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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

From left, Loretta Farquhar, Teresa Sheppard and Belle Schooler were among those looking over some of the tables at St. Paul's Sharing Our Talents Bazaar. This was the first year for the event. All items were made by members of St. Paul Lutheran with proceeds going to benefit the church.

Shared library?

County and college officials to look into it

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard College and Howard County officials are exploring the possibility of combining the two entities' library facilities under one roof.

College trustees and county commissioners will hear a report on the idea when trustees hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union Building's Tumbleweed Room.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said the idea hatched a few weeks ago when officials were discussing the best ways to use a \$250,000 gift from the Maria Hogue estate to

See **LIBRARY**, Page 3

Some local youth to Shop with a Cop today

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

This year the cops are going to give Santa a hand, at least in Big Spring.

What used to be known as the Blue Santa program is taking on a new name this year. Children will have the opportunity to Shop with a Cop this year.

"The purpose is still the same, but we wanted to get more interactive with the children. This will let them be involved in picking out their gifts," Kayla Johnson, member of the Big Spring Police Association, said.

Several of the officers involved will meet up with the children at 2 p.m. today at Wal-Mart. The officers will

go through the store with the children and let them pick out their gifts for Christmas. This year, the program is providing assistance to 16 children.

"We are helping these kids have a Christmas that they otherwise wouldn't have if it wasn't for assistance," Johnson said.

Each of the children re-

ceiving assistance have been nominated by school officials from Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts. The monies that support the program are gathered throughout the year from fundraisers and donations.

"We are always taking donations, everything helps," Johnson said.

Those wanting to donate to

next year's Shop with a Cop can do so by contacting Lynn Creswell at the Howard County Sheriff's Office or Corporal Keith Jones at the Big Spring Police Department.

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

Blue Christmas is reality for many

By **VALERIE AVERY**
Special to the Herald

Friends and family members who confine themselves to their homes and don't want to participate in holiday preparations need encouragement from loved ones to involve themselves in the season.

Many people feel sad during the holidays because of recent losses, time and financial

stresses, and unrealistic expectations, said Robin Riha, LMSW, Big Spring State Hospital director of Social Work Services.

"The changes in emotions can originate from a variety of sources — unrealistic expectations about the holidays, increased social demands, financial hardship, traditions changing, stress, fatigue. Re-

membering those you have lost and won't be there for this season, being alone without support, not being able to do what you want to do, even a change in the weather (cold) can make someone feel "blue," she said. "These feelings of loss and estrangement are often amplified during the holiday season."

At any other time of the

year, people may be able to move past the same feelings, but during a time when everyone is expected to be joyful, guilt often is a debilitating factor, Riha said.

People living with the holiday blues may exhibit signs of sadness, excessive sleeping, insomnia, nervousness, agitation and crying, she said. Also, little interest in

activities such as shopping, cooking or going to social gatherings can be a heads-up to friends and family that something is wrong.

Many communities offer free activities, such as holiday tours, Christmas light displays and church and community plays and

See **DEPRESSED**, Page 3



MAYBE IT'S SOMEONE FROM THE NORTH POLE. THEY'RE PROBABLY HAVING TROUBLE AND NEED MY ADVICE AGAIN.

Dec. 19
6 shopping days to Christmas

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Keep vigilant this Christmas

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Officials with the Big Spring Fire



Department are knocking on wood, and with good reason.

The seasonal upswing in the number of house fires the city of Big Spring and outlying areas normally see thanks to the holiday and colder weather has yet to arrive, according to Fire Marshal Carl Condray, but the good luck doesn't normal-

ly last.

"Normally, when the weather turns cold we see a big increase in the number of structure fires, caused mainly by people looking for ways to stay warm," said Condray. "However, we haven't seen that increase yet. It's a surprise, and certainly a good surprise, but I'd say

See **FIRE**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Oneta Ruth Franklin Sanderson



Oneta Ruth Franklin Sanderson, 90, passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, in Colorado City after a long and blessed journey. A celebration of her life will be held Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Oak Street Baptist Church with interment to follow at the Colorado City Cemetery.

Oneta was born July 13, 1921, to Samuel and Fannie Franklin in Howard County, Texas. After growing up in and around Big Spring, she joined the war effort during World War II, working as a "Rosie Riveter" in Fort Worth. She married the love of her life, James Luther "Toby" Sanderson, shortly thereafter and spent 49 wonderful years by his side prior to his death.

They spent 17 of those years running a small business, Sanderson Jewelry, before retiring in 1981. After retirement, Oneta was an active volunteer with the Root Memorial Hospital's Pink Ladies Auxiliary where she logged more than 2,000 hours helping others.

Oneta's passion and joy was her love for Jesus Christ. She was a precious woman who tried to love all of those around her like Jesus loved. Through multiple trials and tribulations throughout her life, Oneta was able to find joy and strength and always exuded the patience, love, kindness and joy that could only come through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Oneta was a Sunday school teacher, Girl's Auxiliary Leader and a Girl Scout Leader. She was an active member of Oak Street Baptist Church, serving in many capacities during her 55 years of membership.

Oneta leaves behind her precious family of one sister, Zeldia Abbe of Big Spring, Texas; three children, David Sanderson and wife Ann of Richmond, Va., Ken Sanderson and wife Mary Ann of Lubbock, Texas, and Leada Sanderson Wood and husband Don of Colorado City, Texas. Her legacy includes eight grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Cancer Society or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Robert E. 'Dog' Jones Sr.



Robert E. "Dog" Jones Sr., 64, of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Eddy Nelson officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Robert was born July 15, 1947, in Big Spring, Texas, and married Ardelia "Dee Dee" Brown on July 2, 1988, in Big Spring.

He served in the United States Army and worked in Big Spring for animal control and Ideal Laundry Service. He then began his career in the food industry, working for the VA Medical Center and then for Marriot Corporation as a dietary supervisor for their restaurants on the campus of Mutual of Omaha in Omaha, Neb.

