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## Feds OK BSISD district maps

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials have received federal approval of its new single-member district maps.

BSISD Business Manager Debbie Green said the district recently received a "notice of no objection" to its redistricting plan from the U.S. Department of Justice, meaning the new boundaries will

take effect in time for the 2012 trustee elections. Population and demographic shifts forced the school district to make changes to its single-member districts. Since the 2000 Census, that

all-important demographic makeup has changed well beyond federally approved limits. "The Department of Justice allows for a 10 percent deviation (in each district's

demographic breakdown) between censuses," BSISD School Board President Jeff Brorman said earlier this year. "We have a 28 percent

See **BSISD**, Page 3

## Scam alert!

*Sheriff's office warns of bogus telephone calls*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Officials with the Howard County Sheriff's Office say area residents should remain vigilant as they investigate reports of a possible phone scam where callers are identifying themselves as county employees. According to Sheriff Stan Parker, the calls have come from a number identified as "private" by caller identification services.



"I have received information a person identifying themselves as an employee of the Howard County Sheriff's Office has been calling local residents," Parker said. "The caller is stating they have found a wallet belonging to

See **SCAM**, Page 3



**Candy canes abound at Comanche Trail Park during the Festival of Lights, which concludes Saturday night.**

## Light show ends Saturday

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

Christmas may be over, but there is still time to drive through the Festival of Lights.

The annual event will continue nightly from 6:30 until 10 through Saturday.

"This all started as I was riding on a float in the parade one year and a lady asked me why they

don't light up the park," Festival of Lights founder Pat Simmons said. "I don't know who they are, but I told her I would look into it."

With that one simple question, Simmons' imagination ran wild and 15 years later her dream of little diamonds sparkling have blossomed into six-foot poinsettias, candy canes and more than 1

million lights spread throughout the park.

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

This year, a display has been added in recognition of all veterans. The display includes several

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 3

## Nominations taken for Man, Woman of Year

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

There is still time to submit Man and Woman of the Year nominations.

Man and Woman of the Year will be announced at the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce banquet set for Jan. 31.

Of course, for those wanting to submit a nomination, there are a few requirements to remember.

"People can nominate those who are out there behind the scenes making things happen here in Big Spring,"

Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde said. "Those are the people we would like to see nominated."

"There are also those in the forefront making things happen. We want to see those people nominated as well."

All nominations must be submitted in written form, provided and approved by the selection committee in order to ensure the relevant information is received about the nominee.

"In order to make sure it doesn't turn into a popularity vote, the committee will be basing their decision on information provided in the nomination only and not anything else," ValVerde said.

Also to be included on

the nomination form are the name, address and phone number of the nominator. The person nominating is required to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, however, the nominee does not have to be, according to the selection criteria.

"The winner will be chosen based on all around contributions to the community, not just for extraordinary performance in the person's businesses or employment," ValVerde said.

A consistent track record of contributions to the community is recommended for the nominee. Those holding a political office at this time are not eligible for nomination.

"The people nominated for Man and Woman of the Year

are very humbled because this is something they want to do for the community and it's not about the recognition for them," ValVerde said. "They are doing what they do because they want to. This is our way of saying thank you to them."

Forms can be picked up at the chamber office or can be faxed or emailed upon request.

Forms should be addressed accordingly: 2011 Man and Woman of the Year Nomination, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third or P.O. Box 1391, Big Spring, TX 79721. To find out more information or request a form, call the chamber at 432-263-7641.

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.




**Thank You For Your Support In 2011!**

*Happy New Year!*

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# Obituaries

## W.C. 'Curley' Hayes

Services for W.C. "Curley" Hayes, 91, of Cleburne will be conducted at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, in the Crosier Pearson Cleburne Chapel with Dr. Tony Torres officiating. Burial will follow in the Keene Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, at the funeral home. You may send the family condolences, view obituary and sign guestbook online at [www.cpleburne.com](http://www.cpleburne.com).

Mr. Hayes passed away Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011, in Cleburne. He was born to Ira Thomas and Winnie Lois Hagood Hayes on Jan. 27, 1920, in Linden, Texas. He married Rita Faye Duren on Aug. 4, 1943, in Big Spring, Texas.

He was a member of Cleburne First Seventh Day Adventist Church. He was a musician, playing the harmonica and guitar for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Douglas Hayes in 2008; and sisters, Bertha Hayes and Oneta Hagood.

Survivors include his wife, Rita Faye Hayes; daughter, Toni Owen and husband Eddie; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers, Joe Hayes and wife Barbara, and Doyle Hayes; sister, Oleta Stone; and several nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

## Oscar Hilario

Oscar Hilario, 53, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

# Police blotter

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

- MARK ANTHONY MOLINA, 47, of 502 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Place, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury - family violence.
- VALERIE MICHELLE MARTINEZ, 23, of 4101 Parkway, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for speeding and failure to appear.
- GILES RAY HORTON, 48, of 2510 Peach St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- ROY PAIZ GARCIA, 51, of 1212 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- LONNIE RAY GREEN, 52, of 910 E. Sixth St., was arrested Tuesday on charges of public intoxication and assault - family violence.
- LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 23, of 1606 Cardinal St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for prohibited weapons - switchblade/knuckles.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 2000 block of Runnels.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of N. Scurry.

# 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.
- LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 23, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for prohibited weapons - switchblade/knuckles.
- GILES R. HORTON, 48, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection.
- VALERIE MICHELLE MARTINEZ, 23, was

booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for speeding and violation of a promise to appear.

- ROY PAIZ GARCIA, 51, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and disregarding a red arrow.

- LONNIE GREEN, 52, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication and a municipal warrant for assault - family violence.

# Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of FM 700. 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 1600 block of Cardinal. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Andrea. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Barnes. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of N. Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of Tulane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the 169 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Jeffery Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Ranch Road 33 and FM 469. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1200 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Ranch Road 33 and Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of N. Lamesa. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Indian Hills. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the area of the Dora Roberts Community Center. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4200 block of Bilger. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRASH FIRE was reported in the 500 block of Washington.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of W. Seventh Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Monmouth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Wooten. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Sunset Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

# Support Groups

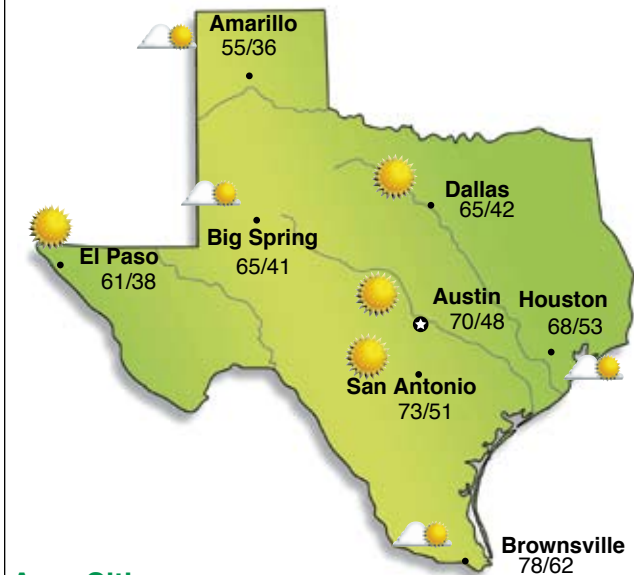
- WEDNESDAY
- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
  - Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- THURSDAY
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

# Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 12/30	Sat 12/31	Sun 1/1	Mon 1/2	Tue 1/3
<b>65/41</b> Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>68/40</b> Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>62/35</b> Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	<b>49/35</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.	<b>58/37</b> Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:51 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:51 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:52 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:53 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:53 PM

## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	64	43	sunny	Kingsville	76	59	pt sunny
Amarillo	55	36	pt sunny	Livingston	67	48	pt sunny
Austin	70	48	sunny	Longview	65	46	sunny
Beaumont	69	50	pt sunny	Lubbock	59	37	pt sunny
Brownsville	78	62	pt sunny	Lufkin	67	48	pt sunny
Brownwood	68	43	sunny	Midland	65	42	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	72	59	pt sunny	Raymondville	78	58	pt sunny
Corsicana	65	42	sunny	Rosenberg	69	53	pt sunny
Dallas	65	42	sunny	San Antonio	73	51	sunny
Del Rio	72	44	sunny	San Marcos	71	47	sunny
El Paso	61	38	sunny	Sulphur Springs	65	41	sunny
Fort Stockton	65	42	sunny	Sweetwater	64	42	sunny
Gainesville	63	38	sunny	Tyler	64	45	sunny
Greenville	64	39	sunny	Weatherford	64	39	sunny
Houston	68	53	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	63	38	sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	61	40	mst sunny	Minneapolis	37	31	mixed
Boston	43	34	mixed	New York	49	39	rain
Chicago	41	30	mixed	Phoenix	73	46	sunny
Dallas	65	42	sunny	San Francisco	60	50	rain
Denver	46	35	pt sunny	Seattle	48	36	rain
Houston	68	53	pt sunny	St. Louis	54	35	pt sunny
Los Angeles	69	49	mst sunny	Washington, DC	55	41	pt sunny
Miami	79	62	pt sunny				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Fri 12/30	Sat 12/31	Sun 1/1	Mon 1/2	Tue 1/3
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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**Take Note**

- A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Teresa "Terry" Gonzales, who died Monday, Dec. 19, in Lubbock, to help defray funeral costs. Contact the funeral home at 432-267-8288 for more information.
- West Texas Opportunities Inc. will be closed Dec. 30 and will reopen for business Jan. 3 at its new location, 2001 Scurry.
- 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.
- 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 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, 9 a.m. to 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.
- Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

- A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.
- The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.
- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit [www.BecomeaCASA.org](http://www.BecomeaCASA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).
- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Call 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

**BSISD**

Continued from Page 1

deviation."

The redistricting effort

reflected an increase in the number of voting-age Hispanics in Big Spring. Hispanic population within the district has increased from 35 percent in 2000 to 42 percent in 2010.

Correspondingly, the district's Anglo population has decreased from 58 percent in 2000 to a fraction above 50 percent in 2010.

BSISD's goal, officials said,

was to come up with a map that had three districts that were predominantly Hispanic, three that were predominantly Anglo and one that was evenly split in ethnic

makeup.  
Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 235, or by e-mail at [reporter@big-springherald.com](mailto:reporter@big-springherald.com)

**SCAM**

Continued from Page 1

the person receiving the call and they need to get some information from them.  
"In each case, the call came from a 'private' number, and when the

recipient of the call started asking questions about the caller, they (the caller) would hang up. In each reported instance no vital information was given out."  
While it appears no one has yet fallen prey to these apparent scam artists, Parker said it's

important to spread the word within the community and abroad so area residents — especially those isolated from the media and social networking circles — don't get drawn into these types of schemes.  
"We are just wanting the citizens to know

this is happening, and for everyone to be aware this is or has been going on," Parker said. "If you receive a call of this nature and are suspicious of the caller, please hang up and call the sheriff's office dispatch at 432-264-2244 or administration offices at 432-264-2231 to verify whether or not we are trying to actually contact you. Please do not give any personal information to anyone who you are unsure about."  
Contact Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

**FESTIVAL**

Continued from Page 1

strands of patriotic icicle lights and a large American flag flanked by two photos of the George H. O'Brien memorial statue which stands in front of the VA Medical Center.  
Last year, more than 20,000 people traveled from all over, including from 38 states and 14 countries, to see the Festival of Lights. This year, Simmons said her goal is to have 25,000

people come through the park. The 2011 Festival of Lights had 17,644 visitors come through as of Tuesday afternoon. In that number, there are 34 states and nine countries represented.  
"We are getting the visitors and that's a good thing," Simmons said. "It's not where I was wanting to be, but there is always next year."  
There is no admission for those going through the Festival of Lights, however, donations are accepted. All donations

go toward next year's festival as well as all other expenses acquired with the festival.

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

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**2012 Travel Showcases**  
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<b>Concho Valley Travel Show</b> Wednesday, January 4 2:00 PM Senior Annex Station 618 618 South Chadbourne San Angelo, Texas	<b>Permian Basin Travel Show</b> Thursday, January 5 2:00 PM Holiday Inn Express Hotel 5309 West Loop 250 North Midland, Texas
<b>Big Spring Travel Show</b> Thursday, January 5 10:00 AM Dora Roberts Com. Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas	<b>Abilene Travel Show</b> Saturday, January 14 1:00 PM Southern Hills Church of Christ 3666 Buffalo Gap Road Abilene, Texas

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**NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS**

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2012**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

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Bridal/Quince Fair  
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**Bridal Fashions 3:30 PM**  
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Ron Midkiff Publisher... Ext. 250  
Bill McClellan Managing Editor... Ext. 230  
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Robert Smith Circulation Manager... Ext. 252  
Tony Hernandez Production Manager... Ext. 256

The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.  
Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except July 4, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day, except if Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. All materials copyrighted.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.  
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811  
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

# EDITORIAL

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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<b>Amanda Moreno</b> Staff Writer	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## OUR VIEWS

# Christmas is over and a New Year is coming

The presents have all been unwrapped, decorations are starting to go back into storage and the lights are starting to come down. The holiday season is starting to wrap up, but there is still one more day this year to celebrate — New Years Eve.

Christmas brought us together with families and friends who some may not have seen in awhile. Children were able to visit with Santa and parents were able to watch their children's faces light up Christmas morning as they opened their presents from Santa.

Now that Christmas holiday has passed, it is time to start looking back on all the memories made this past year, evaluate the mistakes we each have made and look to the coming year with hope.

Once again, several local businesses will be celebrating the holiday with a few extra days off of work and one last chance to make some memories before the new year arrives.

It is time for each of us to start thinking about new years resolutions. For some, it will involve losing weight, cutting out a bad habit from our daily routine and for others it will be to take on a new hobby or extend a helping hand to others.

There is no right or wrong New Year's resolution. For some the resolution may be not to even make one this year.

No matter which route you choose to take the important thing to remember is there is a new year fast approaching and with it comes new doors for each of us to go through. New Years will bring new possibilities, opportunities and a chance for us to take a leap of faith.

The new year will continue to bring stories and the entire *Herald* staff will continue to work hard to bring you up to date news. As always we look forward to hearing what our readers have to say and any ideas are always welcome.

The past year, whether it was good, bad or indifferent, it is soon to be behind us. We should each take the lessons we have learned, realize the mistakes we made and move forward into the next 12 months.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

# 'I column as I see 'em; Time is an all too precious thing

There is an endless storehouse of clichés and adages about something we actually think very little about outside of our subconscious, that precious and inestimable treasure known as time. Even a casual perusal of that reserve will lend such familiar platitudes as "time flies when you're having fun", "in the nick of time", and "Rome wasn't built in a day." Then there's a "split second" or "just a cotton pickin' minute," and my personal favorite, the "New York Minute." Surely we all know it's "better to be late than never."

