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Brown re-ups for Pct. 1 commissioner

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer



Brown

Brown, a long-time member of the commissioners court, will face off against local resident Larry Torres in the Democratic primary, which has

been tentatively set for April 3 by state officials. Torres is a jailer with the Howard County Detention Center, according to Walter Shipman, chairman of the Howard County Democratic Party.

Seats up for election in the 2012 election include 118th Ju-

dicial District Attorney, currently held by Hardy Wilkerson; Howard County sheriff, held by Stan Parker; county attorney, held by Joshua Hamby; tax assessor collector, held by Kathy Sayles; Precinct 3 county commissioner, held by Jimmie Long;

and Precinct 1 county commissioner, held by Brown.

Parker has filed to run for re-election, as have Long, Green and Wilkerson.

Howard County Elections Administrator Sandra

See **BROWN**, Page 3A

Filing wraps up, for now, in Crossroads area

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

As state representatives and attorneys continue to bicker over redistricting in the Lone Star State, it's business as usual for election officials in the Crossroads area, as seats in Martin and Glasscock counties get ready to go up for grabs in this year's political party primaries.

Martin County will see at least two contested races come April 3 — the newly appointed date for the primaries, ac-

ording to state officials — as the Precinct 1 and Precinct 3 seats on the county commissioners court have garnered a great deal of attention.

Precinct 1 incumbent Sony Garza has filed to run for re-election on the Republican ticket, according to Martin County Elections Administrator Helen Castro.

Garza has drawn a pair of challengers — also on the GOP ticket — already, as

See **FILING**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

The Festival of Lights can be viewed from 6:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. nightly at Comanche Trail Park through Dec. 31. There is no admission, but donations are welcome and go toward funding the event.

Deadly snowstorm halts travel across Great Plains

By **JERI CLAUSING and ROXANA HEGEMAN**
Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Fierce winds and snow that caused fatal road accidents and shuttered highways in five states, crawled deeper into the Great Plains early Tuesday, with forecasters warning that pre-holiday travel would be difficult if not impossible across the region.

Hotels were filling up quickly along major roadways from eastern New Mexico to Kansas, and nearly 100 rescue calls came in from motorists in the Texas Panhandle as blizzard conditions forced closed part of Interstate 40, a major east-west route, Monday night.

About 10 inches of snow had fallen in western Kansas before dawn Tuesday and several more inches along with strong wind gusts were expected, National Weather Service meteorologist Marc Russell said.

"We're talking about whit-



Dean Hanson, Albuquerque Journal/AP Photo

Southbound traffic on I-25 leaves Santa Fe, N.M., while snow accumulates on the road Monday as a winter storm hit the area. New Mexico state police say a winter storm is shutting highways and causing difficult driving across northern New Mexico.

out conditions," he said.

Heather Haltli, 29, and her husband were traveling from their home at Hill Air Force Base in Utah to attend a family funeral in Abilene, Texas, but the storm slowed them down so badly that they had to take refuge at the Comfort

Inn in Garden City, Kan. "We've been traveling

about 20 miles per hour all the way from Denver," Haltli said Tuesday. She said they had passed up to 15 wrecks including rollovers, upside down cars and jackknifed trucks as they drove through Colorado.

"I don't think we'll be able to make the funeral, but we'll keep going," she said.

Colorado Highway Patrol trooper Nate Reid said the freezing rain and fog came in so fast on Monday that it caught a lot of drivers unaware.

"I can't even count how many rollovers we had," Reid said.

Snowpack and icy conditions

forced the closure of roadways across western and southwestern Kansas, including a western section of the I-70, the main thoroughfare that traverses the state.

"Southwest Kansas is pretty much shut down completely," Derek Latham, a dispatcher for the Kansas Highway Patrol in Salina said early Tuesday. "I have one trooper who

See **STORM**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

William Kirk Davis



William Kirk Davis, 63, passed away peacefully Dec. 18, 2011, at home surrounded by loved ones. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Linda Fowler Davis; daughter, Natalie Mueller and husband Bryan, daughter Lesley Davis and husband William Chad Harrison; grandsons, Nicholas and Bennett Mueller; brothers, Donald Davis and wife Lynne and Douglas Davis and wife Sandra; mother-in-law, Ruby Fowler; and brothers-in-law, Gene Woodrow Fowler and James Kenneth Fowler. He leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, George R. Davis and Beatrice K. Davis.

The family will receive friends for visitation from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011, at Cypress-Fairbanks Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011, at 7 p.m. at Cypress-Fairbanks Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, family requests donations be made to your favorite charity in honor of Bill.
Paid obituary

G.W. Martin Jr.

G.W. Martin Jr., 80, of Ackerly died Monday, Dec. 19, 2011, in a Dallas hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

John Lee Mondey



John Lee Mondey, 70, of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Mona Lue Tonn, pastor of Spring Tabernacle, officiating.

He was born March 16, 1941, at La Pryor, Texas, to Hattie and John Mondey. He married Joyce Hutchins on Dec. 22, 1964, in Midland. They moved to Big Spring in 1969. He was a truck driver for Fina, and later, Chemical Express. He was a member of Spring Tabernacle.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Hutchins of Big Spring, and several nieces and nephews.

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

Charlie Voight

Charlie Voight, 92, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 19, 2011, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Sheriff

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

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

• STACY LYNN PENDLETON, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of failure to comply with sex offender registration within 90 days (two counts).

• MICHAEL NEAL ROBERTS, 40, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of expired registration and failure to appear.

• BILLY CRAIG HEAP, 61, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on charges of driving while

See SHERIFF, Page 3A

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Police blotter

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

• TRISITAN D'KOVAN CLAY, 18, of 3701 Dixon, was arrested Monday on a warrant for criminal mischief.

• JAKE ALLEN VALENCIA, 25, of 823 W. Seventh St., was arrested Monday on warrants for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).

• TONY DELAGARZA, 46, of 1002 E. 16th St., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

• MICHAEL NEAL ROBERTS, 40, of 2500 Cheyenne, was arrested Monday on warrants for expired registration and failure to appear.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

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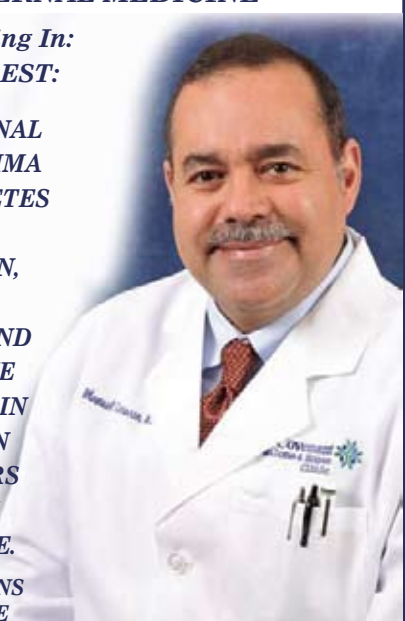
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast				
Wed 12/21	Thu 12/22	Fri 12/23	Sat 12/24	Sun 12/25
 58/35 Abundant sunshine. High 58F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.	 59/30 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 42/25 Occasional showers possible. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	 52/28 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	 49/28 Sunny. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 5:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 5:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM

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Texas At A Glance



STORM

Continued from Page 1A

almost went into a ditch this morning, and he came across four other cars that went into a ditch. That was just this morning.”

The storm was blamed for at least six deaths Monday, authorities said. Four people were killed when their vehicle collided with a pickup truck in part of eastern New Mexico where blizzard-like conditions are rare, and a prison guard and inmate died when a prison van crashed along an icy roadway in eastern Colorado.

The late-autumn snowstorm lumbered into the region Monday, turning roads to ice and reducing visibility to zero. The conditions put state road crews on alert and had motorists taking refuge and early exits off major roads across the region.

In northern New Mexico, snow and ice shuttered all roads from Raton to the Texas and Oklahoma borders about 90 miles away. Hotels in Clayton, N.M., just east of where the three states touch, were nearly full. Multiple highways remained closed early Tuesday.

Linda Pape, general manager of the Clay-

ton Super 8 motel said it was packed with unhappy skiers who had been headed to lodges in Colorado and elsewhere in New Mexico.

“They lost a day or two of skiing, and they had budgeted an amount of money they were going to spend, and now they have to spend more staying somewhere else,” she said.

Pape said it’s not uncommon for skiers to get stuck in Clayton during the winter, and she keeps two freezers and a refrigerator stocked in case roads are closed.

“They are not happy, but we are not letting them go hungry,” she said.

The storm came after much of the country had a relatively mild fall. With the exception of the October snowstorm blamed for 29 deaths on the East Coast, there’s been little rain or snow. Many of the areas hit Monday enjoyed relatively balmy 60-degree temperatures just 24 hours earlier.

