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TUESDAY

JANUARY 3, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 69

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Shooting leaves one dead

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer
 Law enforcement officials with the Big Spring Police Department are investigating the Sunday shooting death of a 27-year-old Big Spring man in the 200 block of N.E. Third

Street. Christopher Castanuela, 27, of Big Spring was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room shortly after 6 a.m. Jan. 1 by Howard County Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs, who later ordered an autopsy.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, officers were dispatched to the 200 block of N.E. Third Street at approximately 6:10 a.m. in reference to a shooting. "At the scene, officers found a male subject had been shot,

but had left in a private vehicle prior to their arrival," Everett said. "Officers also arrived at the SMMC emergency room, where the victim had been taken. The victim was dead on arrival." Everett said Castanuela had been shot multiple times, but

declined to comment on the type of firearm used in the shooting. "Officers at the scene encountered witnesses who were not cooperative and gave conflicting stories," See **SHOOTING**, Page 3A

A year later, still no closure in Dunn case

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer
 COLORADO CITY — More than a year after teenager Hailey Dunn disappeared from this small, West Texas town, investigators say they are no closer to answering the question of what happened to the young girl. Dunn has been the focus of a region-wide search since her mother — Billie Dunn — reported her missing to the Colorado City Police Department Dec. 28, 2010. The lone "person of interest" in the case, Billie Dunn's then live-in boyfriend Shawn Adkins, remains the only suspect in the investigation. However,

despite executing a number of search warrants — with one allegedly turning up child pornography on a computer believed to be used by Adkins — no arrest has been made in the case. "I really wish we could get somewhere and get some answers," Billie Dunn told reporters in the weeks following her daughter's disappearance. "I'll do anything I can to get some answers. I know they're working long hours, but I do want some answers and I want my daughter."

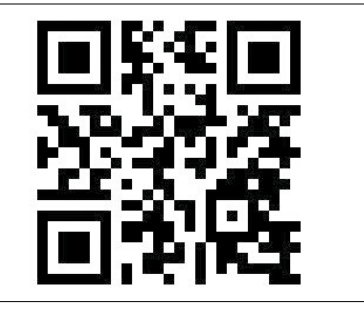


Courtesy photo
Hailey Dunn's disappearance in late December 2010, led to many searches and candlelight vigils, like the one above. A year later, the teenager's whereabouts are still unknown.

Billie Dunn's attitude would quickly turn to frustration, however, as both her and

Adkins would repeatedly be questioned in the weeks and months to follow.

See **DUNN**, Page 3A
DUNN



EDC looks forward to prosperous year ahead, executive director says

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer
 Big Spring Economic Development Corporation has been hard at work in the past year and has no plans of slowing down this year, according to its executive director. "BSEDC has been effective in fulfilling our mission statement to assist, stimulate and enhance economic development in Big Spring," Execu-

tive Director Terry Wegman said. "... to utilize its sales tax revenues to increase the job opportunities available to the citizens by assisting the expansion of local businesses and attracting new business activities." In the past year, BSEDC had

a hand in helping John Crane Production Solutions bring in an additional 24 jobs and retain 102 positions; CeRam-Kote bring in an additional 14 jobs while retaining the same amount; and Desert Tanks in bringing in an additional 38 jobs while retaining 17 positions. "Each company provided more than a million in capital investment for the expan-

sion projects and each are progressing better than projected," Wegman said. Other projects supported by the EDC in 2011 included: Assistance with an \$150,000 infrastructure grant for Howard County Community Health Center. The center brought in nine jobs with more projected. See **EDC**, Page 3A

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Body found in ditch, autopsy ordered

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer
 Police officials say foul play doesn't appear to have played a role in the death of a 70-year-old man who was discovered in a ditch alongside FM 700 Monday morning. The body of Jose Regalado, 70, of Big Spring was discovered in a ditch near the 1100

block of West FM 700 shortly after 11 a.m., according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department. "Officers responded to the area in response to a call of a subject laying in the ditch alongside the road," Everett said. "Officers found the body and later identified him as 70-year-old Jose Regalado.

There were no signs of foul play and no signs of trauma to suggest he had been hit by a vehicle. "Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman pronounced him dead and ordered an autopsy, which is set to be completed in Lubbock today. I expect his death to be of natural causes, but in a case like this you have to cover all of the

bases, and that's what we're going to do." Everett said investigator's haven't been able to determine why Regalado was in that area at the time of his death. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Police blotter

