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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 52

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Routine agenda faces council

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to approve final reading of a resolution streamlining the way the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation will deliver its quarterly reports to the governing body during its meeting Tuesday evening.

Under the existing requirements, the Big Spring EDC Board of Directors are required to meet with the city council during their quarterly meetings, according to EDC Director Terry Wegman.

However, the proposed change — which passed first reading during the council's Nov. 8 meeting — would allow the quarterly meetings to take place with just the council and Wegman present, according to city officials.

"During our quarterly meetings with the council, the majority of the presentations are made by me," Wegman said. "So, there's really no reason for the board members to be required to be there. This change will simply allow us to be more flexible and move these items along to the city council more quickly, and with a lot of these things, time is a critical element."

City Attorney Linda Sjogren agreed, saying the former process — which involved the performance agreements having to first be entered into the EDC board of director's meeting minutes before going to the council, a process that could take 30 to 45 days — wasn't as expeditious as those involved would like.

"This will simply allow the EDC director to bring the performance agreements to you as they have been approved by the EDC (board of directors) ... everything else in the resolution is the same as what we've been doing," Sjogren told the council dur

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3



'Twas the night before Christmas ...'

Under the direction of Rocky Harris, the Big Spring High School Band accompanies BSHS Theater Director Tabatha Wright's narration of "The Night Before Christmas" during the band's annual Christmas Concert Sunday in the high school auditorium.

HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

An illuminating celebration

15th annual Festival of Lights switches on Thursday

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

Fifteen years and going strong. The Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park will be turned on again starting Thursday and stay lit until Dec. 31.

"This all started as I was riding on a float in the parade one year and a lady asked me why they don't light up the park," Festival of Lights founder Pat Simmons said. "I don't know who they are, but I told her I would look into it."

With that one simple question, Simmons' imagination ran wild and 15 years later her dream of little diamonds sparkling throughout the park have blossomed into 6-foot poinsettias, candy canes and more than a million lights spread throughout the park.

"My little diamonds turned into poinsettias, which make sense since the poinsettia is a holiday flower," Simmons said.

However, this year, the lights

won't be limited to Comanche Trail Park. Three poinsettias will once again be located on top of Scenic Mountain.

"The flowers haven't been up there the past three years due to the lack of a power source," Simmons said. "This year, we have the propane generator to provide the power and they will once again be back up on the mountain."

The expansion doesn't stop there. The air park will be home to a 150 foot poinsettia flanked by three 50 foot poinsettias, which will greet the estimated 18,000 cars traveling by on Interstate 20 daily.

"Skip Burcham, one of our committee members, had wanted to put these out there and it's something the committee voted on and thought would be a good idea," Simmons said. "The poinsettias will be able to be seen from I-20 and Highway 80."

Last year more than 20,000 people traveled from all over, including from 38 states and 14 countries to see the Festival of Lights. This year, Simmons said her goal is to have 25,000 people come through the park.

During the drive through the park this year, a few things will be different on top of the expansions outside the park. A tribute honoring veterans will be added in the diorama area where the Settles Hotel lighted figure usually stands. Included in the display will be a vinyl banner featuring a picture of the memorial statue placed outside the VA Medical Center of George H. O'Brien that will illuminated by a flood light and surrounded by patriotic icicle lights.

Four new Adopt-A-Spot sponsors have also been added, bringing the total number of adopt a spots to 38 for the 2011 Festival of Lights. Holy

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3



DEAR SANTA, FOR CHRISTMAS, I'D LIKE A LAPTOP COMPUTER.

Dec. 12
13 shopping days to Christmas

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Thieves nab soldier's tailgate

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

When 20-year-old Phillip Weaver made the drive from Fort Bliss, El Paso, to Big Spring to pay his respects to his great-grandfather, who was in hospice care at the local VA Medical Center, he probably didn't imagine his trip back would be several pounds lighter.

However, that's exactly what happened for the young man, who is currently enlisted in the U.S. Army, who said a quick stop by a local restaurant

for a meal left him — and his vehicle — short a pickup tailgate.

"I had visited my great-grandfather — W.C. Odell — and stopped by the Red Dragon restaurant on Gregg Street to get some dinner," Weaver said. "When I came out of the restaurant, the tailgate of my truck was gone. I couldn't believe it. Someone had actually stolen my tailgate."

"I can see someone stealing a tail

See **THIEVES**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Edwinna Vincent Carr



Edwinna Vincent Carr went to be with the Lord on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, at Parks Methodist Retirement Village in Odessa, Texas. She was surrounded by her three daughters, Sidney Arrick of Odessa, Texas, Mariless Frazier of Tarpley, Texas, and Ilameta Moore of Landrum, S.C., and her son-in-law, John Arrick of Odessa, and her long-time nurse, Sharon Fowler, who became a part of her family.

Edwinna was born in Linn Creek, Mo., on Jan. 18, 1916. After a few years of her childhood spent in Okmulgee, Okla., she lived in Linn Creek and Eldon, Mo. After graduating from Eldon High School she attended William Woods College in Fulton, Mo. She married Fred Irving Carr of Eldon.

Before her marriage, she worked for the Missouri Employment Commission in Rolla, Mo. After their marriage, Edwinna and Fred owned restaurants in Eldon. She lived in Eldon while Fred was serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After moving to Texas, she managed the cafeteria at Gay Hill Elementary in Luther, Texas, for a couple of years.

She then began a career in sales with World Book Encyclopedia. She saw her work as a mission to bring this educational resource into homes across the empty spaces of West Texas, opening up the wonders of the world to children. She went on to be a regional manager for World Book in Arizona, bringing this product into schools and libraries. As a part of her responsibilities, she hired, trained and managed personnel.

She was devoted to her three daughters and her beloved husband. She loved with a self-sacrificial love, never thinking of self but always of her family. She and Fred were blessed with three wonderful son-in-laws who loved them like they were their own parents. Further blessings came with their seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She passed on to her children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews (who lovingly refer to her as "Aunt Winna") the blessings of the ties that bind hearts in human love.

She was a member of The First Methodist Church, teaching Sunday School and serving on boards in various churches.

Edwinna is survived by her daughters, her three sons-in-law, John Arrick, Mack Frazier of Tarpley, Texas, and Maj. Gen. Burt Moore of Landrum, S.C.; her grandchildren, Brooke Arrick Everett of Big Spring, Texas, Jamie Arrick Anderson of Odessa, Jay Arrick of Odessa, Lezlae Frazier Grubb of Brentwood, Tenn., Shad Frazier of Edmund, Okla., Dr. Meredith Moore of Denver, Colo., and Lt. Col. Jon Burton Moore of Columbus, Miss.; and 12 great-grandchildren.

The family sends its appreciation for the loving care of the staff of Parks Methodist Retirement Village and Compass Hospice with special thanks to Kyle Yarbrough. In lieu of flowers, donations to Parks Methodist Retirement Village and Compass Hospice would be appreciated.

Services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, in the parlor of Odessa First Baptist Church at 4:30 p.m. Services are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens, 6801 E. Bus. 20, Odessa, Texas 79762.

Paid obituary

Donald Williams

Donald Williams, 67, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, in a Lubbock hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Ramona M. Tijerina

Ramona M. Tijerina, 62, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Martha Grant

Martha Grant, 86, of Big Spring, formerly of Fort Worth died Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Scott Andrew Woolverton



Scott Andrew Woolverton, 48, of Lusby, Md., formally of Big Spring, Texas, passed away suddenly Dec. 7, 2011, at St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, Md.

Scott was born Sept. 16, 1963, in Big Spring, Texas, to the late Raymond James and Mary Lou Chagnon Woolverton.