Snowfall tapered off early Tuesday in the Oklahoma Panhandle, although the weather service warned of blowing snow and single digit temperatures later after dark. Up to a foot of snow fell in Boise City, Okla.

Readers,

During this holiday period, the *Herald* will adjust its schedule and hours in order to allow employees to enjoy time with their families and friends.

The *Herald* will publish a paper Friday and Sunday as usual (though Sunday’s edition may arrive a bit earlier than normal) but will not publish a Monday edition. The newspaper office will be closed Saturday through Monday.

The staff at the *Herald* wishes you a very Merry Christmas.

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2A

intoxicated – second offense and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• ANTHONY DELAGARZA, 46, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of N.E. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Cornell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

BROWN

Continued from Page 1A

Bloom confirmed Monday that local resident M.O. Horton has filed to run against Parker for the office of sheriff, however, repeated attempts to reach both Horton and Howard County Republican Party Chairman Craig Bailey were unsuccessful.

While the filing period to run for office in this year’s primaries came to a close Monday evening, state officials have declared there will be one last chance for political hopefuls who want to toss their hats in the ring in 2012.

Filing deadlines, along with other key election dates, have been changed several times since lawsuits regarding election district

boundaries were filed in three federal courts.

U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia, on behalf of a three-judge panel in federal court in San Antonio, said candidates will have yet another opportunity to file for office once the boundaries are made final.

“The court will reopen the filing period at a later time, at which time applications may be filed, amended or withdrawn,” Garcia said in the four-page order.

Unfortunately, no one knows when the trial will end, leaving members of the election community with only the closing date of the deadline — Feb. 1 — to concentrate on.

FILING

Continued from Page 1A

Mark Briseno and Kenny Stewart will try to unseat the incumbent commissioner.

Precinct 3 incumbent Bobby Holland has also filed to run for re-election on the Republican card, drawing a lone challenger at this time in Martin County resident Jody Yates, who is also running as a GOP candidate.

Martin County Sheriff John Woodward also filed to run for re-election for his position. Woodward has yet to draw a challenger at this time.

County Attorney James J. Napper and Tax Assessor and Collector Kathy Hull have also filed to run for re-election of their respective positions, with neither drawing an opponent.

The unexpired term for the position of district/county clerk — previously held by longtime clerk Susie Graham — who retired from the position in August — will be on the ballot, according to Castro. Martin County resident Sharon Jones has filed to run for the position and is currently unopposed.

All incumbent and unopposed candidates are running on the Republican ticket, according to Castro.

While Martin County

will have at least two contested races when the primaries arrive, Glasscock County may not have to worry about any local contests.

According to Glasscock County Clerk Susie Hillger, none of the positions up for grabs have been contested thus far.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Jimmy Strube and Precinct 3 Commissioner Gary Jones have both filed to run for re-election — both on the Republican ticket — with no challengers yet filed, according to Hillger.

Tax Assessor Nancy Hillger, Sheriff Keith Burnett and Constable Mark Frysak have also filed to run for re-election, all unopposed at this time.

Another chance to file to run in the political party primaries is expected to be set by the state sometime in the coming month, depending on the outcome of the ongoing trial regarding the redistricting of state lines.

For more information on Martin County elections, contact Castro at 432-607-3580. For more information on Glasscock County elections, contact Hillger at 432-354-2371.

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

the air.”

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John Lee Monday, 70, died Friday. Graveside services will be 2:00 P.M. Wednesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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In observation of Christmas the following Institutions will observe the following hours:

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State National Bank
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Happy Holidays!

A kestrel regains its composure

The heaviest bathrobe was no match for the gust of wind that greeted me as I left the protection of our garage to venture toward the morning paper. Shivering as another swirl of leaves cavorted in the driveway, I grabbed the latest news and hurried back indoors.

Agreeing this Saturday morning would be blustery and cold, the local radio station and the TV weatherman promised December could anticipate more of the same.

The house was quiet as our morning progressed. Having finished my weekly column led to my unwrapping the contents of a box that held everything from angels to toy soldiers.

Following lunch would be an opportune time to decorate our Christmas tree. With each special ornament came fond memories.

Soon, strewn across the den couch were the symbols of the season. Each would brighten the room with its individual presence. As I looked for a tiny wooden train, the phone



Courtesy photo

Tipping the scales at 3 to 4 ounces, the American kestrel has a wingspan of nearly 24 inches that enables it to glide, or hover, in place. Its life depends upon its ability to adapt to changing seasons and available food sources, such as small reptiles, mice, birds, and insects.

rang.

Distraught, a woman tried to describe a bird that had flown into her window. Stunned by the impact, it had fallen to the porch. As if in a daze, it stood frozen. Its deep, black eyes detected no nearby movements.

Willing to see if the bird could recover without our intervention, she promised to keep in touch. Within the hour, she called to say it acted as if "it was out of it."

Forty-five minutes later the phone rang again. While encouraged that it had flown across the street, she added it did so while close to the ground.

Continuing her vigil, the woman later called to say it had been standing on the grass beside the gymnasium for more than an hour. "It's a good thing we don't have much traffic on this part of Johnson Street. I've been afraid somebody might bother it."

From her descriptions of its efforts to recover, we decided we'd better go see for ourselves if the bird needed help. Loading a pole net, carrier, and a tightly rolled 36 feet of netting, we could only anticipate what might happen.

If we had to attempt to capture a bird on the grounds of Runnels Ju-

nior High, equipment, stamina and lots of luck would be involved. We didn't know if we could be successful.

Parking curbside on the east side of the campus, we were across the street and parallel to a male, American kestrel. Buffeting its feathers, and threatening to blow it over, the wintry gale was stymied by the little falcon's ability to head into the wind.

If unable to elevate, the small raptor could have suffered a bruised wing. Recovery would take three to four days. Another possibility was a hairline fracture. The bird of prey would be inactive and unable to hunt for some time.

As we watched from this distance, the winds occasionally rocked our vehicle. Realizing we needed to discover if a rescue was warranted, Art opened the driver's side of our truck.

Suddenly alert, the kestrel quickly glanced at its surroundings. The click of my door caused its wings to spread. Suddenly, it was airborne.

The lift from the swirling winds helped carry it in a circle over our heads and back toward the building.

Although long ago the architect had designed an elegant entry facing north, the street-side facing east had also been given attention. Four rectangular recesses for windows, topped with decorative brick within the wall itself, were both

understatement and a graceful method of highlighting an otherwise dull façade.

Gliding to the bottom part of one of these, the kestrel quickly gripped the rough surface of a brick windowsill with his slender toes and needle-sharp talons. Upset by our presence, the kestrel greeted us with a high-pitched protest. "Killy, killy, killy," was repeated several times as if to warn others. Using its tail not only for balance, it pumped it up and down as a means of expressing its disdain.

Even with the wind pounding us, we were once again in awe of one of our favorite species. Atop his bluish-gray crown was the typical rusty patch. Two black stripes accented the sides of his white face.

The terra cotta color of his back was barred with black. Adorned with black spots was his buff-colored belly. With his rufous tail ending with a broad, black band tipped with white, he was handsome indeed. Hopefully, his slate-blue wings tapered toward his black primaries would carry him away from the building and us.

Leaping from the narrow ledge and circling the area again, the kestrel landed in about the same spot. Moments passed. Having gained confidence, he defied the northerly gusts and headed east with his

BIRD POOP

By BEBE McCASLAND



narrow pointed wings controlling his destiny.

Landing in a large elm behind one of the homes, he had used nature's remedy for becoming airborne. Knowing where he wanted to go, he had allowed its sustained winds to propel him to the safety of the nearby foliage.

After a few minutes, he flew to a neighbor's tree. Much like the stately, three-story schoolhouse to the west and the gymnasium, the American kestrel was a survivor. While humans had determined the structures' preservation, nature had equipped the little raptor with an adaptability to ensure its survival.

Knowing the kestrel could hunt the surrounding alleys and easements for mice, or pounce upon unsuspecting sparrows, we wished him well and a Merry Christmas. Shortly after that, he disappeared into the tree's welcoming cover.

Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop From Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Memories of Christmas past

We all have memories of Christmas. Some may not be as good as others, but the memories are still there.

As parents, we are in the business of making memories for our children. The memories we give them will endure for the rest of their lives; now that is an awesome responsibility. So as we consider

the things we are doing we should ask ourselves, are these things worth remembering?

Are the memories I am in the process of creating the things I want my children to keep in their memory banks and possibly share with their children someday? Take a moment to collect your thoughts and do a bit of

remembering. What do you remember about Christmas?