And that's just a few of the seemingly countless number of such familiar references to time.

One thing is certain; as we make the earthly trek from the cradle to the grave time is indeed a very valuable element to consider. It can be used wisely or wasted. It can be immensely productive or absolutely worthless. It all depends on the user. That's us and we need to understand the grave responsibility (pun intended) which we have been entrusted with as the careful and loving caretakers of this priceless gift called time.

The Bedford, Texas-born actress Jenna Boyd had a memorable line in a movie she appeared in when she was only 11 years old. When asked by another character if she was afraid

of what may be waiting beyond this life, part of her insightful response was "Not of dying, really. It's more that I'm afraid of time. And not having enough of it." (The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants- Warner Brothers 2005)

I am at that fascinating age where I cherish every minute of every day and unapologetically embrace the wonderful memories I have accumulated thus far on my personal passage through time. It isn't likely you would find those particular memories all that entertaining so I will spare you an insipid narrative related to my own recollections.

I will, however, challenge you to look at yourself in the mirror and honestly answer one question: How am I doing so far with the time I have been allotted? Don't cheat. Tell yourself the truth. It could mean the difference in being a success or failure in almost every area of your life. It's more than simple time management; it's making every minute count (cliché alert) that I believe to be one of the most significant life issues we will ever be faced with.

As difficult as it is to assimilate, we are only days away from the inevitable launch of 2012 and so many things loom on our horizon, both as Americans and as human beings in general. Most of us will commit to some worthwhile New Year's resolutions for the incoming year and many will also fail to realize those things won't just happen as a result of simply making the commitment. Talk is cheap and we usually get what we pay for.

It will take a sincere resolution

to make those things happen by becoming better stewards of our time. Knowledge may be power, but if we sit in our recliner and talk about how smart we are not much is going to be accomplished.

You may know I am a preacher and any preacher who doesn't practice what he preaches is a hypocrite, so I assure you I have already begun an intense evaluation of how I am using my time.

I need to be more productive and make better use of every minute and hour I have been allotted and I am making some changes. It takes courage and determination to change, but I hope you will join me in the pursuit of excellence in the area of time usage so we will all become better people in every way.

It may involve a lifestyle adjustment for you or some mental or emotional housecleaning, but the end result of learning to use your time wisely will powerfully impact your personal world and your life will be much more constructive and fruitful. If you don't know it already those are some of the key ingredients to establishing self-worth and contentment.

Against my better judgment I am going to conclude this commentary with yet another timely cliché; "Never put off 'til tomorrow what you can do today".

You may not agree with a thing I've said but I column as I see 'em.

*Eddy Prince is the senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church. He can be reached by email at [pastorprince@msn.com](mailto:pastorprince@msn.com).*



EDDY PRINCE

# Is there really magic in polls?

With the glut of debate stories safely behind us until human beings actually cast votes in Iowa on Jan. 3, the media now shift their full concentration to what really counts: polls.

Polling drives our political process far more than debates do. Debates are just the candidates yakking in real time.

Polls are predictions of the future. They are crystal balls. They are magic.

Pollsters try to deny this, humbly murmuring about how their magic is a mere "snapshot in time." But we don't believe this.

Pollsters are wizards, shamans, diviners. They toss numbers around the way astragalomancers once tossed bones to foretell events to come. (The name comes from the Greek astragalos, meaning "knucklebone." But you knew that.)

Increasingly, however, pollsters find it difficult to get people to talk to them. This should not be a surprise. Pollsters call us during inconvenient times when they expect us to be home (the dinner hour, for example) and then can ask all sorts of personal questions about our age, sex, religion, party affiliation, income and whom we intend to vote for.

I have never been called by a political pollster and don't know anybody who has, but I know some pollsters, who assure me they don't make the numbers up, and I believe them.

Pollsters, or rather the phone-bankers who make call after all (or computers that make robo-call after robo-call), do get people to talk to them. Not vast numbers of people, but pollsters do not require vast numbers.

A recent Washington Post-ABC News poll, which is highly respected, tells us that "Gingrich and Romney are each favored by 30 percent of Republicans and

Republican-leaning independents."

Also, the "survey shows President Obama receiving his highest approval rating since March ... (and) the number who disapprove of his overall performance has dipped below 50 percent for the first time this fall."

We are a nation of nearly 313 million people. So how many people did the pollsters actually speak to? If you have extremely good eyes, you can find the answer in tiny type at the bottom of a chart: The Post-ABC poll was conducted by phone "among a random sample of 1,005 adults."

That represents 0.0003 percent of the nation at large. (The number of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents was an even smaller sample of 395 people.)

The poll does not tell us how many are registered voters, though it does say in a sidebar story: "The president leads a potential race against former House speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.) by 51 to 43 percent among registered voters — in part because of an eight-point advantage among independents."

So the poll must have spoken to registered voters and independents, but we don't know how many.

And, frankly, who cares? Most people do not read the fine print.

Just as most people, including most journalists, have no idea what the "margin of sampling error" really means, though most good polls tell us that. (The Post-ABC margin was plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all adults.)

As I said, this poll has a very good reputation, and I "believe" the results in that I believe they were calculated carefully and (unlike some partisan or campaign polls) without any agenda.

But in the vast, murky world known as reality, are Gingrich and Mitt Romney really tied 30-30? And, if they are, what different does it make? The primary is not a national contest, but a series of state contests by which the winning candidate amasses

a majority of the approximately 2,288 pledged and unpledged delegates to the Republican National Convention.

Does Obama really lead Gingrich by 8 percentage points in a (currently) imaginary matchup?

I dunno. Sounds right to me. But I am an even smaller sample than 0.0003 percent.

Gingrich's drop in the polls — one shows him in third place in Iowa behind Ron Paul and Romney — and Obama's rise have become big media talking points over the last few days.

There is little real political analysis anymore. Instead, there are journalists who read polls and try to explain the results: Newt's drop? Attack ads by his opponents are damaging him, people are learning more about him and don't like what they are learning.

Obama's rise? The 21st paragraph of a sidebar story to the Post-ABC poll contains a figure that may be of critical importance: "The new survey finds that most Americans are optimistic about their personal finances, even though gloom continues about prospects for the national economy."

People who are personally optimistic are the kind of people who do not change horses in midstream, especially if they feel the stream is strewn with rocks.

Is this how "most Americans" — based on a survey of 1,005 of them — really feel?

Dunno. But the polls are changing the prism through which the media — both mainstream and social — see events, which changes the national conversation.

You can challenge the accuracy of polls. But you can't challenge their influence.

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

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ROGER SIMON

## News in brief

### Authorities identify dead in Christmas shootings

GRAPEVINE (AP) — A 56-year-old suburban Dallas man facing marital and financial problems killed his estranged wife, two teenage children and three other family members on Christmas Day while dressed as Santa Claus before turning the gun on himself, authorities said Tuesday.

A police spokeswoman said Aziz Yazdanpanah died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound and the six others were shot to death.

Police responding Sunday morning to a 911 call made without anyone on the line found the seven people inside an apartment near Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. It appeared they had been opening presents around their Christmas tree just before the attack.

