. "I'm ready to get off it."

The hard-earned rest came after he added to his growing resume as one of the league's most rugged players.

Roethlisberger passed for 280 yards and two scores while playing the second half on basically one leg as the Steelers (10-

3) kept the pressure on Baltimore in the battle for the AFC North title.

"The guy is one of the toughest competitors in this game," Pittsburgh defensive end Brett Keisel said. "He plays hurt. He's got a broken thumb, who knows what's wrong with his ankle? But we're a very good team with him behind center."

Just a very banged up one.

Roethlisberger will have an MRI exam on Friday to determine the extent of the damage, though he's optimistic he'll play when Pittsburgh travels to San Francisco on Dec. 19. Center Maurkice Pouncey (ankle) and defensive end Ziggy Hood (groin) will spend the weekend in treatment after a critical but costly victory, one that made up for in grit what it lacked

in glamour.

"There's no such thing as an ugly win," Hood said.

Not this time of year.

The Steelers beat the Browns (4-9) for the 15th time in the last 16 meetings despite a red zone turnovers and getting stuffed on four downs at the goal line in the fourth quarter.

Roethlisberger made sure the miscues didn't matter, hitting Antonio Brown for a 79-yard touchdown with 2:52 remaining to give Pittsburgh its eighth win in its last nine games.

"I was glad (Brown) scored because I wouldn't have been able to make it down there if we had to run another play," Roethlisberger said with a laugh.

Cleveland had its chance.

es.

Colt McCoy passed for 209 yards, but he also threw a pair of interceptions in dropping to 0-8 against division rivals as a starter. This loss might have been the most painful. He completed 18 of 35 passes but also took a beating, including a shot from Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison in the fourth quarter that left him momentarily dazed.

The Browns were driving in Pittsburgh territory with less than 6 minutes left when McCoy tucked the ball under his arm as if to run. He pulled up as Harrison approached and flipped a short pass to Montario Hardesty just before Harrison smashed into him. It was a helmet-to-helmet hit, and

See **STEELERS**, Page 2B

# Angels grab Pujols and Marlins take the rest

DALLAS (AP) — The Miami Marlins and Los Angeles Angels didn't just dominate the podium at the winter meetings. They were the only teams that used them to reshape their clubs.

As Albert Pujols, Jose Reyes and some other All-Stars found new homes, the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox and Philadelphia Phillies were uncharacteristically quiet this week, failing to make any big free-agent signings or major trades. Not like last year, when the Red Sox landed Carl Crawford and the Yankees and Phillies wooed Cliff Lee.

Perhaps it's a sign that the luxury tax is working, that the high-revenue teams have maxed out their spending. Or perhaps that the big-market powers all had first basemen, and the starting pitchers available were second-tier at best.

"We did go into the meetings with kind of a healthy skepticism about free agency, but certainly not a prohibition against signing free agents," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said Thursday. "We won't ever go that far, but what we did last year is not something that people expect us to duplicate or replicate, when you spend nearly \$300 million on free agent signings. That's not something you're likely to do year in and year out. It could turn into some real money."

Miami and the Angels committed \$522.5 million to just five free agents. The new-look, new-attitude, formerly low-budget Marlins reached agreements with All-Star closer Heath Bell (\$27 million for three years), All-Star shortstop Reyes (\$106 million for six seasons) and All-Star left-hander Mark Buehrle (\$58 million for four years), a total of \$191 million even before they failed to reel in Pujols and C.J. Wilson.

The Angels closed the meeting by reaching a \$254 million, 10-year deal with Pujols — the second-largest contract in baseball history — and a \$77.5 million, five-year agreement with Wilson. That's \$331.5 million, if you're counting, for a team that began 2011 year with the fourth-highest payroll.

"This was the Marlins' winter meetings up until the last few minutes," Wilson's agent, Bob Garber, said as team officials

See **BASEBALL**, Page 2B

# LSU does well at college awards

ORLANDO (AP) — It has been LSU's year in college football, and it was the Tigers' night at the 21st annual College Football Awards.

Members of the Tigers' secondary won two of the major awards presented Thursday night.

Cornerback and Heisman Trophy nominee Tyrann Mathieu won the Chuck Bednarik Award as the college defensive player of the year, and teammate Morris Claiborne

was took the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's outstanding defensive back.

The 5-foot-9, 175-pound Mathieu is the second straight LSU back to win the Bednarik Award, following Patrick Peterson, who turned over his No. 7 to Mathieu.

"I talked to him before I came here. I talked to him what I want and he just said to look sharp," Mathieu said. "He knew that I was going to

win the award. I definitely had his vote."

Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck won the Maxwell Award as the player of the year, and Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III received the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award. Both are nominees for the Heisman Trophy, which will

See **LSU**, Page 3B

# Sharks' offense devours the Dallas Stars

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Brad Winchester took advantage of his first chance to play with Joe Thornton, one of the NHL's best play-makers.

Ryane Clowe, Winchester and Torrey Mitchell scored in a 6-minute span of the second period to rally the San Jose Sharks past the Dallas Stars 5-2 on Thursday night.

"There's not too much of an adjustment," Winchester said. "Obviously, they are very good with the puck, especially 'Jumbo.' You know he's going to make plays."

Logan Couture and Jamie McGinn also scored

for the Sharks, who had lost four of five.

For an offense that had been struggling recently, the performance of the top line was a welcome relief. The Sharks averaged 1.83 goals over their previous six games before breaking out against the Stars, whom they have outscored 9-3 in two meetings this season.

"Sometimes when you move the lines around everybody gets a bit of a wake-up call and people get mad," San Jose coach Todd McLellan said. "Those people who got mad had good nights."

Mike Ribeiro and Bran-

don Morrow had goals for Dallas, which opened a season-high, five-game, 10-day trip with its second straight loss.

Antii Niemi made 18 saves for his second win over the Stars this season and sixth in 10 games overall.

"I just tried to be around the net as much as possible and create room," Winchester said. "We were able to establish a good momentum right away, and that kind of carried us."

Andrew Raycroft fell to 1-7 against the Stars after allowing five goals on 24 shots through two periods.

Rookie Richard Bachman replaced Raycroft in the third period, and made 12 saves in his second NHL appearance.

"It's never easy to go into any game cold," Bachman said. "But I had the intermission to get stretched out."

The teams combined for 34 penalty minutes, a handful of scums, and one misconduct. That was a big change from the 100 penalty minutes, four misconducts and three fights the last time they met on Nov. 19.

The Sharks, who have a

See **STARS**, Page 3B



## BASEBALL

From Page 1B

were heading home.

Agent Scott Boras, who usually seizes the winter meetings spotlight, stayed in the background. He planned to meet Friday with client Prince Fielder to report on what teams are interested in the other free agent slugging first baseman.

Fielder is still in the early stages of making a decision. The Cardinals now have an opening, and the Chicago Cubs also appear to be a good fit, but other teams could pursue Fielder if they're willing to provide a nine-figure deal.