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

- DAVID RUSSELL BARTLEY, 25, of 2600 Chanute, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ISAAC DANIEL CHAVARRIA, 25, of 215 N.E. Ninth St., was arrested Friday on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- MANUEL REY CHAVARRIA, 29, of 2526 Fairchild, was arrested Friday on a warrant from another agency.
- LUCINDA RAMIREZ FLORES, 27, of 1504 S. Nolan, was arrested Friday on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, driving while license invalid, no driver's license - when unlicensed, failure to appear (two counts) and expired registration.
- BENTURA GONZALES CHAVARRIA, 31, of 1513 Sycamore, was arrested Friday on warrants for failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility and criminal mischief.
- CARLETTA MICHELLE MCKINNEY, 43, of 4102 Muir, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BRITTANY DAWN BARNES, 18, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 260, was arrested Saturday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- AUGUSTIN LEIJA YPINA, 56, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 40, was arrested Saturday on a charge of theft - shoplifting.
- RALPH ALLEN WHITE, 41, of 1313 Park St., was arrested Saturday on a warrant for speeding.
- ALVIN KENT MCCURLEY, 55, of 800 W. Marcy St. Apt. 30, was arrested Sunday on two warrants from other agencies.
- PAUBLO RENE GONZALES, 26, of 1906 Hale St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- JACK DANIEL PAREDEZ, 25, of 105 E. 17th St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ISMAEL PAREDEZ, 62, of 105 E. 17th St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LEONARD ANTHONY AGUINAGA, 23, of Ridgeroad, was arrested Sunday on warrants for driving while license invalid (three counts), failure to appear (four counts) and expired motor vehicle inspection certificate (two counts).
- RAYMOND EARL OVERTON, 32, of 405.5 Moss Lake Rd., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DAVID LARENCE GONZALES, 17, of 1300 S. Birdwell Lane, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- LARRY MARCUS SANTIAGO, 17, of 1506 Wood St., was arrested Saturday on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- KELSEY CHAVARRIA, 17, of 809 N. Runnels, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- ALYXANDRIA MARIE MUNOZ, 17, of 700 Tulsa Rd., was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- AARON HOUSTON HANES, 17, of 2604 Carol Dr., was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- DAVID WESTBROOK, 17, of 512 N. Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- SANDY MICHELLE BERMEA, 20, of 212 E. Robinson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- GABRIEL ADAM PENA, 18, of 2300 E. Marcy, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- DAVID WESTBROOK, 17, of 512 N. Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- STEPHEN YANEZ, 18, 2100 S. Main St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLINTON, 35, of 5109 Longshore, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MANUEL R. DOMINGUEZ, 44, of 1308 Nolan, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- KARI ANN YODER, 35, of Oklahoma, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
In the 5000 block of Nichols Rd.

Obituaries

Joe W. Blassingame



Joe W. Blassingame, 76, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Joey Bacon officiating.

He was born Jan. 28, 1935, in Mitchell County, Texas, and married Venita Hogg on Feb. 5, 1955 in Ackerly. She preceded him in death on Dec. 10, 2005.

Joe was a longtime resident of Howard County. He served in the United States Army, and retired from the United States Postal Service after 30 years. He enjoyed farming and ranching, but his greatest joy was his grandson, Collin, and attending all of

his activities.

He was a member of Baptist Temple Church. Survivors include one daughter, Melissa Brooks and husband Marty of Coahoma; one son, Eddy Blassingame and wife Joyce of San Angelo; one grandson, Collin McMillan and fiance Kassi Wash of Coahoma; two brothers, Robert Blassingame and wife Lil and Art Blassingame of Big Spring; three sisters, Betty Driver of Big Spring, Bobbi Webb of San Angelo, and Margie Larson of Memphis, Tenn.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dutch and Daisy Blassingame.

The family suggest memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

Paid obituary

Marion B. Wilkerson

Marion B. Wilkerson, 80, of Garden City died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012, at Garden City Cemetery with Tom Koger officiating.

Marion was born March 18, 1931, in Big Spring, Texas, and married Helen Nickell on Sept. 24, 1960, in Midland.

He was a lifelong resident of Glasscock County and graduated from Garden City High School in 1949. He was also a lifelong rancher.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his wife, Helen Wilkerson of

Garden City; one daughter, Staci Robertson and husband Jeff of Stamford; one grandson, Brandon Robertson of Stamford; and one sister, Wanda Moore and husband Bennett of Garden City.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Mae Wilkerson.

The family suggests memorials be made to First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma, P.O. Box 94, Coahoma, Texas 79511.

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

Paid obituary

Robert Henry Long

Robert Henry Long, 87, died Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, in a local nursing home. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Inurnment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring, Texas.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring, Texas.

Steven Wayne Brackett

Steven Wayne Brackett, 56, formerly of Big Spring, passed away Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012. Family and friends will gather to celebrate his life Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, at 11 a.m. at Heart of Worship Church, 19101 FM 1730, Lubbock, Texas. A tribute of Mr. Brackett may be found at www.memorialdesigners.net, where you may leave memories and expressions of sympathy for his family.

Jose Regalado

Jose Regalado, 70, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 2, 2012. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Tammy Torres

Tammy Torres, 47, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

- In the 1100 block of Sycamore.
- THEFT was reported:
- In the 800 block of N. Gregg Street.
- In the 1500 block of Sycamore.

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.
- LUCINDA RAMIREZ FLORES, 27, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection, driving while license invalid, no driver's license, violation of a promise to appear, displaying an expired registration and failure to appear.
- BENTURA GONZALES CHAVARRIA, 31, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for criminal mischief, failure to maintain financial responsibility and violation of a promise to appear.
- ISAAC DANIEL CHAVARRIA, 25, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- MANUEL REY CHAVARRIA, 29, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping - failure to appear.
- DAVID LARENCE GONZALES, 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- ALYXANDRIA MUNOZ, 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- AARON HOUSTON HANES, 17, was arrested

- Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- GABRIEL ADAM PENA, 18, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- DAVID CORNELIOUS WESTBROOK, 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- SANDY MICHELLE BERMEA, 20, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- CARLETTA MCKINNEY, 43, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- KELSEY CHAVARRIA, 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- STEPHEN YANEZ, 18, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- LARRY MARCUS YANEZ, 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

See **SHERIFF**, Page 7A

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Take Note

- A reception for retiring Big Spring Fire Department Chief Brian Jensen will be held at 4 p.m. Friday in the Big Spring City Council Chambers building. The public is invited.
- 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.
- An account has been set up at T&P Credit Union for Herchel Lewis who is trying to rebuild his house at 904 E. 12th after a recent house fire claimed the house and the life of Doris Lewis. Lewis is asking for help to gather funds in order to rebuild the house, which his family has called home for more than 30 years. For more information, contact Lewis at 432-517-4308.
- West Texas Opportunities Inc. will be closed Dec. 30 and will reopen for business Jan. 3 at its new location, 2001 Scurry.
- A benefit account for the Arguello family, who lost two family members in a recent house fire in Coahoma, has been established at Western Bank. Interested persons can contrib-

- ute 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.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
- Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.
- A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

- The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.
- Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$8 per person.

