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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 29, 2011

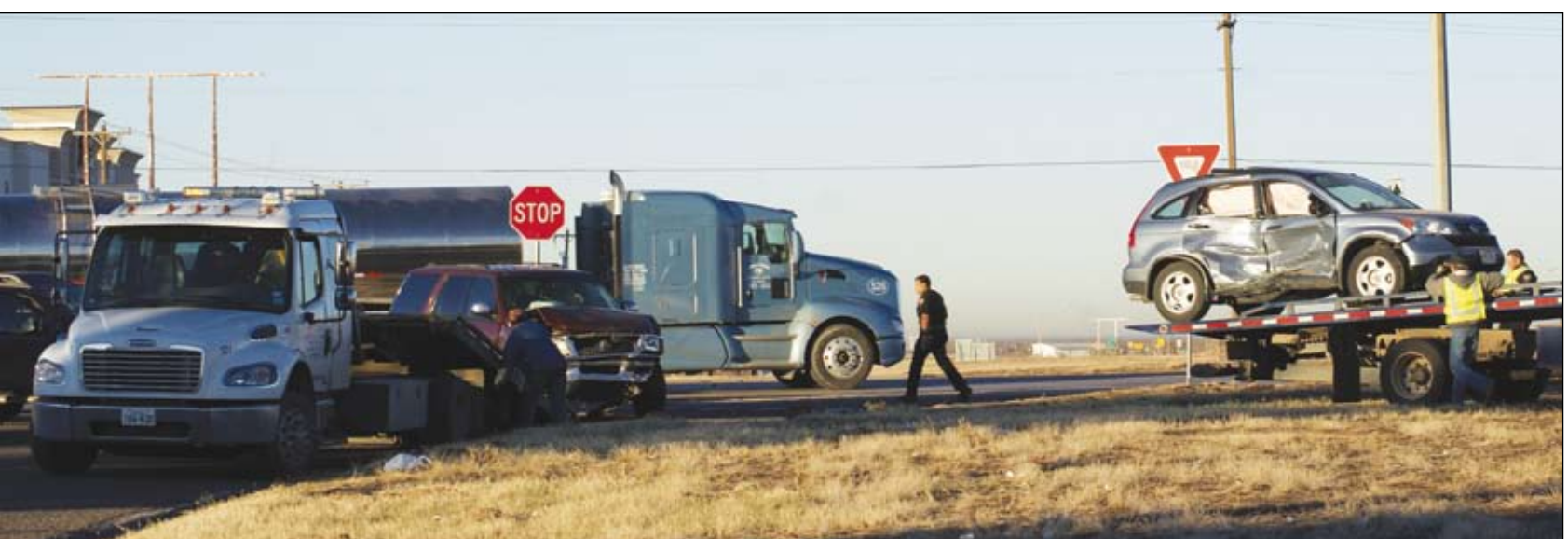


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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 66

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



**Two vehicles col-
lided near the I-20
east access road
and Lamesa Highway
around 8 this morning.
According to witness-
es at the scene, one
person was transport-
ed to Scenic Mountain
Medical Center for
unknown injuries.**

HERALD photo/
Amanda Moreno

Taxing times

To avoid penalty, pay property taxes by Jan. 31

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents who haven't paid their property taxes have until the end of January to ante up their 2011 tabs or face penalties and interest, according to local tax officials.

Area property owners can avoid the annual last-minute dash to pay their taxes by getting them out of the way early in the month, said County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles.

"Once the taxes go delinquent the first of February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month," said Sayles. "As of July 1, penalty and interest grow to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees."

Approximately 36,000 to 37,000 tax statements were mailed out in mid-October, according to Sayles, and area

"There is a provision that allows taxpayers over the age of 65 to pay their taxes in four installments without any penalties or interest."

Kathy Sayles, county tax assessor/collector



residents who aren't sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

"Some individuals don't get their statement for whatever reason," said Sayles. "We can pull up their name on the system and tell them the amount that's due. So if you haven't received a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don't send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they

have to do is call.

"They can reference their check with an account number we can give them so they can get their payment in the mail. Once that's done, we mail them back a receipt for their payment."

For taxpayers over the age of 65 or currently on disability, Sayles said there is a special installment plan that can help them avoid penalties and interest, which can quickly add up.

"There is a provision which

See **TAXES**, Page 3

Trout restocking to resume at park

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

Summer isn't the only time for fishing, especially if you are angling for rainbow trout.



Comanche Trail Lake will receive the second group of rainbow trout from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on Jan. 12.

The first group of fish was released into the lake Dec. 13 as part of the annual restocking. The restocking program has been taking place for four years after the Rev. Ken McIntosh approached Debbie Wegman, Conventions and Visitors Bureau director, about what it would take to get the lake stocked. In order to keep the program going, the city pays for half of the fish and the TPWD covers the other half.

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

Each cycle of stocking includes about 2,000 fish, according to Wegman. The final restocking will take place Feb. 15. Once all the fish have been brought in, there will be more than 6,000 catchable size trout in Comanche Trail Lake.

"The goal of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's rainbow trout stocking program is to release catchable size rainbow trout in select waters in Texas to provide a

See **TROUT**, Page 3

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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.



Johnson to speak at banquet

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

All aboard for hometown pride.

Tickets will soon go on sale for the annual chamber banquet, set for Jan. 31. Those wanting to attend can start purchasing their tickets Jan. 10 at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will be \$25 per person.

Guest speaker for the banquet will be Charley Johnson, a former NFL player and Big Spring native. After graduating from Big Spring High School in 1956, he continued his education on a football scholarship at Schreiner Institute. His football career continued at New Mexico State University and included two consecutive Sun Bowl victories. His jersey number was the only number to ever be retired in more than 109 years from New Mexico Aggie football.



"He will have a good message to bring to our community. He is one of our great success stories," said Jan Foresyth, incoming chamber board president. "Big Spring is home to him and always

will be."



Johnson

He now serves as professor and assistant to the dean of engineering at New Mexico State University. He has received induction into several hall of fames, including Big Spring Hall of Fame, Schreiner University, NMSU, and more.

Johnson's football career carried him into the NFL, AFL and Canada. He played quarterback for St. Louis, Houston and Denver. In 1963 he was selected for the NFL Pro Bowl and for the AFC All Conference in 1973. In addition to his football career, he earned his master's and doctorate degrees in science. He also served two years active duty for NASA in Virginia.

For those wanting to sponsor a table the cost is \$125. Those who sponsored a table last year will be contacted to see if they want to sponsor a table this year, Chamber Executive Director Debbye Valverde said.

"It will be a fun thing and a great time for chamber members to showcase what they do," Foresyth said.

See **JOHNSON**, Page 3

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CLOSED SATURDAY, DEC. 31ST



Obituaries

Dr. Carl Allen Dillaha



Dr. Carl Allen Dillaha, 87, of Fluvanna, Texas, died Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011, at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder, Texas, after a lengthy illness.

Graveside services for Dr. Dillaha will be held Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, at 2 p.m. at Hillside Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Dana Mayfield officiating under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Funeral Home.

Dr. Dillaha was born Oct. 25, 1924, in Little Rock, Ark., to Carl A. and Thelma (Cashion) Dillaha. He spent his school years in Little Rock and graduated high school in 1942.

He married Helen Biggadike in Little Rock, Ark., on Aug. 30, 1947. She preceded him in death in February 1996. He then married Margaret Trevey Drum on June 4, 1997, and moved to her home in Fluvanna.

He joined the Navy in September 1944 at age 19. He was one of the youngest Naval officers in U.S. Navy history. He graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine in June 1951 with a medical doctorate degree.

He moved to Snyder on Aug. 1, 1953, and opened a private practice with Dr. Thomas Hartley. He closed his practice in 1989 and worked as the medical director of the Price Daniel Unit in Snyder. He also served as medical director of Snyder Oaks Care Center, Snyder Healthcare Center and Odyssey Healthcare Hospice.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Dillaha of Fluvanna, Texas; one daughter, Maribeth Dillaha Bunn of Abilene, Texas; two sons, Steve Dillaha and wife Samantha of Snyder, Texas, and David Dillaha of Lafayette, La.; one stepson, Max and Valerie Drum of Snyder, Texas; one sister, Janice Young of Oakland, Calif.; a grandson, Jonathan Burton; and a great-grandson, Vandon Burton of Abilene, Texas.

In addition to his first wife, he was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011, from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to Compass Hospice, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring, Texas 79720, or your favorite charity.

Online condolences may be posted at www.bell-cypertseale.com

Paid obituary

Emma C. Thwing



Emma C. Thwing, 77, died Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011, at Lincoln Hills Healthcare Center in New Albany, Ind.

She was born Jan. 10, 1934, in Big Spring, Texas, to John and Frankie Tucker. Emma was a member of Silver Street United Methodist Church in New Albany and Epsilon Sigma Alpha International.

Survivors include her husband, David A. Thwing; children, Richard A. Thwing of Georgetown, Ind., Ricky W. Thwing of Athens, Maine, Cindy Thwing of Norridgewock, Maine, and Reba Williams and Robyn Flowers, both of Wichita Falls, Texas; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, at Silver Street United Methodist Church. Kraft Funeral Service, 708 E. Spring Street, New Albany, Ind., is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.kraftfuneralservice.net

The family requests expressions of sympathy be made to Silver Street United Methodist Church, 413 Silver Street, New Albany, IN 47150.

Albert Dean Forrest

Albert Dean Forrest, 84, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

www.bigspringherald.com

Oscar Hilario



Oscar Hilario, 53, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Axel Chavez officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011, at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 27, 1958, in Big Spring, Texas, and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He worked as a dietary cook for Parkview Nursing Home and Rehabilitation and other nursing homes in town.

Survivors include four brothers, Victor Hilario, Ruben Hilario, Richard Hilario and Rolando Hilario; three sisters, Rebecca Brito, Maggie Hilario and Rachel H. Perez; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Victoriano and Guadalupe Hilario; one sister, Pascuala Resendez; and one nephew.

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

Rob Dalsing

Rob Dalsing, 46, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011, in a Snyder hospital. 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. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **KRYSTAL KAY HENDERSON**, 26, of 1600 Brown, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for no driver's license – when unlicensed (two counts), failure to appear (four counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid and expired registration.
- **MICHAEL ANGELO GARZA**, 23, of 601 N.W. Fifth St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **BURGLARY OF A COIN OPERATED MACHINE** was reported in the 1500 block of E. Marcy.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 100 block of N. First Street in Coahoma.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 59 inmates at the time of this report.
- **KRYSTAL KAY HENDERSON**, 26, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on warrants for no driver's license – when unlicensed (two counts), failure to appear (four counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid and expired registration.