Boras also represents Edwin Jackson, another starting pitcher from a relatively weak free-agent group, and relievers Ryan Madson and Francisco Rodriguez. In the game of closer musical chairs, there may not be enough seats, with Francisco Cordero also looking for a job and Oakland's Andrew Bailey possibly available in the trade market.

The Angels and Marlins

already have made their push. With a lone World Series title in 2002, the year before Arte Moreno bought the franchise from The Walt Disney Co., the Angels want to overtake the financially struggling Dodgers as the prestige team in southern California.

"This is obviously the moment where we have thrown our hat in the ring," new Angels general manager Jerry Dipoto said in announcing the deals with Pujols and Wilson.

The Marlins, with revenue from their new ballpark, want to become an NL power and make fans forget when the club was dismantled following surprise titles in 1997 and 2003.

"It's an energy city, and I think that's one of the things that brings the players there. They see the energy," Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria said. "I want our team to be important."

Already, the rest of baseball has noticed.

"It changed the market," San Diego Padres general manager Josh Byrnes said. "It changed the landscape."

# Playoff teams still have something to play for

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

The first step sometimes is the biggest for NFL teams: making the playoffs.

With that accomplished, the Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers have much loftier goals.

Green Bay clinched the NFC North and San Francisco grabbed the NFC West last week with wins. For the Packers, there's been nothing but victories, 12 of them, as they host Oakland on Sunday. The defending Super Bowl champions are concentrating on en-

suring all their playoff games are held at Lambeau Field. And there's that little challenge of going undefeated.

"Oh, I think it's way too early to even think about those things," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "We have 12 wins. Everybody knows what San Francisco's record is. It's important for us to stay focused and get ready for the Oakland Raiders. It's way too early to think about those types of things."

San Francisco's record is 10-2 and the 49ers don't have the most challenging remain-

ing schedule. They are at Arizona on Sunday — the Niners are 4-1 on the road — and also go to Seattle and St. Louis. The biggest test is a home game with the Steelers.

The Niners want, at worst, to finish second overall in the NFC and get a first-round playoff bye and a guaranteed home game. They also know NFC South leader New Orleans is just one game behind in the overall standings.

"I think we're still just kind of scratching at it, what we

See NFL, Page 3B

## STEELERS

From Page 1B

Harrison was flagged for roughing the passer.

McCoy laid on the field for several moments before making his way off. He refused to say whether he felt Harrison's hit was a cheap shot, but acknowledged that "it got me for a minute."

Harrison, who has faced stiff fines in the past for hits against defenseless players, believes he didn't do anything wrong.

"From what I understand, once the quarterback leaves the pocket, he's considered a runner," Harrison said. "All the defenseless(ness) and liberties that a quarterback has in the pocket are gone and you can tackle him just as he's a running back. The hit wasn't late, so I really don't understand why it was called."

Seneca Wallace filled in, leading the Browns to the Pittsburgh 5 before McCoy returned.

Though he insisted he was "good enough to go back in the game," McCoy didn't exactly play like it.

He was flagged for intentional grounding on his first play back to push the ball back to the Pittsburgh 16, then tried to hit Mohamed Massaquoi in the end zone on the next snap, but Pittsburgh's William Gay easily stepped in front of it for an interception.

"I just didn't get enough on it, underthrew it and their guy made a nice play and that was basically the game," McCoy said.

And the season for the Browns, who are assured of a losing record for the fourth straight year.

McCoy's teammates were hardly blameless. Cleveland receivers dropped several passes and running back Peyton Hillis managed just 25 yards on 10 carries.

"You can look at the raw yardage and say, 'Well, I don't know what kind of performance it was,'" Cleveland coach Pat Shurmur said. "But we kept them out of the end zone until that last big pass. There's some things we can build on."

The Browns are already thinking about next year. Not the Steelers. Their season appeared to be in jeopardy after Roethlisberger took a vicious hit in the second quarter.

Yet Roethlisberger's recovery kept Pittsburgh alive for a division title and homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

"You can't say enough about our quarterback," Brown said. "It's amazing to play with a guy like that who exemplifies that type of toughness day in and day out."

His finger, his ankle, all sorts of things but the guy never lays it down."

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**LSU**

From page 1B

be awarded Saturday in New York. Justin Blackmon of Oklahoma State became the second two-time winner of the Biletnikof Award as the nation's outstanding receiver.

Alabama's Trent Richardson, another Heisman finalist, won the Doak Walker Award as the top running back, and Alabama teammate Barrett Jones won the Outland Trophy as the nation's outstanding interior lineman. Texas A&M's Randy Bullock won the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award, and Ryan Allen of Louisiana Tech won the Ray Guy Award as the best punter.

Claiborne, who plays the other corner on LSU's defense, said the Tigers' secondary didn't

expect to miss a beat after Peterson moved on to the NFL's Arizona Cardinals.

"Just because we lost a good player doesn't mean another good player can't be born," Claiborne said. "We always looked at (Peterson) like he's the man, and that was a big part of it. We said we've got to get back and get the Thorpe award again. He always put that in our ear."

Top-ranked and undefeated LSU will play Alabama in the BCS national championship game Jan. 9.

"I've put in a lot of hard work and I'm definitely surrounded by a bunch of guys that make me a great player," Mathieu said. "We've put ourselves in position to win a national championship."

He's not so sure he is in a good position to become the first defensive

Heisman Trophy winner since Michigan's Charles Woodson in 1997.

"I'm definitely a Heisman long shot, being a defensive player," he said. "At least that's what history says."

Griffin is the seventh quarterback from the Big 12 to win the O'Brien award in the last 11 years. He was selected over Luck and Houston's Case Keenum, the national passing leader with 392.2 yards per game, 45 touchdown passes and only five interceptions. Griffin (333.2 yards per game, 36 touchdown passes, six interceptions) led Baylor to a 9-3 season and an Alamo Bowl berth.

Blackmon caught 113 passes for 1,336 yards and 15 touchdowns to join Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree (2007-08) as a two-time Biletnikof winner.

**NFL**

From Page 2B

can become," 49ers quarterback Alex Smith said. "And we're doing some good things in the meantime, but still I think, still kind of forming and becoming what our potential is. That's encouraging as well that we just need to continue to keep getting better these last few weeks, each and every week taking a step..."

Also Sunday, it's New Orleans at Tennessee, Atlanta at Carolina, Houston at Cincinnati, the New York Giants at Dallas, Chicago at Denver, Minnesota at Detroit, New England at Washington, Kansas City at the New York Jets, Indianapolis at Baltimore, Buffalo at San Diego, Philadelphia at Miami, and Tampa Bay at Jacksonville.

St. Louis is at Seattle on Monday night.

On Thursday night, Pittsburgh beat Cleveland 14-3. The Steelers (10-3) have won eight out of nine to move a half-game ahead of Baltimore in the race for the AFC North title. Cleveland dropped to (4-9), losing for the 15th time in its last 16 meetings with the Steelers.