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1A

Everett said. "No motive has been established for the shooting and no

arrests have been made at this time." Everett said evidence in the case leads investigators to believe there is one shooter at this time. An autopsy was scheduled to be performed this morning. The shooting is not believed to be

gang-related. Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is encouraged to contact the Big Spring Police Department at 432-264-2550 or the Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 432-263-TIPS (8477) or 432-264-TIPS (8477).

Information could be worth up to a \$1,000 reward. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

DUNN

Continued from Page 1A

Adkins told law enforcement officials he last saw Hailey Dunn on Dec. 27, when she told him she was going to her father's home nearby and then on to spend the night at a friend's home. According to investigators, the teen did neither. Billie Dunn said she last saw her daughter at home the night of Dec. 26, nearly two days before she was reported missing. Both Adkins and Billie Dunn have denied having any involvement in the girl's disappearance. Billie Dunn lashed out against investigators handling the case

during a press conference held in the weeks following the girl's disappearance, saying law enforcement had been "negligent" for not naming more persons of interest in the case. Dunn also called accusations against her "ridiculous," saying her words had been misrepresented in the media. Colorado City City Manager Pete Kampf, who had been serving as the public information officer on the case, defended the investigation. "To say we are being negligent would not be appropriate," he said. "We are working hard, following everything, every lead, to the last degree."

However, Billie Dunn was taken into custody by authorities at her Colorado City home in March while members of the Texas Rangers were attempting to serve a search warrant on Adkins when Dunn allegedly lied about his whereabouts. She later accepted a plea agreement in Mitchell County court, receiving one year probation for making a false report to police. According to court records, Dunn entered the guilty plea in return for the prosecution dropping the other charges stemming from her March 17 arrest, including hindering apprehension and prosecution and possession of dangerous drugs. Dunn

was initially sentenced to 90 days in jail, with jail-time suspended in favor of probation. Mitchell County Sheriff Patrick Toombs confirmed Dunn moved to Travis County, in the Austin area. Court officials said her probation is to be served in Travis County. The girl's father, Clint Dunn, has traveled all over the West Texas area, handing out flyers and trying to keep Hailey's disappearance in the public eye. The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation recently labeled the case a kidnapping among its online list of "most wanted" crimes. According to officials with the Colorado City

Police Department, no new leads have been reported in the case. Hailey Dunn has light brown hair, green eyes, stands 5 feet and weighs approximately 115 pounds. According to information provided by Hope for Hailey, a non-profit group currently assisting in the search, the girl has a scar on the right side of her forehead and right side of her lip. She was last seen wearing dark blue sweat pants, a light-colored T-shirt and flip-flops. Anyone with information concerning the girl's whereabouts or circumstances concerning her disappearance are asked to call author-

ities at 325-728-5294 or 325-728-3161. A reward of \$15,000 is being offered for information in the case. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

EDC

Continued from Page 1A

- Contract with Leading EDG, formerly known as Entrepreneur Alliance, to provide business facilitation services to start-up businesses as well as assist existing businesses.
- Assistance in the amount of \$850,000 for renovations to Western Container's fire suppression system, helping to insure the long-term presence of the company.
- Partnership with Howard College to bring in and develop needed technical training courses.
- Assistance for Transport Handling Specialist Inc. in getting a working rail spur through the in-

dustrial park in order to attract new businesses and better serve existing companies. Many of the projects will continue into 2012 with more expected to get under way. Going into the new year, Wegman said goals have already been outlined. Some of those include recruiting new oil-related industry to Big Spring and attracting service industry to support existing wind and solar energy development. BSEDC also plans on continuing efforts to attract new industry, provide training and attract qualified employees to the community by work-

ing with local industries as well as Howard College. As for McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark, the board plans to continue working toward the development of an intermodal facility for the benefit of existing industry, continue rail spur updates and develop strategies to market up-

grades to runways. "We want to continue to provide programs to assist start-ups and help develop and aid existing small business, all while working with city officials to develop a downtown historic district and establish incentives for development and nurture redevelopment,"

Wegman said. "We will continue to market and promote Big Spring, Howard County and the region." Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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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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A simple ‘Nuts’ sent to Iran

When the Germans told Gen. Anthony McAuliffe to surrender his forces in Belgium during World War II, the commander of the 101st Airborne Division famously replied, "Nuts!" The German officers didn't quite get his drift, which was "Go to hell." Iran has just threatened to block the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf if the United States follows through on a plan to slap penalties against companies doing business with its central bank. That would slow sales of Iranian oil to a drip. Europeans are talking of joining such a boycott.