I remember going to the Christmas tree farm and walking endlessly in the freezing cold until we found the perfect tree and tying it to the top of our car to take home. I remember the trouble of getting the tree to stand straight and working with mom to decorate it with shiny ornaments, tinsel and angel hair then putting the gifts we had around the bottom.

I remember sneaking around to watch my grandmother as she surveyed the gifts around the tree to see which was hers and I remember doing the same thing when she wasn't watching. I remember our church having special services prior to Christmas to prepare us with knowledge of the reason we celebrated the season.

I remember our family traditions of sitting in a large circle and hearing the Christmas story read and giving thanks for the true meaning of Christmas. Then the ceremony of gift opening on Christmas Eve and each

PARENT'S CORNER

By DARRELL RYAN



person waiting his turn to open the next gift and wondering who it was from. I remember listening to my favorite Christmas songs and singing along with them.

I remember helping my mom make cookies and getting to clean the last of the batter off the mixing bowl. I remember a clump of mistletoe that was always hung above the doorway and watching people trying to avoid walking under it.

I remember singing Christmas carols at the nursing home, watching the old folks sing along with us, and smiling as it filled my heart with gladness. I remember Christmas day meal when our family got together with our extended family to give thanks for the occasion and eat until we were totally filled

See RAN, Page 6A

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

EAST
♠ Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♥ —
♦ 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 discards to dummy with a trump to discard his diamond loser on the good club.

Tomorrow: Commonsensory perception.
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Merry Christmas

Holiday Services

Christmas Eve - 6 pm
Christmas Day - 10:15 am

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Bowl Games

At this time of year, newspapers and TV trumpet the excitement of college football teams competing in bowl games!

In 1923, when the Tournament of Roses annual football game in Pasadena, CA moved into a new, bowl-shaped stadium, the game

became known as the Rose Bowl. The term "bowl" has been used to describe championship games ever since.

Back to Back to Back ...

One team earned a spot to play in 35 bowl games in 35 years, the longest consecutive bowl game record. Fill in the missing vowels to reveal this team's name.

N _ BR _ SK _
C _ RNH _ SK _ RS

How many footballs can you find on this page?

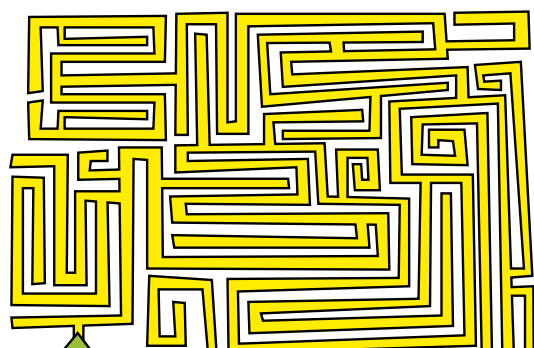
Go Team

College football fans are known for their intense team loyalty. How many differences can you find?



Most Wins Which college team has won the most bowl games? Cross out the word FOOTBALL each time it appears below. The remaining letters reveal the answer.

FOOTBALLUFOOTBALLNIFOOTBALLVEFOOTBALL
FOOTBALLRSIFOOTBALLTYOFOOTBALLFFOOTBALL
SOFOOTBALLTFOOTBALLHFOOTBALLERFOOTBALL
NFOOTBALLCALFOOTBALLIFFOOTBALLOFOOTBALL
RFOOTBALLNIFOOTBALLA



Which team has played in the most bowl games? The maze leads to the answer.

Map It! Today, more than 30 college bowl games are played across the United States in December and January. Below are just some of them. Draw a line from each of the bowl games listed below to the state in which that game is played.

Standards Links: Geography: Use map skills to find the location of places.

Notre Dame Fighting Irish
Alabama Crimson Tide

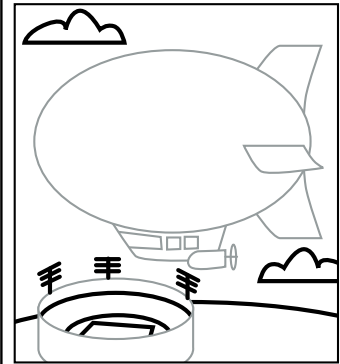
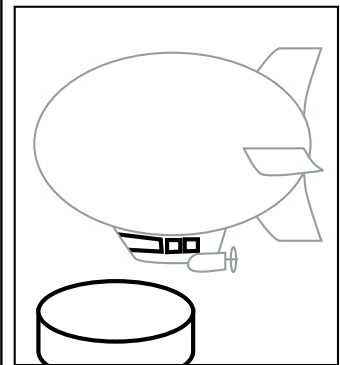
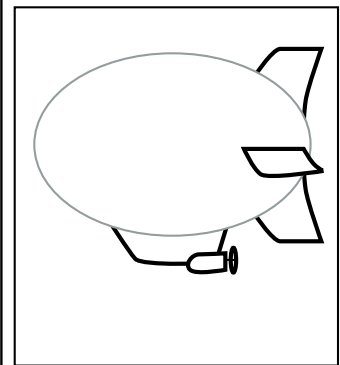
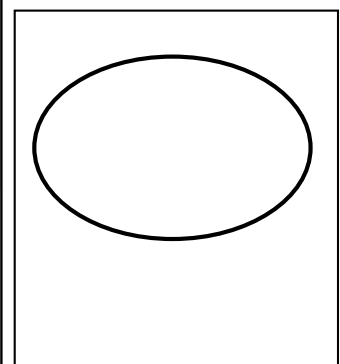
Extra! Extra!
Football Finder
Look through the newspaper to find these football-related words:

- DEFENSE
- GAME
- HELMET
- PENALTY
- GOAL
- FIELD
- WIN
- STADIUM

Standards Links: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Let's Draw It!

Blimps fly over football stadiums with onboard cameras providing spectacular overhead views of the crowd. Follow these simple steps to draw a blimp of your own!



Go to www.kidscoop.com/kids to learn how to draw a football player, a cheerleader and a crazy football fan, too!

Standards Links: Visual Arts: Know how different media and processes communicate ideas.

Kid Scoo-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word TEAMS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

	S		M	
E				T
	T			
M				
			A	

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Find the two identical tickets.

Standards Links: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double Double Word Search

TOURNAMENT
FOOTBALL
COLLEGE
JANUARY
STADIUM
HELMET
GAMES
ROSES
FIELD
BOWL
FANS
TEAM
GOAL
NAME
WIN

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

E	X	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	F
T	E	M	L	E	H	O	T	O	M
C	I	T	L	S	S	E	O	F	U
B	I	A	N	E	A	T	N	I	I
N	O	A	S	M	B	I	A	E	D
G	F	W	G	A	W	F	M	L	A
O	O	T	L	G	B	A	E	D	T
C	O	L	L	E	G	E	L	L	S
T	N	E	M	A	N	R	U	O	T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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Teamwork in the News

A successful football team works together to achieve victory. Find a news story about people who disagree about something. List ways they could work together to reach a solution.

Standards Links: Behavioral Studies: Understand that different groups have different ways of meeting similar wants and needs.

Why did the quarterback throw a slice of pie across the dining room?

ANSWER: He decided to pass on dessert.

Write On!

2012 Goals

What do you hope to accomplish in 2012? Make a list of 10 things and post the list somewhere where you'll see it often.

Man locked in Pa. cellar: I never saw gov't checks

MARYCLAIRE DALE,

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A mentally disabled man said he had nowhere else to go in 2001 when he and his high school sweetheart moved in with a paroled killer — who had starved a man to death in her closet.

A decade later, Edwin Sanabria, 31, and Tamara Breeden, 29, were found emaciated and sporting dozens of scars between them, according to photographs shown in court on Monday.

Breeden bears most of them, with scars, welts and bruises marking most of her body, especially her scalp, along with her cauliflower ears.

Spectators gasped Monday when grim hospital photographs of the couple and two other victims were shown in court at the preliminary hearing of Linda Ann Weston, the convicted killer who's accused of kidnapping disabled adults in a widespread fraud and abuse scheme.

Sanabria, the first victim to testify, said Weston took him to a Social Security office soon after he moved in and took over his financial affairs. He said he never again saw his \$674 monthly Social Security checks or food stamp card.

Police said they found dozens of identification cards, Social Security cards, power of attorney papers and other forms when they arrested Weston, who also had taken in a disabled niece who received government benefits.

Sanabria, along with Breeden and others, moved with Weston and other people among Philadelphia and Killeen, Texas, West Palm Beach, Fla., and Norfolk, Va., over the past decade. They often were one step ahead of stiffed landlords or the law, according to investigators in Philadelphia, who arrested Weston and three other people on Oct. 15, the day a landlord said he stumbled upon Sanabria, Breeden and two other people in a basement boiler room.