Oakland (7-5) at Green Bay (12-0)

The Packers passed a tough test with their impressive march to a winning field goal in the final 58 seconds at the Giants. But their defense remains spotty, and star cornerback Charles Woodson sustained a concussion last week.

For Oakland, what once seemed like a romp to its first AFC West crown since 2002 now is a battle with surg-

ing Denver. The Raiders come off an awful performance at Miami and the offense has been stymied by injuries to running back Darren McFadden (right foot) and big-play receivers Jacoby Ford (left foot) and Denarius Moore (right foot). McFadden has missed the past five games, Ford the past three and Moore the past two.

But this is a resilient bunch that hopes to have success with the run game in Green Bay.

"Our guys got to get people blocked, we've got to run like we know we can run, and get it done," coach Hue Jackson. "That's the bottom line."

San Francisco (10-2) at Arizona (5-7)

The 49ers' stunning turnaround earned them their first playoff spot since 2002 with the stingiest defense in the NFL (28 fewer points than Houston) and a solid running game. They also lead with 28 takeaways and a plus-18 turnover margin. That's a winning formula in any league.

Arizona has won four of its last five, but the only loss was 23-7 at San Francisco.

New Orleans (9-3) at Tennessee (7-5)

Tennessee is the most overlooked playoff contender, yet the Titans are in the midst of the wild-card chase, and should banged-up Houston stumble, they could steal the AFC South. To do that, though, they might need another signature win. So far, their best victory is over Baltimore, and that was in Week 2.

With Chris Johnson finally hitting stride after his lengthy preseason holdout led to a weak

first half of the season, the Titans could give New Orleans plenty to handle. Then again, since they stumbled against St. Louis on Oct. 30, the Saints have been outstanding and would own the NFC South with a victory and an Atlanta defeat.

Drew Brees is the first quarterback to throw for 4,000 yards in a season's opening 12 games as he pursues Dan Marino's longstanding yards passing mark.

Atlanta (7-5) at Carolina (4-8)

Unless the Saints lose to somebody else, the Falcons won't take the NFC South even if they win out, including at New Orleans on the night after Christmas. So a wild-card berth might be their best bet, and to get that the Falcons need to rediscover their strong running game and get stingier against the pass.

The dynamic Cam Newton will challenge them in the air and on the ground. Carolina has won two straight behind its exciting offense, but its defense is a sieve.

Houston (9-3) at Cincinnati (7-5)

No longer a lock for a wild-card spot, the Bengals can't handle elite teams. Their losses have come against San Francisco, Denver, Pittsburgh (twice) and Baltimore. That's a trend, one that doesn't bode well if Cincinnati sneaks into the postseason.

Houston clinches the AFC South with a victory and a Titans loss.

**STARS**

From Page 1B

four-game winning streak over the Stars, scored twice in the first 1:22 — just 15 seconds apart. Clowe created an odd-man rush and brought the puck up along the left wing boards.

He fed a pass in the middle to Couture, who wristed a shot past Raycroft.

McGinn scored moments later from the side after getting to a rebound.

Ribeiro redirected a shot by Morrow off his chest and into the net to cut the lead in half.

"I thought we played pretty good," Stars coach Glen Gulutzan said. "I think we lost some luster. I wish we could have mustered a little more in the third."

The Stars tied it early in the second period when Morrow, playing for the first time in seven games, scored a power-play goal. He one-timed a nice crossing pass from Ribeiro.

"It felt good to be part of it again, though a loss still feels the same," Morrow said. "The third, fourth and fifth goals were tough to overcome. The ice tilted the other way a little bit, and they got a couple of quick ones."

Clowe scored with 8:07 left in the second, with an assist from Thornton.

Less than two minutes later, Winchester redirected in Thornton's shot and earned praise from his coach.

"He was good all over the boards and got to the net," McLellan said. "I like him there."

Mitchell scored with just under three minutes to play in the pe-

riod, knocking in the puck after it glanced off McGinn's skate.

NOTES: The Sharks outshot Dallas 14-5 in the second period. ... Stars D Mark Fistric began serving a three-game NHL suspension for charging New York Islanders RW Nino Niederreiter.

The Stars were 2-of-30 on power plays before Morrow's goal.

The Sharks scored five or more goals for the second time this season.

The Sharks scored twice in the first 47 seconds of a game in 1998.

Stars D Alex Goligoski returned after missing 11 games with a thumb injury. D Trevor Daley (back) came back after sitting out three games.

Thornton had two assists, giving him 713 to rank 47th on the NHL career list.

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**The Deadly Threat of a Nuclear-Armed Iran**

**What can the world, what can the USA, what can Israel do about it?**

Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has declared publicly — not once, but repeatedly — that Israel must be "wiped off the map." That effort, the destruction of Israel, seems to be the main goal of Iranian policy. When Iranian missiles are paraded through the streets of Tehran, the destination "to Jerusalem" is clearly stenciled on them.

**What are the facts?**

A death wish for Israel. Ahmadinejad and the ayatollah who is the "supreme leader" have publicly mused that one or two nuclear bombs would obliterate Israel, but that, though it would cause devastating damage and millions of casualties, Iran would survive Israel's retaliatory attack. Iran is a huge country, with about 60 million inhabitants, so they are probably correct. And who can doubt that those religious fanatics would not hesitate to allow the destruction of much of their country and to sacrifice a third or even one-half of their population in order to eliminate the hated Jewish state. When our country was entangled with the Soviet Union in the bitter 40-year long "cold war," with both sides having sufficient nuclear weapons to destroy the opponent's country and its people, things were kept in place by MAD — Mutually Assured Destruction. However "evil" the leaders of the Soviet Union (the "Evil Empire") may have been, there was one great consolation and assurance: They were not crazy. But the Iranians and other Muslims are crazies, as we understand the concept. Because they take instructions directly from Allah, who tells them to kill the Jews and other infidels, whatever the cost.

Israel has no problem with Iran. They share no borders and have no territorial dispute. In fact, they face common Arab enemies and should be natural allies, as they indeed were under the Shah. Iran's death wish for Israel is based entirely on religious fanaticism. In contrast even to the intractable North Koreans, the determination of the Iranians is immutable. It cannot be changed by persuasion, by diplomacy, by sanctions or by threats.

Once Iran is in possession of nuclear weapons, it will not only be a deadly danger to Israel, but to all of the Middle East and to virtually all of Europe. The flow of oil from the Middle East, the lifeblood of the industrialized world, would be totally under its control and so would be the economies of all nations of the world, very much including the United States.

**What is to be done?** In 1981, then prime minister of Israel Menachem Begin, being aware of Iraq's nuclear ambitions and looming realization of those ambitions, decided that its nuclear reactor at Osiraq had to be destroyed. The IAF

(Israeli Air Force) accomplished that in a daring and unprecedented raid. Iraq's nuclear capability was eliminated in one stroke, never to rise up again. Israel had done the world an enormous service. Had it not been for Israel's decisive action, the Iraqi conquest of Kuwait and, without question, also of Saudi Arabia and its enormous oil fields, and, for that matter, of Iran, could not have been prevented. Saddam Hussein would have been the ruler of the world.