FROMA HARROP

The sanctions are viewed as a non-military way to stop Iran from going forward on its nuclear weapons program, which it is clearly doing, according to a recent International Atomic Energy Agency report. Without the oil revenues, Iran's fragile economy would crumble, along with its leadership. President Obama's answer to the Iranian threat was even shorter than Gen. McAuliffe's four-letter repartee. He said nothing, though that's fine as long as he sticks with the program. (Cowboy bombast is probably what Iran's leaders most crave.) In any case, the 5th Fleet command in Bahrain has issued a somewhat wordier response: "The U.S. Navy is a flexible, multi-capable force ...

always ready to counter malevolent actions to ensure freedom of navigation."

Analysts say the likelihood of Iran's actually closing the Strait of Hormuz is low. That would cut off what little oil revenue it receives. (Some see Iran's saber rattling as a trick to raise the price of oil.)

If Iran does follow through, one may worry about Obama's resolve. For some reason, blame for prices at the pump gets laid at the president's feet. As you may have heard, there will be an election this November.

While the U.S. has made strides on replacing oil, renewable energy sources produce just over 14 percent of our electricity.

Much of that comes from hydroelectric projects built long ago (Hoover Dam, Grand Coulee Dam, Tennessee Valley Authority dams).

Oil interests in this country habitually argue: Why bother? Oil is so much cheaper than wind, solar and other kinds of alternative energy. Case closed.

They rarely look two steps ahead to imagine a situation where Iran would close the strait. One-fifth of the world's oil supply passes through this narrow opening, where the Persian Gulf empties into the Arabian Sea. And somehow, they never add to their per-barrel calculations the blood and treasure expended in our defense of oil supplies

Iran is playing on Americans' fear of higher energy prices, something that has long kept this country slave to the whims of petro-dictators. Rising oil prices turn the masses into Jell-

O. And rather than come back with a strong defense — a Manhattan Project for alternative energy, whose products do best at times of high oil prices — the U.S. leadership pays tribute to some of the worst regimes.

The true "nuts" response to Iranian-type oil threats now comes from Germany. In June, Chancellor Angela Merkel set Germany on course to generate 80 percent of its power from renewable sources — wind, solar, geothermal and bioenergy — by 2050.

Merkel insists that the program is job-creating. By contrast, many American politicians tar any energy program not in the pocket of the fossil fuel industry as "job-killing." While Germany raised the share of electricity made from renewables to 20 percent now from 6 percent in 2000, it enjoyed higher wages, lower unemployment and stronger exports. Case closed, you might say.

Imagine what America could say to the petro-terrorists and assorted oil sheiks if our advance toward renewable energy matched Germany's. It could say "nuts" — and some other choice words.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Blind to their liberal biases

I think it's very difficult for any of us to be objective about any subject, especially something we care deeply about, but my objective observation is that liberals tend to be less aware of and less willing to admit their biases.

We see this often, which I'll get to, but first, let me relate how this phenomenon most recently came to my attention.

In a conversation with a saleswoman for online college courses, I expressed my disappointment that the professor of a religion course I was considering for purchase is an avowed atheist. I said that if I were going to spend time studying the subject, I'd prefer the professor share my Christian worldview.



DAVID LIMBAUGH

Don't misunderstand. I think it can be profitable to learn what nonbelieving "scholars" teach about the Bible, but the point I want to discuss here is the woman's response.

She maintained that it is preferable, for this largely secular course on the Bible, to have a professor who can approach the subject from an objective, critical and historical perspective, as if a believing professor would be incapable of that approach. But is that true?

Her error is assuming that nonbelief equates to objectivity. In fact, every human being — and thus every professor — has a worldview, and that worldview will inevitably influence his perception of the material. Every professor will have made critical intellectual decisions on a multitude of issues in the material, all of which will be influenced by his worldview.

For example, if you don't believe in miracles, you'd be more inclined to discount those verses of Scripture describing miraculous events, from the Virgin Birth to Jesus' converting water into wine to the bedrock Christian belief: the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Nonbelievers might be more

receptive to "higher criticism" and the "documentary hypothesis" and thus less skeptical of the theory that Moses didn't write the first five books of the Old Testament. They might be quicker to focus on apparent contradictions in Scripture that critical examination often reveals are not contradictions at all.

A believer in the divine inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture will certainly bring his biases into biblical exegesis, but so will a nonbeliever. We cannot escape our biases.

But the woman insisted the secular professor is only interested in presenting the material from a critical and historical perspective. A noble aspiration, I concede, should the professor actually possess it, but nevertheless unattainable. Historians and critical readers have biases, too. They can't help it.

It's just wrong to assume that a nonbelieving worldview is more objective than a believing one.

We are all blessed (or burdened) with our presuppositions, and they accompany us wherever we go.

It occurred to me that the woman's argument is analogous to the political liberals' legendary denial of bias. Indeed, many liberals don't even view themselves as liberals. Rather, they are reality- and fact-based creatures. Only conservatives allow their biases to taint their objectivity. Liberals will admit that some conservatives are rational, but to be both rational and conservative, they must be evil. They know the policies they support are wrong, objectively, but they choose to do so anyway — or something like that.

Evidence abounds: Scholarly studies show that mainstream journalists are overwhelmingly liberal, yet many deny it, and many honestly don't even see the biases they bring to their selection and reporting of the "news." ABC's Christiane Amanpour, for example, denies her liberal biases, saying she "remains in the realm of fact." The Bush haters who deceived themselves about Bush's alleged WMD lies claimed they were reality-based when in "reality" their hatred

made them stark-raving mad on the subject. A liberal college professor touting open academic inquiry banned "conservative" materials from class because she refused "to tolerate the intolerable." Members of the man-made global warming cult dogmatically proclaim a consensus despite strong dissent. Environmentalists extrapolate this mindset in their approach to scores of issues, traveling utterly quixotic paths and pursuing devastatingly expensive larks while dismissing skeptics as flat-earthers. Obama constantly refers to his ideas as self-evidently reasonable and Republicans' as driven solely by partisanship, because how could they possibly oppose his reality-based proposals?