One of the disabled men was chained to a boiler,

behind a door with a chain on the outside. Sanabria testified they had been kept there for 10 days, using a bucket for a bathroom and being fed just once or twice a day.

Weston's daughter had an apartment upstairs. Sanabria spent several exhausting hours on the witness stand Monday, describing the years he spent with Weston and a crew that, by his account, became family.

Under questioning from Weston's lawyer, he conceded he was never forced to move with them or give her control of his finances.

"Everybody moved as if you were a family, right?" Weston attorney George S. Yacoubian Jr. asked.

"Right," Sanabria replied. "At any point during the last 10 years when you were living with Linda, did you ever scream for help?" the lawyer asked.

"No," he replied. But he said he was not allowed to go outside without permission and was typically kept in a locked basement, attic or closet.

Weston's boyfriend, Gregory Thomas, adult daughter, Jean McIntosh, and Eddie "the Reverend Ed" Wright also are charged in the case.

Sanabria testified that Weston, Thomas and, less often, Wright beat some of the victims with bare hands or weapons that included bats, chains and extension cords.

Wright did so at Weston's command, Sanabria said. And he acknowledged that he, too, frequently beat Breeden and fellow victim Drwin McLemire when Weston told him to.

Sanabria had three children with Breeden, including a 5-year-old girl and 3-year-old boy who lived with the group in recent years. But he did not know the girl, nicknamed Little L, for Little Linda, was his daughter until he read it in a newspaper, which reported the results of DNA tests done on children taken in by authorities after the arrests,

he said.

He had been told his daughter had died and the girl was Weston's, he said.

"I didn't understand she was mine," Sanabria testified.

The preliminary hearing was set to continue Tuesday with testimony from two more witnesses, perhaps some of the other victims. The others include Herbert Knowles, 40, of Norfolk, Va., and McLemire, 41, of North Carolina.

More than a dozen relatives of the victims, including Breeden's two aunts and a sister, attended the hearing. They said her health is improving, but declined to say where she is staying. The victims had initially been in protective custody.

"That's horrible to treat a human being like an animal," Sanabria's half-brother, Guillermo Burgos, of Willow Grove, said during a break. "The next step would have been to kill them."

The suspects, all from Philadelphia, remain in custody. They haven't entered pleas.

Weston showed little emotion during the hearing, looking bored at times, although McIntosh frequently suggested to her lawyer that he challenge the testimony.

Common Pleas Judge Patrick Dugan will determine Tuesday if there's enough evidence to send the case to trial. The charges include kidnapping, aggravated assault, custodial interference, theft by deception and neglect of a care-dependent person.

The victims have the mental capacity of 10-year-olds, authorities have said.

Police Officer John Murphy testified Monday about finding them and leading them out after the landlord cut Knowles' chain. He said they seemed unaccustomed to the daylight.

"The stench in the room and on their person was unbearable," Murphy said.

Asked to describe it, he said, "Basically, death."

Texas news in brief

Papers of writer Dunne to University of Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The professional and personal papers of late writer Dominick Dunne have been acquired by the University of Texas at Austin.

The school on Monday announced the donated documents will be part of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, as part of the center's media collection.

The center is also home to the personal papers of journalists Walter Cronkite, Morley Safer, Harry Reasoner, Andy Rooney and Dan Rather.

Dunne, a journalist and novelist who also wrote for Vanity Fair magazine and appeared on Court TV, died in 2009.

He covered a number of high-profile celebrity trials including O.J. Simpson, Phil Spector and Claus von Bulow.

An exhibit of select items from Dunne's work will open at the Dolph Briscoe Center in April.

Instructor dead in plane crash near Denton airport

DENTON (AP) — Police say a flight instructor has died and two student pilots survived the crash of a small plane returning to a North Texas airport.

Denton police Officer Ryan Grelle says searchers located the wreckage shortly before 6 a.m. Tuesday, northwest of Denton Municipal Airport.

Controllers lost contact with the Cessna 172 around 1:45 a.m. Tuesday. Grelle says the plane, from U.S. Aviation Academy of Denton, had done a training flight to San Antonio.

Grelle says a survivor, located walking to get help, had head and leg injuries. The instructor was dead at the scene. The second student was in the wreckage.

Both survivors were taken to a Fort Worth hospital. No details were available on their conditions.

5 killed in plane crash in central Texas

BRYAN (AP) — Five people, including two children, were killed when a single-engine plane crashed in central Texas and authorities say weather may have played a role in the crash.

Ernest Contreras of the Texas Department of Public Safety says the crash happened Monday night just before 10 p.m. in a farming and ranching community in Brazos County.

Everyone aboard the plane was killed. Contreras says the flight originated in Atlanta, stopped in Jackson, Miss., and was headed for Waco, Texas, when it crashed.

Contreras says severe weather that had been moving through the area may have played a role in the crash but authorities were still investigating.

Judge to decide if Stanford competent for trial

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge will hear testimony on whether jailed Texas financier R. Allen Stanford is competent to stand trial next month.

Medical experts and others are expected to testify Tuesday in Houston federal court on Stanford's mental state.

Stanford has been under treatment at a federal prison hospital in North Carolina for an anti-anxiety drug addiction he developed while jailed in Houston.

Prosecutors say doctors at the hospital have declared Stanford competent.

However, his attorneys say his addiction, as well as a brain injury suffered in a jail fight, have left him unable to think clearly or aid his own defense.

Stanford is accused of bilking investors out of \$7 billion in a massive Ponzi scheme.

Stanford's trial is set for Jan. 23.

JFK's hearse to be sold at Dallas auction

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — An auction house specializing in collectible classic cars plans to auction the hearse used to carry the body of President John F. Kennedy from a Dallas hospital to Air Force One.

In a statement issued Monday, Barrett-Jackson Auction Co. of Scottsdale, Ariz., announced a Jan. 21 auction of the 1964 Cadillac hearse.

O'Neal Funeral Home of Dallas used the hearse to bring a bronze casket to the hospital on Nov. 22, 1963, the day of Kennedy's assassination, then carried the casket containing the president's body to Love Field.

Earlier this year, Barrett-Jackson auctioned the ambulance used to carry the slain president's body from Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base to the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Up to 500 million Texas trees died from drought

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A preliminary state estimate says as many as a half-billion trees died this year across Texas from the drought persisting across much of the state.

The Texas Forest Service said in a statement Monday that its foresters estimated that 100 million to 500 million trees died in the 2011 drought.

The forest service preliminary estimates found three areas to be hardest hit.

One, in Sutton, Crockett, Kimble and Pecos counties in West Texas, saw an extensive die-off of Ashe junipers.

Another, in Harris, Montgomery, Grimes, Madison and Leon counties of Southeast Texas, saw a big die-off of loblolly pines.

Meanwhile, Bastrop and Caldwell counties in Central Texas saw big losses of cedars and post oaks.

State sues fundraisers for Highway Patrol Museum

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas attorney general's office has obtained a restraining order against organizations behind the Texas Highway Patrol Museum in San Antonio.

The attorney general's office also obtained a freeze on the assets of the organizations.

The lawsuit filed in Austin accuses the Texas Highway Patrol Association and two affiliated groups of illegally soliciting charitable donations. It also accuses the groups of falsely asserting that donations it receives would benefit families of fallen state police officers.

Instead, the lawsuit alleges that proceeds of charitable contributions were used for personal purposes, including meals, in-house pet care, entertainment and unauthorized travel.

RYAN

Continued from Page 1A

of Grandma's turkey and dressing and pumpkin pie and mom's special potatoes, green beans homemade bread and lemon pie.

I also remember my mom sharing her memory of Christmas, which was different than mine. Her mom had died when she was young and her Christmas gift was usually either an apple or an orange and on special occasions she might get both. That certainly made me aware of how truly fortunate I was.

And I will never forget how my mom's eyes would literally light up when she watched me open my gifts and it was only when I had kids

of my own that I truly understood this.

Santa would come to visit me on Christmas Eve so when I awoke on Christmas morning I would discover his gift.

It was never a large gift, but it was always something I really wanted to have. I miss those days, but I love the traditions that were established for me to remember and to continue as part of my gift to my kids.

As we are creating Christmas memories for our families let's remember the greatest of memories is love and really that's what Christmas is all about. Merry Christmas to all of you.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

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Congress moves toward standoff over payroll tax

WASHINGTON (AP) — Partisan to the core, Congress careened toward a holiday-season standoff Monday on legislation to prevent a Social Security payroll tax increase for 160 million workers on Jan. 1.

"It's time to stop the nonsense. We can resolve these differences and we can do it in a way that provides certainty for job creators and others," said Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. A House vote was set for Tuesday to seek negotiations on a compromise to renew the cuts through 2012, a rejection of the bipartisan two-month extension that cleared the Senate over the weekend.

