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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

DECEMBER 15, 2011



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 55

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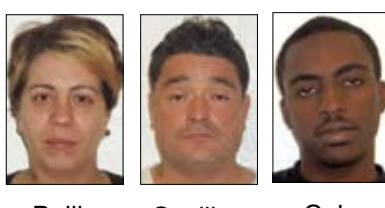
## Drug sweep places 14 in local lockup

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

More than a dozen arrests were made Wednesday during a drug sweep carried out through Big Spring by local, state and federal law enforcement officers, which also netted a large quantity of drugs and cash.

Those arrested include:

- Laquanthus Lamar Randall, 21, of 2524 Hunter, possession of a controlled substance – probation revocation.
- Ruby G. Hernandez, 28, of 1401 Dixie, delivery of marijuana.
- Brian Christopher Lewis, 27, of 505 Young St., delivery of a controlled substance.
- John Allen Silen, 20, of 3224 Cornell, manufacture/delivery of a simulated controlled substance.
- Deangelo Depaul Gray, 27, of 1401 Dixie, delivery of marijuana (two counts) and possession of marijuana.
- Javier Francisco Casillas, 46, of 206 N.W. Second St., delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
- Nathan Delco Robinson, 37, of 1508 Sycamore Apt. B, delivery of marijuana (two counts).
- Tina Ann Hilario, 35, of 1703 W. Third St., delivery of a controlled substance.
- Rosanna Aguilar Cox, 36, of 1504 Tucson, delivery of a controlled substance.
- Olivia Ballin, 32, address not provided, delivery of a controlled substance.
- James Williams Jr., 25, address not provided, delivery of a controlled substance (two counts) and possession of a controlled substance.
- Tedric McCalister, 35, address not provided, delivery of a controlled substance and delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.



• Juan Rodriguez, 22, address not provided, delivery of marijuana.

• Johnny Rangel, 44, address not provided, delivery of a controlled substance.

• Marcus Cole, 25, address not provided, delivery of marijuana.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, law enforcement officials also recovered a large quantity of narcotics.

"During these arrests several subjects were found to be in possession of contraband," Everett said. "Law enforcement officers seized two pounds of marijuana, approximately 7.5 ounces of cocaine, 6.8 ounces of

See **BUST**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno  
**Lady Liberty is back in her rightful place. She was placed on her pedestal Wednesday afternoon. A rededication is being planned, but a final date has yet to be determined. Lady Liberty was damaged by a windstorm earlier this year and was stored in a warehouse until repairs could be made.**

## Plenty to trout about

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

The first trout have arrived and there are more to come.

Tuesday, the first delivery of rainbow trout was brought in at Comanche Trail Lake under a partnership between the city of Big Spring and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

More trout will be placed Jan. 12 and Feb. 15. Once all three cycles have been completed, there will have been more than 6,000 catchable-size trout released into the lake.

"The goal of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's rainbow trout stocking program is to release catchable size rainbow trout in select waters in Texas to provide a unique winter fishing opportunity, to provide additional fishing opportunities in urban areas and to provide support to an educational fishing program," said Carl J. Kittel, program director, in a press release.

See **TROUT**, Page 3

## 6-year-old brightens soldiers' Christmas

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

When little Celestina Vela decided to spread some Christmas cheer, she didn't mess around.

Celestina, a 6-year-old first-grader at Bauer Elementary, was so moved by the plight of soldiers who will have to spend Christmas away from home that she decided to do something to cheer them up.

So she sent them Christmas cards — lots and lots of Christmas cards.

Over the course of a few weeks, Celestina and her family collected more than 1,000 holiday greeting cards to send to U.S. military personnel serving overseas.

"I did it because they won't be able to come home for Christmas," Celestina said.

Celestina's mother, Dondée Vela, said her daughter said she wanted to send cards to those serving overseas. When asked how many she wanted to send,

See **CARDS**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**Celestina Vela, shown with her mother, Dondée, recently collected and sent more than 1,000 Christmas cards to U.S. military personnel stationed overseas this holiday season.**

## Multiple tragedies leave young mom in need of help

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

Sometimes people just need a little help in order to do something great.

Whitney Lewis, 21-year-old Big Spring resident, went from being a college student and mother of two to being a mother of seven overnight.

Within the past few weeks,

Lewis and the children have had to deal with not one but two tragedies and loss of family members. The primary caretaker of the children, Whitney's aunt, Deborah Lewis, was killed in a car accident, which initially caused Whitney to take over care of the children. The family moved in with her

grandmother, Doris Lewis, who recently lost her life to a house fire.

After hearing the story, another local resident, Desiree Thompson, decided something needed to be done.

"I have been to her house and spoken with her a few

See **HELP**, Page 3

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# Police/Sheriff

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

- JONATHAN MICHAELS SHORTEN, 24, of Houston, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency and a warrant for hindering officers discharging official duties.
- CLARISSA DEAN, 32, of 2609 Wasson Rd. Apt. 2, was arrested Wednesday on six warrants from other agencies.
- JESSEE CASTUITO DELEON JR., 43, of 1705 Highway 176, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- LAQUAHTUS LAMAR RANDALL, 21, of 2524 Hunter, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone, a warrant from another agency, no driver's license when unlicensed (two counts), failure to appear (nine counts) and disregarding a stop sign.
- RUBY G. HERNANDEZ, 28, of 1401 Dixie, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for delivery of marijuana.
- DEANGELO DEPAUL GRAY, 27, of 1401 Dixie, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for delivery of marijuana (four counts), possession of marijuana and a warrant from another agency.
- BRIAN CHRISTOPHER LEWIS, 27, of 505 Young, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- JAVIER FRANCISCO CASILLAS, 46, of 206 N.W. Second St., was arrested Wednesday on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
- NATHAN DELCO ROBINSON, 37, of 1508 Sycamore Apt. B, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for delivery of marijuana in a drug free zone (two counts) and possession of marijuana in a drug free zone.
- ROXANNA AGUILAR COX, 36, of 1504 Tucson, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- JOHN ALLEN SILEN, 20, of 3224 Cornell, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for manufacture/delivery of a simulated controlled substance.
- TINA ANN HILARIO, 35, of 1703 W. Third St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
- ELEUTERIO TORRES PADRON, 62, of 509 N. Goliad, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THOMAS RAY CAMARILLO, 38, of 413 S. Fifth St. in Coahoma, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- STEVEN VALENCIA GAMBOA, 28, of 506 N. Nolan, was arrested Thursday on charges of public intoxication and expired registration.
- JULIAN JAY TORRES, 18, of 500.5 N.W. Seventh St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- RUBEN ANTHONY GONZALEZ, 29, of Midland, was arrested Thursday on warrants for evading arrest or detention – previously convicted and failure to identify as a fugitive – giving false information.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of Blackmon.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 3300 block of E. 11<sup>th</sup> Place.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson Road.
- THEFT was reported in the 3300 block of E. Interstate Highway 20.

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:  
Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail re-

- ported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.
- TEDRIC MCCALISTER, 35, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone and manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- JAMES BURLIN WILLIAMS, 25, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.
- ROXANNA AGUILAR COX, 36, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- TINA ANN HILARIO, 35, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
- CLARISSA DEAN, 32, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of issuance of a bad check, valid driver's license, no driver's license – when unlicensed, violation of a promise to appear and no liability insurance.
- JOHN ALLEN SILEN, 20, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a simulated controlled substance.
- LAQUANTHUS LAMAR RANDALL, 21, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance, a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone and municipal warrants for no driver's license (two counts), failure to appear (seven counts), running a stop sign and violation of a promise to appear (two counts).
- RUBY G. HERNANDEZ, 28, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of delivery of marijuana.
- OLIVIA TALIETHA BALLIN, 32, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance and a municipal warrant for
- JAVIER FRANCISCO CASILLAS, 46, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
- JOHNNY R. RANGEL, JR., 44, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- DEANGELO DEPAUL GRAY, 27, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of bail jumping, fail to appear and delivery marijuana (three counts) and possession of marijuana.
- BRIAN CHRISTOPHER LEWIS, 27, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of manufacture/deliver controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- MARCUS LAMON COLE, 25, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of delivering marijuana.
- ELEUTERIO PADRON, 62, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- NATHAN DELCO ROBINSON III, 37, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of ride not secured by safety belt/passenger, delivering marijuana in a drug free zone (two counts) and possession of marijuana in drug free zone.
- DIJUAN EDWARD AUSBIE, 23, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of controlled substance and possession of marijuana.