The solution to the deadly threat that Iran poses to the world is obvious. Of course, diplomacy and persuasion, threats and promises, sticks and carrots — every possible means short of military action — should be used until it becomes clear even to the most obtuse that nothing can deviate Iran from its chosen path of becoming a nuclear power and to dominate the Middle East.

There is reason to believe that the people of Iran, especially the young people, oppose the oppressive and theocratic regime of their country and are hostile to the mullahs who control everything. But the government has the tools of power firmly in its hands. It controls the instruments of coercion — it can kill people and it controls the oil money. While it would be most desirable and in the interest of the world to be able to foment an overthrow of the Iranian regime, that is an unrealistic and unattainable prospect.

Regrettably, there is only one solution to the terrible dilemma confronting the world, the unacceptable danger of a nuclear-armed Iran. The terror, the destruction and the 60 million dead of World War II could have been prevented at several times during the Nazi regime. But the Allied powers, under the leadership of Britain's prime minister Neville Chamberlain, opted for appeasement and for "peace in our time." We cannot afford to make that same mistake again. The world must give Iran an ultimatum: Desist immediately from the development of nuclear weapons; if you do not, we shall destroy the facilities that produce them. There still is a window of opportunity to do that. That window may close very soon. But who would do the job? The United States would be the obvious choice. But if the United States were in accord, Israel could do it, just as it did the job in 1981 in destroying Iraq's nuclear potential once and for all.

An attack on the Iranian nuclear installations would fall under the heading of "anticipatory self-defense," recognized and sanctioned by international law and by common sense. Nobody really knows for sure how far Iran is from reaching its goal — six months, six years? The experts disagree. But if Iran is not stopped now, it may well be too late not very long from now.

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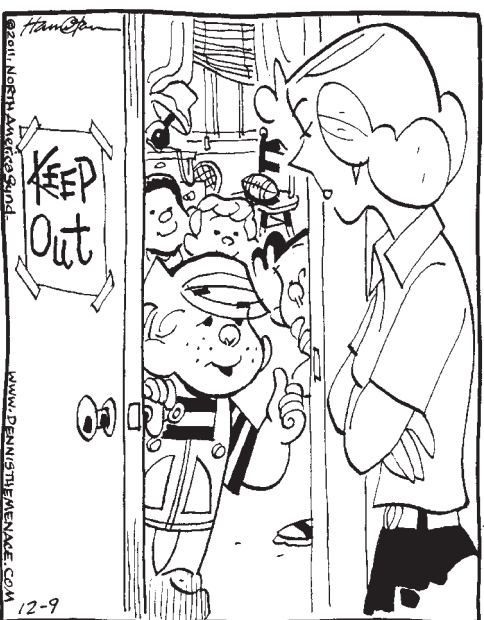
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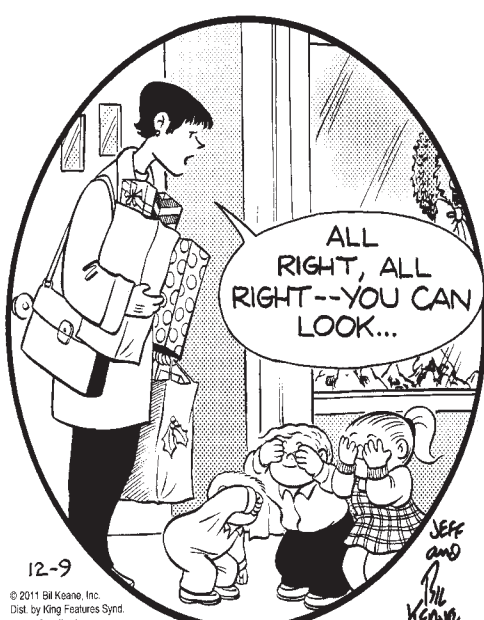
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News CBS	King King	Bible Enarson	News Curious	'Til Death King	Gold Rush	Wild West, Kenneth Branagh	land	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	ANT Farm Phineas	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me Wheel	Two Men	News Ent	Caso Cerrado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dr. Denis Upd	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Gold Rush			Law & Order		Beethoven-Adv	Around Pardon	NFL Kickoff
7:PM	Extreme Makeover	Familia-Suerte	Kitchen Nightmares	Frosty	Una Maid en	Chuck	Payne Payne	Door-Wisdom	Christmas With the Celts	Nikita	Gold Rush	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	(6:49) Gangland	Movie: Four Christmases	Movie: Soul Plane, Method Man	ANT Farm Good	College Basketball	College Football: NCAA Division I, Quarterfinal: Teams TBA.
8:PM	Extreme Makeover	Fuerza-Destino	Fringe	Virginia The Elf	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Grimm	Payne Payne	Best of Light of the Southwest	Celtic Thunder Christmas	Supernatural	Gold Rush					ANT Farm Jessie Butowski	Unguarded	
9:PM	20/20	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons How I Met	Blue Bloods	La Casa de al Lado	Dateline NBC	Worse Worse		Charlie Rose	Cops	Flying Wild Alaska		(:09) Gangland	(8:55) Movie: Four Christmases	Movie: The Wash, George Wallace	Phineas Good		
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias	News	Movie: This Christmas, Loretta Devine	Upd Alewine		'Til Death King	Gold Rush					ANT Farm NFL Live		SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta que el Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Boxeo Telemundo (SS)	Jay Leno	Late Night	Baruch Dr.	World (Off Air)	South Pk	Flying Wild Alaska				ANT Farm NFL Kickoff			
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Camara	Holiday Gift Guide	Movie: The Ringer, Katherine Heigl	Yohanant CCM		Roseanne	Gold Rush		(:33) Gangland	Movie: Hide, Kevin Alejandro	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm NFL Kickoff		
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	Pagado				ATF/TV	Gold Rush		(:42) Gangland	(12:50) The Wedding Data	Movie: Den	Jessie Phineas Good	SportsNation	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



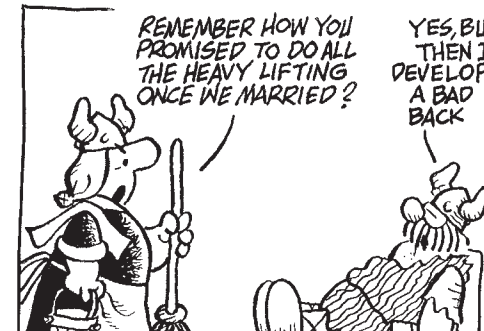
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

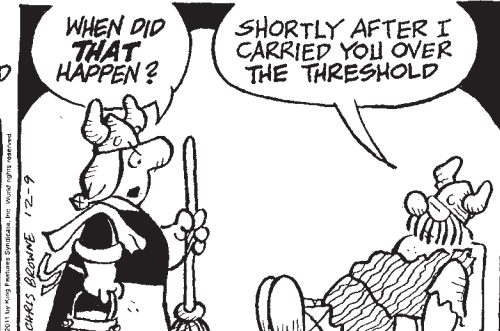


"...There's nothing here for you."