Robert was a member of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ardelia Jones of Big Spring; two daughters, Melloney Sheppard and Jacqueline Williams, both of Big Spring; three sons, Robert Jones Jr. of Omaha, Neb., Sean Clark and wife Veronica and Chass Clark and wife Veronica, all of Phoenix, Ariz.; 11 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; two brothers, Harold Jones and wife Yvonne of Yankton, S.D., and Gregory Jones and wife Patricia of Fort Worth; three sisters, Alice Emerson and Minnie Newbill, both of Midland, and Sandra Roper of Fort Worth; and several nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Katie (Orams) Jones; and three brothers.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Maurice Duncan

Maurice Duncan, 79 of Robert Lee passed away Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, at Robert Lee, Texas.

Graveside service were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, at McKenzieville Cemetery officiated by Lonnie Bloodworth. Services were under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Maurice was born Dec. 7, 1932, in Coahoma, Texas, to Vernon and Willeen Duncan. He attended schools in Coahoma and San Angelo Jr. College.

Maurice married Elna Jameson on March 4, 1953, in San Angelo. He worked for Sun Oil Company for 35 years, ending his career in 1988 as the field gas foreman in the Jameson Field at Silver, Texas.

He is survived by his wife Elna of 58 years; one daughter, Marcia Devoll and husband Ronnie of Odessa; their two sons, Shane Devoll and wife Kassie of Los Angeles, Calif., and Casey Devoll and wife Virginia of Arlington, Texas; four great-grandsons, Hayden, Brandon, Chase and Ethan Devoll; one son, Vernon "Bubba" Duncan and wife Audrey from Roscoe; their two daughters, Candice Hirt and husband Drew of Austin, Texas, and Alison Duncan of Addison, Texas; a sister, Janice Browning of Dallas, Texas; and several nieces and nephews.

The family request donations be made in lieu of flowers to the West Coke County EMS, McKenzieville Cemetery Fund or the charity of their choice.

Shaffer Funeral Home
(325) 453-2424

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- BRITAIN COLE MOYA, 21, of Santa Fe, Texas, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ABEL LOPEZ, 33, of 410 Jill Rd. in Coahoma, was arrested Sunday on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- MILTON CRAIG HERRIDGE, 49, of 1700 S. Lancaster Apt. 404, was arrested Sunday on a warrant from another agency.
- DIEGO IVAN PORTILLO-GONZALEZ, 23, of Bidgeport, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- HECTOR MANUEL ROSALES, 18, of Alabama, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- HECTOR MANUEL ROSALES, 50, of Fort Worth, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- HERIBERTO MIER-DOMINGUEZ, 50, transient, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BRENDA LEE LUERA, 21, of 1309 Mt. Vernon Ave., was arrested Sunday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- JOE CASTRO, 41, transient, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ASSAULT was reported:
In the 1700 block of N. Highway 350.
In the 600 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
In the 2500 block of Dow.
In the 1400 block of Sycamore.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
In the 3600 block of Connally.
In the 1700 block of Donnally.
In the 2100 block of Runnels.
In the 2500 block of Langley.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- TONY ELBERT MCBEE, 46, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for assault — family violence.
- CODY K. WITT, 26, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for running a red light.
- DUTCHESS AMBROISHA ADAMS, 17, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property.
- JERRI FAYE ABRAM, 50, was booked into the

county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property.

- MAY DOROTHY SMITH, 48, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of failure to identify — giving false information.
- DAVID ARNULFO GARZA, 48, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.
- KATHERINE ANITA SIMS, 18, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- TRACEY LILLIAN ROBERSON, 45, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- THOMAS ALVA SPRADLING JR., 41, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated — blood alcohol content greater than 0.15.
- KATHY ANNSIGMON, 45, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of credit/debit card abuse.
- RAYMOND D. DIAZ, 42, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- JAMES EDWARD WILLIAMS, 44, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on Martin County charges for assault — family violence, failure to identify, criminal mischief — family violence, evading arrest or detention, resisting arrest, search or transportation, assault (Class A), assault of a public servant and a State of Texas blue warrant.
- DWAYNE DON EUKEL, 57, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less, possession of drug paraphernalia and open alcohol container.
- MILTON CRAIG HARRIDGE, 49, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a Runnels County warrant for theft by check.
- DIEGO PORTILLO GONZALES, 23, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated, disregarding a stop sign and no driver's license.
- BRITAIN MOYA, 21, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- JOSE CASTRO, 41, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- HECTOR ROSALES, 50, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- HERIBERTO MIER-DOMINGUEZ, 50, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- HECTOR MANUEL ROSALES, 18, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- BRENDA LEE LUERA, 21, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- ABEL LOPEZ, 33, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- TRISTIAN DKOVAN CLAY, 18, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for criminal mischief.
- JAKE ALLEN VALENCIA, 25, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on Howard County warrants for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).

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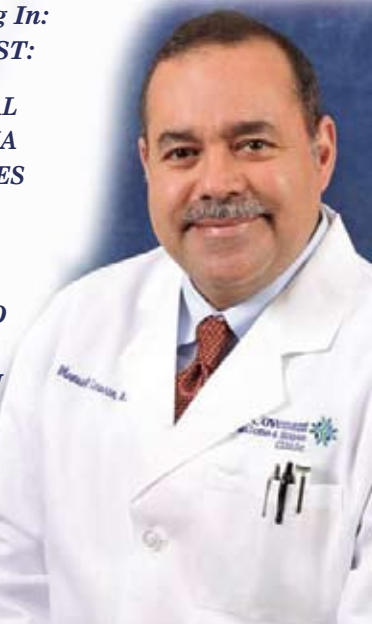
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Take Note

- 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.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

improve the college library. "During a brainstorming session on how best to use the gift ... it was an idea we came up with," Sparks said. "Actually, the idea was first broached about two decades ago. I don't know why it wasn't pursued,

but it's something we want to explore." All relevant parties to the discussion cautioned, however, that talks are extremely preliminary at this time. "It's certainly something that's worth looking into, but it's just too early to tell if it would be feasible," County Librarian Hollis McCright said. "There's a lot of things we need to look at ... and we definitely

need to gather public input." McCright's comments were echoed by County Judge Mark Barr. "My thoughts are, I don't know if it'll work or not, but we owe it to the taxpayers of Howard County to look at it and evaluate it," Barr said. If trustees and commissioners react favorably to Tuesday's report, college and county officials would continue

discussions into the possible consolidation. Any definite action is likely months away at this point, Sparks said. "In light of tightening budgets everywhere, this is something we want to discuss," she said. "It would definitely be a significant change ... We'll continue discussions between the college and county to see if this is an idea that has merit. If we determine

it does, only then would we commence any planning." In other business Tuesday, trustees will consider: Updates on bond projects, the agriculture pavilion, water well projects, Big Spring Independent School District plans to modernize Memorial Stadium and a proposed Early College High School program partnership with