As a conservative, I believe that many liberals proceed from good intentions, though I think their consistently horrendous results entitle us to some skepticism after a while even as to their intentions — or at least to their ability to see past their oppressive biases. I don't believe, for example, that they are racists because their policies harm minorities, though they often do. I don't believe they automatically lack compassion just because their policies spread misery.

Yet many liberals do believe that conservatives are evil, uncompassionate racists because our policies don't fit their self-serving, narrow, shallow parameters of "good intentions." Many leftists are so possessed by a need to be morally superior that they can't abide the possibility that conservatives also have noble intentions. So it is that many who believe they are objective, fair and reality-based are far less so than the objects of their scorn.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for fiction for its first two weeks. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
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 - 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we take the time to assess our situation, Lord, through our prayers to You.

Amen

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Kid Scoop Together:
Number Code

Read today's Kid Scoop page to find the answer for each question. Then, write each letter in the numbered spaces to discover an important lesson that Ruby Bridges learned through her experiences.

RUBY BRIDGES



Meet Ruby

On November 14, 1960, a little girl named Ruby Bridges walked to school past a screaming mob of angry white people. She had to be protected by four gun-toting U.S. federal marshals.

Why? She was doing something no other African American in her hometown of New Orleans had ever done before. She was going to school with white children.

PATIENCE Alone at School

For young Ruby, the isolation was even worse than the threats. When the school's white parents pulled their children out in protest, she was left alone, day after day, with her white teacher, Barbara Henry. She couldn't go out at recess so she played games with her teacher.



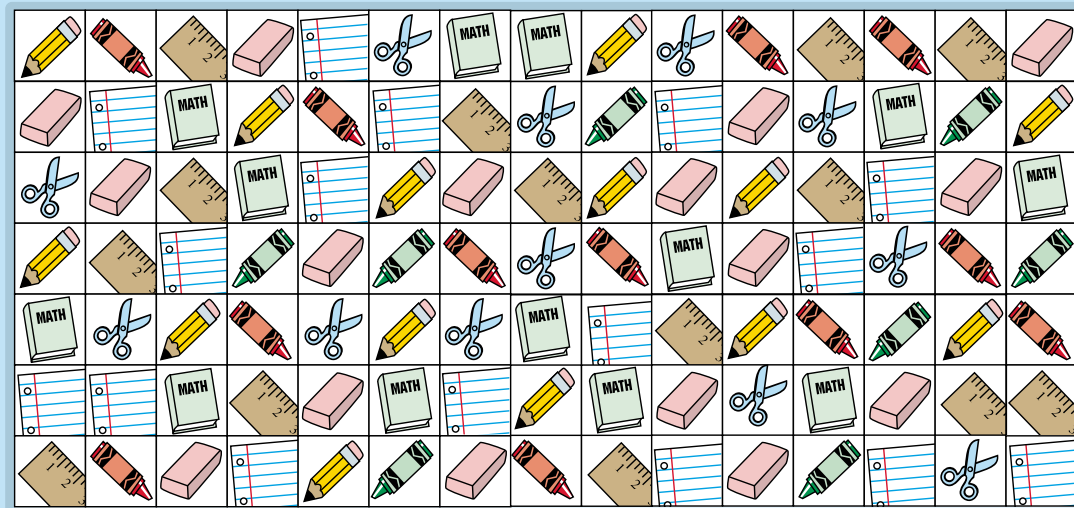
Draw a couple of classmates sitting by Ruby to be her friends.

PERSEVERANCE Changing Times

Despite the _____ protests, Ruby went to school every day. She _____ create the first desegregated school in the Deep South. After a few _____ of protest,

white children slowly began to _____ to the school. A year later, Ruby _____ second grade without the marshals, _____ a class of white and black children.

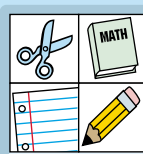
Take a close look at all the school supplies in the big grid. Then try and find each of the groups shown on the right. Have a friend or family member give it a try, too!



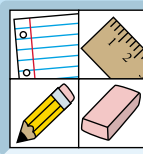
GROUP 1



GROUP 2



GROUP 3



Extra! Extra!

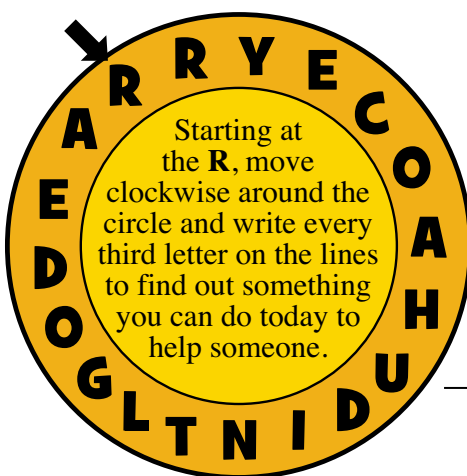
Find the Traits

For each of the following character traits, find a person in the newspaper who shows that trait.

- COURAGE
- PATIENCE
- PERSEVERANCE
- COMMITMENT

Standards Links: Civics: Understand how certain character traits enhance ability to fulfill civic responsibilities.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



What's a great way you can help someone today?