In an acid response, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid accused Boehner of risking a tax increase for millions "just because a few angry tea partiers raised their voices." The Nevada Democrat ruled out new negotiations until the two-month measure is enacted.

That left the two parties approaching Christmas-week gridlock over an effort to pass core elements of President Barack Obama's jobs program — renewal of the tax cuts and long-term unemployment benefits — that Republican and Democratic leaders alike say they favored.

It was the latest and likely the last such partisan confrontation in a year of divided government that brought the Treasury to the brink of a first-ever default last summer, and more than once pushed the vast federal establishment to the edge of a partial shutdown.

This time, unlike the others, Republican divisions were prominently on display.

The two-month measure that cleared the Senate, 89-10, on Saturday had the full support of the GOP leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell, who also told reporters he was optimistic the House would sign on. Senate negotiators had tried to agree on a compromise to cover a full year, but were unable to come up with enough savings to offset the cost and prevent deficits from rising.

The two-month extension was a fallback, and officials say that when McConnell personally informed Boehner and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of the deal at a private meeting, they said they would check with their rank and file.

But on Saturday, restive House conservatives made clear during a telephone conference call that they were unhappy with the measure.

"I've never seen us so

unified," Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, said as he left a two-hour, closed-door meeting Monday night where Republicans firmed up their plans. He said the payroll tax cut that has been in effect this year failed to create any jobs, but favored extending it for another 12 months because "it's tough to

raise taxes when you're in a down economy."

But House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said Republicans were "walking away from a tax cut." And Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, a member of the party leadership, accused Boehner of "claiming to support something and then

sending it to a legislative graveyard where it never sees the light of day."

Not surprisingly, the White House weighed in on the side of Obama's Democratic allies.

Spokesman Jay Carney said Boehner was for the two-month stopgap bill "before he was against it" — a

claim that the House speaker flatly denied.

Ironically, until the House rank and file revolted, it appeared that Republicans had outmaneuvered Obama on one point.

The two-month measure that cleared the Senate required him to decide within 60 days to allow construction on a

proposed oil pipeline that promises thousands of construction jobs. Obama had threatened to veto legislation that included the requirement, then did an about face.

The president recently announced he was delaying a decision on the pipeline until after the 2012 elections.

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

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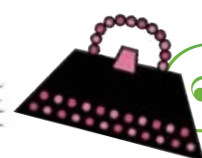
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Rangers win negotiating rights to Japanese ace

NEW YORK (AP) — After losing a pair of aces in the last two years, the Texas Rangers are going global to land a new one.

Winner of consecutive AL pennants, Texas also won the Yu Darvish sweepstakes Monday night with a record bid of \$51.7 million. Now, the Rangers get 30 days to negotiate a contract with Darvish that would put Japan's best pitcher at the top of their rotation.

"Obviously, it's a very exciting night for our organization, our fans and our community," general manager Jon Daniels said on a conference call.

Major League Baseball announced that the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters of Japan's Pacific League accepted the highest bid for Darvish. That sealed offer was submitted under the posting system by the Rangers.

"Our ownership went the extra mile on this one," Daniels said, declining to reveal specifics.

A person familiar with the details said the winning bid by Texas was \$51.7 million — more than the \$51.1 million posting fee the Boston Red Sox paid for Daisuke Matsuzaka in 2006. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the figure was not made public.

Yahoo Sports and The New York Times reported the amount first.

Darvish is considered the best pitcher in the Japanese professional leagues and several of baseball's biggest spenders were thought to be interested in him.

If the Rangers can close the deal, the 25-year-old right-hander would join a rotation that already includes five starters: Colby Lewis, Derek Holland, Matt Harrison,

Alexi Ogando and former closer Neftali Feliz, moved out of the bullpen when the club signed free-agent reliever Joe Nathan this offseason.

"If we're able to sign him (Darvish), then we'll have a very good problem on our hands," Daniels said.

It's a dynamic endeavor for the Rangers, buoyed by a lucrative television contract and back-to-back AL championships under a new ownership group led by Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan. But the team is still chasing its first World Series title — and Texas knows all too well that nothing is done until it is done.

Despite a serious effort, the Rangers were unable to resign star pitcher Cliff Lee following the 2010 season. They made it back to the World Series anyway and were within

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



AP file photo

The Texas Rangers have won the negotiating rights to Yu Darvish (11), generally considered the top professional pitcher in Japan.

49ers beat Big Ben, Steelers, 20-3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger threw a few extra passes in near darkness after the lights went out at Candlestick Park.

The additional throws were all for naught. Big Ben never found his groove playing on a bum ankle — and the San Francisco 49ers' top-ranked defense wasn't about to let the most unique of home-field advantages get away in a 20-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Monday night.

"Just wondering how

this happens at a professional stadium," Roethlisberger said of not one but two blackouts.

Monday Night Football nearly became a Monday Night Fiasco.

San Francisco's lights-out return to prime time helped salvage what could have been an embarrassing evening for everyone involved on the NFL's biggest stage after a pair of power outages delayed the game for close to 35 minutes in all.

"I just feel like San Francisco took a big step

to show the NFL and to show the state of California that they need a new stadium," Steelers safety Ryan Clark said. "I think it was a very strategic move, and Candlestick may be no more."

Good thing there's a state-of-the-art \$1 billion stadium in the works.

The 49ers rode stellar run defense once again to keep the ailing Roethlisberger off balance and maintain a hold on the NFC's No. 2 playoff seed and a first-round bye.

"Electric atmosphere tonight," tweeted team president Jed York — unclear if his pun was intended.

Vernon Davis caught a 1-yard touchdown pass for the 49ers (11-3) one play after setting himself up with a 21-yard reception from Alex Smith, Frank Gore had a 5-yard scoring run and David Akers kicked field goals of 22 and 38 yards to overtake Hall of Famer Jerry Rice for San Francisco's single-season scoring record.

"I think we showed

the world we can play the game of football on a national stage," Davis said. "At the end of the day that's what it's all about: respect."

The Steelers (10-4) missed a key chance to take sole possession of first place in the AFC North and hold of the AFC's top playoff spot.

Roethlisberger, playing on a sprained left ankle that had him in a walking boot during the week, threw two early interceptions and another in the waning minutes — and a couple

of light structures flickered as the final ticks elapsed.

Even all those Terrible Towel-waving Steelers supporters in the sellout crowd of 69,732 couldn't will their team when San Francisco had two blackout delays on its side.

"It's very frustrating to feel like you let down your team and your fans and your coaches. It's tough," Roethlisberger said. "I'm not going to make excuses. I played

See **49ers**, Page 2B

Sources: Joe Paterno out of hospital

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Joe Paterno has been released from the hospital and has shown improvement after being treated for lung cancer, a person close to the former Penn State coach's family said Monday.

ESPN, citing an anonymous source, first reported Paterno's release.

Paterno's tumor was showing substantial reduction following radiation and chemotherapy, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity Monday to The Associated Press due to the family's desire for privacy. He was released Sunday.

Paterno, who turns 85 on Wednesday, was admitted last week after breaking his pelvis again in a fall at home. Doctors kept him hospitalized to make it easier to administer cancer treatments while he recovered from the fracture.

He initially injured his pelvis and right shoulder in August after getting blindsided accidentally by a receiver during preseason practice. The injuries kept Paterno in the press box most of the season before trustees fired him Nov. 9 in the aftermath of child sex abuse charges against retired assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Paterno testified before a grand jury investigating Sandusky, but prosecutors have said he is not a target of the investigation. Sandusky, who has pleaded not guilty, is awaiting trial.

Paterno hasn't spoken publicly since his firing. He was diagnosed with cancer several days later during a follow-up visit to the doctor for a bronchial illness, his family has said.

The person close to the family told the AP on Monday that Paterno was in great spirits while continuing to fight the illness.

Earlier Monday, Penn State fullback Michael Zordich said a few players visited Paterno in recent weeks.

"He's a strong person, a fighter, a leader," Zordich said before practice.

Stars skate past Anaheim

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars didn't get discouraged, even after giving up a three-goal lead.

Michael Ryder got the tiebreaking score at 6:42 of the third period, and the Stars went on to 5-3 victory over the Anaheim Ducks on Monday night.

With the game tied at 3-all, Ryder skated up the slot and converted Loui Eriksson's setup for Ryder's 11th of the season, firing high past goaltender Jonas Hiller.

"We just came up on the rush... and I was just trying to find an

open area in front," Ryder said. "Loui made a great pass to me. I just managed to beat Hiller high glove."

Eric Nystrom added an insurance goal for Dallas at 14:19 of the third.