Scott was employed as parts manager for Fitzgerald Auto Mall of Lexington Park, Md.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Lee Woolverton; daughter, Andrea Lee Woolverton of Columbus, Ohio; step-daughter, Mary Elizabeth Porras of Gulfport, Miss.; step-son, Frank Rene Porras of El Paso, Texas; sisters, Micki Maddux and husband Fred, Irene Weimer and husband Jerry and Jessica Greenwood and husband Cory; brothers, Ed Woolverton and wife Naomi, Jim Woolverton and wife Kathy and Tom Woolverton and wife Diane. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews.

The family will receive friends at Rausch Funeral Home, P.A., 20 American Lane, Lusby, Md. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011, at 10 a.m. until the time of the service celebrating Scott's life at 11:30 a.m. Interment will be private.

Donations in Scott's memory may be sent to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

Jackie Faye Bowden

Jackie Faye Bowden, 78, of Big Spring, died Monday, December 12, 2011 in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- RICHARD GLENN SPINKS, 38, of Odessa, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LEROY ELMER DOLLEY, 42, of 7000 I-20 S. Service Rd., was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- STEVEN LOYD BATEMAN, 32, of 800 S. Nolan St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- KYLE LARAND COMBS, 40, of Waskom, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- CHRISTOPHER SHANE HAHN, 24, of Bruceville, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 61 inmates at the time of this report.

- KENDALL JACKSON, 24, was booked in to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license, violation of a promise to appear and municipal warrants for driving while license invalid and violation of a promise to appear.
- DAVID RAY HENSON, 42, was booked in to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- PAUL EVERETTE JORDAN, 51, was booked in

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 12/13	Wed 12/14	Thu 12/15	Fri 12/16	Sat 12/17
64/57 A few showers early in the day.	66/41 Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	60/35 Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	55/42 Few showers. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.	56/41 Showers possible. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM

to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• CHRISTOPHER GENE BAKER, 25, was booked in to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of speeding.

• ALVINO NOYOLA, 59, was transferred to the county jail by another agency on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• ROY G. CERVANTES, 32, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of bail jumping - failure to appear.

• TORY PETE MARTINEZ, 17, was booked in to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony, bandoning/endangering a child - criminal negligence and minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage.

• CHRISTIAN ROSALES, 22, was booked in to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• A.L. THOMPSON III, 32, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of no valid driver's license.

• STACEY LYNN PENDLETON, 36, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• DEMETRIUS DRON EDWARDS, 35, was booked in to the county jail Saturday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• JOSEPH LEE MUNOZ, 37, was booked in to the county jail Saturday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on an Austin Parole Division Blue Warrant.

• EZAU JOVVANY MELENDEZ, 23, was booked in to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to display driver's license.

• OSCAR ORTIZ, 22, was booked in to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on an Austin Parole warrant.

• JOE THOMAS RODRIGUEZ, 23, was booked in to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct.

• STEVEN LOYD BATEMAN, 32, was booked in to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• KALIN JORDAN WHITEHEAD, 25, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a municipal warrant for driving while license invalid.

• LEROY ELMER DOLLEY, 42, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• CHRISTOPHER SHANE HAHN, 24, was booked in to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• RICHARD GLENN SPINKS, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• KYLE LARAND COMBS, 40, was booked in to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

• ARTURO VASQUES, 42, was booked in to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

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Take note

• Big Spring High School Auditorium is the new location for the Big Spring Symphony's Dec. 17 performance of the Nutcracker Ballet. The 7:30 p.m. event will feature the Midland Festival Ballet performers and the full Big Spring Symphony Orchestra.

• Holy Trinity Catholic Youth Group is collecting good coats, blankets, heaters, scarves, gloves for the community. The needy in our community can come to Holy Trinity Church Hall on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 1009 Hearn St. in Big Spring to look through the items we've collected. Refreshments will be served.

• A benefit account for the Arguello family, who lost two family members in a recent house fire in Coahoma, has been established at Western Bank. Interested persons can contribute to the account at any of the bank's three locations (two in Big Spring; one in Coahoma). For more information, call 432-394-4256.

• An account has been established at Wells Fargo to help defray medical expenses for 4-year-old Zayde Stallings, who recently died of a rare heart condition. She was the daughter of Kenny and Renea Stallings of Big Spring. If you need more information, contact Four Seasons Insulation and Siding at 264-8610. The account number is 7938527277.

• A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Mike Williams, 39, a lifetime resident of Big Spring who died Nov. 1. He leaves behind a wife and seven children. Any donations can be brought to the funeral home office at 301 E. 24th St. For more information, call 267-8288.

• American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished.

Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The re-registration period began Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012. At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party. For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

• Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.

• A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in dire need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

• A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

THIEVES

Continued from Page 1

gate. Things get stolen all the time. The thing that really got to me was I had a U.S. Army logo sticker on the tailgate. You'd like to think they would see that and

maybe think twice, but not these thieves. It just blew my mind."

Weaver's plight was brought to the attention of the Herald by the young man's mother, Michele Daniels, who contacted the newspaper by e-mail. "I thought how awful to go to Big Spring to be

able to see your great-grandfather, who is dying, which is stressful enough," Daniels writes, "but now he is even more stressed knowing his tailgate was stolen."

Weaver said his great-grandfather passed Dec. 4, leaving him, his

great-grandmother — Big Spring's own Mary Odell — and the rest of their family to cherish his memory.

As for the young veteran's tailgate, that, well, is a slightly different story.

"It's been reported to the police, but I haven't

heard anything from them yet," he said. "I don't know that I will. I really don't know what to think about the whole thing. I'm just glad I got to see my great-grandfather."

Anyone with information on this or any other crime is encouraged to

contact the Big Spring Police Department at 432-264-2550 or the Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 432-263-TIPS (8477) OR 432-264-TIPS (8477).

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 3

Trinity Catholic Parish, Holy Trinity Catholic Pro-life committee, Adult Protective Services and Big Spring

Fire Department jumped on board this year.

"Several organizations, schools, clubs and other community members have adopted a spot and serve as a big help in putting on the Festival of Lights," Simmons

said.

For those wanting to take part in the Festival of Lights this year, there are still opportunities available. Greeters and workers in the gift shop are still needed. The gift shop will be open Thurs-

day with an opportunity for pictures with Santa on Friday and Saturday and Dec. 21-23 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"Another added incentive this year is if people will stop in at the gift shop they can register

to win a 6-foot poinsettia," Simmons said.

The winner of the poinsettia will be announced Dec. 23. All entries must be made in the gift shop between Thursday and Dec. 23.

For information on

how to volunteer, call Debbie Wegman at 264-2516.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

ing its previous meeting.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council will consider final reading of a resolution to pay back wages and damages to current and former city employees, part of a lawsuit brought against the municipality concerning errors in overtime calculations.

"This all stems from an error Mr. (John) Medina discovered shortly after he took over as human resources director in the way we were calculating the overtime, the regular rate for overtime, in the fall of 2009,"

Sjogren said. "The point of this resolution is to make the same settlement terms, the same benefits available to all employees, even if they didn't participate in the lawsuit. We wanted to be equitable to everyone."

According to municipal records, city officials became aware the method used to calculate its regular rate for overtime was possibly incorrect, which soon spawned a lawsuit filed by affected employees, including a lawsuit filed by a group of firefighters employed by the Big Spring Fire Department.

Municipal records indicate the lawsuit culminated in a medi-

ated settlement agreement between the parties whereby the "city agreed to pay to each plaintiff the greater of two different methods of calculating the back pay owed for back wages for specific periods of time in consideration for a release of any claims to back wages."