BSISD. Reports on accountability measures. An agreement to transfer furniture and equipment to Forsan ISD. Bids and catalog and handbook changes. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

DEPRESSED

Continued from Page 1

productions and can help kick-start someone into involving themselves in the season with a little encouragement from loved ones, Riha said. The holiday season also is a wonderful time to volunteer. Many food banks, children's charities and hospitals, including Big

Spring State Hospital, need an extra pair of hands during the holiday season. The feeling of giving back is a powerful way to lift the holiday blues, she said. Most importantly, we should spend time with people we care about. It also may be a good time to start a new holiday tradition, Riha said. "Try not to focus on the past, but begin develop-

ing new personal new year's resolutions. This may help when the new year arrives and you can focus on new goals." Those who are depressed may try to spend themselves out of depression, but that short-lived euphoria from shopping often leads to guilt as soon as reality sets in, she said. Healthy habits, such as a good diet, exercise

and plenty of rest may help alleviate some of the anxiety during this time of year. The holiday blues should be short-lived and last through the holiday season, lifting after the first of the year when the holidays conclude and daily routines resume, she said. "This depressed feeling usually subsides after all the commotion of

the season," Riha said. "It's a normal stress reaction to a stress-filled time of the year." "If holiday depression continues into the New Year and a person continues to show signs of depression, they should seek professional help." West Texas Centers operates a 24-hour Crisis Hotline. The toll-free

number is 1-800-375-4357.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

the chances of it lasting are pretty slim, especially with temperatures really beginning to bottom out." With the recent exception of deadly fires in Coahoma and Big Spring that claimed the lives of three residents, Condray said the number of reports — including fires and smoke scares — has been down so far this year. However, with Crossroads residents expected to get in the holiday spirit with traditional decorations — many of which include candles, wreaths and other igni-

tion sources — Condray asks residents to think safety first. "One of the most common sources of fires is candles that are left burning unattended," Condray said. "Also, candles are sometimes set with wreaths and other dry items around them — such as in place settings on tables — which make them even more dangerous. Always be sure to keep candles away from any type of fuel or ignition source, and only burn them in containers that are specifically made for it." Condray said another decoration many families will want to pay close attention to is

their Christmas tree, as the holiday centerpiece can quickly turn into an instrument of woe if not handled properly. "Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways. If you are using an artificial tree, choose one that tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should also have the UL label. "Always check your

electrical cords to make sure they are not frayed or worn, and never leave your Christmas lights on when you leave the house or go to bed," he added. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Tue: 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30 Wed: 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30	New Year's Eve (PG-13) Tue: 12:45 3:30 6:30 9:15 Wed: 1:00 3:30 Arthur Christmas (PG) Tue: 1:00 3:30 227993

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News in brief

North Korea announces Kim Jong Il's death, urges nation to follow 20-something son and heir

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea announced the death of supreme leader Kim Jong Il and urged its people to rally behind his young son and heir-apparent Monday, while the world watched warily for signs of instability in a nation pursuing nuclear weapons.

South Korea, anxious about the untested, 20-something Kim Jong Un after his father's 17-year rule, put its military on high alert against the North's 1.2 million-strong armed forces. President Barack Obama agreed by phone with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak to closely monitor developments.

People on the streets of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, wailed in grief, some kneeling on the ground or bowing repeatedly as they learned the

news that their "dear general" had died of heart failure Saturday at age 69 while carrying out official duties on a train trip.

"How could the heavens be so cruel? Please come back, general. We cannot believe you're gone," Hong Son Ok shouted in an interview with North Korea's official television, her body shaking wildly.

"He passed away too suddenly to our profound regret," said a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "The heart of Kim Jong Il stopped beating, but his noble and august name and benevolent image will always be remembered by our army and people."

Survey shows more than 32 power plants to be retired because of new pollution rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 32 mostly coal-fired power plants in a dozen states will be forced to shut down and an additional 36 might have to close because of new federal air pollution regulations, according to an Associated Press survey.

Together, those plants — some of the oldest and dirtiest in the country — produce enough electricity for more than 22 million households, the AP survey found. But their demise probably won't cause homes to go dark.

The fallout will be most acute for the towns where power plant smokestacks long have cast a shadow. Tax revenues and jobs will be lost, and investments in new power plants and pollution controls probably will raise electric bills.

The survey, based on interviews with 55 power plant operators and on the Environmental Protection Agency's own prediction of power plant retirements, rebuts claims by critics of the regulations and some electric power producers.

They have predicted the EPA rules will kill coal as a power source and force blackouts, basing their argument on estimates from energy analysts, congressional offices, government regulators, unions and interest groups. Many of those studies inflate the number of plants retiring by counting those shutting down for reasons other than the two EPA

rules.

Man charged with setting NYC woman on fire in elevator tells police he was mad over \$2K debt

NEW YORK (AP) — As Deloris Gillespie went up the elevator to her fifth-floor Brooklyn apartment, carrying groceries, a man was waiting. His face was one her neighbors later recognized, and that she surely must have.

Surveillance video from inside the small elevator shows that he looked something like an exterminator, with a canister sprayer, white gloves and a dust mask, which was perched atop his head. The sprayer was full of flammable liquid.

When the elevator opened Saturday afternoon, the man sprayed the 73-year-old woman "sort of methodically" over her head and parts of her body as her bags of groceries draped off her arms, New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said. She crouched down to try to protect herself, he said.

Then, Browne said, the attacker pulled out a barbecue-style lighter and used it to ignite a rag in a bottle. He waited a few seconds as Gillespie huddled on the floor. Then he backed out of the elevator and tossed the flaming bottle in.