Fire/EMS

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

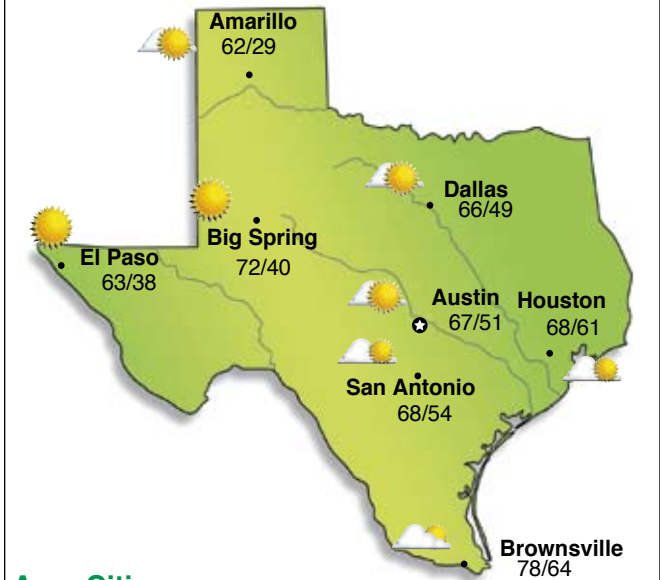
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 900 block of Main Street. Service refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported near the 182 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Patient was transported by air evac.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 12/31	Sun 1/1	Mon 1/2	Tue 1/3	Wed 1/4
72/40	53/31	47/32	56/35	57/35
Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the low 30s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:51 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:52 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:53 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:53 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:54 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	69	42	sunny	Kingsville	75	62	pt sunny
Amarillo	62	29	mst sunny	Livingston	65	56	pt sunny
Austin	67	51	mst sunny	Longview	62	51	mst sunny
Beaumont	69	60	pt sunny	Lubbock	66	32	mst sunny
Brownsville	78	64	cloudy	Lufkin	64	57	pt sunny
Brownwood	71	46	sunny	Midland	71	40	sunny
Corpus Christi	72	62	pt sunny	Raymondville	77	62	cloudy
Corsicana	65	48	mst sunny	Rosenberg	68	61	pt sunny
Dallas	66	49	mst sunny	San Antonio	68	54	pt sunny
Del Rio	71	45	mst sunny	San Marcos	67	51	mst sunny
El Paso	63	38	sunny	Sulphur Springs	64	47	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	75	40	sunny	Sweetwater	70	41	sunny
Gainesville	64	42	sunny	Tyler	61	49	mst sunny
Greenville	63	45	mst sunny	Weatherford	66	43	sunny
Houston	68	61	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	67	40	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	62	42	sunny	Minneapolis	45	29	pt sunny
Boston	47	28	rain	New York	50	34	pt sunny
Chicago	45	39	pt sunny	Phoenix	73	46	sunny
Dallas	66	49	mst sunny	San Francisco	63	44	pt sunny
Denver	46	22	windy	Seattle	41	34	rain
Houston	68	61	pt sunny	St. Louis	57	37	sunny
Los Angeles	74	49	pt sunny	Washington, DC	53	36	mst sunny
Miami	79	64	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sat 12/31	Sun 1/1	Mon 1/2	Tue 1/3	Wed 1/4
3	3	3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 being the lowest and 11 being the highest. A higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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Support Groups

MONDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

• PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

• Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY
• Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson's Disease, Young Onset Parkinson's, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. There is time for socializing and information. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jody

at 432-699-6640 or midlandparkinsons@yahoo.com or Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-2732.

• Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

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.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

FRIDAY
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1

allows taxpayers over the age of 65 to pay their taxes in four installments without any penalties or interest," said Sayles. "You make your first payment in January, then you just make the remaining three payments in April, June and August. This is for people 65 and older or who are receiving disability."

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent

interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6 percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

"Just remember, we go by the postmark on the envelope," said Sayles. "As long as it's postmarked by the deadline, you're OK."

For more information, contact the Howard County Tax Collector's Office at 264-2232.

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

TROUT

Continued from Page 1

unique winter fishing opportunity, to provide additional fishing opportunities in urban areas and to provide support to educational fishing program," Carl J. Kittel, program director, said in a press release.

Despite the recent lack of rainfall, there is still enough water in Comanche Trail Lake to sustain

the fish.

Anyone is able to fish at the lake. For those 17 and over, a license must be obtained before fishing can take place. Those under the age of 17 do not need a license to fish.

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

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 Friday and will reopen for business Tuesday 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.

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

JOHNSON

Continued from Page 1

More information can be obtained by calling ValVerde at the chamber office. Tables will be limited to 50 and 400 tickets will be sold.

"Anyone is invited to attend the banquet," ValVerde said.

During the banquet, outgoing president Terri Johansen will turn the gavel over to Foresyth.

Man and Woman of the Year will also be announced. Nomination 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.

Tickets can be purchased at the chamber through Jan. 23. For more information, call the chamber at 263-7641.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

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Wednesday Class..... 7:00 PM

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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

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OTHER VIEWS

Runaway spending cuts

Slash the budget,
That's our plea;
Just don't cut
What's dear to me.

Budget cuts are slippery.

What happens when your state cuts aid to municipalities or the federal government cuts special help to your local school? Who ends up getting hurt most?

It's not always easy to follow, because elected officials generally seek to obscure who's really at fault. They often try to pass the blame to someone else, slow the impact until they're out of office, or focus as much of the damage as possible on people who don't tend to vote. These are ancient techniques.

Pensions are a good example. All levels of government cheerfully underfund them, especially in times of low interest rates, like now. They figure it will be their successors who have to raise taxes to pay them, or

else renege — or declare bankruptcy.

School aid is classic too. The federal government helps fund schools in impoverished areas, as do most states. But when dollars are short, that item is an easy cut. Then either the local (poor, remember?) taxpayers pony up the difference, or the kids lose. They bear the brunt of the layoffs, bigger classes, and fewer arts and sports programs.

Then there's Medicaid. Its job is to provide health care to low-income folks. The federal government supposedly splits that cost with the states, but what happens when it's broke? Simple: they cut federal support for Medicaid and leave the states holding the bag.

Thanks to an anti-tax pledge most Republican politicians have taken, GOP-controlled state legislatures are rendered unable to raise taxes. That means many states can't raise more money to cover the gap in their Medicaid budget, so they just cut their payment rates for doctors. Many doctors then can't work for those rates and stop accepting Medicaid patients. And, when Aunt Minnie's diabetes goes untreated, she dies.

Not surprisingly, these tough times foist other budgetary fallout on the poor and voiceless. How about prisoners only getting two meals a day, as is happening now in Texas on weekends? Or food stamp cuts that force the poor into still more cheap empty calories? Daycare is likewise getting hit, along with early childhood education. The poor are losing heating programs and housing subsidies, and services for the homeless are scant.

Some cuts will potentially make everyone less safe. In some areas, city councils are ending the fluoridation of water, and there are places in America where the firefighters will stand by and watch your house burn to the ground unless you've paid a fee for their services. And now Mitt Romney wants to privatize health care for our veterans, which would erode the VA's services even more.

These are the kind of cuts that could get Republicans in trouble in 2012.

OtherWords columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative, and a former mayor of Norwalk, Connecticut. otherwords.org

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

So, why is Iowa important?

The Iowa caucuses may be over by the time you read this. But it doesn't matter. The caucuses are the second-most fraudulent event on the nation's political calendar.

The first, of course, is the Ames Straw Poll. It's entirely meaningless, but political reporters pay attention to it because if they didn't, their editors would make them cover a real story, like a meeting of the local water board.

Quick! Who won the Ames Straw Poll in August?

Did you forget already? I thought so.

Michele Bachmann won it and was immediately anointed a serious contender for the presidency. That's of the United States, mind you. By Thanksgiving, her candidacy had shrunk to Lilliputian proportions. Told you so.

The Iowa caucuses are the oddest oddball of the political year. They have virtually no predictive value, but reporters and commentators act as though they do. Historically, they are as apt to choose a loser as a winner.

Don't believe me? Here are some of the people who have won the caucuses that preceded presidential elections past: Democrats Tom Harkin and Dick Gephardt, and Republicans Mike Huckabee and Pat Robertson. None of them ever got within spitting distance of their party's nomination. Bob Dole won the Iowa caucuses once. It

wasn't the year he secured the GOP nomination.

In 1988, Democrat Mike Dukakis and Republican George H. W. Bush both finished third in their respective party caucuses and went on to win their nominations. In 1980, Ronald Reagan finished second in Iowa and first in the hearts of his countrymen. The first President Bush won Iowa the year he lost the nomination to Reagan. He lost it in 1988, the year he defeated Dukakis.

In 1976, Democrats put up a strong array of strong candidates. The contenders for their party's nomination included Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana, former Sen. Fred Harris of Oklahoma, Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona, Sen. Scoop Jackson of Washington state, and Sargent Shriver, who had been George McGovern's running mate four years earlier. Oh, and the relatively unknown former governor of Georgia, Jimmy Carter.

Carter finished ahead of them all in Iowa and was propelled to a successful run for the presidency, more's the pity. In fairness to Iowa voters, it should be pointed out that Carter finished second to "uncommitted."

The rules for the caucuses — one set for Democrats, another for Republicans — are almost impossible to fully understand, though in my many years of covering them as a reporter and newspaper columnist I always found drinking helped. The Democrats keep breaking apart into ever-smaller groups with more emphasis on making sure every group, gender, race and sexual preference is represented than on whom the candidate

should be.

The Republicans, as I understand it, vote in their precincts on caucus night, pass the results on to the press, then forget about them. Months later, at the state convention where delegates to the national convention are actually chosen, everyone votes for whomever they choose without reference to the caucuses.

These things take place at hundreds of venues in the dead of an Iowa winter and can consume as much as two or three hours, with no absentee voting. Nor is there a secret ballot.

It's no more or less democratic than a Russian election, I suppose.

Out of this mess comes an avalanche of stories. I'm guessing that many will have headlines such as this one: "Newt Gingrich has seized the reins of the campaign."

The best thing about the caucuses is they are really fun. Iowa campaigns are retail politics at their most charming and the people are great.

I remember one caucus at which Orville Armstrong, a legendary if rough-hewn Polk County supervisor, became incensed at what the speaker in front of him was saying, so he punched him between the shoulder blades, sending him flying over a row of chairs. You don't get action like that with a secret ballot.