"From the beginning, when we first found the error, the council told me and the city manager has told me we were going to pay everyone what they are owed," Sjogren said. "We don't want for anyone to be shorted. That's been our position all along."

Sjogren said in some cases the miscalculations could result in em-

ployees owing the city, however, municipal officials have no intentions of attempting to recover those funds.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council is expected to meet with Butch Davis, engineer with Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Inc. regarding rehabilitation of the city's water and wastewater treatment plants, as well as a plan to establish an emergency water supply.

Tuesday's meeting is expected to get under way at 5:30 p.m. in the

City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street. For more information call 264-2401. Also, a complete copy of the meeting agenda can be found online at www.mybigspring.com

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

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News in brief

At Penn State, those in the know explained away Sandusky

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — The warning signs were there for more than a decade, disturbing indicators that Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was breaching boundaries with young boys — or maybe worse.

Yet the university's top administrators kept allowing, even encouraging, Sandusky to invite some of those boys into campus sports buildings — locker rooms, showers, a sauna and a swimming pool — where prosecutors now say he fondled, molested and sexually assaulted some of the most vulnerable in the place known as Happy Valley.

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.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 5
♥ A Q 10 5 4
♦ Q 5 4
♣ J 6

WEST
♠ K 6
♥ 6 2
♦ A K 10 7 3
♣ K Q 8 2

EAST
♠ 2
♥ K J 9
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ 10 9 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 8 7 4 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ J
♣ A 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ 1NT Dble 2♣
4♠

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Every regular partnership must make certain to discuss the precise meaning of various defensive signals. This is true for any pair that hopes to achieve the best results possible.

Today's deal shows what can happen if a pair is not on the same wavelength. Amazingly, the deal occurred in the 1977 world championship match between Australia and Sweden and involved one of the best pairs of that era.

At the table in question, with a

Tomorrow: The arithmetical approach.

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Swedish pair North-South, the bidding went as shown. West (Dick Cummings) led the king of diamonds, on which East (Tim Seres) played the six. Seres was afraid to play the deuce on the king because he thought that might be interpreted as suggesting a club shift.

However, Cummings thought that the six play might be based on the 6-2 doubleton, so he continued with the ace of diamonds. This play ultimately proved fatal.

South ruffed and returned a low trump toward dummy. Cummings went up with the king and then — too late — shifted to the king of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and embarked on a line of play that guaranteed the contract regardless of where the missing heart honors were located.

He led a trump to dummy's nine, discarded the club seven on the queen of diamonds and ruffed the jack of clubs. Then, having eliminated both minor suits, declarer led a heart and finessed the ten. East won with the jack but was helpless.

Whether he returned a heart, a diamond or a club, declarer would score the rest of the tricks. And so the Swedish declarer succeeded in making four spades in a hand in which, with best defense, he would have gone down two.

Too many, from the university president to department heads to janitors, knew of troubling behavior by this revered, longtime coach who founded a charity for children with hardscrabble backgrounds. But at this school whose sports programs vow "success with honor," the circle of knowledge was kept very limited and very private.

Year after year, Penn State missed opportunity after opportunity to stop Sandusky. Secrecy ruled, and reaction to complaints of improper sexual behavior was to remain silent, minimize or explain away — all part of a deep-rooted reflex to protect the sacred football program.

The fact that so few say they knew is all anyone needs to know about the insular culture that surrounds Penn State — a remote and isolated community in a central Pennsylvania valley, a university cloaked in so much secrecy, in large part, because it is exempt from the state's open records law, and a football program that has prided itself on handling its indiscretions internally and quietly, without outside interference.

As last U.S. troops leave Iraq, Obama and al-Maliki chart next steps in relationship

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq in its final days, President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki will meet at the White House Monday to discuss the next phase of the relationship between their countries.

They will have plenty to discuss.

The withdrawal of all American troops on Dec. 31 marks the end of a nearly nine-year war that has been deeply divisive in both the U.S. and Iraq. While Obama and al-Maliki have pledged to maintain strong ties, the contours of the partnership between Washington and Baghdad remain murky, especially with Iran eager to assert influence over neighboring Iraq. And serious questions remain about Iraq's capacity to stabilize both its politics and security.

Yet the end of the war still marks a promise kept for Obama, one the White House is eager to promote. In addition to his meeting with al-Maliki, Obama will mark the milestone Wednesday when he speaks to troops at North Carolina's Fort Bragg. And he thanked service members and their families for their sacrifices when he attended the annual Army-Navy football game Saturday.

As of late last week, the number of U.S. troops in Iraq had dwindled to about 8,000, down from 170,000 at the war's peak in 2007.

As few as 12 hacker teams responsible for bulk of data theft

WASHINGTON (AP) — As few as 12 different Chinese groups, largely backed or directed by the government there, commit the bulk of the China-based cyberattacks stealing critical data from U.S. companies and government agencies, according to U.S. cybersecurity analysts and experts.

The aggressive but stealthy attacks, which have stolen billions of dollars in intellectual property and data, often carry distinct signatures allowing U.S. officials to link them to certain hacker teams. Analysts say the U.S. often gives the attackers unique names or numbers, and at times can tell where the hackers are and even who they may be.

Sketched out by analysts who have worked with U.S. companies and the government on computer intrusions, the details illuminate recent claims by American intelligence officials about the escalating cyber threat emanating from China. And the widening expanse of targets, coupled with the expensive and sensitive technologies they are losing, is putting increased pressure on the U.S. to take a much harder stand against the communist giant.

It is largely impossible for the U.S. to prosecute hackers in China, since it requires reciprocal agreements between the two countries, and it is

always difficult to provide ironclad proof that the hacking came from specific people.

Several analysts described the Chinese attacks, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigations and to protect the privacy of clients. China has routinely rejected allegations of cyberspying and says it also is a target.

Ex-dictator Noriega back in Panama, sitting in spartan cell

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Manuel Noriega is back in his Panamanian homeland after nearly 22 years, sitting in a prison cell in a country he ruled as a personal fiefdom until U.S. troops invaded and hauled him off to a Florida jail.

A few protesters gathered outside El Renacer prison as the 77-year-old former general was spirited inside Sunday night after an extradition flight from France, yet the overwhelming mood among his countrymen seemed to be indifference.

While some people banged pots and honked car horns in Panama City's downtown in a symbolic gesture of disdain for Noriega, most Panamanians on the capital's crowded streets were out holiday shopping.

Officials escorted Noriega home on an Iberia airlines' jet that touched down at Tocumen airport Sunday afternoon in a flight that began in Paris and made a stop in Madrid.

Court has chance to jump into fight over laws targeting immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is waging a furious legal fight against a patchwork of state laws targeting illegal immigrants, and on Monday the Supreme Court has its first chance to jump into the fray.

Arizona is asking the justices to allow the state to begin enforcing measures that have been blocked by lower courts at the administration's request. Among those provisions is one that requires police, while enforcing other laws, to question a person's immigration status if officers suspect he is in the country illegally.

Similar laws in Alabama, South Carolina and Utah also are facing Obama administration lawsuits. Private groups are suing over immigration measures adopted in Georgia and Indiana.

The Justice Department says regulating immigration is the job of the federal government, not states.

Home improvement giant Lowe's threatened with boycott

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lowe's Home Improvement has found itself facing a backlash after the retail giant pulled ads from a reality show about American Muslims.

The retail giant stopped advertising on TLC's "All-American Muslim" after a conservative group known as the Florida Family Association complained, saying the program was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger to American liberties and traditional values."