Neighbors in the Prospect Heights building had no idea a woman was being burned alive when they quickly reported a fire.

Overnight, a 47-year-old man smelling of gasoline went into a police station and implicated himself in Gillespie's death, Browne said. The suspect, Jerome Isaac, told police he set her on fire because she owed him \$2,000 for some work he had done for her, Browne said.

Isaac, of Brooklyn, was arrested Sunday on murder and arson charges.

NC soldier, 23, was last U.S. troop killed in Iraq

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — As the last U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq on Sunday, friends and family of the first and last American fighters killed in combat were cherishing their memories rather than dwelling on whether the war and their sacrifice was worth it.

Nearly 4,500 American fighters died before the last U.S. troops crossed the border into Kuwait. David Hickman, 23, of Greensboro was the last of those war casualties, killed in November by the kind of improvised bomb that was a signature weapon of this war.

"David Emanuel Hickman. Doesn't that name just bring out a smile to your face?" said Logan Trainum, one of Hickman's closest friends, at the funeral where the soldier was laid to rest after a ceremony in a Greensboro church packed with friends and family.

Trainum says he's not spending time asking why Hickman died: "There aren't enough facts available for me to have a defined opinion about things. I'm just sad, and pray that my best friend didn't lay down his life for nothing."

He'd rather remember who Hickman was: A cutup who liked to joke around with friends. A physical fitness fanatic who half-kiddingly called himself "Zeus" because he had a body that would make the gods jealous. A ferocious outside linebacker at Northeast Guilford High School who was the linchpin of a defense so complicated they had to scrap it after he graduated because no other teenager could figure it out.

Hickman was these things and more, a whole life scarcely glimpsed in the terse language of a Defense Department news release last month. Three paragraphs said Hickman died in Baghdad on Nov. 14, "of injuries suffered after encountering an improvised explosive device."

He was more, too, than the man who bears the symbolic freight of being the last member of the U.S. military to die in a war launched in the political shadow of 9/11, which brought thousands of his fellow citizens out into the streets to oppose and support it. Eventually, the war largely faded from the public's thoughts.

"There's a lot of people, in my family included, they don't know what's going on in this world," said Wes Needham, who coached linebackers at Northeast when David was a student. "They're oblivious to it. I just sit and think about it, the courage that it takes to do what they do, especially when they're all David's age."

And they were mostly young. According to an Associated Press analysis of casualty data, the

average age of Americans who died in Iraq was 26. Nearly 1,300 were 22 or younger, but middle-aged people fought and died as well: some 511 were older than 35.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K
♥ J 10 9 6 4
♦ J 9
♣ Q 8 7 4
WEST
♠ Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♥ Q 7
♦ A
♣ A 9 3
EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ —
♦ K 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ J 10 2
SOUTH
♠ J 9
♥ A K 8 5 3 2
♦ Q 10
♣ K 6 5

The bidding:
West North East South
1♠ Pass 2♦ 2♥
2♣ 4♥

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.
This hand was played by Sam Fry Jr. of New York way back in 1934. It seems impossible to make four hearts against proper defense by East-West, but the fact is that Fry not only made the contract, but there was also no way of stopping him.

West led the ace of diamonds, East signaling for a continuation by playing the eight. But West shifted to a spade at trick two, from which Fry concluded that East must have started with an eight-card diamond

suit because it would have made no sense for West to shift to a spade if he had another diamond to lead.

Taking full advantage of this knowledge, Fry won the spade shift with the king, led a trump to the ace, played a spade to dummy's ace, then led the jack of trumps from dummy and ducked it to West's queen!

This deliberate concession of a trump trick that did not have to be lost was certainly extraordinary, but it was the only way to make four hearts. West stewed for a long time, trying to find a suitable reply to the Greek gift he had received, but there was no escape.

In practice, West tried the ace and another club. This allowed Fry to score three club tricks and dispose of his remaining diamond loser, so the contract was made.

Observe that it would not have helped West to lead a spade after taking his queen of hearts. In that case, South ruffs the spade in dummy, discarding a club from his hand, and leads a club to the king. West takes the king with the ace and returns a club to dummy's queen. Declarer then ruffs a club, establishing dummy's fourth club as a trick, and crosses to dummy with a trump to discard his diamond loser on the good club.

Tomorrow: Commonsensory perception.

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ANSWERS

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

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Cowboys get win, back in first place

TAMPA (AP) — Tony Romo was nearly flawless in getting the Dallas Cowboys back on track in the NFC East.

Romo threw for three touchdowns and ran for a fourth score Saturday night, helping the first-place Cowboys beat the struggling Tampa Bay Buccaneers 31-15.

Dallas stopped a two-game losing streak in which it blew fourth-quarter leads to allow a seemingly solid grip on the division lead slip away.

The victory gave the Cowboys (8-6) a half-game lead over New York. Although the Giants hold a tiebreaker advantage after beating Dallas 37-34 last week, the Cowboys can claim the division title and host a playoff game by finishing with wins the next two weeks over Philadelphia at home and the Giants on the road.

The Bucs (4-10) lost for the eighth straight time and played a miserable first half that certainly didn't do anything to help coach Raheem Morris make a case for keeping his job.

Romo threw a pair of 8-yard TD passes to Miles Austin and Dez Bryant in the first quarter, then finished a seven-play, 89-yard drive with a 9-yarder to Laurent Robinson to make it 21-0 with just under 5 minutes remaining in the second quarter. Romo made it 28-0 after a quarterback sneak in the closing seconds of the opening half.

Tampa Bay managed just one first down and was outgained 279 yards to 55 in the first two quarters, but found a way to make it interesting in the second half.

The Bucs, who had yielded 69 consecutive points

dating to the second quarter of the previous week's 41-14 loss to Jacksonville, finally got on the scoreboard in the third quarter when rookie Adrian Clayborn sacked Romo from behind, forcing a fumble that linebacker Dekoda Watson returned 4 yards for a TD for a much-needed spark.

Josh Freeman's 13-yard TD pass to Dezmon Briscoe and a two-point conversion throw to Kellen Winslow trimmed the Dallas lead to 31-15 heading into the final quarter.