As far as being a crystal ball into the future, however, reporters would be better served by reading the entrails of frogs.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. <http://otherwords.org>



WILLIAM COLLINS



DONALD KAUL



Time to bring in a New Year

As the new year approaches, we are provided with many new opportunities.

It is a chance to put the past year behind us and start fresh. A chance to realize we are not perfect, mistakes have been made, but there is no reason we can't grow from each situation.

For some, New Year's resolutions just aren't the ideal situation. Most go head first into fulfilling their resolutions and by the end of January have fizzled out and given up. I am one of those who often fails to complete my resolution or as in past years have just stopped making them completely.

At one time I did make resolutions, but over the years I have found there is just oh so important that I need to focus on all year. Not drinking Cokes, not eating candy and losing weight seem to be really good goals, but just don't seem like "important" areas." Yes, I want to be healthier and be thinner — most of us

do — but I think a resolution should be so much more than that. To this point, I just hadn't found anything that was important enough.

Well ... until this year anyway.

This year has been a doozy, that's for sure. I have had my fair share of ups and downs and to my regret, I have spent too much time focusing on the bad. There are several blessings in my life which I have failed to notice.

With the new year approaching I am finding myself focusing on a resolution, one which I think just might work for everyone.

I resolve to stop dwelling on the negatives in life. There is always going to be something that doesn't go according to our plan; something will always happen to knock us off balance, but it remains something we have no control over. Life wouldn't be life if we didn't have setbacks. It is the setbacks which help define who we are and who we can become.

To build upon that, I resolve to stop taking things for granted. There is no reason to focus on the little things going wrong when there are so many positives and things to be thankful for. People need to know they

are appreciated, especially when they are making efforts to do their best. It is important we don't forget to slow down and notice all the small gestures people around us make, especially those who love us.

I resolve to stop judging people before I truly get to know them. Nobody is perfect and just because they don't seem to be someone I would get along with doesn't mean they aren't. Many friendships can be missed out on if we judge before we get to know someone.

There are always ways to improve upon ourselves and this year, I resolve to stop trying to change others and instead change myself.

I'm not sure how far I will get, but I realize now, if we don't realize who we have there comes a point when we won't have it anymore and we will have nobody to blame but ourselves.

Take no one for granted, tell those you love just how much you love them and appreciate them and don't let another moment pass you by that's my resolution.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno by email at life@big-springherald.com or by calling the office at 432-263-7331 ext.234.



AMANDA MORENO

Abortion, immigration changes among new laws

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

Associated Press

Girls seeking abortions in New Hampshire must first tell their parents or a judge, employers in Alabama must verify new workers' U.S. residency, and California students will be the first in the country to receive mandatory lessons about the contributions of gays and lesbians under the set of state laws set to take effect at the start of 2012.

Many laws reflect the nation's concerns over immigration, the cost of government and the best way to protect and benefit young people, including regulations on sports concussions.

Alabama, with the country's toughest immigration law, is enacting a key provision requiring all employers who do business with any government entity to use a federal system known as E-Verify to check that all new employees are in the country legally.

Georgia is putting a similar law into effect requiring any business with 500 or more employees to use E-Verify to check the employment eligibility of new hires. The requirement is being phased in, with all employers with more

than 10 employees to be included by July 2013.

Supporters said they wanted to deter illegal immigrants from coming to Georgia by making it tougher for them to work. Critics said that changes to immigration law should come at the federal level and that portions of the law already in effect are already hurting Georgia.

"It is destroying Georgia's economy and it is destroying the fabric of our social network in South Georgia," Paul Bridges, mayor of the onion-farming town of Uvalda, said in November. He is part of a lawsuit challenging the new law.

Tennessee will also require businesses to ensure employees are legally authorized to work in the U.S. but exempts employers with five or fewer workers and allows them to keep a copy of the new hire's driver's license instead of using E-Verify.

A South Carolina law would require police to ask criminal suspects or individuals stopped for traffic violations about immigration status. The law is the subject of a federal lawsuit, and a judge has said he'll decide by Saturday which parts of the law will go into effect. The law also

creates a new illegal immigration law enforcement unit.

California is also addressing illegal immigration, but with a bill that allows students who entered the country illegally to receive private financial aid at public colleges.

Many laws aim to protect young people. In Colorado, coaches will be required to bench players as young as 11 when they're believed to have suffered a head injury. The young athletes will also need medical clearance to return to play.

The law also requires coaches in public and private schools and even volunteer Little League and Pop Warner football coaches to take free annual online training to recognize the symptoms of a concussion. At least a dozen other states have enacted similar laws with the support of the National Football League.

People 18 and under in Illinois will have to wear seat belts while riding in taxis for school-related purposes, and Illinois school boards can now suspend or expel students who make explicit threats on websites against other students or school employees.

Florida will take con-

trol of lunch and other school food programs from the federal government, allowing the state to put more Florida-grown fresh fruit and vegetables on school menus. Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam says the change will help children eat healthier.

A California law will add gays and lesbians and people with disabilities to the list of social and ethnic groups whose contributions must be taught in history lessons in public schools. The law also bans teaching materials that reflect poorly on gays or particular religions.

Opponents have filed five potential initiatives to repeal the requirement outright or let parents remove their children while gays' contributions are being taught.

In New Hampshire, a law requiring girls seeking abortions to tell their parents or a judge first was reinstated by conservative Republicans over a gubernatorial veto. The state enacted a similar law eight years ago, but it was never enforced following a series of lawsuits.

In Arkansas, facilities that perform 10 or more nonsurgical abortions a

month must be licensed by the state Health Department and be subject to inspections by the department, the same requirements faced by facilities that offer surgical abortions in the state.

It affects two Planned Parenthood facilities that offer the abortion pill, though they're not singled out in the statute.

Among federal laws, a measure Congress passed last week to extend Social Security tax cuts and federal unemployment benefit programs raises insurance fees on new mortgages and refinancings backed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration by 0.1 percent beginning Jan. 1.

That covers about 90 percent of them and effectively makes a borrower's monthly payment on a new \$200,000 mortgage or refinancing about \$17 a month more than it would have been if obtained before the first of the year.

Nevada's 3-month old ban on texting while driving will get tougher, with tickets replacing the warnings that police have issued since the ban took effect Oct. 1. In Pennsylvania, police are preparing to enforce

that state's recently enacted ban on texting, scheduled to take effect by spring.

Election law changes in Rhode Island and Tennessee will require voters to present photo ID, a measure that supporters say prevents fraud and that opponents say will make it harder for minorities and the elderly to cast ballots.

In Ohio, a measure that creates one primary in March, instead of two that would have cost the state an extra \$15 million, goes into effect later in January.

Ohio is also one of eight states with automatic increases in the minimum wage taking effect Jan. 1. The others, with increases between 28 and 37 cents, are Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Montana, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

A few laws try to address budget woes. In Delaware, new state employees will have to contribute more to their pensions, while state workers hired after Jan. 1 in Nevada will have to pony up for their own health care costs in retirement.

Jan. 1 is the effective date in many states for laws passed during this year's legislative sessions. In others, laws take effect July 1.

Poll: People looking to 2012 with optimism

However, AP respondents saying figurative 'good riddance' to 2011

JENNIFER AGIESTA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Americans are hopeful for what 2012 will bring for their families and the country, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll, though most say 2011 was a year they would rather forget.

Nearly seven in 10 say the year gone by was a bad one, more than double those who consider it a success, according to the poll. But 62 percent are optimistic about what 2012 will bring for the nation, and more, 78 percent, are hopeful about the year their family will have in 2012.

Jeff Wolfe, 33, of Farmington, W. Va., said 2011 treated him well because he was able to find steady work as a lineman. But for the rest of the nation, things were "pretty rough," with so many Americans looking for jobs, he noted.

"For the first time since 2009, I worked all year," he said. Wolfe said he lost work in 2008 and again in 2010. But in 2011, the father of two school-age children said he was able to catch up

on bills, buy his wife a new car and renovate his home.

Overall, the poll found 68 percent of Americans described 2011 as a bad year, compared with 29 percent who felt it was a good one.

A partisan divide, much like the one that ruled Washington this year, seems the only split in public opinion on 2011. Democrats were most likely to view 2011 positively (40 percent called it good), while independents and Republicans were less effusive. Beyond that, the poll found general agreement that 2011 is best left in the past.

Mary Burke, 57, of Ridgeland, S.C., felt economic pain in 2011. She saw prices rise for all of her expenses, from her light bill to groceries. "Paying \$5 for a jar of mayonnaise is outrageous," she said.

Food and gas prices surged in 2011, but the most recent Consumer Price Index shows inflation leveling off. November statistics from the government showed a year-over-year inflation rate of 3.4 percent,

A partisan divide, much like the one that ruled Washington this year, seems the only split in public opinion on 2011. Democrats were most likely to view 2011 positively (40 percent called it good), while independents and Republicans were less effusive. Beyond that, the poll found general agreement that 2011 is best left in the past.

the smallest such rise since April.

The AP-GfK poll found consumers are sensing the change. Just 18 percent of adults expect consumer prices to rise at a faster pace in the coming year, the lowest share to say so since the poll first asked the question in March. Most (51 percent) expect prices to rise at the same rate or more slowly.

And as the nation's economic fortunes overall appear to be tilting slightly positive, the public's expectations for the economy in the coming year are at their highest point since spring. According to the poll, 37 percent expect

economic improvement in the next 12 months, compared with 24 percent who think the economy will slide downhill. That's the first time since May that significantly more people said things will get better than get worse.

On a personal level, 36 percent think their household's financial situation will improve over the next 12 months, while 11 percent think it will worsen. Americans' financial ebbs and flows affect their personal outlook for 2012. Those whose households have

faced a job loss in the past six months or who describe their current financial situation as poor are less optimistic about what 2012 holds for them and their families than others, though that does not carry over to their forecast for the nation in 2012.

Optimism about the nation's path varies with views of the economy's direction. Those who say things have looked better in the past month are generally optimistic (79 percent), while just half of those who say things are getting worse for 2012 holds for the country. And about 6 in 10 of those who distrust the two major political parties to handle the economy or job creation are pessimistic about how 2012 will turn out for the nation.

Burke said she is angered by politicians in Washington who she believes fail to look out for the interests of the American people.

"They don't care about me and you," she said.

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News in brief

Kim son declared 'supreme leader' of N. Korea's people, party and military at father's memorial

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea declared Kim Jong Il's son and successor "supreme leader" of the ruling party, military and the people during a memorial Thursday for his father in the government's first public endorsement of his leadership.