Dallas' Alex Goligoski and Mike Ribeiro got power-play goals over a 24-second span in the second period. Brenden Morrow also connected for the Stars, who built a 3-0 lead before the Ducks rallied late in the second period.

But the Ducks couldn't carry that momentum into the final period, and fell to 0-9-3 in their last

12 on the road and 1-5-0 in their last six overall.

"I thought (the Ducks) took it to us in the last 10 (minutes of the second period), so our message between the second and third was, 'We can't do it with a strike of lightning, we have to make sure every line is going out there and working and working and we have to do it together,' and the guys did that for the last 20," Stars coach Glen Gulutzan said.

Anaheim's Teemu Selanne got his 648th career goal on the power

See **STARS**, Page 2B

Mistakes catch up to Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston coach Gary Kubiak saw this one coming.

The Texans (10-4) were still winning, even as the injuries mounted, but something wasn't right. The offense had lost some sharpness from earlier in the season, and the mistakes were piling up.

The shoddy play finally caught up to Houston in a 28-13 loss to Carolina on Sunday. The Panthers converted two of the Texans' three turnovers into touchdowns, led from touch to finish and snapped Houston's

seven-game winning streak.

"We've been sloppy with it and we have to get it fixed," Kubiak said. "That's what happens to you when you get that way."

The Texans play at Indianapolis (1-13) on Thursday night, and Kubiak is glad another game is coming so soon.

Houston has seven turnovers in its last two games after committing only 11 in its first 12. Arian Foster has lost three fumbles in four games, Ben Tate lost one against Cincinnati last week and rookie

T.J. Yates has thrown three interceptions in two games.

"We've got a lot of things to fix," Kubiak said, "and maybe just a quick turnaround is the thing."

The Texans escaped Cincinnati with a 20-19 victory on Dec. 11 and they clinched the AFC South later that day. Houston fans celebrated the victory and met the team at Reliant Stadium for a pep rally, while behind closed doors, Kubiak was deeply concerned at how his team had performed that day.

The Bengals jumped to

a 16-3 lead, generating 10 points from two turnovers in the first half. The defense stiffened and Yates saved the day with two gutsy drives in the fourth quarter.

Still, Kubiak emphasized protecting the ball in practice last week, putting his players in pads and testing the running backs in "gauntlet" drills.

"Obviously, it didn't help," Kubiak said, "so we'll have to get back in there."

Foster went over 100 yards for the sixth time

See **TEXANS**, Page 2B

Relieved Colts savor first win

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jim Caldwell had the same serious, intense look he always brings to Monday's news conference. He just sounded different. Less than 24 hours after eliminating the possibility of a winless season, Caldwell took a deep breath and sounded relieved that the Colts could finally focus on something else.

"Any time you get a win, it's good, and these guys have been working hard," Caldwell said. "The guys haven't been complaining, they've worked together, they've fought together,

so it's good to get a good result. I think it gives our guys a little bit of a lift."

The Colts (1-13) will take anything after this miserable season.

Peyton Manning hasn't played a down for the first time in his career and won't play in the final two games, either. Team vice chairman Bill Polian made that clear Sunday..

The loss of defensive captains Gary Brackett and Melvin Bullitt, to season-ending rotator cuff injuries in the first two weeks, left a huge void.

Coaches have had to constantly shuffle the offensive line and secondary, creating more holes, and it took 14 games and three different quarterbacks before the Colts posted their first win without Manning in 14 years. The last quarterback not named Manning to win in a Colts jersey was Jim Harbaugh.

Indy went 50 weeks between victories, losing 14 straight including last January's loss to the Jets. Worse, they didn't even have a lead for more than 500 minutes of game action this season.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

this season, but he fumbled on the second play of the game, and the Panthers promptly took a 7-0 lead.

"I think that's three on the year for me and I think I had three last year, so I think it stops here," he said. "You know, I'm not going to let my team down no more."

Yates, meanwhile, finally looked like a fifth-round pick after an otherwise impressive start to his pro career. Pressed into action following injuries to starter Matt Schaub (right Lisfranc fracture) and backup Matt

Leinart (broken left collarbone), Yates completed his first eight passes on Sunday before throwing two interceptions.

Trailing 14-0, Houston faced a third down at the Carolina 43 when linebacker Jordan Senn intercepted Yates' pass to Kevin Walter. Cam Newton then guided the Panthers for another touchdown to drop the Texans into their largest deficit of the season.

"There's no real reason for what happened," said Yates, who was making his third career start. "I've just got to be able to see the game better — just go up to the line of scrimmage, delete decisions and kind of make pre-snap reads a little bit better, a little bit faster, so I can be more

comfortable in the pocket."

Linebacker James Anderson picked off another Yates' pass in the end zone midway through the fourth quarter. Yates slowly walked to the bench after the play and sat down next to quarterbacks coach Greg Knapp. He was quickly surrounded by Schaub, moving around on crutches, and backup quarterback Jake Delhomme, who was signed before the Atlanta game two weeks ago.

Yates likes getting input from so many voices.

"We just kind of talk stuff out," Yates said. "The guys have good things to say and stuff to put in my ear, just to move on, move to the next play. They're very helpful on the sideline."

49ERS

Continued from Page 1B

a bad football game, I turned the ball over and that one's on me."

San Francisco became the first team in NFL history to hold an opponent without a rushing touchdown through each of the first 14 games.

"I also want to recognize our defense," 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said. "NFL record for not allowing a rushing touchdown in 14 games. I think that is huge."

Carlos Rogers, Dashon Goldson and Tarell Brown made interceptions, while Rookie of the Year candidate Aldon Smith had 2 1/2 sacks for San Francisco's stingy defense.

The 49ers also have gone 36 games without allowing a 100-yard rusher. Rashard Mendenhall had 15 carries

for 64 yards.

"This team has really become a team," Harbaugh said. "I'm really proud of them for that."

Roethlisberger still finished 25 for 44 for 330 yards, but was sacked three times. After his second pick, he fumed as he limped off the field and could be seen yelling into his chin strap.

The 49ers made a big statement in their most meaningful home game since their last trip to the playoffs in January 2003, when San Francisco came from behind to stun the New York Giants 39-38 in one of the greatest comebacks in NFL history.

"It was probably the biggest home game since I've been here," Alex Smith said.

They had to wait 20 minutes to get started after the power went out the first time. It didn't seem to faze San Fran-

cisco.

"It wasn't too bad. It was unusual," said Alex Smith, who went 18 for 31 for 187 yards. "You don't expect to have to deal with it, and it happened twice. But it was the same for both teams."

Smith wasn't sacked after being taken down 18 times in the previous three games, including nine in the Niners' prime time flop at Baltimore on Thanksgiving night against Jim Harbaugh's big brother, John.

Jim Harbaugh prepared for the Steelers by comparing notes with his brother after the Ravens won both meetings this season with Pittsburgh in one of the AFC's fiercest rivalries.

The Steelers are 0-for-Harbaugh this season.

"I think we need to acknowledge that was 49er football tonight," Steelers coach Mike

Tomlin said. "We played the game on their terms."

The 37-year-old Akers, who long admired Rice from afar growing up in Kentucky, topped Rice's 1987 mark of 138 points.

Yet Akers has said he doesn't feel deserving of the points mark over a great such as Rice — who clowned around on the field before the game catching passes from fellow Hall of Famer and former QB Steve Young, including one in the end zone.

It was after Akers' second field goal when everything went dark for a second time. Thousands of flashbulbs went off in the midst of the black, with thousands of fans sitting in darkness — including all those Steelers fans who travel the country with their team.

NFL security chief Jeff Miller said he witnessed a transformer blow up while he was

monitoring a gate outside the stadium, where a shooting during the preseason already put a negative light on this venue.

The second delay came early in the second quarter and halted the game again between the playoff-bound teams for about 15 minutes. Miller and other NFL officials gathered in the press box to assess the situation, remaining in constant contact with the commissioner's office.

This was the 49ers' only Monday night game this season and their final regular-season home game at Candlestick Park. The NFL certainly will want to make sure there are no problems when San Francisco hosts a home playoff game next month as NFC West champions — and Miller said he remains confident Candlestick can capably host a playoff game.

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RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

one strike of winning it all — twice — before the St. Louis Cardinals rallied to take the trophy.

Then the Rangers lost their latest ace, C.J. Wilson, when the left-hander agreed to a \$77.5 million, five-year contract with the AL West rival Los Angeles Angels this month.

"Our commitment of our ownership is to put the best team out there. The last couple of years we just haven't been able to close it out,"

Daniels said.

Bidding for the posting fee closed last Wednesday, and the Ham Fighters had until 5 p.m. EST on Tuesday to accept.