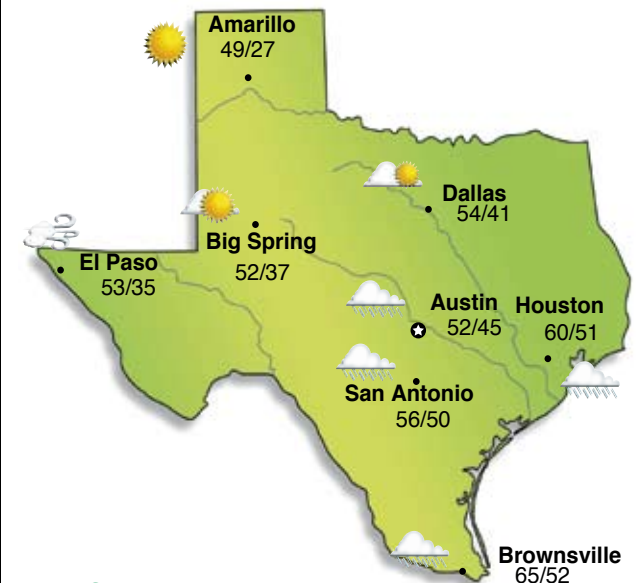
# Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 12/16	Sat 12/17	Sun 12/18	Mon 12/19	Tue 12/20
<b>52/37</b> Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High 52F.	<b>51/39</b> Cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	<b>54/40</b> Chance of showers. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>55/32</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	<b>49/34</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:40 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:43 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:41 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:43 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:41 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:44 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:42 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:44 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:42 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:45 PM



## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	51	36	mst sunny	Kingsville	60	52	rain
Amarillo	49	27	sunny	Livingston	54	45	rain
Austin	52	45	rain	Longview	53	42	rain
Beaumont	62	49	rain	Lubbock	50	27	sunny
Brownsville	65	52	rain	Lufkin	54	45	rain
Brownwood	54	40	pt sunny	Midland	51	36	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	58	53	rain	Raymondville	63	50	rain
Corsicana	54	41	rain	Rosenberg	59	51	rain
Dallas	54	41	pt sunny	San Antonio	56	50	rain
Del Rio	57	46	rain	San Marcos	53	45	rain
El Paso	53	35	windy	Sulphur Springs	55	39	rain
Fort Stockton	49	37	pt sunny	Sweetwater	51	36	mst sunny
Gainesville	51	34	mst sunny	Tyler	54	41	rain
Greenville	53	37	pt sunny	Weatherford	52	36	pt sunny
Houston	60	51	rain	Wichita Falls	50	30	sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	67	43	rain	Minneapolis	30	23	sn shower
Boston	48	27	windy	New York	48	33	pt sunny
Chicago	36	28	sunny	Phoenix	62	46	pt sunny
Dallas	54	41	pt sunny	San Francisco	62	44	sunny
Denver	39	23	mst sunny	Seattle	45	39	cloudy
Houston	60	51	rain	St. Louis	41	31	pt sunny
Los Angeles	67	46	windy	Washington, DC	48	34	cloudy
Miami	80	67	pt sunny				

# Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Monticello. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1000 block of Jonesboro Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2500 block of Fairchild. There was no transport.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1100 block of Mulberry.

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**BUST**

Continued from Page 1

heroine and 4.2 grams of methamphetamine. Officers also recovered a handgun and approximately \$5,000 in cash."

Everett said the arrests — at this time, 26 warrants have been issued — were carried out by officers with the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Agents and Detectives, as well as investigators with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, the Office of Homeland Security CBP (Customs and Border Protection), ICE Homeland Security Investigations and the Abilene division of the U.S. Marshals Office.

"The warrants were the result of a lengthy investigation," Everett said. "We expect more charges to follow, as well as more arrests, as the remaining suspects are located."

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



**Baldamor Cortez, front, and Shane Clarke, as well as Clinton Kessler and others, placed Lady Liberty on her pedestal in front of the Municipal Auditorium Wednesday. Terry Kessler and his employees took the project under their wing and started repairing her in August after she was damaged extensively in a wind-storm.**

HERALD photo/  
Amanda Moreno

**TROUT**

Continued from Page 1

Before a lake can be stocked with the rainbow trout, the department requires lakes to have temperatures cool enough to sustain trout from December through February in most areas of the state. The area must be accessible to the public and approved by the TPWD inland fisheries biologist.

"This is just one more way we can attract people to Big Spring and get people to go out and use the lake," Debbie Wegman, Big Spring Convention and Visitor Bureau coordinator, said.

The restocking program has been taking place for four years after the Rev. Ken McIntosh approached Wegman about what it would take to get the lake stocked. In order to keep the program going, the city pays for half of the fish and the TPWD

supplies the other half.

"This year we are actually getting an extra 2,000 fish," Wegman said. "Usually there are only two stockings, but the TPWD had more fish this year so we are getting more."

Even with the recent drought and lack of rain, there is still plenty of water in the lake to sustain the fish.

In order to help further this program, the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club will be hosting an educational fishing program and tournament for children March 3.

Anyone is able to fish at the lake, for those 17 and over a license — which can be purchased locally at Wal-Mart — must be obtained before fishing can take place. Those under the age of 17 do not need a license to fish.

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

**CARDS**

Continued from Page 1

Celestina simply said, "a thousand."

"She came up with the idea all by herself," Dondee said.

Celestina started her project Nov. 27. The clock was figuratively ticking, because the

U.S. Postal Service told the family they had to have the cards by Dec. 9 in order to ensure delivery to service personnel by Christmas.

Undaunted, Celestina and her family plunged into the project with a will, collecting cards and donations from family, friends and other people who simply wished to help out. She

also received help from Kwikies Convenience Store, which donated 200 stamps.

By the time the deadline arrived Friday, Celestina had collected her thousand cards — with 17 to spare.

"Daddy (Eugene Vela) paid the postage," she said, "and I signed all of them myself ... and my brother (Zachary)

signed some, too." "It just cost us \$18 out of pocket in expenses," Dondee said. "The rest came from peoples' donations."

The cards will be distributed in various ways — 176 have been sent to U.S. Army Spec. Mark Sanchez, who is married to a Big Spring native, to be handed out to members of his unit;

236 were mailed to soldiers whose addresses were provided to the Velas; and the remainder went to Holiday Mail For Heroes, an organization that sends greeting cards and other items to overseas personnel during the Christmas season.

Dondee said her daughter has shrugged off praise for what she's

done, and already has an eye on a future project.

"She said she's going to do this again next year," Dondee said.

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

**HELP**

Continued from Page 1

times and she always has a smile on her face," Thompson said. "She is an amazing woman and has an amazing personality."

At this time, the family is in need of clothes, household items, cleaning supplies, food and other necessities. According to Thompson, the greatest needs are clothes and monetary donations. There have already been several individuals, businesses and organizations step up and provide some of the bigger items to help the family out. A kitchen stove has been donated to replace the one that wasn't working as well as a dryer to help with the laundry load. "The washer was working, but the dryer wasn't. It was taking her 16 hours to do a load of laundry," Thompson said.

The YMCA and the local Big Spring Rotary club have collected donations and have agreed to take care of the wish list that was provided to help ensure the children will be able to have a good Christmas.

"We are a life-giving organization and we are here to help meet

the needs of the community," Dathan Jones, YMCA director, said. "That's our mission, the YMCA and the Rotary Club; if we see a need in the community, we are going to do everything in our power to help. We want to let them know that the community

does care."