The show premiered last month and chronicles the lives of five families from Dearborn, Mich., a Detroit suburb with a large Muslim and Arab-American population.

A state senator from Southern California said Sunday he was considering calling for a boycott.

Calling the Lowe's decision "un-American" and "naked religious bigotry," Sen. Ted Lieu, D-Torance, told The Associated Press he would also consider legislative action if Lowe's doesn't apologize to Muslims and reinstate its ads.

Perry trying to revive campaign

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Seen just four months ago as conservatives' potential savior, Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry is fighting for his life in Iowa.

With three weeks until Iowa's leadoff caucuses, the Texas governor has retooled his message from the strict jobs focus he began with in August to one promoting him as a conservative outsider.

And he's doubled down on television advertising for the home stretch, having already spent more than \$2 million in Iowa only to see his support remain in single digits.

Perry's revamped charge to the Jan. 3 caucuses is a sign of the pressure he faces to revive his faltering national campaign.

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

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Zoo feeds 6,000 hungry mouths every day

By **ALLAN TURNER**
Houston Chronicle
HOUSTON (AP) — Gone are the days when Houston Zoo workers, desperately low on the fixings for vampire bats' favorite meal, quietly tapped Star, the lovable brown-eyed cow in the kids' petting zoo. Gone, too, is the time when Maine wolves, canines who crave roots and veggies, were fed ordinary dog food and prairie chickens unhappily subsisted on pheasant chow.

Today, mealtime for the zoo's 6,000-plus animals is a matter of culinary art and science. Each year, commissary workers dish up more than \$700,000 in grub that — excepting hay and insects — would gratify the palate of the most discerning connoisseur.

Starting at 5 a.m. every day, workers under the supervision of commissary chief Phyllis Pietrucha-Mays, chop, dice, grind and steam on a scale rivaling the grandest institutional kitchen.

As Houston residents navigate the morning

rush hour, solar-powered carts dart around the zoo, delivering alfalfa to giraffes, dog food to hissing roaches and mealworms to golden-fronted leaf birds. As humans clock in for the day, squirrel-sized fruit bats, dangling upside down in their black-lighted domicile, scarf down banana kabobs, then drop the peels on the floor.

Eighteen million crickets pass through the zoo kitchen annually, along with 26,000 pounds of fish, 40,000 pounds of meat and 98,750 frozen rodents. The larder is stacked with scientifically calibrated feed, as well as milk, yogurt, popcorn, low-calorie peanut butter for overweight elephants and coconut macaroons for diarrhetic monkeys.

Rounding out the menu are blueberries, four varieties of lettuce, kale, papayas, apples, grapes, yams, carrots, mangoes, watermelons, onions, bok choy, cantaloupe and two types of hay.

"All the produce is Grade A," Pietrucha-Mays said. "If people

can't eat it, we don't want it."

Some foodstuffs are donated, but most are purchased from commercial suppliers and area farms. The zoo recently launched its second annual "Gift of Grub" campaign, with TXU Energy pledging to match citizen donations dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. The fund drive continues through year's end.

Pietrucha-Mays, head of the six-person commissary for 19 years, has sampled many of her kitchen's offerings. Fluker's Cricket Quencher, a calcium source for insects, tastes insipid, she said. Mealworms are crunchy. Eating a pinky — a newborn mouse — is a lot like swallowing a goldfish. About the only thing that tastes like chicken, Pietrucha-Mays said, is chicken.

"There's a whole list of finicky eaters," she said. "Primates are probably the toughest. They're so much like us. One day they eat oranges, the next day they may not."

At the core of most

zoo diets, she said, are scientifically prepared pellets or biscuits that ensure that animals receive adequate nutrition.

Zoo veterinarian Dr. Joe Flanagan, who oversees animal nutrition, said modern diets have evolved over a 40-year period.

"Originally, when we kept Maine wolves, we tried to feed them dog food," Flanagan said, noting that keepers were perplexed when the animals had problems reproducing. "When we did field work, we saw that they ate lots of roots and vegetables."

Similarly, zoo staff originally fed Attwater prairie chickens food compounded for pheasants because the birds seemed similar. Flanagan said the prairie chickens laid few eggs and hatchlings' survival was poor. When scientists compared blood components of captive prairie chickens and those in the wild, they quickly realized the zoo feed was to blame.

Even when a choice is sound, problems

abound.

Hay, a prime food source for the zoo's seven elephants — they eat a total 15 bales a day — and ruminants has become scarce and costly as the Texas drought continues.

A deadly virus has infected colonies of the nation's commercial cricket farmers, and while efforts are underway to breed an alternate species, the future of the famed zoo-plate special is in question.

Eighteen months ago, shipments of kale were found contaminated with deadly nightshade, a single leaf of which can kill an adult human. Staffers were forced to painstakingly examine incoming kale leaf by leaf. Today, color photos of the weed are posted above the salad sorting table.

Houston Zoo closed its vampire bat exhibit three years ago after securing timely supplies of cow blood became difficult. Initially, the zoo obtained blood from area slaughterhouses for a few dollars a gallon. As those facilities moved away, the zoo turned

to an East Texas medical supply firm, whose supplies were irregular, and, ultimately, up to 10 times more expensive.

When the vampires' pantry was bare, workers headed to the children's petting zoo to bleed Star.

To Pietrucha-Mays' chagrin, the blood-eating bats were transferred to a Louisville, Ky., zoo.

"I loved the bats," she said. But then, in a career that brings her into contact with creepy-crawlies that might chill the average person's blood, the commissary chief is notably open and accepting.

She draws the line, though, at nutria.

"We got a 50-pound block of frozen nutria for our white alligator," she recalled, grimacing in disgust. "We used a handsaw to cut it into one-pound blocks. The smell was horrible. Bones kept popping out of the block. It was like someone put 30 nutria in a blender and then froze it. It was nasty."

"We got the alligator to eating rats as quickly as possible."

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4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but not in coloring pictures.
5. All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, Dec. 19, 2011

6. Winners will be notified by phone on Wednesday, December 21 2011
7. Decision of judges is final.
8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

Win places Texans in playoffs for first time in team history

CINCINNATI (AP) — Eighty yards to cover, little more than 2 minutes left, no timeouts to help. Rookie quarterback T.J. Yates faced his biggest challenge as he lined up for the snap. With savvy and a scramble, he pulled it off. Yates led the biggest drive in Texans history on Sunday, one that put them in the end zone and the playoffs. He threw a 6-yard touchdown pass with 2 seconds left for a 20-19 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals that sent the expansion team into the

playoffs for the first time. “It’s pretty crazy,” Yates said. “A lot of people in this organization have waited a long time for this. This is a special day for this team and this organization.” In the span of a few wild minutes, everything broke their way. With their seventh straight win, the Texans (10-3) moved to the threshold of the playoffs. They hugged on the field then headed to the locker room where they huddled around a television set and watched the fi-

nal minutes of Tennessee’s game play out. They needed a Titans loss to clinch the AFC South. When time ran out on the Titans, preserving New Orleans’ 22-17 victory, the Texans screamed, hugged, and donned black championship caps and white T-shirts. Injured receiver Andre Johnson, who didn’t play because of a strained hamstring, got a game ball for his part in turning the team into a winner. “Words really can’t describe it,” Johnson said.

“It’s something I’ve been waiting for for a long time.” Since their inaugural season in 2002, the Texans have been little more than a tease. They’d come close to reaching the playoffs, only to fade and fumble in the big games. They couldn’t quite get that breakthrough win. An unlikely rookie took them the last step. Yates, a fifth-round draft pick, got his chance when Matt Schaub and Matt See **TEXANS**, Page 11

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 afterword. 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.