The Cowboys have led in the fourth quarter in five of their six losses, however there wouldn't be a late collapse this time. Tampa Bay turned the ball over on downs twice in the last six minutes, and Sammy Morris picked up a first down inside the Bucs 10 to give the Cowboys an opportunity to run out the clock.

Austin's TD midway through the first quarter was set up by Tampa Bay's NFL-leading 32nd turnover, a fumble by Freeman on the fifth play of the game.

The Tampa Bay quarterback scrambled 25 yards on third-and-5 to march the Bucs near midfield, but the opening possession of the night came to an abrupt halt on the next play when Freeman took off again for a 7-yard gain and was stripped of the ball at the Cowboys 44.

Linebacker Bradie James recovered and it took Romo seven plays to get Dallas in the end zone for the first time. The Cowboys marched 69 yards in 10 plays on their next possession, with Romo finishing the drive by finding a wide-open Bryant in the back of the end zone to make it 14-0.

In three career games against Tampa Bay — all lopsided victories — Romo has thrown for 908 yards, 11 touchdowns and no interceptions. He was 23 of 30 for 249 yards and was sacked twice Saturday night.

Felix Jones, back in the starting lineup after DeMarco Murray broke his right ankle last week in a 37-34 loss to the Giants, broke a 38-yard run on the drive leading to Robinson's TD and finished with 108 yards on 22 carries — his second straight 100-yard performance had 67 yards rushing on 12 carries at halftime.

Freeman, making his second start since missing a game because of an injured throwing shoulder, was 17 of 27 for 148 yards and no interceptions. He led the Bucs

See **COWBOYS**, Page 10



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL — With Big Spring cheerleaders looking on, Steer Marc Segundo sinks a three-pointer in Friday night's game against Lubbock Coronado.

Packers no longer perfect

KANSAS CITY (AP) — The Green Bay Packers' perfect season came to a crashing halt against the struggling Kansas City Chiefs, who had just fired their coach and were starting a new quarterback.

Proof again that nothing can be taken for granted in the NFL.

Kyle Orton threw for 299 yards to outduel Aaron Rodgers, and the Chiefs rallied behind interim coach Romeo Crennel for a shocking 19-14 victory on Sunday that ended the Packers' 19-game winning streak. It was their first loss since Dec. 19, 2010, at New England.

Green Bay, playing without leading receiver Greg Jennings and top rusher James Starks because of injuries, also failed to secure home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

They can still wrap that up in their final two games against Detroit and Chicago, but no longer with the

pressure of trying to become the second team in NFL history to win a Super Bowl with a perfect record. Their 19-game streak was second only to a 21-game run by New England in 2003-04.

Rodgers was 17 of 35 for 235 yards and a touchdown, and he also scampered 8 yards for another touchdown with 2:12 left in the game. But the Packers (13-1) were unable to recover the onside kick, and Kansas City picked up a couple of first downs to secure the victory.

Ryan Succop kicked seven field goals for Kansas City (6-8), which had lost five of its last six games and fired coach Todd Haley last Monday. Jackie Battle added a short touchdown plunge with 4:53 left in the game, points that came in handy when Rodgers led one last

See **PACKERS**, Page 10

Redskins beat Giants

Help Cowboys regain NFC East lead

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — If the Washington Redskins proved anything, it might be that the New York Giants don't belong in the playoffs.

Rex Grossman threw a touchdown pass and the Redskins put a major hurt on the Giants and their playoff hopes with a 23-10 victory on Sunday.

Grossman threw a 20-yard scoring pass to Santana Moss, Darrel Young scored on a 6-yard run after one of the Redskins' three interceptions of Eli Manning and Graham Gano kicked three field goals as Washington (5-9) won for the second time in 10 games — and embarrassed New York for the second time this season.

The loss knocked the Giants (7-7) out of first place in the NFC East.

Dallas (8-6) now leads the division by a game with two to go, including one with Giants on the final weekend. If New York beats the Jets and the Cow-

boys in its final two games it will win the division. The Cowboys play the Philadelphia Eagles next weekend and might wrap up the division if the Giants fall in their rivalry game with the Jets.

This loss was the fifth in six games for the Giants, who are now in danger of missing the playoffs for the third straight year.

The scenario has been the same each season. New York starts the season quickly and then falters down the stretch, playing some unbelievably bad games with the postseason on the line.

Two years ago, they lost to the Carolina Panthers in their last home game at Giants Stadium.

Last season, they went 10-6 and missed the playoffs because they gave

See **SKINS**, Page 10

Houston's win streak ends

HOUSTON (AP) — Cam Newton threw two touchdown passes, DeAngelo Williams ran for a score and the Carolina Panthers ended Houston's seven-game winning streak with a 28-13 win over the Texans on Sunday.

Newton completed 13 of 23 passes for 149 yards, outplaying opposing rookie quarterback T.J. Yates. The Panthers (5-9) built a 21-0 halftime lead, then ended Houston's second-half rally when linebacker James Anderson intercepted Yates in the end zone midway through the fourth quarter.

The Texans (10-4) are playing for home-field advantage in the playoffs after clinching the AFC South last weekend.

But their top-ranked defense looked vulnerable without coordinator Wade Phillips, who's on medical leave after undergoing kidney and gall bladder surgery this week. Linebackers coach Reggie Herring made the defensive calls on Sunday.

Houston gave up only 316 yards, but Carolina converted two Texans turnovers into 14 points.

Arian Foster fumbled on the second snap, and Newton threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Steve Smith less than 3 minutes into the game. It was the third fumble

lost by Foster this year, and Ben Tate came in for Houston's second series.

Yates completed his first seven passes, but the Texans struggled to sustain drives against the league's 24th-ranked defense.

Newton, meanwhile, completed passes at key moments, despite finishing with a season-low total in yards passing.

He shrugged off two early sacks to make pin-point passes to Smith and Greg Olsen for big gains then found Jeremy Shockey for a 9-yard touchdown pass with 12:19 left in the half.

Yates made his first key mistake after getting Houston across midfield in the second quarter. Carolina linebacker Jordan Senn intercepted his off-target pass to Kevin Walter, and Newton calmly guided the Panthers down the field again.