For those wanting to help the family, items can be dropped off at the Big Spring Herald office located at 710 Scurry. An account has also been set up at Big Spring Teachers Federal Credit Union for those wanting to make a monetary

donation. To find out more information, call Thompson at 935-2597 or Angela Pace at 432-816-7310.

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Leah Cooper, 90, of Big Spring, died Monday. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Alive In Christ Lutheran Church.

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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**



By Eddy Pitchford

**Holiday Reflection #1**

Peace and joy are not found by sending money or worrying about inability to spend. They are not found with flying reindeer or even religious displays. They are found through trusting and obeying Jesus Christ.

**Holiday Reflection #2**

"With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God... He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:6-8)  
You do not need to give gold, incense or myrrh to the Lord; you need to give yourself.

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Sunday Worship.....	10:20 AM
Sunday Worship.....	5:00 PM
Wednesday Class.....	7:00 PM

# 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.

**Bill McClellan**  
Managing Editor

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**Steve Reagan**  
Staff Writer

**Amanda Moreno**  
Staff Writer

**Thomas Jenkins**  
Staff Writer

## OUR VIEWS

### The season of giving is upon us

Christmas time seems to bring out the best in people, which is probably why it is the time of year when fundraisers and donation drives pop up everywhere.

This year there seems to be an ever-growing need, especially with all the recent house fires and economic situation.

It is no surprise to see the Salvation Army Red Kettles back out. The sound of bells is all too familiar during the Christmas holiday and one which tends to tug at our hearts. The ringing bells may be an annoyance to some, but to others, it serves as a reminder the need is there and will continue to be there, just as that bell ringing in our ears. Just because we can tune out or ignore the bells doesn't mean the families in need can ignore their situation. For some, the money raised in the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign is a lifesaver, the only life line some families have.

Of course, sometimes an unexpected need arises which calls for a community to band together and offer support for a neighbor. There are always families in need and nothing really sets one higher on the scale of receiving than another, except for there are some stories which tend to tug at our hearts a little more than others.

One recent story involves a young woman who has taken on the responsibility of five children in addition to her own two. She went from being a college student and mother of two to main supporter and caregiver to seven children. Economic times are tough, but despite that, several area residents, businesses and individuals have stepped up and within a few short hours have gathered donations to begin helping this family.

Christmas truly is a time of giving and a time of year which seems to open up people's hearts a little more. Lending a hand, offering support and simply doing something for someone else doesn't have to cost a lot.

More often than not it is the little things which tend to make a big difference in the lives of those who are struggling. When the help is offered from our hearts, the recipient isn't the only one reaping the benefits.

There are still a couple weeks left before Christmas is here, take the time and reach out to someone even if it means a simple hello.

It's not the size of the gesture, but the sincerity behind it.

## 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

### The rich are profiting like it's 1929

No wonder the American people are confused — about the economy, the nation, the Middle East, the onrushing election, and everything else. People keep feeding them bad information.

For example, how many times have you heard a commentator say that the mess in Washington is the fault of both parties because neither party will compromise? I'm guessing...many.

It's not true, not even a little bit.

Democrats have stood ready to compromise on pretty much every issue that's come before them in the past two years. Tax cuts, social security, military spending, immigration, school lunches — you name it — Democrats have been willing to take half a loaf, or even a quarter-loaf. That's what Democrats do.

William Jennings Bryan  
It's Republicans who have been unwilling to give an inch on taxing people we call, for want of a better name, rich. The only reason anything at all has gotten done over the past year is that Democrats have caved in to Republican demands, like extending the now-famous Bush tax cuts.

Ah yes, the Bush tax cuts. There was a reason they were scheduled to go away after 10 years. Any longer than that would break the budget, it was said when they were enacted.

But when the decade was up

Republicans went back on the deal, refusing to countenance "a job-killing tax hike," and that's where we've been ever since.

Never mind that President Barack Obama's deficit plan limited the restoration of taxes only to higher incomes, and balanced that with cuts in social welfare programs dear to Democrats' hearts. (In other words, a compromise.) Higher taxes of any kind were and are a no-no for Republicans. Democrats will compromise, Republicans won't.

Does that mean that all our troubles are the fault of the Republican Party?

Yes.  
OK, maybe not all of our troubles. Democrats get big money from the same people who fund the Republican Party, after all, but Republicans are the main impediment to getting out of the hole we're in.

And compromise isn't the only subject the public is getting bad information about. There are taxes, for example.

Supposedly we have the highest corporate taxes in the industrialized world and they are crushing our economy. Non-sense.

During the past quarter, corporations paid out 21 percent of their profits in taxes (as opposed to the theoretical 35 percent conservatives are always woofing about). In the past 50 years, through good times and bad, that rate has amounted to just under 34 percent.

So our corporations are being taxed at about two-thirds of what they have been taxed at historically. Not so high.

But what about personal taxes? Surely they're way high.



DONALD KAUL



### A symbol I have failed to notice

As a reporter, my job requires me to be unbiased. I am to remain a neutral bystander who is simply reporting the story.

For the most part, I have found it relatively easy to abide by this rule, however, there are times when a certain piece of a story sticks out and grabs me.

I have had a couple of human interest stories, features as some might call them, reach out and take hold of me.

There is no rhyme or reason as to why, but each one has struck a chord and changed me or affected me in some form or fashion.

My most recent story pertains to Lady Liberty. To some, she is nothing more than a statue in front of the auditorium. There is no meaning, no interest and no reason for them to be concerned with her.

I'm not going to lie, for the most part, to me, she has always been a statue that was placed in front of the auditorium as decoration.

I never knew the history behind her placement or even bothered to care to find out. She was simply a decoration.

When she was removed from her pedestal, I noticed something was missing, but I just couldn't put my finger on it. Once the story came across my

desk, it all clicked.

When I first started this journey, Lady Liberty was just another story I was assigned to cover. Nowhere in my mind did I think she would make an impact on me, but then I didn't know all that much.

This is a story which has progressed over the past several months. Walking into that first interview my thoughts were I would cover the first part, possibly the second part and then this story would fall to someone else or just fall away.

Nope ... this story pulled me in and became part of my life.

Maybe it was the fact someone found her worthy enough to make the repairs and not let her sit in a warehouse away from the world. Maybe it was the fact the history behind her being here was more than I ever could have imagined.

I'm still not sure what it was, but I found myself not only writing the updates but waiting on the updates. I found myself wanting to know how she was coming along, when she would be back in her rightful place.

She was barely in the beginning stage and already she was important, she was a symbol — just as she was always meant to be.

Watching her repair process, she grew on me. Upon her completion, I admit I felt a small bit of sadness. Not because she had been repaired, but because I knew my involvement with her was almost over.

I received the call that she was going to be placed back on her pedestal outside the audi-

torium and I have to say that call became the most important thing for that day.

As I drove to see her placement, the excitement I felt was ridiculous. I was hurrying as if I was going to meet the president or some other important figure. How in the world could a statue have this affect on anyone ... on me?

I may not have had a part in mending her, but I do feel I am part of her history now, even if it is only a small part. I can only imagine what the men who worked on her feel as they watch their journey with Lady Liberty come to an end.

What once was simply a statue far too many of us overlooked is now so much more than that, even if it is only to the few who were involved in her story.

There is a meaning there, she is a symbol and the history she holds is more than I could ever describe.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the men who took the time to see her worth. Because you were able to see her worth I was able to not only see her worth, but realize things aren't what they seem.

One thing she made me realize is a decoration isn't just a decoration. There is a story to be told, a history to be known and a meaning greater than you could ever imagine.

At least there was for me.

Contact staff writer Amanda Moreno by email at life@bigspringherald.com or call the office at 432-263-7331 ext. 234.

## News in brief

### Panetta leads ceremony marking formal end of America's war in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.S. military has formally shut down the war in Iraq, officially retiring the flag of U.S. Forces-Iraq.

Troops lowered the flag and wrapped it in camouflage, formally "casing" it, according to Army tradition.

The ceremony was attended by U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who told troops they leave Iraq with "lasting pride."