Cowboys can't hold lead, fall behind Giants

ARLINGTON (AP) — Eli Manning and the New York Giants finally have something to show for all their hard work — first place in the NFC East. On the verge of being knocked to the edge of the playoff chase, Manning led the Giants to two touchdowns in the final 3:14 and Jason Pierre-Paul blocked a field goal as time expired, giving New York a 37-34 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday night. “Good to get that winning feeling again,” Manning said.

New York ended a frustrating four-game losing streak filled mostly with narrow losses to division leaders. The Giants (7-6) appeared headed to another setback when they were trailing 34-22 with 5:41 left, but a series of clutch plays on their part and meltdowns by Dallas reshaped the division race. With three weeks left, these clubs are tied atop the NFC East. New York will host Dallas in a season-ending rematch on New Year’s Day. “This is huge, another fourth-quarter come-

back,” Manning said. “Last week we had something similar (against Green Bay) and couldn’t hold onto it. This week we held on it and got the win. ... Now we know we have a tough road ahead of us. It’s going to come down to the final weeks to win games.” The Cowboys lost their second straight, both in dramatic, frustrating fashion that involved missed kicks by rookie Dan Bailey, who’d been so good for so long this season. The really bad news for Dallas was running back DeMarco Murray breaking his

right ankle, ending his record-setting rookie season. “We certainly know we’ve got our work cut out for us,” Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a brief statement. Manning was 27 of 47 for 400 yards and two touchdowns. He was intercepted once, on a tipped pass, and it led to a touchdown that appeared to put the game away for Dallas. But Manning came back with a pair of touchdown drives. The first went 80 yards in eight plays, capped by an 8-yard touchdown

pass to Jake Ballard. The New York defense had allowed Tony Romo to throw touchdown passes on the two previous possessions, but it forced a punt, and it was a short one. Then the Dallas defense had two penalties that helped scoot along a drive capped by a 1-yard touchdown run by Brandon Jacobs, with D.J. Ware adding a 2-point conversion. Romo hit Miles Austin for a pair of long gains that gave Bailey a chance to force overtime. He made a 47-yarder that ended up not counting because New

York coach Tom Coughlin called a timeout. His second try was denied by Pierre-Paul, who already had contributed an early sack for a safety, and also forced a fumble. “I rushed the center, put my hands up and got the block,” Pierre-Paul said. Jacobs ran for 101 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries. Hakeem Nicks had seven catches for 154 yards, including an early 64-yarder. Mario See **DALLAS**, Page 11

Brawl earns Yates six-game suspension

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati’s Sean Kilpatrick said that Holloway wouldn’t start if he played for the Bearcats. Holloway took exception, and wanted to get the final word in the closing seconds. Guyn shoved Holloway in the face as he talked to the Cincinnati bench, prompting Wells to shove Guyn to the ground. Gates had the ball and threw it at Holloway, hitting him in the head. That prompted both benches to clear. Gates punched Frease in the face, knocking the 7-foot center to the ground. Mbodj kicked Frease while he was on his knees. Ellis went after a Xavier player. Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin said after the game that he would decide whether anybody should be kicked off the team for their actions. He also said he took the players’ jerseys away to make the point that their conduct was unacceptable. Babcock, who was hired from Missouri in October, apologized again for the fracas. “We hold our student-athletes to a very high standard and take very seriously the role that our entire department plays in reflecting the overall image of this great university,” Babcock said. “We will continue to work diligently to represent the Bearcat family and the Cincinnati community in a first-class manner. There will be zero tolerance for a repeat of this behavior.” Gates is Cincinnati’s top frontcourt player. He’ll miss games against Wright State, Radford, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, See **BRAWL**, Page 11

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Packers still team to beat

GREEN BAY (AP) — Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers should have been feeling satisfied. With Sunday’s 46-16 rout of the Oakland Raiders, the Packers brushed aside a playoff contender by halftime to win their 19th straight, clinched a first-round bye and moved a game away from clinching home-field advantage throughout the playoffs — and at 13-0, they kept the possibility of a perfect season squarely in sight. Instead, Rodgers seemed concerned about the health of star wide receiver Greg Jennings, who left the game with an apparent left knee injury in the third quarter. “Well, it didn’t look very good,” Rodgers said. “So we’ll see what the MRI says tomorrow. And hopefully, we’ve got a bye wrapped up, so he really has close to five weeks before our (playoff) game.” See **PACKERS**, Page 12

Packers coach Mike McCarthy was more guarded, classifying the injury as a sprain and saying that it warranted further evaluation. Jennings’ injury put a damper on what was otherwise one of the Packers’ most complete performances of the season. Rodgers threw for 281 yards with two touchdowns and an interception in less than three quarters’ worth of work, Ryan Grant had two touchdowns rushing and Charles Woodson picked off a pass against his former team. McCarthy still isn’t interested in talking about the possibility of the Packers going 16-0, but his level of confidence is clear. “(If we’re) taking care of things and keeping our focus on improving the quality of play, I don’t think we can be beat,” See **PACKERS**, Page 12

Patriots squeak by Redskins

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Tom Brady’s first interception in more than a month led to a screaming match on the sideline. That’s how perfection-driven the New England Patriots are. On a day when tight end Rob Gronkowski is simultaneously strong and nimble while setting an NFL record, on a day when the defense again makes just enough plays to compensate for all the yards it allowed, on a day when a 34-27 score vs. the Washington Redskins meant a fifth straight victory, it was Brady who had to be calmed down after a rare fourth-quarter mistake. With the Patriots leading by seven, Brady tried to find Tiquan Underwood at the back of the end zone and was instead picked off by Josh Wilson with 6:30 remaining. The Redskins then began a march downfield that could have sent Sunday’s game to overtime — even as Brady sat on the bench and exchanged words with offensive coordinator Bill O’Brien. “I threw a pretty bad interception, so he wasn’t happy about it,” said Brady, who completed 22 of 37 passes for 357 yards with three touchdowns and his first in-

terception since Nov. 6. “And there was probably a long line of coaches and players that were pretty (upset) at me after that, but Billy got to me first. He let me have it; I deserved it.” And yet Brady had a 107.6 rating and upped his career touchdown pass total to 294, moving ahead of Warren Moon (291) into sole possession of sixth place all-time. Brady also surpassed the 4,000-yard mark for the fourth time in his career. But the Patriots (10-3) have such high expectations that a miscue in a close win over a struggling team like the Redskins (4-9) gets the juices flowing between player and coach. “We’re both pretty emotional guys,” Brady said. Gronkowski, meanwhile, caught six passes for a career-high 160 yards and set the NFL single-season mark for touchdown receptions by a tight end. His 14th was an 11-yard grab that moved him ahead of Antonio Gates (2004) and Vernon Davis (2009), and No. 15 was a 24-yard scoring strike in the second half. But it was the play immediately before See **PATRIOTS**, Page 12

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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 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

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 5. Slab and Below Construction for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 22, 2011 at 3:30 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 Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7192 December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2011