Yazdanpanah became the focus of detectives after his sport utility vehicle was found outside the apartment and police believe he made the silent 911 call. The slayings have shaken friends and neighbors who knew Yazdanpanah and his wife, both of whom were born in Iran, as well as their two U.S.-born children.

In addition to Yazdanpanah, authorities said those killed were Rahmati, 55; their daughter Nona, 19; their son Ali, 14; Zohreh Rahmaty, 58; Zohreh's husband, Mohamad Hossein Zarei, 59; and their daughter, Sara Fatemeh Zarei, 22.

### Brownsville man accused in stem cell scheme

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A Brownsville man is in federal custody facing charges of misrepresenting himself as a doctor and researcher to run an illegal stem cell mail business.

The FBI arrested 52-year-old Francisco Morales in Brownsville last week. A magistrate ordered him held without bond and be transferred to Houston for arraignment before a federal judge.

Harlingen television station KGBT reports a 19-page indictment unsealed Tuesday alleges Morales posed as a doctor and researcher to buy umbilical cords and placentas from a Del Rio maternity clinic, shipped them to a lab in Arizona and then forwarded them to a pathologist in South Carolina for harvesting of stem cells.

The 15-count indictment says he sold the stems for medical treatments and uses not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

### Lubbock hospital VP quits amid embezzlement audit

LUBBOCK (AP) — A vice president at Lubbock's University Medical Center has resigned after a routine internal audit turned up possible employee embezzlement.

The hospital said Tuesday Greg Bruce, its vice president of corporate services, quit. Spokesman Eric Finley

told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal he wouldn't comment on the amount of money embezzled, whether Bruce was involved or when the loss was discovered.

Bruce wouldn't elaborate on a statement released by the hospital. He supervised several administrative departments at the hospital for the past six years. The Lubbock County Commission appoints the hospital's board of managers.

### Dallas officer shoots, kills, passenger in car

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police say one person is dead and another in custody after an officer shot a passenger in a car who reached for a handgun as the officer approached.

Police spokeswoman Cpl. Melinda Gutierrez says the fatal shooting occurred Tuesday night as officers responded to a call from a resident who reported a suspicious vehicle parked near a South Dallas intersection.

Gutierrez tells The Dallas Morning News the officer spotted the handgun as he reached the car and when the passenger reached for it, he fired. The passenger was killed. A second person in the car wasn't hurt but was taken in.

### Laredo authorities investigating fatal fire

LAREDO (AP) — The deaths of a couple found Christmas Day at their Laredo home have authorities puzzled.

An apparent fire at the home never prompted a 911 call from the occupants or neighbors. Laredo Fire Capt. Eloy Vega tells the Laredo Morning Times that when authorities showed up Sunday night after getting a call about a dead person in the house, the fire already was out.

He says a relative of the victims, identified only as a couple in their 50s, went to the home after calls there weren't answered and reported finding a body. Police then discovered there were two.

Eloy says investigators are trying to find a cause for the blaze. Neighbors say the woman who lived in the home was confined to a wheelchair.

### FBI hunting Houston armored car hijacker

HOUSTON (AP) — The FBI is looking for an armed robber who hijacked an armored car making a delivery at a Houston supermarket.

FBI spokeswoman Shauna Dunlap says the van was parked outside a Kroger store when the gunman managed to get inside the vehicle while one of the guards was in the store Tuesday afternoon.

A second guard who had been inside the truck exchanged shots with the hijacker but the gunman got away with the vehicle. No one was injured in the gunfire.

# Paul's surge prompting 2nd look from GOP voters

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Ron Paul wants to legalize pot and shut down the Federal Reserve. He thinks the federal government has no authority to outlaw abortion, no business bombing Iran to keep it from acquiring a nuclear weapon, and no justification to print money unless it's backed up by gold bars.

And he might win the Iowa caucuses.

The closer the first votes of the 2012 presidential campaign get, the more competitive the Texas congressman has become. It's a moment his famously fervent supporters have longed for. Plenty of others are asking: What's Ron Paul about, again?

As in his two prior quixotic campaigns for president, Paul has toiled for months as a fringe candidate best known for staking out libertarian positions. As every other Republican candidate lined up to attack President Barack Obama's health care law and to promise tax cuts, Paul again demanded audits of the Federal Reserve and a return to the gold standard.

Leading in some state polls, Paul is getting a look from mainstream voters in Iowa, where the 76-year-old obstetrician has emerged as a serious contender in the Jan. 3 caucuses — and in other early voting states, should he pull off a victory.

The sudden rush of attention to Paul's resume hasn't been kind. He's spent the past week disowning racist and homophobic screeds in newsletters he published decades ago, including one following the 1992 riots in Los Angeles that read, "Order was only restored in L.A. when it came time for the blacks to collect their welfare checks three days after rioting be-

gan." "Everybody knows I didn't write them and they're not my sentiments, so it's sort of politics as usual," Paul said during a recent Iowa campaign stop.

Looking to cut into Paul's support, rivals laid into him on Tuesday.

In an interview on CNN, Newt Gingrich said Paul holds "views totally outside the mainstream of virtually every decent American." And Rick Santorum chided, "The things most Iowans like about Ron Paul are the things he's least likely to accomplish and the things most Iowans are wor-

ried about about Ron Paul are the things he can accomplish."

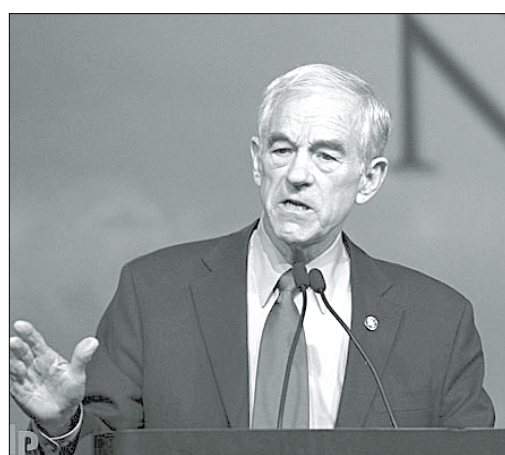
Paul returns to Iowa on Wednesday, giving his impressive grassroots organization in the state a last chance to present, and perhaps defend, positions he's staked out over a long political career and reiterated during the

13 Republican debates held this year.

Paul has served a dozen terms in Congress as a Republican, but he espouses views that have made him the face of libertarianism in the U.S. He blames both Republicans and Democrats for running up the federal debt and opposes any U.S. military involvement overseas. He wants to bring home all troops from all U.S. bases abroad.

He vows to do away with five Cabinet-level departments — Commerce, Education, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, and Interior — and repeal the amendment to the Constitution that created the federal income tax.

He opposes federal flood insurance and farm subsidies and wants to remove marijuana from the federal list of controlled substances while allowing states to decide how to regulate it.



Ron Paul

## Charles Myers

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## News in brief

### Screams, wails in N. Korea as hearse carrying Kim Jong Il's body winds way through Pyongyang

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Tens of thousands of North Koreans lined snow-covered streets on Wednesday, wailing and clutching their chests as a black hearse carried late leader Kim Jong Il's body through the capital for a final farewell that ended with a 21-gun salute.

The funeral procession on a gray, freezing day was accompanied by top military and party officials, but there was little doubt who the leader was. Son and successor Kim Jong Un served as head mourner, walking with one hand on the hearse, the other raised in salute, his head bowed against the wind.