Panetta said veterans of the nearly nine-year conflict can be "secure in knowing that your sacrifice has helped the Iraqi people to cast tyranny aside."

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Lloyd Austin, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, also spoke at the ceremony at Baghdad International Airport.

### Poll: Most Americans want payroll tax extension

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans want Congress to vote to continue the payroll tax reduction, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll that comes as Democrats and Republicans wrestle over whether to extend the cut through 2012.

It's the latest instance in which lawmakers on Capitol Hill have allowed partisan sniping to hold up a measure to put in place a policy that most Americans support, like ending the Bush tax cuts, cap and trade, and a surcharge on millionaires.

The dragged-out debate over whether to extend an expiring payroll tax reduction is one of many developments that have kept voters furious with their leaders all year. On the brink of the 2012 presidential and congressional elections, virtually all Americans are disappointed and frustrated with the political scene and nearly 6 in 10 say they are angry, the AP-GfK survey showed.

"It seems like there are parties that only want to get their agenda done," said liquor store owner James Jacobsen, 47, of East Hartford, Conn. "They're catering to special interests and not Americans. They are not representing the individual American."

Nearly 6 in 10 respondents say they want Congress to pass the extension, according to the poll. Letting the payroll tax break expire would cost a family making \$50,000 about \$1,000.

### Democrats dropping millionaire surtax proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are abandoning their demand for a surtax on millionaires to help finance payroll tax cuts in a sign that lawmakers are trying to broker a compromise on Congress' highest-profile year-end dispute.

Even so, there is no clear path to

quick bipartisan agreement on the legislation, which would prevent an automatic Social Security tax increase on 160 million workers and the expiration of jobless benefits for people out of work the longest. Both would occur Jan. 1 without congressional action.

Lawmakers are also embroiled in a squabble over a huge, separate spending bill, a dispute that would force a shutdown of most of the government on Saturday unless it is resolved. Neither party wants to risk the wrath of voters by shuttering government doors.

Republicans say they plan to try winning House approval for a \$1 trillion measure financing dozens of agencies through next September.

But that means a conflict with the White House, whose communications director, Dan Pfeiffer, said President Barack Obama had problems with some social, environmental and other provisions in the legislation. Pfeiffer said Congress should approve a short-term bill to keep the government open while final disputes are resolved.

### Drivers using hands-free phones can't tune out conversations to focus on road, studies find

WASHINGTON (AP) — Like it or not, when someone is talking to you, your brain is listening, processing and thinking about what's being said — even when you're in the driver's seat trying to concentrate on traffic.

That's why drivers get distracted during cellphone conversations, even when using hands-free phones, researchers said. It's also part of the reason why the National Transportation Safety Board went ahead this week with a recommendation it knows a lot of drivers won't like — that states ban hands-free, as well as handheld, cellphone use while driving.

It's not where your hands are, but where your mind is that counts, NTSB chairman Deborah Hersman told reporters.

The board doesn't have the power to force states to impose a ban, but its recommendations carry significant weight. And, judging from the public reaction, they've already started a national conversation on the subject. NTSB has been swamped with calls, emails and tweets from drivers both praising and condemning the action.

But it's the proposed hands-free ban that has generated the most controversy.

### Nearly half of Americans are low-income

WASHINGTON (AP) — Squeezed by rising living costs, a record number of Americans — nearly 1 in 2 — have fallen into poverty or are scraping by on earnings that classify them as low income.

The latest census data depict a

middle class that's shrinking as unemployment stays high and the government's safety net frays. The new numbers follow years of stagnating wages for the middle class that have hurt millions of workers and families.

"Safety net programs such as food stamps and tax credits kept poverty from rising even higher in 2010, but for many low-income families with work-related and medical expenses, they are considered too 'rich' to qualify," said Sheldon Danziger, a University of Michigan public policy professor who specializes in poverty.

"The reality is that prospects for the poor and the near poor are dismal," he said. "If Congress and the states make further cuts, we can expect the number of poor and low-income families to rise for the next several years."

### Doctors prepare to discharge baby born weighing 9.5 ounces

LOS ANGELES (AP) — At birth, Melinda Star Guido was so tiny she could fit into the palm of her doctor's hand. Weighing just 9 1/2 ounces — less than a can of soda — she is among the smallest babies ever born in the world. Most infants her size don't survive, but doctors are preparing to send her home by New Year's.

Melinda was born premature at 24 weeks over the summer and spent the early months cocooned in an incubator in the neonatal intensive care unit in Southern California. Almost every day, her 22-year-old mother sits at her bedside and stays overnight whenever she can.

The day before her Thursday due date, Haydee Ibarra visited Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center where her daughter has been since her birth in late August. Melinda is believed to be the second smallest baby to survive in the U.S. and third in the world.

Ibarra caressed Melinda through the portholes of the incubator where nurses pinned up a homemade sign bearing her name. Now weighing four pounds, Melinda gripped Ibarra's pinky finger and yawned.

"Melinda, Melinda," she cooed at her daughter dressed in a polka dot onesie. "You're awake today."

### All 7 injured workers removed from Idaho underground mine

MULLAN, Idaho (AP) — Seven miners were safely removed from an underground mine in northern Idaho after they were injured by a rock burst while working more than a mile deep, a mine company official said late Wednesday.

One of the miners was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, while the other six were treated at the scene, Hecla Mining Co. spokeswoman Melanie Hennessey said.

The miners were working about 5,900 feet underground when they were injured about 7:40 p.m. by a rock burst, which is an explosion of rock caused by excessive pressure from the weight of the ground above. They were working in the Lucky Friday, one of the nation's deepest underground mines.

Initial reports indicated that the miners could be trapped, but that wasn't the case, Hennessey said.

"Everyone in the mine has been accounted for and the mine is currently closed," she said.

### Activists: Syrian defectors kill 27 soldiers in clashes in southern province

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian army defectors killed at least 27 soldiers and security forces Thursday in clashes in the southern province of Daraa, activists said, as the unrest in Syria grows more violent and spirals toward civil war.

If confirmed, the clashes would be among the deadliest attacks by rebel troops since the uprising began nine months ago. Citing witnesses on the ground, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said three separate clashes erupted at dawn.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the Free Syrian Army, a Turkish-based defector group, has in the past claimed similar attacks across the country.

The U.N. says more than 5,000 people have been killed since the revolt erupted in March. President Bashar Assad's regime has come under broad international isolation and sanctions because of the violent crackdown on dissent.

The Obama administration is predicting Assad's downfall, with a senior official likening his authoritarian regime to a "dead man walking."

To submit a news item, call 263-7331, ext. 230

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- Dec. 12** — Games 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 13** — Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Supper Club, "China Dragon", 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14** — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.  
Movie, 1:00 p.m. "A Christmas Carol"
- Dec. 15** — Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Just Peachy's Café "Coffee Club," 10:00 a.m.  
Bunko, 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 16** — Pot Luck & (Christmas Present Party) 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Dec. 19** — Games, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 20** — Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Supper Club, "Cowboy's", 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21** — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.  
Movie, 1:00 p.m. "It's A Wonderful Life"
- Dec. 22** — Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Coffee @ Just Peachy's Cafe, 10:00 a.m.

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## Snoopy holiday display saved from foreclosure

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Jim Jordan created a heart-warming Christmas display of Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" characters more than 40 years ago at his Southern California home, and it became a holiday tradition as tens of thousands of people showed up each year to see the sparkling extravaganza.

Families trekked to the Orange County suburb of Costa Mesa to sip hot apple cider and share the wonder as seen through their children's eyes amid twinkling Christmas lights, artificial snow and a Santa Claus that whisked through the air and down a chimney for spectators. It became so popular that busloads of visitors and school groups visited Jordan's childhood home each year.

When he lost the house to foreclosure, it looked like the death of a tradition — until the city stepped in to save Christmas.

A week ago, Costa Mesa officials offered to host the display on the lawn outside City Hall. The lights will be turned on at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. Santa will make nightly appearances starting Sunday.