The fee will be paid only if a contract agreement is reached with Darvish's agents, Arn Tellem and Don Nomura, MLB officials remarked..

If no deal is finalized, Darvish returns to the Fighters for another season.

Two months ago, the Rangers let a championship slip away. They don't want the same thing to happen with Darvish.

In a statement released before the conference call, the Rangers said they were "pleased and excited" to win the rights to negotiate with

Darvish.

Darvish, the son of an Iranian father and a Japanese mother, went 18-6 with a 1.44 ERA last season. He had 276 strikeouts to lead the Pacific League.

The Fighters gave him approval to negotiate with a major league club through the posting system. Matsuzaka and Ichiro Suzuki went to the majors under the same system.

Darvish pitched in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was a member of the Japanese national team that won the 2009 World Baseball Classic.

The 6-foot-5 Darvish has superb control and throws seven effective pitches.

It's expected he would make a front-line major league starter, though

the MLB track record of Japanese aces is shaky.

Darvish turned pro in 2005 at 18. His professional career got off to a rocky start when he was caught smoking in a pachinko parlor on an off day during his first spring training, despite not being old enough to legally smoke nor to gamble at the time.

In 2007, Darvish won the Eiji Sawamura Award presented to the top pitcher in Japanese professional baseball after posting a 15-5 record with a 1.82 ERA and a league-leading 210 strikeouts.

The Red Sox signed Matsuzaka in 2006 to a six-year, \$52 million contract, taking the total package — including the posting fee — to more than \$100 million.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

For the second time this year, Venus enters the altruistic realm of Aquarius. It's a breezy station for the love goddess, who will be more inclined toward friendship, philanthropy and socializing in groups than she will be interested in striking up a passionate romance. There is an endless number of ways to give your heart.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will befriend the friendless. Those who have been displaced or who are just wandering through will find a tender heart in you. You'll bring out the best qualities in others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As long as your expectations are reasonable and your to-do list is realistic and manageable, it will be a fine day for executing a series of successful

undertakings. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). The demands of your personal life are steep lately, and it might also be hard for you to see why your efforts matter. Friendships are important, but so is your sanity. Pull back. Strive for balance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Having a pleasant time with a loved one will not bring you as close as the shared thrill of risk and adventure. That's why an element of danger will be just the bonding agent you crave.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have a choice between investing in your life experiences and investing in material goods. Choose the former. The memories you make and the self-esteem you build will outlast possessions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll tell people what's in your heart. Many would consider this to be a difficult undertaking, but there are times when you're so overcome with feeling that it's the easiest thing in the world for you to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are usually comforted by patterns, and you easily sync your personal rhythms to the

routines of life. However, today you will benefit from a pattern interruption.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll raise your self-esteem by taking on a challenge. Whether or not you succeed will be irrelevant. You'll stretch, grow and think a little more of yourself through each part of your process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Volunteering takes many forms. You don't have to be involved with a nonprofit, church or charity in order to uplift humanity. Today you'll make a difference by giving your warmth, a listening ear and a smile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone wants to know about your process. Whether this is about a recipe, a way of working or a method of organizing your life, be judicious in the sharing of information. Your methods have real value.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be of great help and guidance. Others are depending on you — especially someone you know who is confused. This one needs to stop asking questions and stand in what is known. Help this person along.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While you

take the time to speculate, someone else rushes in to seize the moment. Watch and learn. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 20). Wherever you go this year, you'll make it your goal to bring joy to others and to find joy there, too. It's part of what makes you so popular. You have new passion and purpose for your work in January. June is like one long social experiment. You'll be involved with a group whose ideas you can really stand behind in May. Taurus and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 49, 3, 31, 20 and 15.

ARIES POWER RESOLUTION FOR 2012: If you make only one goal in the personal growth department this year, I strongly suggest this one: Rate yourself against your own standards, and do not look sideways to see how the next guy measures up.

The danger of comparing yourself to another person is that you know everything about yourself, good and bad — and the bad parts stand out in your mind, which is only human nature. All you know

about the other person is their social persona — the one in which they have covered up or compensated for all flaws. That is just a tiny slice of the whole picture and not nearly enough of a basis to make a fair comparison.

This singular goal of essentially minding your own business will flood your life with the happiness and confidence that can only come from knowing that you're good with you.

LUCKIEST DAYS OF THE YEAR: January 1, 2, 15; February 16, 17, 18; March 20, 21, 22; April 4, 10, 11; May 3, 20, 21; June 4, 5, 6; July 7, 30, 31; August 5, 6, 7; September 13, 14, 22; October 15, 16, 31; November 2, 9, 28; December 27, 28, 29.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: There seems to be an endless supply of new items pertaining to the personal life of Brad Pitt. As a member of the world's most famous multinational family, his status as a husband and father is constantly monitored and speculated upon, a fact of life that has become de rigueur for the Sagittarius superstar. With six planets in grounded earth signs, Pitt has the countenance to take it all in stride.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Dear Annie: I am a single mother of three, trying desperately to make ends meet. My paycheck is normally gone before I get back to work on Monday.

I've been trying to find a part-time job to supplement my income, to no avail. Since my annual salary is right above the poverty line, I do not qualify for government assistance. What little money my ex gives me is not enough. When I ask him for more, he subtracts it from the next month's support. Now that the holiday season is here, I'm sinking deep into depression. I have no extra money for a Christmas dinner, let alone presents.

There are several members of my family, as well as my ex's, who are well off, but no one offers or even asks if I could use some help. These people know my situation

is difficult. Many days I go without eating, and sometimes I can't cook dinner because there's nothing in the house to prepare. I've tried not to be bitter, but I can't help wondering what I have done in my life to be scrimping and barely able to get by when I see people in the grocery with carts full of food.

I'm under a doctor's care for depression, but my situation is really starting to get the best of me. I've been turned down for a raise at work. I'm not asking for handouts. What's a mother to do when no one is willing to help? — *Need a Bigger Piece of the Pie*

Dear Need a Bigger Piece: Can your child support be increased through the courts? It might be possible to adjust the payments. Is there a food depository in your area for which you

are eligible? Can you talk to your doctor about your medical bills or medication costs? Are your relatives aware of your financial situation? People don't offer to help if they don't realize help is needed or wanted. Also, you might be able to fine-tune your monthly budget with some assistance. Talk to your family, and also try the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (nfcc.org) at 1-800-388-2227.

Dear Annie: I have had it, umm, with people who, umm, cannot get a sentence out without saying "umm."

You would think educated people would not do this, but they seem to do it just as much as those with less education. I've heard both celebrities and college professors using "umm" when interviewed on the national news. Any

suggestions? — *Against Umm*

Dear Against: People tend to say "umm" as a way to process their thoughts before speaking, but it can become so habitual that they don't realize they are doing it. In order for this to change, a person must be aware of the habit and make an effort to stop. Unfortunately, we don't see this happening anytime soon. Sorry.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creator's Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2011 CREATORS.COM

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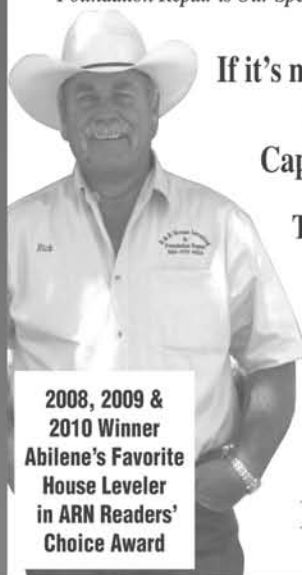
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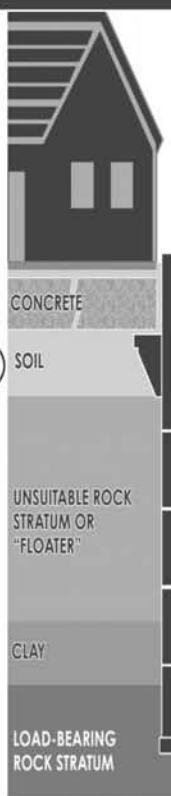
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Scrivner Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Toy, Scott Schwartz	Auction	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me Wheel	Two Men	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mark Blitz L. Moore	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dirty Jobs	Auction	Bones	Movie: Why Did I Get Married?, Jill Scott	Phineas ANT Farm	College Basketball: Sanford at Kentucky.	Football	
7:PM	Last Man	Familia-Suerte	Glee	NCIS	Una Maid en	Still Standing	Big Bang Upd	Lidia Cel-ebbrates	90210	The Best The Best	Movie: A Christmas Carol, Edward Woodward	Auction	Rizzoli & Isles	Movie: Deck the Halls	Reed Phineas	College Basketball: Butler at Gonzaga.	College Foot-ball: Beef 'O' Brady's St. Petersburg Bowl	
8:PM	Middle Suburg.	Fuerza-Des-tino	New Girl Raising	NCIS: Los Angeles	Flor Salvaje (SS)	SNL Presents: A Very Gilly Christmas	Big Bang Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Christmas at St. Olaf	Ringer	Dirty Jobs	Auction	Flip Men	Reed Phineas	Reed Shake It	Reed Austin	SportsCtr	
9:PM	Body of Proof	Aqui y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	Unforgettable	La Casa de al Lado	Sin Senos no	Big Bang Big Bang	Conan	Chevalme Dr.	Charlie Rose	King Dirty Jobs	Auction	CSI: NY	Reed Austin	SportsCtr	SportsCenter		
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Noticias Sin Senos no	Jay Leno	Office Office	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	Roseanne	The Best Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Toy, Scott Schwartz	Flip Men	Wendy Williams	Good	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Upd	Alewine	Light of the Southwest	Movie: The Toy, Scott Schwartz	Flip Men	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Sunset Park, Scott	Random	E:60	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Pagado	News Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	Movie: The Toy, Scott Schwartz	Flip Men	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Sunset Park, Scott	Random	E:60	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula:													