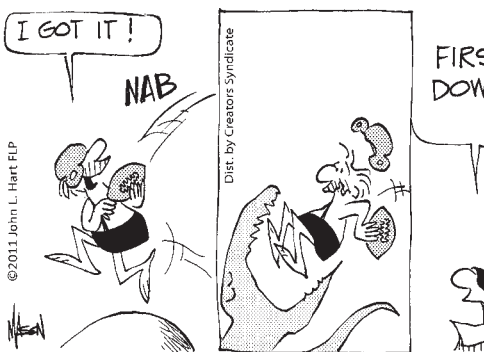
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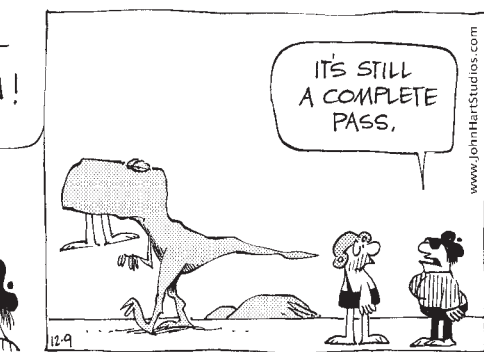
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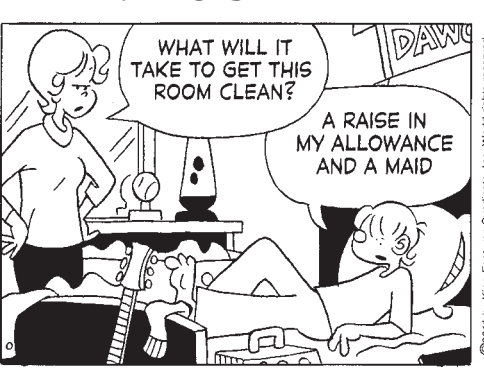
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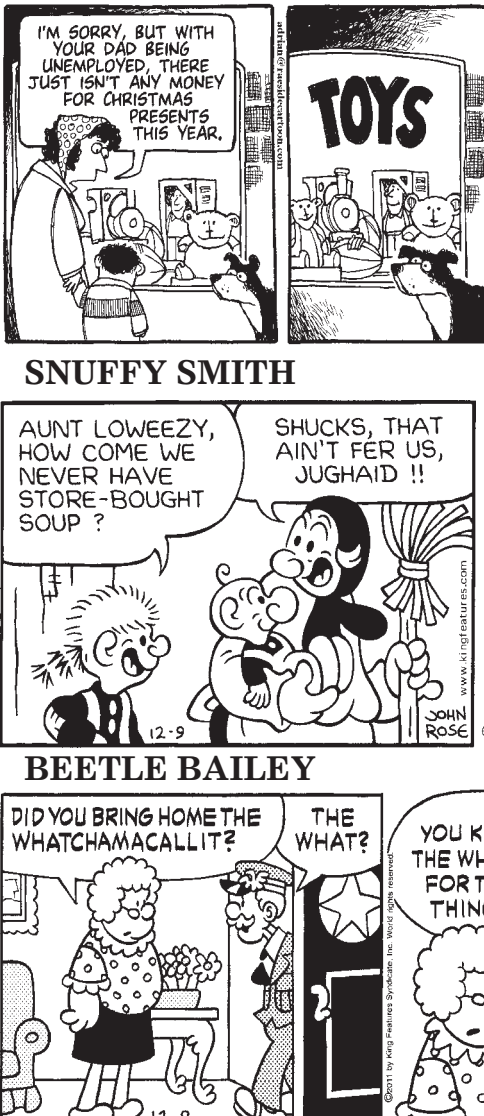
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Toot one's horn
- 5 Wild guess
- 9 Cleans, as the deck
- 14 Strange glow
- 15 Big brass
- 16 Ordeal
- 17 Forcible takeaway zone?
- 19 Hair treatment
- 20 \_ Cruces, NM
- 21 Break in relations
- 22 Intimated
- 23 Not as busy
- 25 Hurl
- 27 Tabula \_ (clean slate)
- 29 College major
- 33 Riding garb
- 36 Rugged rock
- 38 Catch a glimpse of
- 39 Eagerly expectant
- 40 Desire desperately
- 41 Not very much
- 42 Charge
- 43 First-rate
- 44 Love to pieces
- 45 Becomes adept at
- 47 Green or blue shade
- 49 Dental stuff
- 51 Diamond, essentially
- 55 Ethnic
- 58 Social equal
- 60 Oklahoma city
- 61 Small cove
- 62 Songs about stoles?

**DOWN**

- 1 Scolds, with "out"
- 2 Like the backwoods
- 3 Insistent rejoinder
- 4 Driving need
- 5 Story connections
- 6 Gang territory
- 7 Helps in a heist
- 8 Pasture plaint
- 9 Arrange in a series
- 10 Top towel-twister?
- 11 Nonstandard contraction
- 12 Despicable
- 13 Downhill racer
- 18 Source of enjoyment
- 22 Door device
- 24 Aviation?
- 26 Use yeast on
- 28 Spanning phrase
- 30 Analogy
- 31 Bandy words
- 32 Literary alter ego
- 33 Do damage to
- 34 Rio contents
- 35 Head honcho
- 37 Was on the ticket
- 40 Seasonal song
- 44 Morning ringer
- 46 Fills with glee
- 48 Frozen treat
- 50 Wild time
- 52 Mooring place
- 53 Byron or Keats
- 54 Salsa holder
- 55 Lay on the line
- 56 Prefix for lock
- 57 Extended family
- 59 Spouse of a countess
- 62 Kid's constant query
- 63 Eerie sighting

This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2011. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1911, an explosion inside the Cross Mountain coal mine near Briceville, Tenn., killed 84 workers. (Five were rescued.)

On this date:

In 1608, English poet John Milton was born in London.

In 1854, Alfred, Lord Tennyson's famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," was published in England.

In 1911, Academy Award-winning actor Broderick Crawford ("All the King's Men") was born in Philadelphia.

In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1941, China declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy.

In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed

in Indianapolis.

In 1965, Nikolai V. Podgorny replaced Anastas I. Mikoyan as president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

In 1971, Nobel Peace laureate Ralph Bunche died in New York.