Kim Jong Un, head bowed and somber in a dark overcoat, stood on a balcony at the Grand People's Study House overlooking Kim Il Sung Square watching the memorial, which also served as a show of support for North Korea's next leader. He was flanked by top party and military officials, including Kim Jong Il's younger sister, Kim Kyong Hui, and her husband Jang Song Thaek, who are expected to serve as mentors of their young nephew.

Given Kim Jong Un's inexperience and age — he is in his late 20s — there are questions outside North Korea about whether he is equipped to lead a nation engaged in long-stalled negotiations over its nuclear program and grappling with decades of economic hardship and chronic food shortages.

But support among North Korea's power brokers was unequivocal at the memorial service, attended by hundreds of thousands of people filling Kim Il Sung Square and other plazas in central Pyongyang.

"The fact that he completely resolved the succession matter is Great Comrade Kim Jong Il's most noble achievement," Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, told the massive audience at the square.

Slowing economy, Italian debts, austerity fatigue will challenge eurozone in 2012

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — After a hugely-turbulent 2011, the 17 countries that use the euro will be quickly confronted in the new year with major hurdles to solving their government debt crisis, just as the eurozone economy is expected to sink back into recession.

With government finances under pressure as growth wanes, the eurozone will find it even more difficult to shore up its shaky banks and keep a lid on the high borrowing costs that threaten Italy and Spain with financial ruin.

As early as the second full week of January, bond auctions in which Italy and Spain need to borrow big chunks of cash will start showing whether the eurozone is finally getting a grip on the two-year-old crisis that has seen three countries bailed out.

If the auctions go well and borrowing costs ease, then hopes may rise that the strategy of getting governments to embark on often-savage austerity measures to reduce deficits, along with massive support for the banking system from the European Central Bank, may be working.

If rates are still high and show that investors remain nervous about lending to governments, then fears will rise of a government debt default that could cripple banks, sink the economy and, in the extreme case, destroy the 17-member currency union.

Turnabout chairman, wheeling-dealing pastors lend odd notes to Iowa campaign

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa's GOP presidential contest remains deeply unsettled, if not downright strange, five days before the Jan. 3 caucus.

Rep. Ron Paul, drawing big crowds, got a surprise endorsement Wednesday night from Rep. Michele

Bachmann's now-former state chairman.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum, who has languished for months, suddenly seems to have momentum, just as former House Speaker Newt Gingrich may be losing his.

And Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who began the campaign by de-emphasizing Iowa, might be poised to finish on top, according to some new polls.

Romney now is making an unabashed push in Iowa. His rivals are scrambling to deny him huge momentum heading into the Jan. 10 primary in New Hampshire, his second home.

Insider account of Petraeus' rise and how he nearly stepped down over Obama's Afghan drawdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four-star general-turned-CIA director David Petraeus almost resigned as Afghanistan war commander over President Barack Obama's decision to quickly draw down surge forces, according to a new insider's look at Petraeus' 37-year Army career.

Petraeus decided that resigning would be a "selfish, grandstanding move with huge political ramifications" and that now was "time to salute and carry on," according to a forthcoming biography.

Author and Petraeus confidante Paula Broadwell had extensive access to the general in Afghanistan and Washington for "All In: The Education of General David Petraeus," due from Penguin Press in January. The Associated Press was given an advance copy.

The book traces Petraeus' career from West Point cadet to his command of two wars deemed unwinnable: Iraq and Afghanistan. Co-authored with The Washington Post's Vernon Loeb, the nearly 400-page book is part history lesson through Petraeus' eyes, part hagiography and part defense of the counterinsurgency strategy he applied in both wars.

Critics of counterinsurgency argue the strategy has not yet proved a success, with violence spiking in Iraq after the departure of U.S. troops, and Afghan local forces deemed ill-prepared to take over by the 2014 deadline.

Distrust after Japan's tsunami and nuclear crises spurs activism, but impact remains unclear

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's nuclear crisis has turned Mizuho Nakayama into one of a small but growing number of Internet-savvy activist moms.

Worried about her 2-year-old son and distrustful of government and TV reports that seemed to play down radiation risks, she scoured the Web for information and started connecting with other mothers through Twitter and Facebook, many using social media for the first time.

The 41-year-old mother joined a parents group — one of dozens that have sprung up since the crisis — that petitioned local officials in June to test lunches at schools and day care centers for radiation and avoid using products from around the troubled nuclear plant.

"It's the first time for anyone in our group to be involved in this type of activism," said Nakayama, who now carries a Geiger counter with her wherever she goes.

Public dismay with the government's response to this year's triple disaster — earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown — is driving some Japanese to become more politically engaged, helped by social and alternative media.

Iowa voters hardly resemble U.S. electorate but wield power over how president is chosen

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — All across Iowa next Tuesday, tens of thousands of Republican voters will travel through a chilly Midwestern night to the warmth of a local church or gymnasium for caucus

meetings to select presidential candidates, the first voting in the 2012 election campaign.

These Midwestern, mostly white voters hardly resemble America as a whole, and their voting system puzzles most people.

Yet Iowa holds substantial sway over how the nation chooses the president.

"Iowa will choose the next president of the United States in their early caucuses," Republican hopeful Michele Bachmann said recently. "This is the canon shot."

The caucuses — essentially community meetings — have served as a launching pad to the nomination, and often to the White House, for the past 40 years, though they've been around since the 1840s. Candidates tend to lavish attention on Iowa, hoping that a good showing will give them a burst of publicity to improve their chances in New Hampshire, which votes Jan. 10, and in other early voting states.

It's this contest that helped propel Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore to their parties' nominations in 2000.

It also helped Democrat John Kerry become Bush's challenger in 2004.

And the caucuses gave Democrat Barack Obama his first win in 2008, though Mike Huckabee won on the Republican side, not the eventual GOP nominee, John McCain.

TRAFFIC says 2011 worst year in decades for endangered elephants

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — It's been a disastrous year for elephants, perhaps the worst since ivory sales were banned in 1989 to save the world's largest land animals from extinction, the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC said Thursday.

A record number of large seizures of elephant tusks represents at least 2,500 dead animals and shows that organized crime — in particular Asian syndicates — is increasingly involved in the illegal ivory trade and the poaching that feeds it, the group said.

Some of the seized tusks came from old stockpiles, the elephants having been killed years ago. It's not clear how many elephants were recently killed in Africa for their tusks, but experts are alarmed.

TRAFFIC's elephant and rhino expert Tom Milliken thinks criminals may have the upper hand in the war to save rare and endangered animals.

"As most large-scale ivory seizures fail to result in any arrests, I fear the criminals are winning," Milliken told The Associated Press.

Stanford University archives offer window into Apple's early years, Silicon Valley history

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — In the interview, Steve Wozniak and the late Steve Jobs recall a seminal moment in Silicon Valley history — how they named their upstart computer company some 35 years ago.

"I remember driving down Highway 85," Wozniak says. "We're on the freeway, and Steve mentions, 'I've got a name: Apple Computer.' We kept thinking of other alternatives to that name, and we couldn't think of anything better."

Adds Jobs: "And also remember that I worked at Atari, and it got us ahead of Atari in the phone-book."

The interview, recorded for an in-house video for company employees in the mid-1980s, was among a storehouse of materials Apple had been collecting for a company museum. But in 1997, soon after Jobs returned to the company, Apple officials contacted Stanford University and offered to donate the collection to the school's Silicon Valley Archives.

Within a few days, Stanford curators were at Apple headquarters in nearby Cupertino, packing two moving trucks full of documents, books, software, videotapes and marketing materials that now make up the core of Stanford's Apple Collection.

Titanic artifacts headed to auction

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The owner of the largest trove of artifacts salvaged from the Titanic is putting the vast collection up for auction as a single lot in 2012, the 100th anniversary of the world's most famous shipwreck.

More than 5,500 items including fine china, ship fittings and portions of hull that were recovered from the ocean liner have an estimated value of \$189 million, according to Premier Exhibitions Inc., parent of RMS Titanic Inc. — the Titanic's court-approved salvor.

That value was based on a 2007 appraisal and does not include intellectual property gathered from a 2010 scientific expedition that mapped the famed wreck site.


The auction is sched-

uled for April 1 by Guernsey's, a New York City auction house, according to filings by Premier Exhibitions Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Results of the auction won't be announced until April 15.

The auction is subject to approval by a federal judge in Virginia whose jurisdiction for years has given oversight to legal issues governing the salvage of the Titanic.

The Titanic treasures were amassed during seven perilous trips to the wreck, which rests about 2 1/2 miles below the ocean surface in the North Atlantic.

A spokeswoman for the auction house and Premier Exhibitions declined Wednesday to discuss the auction with The Associated Press.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Grand Slam Force

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A K J 9 6 3
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ A K Q 8 4
 ♣ —

WEST
 ♠ 10 5 4
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ 10 6 2
 ♣ A K 10 5 2

EAST
 ♠ Q 8 2
 ♥ 8 6 4
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ J 9 7 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 7
 ♥ K Q J 10 9 2
 ♦ 9 5 3
 ♣ Q 8 4

The bidding:
 North East South West
 2♣* Pass 2♥ Pass
 2♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
 4♦ Pass 4♥ Pass
 5NT Pass 7♥

* strong, artificial
 Opening lead — king of clubs.

Most players shun artificial bidding conventions and are content to settle for Blackwood and Stayman and one or two other gadgets that might appeal to them. There is much to be said for this natural style of bidding. Readers of this column have probably detected an implicit endorsement of the more natural methods of bidding.

But this philosophy can be carried too far, because there are some relatively simple artificial conventions that can be profitably adopted without interfering with natural bidding.

One such convention is the grand slam force. Basically, this convention addresses itself to the case where a player feels there is an excellent chance for a grand slam, provided there is no loser in the trump suit.

Take this deal where North would happily bid seven hearts if he knew that his partner's hearts were headed by at least the K-Q. He elicits this information by leaping to five notrump, a special bid that commands partner to bid seven if he holds two of the three top trump honors, regardless of the rest of his hand.

The five-notrump bid implies that hearts — the last suit named — are trumps. South has no choice but to bid seven hearts, which is easily made.

The grand slam force is seldom used, partly because grand slam hands are seldom dealt. But when the occasion arises, the convention can be invoked by either player to determine the solidity of the partnership's trump holding.