The move saved a Christmas display that Jordan says draws 80,000 people each year to see Santa and the nearly 200-foot stretch of characters, colorful cottages and other creations.

## Casual Cooking

with Kris



KRIS SOLIZ

Welcoming readers to my world where I enjoy simple, sometimes quick, but always delicious meals.

This week's recipe is inspired by the building block of the universe, cheese. This is also a must-have item if stranded on an island. In order to keep my girlish figure there is cheese involved at my house often and I feel that if the doctor ever told me I had to give up cheese and spicy foods, then go ahead and put me in the ground. What's the reason for living if it can't be to enjoy life's wonderful little gifts like cheese and cayenne.

This recipe is not my own idea, however. I have deboned, changed and put it back as I see

fit and, well ... it was good. This is a guaranteed artery clogging meal if you

want to look at it that way, I just see it a little piece of heaven in my mouth. The variations are endless and I will provide two at the end. Serve this with any kind of veggy or salad and a good french bread. Enjoy!

### Green Chile Cheese Lasagna

1 container 15-oz.

ricotta cheese  
1 egg  
1 cup of grated parmesan cheese  
2 cups of shredded mozzarella cheese  
1 cup of shredded cheddar  
1 jar of spicy melt cheese  
2 cans of chopped green chiles  
1 package of oven ready lasagna (12 noodles)  
1-2 lbs. cooked ground meat (I used beef)  
1/2 diced onion  
3-4 garlic cloves  
1 can of crescent rolls

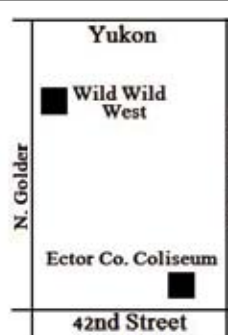
Brown the ground meat of your choice, adding diced onions and chopped garlic half

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### COLORING CONTEST RULES

- Contest open to children ages 2-12
- Limit one contest submission per person
- Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
- Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but not in coloring pictures.
- 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.

# Cowboys recall Sammy Morris to NFL

IRVING (AP) — Sammy Morris was home in New England, settling into the role of husband and father.

The running back with 11 seasons of NFL experience was still working out after being cut by the Patriots at the end of training camp, but had resigned himself to the idea that he had played his last game.

Even after watching Cowboys rookie running back DeMarco Murray break his right ankle last weekend, it never really crossed Morris' mind that he might get another chance. That changed when he got a call from the team coached by a former teammate.

"It's been 12, 13 weeks and I was kind of just getting into the mode of officially being done," the 34-year-old Morris said. "I kind of just assumed that I'm going to ride into the sunset. ... I had all but said I was done just in my mind. But it didn't turn out that way."

When Murray had surgery and went on season-ending injured reserve this week, the playoff-chasing Cowboys (7-6) needed another running back to go with the suddenly solo Felix Jones. Phillip Tanner was put on injured reserve last week with a hamstring injury.

Before playing for the Patriots the previous four seasons, Morris spent three years in Miami with Jason Garrett, now the Cowboys head coach. They were teammates in 2004, Garrett's final season as a player before he joined the Dolphins' offensive coaching staff for two seasons.



Morris

Morris played in all 16 games in 2010 for New England, where he was primarily a backup at running back and fullback who contributed on special teams, like he has most of his career. He was among the last cuts this year for the Patriots, who stuck

with rookie running backs Shane Vereen and Steven Ridley.

"Sammy's been a good friend and it was a pleasure for me to play with him," said Patriots receiver Matthew Slater, who is their special teams captain. "I'm more than happy to see him there and I'm sure he's more than capable of getting it done."

Morris has played in 141 career games for Buffalo (2000-03), Miami (2004-06) and New England (2007-10). The former Texas Tech running back has 2,955 career yards rushing with 26 touchdowns, and has 161 catches for 1,245 yards and a score.

"He's certainly the right kind of guy in the role that he's had in his career," Garrett said. "He's done it really as well as anybody, he's been a backup running back, backup fullback, and when he's had opportunities to carry the football or catch the football, certainly he's been able to do that. ... We're fortunate to get him."

After getting in town in time for Tuesday's walk-through practice, Morris practiced Wednesday. There is a good chance he will play Saturday night at Tampa Bay.

"Certainly he has to understand our terminology and how we call things," Garrett said. "I think he's certainly familiar with the concepts that we use. ... He's a veteran player, he's played in different systems. We have to get him up to speed as quickly as we can, and then we have to make the evaluation as to what he's able to handle if he does have to play

See **COWBOYS**, Page 12

# Barry Bonds to be sentenced Friday

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The largest federal criminal investigation into sports doping began more than nine years ago with a tax agent digging through the trash of the now notorious Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. Barring an appeal, the government's work comes to an anti-climactic end Friday when Barry Bonds — the probe's highest-profile catch — is sentenced

for obstruction of justice.

In between, the federal government spent millions of dollars and untold staff hours obtaining the convictions of 11 people. Six of them, including track star Marion Jones, were ensnared for lying to grand jurors, federal investigators or the court. Five men, including Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson, pleaded guilty to steroid distribution charges

stemming from their BALCO connections.

The investigation in general — and the pursuit of Bonds in particular — ignited a debate over whether the government's long involvement was the best use of public resources.

More than seven years after he testified before a grand jury investigating BALCO, Major League Baseball's all-

time home runs leader was convicted on just one of four remaining counts against him. And the jury deadlocked on whether Bonds lied about taking performance enhancing drugs.

Now, federal sentencing guidelines suggest a prison term of between 15 months and 21 months. But federal

See **BONDS**, Page 12

# Kahn approved as Jaguars owner

IRVING (AP) — Shahid Khan was 16 when he moved from Pakistan to the United States to attend the University of Illinois.

While hanging out in the basement of his fraternity house, he began his American dream of owning an NFL team.

After building a multibillion-dollar company, Khan started working toward spending some of his fortune on fulfilling that college fantasy. He reached out to owners such as Wayne Weaver of the Jacksonville Jaguars to learn the business from the inside, and for them to get to know

him.

Khan's dream-turned-plan crossed the goal line Wednesday. He joined the fraternity of NFL owners as his purchase of the Jaguars from Weaver was unanimously approved by the other owners.

The deal is for an estimated \$760 million. The ownership

transfer will be complete Jan. 4.

"What I want to share with the Jacksonville fans is: Here I am, reporting for duty and ready to serve the fans. Let the fun begin," Khan said with a smile that never left his face

See **JAGUARS**, Page 12

## Briefs

### Bowling tournament today

Bowl-A-Rama of Big Spring will host their second annual Christmas tournament today at 7 p.m.

Bowlers must be checked in by 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$30. 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.

College basketball scores from Wednesday	
<b>EAST</b>	Cincinnati 78, Wright St. 58
Baruch 71, Yeshiva 48	DePaul 75, N. Illinois 52
Dowling 56, American International 52	Ohio 88, Marietta 54
Morgan St. 73, UMBC 60	Ohio St. 82, SC-Upstate 58
NY Tech 74, S. New Hampshire 60	Viterbo 62, St. Mary's (Minn.) 58
Princeton 72, Rider 71, OT	Wichita St. 94, Chicago St. 44
Ramapo 68, York (NY) 65	Wis.-Eau Claire 49, Wis.-Superior 48
<b>SOUTH</b>	Wis.-La Crosse 69, Carleton 50
Auburn 52, South Florida 40	Wis.-River Falls 72, Wis.-Stout 52
Augusta St. 92, Flagler 55	Wis.-Stevens Pt. 79, Wis.-Whitewater 77
Charleston Southern 88, The Citadel 69	<b>SOUTHWEST</b>
Coll. of Charleston 71, Tennessee 65	Arkansas St. 87, Seattle 74
Coppin St. 71, Towson 57	Baylor 69, Bethune-Cookman 42
Iona 88, Richmond 79	Houston Baptist 87, Campbell 76
Louisiana Tech 60, McNeese St. 58	Lamar 88, Huston-Tillotson 59
Maryland 65, FIU 61	Rice 109, Louisiana College 51
Mississippi 66, Louisiana-Lafayette 54	<b>FAR WEST</b>
Norfolk St. 73, LIU 62	Cal Poly 91, Menlo 58
St. Augustine's 70, Barber-Scotia 53	Denver 71, N. Colorado 65
<b>MIDWEST</b>	New Mexico St. 92, W. New Mexico 65
Adrian 70, Defiance 64	UC Riverside 91, UC Santa Cruz 60
	UCLA 60, E. Washington 47
	UNLV 65, UTEP 54

# Clippers snag Chris Paul in big NBA trade

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Paul will supply the Los Angeles Clippers with so much more than alley-oop passes to Blake Griffin when he arrives in Hollywood on Thursday night.