In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

In 1990, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) won Poland's presidential runoff by a landslide.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kirk Douglas is 95. Actor Dick Van Patten is 83. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 81. Actress Dame Judi Dench is 77. Actor Beau Bridges is 70. Jazz singer-musician Dan Hicks is 70. Football Hall-of-Famer Dick Butkus is 69. Author Joe McGinniss is 69. Actor Michael Nouri is 66. Former Sen. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., is 64. World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Kite is 62. Singer Joan Armatrading is 61. Actor Michael Dorn is 59. Actor John Malkovich is 58. Country singer Sylvia is 55. Singer Donny Osmond is 54. Rock musician

Nick Seymour (Crowded House) is 53. Comedian Mario Cantone is 52. Actor David Anthony Higgins is 50. Actor Joe Lando is 50. Actress Felicity Huffman is 49. Crown Princess Masako of Japan is 48. Country musician Jerry Hughes (Yankee Grey) is 46. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., is 45. Rock singer-musician Thomas Flowers (Oleander) is 44. Rock musician Brian Bell (Weezer) is 43. Rock singer-musician Jakob Dylan (Wallflowers) is 42. Country musician Brian Hayes (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 42. Songwriter and former "American Idol" judge Kara DioGuardi (dee-oh-GWAHR'-dee) is 41.

Answer to previous puzzle

ANTIC	SIRE	AQUA
VIRGO	ECON	BUSY
AXIOM	MEAT	LANE
SECRET	ADMIRER	
TSK	DEN	ETA
	MYSTERY	GUEST
DESI	LID	SPIRIT
AMEX	ACIDS	OLDE
CATER	TIP	NYER
HIDDEN	CHARGE	
ALE	AAA	LEO
	SURPRISE	PARTY
WHIZ	LENO	FEMUR
YOGI	ETTU	FRODO
OWNS	SOOT	TOMES

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**1811 RUNNELS** (in rear): Mens coveralls, boots (size 8-1/2-11), gloves, pool sticks, model air plane, play station and games, Christmas items, yarn, pictures (large and nice), lamps (1-alladin), pots and pans, portable heaters (electric), too much to list. Thursday and Friday 8-5.

**GARAGE SALE:** 1 Coachman Circle, Saturday 10-12. Lots of girls winter clothing, storm door, desk, bikes, and lots of misc.

**Help Wanted**



**NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS**

- Domino's Pizza needs YOU!**
- We need drivers now
  - Make cash everyday
  - Great part time & full time shifts
  - Starting wage - \$7.25 an hour (no tip wage here) plus delivery reimbursement, plus tips
  - We more than reimburse for high gas prices
  - Got experience? Work for Papa or the Hut?...Come on over!
  - Senior citizens and stay at home Moms always welcome.

Apply at Domino's Pizza  
2111 S. Gregg St.  
Big Spring  
220136

**ATTENTION DRIVERS**

Duncan Disposal- Coahoma- Now hiring a driver for our Coahoma area, need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position Drivers must be able to pass a mandatory DOT and a corporate drug testing requirements. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon-Fri, with some Sat mornings and can earn a weekly incentive bonus. Please send resume to [LucasR@repsrv.com](mailto:LucasR@repsrv.com) or apply at 8220 W. Hwy 80, Midland, TX 79706 no phone calls please Equal Opportunity Employer

**AAA TUBING TESTING** now hiring. Good Benefits. Prefer CDL & need Operator. Will train. Call Jesse (432)267-7821.

**AIRLINES ARE HIRING** - Train for high paying Aviation Career, FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job Placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-803-8630.

**ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Apply at Hog Heaven  
4009 West Hwy. 80  
or 1506 East FM 700  
No Phone Calls Please.

**BACKHOE OPERATOR** with at least 1 year experience. Call or go by Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. Call (432)756-2821.

**Help Wanted**

**CITY OF BIG SPRING**  
Utility Service Worker  
Water Treatment-Plant Operator  
Heavy Equipment Operator-Landfill  
Parks Maintenance-Worker  
Animal Control Officer  
Mechanic I  
For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

**COASTAL TRANSPORT** is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with one year tractor trailer experience. **For More Information, Call 877-314-0700 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.**

**Coastal Transport**  
We now have a **\$2000.00 Sign On Bonus!**

We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications:  
\*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements  
\*23 years of age or older  
\*1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience  
\*Scheduled Days Off  
\*Home Everyday  
Please contact 1-888-527-7221

**COCKTAIL WAITRESSES.** Outgoing & Enthusiastic? No experience necessary. Must be 18 or older. Call 432-213-0946 for application, San Franciscan Bar & Grill.

**DANLIN CHEMICALS** is Hiring for Truck Driver/ Delivery Driver with Hazmat Endorsement for Big Spring and surrounding areas. Good Family and Employee Health Benefits. Must be self motivated. Call (325)226-5209.

**DRIVERS WANTED.** Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company is dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with Tank and Hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.



**EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUAL** needed to provide part-time childcare in our home approximately 20 hours per week. Background check required. Pay commensurate with experience. Call 512-689-2842.

**SHOP HAND** and Full-time CDL Driver needed. Call (432)267-4700.

**Help Wanted**

**John Crane Production Solutions** has an immediate opening for an EHS Technician at our Big Spring Texas facility. Responsibilities include: strong working knowledge of EHS regulations and requirements (EPA, OSHA, DOT, etc.), 3 to 5 years related work experience, familiarity with ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 EHS management systems preferred. Qualified individual must possess excellent verbal/written communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, skilled in using all Microsoft Office Software, ASP or CSP preferred, and ability to travel 25% of the time. Bachelors Degree preferred, but not required. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401K. Apply online at [www.johncrane.com](http://www.johncrane.com)



**FRITO LAY** is seeking hard workers to fill full-time Merchandiser position in the Big Spring area. Pay is \$14.40 an hour.

The Full Time Merchandiser is a position that is responsible for merchandising Frito-Lay's complete line of quality products to existing accounts while driving your personal vehicle to several store locations in close proximity. It also includes communicating with store personnel and working closely with full time Frito-Lay Sales Representatives in a team environment. The Merchandiser work schedule is based on customer requirements, days off are Monday and Tuesday. This includes weekend and holiday work schedules. The Merchandiser position offers competitive hourly pay, full Company Benefits and a reimbursable mileage policy. Benefits include 401K/ retirement/ stock options, health/dental/ vision insurance and vacation leave. Candidates must have a solid work history, strong communication skills and an excellent driving record. Please apply online at [www.fritolayemployment.com](http://www.fritolayemployment.com) for consideration. EOE M/F/V/D

**Great Horn Carriers, Inc.**  
Tanker Driver Needed  
**REQUIREMENTS:**  
Class A CDL with Haz-Mat  
2 years Tanker/ Fuel Preferred  
Local Hauling, No Nights.  
Good Pay with Benefits  
\$400.00 Sign-On Bonus.  
FMI:  
(432)683-2868, (432)288-3761

**HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED** at Super8. Apply in-person. Looking for detail-oriented person, team player with minimum 6-mos experience in housekeeping. Starting \$7.50 per hour. Accepting Interviews.