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Be wary of your own will to divulge. Since the Cancer moon is making our emotions so vivid, it will be easier to note exactly how you are feeling and who, if anyone, would benefit from knowing about it. Share positive feelings before they fade. Let negative feelings dissipate. They won't be nearly as bad tomorrow.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is a down side to trying to get along with everyone all the time. It could cause you to be inconsistent. Better to be yourself — trustworthy and steadfast.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You think you know what you want until you have to articulate it verbally or write it down. That process will inform you in surprising ways and bring you good fortune, as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will be ultra-

aware of the way people experience you. You'll make slight adjustments. You'll tuck your ego away in favor of successfully creating a desired result.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will be particularly vulnerable to visual stimulation. You'll see the pretty, shiny, slick object of your desire, and it will make an impression you just can't shake.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't underestimate your charm. You're probably not even aware of your peculiar sense of timing, but it's most effective. In fact, you'll hypnotize others with your special rhythm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The one who has an idea and takes action to share that idea will be remembered. You want to be such a person. That's why you'll initiate celebrations and rituals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know how to be you. There's no way in this lifetime to know how to be anyone else. So try not to blame your parents for teaching you to be like them. That was the only thing they could teach you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The one who tells the best story will win. Don't let yourself become too serious, and don't get caught up in details that no one can relate to, and you'll spin an enthralling tale.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Thank goodness you will display some imperfections. Mistakes bring you together with loved ones, interesting strangers and new friends. P.S.: If you were perfect, no one could tolerate your presence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Do not mistake the "filler" for the irrelevant. Small talk and pleasantries will make all the difference in how you feel about a deal. Acknowledging the right people and paying respects also will be important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You like to be in control, but you're not a "control freak." Your fun doesn't depend on being in charge. You'll gladly surrender the steering wheel to one who seems to need it more than you do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What you do, you do with love in your heart. It

doesn't have to be much. In fact, the most meaningful gesture you make today will be quite small. But it's perfect.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 12). The year is colored with happy changes. You'll have a new perception of a painful period in your past — a healing that will favorably affect your relationships. You'll speak for those who can't and will help the needy in the new year. Healthy activities anchor you in January. March brings a windfall. Cancer and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 9, 19, 24 and 18.

NUMEROLOGY FUN WITH NUMBER FIVE: Do you know what your magic number is? You can get it by adding up all of the numbers of your birthday until you wind up with one number. For instance, all the numbers in the birthday 12/9/1973 add up to 32, and then three plus two equals five, so the final number is 5.

If FIVE is also your magic number, you are never bored. Well, almost never. The only things that bore you are situations that stifle your

natural instincts to see life as the vibrant, Technicolor experience it really is. There is something in you that wants to push boundaries, to lift the ordinary into the extraordinary and help others experience everyday miracles. Your inner drive to entertain and delight others often puts you at the center of the spotlight. You make friends without trying, and others often reach out to include you, secretly hoping that you will bring the fun. You're expressive, sometimes whimsical, and you love children.

QUOTES FOR FIVES:
"People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing." — Dale Carnegie
"Fun helps remove the barriers that allow people to motivate themselves." — Herman Cain

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

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Classic Ann Landers: Unwanted "X-Rated" attention

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: I hope you can help me with this very delicate problem. I have no one else to turn to.

When my husband and I first married, my cousin, "Rex," sent us an X-rated video. We thought it was funny, and said so. However, over the past few years,

Rex has sent other items that make me wonder if he is fantasizing about me.

Two years ago, Rex sent a risqué costume for Halloween, along with a camera, and asked me to have someone take pictures of me in the costume and send them to him. For my birthday, he sent a pair of thigh-high fishnet stockings and a gift certificate to a lingerie boutique.

When my husband saw the stockings, he blew up. He insists Rex is infatuated with me. He even asked whether Rex and I had ever been intimate. I was insulted by the question and let him know it.

Ann, Rex is married and is the father of two children. His wife is not a particularly warm person, and I'm wondering whether Rex is having marital problems and looking to me as a safe substitute.

Should I confront him and ask him to stop sending me gifts? I'm afraid if he sends one more suggestive present, my husband might do

something that will create a severe family problem. Please tell me how to handle this. — Stumped in Connecticut

Dear Connecticut: I think Rex needs to be told in no uncertain terms that he should stop sending you X-rated garbage and little presents that he thinks are funny. Be forthright about the fact that your husband was upset by those gifts, and that they caused a family dust-up. Better yet, tell Rex no more gifts of any kind. Period. And if he insists on sending you presents after your declaration, return them unopened.



ANN
LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: I have a young daughter who is the joy of my life. My parents spoil "Lexie" by giving her too many toys and fancy outfits. I am not complaining. I

love the attention she gets and am happy she has such adoring grandparents, but there's a problem.

My parents continually purchase toys to keep at their house for the times when Lexie visits.

When Lexie outgrows the toys, my mother expects me to keep them in our house. Ann, our basement is full enough without having to take toys we didn't buy and don't want.

When I tell my mother I have no room, she becomes upset. She says it is a waste to give the toys away when we are planning to have more children.

Is it our obligation to find storage space for these toys? If not, how can I get my mother to stop pushing them on us? — T.H. in Ohio

Dear T.H.: Please don't attempt to discourage your generous parents from buying toys for your daughter. It obviously gives them a great deal of pleasure. When Lexie outgrows

the toys or clothes, tell your mother you would be happy to take them to a nearby children's hospital, the Salvation Army or a shelter for homeless or battered women and children, where such items would be greatly appreciated. I'm sure your parents will buy plenty more for the next child.