A bold trade for New Orleans' superstar point guard on Wednesday just might alter the entire sports world's perception of the Clippers. After managing just six winning seasons in their first 41 years of existence, the stumbling Clippers suddenly look slick and scintillating after swinging arguably the biggest trade in franchise history, giving them two of the NBA's elite players and a capable supporting cast.

Outfoxing the Lakers and thrilling their long-suffering fans, Los Angeles on Wednesday traded high-scoring guard Eric Gordon, former All-Star center Chris Kaman, forward Al-Farouq Aminu and a first-round draft choice acquired from Minnesota for Paul, the four-time All-Star widely considered to be the NBA's best point guard.

"We decided for a player of Chris' caliber that it was just time to make the move and push all our chips into the center of the table," Clippers vice president of basketball operations Neil Olshey told the team's website. "We're really happy about it. Chris is the kind of player that makes everybody around him better. He's a general. He wins. He's a warrior, and he's going to take this whole organization to the next level."

Even the Clippers themselves had trouble believing what their front office had just done in the moments after the trade was announced.

See **CLIPPERS**, Page 12

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**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)

Howard College is accepting applications for the following position.

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**For complete position and application visit our web sit [www.howardcollege.edu](http://www.howardcollege.edu) (Human Resources).**

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

**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 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

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

The Leo moon that rules the day will exaggerate any stress caused by Mercury's terse angle to Neptune. The aspect never quite comes together, though, and there will be many "funny stories" about close calls and near misses. Artful narratives will be invented to keep the excitement churning.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Life isn't a popularity contest, but if it were, you would win it today. You seem to have what people are looking for, and you're willing to share it in just the right amount.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Avoid experiencing life in hyperbole. Discount exaggerations of the mind and word. When nothing is the best, worst, nicest or meanest, you can see it for what it really is.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You are constantly issuing statements to the world, even when you don't realize it. Your attitude and appearance speak for you. You'll find the response you get in return a little surprising



HOLIDAY MATHIS

now. **CANCER** (June 22-July 22). A burden is eased, and the relief you feel about this will bring about a surge of self-control. You'll work for healthy payoffs instead of settling for unhealthy, temporary benefits.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You are highly involved in life, and the level of attention you give your interests can be personally demanding and sometimes downright inconvenient. But the joy you feel being in the mix of things makes it all worthwhile.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Everyone shows off when they want attention. You'll be artful in your attempts to capture interest, and that will make all the difference in the quality of attention you receive.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People want to be associated with winners, and yet close contact with big personalities often breeds jealousy and discontent. You'll be sorting through such issues over the next few days.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You aren't born optimistic. You have to grow into the label by repeating the tendency to look on the bright side until it's a habit. You'll take hold of your thoughts and cultivate good will.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you hear good news, take it as a sign. This is just the tip of the iceberg. From here on out, things get better and better. Believe and act in accordance, and it becomes true.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Recruiting is an art. Instead of merely asking people to join forces with you, turn it into an event. People are more seduced by celebration and ritual.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll see the charm in things that others don't want to think about. This is what sets you apart as a friendly force and an artistic influence on the otherwise ordinary.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). When someone says "no" to you, you'll be wise to take this as a good sign. A fast "no" is, after all, so much better than a "maybe" that drags on indefinitely.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 15). Entertaining

and engaging social happenings will bring several opportunities to make useful connections and enjoy different scenery. You'll dump old baggage in February. In April, you'll be a part of a new team. June and July feature professional growth and a greater sense of community and contribution. Gemini and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 24, 39 and 41.

**NUMEROLOGY FUN WITH NUMBER EIGHT:** Find your magic number 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 12/9/1976 add up to 35, and then three plus five equals eight, so the final number is 8.

If EIGHT is your magic number, you see life as a grand mystery you will never completely figure out. You're happy about that. Magic lives as long as you still have questions that are unanswered. Still, your drive to learn more guides your choices every day. You have a talent for understanding the inner workings of things. This is true on a mechanical, spiritual, political, societal and emotional level. Nothing exists in three dimensions for you. Rather, life sprawls, tunneling down, springing up, stretching grandly before you in ever-deeper ways.

You are playful and provocative and have a way of getting others to open up. For this reason, eights are often privy to secret information, which they guard with great loyalty.

**QUOTE FOR EIGHT:** "Life is a great and wondrous mystery, and the only thing we know that we have for sure — is what is right here and right now. Don't miss it." — Leo Buscaglia

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).

2011

CREATORS.COM

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker  
**Never Say Pass**

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 6 5  
♥ 9 8 2  
♦ Q 8 7 6 5  
♣ A K 6

**WEST**  
♠ A K Q 8 7  
♥ A 5 3  
♦ A 10 4  
♣ 8 4

**EAST**  
♠ J 10  
♥ K J 10 7 6  
♦ J 9  
♣ Q J 7 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ 9 4 3 2  
♥ Q 4  
♦ K 3 2  
♣ 10 9 3 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1 ♦ Dblc 4 ♥  
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass 4 ♣ Dble 4 ♥  
Pass Pass 4 ♣ Dble 4 ♥  
5 ♦ Pass Pass Dble 4 ♥  
Pass Pass 5 ♣ Dble 4 ♥  
6 ♦ Pass Pass Dble 4 ♥

Opening lead — king of spades.  
Generally speaking, there are two schools of bidders. The first is composed of those whose chief goal in bidding is to reach the best possible contract for their side. This group represents the overwhelming majority of bridge players.

Members of the second school are those whose chief purpose is to try to prevent the opponents from reaching their best contract. The tactics employed by these players can take many forms, but the aim is always the same — to do as much damage to the opponents' bidding structure as possible.

It is evident from this deal, played in the 1978 Women's World Pair Championship, that North-South, who shall remain nameless, were both full-fledged members of the second school.

South opened the bidding in third seat with one diamond, presumably because it was her turn to bid. West doubled, and North, attempting to muddy the waters, bid one spade! East entered the fray with two hearts, employing her partnership's peculiar system of bidding what you have rather than what you don't have.

West raised two hearts to four, and this rolled around to South, who apparently thought she had not yet expressed the full value of her hand. Accordingly, she bid four spades! West, who no doubt could not believe her ears, found a double, and North retreated to five diamonds, also doubled.