State media — which over the past week have called Kim Jong Un "great successor," "supreme leader" and "sagacious leader" — made it clear that the family's hold on power would extend to a third generation, declaring the country in the younger Kim's "warm care."

At the end of the procession, Kim Jong Un again walked along with the limousine with his hand cocked in a salute. He stood head-bowed with top officials as rifles fired 21 times, then saluted again as goose-stepping soldiers carrying flags and rifles marched by.

The funeral procession, which began and ended

at Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where Kim's body had lain in state and where his father, North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, is preserved, passed by huge crowds of mourners, most of them standing in the snow with their heads bare, many screaming and flailing their arms as soldiers struggled to keep them from spilling onto the road.

### Who's Ron Paul, again? Longshot's rising chances in Iowa may lead voters to take a second look

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Ron Paul wants to legalize pot and shut down the Federal Reserve. He thinks the federal government has no authority to outlaw abortion, no business bombing Iran to keep it from acquiring a nuclear weapon, and no justification to print money unless it's backed up by gold bars.

And he might win the Iowa caucuses. The closer the first votes of the 2012 presidential campaign get, the more competitive the Texas congressman appears to become. It's a moment his famously fervent supporters have longed for. Plenty of others are asking: What's Ron Paul about, again?

As in his two prior quixotic campaigns for president, Paul has toiled for months as a fringe candidate best known for staking out libertarian positions. As every other Republican candidate lined up to attack President Barack Obama's health care law and to promise tax cuts, Paul again demanded audits of the Federal Reserve and a return to the gold standard.

### Gingrich sharpens attacks on Romney, Paul, even while promising not to go negative

DYERSVILLE, Iowa (AP) — So much for staying positive.

In just the last 24 hours, Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich has blasted rival Mitt Romney as a "Massachusetts moderate" who isn't "man enough" to take responsibility for the harsh attack ads being run on his behalf. And he lambasted Ron Paul's views as "totally outside the mainstream of virtually every decent American."

As his lead in Iowa polls has evaporated, Ging-

rich's rhetoric has grown ever sharper, even as he insists — sometimes in the same breath — that he's running a positive campaign.

"I am not going to go negative, period," Gingrich said Tuesday at a campaign stop in Dyersville, Iowa, to appreciative murmurs from the crowd that had crammed into the National Farm Toy Museum to hear him speak. That remark came after a CNN interview in which he said he wouldn't vote for Paul if the Texas congressman became the GOP nominee and he mocked Romney for not having the courage to face him in a one-on-one debate.

### Activists: 4 Syrian soldiers killed, 12 wounded in ambush carried out by rebel troops

BEIRUT (AP) — Activists say at least four soldiers have been killed and 12 others wounded in southern Syria in an ambush carried out by a group of military defectors.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the ambush targeted a joint military and security convoy on the road between the villages of Khirbet Ghazaleh and Dael, in Daraa province.

Thousands of army defectors in Syria have grown increasingly bolder in attacking government forces.

Wednesday's ambush comes as Arab League observers began a second day of work touring districts in the flashpoint central city of Homs.

### Health overhaul says free preventive care, but it pays to ask doc first: \$1,100 surprises lurk

CHICAGO (AP) — Bill Dunphy thought his colonoscopy would be free.

His insurance company told him it would be covered 100 percent, with no copayment from him and no charge against his deductible. The nation's 1-year-old health law requires most insurance plans to cover all costs for preventive care including colon cancer screening. So Dunphy had the procedure in April.

Then the bill arrived: \$1,100. Dunphy, a 61-year-old Phoenix small business owner, angrily paid it out of his own pocket because of what some prevention advocates call a loophole. His doctor removed two noncancerous polyps during the colonoscopy. So while Dunphy was sedated, his preventive screening turned into a diagnostic procedure. That allowed his insurance company to bill him.

Like many Americans, Dunphy has a high-deductible insurance plan.

## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Get In Step

A look at three programs aimed at getting Americans off their couches and walking their way to better health.

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## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### A Perfect Bull's-Eye

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 7 3  
♥ 6 5  
♦ A Q J 8 4 2  
♣ A J 5

**WEST**  
♠ A J 10 6  
♥ Q J 10 8  
♦ 10  
♣ 9 7 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ Q 8 5 2  
♥ A 7 4 2  
♦ 9 5 3  
♣ 8 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 9 4  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ K 7 6  
♣ K Q 10 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
1 NT Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Assume you're East, defending against three notrump. Your partner leads the queen of hearts, and before you do anything, you stop to assess the situation. You know declarer has the king of hearts, and the question is whether you should duck your ace, take the ace and return a heart, or take the ace and discontinue the suit.

It should not take you very long to conclude that if you allow declarer to gain the lead with the king of hearts at either trick one or trick two, you will almost surely hand him the

contract. Dummy's abundance of tricks — at least seven are in plain view — should convince you that your only hope of defeating the contract lies in spades, and that if South is not vulnerable in that suit, you can't stop him. Having reached this conclusion, you take partner's queen of hearts with the ace, and the only remaining question is which spade to lead at trick two.

Ordinarily, with the Q-8-5-2 of spades, you would lead your fourth-best card, the two. But in the present case, where your only chance to beat the contract is to garner four spade tricks at once, you should lead the queen!

As it happens, the queen play is spectacularly successful. You find your partner with the A-J-10-6, and South goes down one before he can even say "good play." Observe that if you return the two of spades instead of the queen, declarer makes the contract by playing the four or the nine from his hand.

Of course, you must be lucky for the queen play to work out so perfectly, but that is a commodity one must learn to rely on to at least some extent. It certainly offers more hope than allowing declarer to win the first heart, or taking the ace and mechanically returning a heart at trick two, which is tantamount to conceding the contract.

Tomorrow: The grand slam force.

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## sudoku

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

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

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## Ware, Ratliff selected to Pro Bowl

NEW YORK (AP) — The usual names — Tom Brady, Ray Lewis, Troy Polamalu, Tony Gonzalez — are headed for Hawaii, barring a trip to the Super Bowl.

Joining them at the Pro Bowl will be the not quite so familiar, from Rob Gronkowski to Jimmy Graham, from Marshal Yanda to Earl Thomas.

The thrill is equal, whether it's eight-time invitee Ed Reed or his Baltimore Ravens teammate, newcomer Yanda.

"I am ecstatic, that is really the only thing I can say," said Yanda, a backup at guard to New England's Logan Mankins and Brian Water. "This is such a great honor, something that I never really expected. When I made it to the NFL, I was so happy to be on a team and playing in the league, and now, to be a part of a Pro Bowl team is something very special."

Or as old hand safety Reed put it Tuesday, "It is definitely an honor and blessing. To come back after an injury last year and to be voted by my peers and fans is special."

There are seven Ravens on the AFC squad, equaling the number of Green Bay Packers for the NFC. But they didn't lead their conferences in voting by players, coaches and fans.

Brady is one of eight Patriots and Patrick Willis one of eight 49ers to make the Jan. 29 game.

"It's awesome," said 49ers punter Andy Lee, one of four Bay Area kick-

ers to make it. "I think everybody is deserving. I think some guys are deserving who aren't going. Hopefully we won't be there, hopefully we'll be



DeMarcus Ware

in the Super Bowl."

Players who make the Super Bowl will be replaced on the Pro Bowl rosters.

Still, it's a sunny, balmy consolation prize to journey to Honolulu.

"It's a nice honor," Texans running

back Arian Foster said. "People that love watching the game, people that love playing it and also coaches that have been around it for 20-some-odd years ... it's the highest compliment you can get in this league is when you're voted in by people who know the game. It's just fun."