Richie Brockel's sweeping TD run finished a 9-play drive to put Carolina up 21-0 and the Texans faced their largest deficit of the season. The Panthers were also the first opponent to reach 20 points on Houston's home field since the Texans lost 25-20 to Oakland in Week 5.

The Texans' offense looked better in the third quarter, twice advancing into Carolina territory. But Yates threw incom-

plete on two third-down plays and Houston came away with only two field goals from Neil Rackers to cut the Panthers' lead to 21-6.

Houston's defense stiffened after the break, and Foster got the offense moving again with a weaving, 22-yard run to the Panthers 24. Yates zipped a pass to Walter to the 11, and Foster scored three plays later.

Carolina produced only 23 yards and one first down in the third quarter.

But Newton quieted the revived crowd with a 26-yard pass to Shockey early in the fourth.

Williams sprinted 24 yards through a gaping hole on the next snap to put Carolina in front 28-13.

The Texans were looking for a quick answer, driving inside the Panthers 10 in less than 2 minutes. Anderson then picked off Yates in the end zone, and the rookie quarterback walked to the sideline with his head down.

Yates, making his third career start, completed 19 of 30 passes for 212 yards.

Newton and the Panthers chewed up the final 7 minutes to earn their first victory of the season over a team with a winning record. Newton also rushed for 55 yards on seven carries.

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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

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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 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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The moon in Libra offers a high-five situation. Don't leave the other person hanging. This probably will not be an actual hand-slapping gesture. It might be an opportunity to laugh along, return a call or voice your support. Good fortune befalls the one who initiates acts of friendship and camaraderie.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You recognize that you have needs. Finding healthy ways to meet them brings fun into your world.

In many ways, you are more self-sufficient than you've ever been.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There is still something standing in the way of what you want to accomplish.

You will overcome it — it's just a matter of time. You'll chip away at the problem this morning. By evening, you'll have made measurable progress.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You make relationships look effortless, but that is a skillful illusion that takes practice and planning to pull off.

The fact is that regular connection requires special care and planning.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll spend some time becoming more organized with a particular goal. Write down the steps



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

"Classic" Ann Landers®: What to do about Mom?

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:

My mother left us when I was 6 and my brother was 10. That was 25 years ago. Even though Mom showed up for holidays and birthdays, we were raised solely by my father.

When Dad passed away three years ago, Mom had a nervous breakdown and started to drink excessively.



ANN
LANDERS

involved so you will know how close you are getting to achieving this aim.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll make a concerted effort to interact in a positive way with the ones you love. This becomes a kind of Zen exercise, as it requires that you overlook the critical and interfering input that some loved ones can't seem to hold back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You need something from your loved ones, but not gifts and attention. What you want is time to yourself to do what you want to do without the constant obligation of taking care of those around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People who have full spiritual lives are happier than those who don't have a specific type of belief. Whatever you believe, you'll believe it more deeply now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The only thing standing between you and a certain very desirable reality is the occasional mental interruption of the false thought that you were not meant to have what you really want out of life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Every day you try to make the world a better place than it was before you arrived on the scene. Today you will accomplish this through humble but meaningful acts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You tell the truth whenever you're sure it won't hurt someone else. And when you're sure that it will, you find other

things to focus on. You understand the harm that can be done by senseless honesty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's an Italian proverb that suggests that "one friend is worth a thousand relatives." There is something wonderful to be said for the people you choose to align with, and you'll say it today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When your health is good and your heart is light, there's little you can't do. You'll start early in the morning, fixing things, cleaning up and organizing your life toward an even brighter future.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 19). It's a year of memorable and fun events. You'll have vivid experiences enjoying entertainment with a crowd. In January, you'll participate in an organization that will support your goals in regards to health and well-being. In March, finances take a turn for the better. You'll cross a thrilling goal off your list in June. Cancer and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 14, 31, 24 and 29.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "How does the hyper-dimensional physics model change the way traditional astrology views the effects of celestial bodies on each other and our lives?"

I often wonder whether there really is life on, say, Venus or Jupiter that goes undetected by us because we don't share the same

perception of dimensionality! Many components of the hyper-dimensional physics narrative capture my curiosity and resonate at some deep level. Since a lot of it is beyond my comprehension, I can only integrate the information in a poetic sense, humbled by those with more scientific talents.

I can't seem to get behind the traditional astrological idea that the planets exert physical influence on our activities and DNA. And yet, there is something there, these agreements we made with destiny somewhere outside of time. I feel the celestial bodies dancing out there, angling, conjoining, spinning, connecting us in multiple dimensions and reminding us constantly of the secret promises of our souls. There is, to me, a communication system and a relationship, though how it is all laced together remains a grand mystery. So I am constantly reaching into the all-pervasive, incompressible fluid of it with a questing spirit and a receptive imagination. What do you think?

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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problems are dealing with theirs. The fact that your mother is seeking help bodes well for her recovery. I wish her luck, and you, too, dear.