**Consider it done. JOB FAIR!**  
**Class A CDL Drivers Needed!**  
EagleOne is hosting a job fair on **December 14th, from 10am to 7pm:**  
Odessa Holiday Inn Hotel  
5275 E 42nd St. Odessa, 79761  
We are currently hiring on-demand Class A CDL drivers with 2+ years experience (off-road and/ or oil/gas industry is a plus!). **\$3,000 sign on bonus,** competitive compensation, health/dental/vision insurance, pd vacation and more!  
For more information about our driving opportunities, call **479-242-2532 or 432-685-1425**  
[www.goeagleone.com](http://www.goeagleone.com)

**BUY-SELL-TRADE**  
In the  
Big Spring Herald Classifieds  
263-7331

**Help Wanted**

Join our professional cleaning team! \$10/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call **J. Williams Management at 432-699-2090** M-F 8-4.

**John Crane Production Solutions** has an immediate opening for a Maintenance I Technician at our Big Spring Texas facility. Responsibilities include: maintain, install, and repair a variety of machinery and related equipment. Perform preventive maintenance on buildings, grounds, and machines. Assist with installation and alignment of equipment. Qualified individual should have knowledge of plumbing, painting, equipment repair and electrical wiring, and have some welding experience. Operate forklift. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401K. Apply online at [www.johncrane.com](http://www.johncrane.com)

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**Woodforest National Bank,** a leader in the Retail Banking Industry, is looking for enthusiastic individuals with exceptional customer service skills to join our team.  
\*Great Work Environment\*  
\*Benefits\*  
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**201 West Marcy**  
**Big Spring TX 79720**  
\*Must be at least 18 years old with HS diploma or Equivalent\*  
\*1 year Customer Service Experience\*  
\*Retail Sales/ Marketing Experience\*  
Apply online at: [www.woodforest.com](http://www.woodforest.com)  
Woodforest is proud to be an EEO/AA employer M/F/D/V

**PART-TIME MAINT** Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

**PHILLIPS CRANE & RIGGING**  
Looking for **CDL Driver** w/Tanker Endorsement & Exp. Operating a Winch Truck  
No Experience Necessary. Must be able to work manual labor.  
Starting Pay: \$15.00/hr  
Benefits, Holidays & Vacation  
432-264-6600  
1305 E. Airpark Drive

**PIZZA INN**  
NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.



**Shopper Delivery Routes Available**  
Work 2 days a week  
**Good for Moms, Retiree's or after school income.**  
Must have reliable transportation, drivers license and insurance.  
**Come by the Big Spring Herald,** 710 Scurry St. for application.  
No Phone Calls Please

**RUSTY'S OILFIELD** Service In Stanton has immediate openings for CDL Driver, roustabout pushers and helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W 120 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

**Help Wanted**

**THE COLORADO** River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for following positions.  
**Meter Technician/ Electronics Assistant-** Responsible for installing, repairing, and calibrating flow, level, and pressure metering equipment. Position also provides assistance in repair of communication equipment supporting the District's SCADA system. Intermediate level position with basic understanding of electronics/ electricity needed.  
**Maintenance Technician-** Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas, by calling (432)267-6341 or [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org)

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

**Physical Requirements:** Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.

**Other Requirements:** Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.

**Experience Requirements:** One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience. Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), KEYWORD: PARAGON.EOE.

**STERLING COUNTY** Nursing Home now hiring for the following-  
Director of Nursing  
LVN's  
CNA's & Med. Aides.  
Experience preferred, Please call Carmen Rios (325)378-2134 for more information.

**TOP NOTCH** Landscaping is Hiring for all positions. Experience preferred. Must have valid Drivers License. Call (432)213-0031 Mon.-Fri. 8-5.

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**Items for Sale**

**CLEAN CURRIED** Firewood Oak, Mesquite, Pinon, Pecan \$300.00 per cord. Call (325)762-4262.

**FNX-9** for Sale. New, Never Fired. Serious inquires only Please. Call (432)816-5251.

**FOR SALE** Mesquite Firewood. \$160.00 for half cord. 50 pound sacks-\$20.00. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

**FOR SALE:** Lighted Christmas **Poinsettias,** Cactus, Trees and more decorations. All sizes. Call for more information (432)935-5307 or (432)264-6117. Come by 1433 Hilltop Rd.

**SEASONED OAK** Firewood. \$340.00 Full Cord & \$190.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

**Lost and Found**

**FOUND SMALL** brown dog about 2 or 3 months old, has collar. Found in the 400 blk of Westover. Call (432)264-9026 to claim.

**Mobile Homes**

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**Pets**

**AKC MALE** Boston Terrier with papers, 8 month old. First 2 sets of puppy shots given. Very energetic! \$300. Call (432)935-0772.

**FREE LOVING** male black Cat in need of a loving home. Approx. 2-4 yrs old. Neutered and all shots current. Needs to be only Cat. Call (432)816-3629.

**Real Estate for Rent**

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263-5555  
222510

**FOR RENT** 2 bdrm/1bath, \$625. month, \$625. deposit, 1101 East 13th, References required, 432-517-0038, Agent/Owner.

**1104 East 11th Place-** Duplex 1 bedroom. Utilities Separate. Stove, refrigerator, Central air. \$485. month, \$350. deposit. Call (469)878-4967.

**1307 LINCOLN-** Totally Remodeled 4 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$775.00 month, \$675.00 deposit. Call 432-263-3375 or 816-6992.

**1603 AUSTIN-** Large efficiency apartment with stove, fridge, and other. \$500 with \$250 deposit. Gas/ Water/ Electricity and Cable Paid. No Pets. Call (432)268-9655.

**FOR RENT** 2 bdrm/1bath, \$625.00/month, \$625.00/ deposit, 2008 Scurry, References required, 432-517-0038, Agent/Owner.

**304-1/2 WEST** 19th. 1 Brdm, Good Location, fenced yard, stove, refrigerator furnished. \$450.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543 or 270-5543.

**BEAUTIFUL** 2 bdr, 1 bath, washer, dryer, stove & refrigerator provided. Carport, fenced backyard. Pets Okay. \$625.00 rent, \$625.00 deposit. Call 541-292-9825.

**BUY/ RENT** 2 thru 6 bdrm Homes, 24Hr. maintenance, Central Heat/Air, Pool, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, Washer/dryer connections, also 1 & 2 bdrm Apts, available, (432)263-3461-Rosa.

**CORPORATE FURNISHED** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, washer dryer, minimum 3 month stay, dishes & linens included. Call 432-599-1778.

**NOW LEASING** 1, 2 & 3 Bdrm Apts. Built in microwave, full-size Washer & Dryer included, private patio/balcony w/storage area, playground area, fitness center, and community center. Open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm. Call Knollwood Heights (432)264-1735.

One Bedroom- Furnished Apt.. All bills paid including cable & wireless Internet. \$700.00 monthly. Call 623-606-5898, 432-270-7474.