R _____

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



Ruby recalls that famous year when she became one of the first black children to attend an all-white school: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

- SEGREGATED
- BRIDGES
- COURAGE
- THREATS
- RACIAL
- SCARED
- RECESS
- CREATE
- SIGNS
- ALONE
- RACES
- GAMES
- RUBY
- LADY
- DOLL

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



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

1. The name of Ruby Bridges' first teacher was:

8 6 _____ 12
3 E _____ 7

2. Who escorted Ruby Bridges to school to keep her safe?

F _____ 9

M _____ 1 5

3. A threat Ruby received while passing a woman on her way to school.

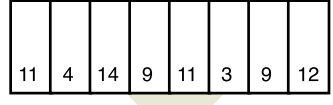
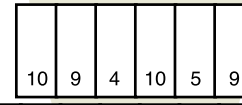
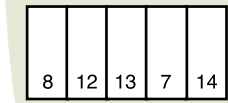
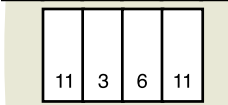
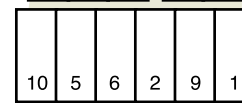
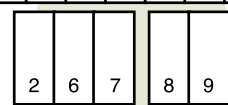
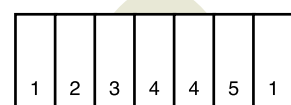
10 13 4 N _____

4. Segregation means to:

_____ 11

_____ 2

14 _____



Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

What a Character!



Acceptance is ...

... making friends with someone even if they are different from you.

Kid Scoop-doku

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

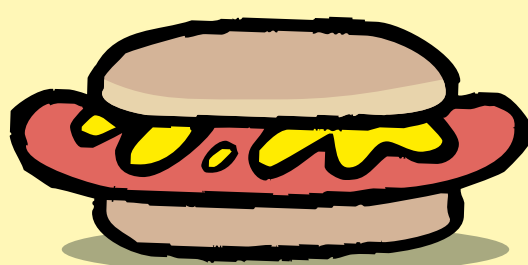


FROM THE **Kid Scoop** LESSON LIBRARY
www.kidscoop.com

Play "Find the Question!"

Find and read an article in which a reporter interviews someone. What questions did the reporter ask the person being interviewed? Can you think of new questions to ask?

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Use general strategies of the reading process to understand information.



Where do very smart hot dogs end up?

ANSWER: On honor rolls.

Write On!

SCHOOL CLOSED!

Imagine you arrived at school and the gates are locked. No lights are on. And a big sign reads "SCHOOL CLOSED." What would happen if you no longer had the opportunity to get an education?

Bird Poop: Caught along the Concho

It wasn't going to be easy. With a lengthy net extended to prevent escape, Animal Control officers hoped they could coax a large blue-gray bird from its hiding place in the uneven shoreline of the Concho River. Capturing the injured heron in this part of San Angelo's scenic

waterway was going to prove a challenge. When an officer signaled they were ready, another carefully moved his snake tongs over the net and behind the bird. With gradual, prodding nudges, he finally forced it out of the cave-like area and into the netting. Having been alerted to the plight of this long legged, long necked bird, the agency had been told it had a bro-

ken wing. Soon, Diane Tracy, who is listed within our permit for wild bird rescue, was examining a great blue heron.

The inside of its left elbow was badly abraded; the wound was fresh. Among the calls to Animal Control had been a description of the bird's injured wing hanging down lower than the other one.

Concerned about a possible shoulder break, Diane took the heron to her veterinarian.

Since an x-ray revealed no breaks, the bird was given an antibiotic injection to prevent infection.

After talking with South Plains in Lubbock to see if they would accept the heron, Diane called us. A pot of seasoned, melted butter for Christmas snacks on the kitchen stove, and Christmas projects scattered atop the cabinets, caused me to ask if we could meet the following morning. The late afternoon hour we both would

be traveling was also considered.

Agreeing the heron needed to rest after the stress of being captured and examined, we discussed a tempting diet of live minnows in a washtub. Diane also decided to search for a large enough box in which a four foot tall bird could stand for the night.

Since we hoped to accomplish the entire transfer the next day, Diane offered to deliver the heron to us. We, in turn, would leave for Lubbock.

Although the box Diane had acquired was more than ample for the bird's height, there was no way she could transport the cardboard enclosure without laying it on its side. Even then, it was too long for her Prius.

For the transfer, she and her husband, Dale, placed the heron in the largest dog carrier they had. Although the bird would have to ride hunched over, it could feel secreted and safe when the container was



Courtesy photo

Weighing five to six pounds, the great blue heron is "great" in length of its bill, neck, legs and toes. While its legs extend out behind it in flight, its head is drawn back to its shoulders, causing its neck to form an "s" shaped curve. In addition to fish, the bird eats insects, frogs, lizards, snakes, mice and rats.

covered.

At the wildlife center, we carried the bird's enclosure to a room in the aviary. Rather than startle and frighten the heron by extracting it through the carrier's opening, we removed the screws and nuts that secured the top and bottom. Gently lifting off the top allowed the lanky shorebird an al-

most instant freedom.

Readily, it half jumped, half walked away from its dark shell. No longer confined, it flapped its vast wingspan as if preparing for flight. Then folding its wings, the great blue heron held them equally as it paced the screened wall that allowed sunlight and an outside view.