Lonesome? Take charge of your life and turn it around. Write to receive Ann Landers' booklet "How To Make Friends and Stop Being Lonely." Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$4.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Friends, 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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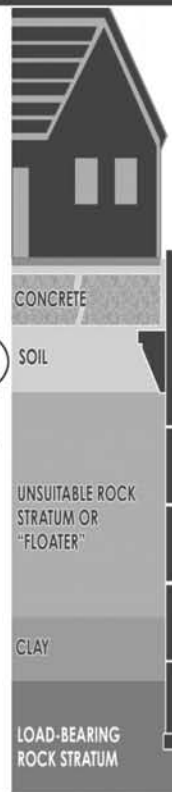
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News	Alma ABC	Big Bang	News	Noticias	News	King	Schwarz	Charlie Rose	Til Death	Gold Rush	Dogmen, Kurtwood Smith	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	Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News	King	Van Impe	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Gold Rush	Seinfeld	Ways Die	Law & Order	Phineas and the Beast	Random	SportsCenter	Monday Night Count-down
7 :PM	Panda	Familia-Suerte	Terra Nova	How I Met	Una Maid en	Still Standing	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Hart of Dixie	Gold Rush	Movie: A Christmas Carol, Edward Woodward	1,000 Ways to Die	The Closer	Movie: Not Easily Broken	Movie: Beauty and the Beast	Poker-Eu.	NFL Football: Pittsburgh Steelers at San Francisco 49ers.
8 :PM	Chipmunk	Fuerza-Des-tino		Broke Girl	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Fear Factor	Fam. Guy	Hansen	Antiques Roadshow	Hart of Dixie	Raw Alaska	Ways Die	The Closer			Poker - Eu-rope		
9 :PM	Castle	Don Francisco	Simpsons	Hawaii	La Casa de al Lado	Rock Center	Fam. Guy	Conan	American Masters	Cops	American Guns	Ways Die	Rizzoli & Isles	Movie: Barbershop	Jessie	Poker - Eu-rope		
10 :PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	House	King	South Pk	Raw Alaska	Ways Die	The Closer		Random	SportsCtr	SportsCenter	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Office	Uri Harel	World	American Guns	Ways Die	Rizzoli & Isles	Wendy Williams	Wizards	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
12 :AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	Dr. Denis	Roseanne	Gold Rush	Movie: Nutty Professor II: The Klumps	1,000 Ways to Die	CSI: NY	Movie: Barbershop	Good	NFL Films	NFL Prime-Time
1 :AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	Munroe	All/World	Gold Rush	Ways Die	Leverage		Random	30 for 30	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE

12-19

"BUT IF ALL THE KIDS WERE GOOD, THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TOYS TO GO AROUND!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

12-19

"It's gonna cost too much for Mommy and Daddy to get us, so we can either ask Santa or Grandma for it."

HAGAR

12-19

"I'M OFF TO SACK AND LOOT!"

"DO YOU WANT ANYTHING?"

"ARE YOU KIDDING?"

BLONDIE

12-19

"WELL, DEAR, WASN'T THAT FUN SHOPPING WITH THE WOODLEYS?"

"WOODLEYS?! I AM A WOODLEY!"

"OMIGOODNESS, HERB?! WELL, WHERE'S...?"

"BANANAS FOSTER?! SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET A SUDDEN CRAVING FOR BANANAS FOSTER?!"

"I WAS JUST HUNGRY, HONEY."

BC

12-19

"IS PEG LEG HYPHENATED?"

"BEATS ME - NEVER HAD ONE."

"IS CROSS EYED?"

"BEATS ME - NEVER HAD ONE."

"HOW ABOUT POT BELLY?"

"NICE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING."

WIZARD OF ID

12-19

"IT'S 9 O'CLOCK... ANALYSTS BELIEVE STOCKS WILL GAIN ON A 1.5% INCREASE IN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE THIS SEASON"

"NOTHING GETS ME MORE IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT THAN SOME HOT COCOA AND A BIT OF MARKET SPECULATION"

AGNES

12-19

"I'M SURE SOMEONE WILL BE ALONG SHORTLY."

"MOST LIKELY A BLOODTHIRSTY AX MURDERER ON A HOPPED-UP SNO-CAT."

"I HOPE HE FEEDS US BEFORE HE BEHEADS US."

"MY STOMACH IS GROWLING, TOO..."

HI AND LOIS

12-19

"\$75! THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!"

"ALL THE PROCEEDS GO TO BUY PRESENTS FOR DISADVANTAGED KIDS."

"YOU PAID \$300 FOR A TREE?!"

"I'M NOT COMPLAINING."

THE OTHER COAST

12-19

"KOKO, DID YOU KNOW THAT SANTA CLAUS, IN SOME FORM OR THE OTHER, HAS BEEN AROUND FOR CENTURIES?"

"AND THE IMAGE OF SANTA CLAUS THAT WE KNOW ORIGINATED FROM AN AD PRODUCED BY THE COCA-COLA COMPANY IN THE 1930S."

"DOING I'VE BEEN DOING UNPAID COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS EVER SINCE."

SNUFFY SMITH

12-19

"THAT'S GOTTA BE TH' SECOND-WORST WEATHERMAN I'VE EVER HEARD!!"

"...PARTLY CLOUDY..."

"WHO'S TH' FURST GRANPAW?"

"MY KNEE !! GITS IT WRONG ALMOST EV'RY TIME !!"

"WIF A CHANCE OF SHOWERS..."

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2011. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pa., to camp for the winter.

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812.

In 1910, the artificial fiber rayon was first commercially produced by the American Viscose Co. of Marcus Hook, Pa.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces

Newsday Crossword

FOUR PAIRS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

66 Small inlet

67 "Take ___ a compliment"

68 Voice below alto

69 Similar

70 Lock openers

71 Genesis garden

72 Bombard (with)

DOWN

1 Grand-scale tale

2 Squish, as potatoes

3 West Coast sch.

4 Bad smell

5 Boring, informally

6 Tra ___ (song syllables)

7 Surrounded by

8 Edge

9 Fuel economy letters

10 "On the cob" servings

11 Pen name

12 Entice

14 Broad streets

20 Gunky stuff

21 Halt

25 Pork cut

26 Cereal grains

27 Dog's irritant

28 Character flaw

29 Hourly charge

30 Meager

34 Keep out of sight

36 Pretzel shape

37 Toy on a string

39 Bird's home

41 Oven pan

44 Ocean liner

46 For no charge

49 Fill with bubbles

51 North Pole topper

52 Vision

14 Broad streets correcting procedure

53 Make a speech

54 Made angry

58 Wall-climbing plant

59 Shakespeare's river

60 Oxen's harness

61 Wicked

62 Mailed out

64 Letter before tee

BEETLE BAILEY

12-19

"I NEED SOME EXERCISE"

"WHAT DID I DO WRONG?!"