Brady is one of seven starters from New England (12-3). The others are receiver Wes Welker, tight end Gronkowski, defensive tackle Vince Wilfork, defensive end Andre Carter, Waters and Logan Mankins. Special-teamer Matthew Slater is the other New England representative.

Linebacker Willis, defensive end Justin Smith, cornerback Carlos Rogers and tackle Joe Staley will start for the NFC from the 49ers (12-3), who had only Smith and Willis make the Pro Bowl last year.

Green Bay's Rodgers is the starting NFC quarterback, backed by record-setting Drew Brees of New Orleans (12-3).

"It does have special significance, because when I was voted in in 2009, I was the third guy and I was very thankful to be voted in, and got the opportunity to start because of some injuries and guys not going," Rodgers said. "It's great to be voted in as a starter, that means a lot to me and it's a special honor."

Four of the NFL's biggest headline makers this season did not get voted

in by players, coaches and fans: Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, Steelers linebacker James Harrison, Panthers rookie quarterback Cam Newton, and Denver quarterback Tim Tebow.

Suh might have lost support after drawing a two-game suspension for stomping an opponent, and Harrison's one-game suspension for his helmet-to-helmet hit on Browns quarterback Colt McCoy might have reduced his support.

Fifteen first-time Pro Bowl selections made the NFC squad, including Rogers, Staley and safety Dashon Goldson of the 49ers. Thirteen AFC players were first-time selections, including Gronkowski, Carter and Slater of New England. Carter is on injured reserve (left quadriceps) and won't play.

"If you look around the NFC, you see a ton of amazing and talented players at tight end," said the Saints' Graham, the starter at the position and a first-time Pro Bowl player. "And to be thought of in that company by my peers, the head coaches and the fans who follow the NFL is something I take seriously."

Fourteen teams from each conference were represented, with St. Louis (2-13) and Washington (5-10) drawing no votes, Buffalo (6-9) and Tennessee (8-7) shut out in the AFC.

Pittsburgh (11-4), New Orleans and

See **WARE**, Page 12

## Schools object to multi-year scholarship plan

COLUMBIA (AP) — For the second time in less than two weeks, schools are objecting to a reform measure sought by university presidents and endorsed by NCAA president Mark Emmert.

More than 75 schools are asking to override a plan approved in October to allow multi-year athletic scholarships rather than the one-year renewable awards schools currently provide. That's the minimum number of dissenters needed for reconsideration by the Division I Board of Directors when it meets next month in Indianapolis at the annual NCAA convention. The NCAA announced the change the Friday before Christmas.

On Dec. 15, the NCAA suspended plans to give athletes a \$2,000 stipend for living costs not covered by scholarships after at least 125 schools objected. The higher number of protests allows the organization to immediately put the change on hold.

Both measures were pushed by Emmert and adopted as emergency legislation after a presidential summit in August.

"The NCAA and presidents step up with this legislation and then the universities want to vote it down," said Christian Dennie, a former compliance officer at Missouri and Oklahoma who now practices sports law in Fort Worth, Texas, and writes an NCAA oversight blog.

"They say, 'We don't have enough money,' and then the coach gets a \$2 million raise," Dennie added, speaking in general terms rather than about a specific school. "It's really a resource allocation issue."

The Division I Board of Directors now faces three options: scrap the two reform measures and operate under previous NCAA rules; modify the rule or create a new proposal that would go back

See **NCAA**, Page 12

## Celtics Heat-ed in loss

MIAMI (AP) — Norris Cole stepped to the foul line with 9.3 seconds left, set to clinch the game as cries of "M-V-P! M-V-P" rained down upon him from the sold-out stands.

No, this wasn't a scene from his days at Cleveland State.

Taking over in just his second NBA game — and with LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Dwyane on the floor, no less — Cole

scored 14 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, including three huge jumpers down the stretch to save the Heat in a 115-107 win over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

"You grow up and live for moments like that," Cole said.

James scored 26 points, Wade had 24 points, eight assists and four blocks, and Bosh scored 18 for Heat, which led by 20 points

midway through the third quarter before having its lead twice sliced to three points in the final minutes. And both times, Cole took passes from James and knocked down jumpers, keeping short-handed Boston at bay.

"He's got savvy," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "Great pickup."

See **CELTICS**, Page 12

## Lakers avoid an 0-3 start

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After finishing three games in roughly 56 hours with their best effort yet, Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers demonstrated why their demise might not be as imminent as many thought.

Bryant scored 26 points, Pau Gasol added 22 points and nine rebounds, and the Lakers avoided just the fourth 0-3 start in franchise history with a 96-71 victory over the Utah Jazz on Tuesday night.

Metta World Peace scored 14 points for the Lakers, who had much more life than the Jazz despite playing their third game in three nights to open the season. Los Angeles ran away with a dominant third

quarter, making a 27-8 surge out of half-time in the club's first win for coach Mike Brown.

After a tumultuous preseason under a new coaching staff, several injuries and the NBA's only three-games-in-three-nights start, the Lakers realize they're still lacking a consistent identity and a thorough knowledge of Brown's game plan. At least a blowout win over the Jazz allowed them to enjoy their first day off since training camp began.

"We're a very active team," Bryant said.

See **LAKERS**, Page 12

## Purdue downs Western Michigan in Pizza Bowl

DETROIT (AP) — Purdue coach Danny Hope sold school officials on his vision of winning with special teams when they picked him to replace the retiring Joe Tiller after the 2008 season.

That facet of the game helped the Boilermakers beat Western Michigan 37-32 on Tuesday night in the Little Caesars Bowl.

Purdue recovered two onside kicks and Raheem Mostert returned a kickoff 99 yards for a score that put Purdue up for good midway through the second quarter.

"The spread offense was the edge (with Tiller)," Hope said. "I want-

ed our edge to be special teams."

Caleb TerBush took the final snap at Ford Field, sprinted to the sideline and handed the football to Hope, who was recently given a contract extension.

"It's a moment that we've been waiting for the last three years," Hope said.

The Boilermakers (7-6) almost didn't beat the Broncos (7-6) despite having a double-digit lead for two-plus quarters.

Third-string running back Reggie Pegrum scored the first two TDs of his career and Carson Wiggs made two field goals to help Purdue take a 27-15 lead in the

first half.

Wiggs also recovered one of his onside kicks, both of which he tapped toward a sideline after running at full speed as if he was trying to boot the ball deep.

"Two onside kicks really hurt us," Western Michigan coach Bill Cubit said. "We never got a break on the field in the first half."

Purdue had another 12-point lead early in the fourth quarter, but the Big Ten team had to hold on for the win against the Mid-American Conference program.

The Broncos got the ball with a chance to go ahead, but their comeback hopes ended when

quarterback Alex Carder fumbled for his fifth turnover with just under 2 minutes left. Ryan Russell forced the final fumble and Bruce Gaston recovered to seal the win.

"It was nerve-racking," Purdue linebacker Joe Holland said. "But as a defender, you want the game to come to you."

The Boilermakers played in a bowl for the first time since 2007, when they beat Central Michigan — also in Detroit.

Western Michigan, meanwhile, fell to 0-5 in postseason play.

"I thought we'd win and walk out of here happy," Cubit said.

Purdue's Akeem Shavers ran for a career-high 148 yards on 22 carries, filling in for the injured Ralph Bolden, and was named the game's MVP.