Then came five spades and six diamonds, both doubled, at which point the bidding mercifully came to a grinding halt. Declarer finished down six — 1,700 points — and North-South were left with a gnawing feeling that perhaps something had gone wrong with their system.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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**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	5	2	3	4	
	3	8			
		8			9
4	7	5			
8		1	3		5
			8	1	7
9			5		
				9	5
7	6	8	2	4	

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

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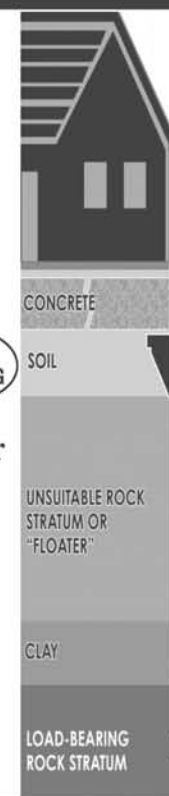
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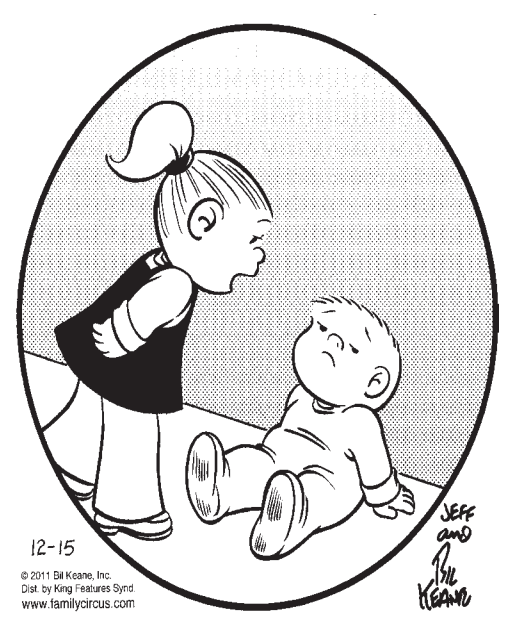
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News	King King	Israel Dr. Wil	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Storm Chasers	Christmas, Rosemary Clooney	Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me Wheel	Two Men	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld	Chevalme Alan Lee	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Storm Chasers		Jail	Bones		Wizards Shake It	Women's College Volleyball	Audibles
7:PM	Charlie Brown	Familia-Suerte	The X Factor	Big Bang Rules	Una Maid en	Commun Parks	Fam. Guy	Upd Sala	Aviators Parks	The Vampire Diaries	Storm Chasers	Movie: Miracle on 34th Street	Jail	CSI: NY	Re.- Lines	Random	Movie: Santa Buddies	High School Basketball
8:PM	The Year With Katie Couric	Fuerza-Des-tino	Bones	Parson of Interest	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Office Whitney	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	The Secret Circle	The Earth Wild		Jail	CSI: NY	Game	Movie: Noto-rious, Jamal Woolard	Women's College Volleyball	High School Basketball
9:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Dr. Diana	Sky Is	King	The Earth Wild		Jail	CSI: NY		Wizards Shake It		SportsCenter
10:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	News	Jay Leno	Van Impe	World	South Pk	Weed Wars		Jail	CSI: NY	Movie: Dam-age, Laura Vandervoort	Good	Football	
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Hasta que el Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Sala	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Roseanne	Storm Chasers	Movie: Holiday Inn	Jail	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News		Moving for Christ	Roseanne	ACTIVE	Storm Chasers		Jail	CSI: NY	Movie: Just Another Day	Good	Year of the Quarterback	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	Influence	Storm Chasers	God	(:45) Movie: Ways Die	Jail	Leverage	Random	ANT Farm	30 for 30	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



SOME OF MY FRIENDS COULDN'T MAKE IT HERE TODAY, SO I BROUGHT THEIR CHRISTMAS LISTS!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

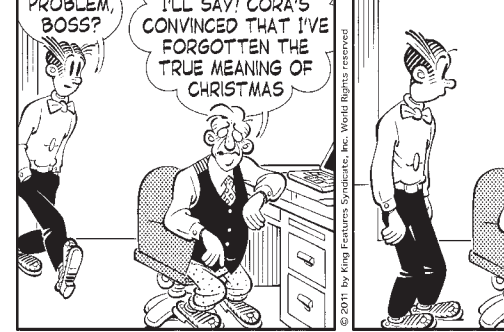


"You better stop poutin', PJ, and I don't think I need to tell you why."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



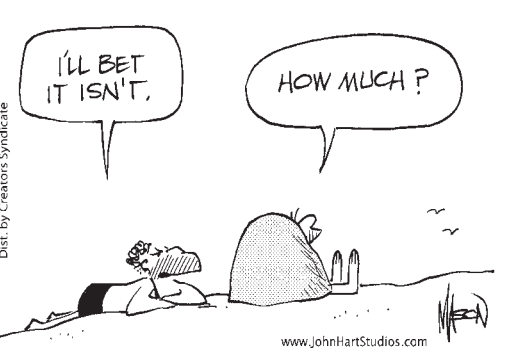
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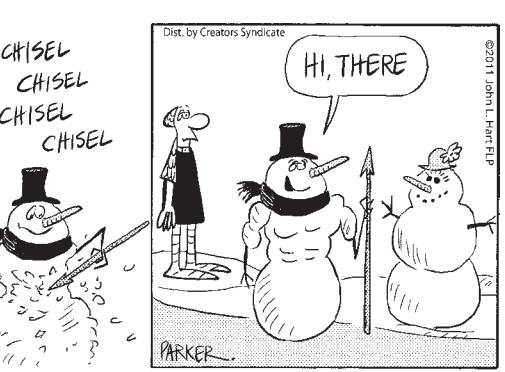
AGNES



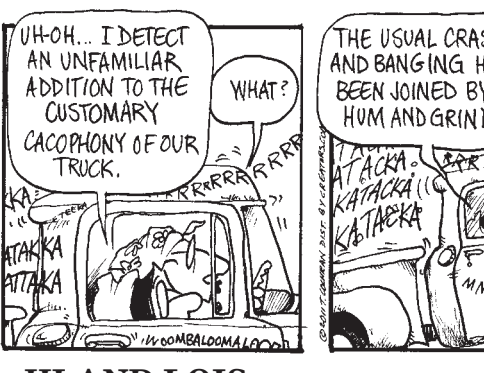
HI AND LOIS



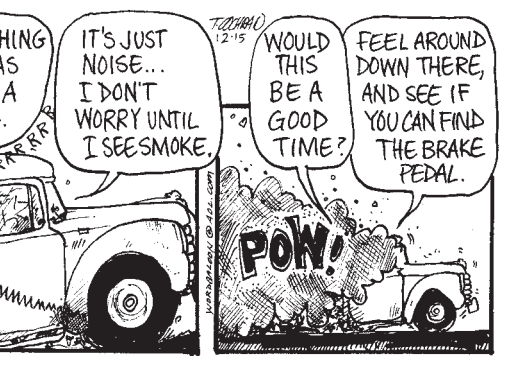
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2011. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1961, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by an Israeli court for crimes against humanity. (Eichmann was hanged 5—months later.)

On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1911, jazz musician, composer and bandleader Stan Kenton was born in Wichita, Kan.

In 1938, groundbreaking for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington with President Franklin D. Roosevelt taking part in the ceremony.

In 1939, the motion picture "Gone With the Wind" had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris. American forces invaded Mindoro Island in the Philippines.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

In 1971, the Secret Service appointed its first five female special agents.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo).

In 1991, an Egyptian-registered ferry, the Salem Express, hit a reef and sank in the Red Sea; at least 470 people died, although some estimates are much higher.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Tim Conway is 78. Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 72. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 69. Rock musician Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 65. Actor Don Johnson is 62. Actress Melanie Chartoff is 61. Movie director Julie Taymor is 59. Movie director Alex Cox is 57. Actor Justin Ross is 57. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 56. Political strategist Donna Brazile is 52. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 51. Movie producer-director Reginald Hudlin is 50. Actress Helen Slater is 48. Actress Molly Price is 46. Actor Michael Shanks is 41. Actor Stuart Townsend is 39. Figure skater Surya Bonaly is 38. "Crowd-hyper" Kito Trawick (Ghostown DJs) is 34. Actor Adam Brody is 32. Actor George O. Gore II is 29. Actress Stefania Owen (TV: "Running Wilde") is 14.