One word of caution should be added. Care must be taken not to confuse this convention with the Blackwood five-notrump bid that asks for kings. The Blackwood five-notrump bid for kings is always preceded by a four-notrump bid asking for aces.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
 ©2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

See Sudoku Answer Page 12

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Big Spring teams compete in tournaments

By ROBERT GRIFFIN

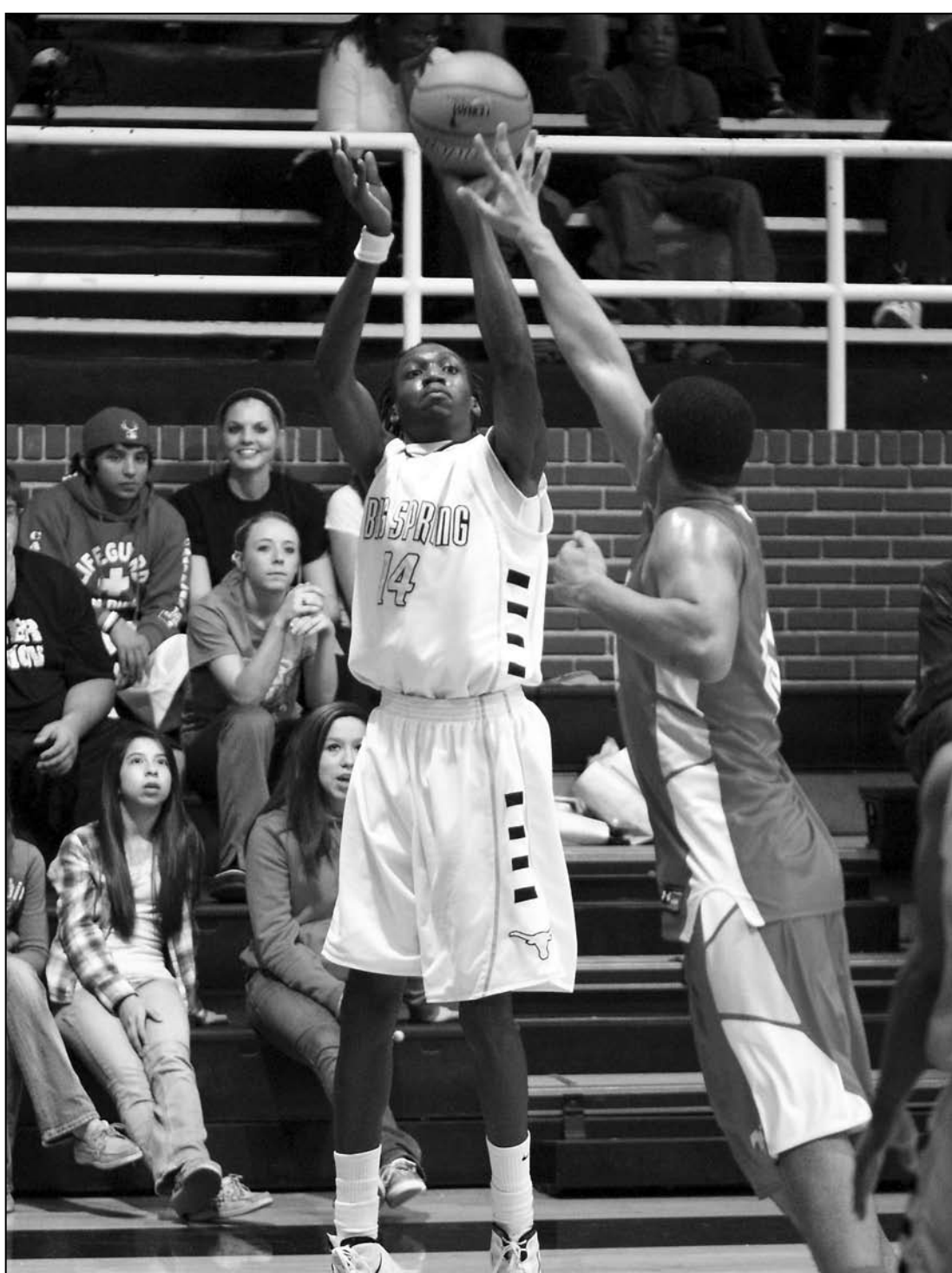
Sports Editor
LUBBOCK — The Lady Steers earned a split in their two games at the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock Wednesday. After defeating New Deal 55-34, the girls of Big Spring fell to Wall in the second round 39-33. Big Spring awaits their fate, knowing they will play the winner of the Sun-down and Paducah showdown in the consolation bracket.

Cerbi Ritchey had 12 points against New Deal Wednesday morning and LaShaunte Anderson put up 10, as the two Lady Steers represented both teams as the only players to reach double digits.

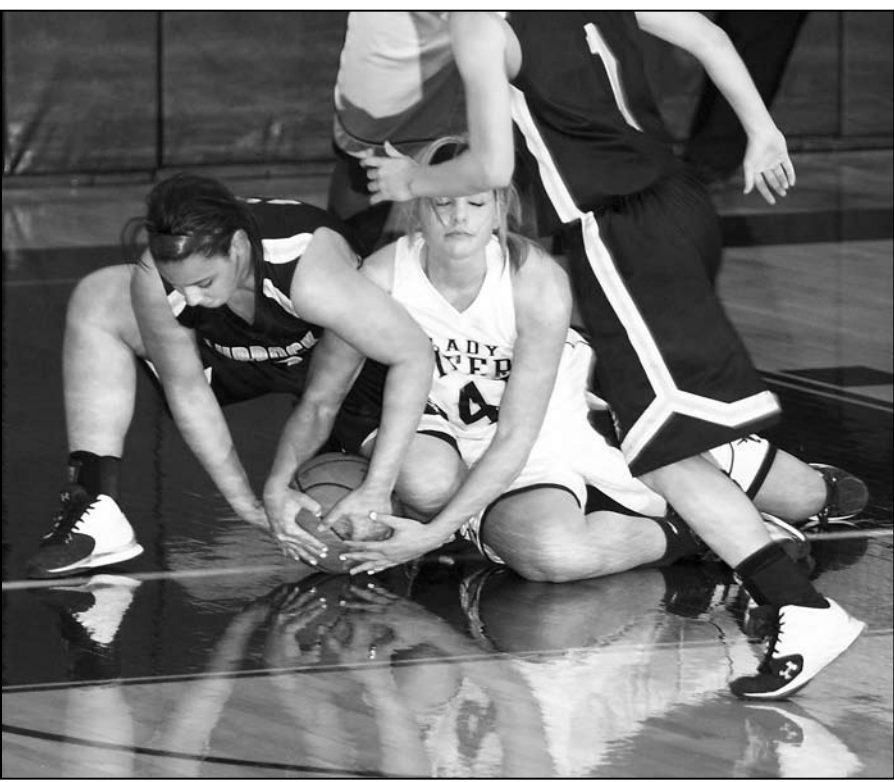
Big Spring came out strong, scoring 15 first-quarter points, while holding New Deal to a mere six. While the Lady Steers were matched in the second quarter — both teams scoring 10 points — they went into the locker rooms at the half with a 25-16 lead.

Any talk of a comeback in the New Deal locker room during the break was quickly dismissed. The Lady Steers came out in the third quarter and played an exact rematch of the game's opening frame, outscoring New Deal 15-6 again to make the game a bit one-sided as they led 40-22 going into

See **STEERS**, Page 12



HERALD photos/Tony Claxton



NO REWARD COMES WITHOUT WORK — Cerbi Ritchey (left photo) battles for a loose ball, while Morgan Ausbie (right photo) drains a long two-pointer in recent Steers and Lady Steers action.

Coahoma wins at Big Lake

BIG LAKE — The Coahoma Bulldogs got off to a fast start in the Mary Tatum basketball tournament in Big Lake Wednesday.

The Dogs downed Ozona to the tune of 52-41 in the first round of the tournament, setting themselves up for an 8 p.m. match today against the winner of the Reagan County/Pecos game.

Sheigh Cravens had a game-high 17 points in the win for Coahoma, with Tanner Ruiz adding another dozen and Alex Hill finding his range for six points.

Ozona had two players account for more than 65 percent of their offense, with DuBois scoring 14 and Mayfield hitting for 13.

Coahoma would find themselves down after the first quarter, but only by two points as the two teams traded the lead during the opening frame.

The Dogs would outscore Ozona 15-10 in the second quarter to take a 24-21 lead into the dressing rooms at the half. It was a lead they would never surrender, as they added to it in each of the remaining periods, outscoring Ozona 11-8 in the third and 17-12 in the fourth quarter.

Forsan boys shocked by Sterling City

By ROBERT GRIFFIN

Sports Editor
STERLING CITY — The Forsan Buffaloes earned a split in the early rounds of tournament action in Sterling City Wednesday. The boys would take down Roscoe decisively before falling to the host team later in the day.

The Buffaloes jumped out to an early lead against Ros-

coe and never looked back. The 17-4 first-quarter lead turned into a 31-10 lead at the half. Forsan would slow things down tremendously in the second half, only scoring eight and 10 points in the third and fourth periods, respectively, but it would be plenty to grab a 49-31 victory.

Tyler Evans led the Buffaloes with six rebounds, while Trevor Burchett, Mat-

thew Mims and Brendan Roman scored four each for the Buffaloes in the win.

In Forsan's 56-50 loss to Sterling City, Dillon Bagnall led everyone with 16 points and eight rebounds. Mims was good for 10 points in the game, while Roman and Burchett each hit for five.

The Buffaloes jumped out early in this one as well, grabbing a 15-7 lead after the first quarter over the host-

ing team. Though outscored in the second quarter, the Buffaloes still maintained a 26-24 lead at the half. It was a lead they would improve on in the third, outscoring Sterling City 13-9 in the period. But any thoughts of celebrating soon disappeared as Sterling City put up a perfectly-timed, 23-point offensive explosion in the game's final frame for a 56-50 win.

Spurs silence Clippers in 115-90 rout

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Los Angeles Clippers might be the talk of the Western Conference right now, but the San Antonio Spurs showed they still have plenty of life left.

Manu Ginobili scored 24 points and DeJuan Blair added 20 to lead the Spurs to a 115-90 win over the Clippers on Wednesday night.

Blake Griffin scored 28 points for the Clippers, while Chris Paul was held to 3-of-10 shooting and finished with 10 points.

Richard Jefferson added 19 points on 8-of-9 shooting for the Spurs, who have

won 17 straight home games against the Clippers, a streak that dates to Jan. 31, 2002. Tony Parker scored 14 points, James Anderson 12 and Tim Duncan 10.