What's the truth about pot, cocaine, LSD, PCP, crack, speed and downers? "The Lowdown on Dope" has information on drugs. Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$5 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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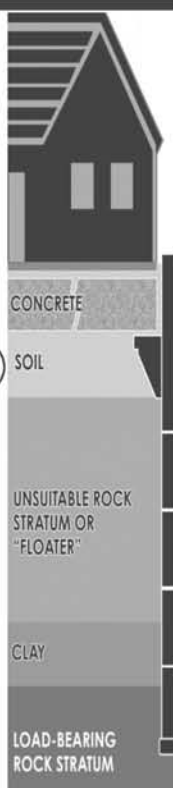
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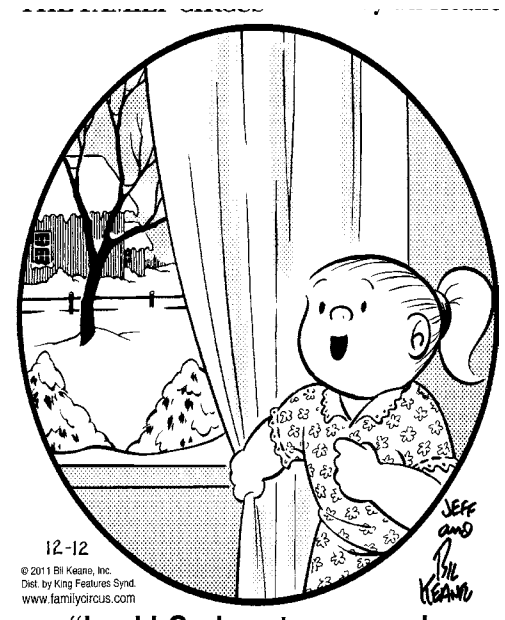
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News King	King Yohan	Schwarz	Charlie Rose	'Til Death	Sons	Movie: The Shadow Riders	1,000 Ways to Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me	Two Men	News Ent	Caso Cerro	News Millionaire	Seinfeld	Van Impe	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	Law & Order	Movie: Not Easily Broken, Maeve Quinlan	Shake It	SportsCenter	Monday Night Countdown
7 :PM	Dog for Christmas	Familia-Suerte	Terra Nova	Broke Girl	Una Maid en	Fear Factor	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Hart of Dixie	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Pardon	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.	
8 :PM	You Deserve It	Fuerza-Des-tino	House	Broke Girl	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Rock Center	Fam. Guy	Hansen	Antiques Roadshow	Hart of Dixie	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Good Luck Charlie	Bowl Mania Special	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.
9 :PM	Castle	Don Francisco	Simpsons	Hawaii Five-0	La Casa de al Lado	Rock Center	Fam. Guy	Hansen	Antiques Roadshow	Hart of Dixie	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Good Luck Charlie	Bowl Mania Special	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.
10 :PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Good Luck Charlie	Bowl Mania Special	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta que el Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Good Luck Charlie	Bowl Mania Special	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.
12 :AM	Extra Paid	Mahana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Good Luck Charlie	Bowl Mania Special	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.
1 :AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(06) Today	Conan	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Good Luck Charlie	Bowl Mania Special	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.
1 :AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	(06) Today	Conan	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	Sons of Guns	Movie: White Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	Good Luck Charlie	Bowl Mania Special	NFL Football: St. Louis Rams at Seattle Seahawks.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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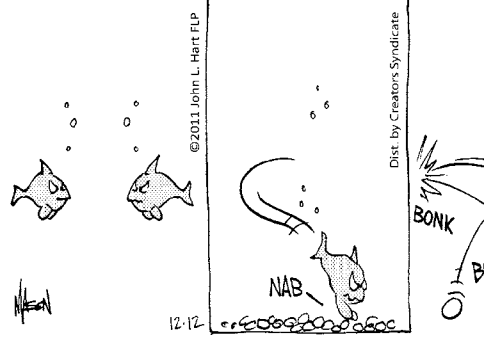
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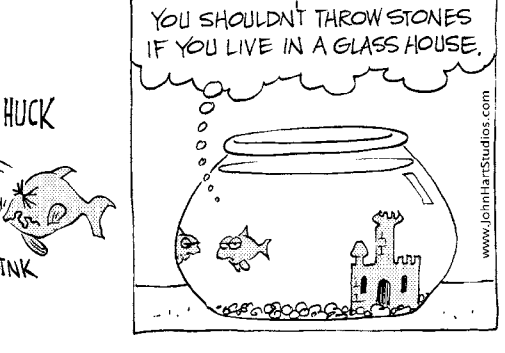
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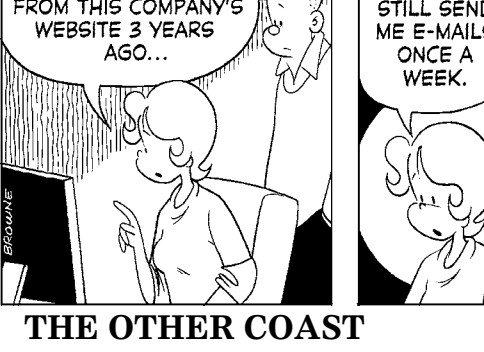
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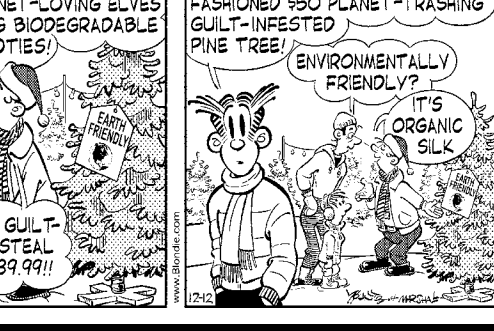
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BLONDIE



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2011. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 12, 1911, Britain's King George V, who also held the title Emperor of India, announced during a visit that the Indian capital would be transferred from Calcutta to Delhi.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish Cabinet member.

In 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

In 1937, Japanese aircraft

sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)

In 1946, a United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller Jr. to be the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.

In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain.

In 1971, broadcasting pioneer David Sarnoff died in New York at age 80.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 2000, George W. Bush was transformed into the president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 88. Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch (kahch) is 87. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 79. Singer Connie Francis is 74. Singer Dionne Warwick is 71. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 68. Former race car driver

Emerson Fittipaldi is 65. Actor Wings Hauser is 64. Actor Bill Nighy (ny) is 62. Actor Duane Chase (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 61. Country singer LaCosta is 61. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 59. Author Lorna Landvik is 57. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 54. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 53. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 50. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 48. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 44. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 42. Actress Jennifer Connelly is 41. Actress Madchen Amick is 41. Country singer Hank Williams III is 39. Actress Mayim Bialik is 36. Model Bridget Hall is 34.

Answer to previous puzzle

OPPRESS	PIETAS
PARABLES	INLOVE
EYETOOTH	SCARES
NOTSO	TRUCULENT
LANK	LIFER
AGE	AXE
PELOSI	DET
SWIRLS	ODORS
TITHE	BURRS
SENSO	CHOOSY
IRS	SPOONS
ASP	MRT
HALVE	ASTA
MAILORDER	IDEST
ORNATE	LOOKUPTO
NICKJR	SORESPT
SATYRS	MONTERO

Newsday Crossword

NOT HERE by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Golfers' goals
 - 5 Lengthy story
 - 9 Close friends
 - 13 Artist's cap
 - 14 Takes advantage of
 - 15 Destroy
 - 16 Tehran native
 - 17 Numerical fact, for short
 - 18 Inventive thought
 - 19 No longer competitive
 - 22 Wild animal's home
 - 23 Small child
 - 24 Not as small
 - 28 Catch on to
 - 29 Dieter's no-no
 - 32 Airline to Israel
 - 33 Clock face
 - 36 Tire in the trunk
 - 38 Been forgotten
 - 41 In pursuit of
 - 42 Walking stick
 - 43 Glasgow native
 - 44 Sgts.' superiors
 - 45 Fireplace residue
 - 47 Blood vessel
 - 49 City map abbr.
 - 50 Drive- window
 - 52 Beginning well
 - 60 Hotel's swimming spot
 - 61 Grab hold of
 - 62 Glossy gown material
 - 63 Region
 - 64 Hardly (rarely)
 - 65 Precise

- DOWN**
- 1 Lima's country
 - 2 Smell (be suspicious)
 - 3 Nevada city
 - 4 Suppress, as a yawn
 - 5 Japanese fish dish
 - 6 September flower
 - 7 Car-transmission choice
 - 8 Sharp-witted
 - 9 Write with block letters
 - 10 BMW rival
 - 11 Property claim
 - 12 Obstacle
 - 13 Life story, briefly
 - 20 Not on time
 - 21 Untrue
 - 24 Allowed by law
 - 25 Up in the sky
 - 26 Talks wildly
 - 27 Merriment
 - 28 Small valley
 - 29 Slapstick comedy
 - 30 Intense devotion
 - 31 Short-tempered
 - 34 Mosquito-bite reaction
 - 35 "Now I understand!"
 - 37 Bygone period

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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66				67				68				

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NFL scores and standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Eng	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Or	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Fran	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday's game:

Pittsburgh 14, Cleveland 3

Sunday's games:

- New Orleans 22, Tennessee 17
- Baltimore 24, Indianapolis 10
- N.Y. Jets 37, Kansas City 10
- Detroit 34, Minnesota 28
- Houston 20, Cincinnati 19
- Jacksonville 41, Tampa Bay 14
- Atlanta 31, Carolina 23
- Philadelphia 26, Miami 10
- New England 34, Washington 27
- Arizona 21, San Francisco 19
- Denver 13, Chicago 10, OT
- San Diego 37, Buffalo 10
- Green Bay 46, Oakland 16
- N.Y. Giants 37, Dallas 34

Monday's game:

St. Louis at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

TEXANS

From Page 6

Leinart suffered season-ending injuries in consecutive weeks. Making only his second start, Yates led the Texans on their biggest comeback of the season.

With everything on the line for both teams, the Bengals (7-6) couldn't stop him.

"A rookie quarterback beat us today," safety Chris Crocker said. "He did it with both his arm and his feet. I don't even know what to say. Wow."