While we watched, however, its lack of energy or discomfort soon caused its left wing to droop downward. Hoping it was a bad bruise that time would heal, we left the heron to its newly found wading pool and submerged shrimp to tempt an appetite.

See **HERON**, Page 7A

Black eyed peas: Symbols of luck and survival

I hope you ate your black-eyed peas on New Year's Day because they are supposed to bring luck and prosperity for the

coming year. But did you know this tradition dates back to the Civil War?

Very few folks know the history behind the

black-eyed pea so I decided to do a bit of research to find out more. The black-eyed pea originated in North Africa, where it has been eaten for centuries. It was introduced to India about 3,000 years ago and was even a staple in the diets of Greeks

and Romans. Black-eyed peas were believed to be brought to the New World by African slaves and were first grown in Virginia during the 17th century, later becoming a popular crop in Florida and the Carolinas. In the North, black

eyed peas were grown for cattle and were known as "cow-peas." In the South, they were eaten on dinner tables, right along with collard greens, and were an excellent source of calcium, foliate, iron, potassium and fiber. But the story of the black eyed pea being considered good luck relates directly back to Sherman's "March to the Sea" in late 1864. It was called The Savannah Campaign and was led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman. Sherman's troops marched from the captured city of Atlanta, Ga., and ended at the port of Savannah on Dec. 22, 1864. When the smoke cleared, the southerners who had survived the onslaught came out of hiding. They found the aggressors had looted and stolen everything of value

and everything one could eat, including all livestock. While in hiding, few Southerners had enough to eat, and starvation was now upon the survivors.

The Northern army had taken everything they could carry, but they couldn't take it all. The devastated people of the South found Sherman's troops had left silos full of black eyed peas. The northern troops saw it as the thing of least value.

They took grain for their horses and livestock and other crops to feed themselves, so they left the black eyed peas in great quantities, assuming it would be of no use to the survivors, since all the livestock it could feed had either been taken or eaten. Southerners awoke to face a new year in this devastation and were facing massive starvation if not for the good luck of having the black eyed peas to eat.

From 1865 forward, the tradition grew to eat black eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck. Today in much of the land, black-eyed peas are grown primarily as animal food and a cover crop to improve soil. For southerners, however, the New Year starts with a bowl of black-eyed peas for luck and prosperity.

Did you remember to have it on your table?

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



PARTENT'S CORNER
DARRELL RYAN

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Asleep at the Switch

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10
♥ A J 9
♦ 10 7 5
♣ A K J 5

WEST
♠ J 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ 5
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 8 4

EAST
♠ —
♥ 8 4 2
♦ A K Q J 6 2
♣ 10 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K 9 5
♥ K Q 10 7 6 3
♦ 4
♣ Q 9 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♣ 3♦ 3♥
Pass 4♦ Pass 4♥
Pass 4♠ Pass 4NT
Pass 5♣ Pass 6♥

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

The cuebid of an opponent's suit theoretically shows either a void or the ace of that suit, but there are times when the cuebid is used to show a big hand even when the bidder does not have the suit under control. Here is an example of such a case.

North had too good a hand for a simple raise to game after South had freely bid three hearts. The outlook was certainly slamish — North had

19 high-card points — but he had no idea what his partner had in diamonds. He therefore cuebid diamonds to alert South to the possibility of a slam.

But since South had minimum values for his previous bid, he signed off with four hearts. Still not satisfied, North made another try, this time by cuebidding spades. South could now no longer ignore his partner's persistently strong bidding, so he bid four notrump (Blackwood) and continued on to six hearts after North showed three aces.

All this fine bidding came to naught, however, when South bungled the play. West led the nine of diamonds, and South followed low from dummy. This proved to be fatal when East played the deuce on the nine, an obvious request for West to shift to another suit.

Looking at seven spades in his own hand and three in dummy, West had no problem finding a spade shift, and East ruffed to put the slam down one. Had declarer covered the diamond nine with the ten, he would have made the slam.

Actually, after South bid six hearts, East should have made a Lightner double to ask for an unusual opening lead, in which case West's virtually automatic spade lead would have sealed South's fate beyond recall.

Tomorrow: A double squeeze.
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sudoku

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

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

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News in brief

Hours from voting, many Iowa GOP voters still undecided

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Unpredictable to the end, many of Iowa's GOP voters still hadn't settled on a favorite candidate just hours before they cast the first ballots of the 2012 presidential contest.

After weeks of face-to-face campaigning and millions of dollars in advertising, Republican presidential hopefuls made last-minute appeals to undecided GOP voters.

A confident Mitt Romney, the front-runner for the GOP nomination, told a rally Monday, "We're going to win this thing."

Whether he would pull that off was far from clear.

On Tuesday night, Republicans will gather in living rooms, high school gymnasiums and local libraries to start the process of picking the 2012 GOP nominee. In each precinct caucus, voters will urge their friends and neighbors to support a preferred candidate.

George W. Bush presidency barely mentioned in Republican contest

PERRY, Iowa (AP) — A funny thing happened recently in the presidential campaign in Iowa: The last Republican president's name actually surfaced.

"We've had, in the past, a couple of presidents from Texas that said they weren't interested in wars ... like George W. Bush," a voter said to Ron Paul, the Texas congressman who has been sharply critical of U.S. military entanglements overseas. "My question is: How can we trust another Texan?"

It was an odd, almost discordant moment in a GOP contest where Bush, a two-term president who left office just three years ago, has gone all but unmentioned. While the candidates routinely lionize Ronald Reagan and blame President Barack Obama for the nation's economic woes, none has been eager to embrace the Bush legacy of gaping budget deficits, two wars and record low approval ratings — or blame him for the country's troubles either.