The Spurs hit 45 of 80 shots from the field while limiting the Clippers to 29-of-74 shooting. San Antonio led by only four points at halftime but outscored Los Angeles 38-17 in the third quarter to take control.

"Our defense in the second half was great," Ginobili said. "They couldn't get lobs. They scored under 40 in the second half. We were pretty good on

defense. We moved the ball, and everybody scored."

San Antonio outscored Los Angeles 57-36 in the second half.

"They tore us apart in that third quarter," Griffin said. "Our defense needs to be better, and it can get better. The good thing about the mistakes out there is that they are easily correctable."

While Blair didn't limit Griffin's scoring, he was able to do enough offensively to nearly offset him.

See **SPURS**, Page 12

Texas downs California in Holiday Bowl

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The next time Texas coach Mack Brown sees Joey Harrington, the memory shouldn't be quite so painful.

David Ash added his name to the list of quarterbacks who've caught a touchdown pass in the Holiday Bowl and he also threw for one score to lead Texas to a 21-10 victory against California on Wednesday night.

Ash caught a 4-yard pass from wide receiver Jaxon Shipley in the second quarter to join BYU's Steve

Young, Texas A&M's Bucky Richardson and Oregon's Harrington as quarterbacks who've caught touchdown passes in the Holiday Bowl.

The Longhorns had the ball first-and-goal when Ash handed off to running back Malcolm Brown who then handed off to Shipley as if the Longhorns were going to run a reverse. Ash slipped into the end zone and caught Shipley's pass to give Texas a 7-3 lead. Shipley has thrown three touchdown passes this season, all while lining up at wide

receiver.

Brown joked on Tuesday how much it still bugged him that Harrington caught a TD pass in the Ducks' 35-30 win against Texas in the 2000 Holiday Bowl. The Oregon offensive coordinator then was Jeff Tedford, who has been Cal's coach since 2002. Harrington now works for the Longhorn Network.

Brown credited the play to co-offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin, who previously had coached and played at Boise State.

"Bryan Harsin grew up in

that Boise system and that's the stuff Jeff did with Oregon back in the early 2000s," Brown said. "And it's one of the reasons why I hired Bryan. He believes in running the football, he believes in being physical, but he's got toys in the pocket that he's going to take advantage of things when he can."

"If you're not moving the ball, he's got some imagination in the offense to make a play," Brown said.

See **TEXAS**, Page 12

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Legals

00010 Invitation for Bids

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P. O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. for the construction of the following project:

O.H. Ivie Reservoir
Intake Channel
Dredging

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will not be accepted and will be returned to sender unopened.

Specifications are on file and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, Telephone (432)267-6341, and the office of Freese and Nichols, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4055 International Plaza, Suite 200, Fort Worth, Texas 76109-4895, Telephone (817)735-7300.

Advertisement and information for the Project can be found at the following web site:

<http://construction.freese.com>

Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Offerors are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is not refunded.

The web site will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of interested parties, reports or other information relevant to submitting a proposal for the Project.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting on Friday January 6, 2012 at 1:30 pm, at the CRMWD O.H. Ivie Pump Station adjacent to the site, located at O.H. Ivie Reservoir at the intersection of FM 1929/Ray Stoker Junior Highway and Mustang Creek Road. A site trip will follow after the meeting.

A bid security bond shall be as set forth in the instructions to Bidders. Performance and Payment Bonds are required for this contract and shall be executed on the forms provided in the Contract Documents.

In case of ambiguity or lack of clarity in stating proposed prices, the Colorado River Municipal Water District reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, to reject any or all bids, and to waive formalities. The District anticipates that it will award the contract by February 3, 2012. No bid may be withdrawn within ninety (90) days after date on which bids are opened.

COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
John Grant, General Manager
#7204 December 22, 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012

If you told Pluto he wasn't considered a planet anymore, he simply wouldn't believe you. On days like today, he seems to be trying to prove the point by shaking things up on a core level for the Capricorns who happen to be celebrating a birthday this week. It's an excellent time to remember that who you are is not the same as the role you play in life.



HOLIDAY
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ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you're feeling

Legals

Sealed Proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P. O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. for:

Contract A: Ward County
48-inch Parallel Pipeline

The Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Any Proposals received after closing time will not be accepted and will be returned to sender unopened.

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COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
John Grant, General Manager
#7218 December 22 & 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012

Legals

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Contract B: Ward County
48/42-inch Parallel Pipeline

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COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
John Grant, General Manager
#7217 December 22 & 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012

Tomorrow's Horoscope

warm, everyone around you seems to cozy up to your inner fire. That's how it will be most of the day and into the night, so expect company.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In your mind, there will be no emotional difference between anticipating what you'll do, actually doing it and remembering that you did it. So today you'll get the same amount of joy from the past, present and future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Friends surprise you with the kind of news that leaves you momentarily speechless while your brain searches for the right thing to say. It's probably better not to say much. Being present and willing to listen will be enough.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You might feel a little touchy today, so it's best to avoid sadness triggers like torch songs, depressing movies or reading material that could be classified as a "total downer." Go for the laughs wherever you can

find them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As usual, you'll find creative solutions to life's little challenges. The difference today is that naive eyes are watching you and learning from your every move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll partner with someone who can help you break into a new realm of business. Things may get off to a slow start, which will allow you to gracefully ease into the groove.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As you search for solutions to the day's strange conundrums, a loving partner provides just the grounding agent necessary for rousing bouts of belly laughter. Humor gets you through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll enjoy the contents of your own mind. Your imaginings will amuse you to no end. You might even prefer your own company today, and who could blame you? You're good company indeed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Taking in

manmade beauty will be one of the most invigorating things you could do today. Art stimulates your mind and life in ways you won't be able to explain. It's one of the wonderful excitements of living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be included in the activities that suit you best. If you're not included in something, be glad; it's not for you. Your fortunes will be augmented exactly where you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You appreciate your self-sufficient friends. Similarly, your friends appreciate your self-sufficiency. This is a good time to be independent financially and emotionally.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What's happening around you might not be all that engaging, and you'll have to make a greater effort to connect. How will you be able to talk about your day later if you didn't really

experience it in the first place?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). You'll pursue your passion long after the others have given up. You'll spend time with people who possess a similar mental and physical toughness. In February, you'll be rewarded for hanging in there. Life may feel out of balance through the spring, but you won't mind because you're so involved. Pisces and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 22, 15, 9 and 30.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have been with my husband, "Andrew," for 10 years. During this time, I have witnessed the way he is treated by his stepmother. His father always defended his wife when she insulted or hurt Andrew, saying "she didn't mean it that way." Believe me, she always said exactly what she meant.

This woman is emotionally abusive. She told Andrew from a young age that he couldn't be her husband's son because they look nothing alike. She claims he deserved her treatment because he was bratty as a child. Andrew says he was probably acting out because his biological mother left him, and he didn't want to be close to another person who could break his heart.

Last year, we decided to move closer to the family to help patch things up, but things did not go as planned. In fact, it got worse. Andrew finally had the guts to tell his stepmother how she has made him feel all these years. I also spoke my mind to defend my husband because someone needed to be on

Andrew's side for once.

So we basically have been kicked out of the family. It says in the Bible to "honor thy mother and father," but we are struggling with this. I believe in forgiveness, but does that mean we pretend like nothing happened? Why is Andrew being punished for expressing how he feels? — *Hurt and Confused in Wisconsin*

Dear Wisconsin: People don't want to hear unpleasant truths about themselves, especially when they don't much like you to begin with. While your approach seems justified, it doesn't sound especially diplomatic, and this is why the response was so harsh. See if Andrew can get your in-laws to go with him for family counseling. He should say that he loves them and wants to repair this rift.

Dear Annie: My out-of-work, depressed, alcoholic, diabetic husband rarely leaves the house. He has no friends and no hobbies, but he is well informed and has an opinion on everything, so he subjects us to unending tirades. He

spouts that he is qualified to do any job, and yet he won't lift a finger to get one or take a class to improve his skills.

He eats, sleeps, watches TV and reads the newspaper. He takes no interest in the children at all. We are deeply in debt due to his unemployment. I do not want to stay, but cannot afford to leave. Please help. — *Forlorn*

Dear Forlorn: If your husband refuses to help himself, you must do what is best for yourself and your children. Talk to your clergyman. Ask your doctor for assistance. Contact Al-Anon (al-anon.alateen.org) and the American Diabetes Association (diabetes.org). Are you working outside the home? Can you find a job, even part time, that will help support your family? Would your family be willing to help? Please look into ways to become more financially independent, while also seeking sources of emotional support.

Dear Annie: I am in the same boat as the wife of "Chagrined in Chicago," as are many

women. I have absolutely no desire for sex whatsoever. It cannot be aroused by any means. What was once exciting is now uncomfortable and unwanted.

I have tried various cures and have submitted in the name of keeping a happy marriage, but it is not working. I resent being pushed into trying harder. One of us is going to be "deprived." Why should it be me?

I cannot see a happy solution to the problem, but I am so tired of being given suggestions like "put on your sexiest nightie" or "watch an erotic movie together." Nature has pulled the plug. Why isn't there a pill to make a man less interested so we are on an even footing? — *Arizona*

Dear Arizona: We know a lot of women who would be quite interested in that pill.