Wow, indeed. Yates scrambled 17 yards on third-and-15 to keep the drive going. A pass interference pen-

alty on Adam "Pacman" Jones put the ball at the 6-yard line with 12 seconds left. After an incompletion, Walter lined up wide right, cut to the middle of the field and was uncovered at the goal line.

Offensive tackle Duane Brown ran to Yates and repeatedly slapped his helmet in celebration.

The kid had come through when it mattered most.

"Hey, we're champs!" receiver Jacoby Jones said. "All my years I've been playing, I've never been on a team that got over the hump."

Only 41,202 fans — the second-smallest crowd in Paul Brown Stadium history — showed up to watch the Bengals turn

themselves into a long shot for the playoffs. They'd lost three of their last four, including a 35-7 drubbing in Pittsburgh last week that essentially eliminated them from the AFC North race.

Now, they're going to need help getting the final wild card berth.

"As far as the team goes, they are very disappointed and I'm going to have to pump some air in them," coach Marvin Lewis said. "Before this game, we controlled our own destiny, and now I can't tell you what is going to happen."

The Texans have kept winning while losing quarterbacks. They took the final step into the playoffs without Johnson.

DALLAS

From Page 6

Manningham had two catches for 62 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown.

"Guys stepped up and made some big plays," Manning said.

Romo was 21 of 31 for 321 yards with four touchdowns, two in the fourth quarter.

Laurent Robinson caught four passes for 137 yards and a touchdown, with a 74-yarder. Austin, who'd missed the previous six weeks with a hamstring injury, caught four passes for 63 yards with a touchdown. Dez Bryant's only catch was a 50-yard touchdown that put Dallas up by 12 in the fourth.

Felix Jones ran for 106 yards, and caught six passes for 31 yards. He started the season as Dallas' featured running back, and will end it that way, too, now that Murray is gone. The rookie got his foot twisted awkwardly at the end of an 8-yard run in the first quarter. He finished his season with 899 yards, with a franchise-record 253 coming in one game.

"This one's going to hurt, it's going to sting, but we've got to figure out how to do things a little better and play our best game of the season next week," Romo said.

Both teams came in knowing this was a huge swing game. And, for the first 55 minutes, neither team led by more than five points.

The Giants got the scoring going with Pierre-Paul's sack of Romo for a safety. The 64-yarder to Nicks gave them a first-and-goal from the 5 and a chance to really break things open, but they settled for a field goal, and soon found themselves trailing 7-5.

After the teams traded touchdowns, leaving Dallas still ahead by two points, Pierre-Paul forced Jones to fumble and New York recovered at the Dallas 14. But the Giants again managed only a field goal, albeit to take the lead.

Bailey made a 49-yard field goal as time expired to put the Cowboys on top again, and he made another 49-yarder in the third quarter.

Manningham's touchdown put New York back in front, but then Dallas seemed to put the game away with touchdowns by Austin and Bryant. Only, it wasn't enough.

The Cowboys have lost six straight Sunday night games. They are 0-3 against the Giants at Cowboys Stadium. Romo also continued his trend of soaring in November, then slumping in December.

"We need to get a win next week and get back going," Romo said.

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BRAWL

From Page 6

Chicago State, Oklahoma and the Bearcats' Big East opener at Pittsburgh.

Cincinnati consulted with the Big East over the penalties.

"The very unfortunate events that occurred in the final seconds of Saturday's Cincinnati-Xavier basketball game have no place within intercollegiate athletics," Big East Commissioner John Marinatto said.

"The University of Cincinnati has responded with swift, expeditious and appropriate action."

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PACKERS

From Page 6

McCarthy said. "You could have asked me that six years ago, I would have said the same damn thing. That's the way we think around here."

Rodgers got an early rest in the blowout, as backup Matt Flynn took over late in the third.

"This is the kind of game you want to play going into the playoffs," Rodgers said.

Carson Palmer threw for 245 yards with a touchdown and four interceptions for the Raiders (7-6), who looked like anything but legitimate contenders in the AFC West.

"I'm not going to let this team keep going backwards," coach Hue Jackson said. "The last two weeks, we haven't come close to playing or looking like the football team we've been."

Oakland was without injured running back Darren McFadden, along with wide

receivers Jacoby Ford and Denarius Moore. And the Raiders made plenty of mistakes to help an opponent that doesn't really need it.

"You are not going to beat a high school team with the penalties and mistakes (like) the ones that we made," linebacker Aaron Curry said. "You make a lot of mistakes, you lose."

Palmer threw an interception on the Raiders' first possession, and Oakland committed eight penalties in the first half alone.

And while the Packers' play has been far from perfect for most of the season, especially on defense, this one was total domination. Things got out of hand so quickly that the Raiders tried a fake punt in the second quarter. As was the case for most things the Raiders attempted Sunday, it didn't work.

Grant rediscovered his big-play ability for the Packers, breaking a 47-yard run two plays after Palmer threw an interception

to rookie linebacker D.J. Smith on the Raiders' first possession.

The Packers were without injured running back James Starks, who had surpassed Grant in the Packers' rotation. Until that play, Grant hadn't looked like his explosive old self for most of the season.

After a defensive stop, Rodgers directed a 10-play, 80-yard drive that ended with a 4-yard scoring pass to Ryan Taylor — the rookie's first career touchdown.

Trailing 31-0 with about six minutes left in the half, the Raiders tried the fake punt. But Shane Lechler threw high to Rock Cartwright for an incompleton, and the Packers took over at the Oakland 28-yard line.

The Raiders finally got on the scoreboard in the third quarter when Michael Bush ran for a 2-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 34-7.

Packers outside linebacker Erik Walden scored on a fumble return late in the third quarter.

PATRIOTS

From Page 6

No. 14 that everyone will remember.

Gronkowski made a diving catch, got up, dragged DeJon Gomes and Reed Doughty a few yards and escaped while tiptoeing along the sidelines. Gronkowski tiptoed again when hit by Wilson and stumbled ahead to complete the 49-yard gain.

"That play was right in front of us," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "He did a great job there, getting the ball off the ground, breaking a couple tackles, staying in bounds — he had almost no room to work with on the sideline. ... He's a tough guy to cover, a tough guy to match up on."

But the Patriots didn't have the game won until they caught a couple of breaks at the end of Washington's final possession. The Redskins drove from their own 20 to New England's 5, but Santana Moss' catch at the goal line was negated by a pass interference call on the receiver, and

then Moss tipped a pass into the hands of linebacker Jerod Mayo to save the day for a New England defense that ranks last in the league in yards allowed — and one that can't keep cutting it this close come playoff time.

"You kind of don't want to give up those yards in the first place," Patriots safety James Ihedigbo said. "But at the same time, we're going to bow our necks once we get down there, and say, 'Hey, they're not getting in the end zone.'"

The Redskins (4-9) amassed a season-high 463 yards but lost for the eighth time in nine games. Already playing without tight end Fred Davis and left tackle Trent Williams — both suspended for the rest of the season last week for violating the NFL's drugs policy — Washington lost another offensive starter during pregame warm-ups when right tackle Jammal Brown injured his right groin.

In addition to the crucial flag on Moss, linebacker London Fletcher was whistled in the second quarter for a personal foul call that appeared particularly egregious.

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This entry form must be received by Friday, December 16 at 10 a.m. Drop off your form at the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry St. The winner will be the one who correctly matches the most Santas to his business/workshop. There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. Gift certificates will be given away to use at the participating businesses. Winners will be announced in the Sunday, December 18th Edition of the Big Spring Herald!

All decisions are final at the discretion of the Big Spring Herald

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