Answer to previous puzzle

SCAM	SALES	PETS
ASIA	ACURA	ATOP
TILTAWHIRL	UCLA	
RAYES	KOSHER	
IMPEDED	KEATS	
CARTER	TRIADS	
IMEAN	DAIRY	KGB
NATS	BINGE	BEAU
GSA	FLOGS	GETBY
	PALTRY	CIRCLE
AMORE	SLATHER	
BARGES	MIEN	
UNTO	PIEDATERRE	
TUES	ASTER	LOAN
SPRY	TOADS	FOND

Newsday Crossword

AT THE SALON by Bruce Venzke Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Org. involved in NORAD
  - 5 Sound of Music surname
  - 10 Exchange
  - 14 Columbus' home
  - 15 Gymnast Comaneci
  - 16 Power source?
  - 17 Furniture-ad offering
  - 19 Insects course, for short
  - 20 Gives immunity to
  - 21 Handled roughly
  - 23 Eroded
  - 24 Clean-up crew
  - 25 Denominational offshoots
  - 28 Lose time, as a watch
  - 29 Sounds of contentment
  - 30 Dublin dance
  - 31 Tore into
  - 34 Test for coll. seniors
  - 35 Baby seal
  - 36 Quilting gathering
  - 37 Repent of
  - 38 Wagner works
  - 40 100, for a 5 Down
  - 41 Mediterranean bread
  - 42 Summoned
  - 44 Floor models
  - 45 More resourceful
  - 47 Outburst
  - 48 Broke away
  - 49 Interpret inaccurately
- DOWN
- 1 Lounging garb
  - 2 General Mills brand
  - 3 Errand runner
  - 4 Organizes
  - 5 Govt.-issued investment
  - 6 Hits head-on
  - 7 Craigslist posts
  - 8 Ersatz Frisbee
  - 9 Rehearsed reply
  - 10 Enamored of
  - 11 Home-improvement project
  - 12 Rite site
  - 13 Evil schemes
  - 18 Chooses, with "for"
  - 22 Coyote of cartoons
  - 24 Hooch holder
  - 25 Type of palm tree
  - 26 Legendary lawman
  - 27 Party snack
  - 28 Tailor repair
  - 30 "Chill out!"
  - 32 One for the road
  - 33 Herbal beverages
  - 35 Having segmented glass
  - 36 Ingot
  - 39 Transmission setting
  - 40 For, to a toreador
  - 41 1970s fad
  - 43 Indiana Jones' hat
  - 44 Puck, essentially
  - 45 Senate session airer
  - 46 Seventh-century pope
  - 47 Occupies to capacity
  - 49 Neighbor of Niger
  - 50 Gusto
  - 51 Best-quality
  - 52 Attracted
  - 55 Friends star

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17			18							19			
20							21		22				
			23				24						
25	26	27				28							
29						30			31		32	33	
34						35			36		37		
38			39				40			41			
			42				43			44			
45	46								47				
48									49		50	51	52
53						54		55					
56						57					58		
59						60					61		

## COWBOYS

From Page 7

in this game.”

Morris figures his relationship with Garrett surely played some part in the Cowboys signing him, and said there are some “bits and pieces of the offense” from their days in Miami that have been incorporated in Dallas.

“It kind of makes the learning curve a little quicker,” Morris said.

The last regular-season game for Morris was in New England’s finale last Jan. 2 against Miami, when he had five carries for 18 yards. He started the Patriots’ final preseason game Sept. 1, though he didn’t have a carry or make a catch before being cut two days later.

“I was working out, but obviously not football workouts like I guess I wanted to do,” Morris said.

“How ready do I feel? I don’t even know how to put that into words. ... I’m excited, it’s a good opportunity and it was completely unexpected.”

## CLIPPERS

From Page 7

Most of the players — including the ones who were traded — were on a holiday bus ride with season-ticket holders when their phones blew up with the news.

Griffin’s reaction was captured by television cameras after he chest-bumped center DeAndre Jordan: “Lob city!”

It’s already a T-shirt in Los Angeles, and it should be a way of life when the playmaking Paul and the high-flying NBA Rookie of the Year get together.

While armchair analysts debate who won the trade and wonder whether the club can keep its newfound assets for the long term, it’s clear that suddenly the Clippers don’t seem to be the modern archetype for sports ineptitude.

Sure, Los Angeles has missed the playoffs 13 times in the last 14 seasons, going 32-50 last spring in the Clippers’ 18th non-winning season in the past 19 years. The former Buffalo Braves have won just one playoff series since 1976.

And sure, the Clippers are still owned by Donald Sterling, the much-criticized real estate magnate who sometimes heckles his own players from his center-court seat. But the Clippers have been gathering momentum since Olshey replaced Mike Dunleavy in March 2010, patiently

stockpiling good players around 2009 top pick Griffin while making runs at free agents such as LeBron James, who gave them a courtesy meeting last summer before heading to Miami.

When Paul made it clear he wouldn’t sign a contract extension with the Hornets and was interested in playing in Los Angeles, the Clippers watched while the Lakers’ three-team trade for Paul was blocked by the NBA last week — and then they pounced, offering a deal that not even Commissioner David Stern could reject.

“It was a pivotal moment for us,” Olshey said.

“It took a long time to accumulate the assets for a deal like this.”

The 26-year-old Paul is in his basketball prime.

## BONDS

From Page 7

probation officers are recommending that Bonds receive no time, citing his charitable work, the nature of the crime and his otherwise spotless criminal record. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston has sentenced two other BALCO figures convicted of similar crimes to probation and house arrest. Was it all worth it?

“It absolutely was,” said MacGregor Scott, the former U.S. attorney for Sacramento, now in private practice at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. “It brought a focus and awareness to the steroids issue that wasn’t there before.”

Scott said prosecutors had to go after Bonds once they concluded he lied to the grand jury when he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and said he allowed only doctors to inject him. Dozens of other athletes testified truthfully, Scott said.

“There aren’t two sets of laws, one for Bonds and one for everybody else,” Scott said. “The grand jury is the bedrock of the criminal justice system in the United States.”

The probe did lead directly to former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell’s in-depth investigation of drug use in Major League Baseball and his semi-

nal Mitchell Report, which in turn prompted MLB and its players’ union to strengthen their steroids policy.

Yet the relatively short list of convictions leaves some, perhaps most notably the BALCO founder himself, unimpressed.

“Obviously, the BALCO case brought about a greater public awareness regarding the rampant use of drugs at the elite level of sport, which is a good thing,” said Victor Conte, the BALCO founder and president — who spent four months in prison after pleading guilty to steroids distribution. “As the BALCO case comes to a close, I don’t think it was the highest and best use of the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars that were spent on the case.”

Bonds will have 14 days after his sentencing to file a notice of appeal. The trial itself ended ambiguously in April about three weeks after it began.

The jury concluded Bonds purposefully evaded responding during testimony to a grand jury investigating steroids distribution in sports with a rambling non sequitur to a question about drug injections, and the jurors convicted him of obstruction of justice. But they couldn’t reach a unanimous agreement on the heart of the case, deadlocking on three charges alleging Bonds lied to the grand jury.

## JAGUARS

From Page 7

during a 20-minute news conference.

The 61-year-old Khan is the league’s first minority owner. But that’s not the only reason he stands out among his 31 peers. There’s also the prominent mustache he’s fancied since 1972, a trademark that he joked enables him to leap tall buildings and “do things I didn’t know I could do.”

Then again, what he’s done to get to this point is pretty remarkable.

Upon graduating from college in 1971, Khan went to work at Flex-N-Gate as an engineering manager. He left in 1978 to start his own company, Bumper Works, and two years later bought his former employer.

Now his privately held company is a major manufacturer of bumper trucks and sport utility vehicles built in North America. Revenue last year topped \$3 billion, and Khan is believed to be a billionaire himself.

He tried buying the St. Louis Rams last year, coming close enough that the league had done its homework on him. That helped speed along this sale.

The deal was announced in late November and the league’s finance committee formally approved his bid last week. When the agenda item came up Wednesday, there wasn’t a single question or dissenting vote.

“I think that’s a good sign,” NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell

said. “It’s certainly an endorsement of his ownership.”

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones called the Jaguars sale bittersweet because the league is bidding farewell to Weaver. However, Jones praised Khan for his “commitment, his passion and his skill.”

“(Weaver) was a real asset to the league, but he did it right and he really brought a very qualified person to the table in Mr. Khan,” Jones said. “It takes some skill to come from where he came from to be where he is today. You add that to your (NFL) ownership group, and we’ve gotten better. ... The more people we can have sitting around those tables in there that have wanted it real bad, the better the NFL will be.”

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