TerBush was 8 of 13 for 101 yards with a 33-yard touchdown pass to Gary Bush midway through the third quarter that put Purdue up 34-18. Robert Marve was 6 of 7 for 76 yards with a 1-yard scoring pass to Pegrum in the first quarter.

Purdue defensive end Gerald Gooden had two of his team's four interceptions, and gave back one of those two turnovers back to the Broncos in a game filled with miscues and missed opportunities for both

teams.

Western Michigan's star receiver, Jordan White, who drew at least one NFL scout to watch him, caught 13 passes — including a one-handed grab — for 249 yards and a score. He was given a sixth season of eligibility this year because of injuries.

"We're about 10 points from being 10-3," said White, who set MAC marks for yards receiving in a season and career. "I think we had all the pieces to the puzzle but we didn't make it happen on the field."

Carder was 31 of 57 for 413 yards with three TDs, but matched a career high with four interceptions.





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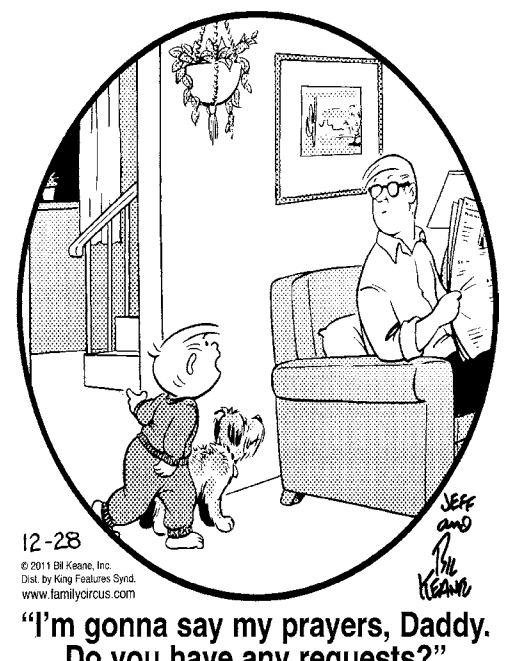


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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Swallow House	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Sons of Guns	Twelve, Matt Damon	Julia Nickson	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	Force vs. Toledo.
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me Wheel	Two Men	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dr. Diana CCM	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sons of Guns		(01) Movie: Rambo, Matthew Marsden	Law & Order	Jessie Austin	College Basketball		
7:PM	Middle Suburg.	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Raising Two Men	NCIS: Los Angeles	Una Maid en	All Night Whitney	Fam. Guy Upd	Nature (DVS)	Movie: According to Greta, Ellen Burstyn	Sons of Guns	Movie: The Polar Express, Nona Gaye		The Mentalist	Movie: Steppin': The Movie	Shake It Phineas	College Basketball: Baylor vs. Mississippi State.		
8:PM	Family Happy	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	La Casa de al Lado	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang	NOVA (DVS)	Cops	Moonshiners	Movie: The Polar Express, Nona Gaye		Leverage	Movie: The Longshots, Tasha Smith	Wizards Good	College Football: Baylor vs. Mississippi State.		
9:PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	McGee L. Moore	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	Sons of Guns		Rizzoli & Isles	Movie: The Longshots, Tasha Smith	Wizards Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Office Yohanán	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	Roseanne	Sons of Guns	Movie: Welcome to Mooseport	Southland	Wendy Williams	Wizards Good	NBA		
11:AM	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd Light.		Roseanne Focus 4	Sons of Guns		CSI: NY	Movie: Steppin': The Movie	Wizards Good	College Football: Military Bowl	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest		Wretched Tripp	Sons of Guns	Movie:	Leverage	Movie: Shoot	Wizards Good	College Football: Military Bowl	SportsCenter	

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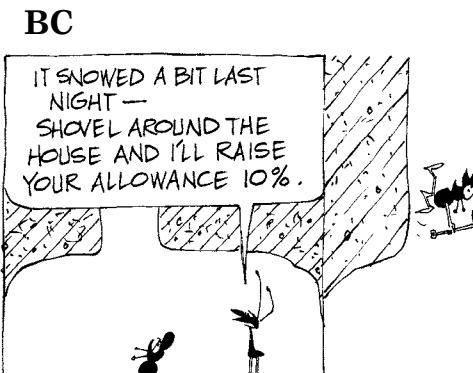
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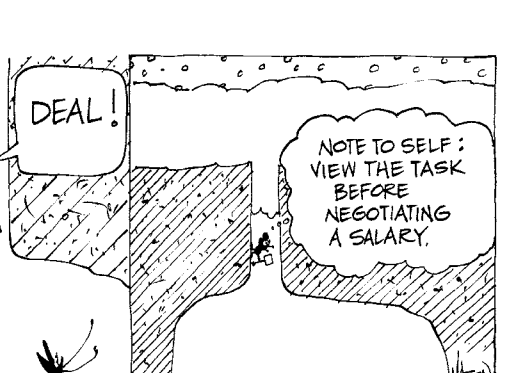
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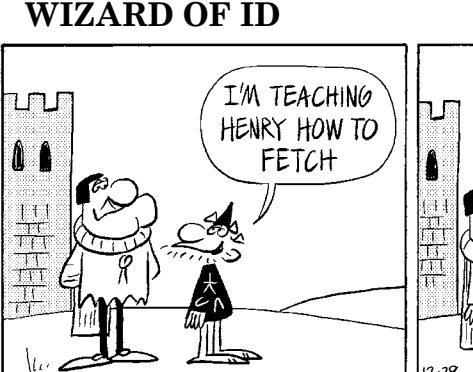
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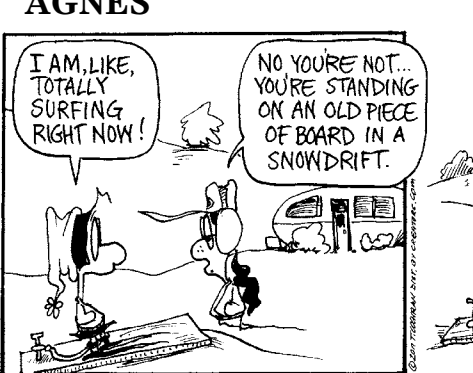
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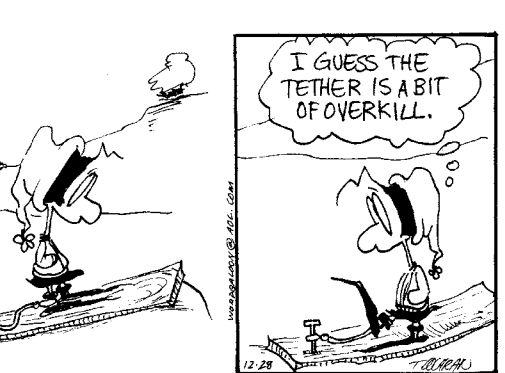
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In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after more than five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of differences with President Andrew Jackson.

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton (STAN'-tun), Va.

In 1908, a major earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated the Italian city of Messina, killing at least 70,000 people.