**Auction**  
**Saturday December 10th**  
**Potluck Christmas Party 5:30 p.m. Auction 6:30 p.m.**  
**Preview: 3:00p.m. through sale time**  
Antique China Cabinet, Chest of Drawers, TV Armoire, Oak Dresser, Several Table & Chairs, Amish Coffee & End Tables, Mirrors, Rocker, Wrought Iron Bed, Horse Clock, New Jewelry & Watches, Blankets & Pillows, Suitcases, Carnival Glass, Pyrex Bowls, Cookbooks, Teapots, Guitar, Precious Moments, Train Sets, Lots of Coca-Cola, Coins, Gandy's Cream Can, Borden Bottles, Snap-on Clocks, Baseball Cards, Pottery, Knives, Flags, Primitives, Cast Iron, Reloaded, Steer Head, Tools, Bikes, Hot wheels, Toys and a whole lot more! Great Gift Ideas!  
View Pictures at [www.crossroadsauctionco.com](http://www.crossroadsauctionco.com)  
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All work guaranteed  
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If you're feeling heavily burdened, troubled or oppressed in some way, Uranus invites you to revolt. The planet has been traveling retrograde and will now resume a direct path in Aries, the realm of the warrior. Be brave, and you'll be cosmically supported. If perchance your own mental chains are the oppressor, it is now time to throw them off.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Setting goals may be the start of creating a change, but goals are not enough in and of themselves to make the transformation happen. Action is the only way. Be confident, and keep moving ahead.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Regrets are normal, and you may realize you've been carrying

around a few accumulated disappointments, as well. It's time to cast these cumbersome burdens away.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You'll be planning the rest of the month, but don't plan everything. Footloose and fancy-free plans open a wider and more enjoyable sphere of possibilities than you could have dreamed up.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You will benefit from a technique for more constant inner balance. Repeat to yourself: "I am not under attack. Modifying my values and attitudes will help me grow."

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't have any wild ambitions for your loved ones. You want only for their happiness, in whatever form it takes. As for yourself, that's a different story. A big dream is starting to come together in your mind and heart.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're not one to

accept a naive reliance on luck, and yet some things are completely out of your control. So you'll let go and hope for the best. And that's precisely what will come of this.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You still have time to do something extremely special for a loved one by the end of the year. Keep in mind that a gift you make by hand will have deep meaning and personal significance.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You were there when a project, person or idea was in its infancy stage. Now it's developed into its own exciting force in the world, and you'll be running to keep up.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A feminine supporter will bolster your ego and remind you who you really are. And though this may happen on a superficial level, it still helps you keep a strong faith in yourself.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your sign mate Professor Edwin A. Locke notes, "There are two

kinds of people in the world: the vulnerable and the dead. Those who live only to avoid hurt are the living dead."

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your attitude will keep you in perfect readiness to receive good fortune when it befalls you. Until then, you're not in the mood to worry or obsess. You'll be focused on following a new curiosity.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The day will be socially oriented, and you'll find many occasions to shake hands and exchange smiles and hugs. The work gets done when everyone agrees on the task and cooperates in their efforts.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 9). Believe that known and unknown forces are on your side. All of your hard work, planning and organization will pay off in 2012. You'll affirm your love and solidify new relationships in February. March favors your business ventures

financial transactions. There's a breakthrough for your family in May. Scorpio and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 7, 14, 39 and 10.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** With the moon in Gemini and the sun in Sagittarius, these signs naturally reflect each other's finest qualities. They will explore and connect with great skill. The conversation is so sparkling that it should be recorded in some way. These two should at the very least take pictures to commemorate this time together, which will be surprising, subtly challenging, exciting and magical.

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

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 4, Pre-Purchase of Electrical Equipment for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 22, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869 For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email [mgrace@garney.com](mailto:mgrace@garney.com) Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7191 December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2011

**Legals**

**INVITATION TO BID**

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**Dear Margo: The bloodier the better. Uh, no.**

**Dear Margo:** I have a friend who's been in an abusive relationship since her marriage seven years ago. My friend claims she can't leave her husband because she's in love with him and because she believes marriage is forever. Her husband has caused the police to intervene, and he's put her in the hospital more than once.



MARGO HOWARD

I fear for my friend's safety. When she's with him, she is a completely different person from who she is when it is just the two of us. What can I do to help her if she doesn't want to help herself? — *Concerned Friend*

**Dear Con:** Not much. Extricating oneself from an abusive relationship is a do-it-yourself project ...

not unlike deciding it's time to get sober. Sad but true, some people have a misguided idea of what love is and how much a partner is supposed to tolerate. Your friend's notion that "marriage is forever," given what's going on in hers, is rationalization and extremely masochistic, at that.

After seven years, I'm sure she is totally brainwashed and feeling quite worthless.

This terrible man, in her mind, is the last train out of the station. Such ideas often depend on how the person was raised and what they saw, filtered through their own sense of self.

I would give it one last try. Sit her down and say she needn't be this man's pinata and emotional slave. Tell her marriage is not forever — any more than a broken arm is — that there is help, and that you hope she exits the relationship before he kills her. Then

you will know you played your trump card, but do understand, in the end, you cannot control the situation. — *Margo, forlornly*

**Sorry, Wrong Number**

**Dear Margo:** I have been in an intimate relationship with a man for a year. We are plus and minus 60 years of age.

He enjoys my company, as I do his. The issue is that he refuses to share his cell number with me. He has given me his home number. I have explained how having the cell number would be a convenience for me in communicating with him.

He has my cell number, but doesn't call me using his cellphone. He said it was a work phone, but later admitted that prior girlfriends, family and other friends have this number. He isn't married, and I have been to his home many times.

I feel slighted and hurt that I am not included in the group of people to whom he gives this number. I have wondered whether I should end the relationship on this one

matter. I am not looking for this to be a permanent relationship, but am just wondering about this one issue at the present time. I have tried dropping this matter several times, but it is bothering me again. Your opinion? — *Hurting*

**Dear Hurt:** As a rule, it is the cellphone number that is offered and the home number that is withheld — usually because there's a wife at the other end. You established that he is not married, so it's kind of quirky that he let you know other girlfriends (plus family and friends) have the number — but not you. It sounds like some version of nyah-nyah, I-know-something-you-don't-know.

If he's trying to annoy you — or even if he isn't — ask for an explanation. If none is forthcoming, tell him it's been swell, but his reticence about such a matter is a deal-breaker for you. It is especially convenient that you don't have designs on him as a permanent partner. — *Margo, openly*  
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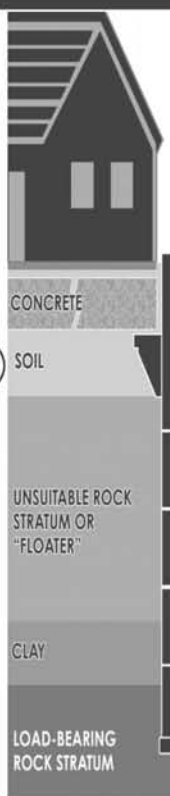
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Psalm 91: 14-16

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