"I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	T	S	T	A	K	E	S	Q	U	A	L	L	S
L	O	U	I	S	I	X	T	U	R	M	O	I	L
T	U	B	E	T	O	P	T	O	G	A	I	N	E
E	R	R	I	S	O	L	A	T	E	T	E	D	
R	I	O	T	K	R	O	N	A	M	E	A	D	
E	S	S	E	S	T	U	G	S	A	R	G	E	
D	M	A	R	K	S	D	E	S	P	I	S	E	
A	B	S	I	N	T	H	E	R	O	O	T		
F	E	T	E	S	I	R	S	S	E	N	O	R	
C	Z	A	R	P	E	T	E	R	D	A	M	E	
W	I	T	B	I	L	E	V	E	L	L	E		
E	Q	U	A	L	E	D	E	V	I	D	E	N	T
S	U	R	F	A	C	E	R	E	R	E			
T	E	E	T	H	E	D							

Newsday Crossword

13

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COWBOYS

From Page 5

in rushing with 37 yards on four attempts and was sacked three times, once by DeMarcus Ware, who notched his 16th of the season.

Thanks to a large contingent of Cowboys fans, the Bucs played before a sellout crowd at home for just the second time

in two seasons.

Judging by all the blue and white jerseys scattered throughout the 65,000-seat stadium, at least half the house appeared to be rooting for Dallas.

The Bucs have lost eight straight following a 4-2 start that included wins over NFC South rivals New Orleans and Atlanta. The skid has coach Raheem Morris on the hot seat just

a year after the NFL's youngest head coach led his team to a surprising 10-6 finish that heightened expectations coming into this season.

Tampa Bay played Saturday night without starting receiver Arrelious Benn, who suffered a concussion during last week's loss at Jacksonville. He was replaced by Briscoe, who began the night with just 23 receptions.

range on their ensuing drive, but rather than have Crosby attempt a 56-yard kick in the same direction he had already missed, coach Mike McCarthy elected to go for it on fourth-and-9.

Rodgers' pass fell incomplete and the Chiefs took over.

They needed seven plays to cover 59 yards, but had to settle for another field goal and a 12-7 lead.

It was the third time the Chiefs drove inside the 5 and had six total points to show for it.

They got seven on their next trip, though.

With first-and-goal at the 5, Thomas Jones managed to gain a yard and Le'Ron McClain bulled ahead for three more, setting up third down from just outside the goal line.

Battle took the carry over the right side and powered into the end zone, giving the woeful Kansas City offense its highest-scoring game since the Chiefs beat San Diego in overtime in late October.

The Packers marched down field in the closing minutes, and Rodgers showed his moxie by scampering around the end for a touchdown that made it 19-14.

But the onside kick ended up in the Chiefs' hands, and they were able to pound out a couple first downs to secure the upset victory.

Green Bay came into the game averaging nearly 36 points, but was held to its lowest total since beating the Chicago Bears 10-3 in Week 17 last year.

The Packers needed to win that game to make the playoffs, and wound up riding the momentum to a Super Bowl victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

All that momentum finally came to an end against the most unlikely of scenarios.

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New Eng	11	3	0	.786	437	297
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	346	315
Miami	5	9	0	.357	286	269
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	311	371

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	4	0	.714	343	236
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	279	278
Jacksonville 4	10	0	0	.286	207	293
Indianapolis 1	13	0	0	.071	211	395

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
x-Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	305	283
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	195	274

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	6	0	.571	292	343
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	317	382
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	192	319

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	348	296
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	334	372
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	342	311
Washington	5	9	0	.357	252	300

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orl	11	3	0	.786	457	306
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	281
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	341	368
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	247	401

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	1	0	.929	480	297
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	395	332
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	293
Minnesota	2	12	0	.143	294	406

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Fran	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	284	273
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	273	305
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	166	346

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

PACKERS

From Page 5

scoring drive.

Neither team seemed as if it wanted to win in the first half.

Packers wide receiver Jordy Nelson was hit twice with offensive pass interference, Rodgers was harassed by the Chiefs' weak pass rush, and Green Bay wound up making five first downs.

One of them came when Kansas City's Jeremy Horne ran into Packers punter Tim Masthay, giving them 15 free yards.

The Chiefs tried to give Green Bay another gift later on the drive when Mason Crosby missed a 59-yard field goal attempt but Kansas City had 12 men on the field.

With another chance from 54 yards, the normally reliable Crosby still pushed the kick right.

Rodgers finished the half 6 of 17 for 59 yards, with a handful of drops between wide receiver Donald Driver and tight end Jermichael Finley.

In fact, things were going so badly for Green Bay that at one point it ran out of the wildcat despite having one of the best quarterbacks in the game.

The Chiefs were still clinging to a 6-0 lead when Rodgers finally hit down field, finding Finley over top the coverage for a 41-yard gain.

Three plays later, the Packers' star quarterback hit Driver in the corner of the end zone for a 7-6 lead with 8:04 left in the third quarter.

Kansas City answered when Orton hit his own tight end, Leonard Pope, for a career-long 38-yard catch. Jon Baldwin added a 17-yard grab to set up Succop's 46-yard, go-ahead field goal.

The Packers moved into field-goal

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11 AM-4 PM

Dinner

4 PM-10:30 PM

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SKINS

From Page 5

away a 21-point lead in a December loss to the Eagles and then were beaten badly in Green Bay late in the season with a playoff berth in their grasp.

This season it has been another collapse after a stunning win over New England left

them at 6-2.

They lost four in a row and then last week seemed to grab command again by rallying in the fourth quarter to beat the Cowboys in Dallas.

Again, with the playoffs in their grasp, they came out flat against the Redskins, who had already been eliminated from playoff contention.

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Even a couple of gift interceptions by Grossman in the first quarter didn't help.

Gano gave Washington the lead on its second series with a 36-yard field goal that was set up in part by a 19-yard pass from Donte' Stallworth on a third and 12 from the Giants 39.

Grossman, who finished 15 of 24 for 185 yards, pushed the lead to 10-0 early in the second quarter with his TD pass to a wide open Moss on third-and-8.

If the touchdown had

the fans muttering, there was no hiding their feelings minutes later after Oshiomogho Atogwe intercepted a pass that deflected off the hands of running back D.J. Ware and returned it 26 yards to the Giants 41. Nine plays later, Young scored and the fans let the team know it was sick of being let down.

Manning, who finished 23 of 40 for 257 yards, finally got the Giants on the board just before halftime, setting up Lawrence Tynes for a 40-yard field goal.

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