In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published "A Neglected Anniversary," a face-

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PESO	ASYET	STAT

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sharp-smelling

6 Not quite all

10 Big gulp

14 Trailblazing Daniel

15 Nevada neighbor

16 Sneezer's "Ah" follower

17 Jockey's attire

18 Acronym about faulty data

19 Leaser's payment

20 Subjects of tabloid pix

23 Singer Orbison

24 Leave slack-jawed

25 Traveled like Hiawatha

29 \_\_\_ Antny

32 LADY rank

35 Mil. no-show

36 Mechanical man

37 Take a shot

38 Some TV signal receivers

42 Memorable period

43 Art-studio stand

44 Green Hornet's valet

45 Wall St. regulator

46 Skating jump

47 The Joy Luck Club author

49 Contains

51 Beerlike beverage

52 Fancy dressers

59 Sharp tug

60 Former Iranian leader

61 Austrian region

63 In days of old

64 Prefix for social

65 Ouzo flavoring

66 Previously owned

67 Lumber

68 Inert gas

DOWN

1 "Six-pack" muscles

2 Salon creation

3 Diner freebie

4 Jet-black

5 Wish for

6 Hot and humid

7 Elevator pioneer

8 Multigenerational story

9 Pronoun used by Juliet

10 Door-hinge holder

11 Directions-seeker's question

12 Charged atoms

13 Understood

21 Silent approval

22 Arizona plants

25 Wholesale quantities

26 Knowledgeable

27 "Forget about it!"

28 Cheer for a toreador

29 Travel-guide listing

30 Adam's second son

31 Angler's equipment

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**WARE**

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Chicago (7-8) each had five representatives.

Three rookies were chosen: Denver linebacker Von Miller, Cincinnati receiver A.J. Green, and Arizona cornerback Patrick Peterson, selected as a kick return specialist. He has tied an NFL record with four punt runbacks for TDs this season.

"As I've said before, A.J. is the best first-round draft pick that I've ever been around," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said. "He has shown the other players in this league, and the fans, that he deserved this honor. I have not seen a receiver better than he is at getting to the ball."

NFC special-teamers included two 49ers: Lee and record-setting kicker David Akers; Peterson; and Corey Graham of Chicago.

For the AFC, the Raiders' Sebastian Janikowski is the kicker, Shane Lechler the punter. The kick return specialist is Pittsburgh WR Antonio Brown, and the special-teams player is Slater.

NFC starters will be Rodgers, Eagles running back LeSean McCoy, Packers fullback John Kuhn, Graham, Panthers center Ryan

Kalil, Saints guards Jahri Evans and Carl Nicks, Eagles tackle Jason Peters and Staley, Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald and Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson on offense.

"I think it's the fact that I'm versatile at fullback," Kuhn said when asked why he was selected. "I can play the traditional fullback role and lead block, and the coaches also entrust the ball-carrying opportunities that I have. I think the combination of the two of those really gets my name out there."

On defense, it will be Vikings end Jared Allen and Eagles end Jason Babin, Cowboys tackle Jay Ratliff and Smith, Packers outside linebacker Clay Matthews and Cowboys outside linebacker DeMarcus Ware, inside linebacker Willis, Packers cornerback Charles Woodson and Rogers, Seahawks safety Earl Thomas and Cardinals safety Adrian Wilson.

AFC starters will be Brady, Ravens running back Ray Rice and fullback Vonta Leach, Gronkowski, Steelers center Maurkice Pouncey, Mankins and Waters at guard, Browns tackles Joe Thomas and Dolphins tackle Jake Long, Welker and Steelers wide receiver Mike Wallace.

**LAKERS**

From Page 7

"This is a blue-collar team. We're a scrappy bunch. You saw that. We're going to fight and scratch and claw for everything, as it should be. That'll get us by."

With a Christmas loss to the Chicago Bulls and another defeat in Sacramento one night later, the Lakers got off to their first 0-2 start since the 2002-03 season. But Los Angeles has started 0-3 just three times in franchise history — just once in the last 50 years (1978-79).

Utah missed 17 of its first 19 shots in the second quarter while the Lakers made a 13-0 run capped by a one-handed dunk by World Peace, the normally ground-bound leader of Los Angeles' second unit. Los Angeles

blew out the Jazz after halftime, jumping to a 68-39 lead with a 12-2 run.

"To hold a team to 32 percent and 71 points in an NBA game, I don't care who you're playing, you're doing something right on that end of the floor," Brown said. "The focus, the energy, the effort, that communication and trust that we brought defensively, was exciting to see."

The Lakers comprehensively shut down the Jazz, the last NBA team to open its regular season. Paul Millsap had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Utah, but coach Tyrone Corbin scowled throughout the lowest-scoring performance in an opener in franchise history.

"They're a veteran team, they have a lot of pride, and they have some great players in that locker room," Corbin said. "I told our guys before the game, 'If

you expect them to come out and lay down because they're playing there games in three nights, you're mistaken.' They wanted to get the monkey off their back as soon as they could, and they played like it."

In the Jazz's first season opener without coach Jerry Sloan running their bench since 1988, Utah made just 20 shots in the first three quarters and shot 20 fewer free throws than the Lakers. Al Jefferson went 2 for 16, C.J. Miles was 1 for 8, and rookie Enes Kanter was 1 for 7 in his NBA debut.

At least Utah's 25-point loss was one point better than the biggest blowout loss in Utah opener history.

"It didn't seem like much was working for us," said Utah forward Gordon Hayward, who had seven points. "It felt like we were just standing around."

**CELTICS**

From Page 7

Ray Allen scored 28 points on 8 for 12 shooting for the Celtics, while Rajon Rondo finished with 22 points and 12 assists and Keyon Dooling scored 18 off the Boston bench.

Through two games, Miami (2-0) has trailed only once — by two points, for all of 14 seconds. Boston turned the ball over 24 times, and Miami turned those into 33 points.

"Any team you turn the ball over that much they're going to score on you," Allen said. "We just have to settle in on both ends of the floor. Whether you score or not, they're going to run down your throats."

Cole's jumper with 3:01 left gave Miami a 108-98 lead, most of which disappeared in the next 59 seconds, thanks to Dooling — a former Heat guard. He scored seven straight points, including a 3-pointer with 2:02 remaining, cutting the Heat's lead to three. And when Boston got a stop on the next Miami trip, the Celtics looked for Dooling again.

But Wade stepped in front of a pass intended for Dooling, starting a play where James found Cole for another jumper, and Miami's cushion was back to 110-105 with 1:31 to play. A half-minute later, Cole struck again to restore the five-point edge, and Miami had the win.

"He's earned their respect," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Even though it's been a short period of time, about three weeks, because he's pure, he's all about the team. He's mature."

**NCAA**

From Page 7

to the schools for another 60-day comment period; or allow members to vote on the override, which needs a 5/8ths majority of the roughly 350 Division I members to pass.

A permanent reversal could force the NCAA and its schools to have two sets of standards, with an obligation to honor multi-year scholarship offers and stipend payments for some

students but not others.

David Berst, the NCAA's vice president of governance for Division I, said that most schools support the concept of multi-year scholarships but have concerns about how to enact such a change.

"The overriding concern had to do with the time to prepare and plan (for a change) rather than objecting to the concept," he said.

"I'm anticipating the rule will still be in effect (after the next board meeting)."

The list of schools objecting to the multi-year scholarship plan, obtained by Dennie and provided to The Associated Press, includes Boise State, Boston University, Indiana State, Marquette, Marshall, Rutgers, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming.

Boise State called the move a "recruiting disaster" that would encourage a "culture of brokering" and pit wealthy schools with larger recruiting budgets against their less well-heeled brethren.

It would also obligate schools to long-term commitments that may not make competitive sense.

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