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 Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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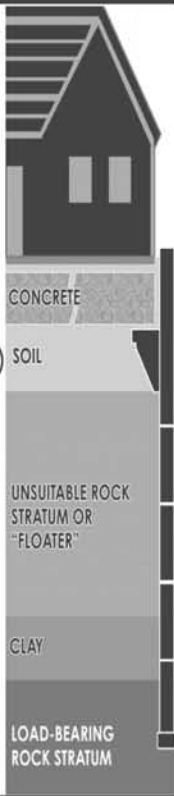
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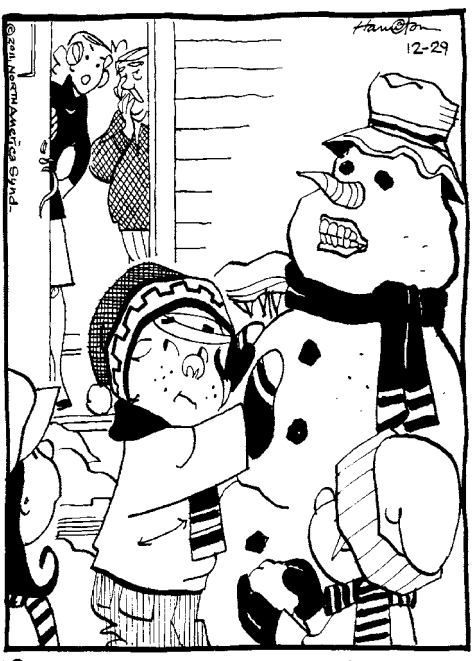
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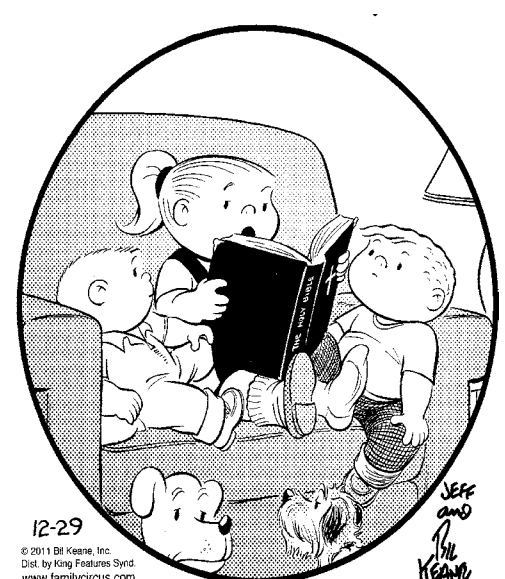
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5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma	Big Bang	News	Noticias	News	King	Israel	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Man, Woman,	Quick and the Dead, Russell Crowe	A Bronx Tale, Lillo Brancato	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	ball: Champs Sports Bowl -- Florida State vs. Notre Dame.
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	Chevalme	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Dual Survival			Bones		Jessie	College Basketball: Florida at Rutgers.	
7:PM :30	Charlie Brown	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Bones	Big Bang Rules	Una Maid en	Commun	Fam. Guy	Upd	Aviators	The Vampire Diaries	Dual Survival	Movie: The Polar Express, Nona Gaye	IMPACT Wrestling	NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Thunder	Movie: Exit Wounds	Shake It Good	College Basketball: BYU at St. Mary's.	
8:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy		Bones	Person of Interest	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Office	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	This Old House Hr	The Secret Circle	Man, Woman,			NBA Basketball: Knicks at Lakers	Movie: Half Past Dead 2	Phineas Wizards	College Football: Valero Alamo Bowl -- Baylor vs. Washington.	
9:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	The Mentalist	La Casa de al Lado	Office	Big Bang		Independent Lens	Cops	Last Frontier	Movie: The Polar Express, Nona Gaye				Good		
10:PM :30	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Dr. Diana	Charlie Rose	King	Man, Woman,					Good	College Basketball: BYU at St. Mary's.	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Sin Senos	Late Night	Office	Conan	World	South Pk	Last Frontier	Movie: Wild West, Kenneth Branagh	MAN			Good		
12:AM :30	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Moving for Christ	T. Smiley	Roseanne	Dual Survival					Good	NFL Live	
1:AM :30	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(.06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	(Off Air)	ACTIVE	Dual Survival					Good	MMA Live	SportsCenter
	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pagado					God	Dual Survival	Movie: Real				ANT Farm	CrossFit	

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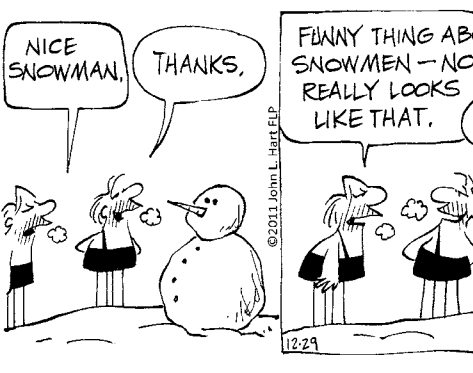
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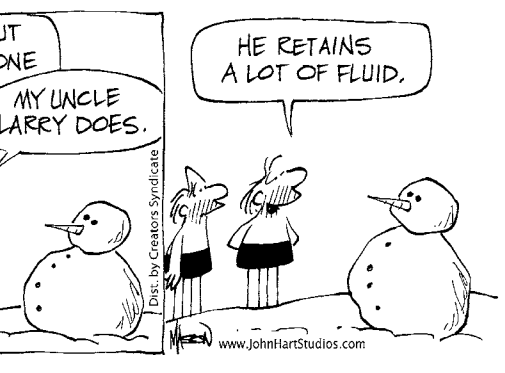
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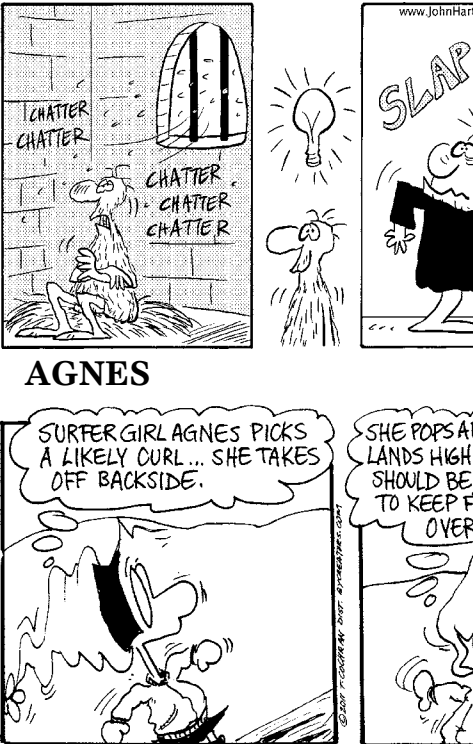
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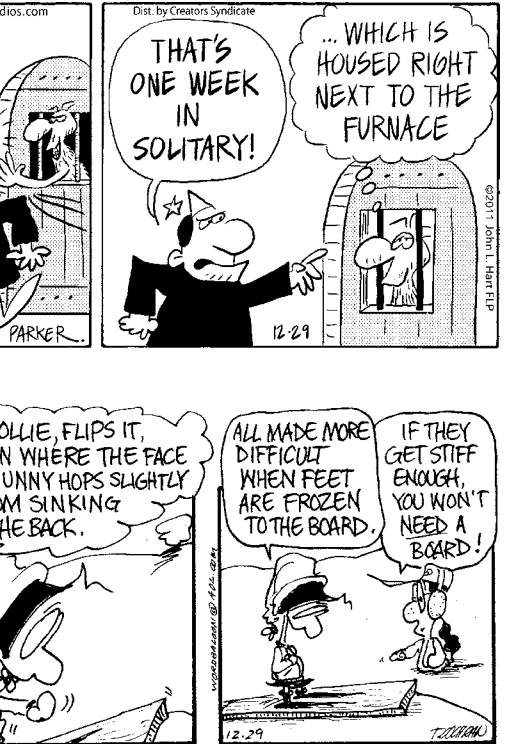
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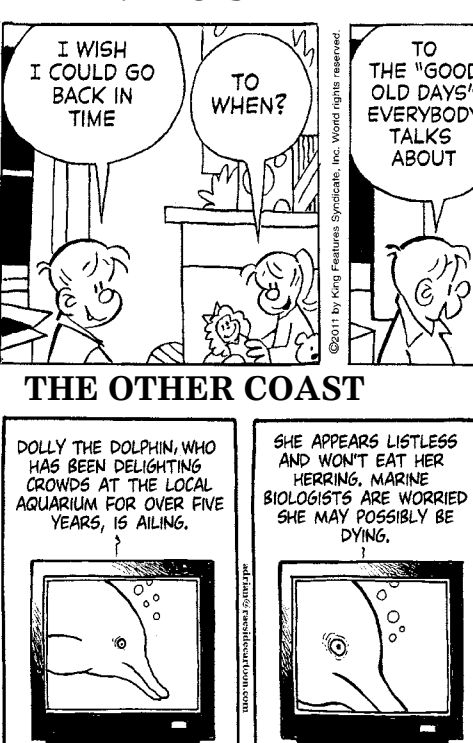
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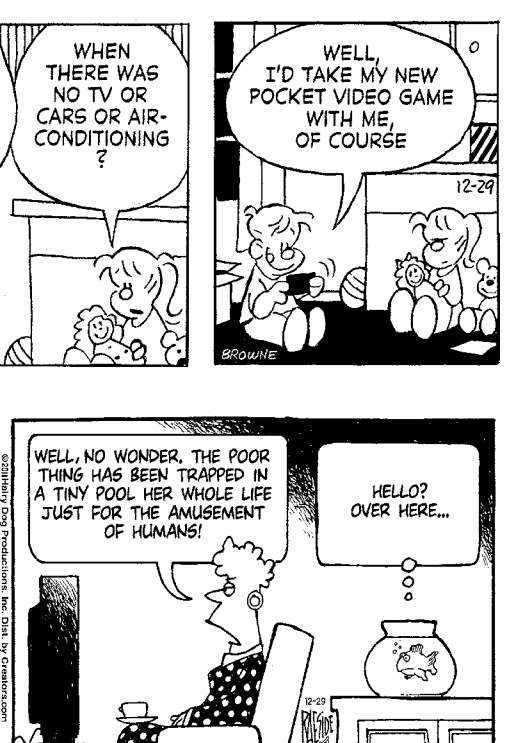
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THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



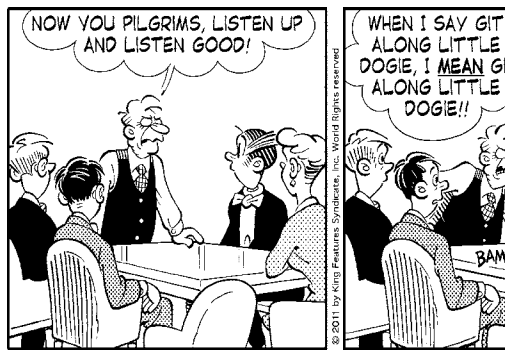
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THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2011. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1851, the first Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in the United States was founded in Boston.

On this date:

In 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was slain in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1911, Sun Yat-sen was elected provisional president of

the Republic of China, which officially came into existence three days later on Jan. 1, 1912.

In 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who'd wielded great influence with Czar Nicholas II, was killed by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

In 1934, Japan formally renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.