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BC

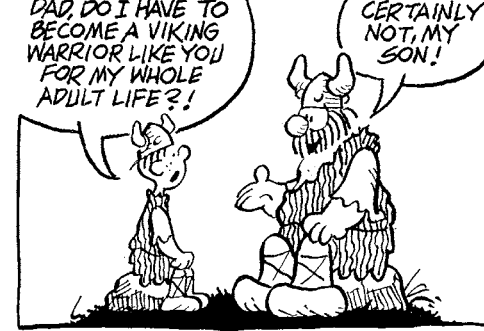
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"What's the weather gonna be like on Christmas, so I know if I want a skateboard or a snowboard?"

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THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT HAS REALLY GOTTEN TO YOU THIS YEAR, SHIRLEY.

I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

I REALLY NEEDED THAT EGGNOG RECIPE.

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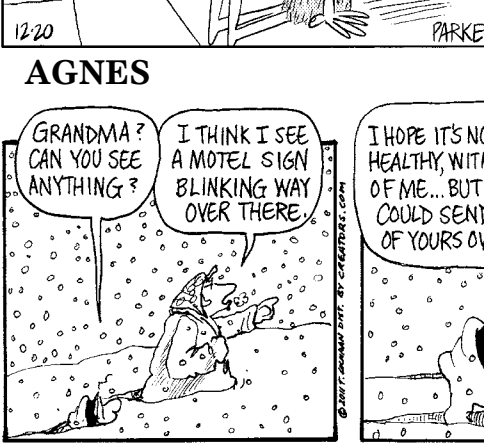


I SEE YOU'RE REALLY GETTING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

WHAT? NO!... I JUST NEED MORE FIBER

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AGNES



GRANDMA? CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?

I THINK I SEE A MOTEL SIGN BLINKING WAY OVER THERE

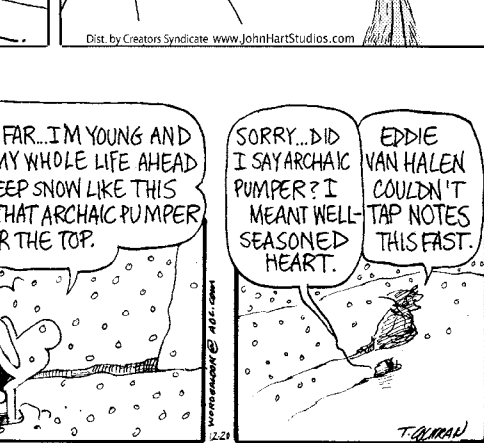
I HOPE IT'S NOT FAR... I'M YOUNG AND HEALTHY, WITH MY WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF ME... BUT DEEP SNOW LIKE THIS COULD SEND THAT ARCHAIC PUMPER OF YOURS OVER THE TOP.

SORRY... DID I SAY ARCHAIC PUMPER? I MEANT WELL-SEASONED HEART.

EDDIE VAN HALEN COULDN'T TAP NOTES THIS FAST.

12-20

HI AND LOIS



FLAGSTON FORGOT TO LEAVE US A HOLIDAY TIP.

THE GARBAGEMEN LEFT YOU A HOLIDAY HINT.

12-20

THE OTHER COAST



THIS HAS TO BE MY LEAST FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR.

GOOFY CHRISTMAS DOG ACCESSORIES SEASON.

12-20

SNUFFY SMITH



YORE HOMEMADE 'SKEETER REPELLANT IS BODACIOUS, LUKEY !!

SHORE KEEPS 'EM AWAY, DON'T IT?

YEP !! KEEPS EV'RYTHIN' AWAY !!

12-20

BEEBLE BAILEY



THIS NEW PLANE WE DEVELOPED HAS A SPECIAL SKIN THAT ELUDES RADAR DETECTION

HEY! COULD YOU MAKE ME A SUIT SO MY WIFE CAN'T SEE ME WHEN I COME HOME LATE?

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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2011. There are 11 days left in the year. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

On this date:

In 1790, the first successful cotton mill in the United States began operating at Pawtucket, R.I.

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the

end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1961, playwright-director Moss Hart, 57, died in Palm Springs, Calif.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1978, former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was released from prison after serving 18 months for his role in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples of the opposite sex.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Audrey Totter is 94. Actor John Hillerman is 79. Actress Kathryn Joosten is 72. Rock musician-music producer

Bobby Colomby is 67. Rock musician Peter Criss is 66. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 65. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 65. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 63. Actress Jenny Agutter is 59. Actor Michael Badalucco is 57. Actress Blanche Baker is 55. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 54. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 54. Actor Joel Gretsch is 48. Country singer Kris Tyler is 47. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 45. Actress Nicole deBoer is 41. Movie director Todd Phillips is 41. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 29. Actor Jonah Hill is 28. Singer JoJo is 21.

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Answer to previous puzzle

EMUS	BLAB	MEAT
PACT	ALAMO	PALE
ISLE	VALOR	GRIM
CHANGE	HANDS	SAP
CON	GET	LOST
OFFHOURS	ROOF	
ALE	PEACH	PICKY
TEEN	STAIR	NONO
SATES	ENDOF	ROY
OSHA	TEAR	INTO
LOFTIER	SEC	
ARC	PRIVATE	EYES
SAL	ALIVE	COVE
ITAS	TENOR	AKIN
KEYS	EDEN	PELT

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Don't have
 - 5 Music-staff symbol
 - 9 Female choir voices
 - 14 Woodwind instrument
 - 15 Capital of Italia
 - 16 Nary a soul
 - 17 Competent
 - 18 Matures, as wine
 - 19 Ancient Greek garment
 - 20 Kentucky's capital
 - 22 Grocery shoppers' aids
 - 23 ___-bitsy
 - 24 "By all means!"
 - 25 Passes, as legislation
 - 29 Gather crops
 - 33 Workshop machine
 - 34 Prepare for a boxing match
 - 36 "Would ___ to you?"
 - 37 Traveler's document
 - 38 Fruit-store weight unit
 - 39 Entice
 - 40 At any time
 - 41 Return to earth
 - 42 Bygone
 - 43 Closes tightly
 - 45 Important chess pieces
 - 46 Shade tree
 - 47 Tart-tasting
 - 49 Selected
 - 52 Early Virginia settlement
 - 57 Paper adhesive
- DOWN
- 1 Bread package
 - 2 Etc. or WSW
 - 3 Soda flavor
 - 4 Highly sharpened
 - 5 Arts and ___
 - 6 Letterhead illustrations
 - 8 Manicurist's board material
 - 9 Speedy
 - 10 Elk's horn
 - 11 Heavy weights
 - 12 "Don't bet ___!"
 - 13 Minute components: Abbr.
 - 21 High-flying toy
 - 24 Lawn area
 - 25 North Pole workers
 - 26 Too trusting
 - 27 On the ocean
 - 28 West Virginia's capital
 - 29 Round of applause
 - 30 Avoid capture by
 - 31 Squad-car wailer
 - 32 Prom goers
 - 34 Source of suds
 - 35 Play on words
 - 38 Purple fruit
 - 42 Yours and mine
 - 44 Raining icy pellets
 - 45 Knights' journeys
 - 47 Tex-Mex dip
 - 48 Signs of the future
 - 49 IRS-form pros
 - 50 "Stop right there!"
 - 51 Norway's capital
 - 52 Incarcerate
 - 53 Ancient Roman garment
 - 54 Nonwritten exam
 - 55 In good health
 - 56 Like a snoop

CITY GUYS by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

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