In 1986, former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan died at his home south of London at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Inga Swenson is 79. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 77. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 75. Actor Jon Voight is 73. Country singer Ed Bruce is 72. Rock musician Ray Thomas is 70. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 65. Jockey Laffit Pincay, Jr. is 65. Actor Ted Danson is 64. Actor Jon Polito is 61. Singer-actress Yvonne Elliman is 60. Actress

Patricia Clarkson is 52. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 52. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 50. Actor Michael Cudlitz is 47. Rock singer Dexter Holland (The Offspring) is 46. Actor-comedian Mystro Clark is 45. Actor Jason Gould is 45. Movie director Andy Wachowski is 44. Actress Jennifer Ehle is 42. Actor Patrick Fischler is 42. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 41. Actor Kevin Weisman is 41. Actor Jude Law is 39. Actor Mekhi Phifer (mih-KY' FY'-fuhr) is 37. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 36. Actress Katherine Moennig is 34. Actor Diego Luna is 32. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 28.

Answer to previous puzzle

ACRID	MOST	SWIG
BOONE	UTAH	CHOO
SILKS	GIGO	RENT
FLYING	SAUCERS	
ROY	AWE	
CANOED	MARC	SGT
AWOL	ROBOT	TRY
SATELLITE	DISHES	
ERA	EASEL	KATO
SEC	AXEL	AMYTAN
HAS	ALE	
FASHION	PLATES	
YANK	SHAH	TYROL
ONCE	ANTI	ANISE
USED	WOOD	XENON

Newsday Crossword

TIME AFTER TIME by Billie Truitt

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Lenient
 - 5 As compared to
 - 9 Maltreat
 - 13 Scrutinize, with "over"
 - 14 Honduran "hi"
 - 15 Starting squad
 - 17 Ricking of the Harry Potter films
 - 18 Ambitious in scope
 - 19 Computer shortcut
 - 20 24/7
 - 23 Follows persistently
 - 24 Justice Kagan
 - 25 Dozes
 - 27 OPEC mem.
 - 28 Downcast
 - 29 Nearly failing
 - 32 Scamper
 - 34 Lipton alternative
 - 37 Tricky curves
 - 38 Fiddler on the Roof tune
 - 41 Edna Ferber novel
 - 42 Over the line
 - 43 Cause to stumble
 - 45 In favor of
 - 46 Supermarket chain
 - 49 Mandatory: Abbr.
 - 50 Collars
 - 53 Tiny bits
 - 55 "I think somebody needs _"
 - 57 While it's light
 - 60 Sam of Jurassic Park
 - 62 Webster of dictionaries
- DOWN**
- 1 Black suit
 - 2 "Wow!" in Paris
 - 3 Beginning to unravel
 - 4 Lovetail part
 - 5 A while ago
 - 6 Arizona Indian
 - 7 Set straight
 - 8 Dipping chip
 - 9 Scene stealer
 - 10 Just slightly
 - 11 Contingency plan
 - 12 Friend of Dennis the Menace
 - 16 Saunters
 - 21 Trooper's device
 - 22 Quarterback successes
 - 26 Plot outline
 - 30 Quarterback Manning
 - 31 Orient
 - 33 Abbr. in old atlases
 - 34 Cutting sound
 - 35 "Gloria in excelsis _"
 - 36 Dating from
 - 38 Bad loser
 - 39 Omnipresence
 - 40 Surreal sighting
 - 41 Leave high and dry
 - 44 Launching site
 - 46 Digital media player
 - 47 Accessory for some lawnmowers
 - 48 Ones with questions
 - 51 Bluegrass instrument
 - 52 Keel over
 - 54 They may wait through the air
 - 56 Hilarity
 - 58 Execute perfectly
 - 59 People in general
 - 61 www._.org (Mormons' Web site)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13				14				15			16	
17				18				19				
20			21					22		23		
24						25		26		27		
28				29	30	31		32		33		
			34				35	36		37		
		38	39					40				
41						42						
43				44			45			46	47	48
49				50	51	52		53	54			
55		56		57			58	59				
60				61		62				63		
64						65				66		
							68				69	

STEERS

From Page 7

the final frame. Big Spring put up 15 points for the third time in the fourth quarter, holding New Deal to 12 for a 55-34 victory. Dyrshae Vanderbilt and Taneira Tuitt each scored seven points in the game for the Lady Steers, while Bridgette Tuitt racked up six points. Diamond Mayes and Logan Yarbar were good for four points, Mackenzie Stone hit for three and Ambra Hill found the bucket for two points in the win. The No. 19 ranked Lady Steers now await the winner between Sundown and Paducah in the consolation bracket for a game scheduled for 4:30 p.m. today at Lubbock Trinity High School.

BOYS

BRIDGEPORT — The boys team took a tough 65-59 loss at the hands of a top-notch Wichita Falls Coyotes team in the tournament in Bridgeport Wednesday. The Coyotes used an explosive 24-point first quarter performance to grab an early lead, but it was a lead they would have to defend for the rest of the game, as Big Spring made impressive comeback efforts in the second and fourth quarters. Down 24-11 after the game's opening period, Big Spring put on an offensive display of their own in the second period, as they outscored Wichita Falls 19-12 in the quarter, grabbing hope as they headed into the locker rooms only down 36-30 to the 4A Coyotes. Wichita pushed the lead back to a nine-point difference by the end of the third period, nullifying the Steers' 18-15 advantage in the game's final frame for a 65-59 final score.

SPURS

From Page 7

"I try to read them," Blair said. "They're very athletic. They jump high. I jump a little bit, but I'm undersized, so I just try to read them. Just look for schemes to get around the taller defenders. I watch a lot of Charles Barkley and Karl Malone, try to get a low shot. But I'm doing great with what I'm doing." The Clippers weren't able to get closer than 19 in the fourth quarter. After DeAndre Jordan's free throw made it 98-79, Ginobili hit a 3-pointer then found Blair for a short jumper to put the Spurs up 103-79. "They're dunkers," Blair said while laughing when asked about the Clippers being called Lob City. "But, yeah, not tonight. The Spurs hit 16 of 21 shots in the third, with Parker scoring 10 on 4-of-4 shooting from the field and 2 of 2 from the free throw line. Anderson converted a three-point play with 0.3 seconds left in the quarter to give San Antonio its biggest lead of the game at that point — 96-71. "We were down four, and I look up to see we are down 68-58 at one point," Paul said. "We are going to practice tomorrow and figure out what we did right and figure out what we did wrong. First things first, we need to start with me." The Spurs led 58-54 at halftime behind 16 points from Ginobili, who hit 4 of 6 attempts from 3-point range in the half. Blair added 12 points on 6-of-8 shooting and Jefferson had 10, including a pair of 3-pointers. Griffin had 16

points in the first two quarters and scored all but four of those points on either layups or dunks. San Antonio led by as many as 15 points in the first half, but the Clippers went on a 16-4 run and tied the game 52-all on Griffin's dunk with 47 seconds left in the half. The Spurs led 26-19 entering the second quarter after holding the Clippers to 8-of-22 shooting in the first. The Clippers jumped out to a 5-0 lead, but Ginobili responded by scoring the next nine points. Ginobili sandwiched two 3-pointers around three free throws after he was fouled by Chauncey Billups on a 3-pointer. "I'm kind of surprised," Ginobili said of the team's 2-0 start. "I didn't think that the team was ready to have two games like this -- to be so solid defensively. We're looking sharp, but I don't want to get too confident. I don't think it's fair or it's true. We still have a long way to go. It just so happened we played two very good games." Notes: Jordan hit 4 of 6 free throws. He went 4 of 12 in the opener against Golden State. Since Dec. 10, 1997, the Spurs have won 47 of 52 against the Clippers. The Spurs are off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 2008. The big win allowed the Spurs to rest several key players. Duncan played 26 minutes, while Ginobili and Parker played only 27. Caron Butler and Mo Williams each had 12 points for the Clippers. Billups had 11. Ginobili hit 5 of 8 3-pointers and 7 of 7 free throws.

Toledo downs Air Force in bowl game

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even the youngest head coach in the country knows not to expect the conventional from Air Force. After all, the Falcons had already scored three fourth-down touchdowns, including the one that had just made the Military Bowl a one-point game with 52 seconds to play. So 32-year-old Matt Campbell, leading Toledo for the first time, wasn't surprised when Air Force lined up to kick the extra point and then ran a fake, going for two to win the game instead of sending it to overtime. The Rockets were ready. Holder David Baska got bottled up trying to run the option. The ball squirted toward kicker Parker Herrington, who chased it until it went out of bounds in the end zone, and Toledo started celebrat-

ing its 42-41 victory Wednesday night at RFK Stadium. "We talked about it, first and foremost, because they fake some extra points and fake some field goals," said Campbell, the Toledo offensive coordinator who was promoted this month to the head job after Tim Beckman left for Illinois. "Ironically, we were in the same situation last year in our bowl game. I give credit to our staff. We got ourselves into a defensive call. We were not in a 'block' look." Toledo succeeded in taking a one-point lead with a 2-point conversion near the end of last year's Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, but the Rockets lost the game to Florida International on a field goal on the game's final play. This time, the wild ending to a wild game went their way in the school's first bowl win.

TEXAS

From Page 7

That play helped salvage a little bit of the Holiday Bowl's reputation for high-scoring, wide-open games. "We knew they were going to throw something like that out there," Cal defensive end Trevor Guyton said. "It was only a matter of time before they did it. They got us. No excuses." Ash had another impressive play in the third quarter when he threw a 47-yard touchdown pass to Marquise Goodwin, who made a nice over-the-shoulder catch in full stride. That gave the Longhorns a 14-10 lead. The Longhorns (8-5) were even more impressive on defense, getting five takeaways and sacking Cal's Zach Maynard six times, both season highs. The Golden Bears (7-6) are winless in five games against


the Longhorns dating to 1959. Texas put it away on Cody Johnson's 4-yard touchdown run on the first play of the fourth quarter, which was set up when Maynard was sacked and fumbled, which was recovered by Chris Whaley at the Cal 44. Goodwin ran for 37 yards and Johnson had a 3-yard gain before his touchdown run. Cal briefly took the lead at 10-7 after Isi Sofele's 6-yard run to cap the opening drive of the second half. Ash's long TD pass to Goodwin came four plays into the next Texas drive. "We had our chances and gave the ball away," Tedford said. Cal fumbled six times, losing four. The other turnover was an interception by Quandre Diggs, the younger brother of former Texas star cornerback and current San Diego Chargers starter Quentin Jammer. "They did a good job of stripping it. They got it out today," Tedford said. "They got their hands on the ball, their hats on the ball and stripped it. There's really no explanation for something we've worked on." Maynard was under pressure the whole game. "We kept getting caught in second-and-long, third-and-long," the QB said. "It's hard to build a decent pass game and run game. It's hard to overcome those turnovers. It's hard to build momentum."

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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DOING THE MOST GOODSM

The Salvation Army in Big Spring is offering several opportunities for end-of-year giving, including

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