"Republicans talk a lot about losing their way during the last decade, and when they do they're talking about the Bush years," said Jack Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont-McKenna College. "For Republicans, the Bush administration has become the 'yadda yadda yadda' period of American history."

24-year-old man under arrest in connection with LA arson spree

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was another night of firefighters scrambling across the nation's second largest city to snuff out a series of arson attacks when a tip came in

about a German man who matched the description of someone with a shoulder-length ponytail captured on a surveillance video near where a car fire was reported.

Five hours later Harry Burkhart was pulled over by a reserve sheriff's deputy who works for \$1 a year and later booked for investigation of arson of an inhabited dwelling. Since the arrest, firefighters have not responded to any other suspicious fires.

While the investigation is ongoing — authorities haven't ruled out the possibility that others may be involved — Burkhart's arrest was a measure of relief to anxious residents who had grown fearful after several nights of seemingly random blazes.

"Our long four-day nightmare is over," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Putin dreams of sweeping Eurasian Union for trade, not ideology

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP) — Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has a vision for a Soviet Union-lite he hopes will become a new Moscow-led global powerhouse. But, his planned Eurasian Union won't be grounded in ideology: This time it's about trade.

The concept of regional economic integration may be losing some of its allure in Europe, where a debt crisis is threatening the existence of the eurozone. But some countries across the former Soviet Union, still struggling economically 20 years after becoming independent, are embracing Putin's grand ambition.

Russia has moved one step toward this goal under an agreement with former fellow Soviet republics Belarus and Kazakhstan that as of Sunday allows the free movement of goods and capital across their common borders.

Vital or vile? Wis. coroner posting facial photos online

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The corpses' faces are mostly bloated, their skin pale and discolored. One man's lips are stiffened into a grim frown and he stares with half-open eyes. Another man appears to be sleeping, his color natural enough that he almost looks alive.

Forensic investigator Michael Simley knows some people will find the photographs unsettling, but he said he decided to post them online for an important reason: the bodies are unidentified. All were found in Wisconsin's most populous area, Milwaukee County, and have been without names for years — decades, in some cases — and Simley said he's desperate to find answers.

"We're not doing these people justice to let them go unidentified. These are family members, friends, people who are missed," Simley said.

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2A

- BRITTANY DAWN BARNES, 18, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

- RALPH ALLEN WHITE, 41, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of speeding.

- LEIJA AGUSTIN YPINA, 56, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

- ALVIN KENT MCCURLEY, 55, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of speeding and violation of a promise to appear.

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLINTON, 35, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

- MANUEL RAFAEL DOMINGUEZ, 44, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- RAYMOND OVERTON JR., 32, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- JACK DANIEL PAREDEZ, 25, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- PAUBLO R. GONZALES, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.

- ISMAEL PAREDEZ SR., 62, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- LEONARD ANTHONY AGUINAGA, 23, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid (three counts), failure to appear (four counts) and expired motor vehicle inspection certificate (two counts).

- BILLY THAD METCALF, 36, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense, not secured by safety belt and violation of a promise to appear.

- KARI ANN YODER, 35, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

HERON

Continued from Page 6A

Since I had told volunteer, Gail Barnes, earlier the heron had not eaten for Diane, Gail wanted to give the bird enough time to see if it would eat the shrimp on its own. Previous herons had devoured such a tempting treat. If it were going to eat at all, this would be the test.

Later in the day, Gail discovered the shrimp had not been touched. Since Diane had described the heron as weak, Gail and another volunteer decided to force-feed.

Opening the razor sharp edges of its beak to insert a tube for fluids, followed by solid food, led to an undiscovered problem.

Lining the inside of the mouth and leading down the throat were

flukes, or parasitic worms. Appearing as white spots to the human eye, flukes can cause anemia. Appropriate action was taken to try to stem their effect.

For Diane and me, the heron's injured wing had taken precedence as our main concern in an effort to transport the bird.

A South Plains' veterinarian confirmed tendon problems with the wing, but felt the bird might recover with time.

Since the heron refused to eat on its own, it was fed twice daily for seven days.

The aftermath of the parasites was becoming more life threatening than the abraded elbow and damaged wing. As the bird grew weaker, the inevitable became obvious.

When Gail called, she felt the wing injury was secondary to the downing of the bird. Being

so infected with flukes had caused a loss of strength and vitality. Ultimately, the invasion may have led to the bird's crashing into something because it could not control its six to seven foot wingspan.

We, nor volunteers at the center, were to be privy to see the great blue during its breeding season. An array of black plume-like growths would accent its stately head and neck.

But we could appreciate its bluish gray upper parts that were a pleasant contrast to its whitish head and yellowish bill. Its long neck appeared to be a combination of light gray and pale cinnamon. Underneath, its black breast and belly were adorned with white streaks. Grayish-olive legs led to long toes that allowed it to walk gracefully over the muddiest of marshes.

An expert at fishing, the great blue heron had stood many times in the shallow waters of a lake, pond, river or creek. Absolutely still, head poised and ready, it had waited for a fish to swim into the shadows cast by its body. At the right moment, it would have grabbed its aquatic meal, tossed it in the air, and swallowed it headfirst.

In nature are obstacles to a prolonged life. Our best efforts had been futile against the mysteries of life and death. The great blue

heron's fishing days were over. Its large, slow moving wings could take it no further. It had flown its last migration.

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

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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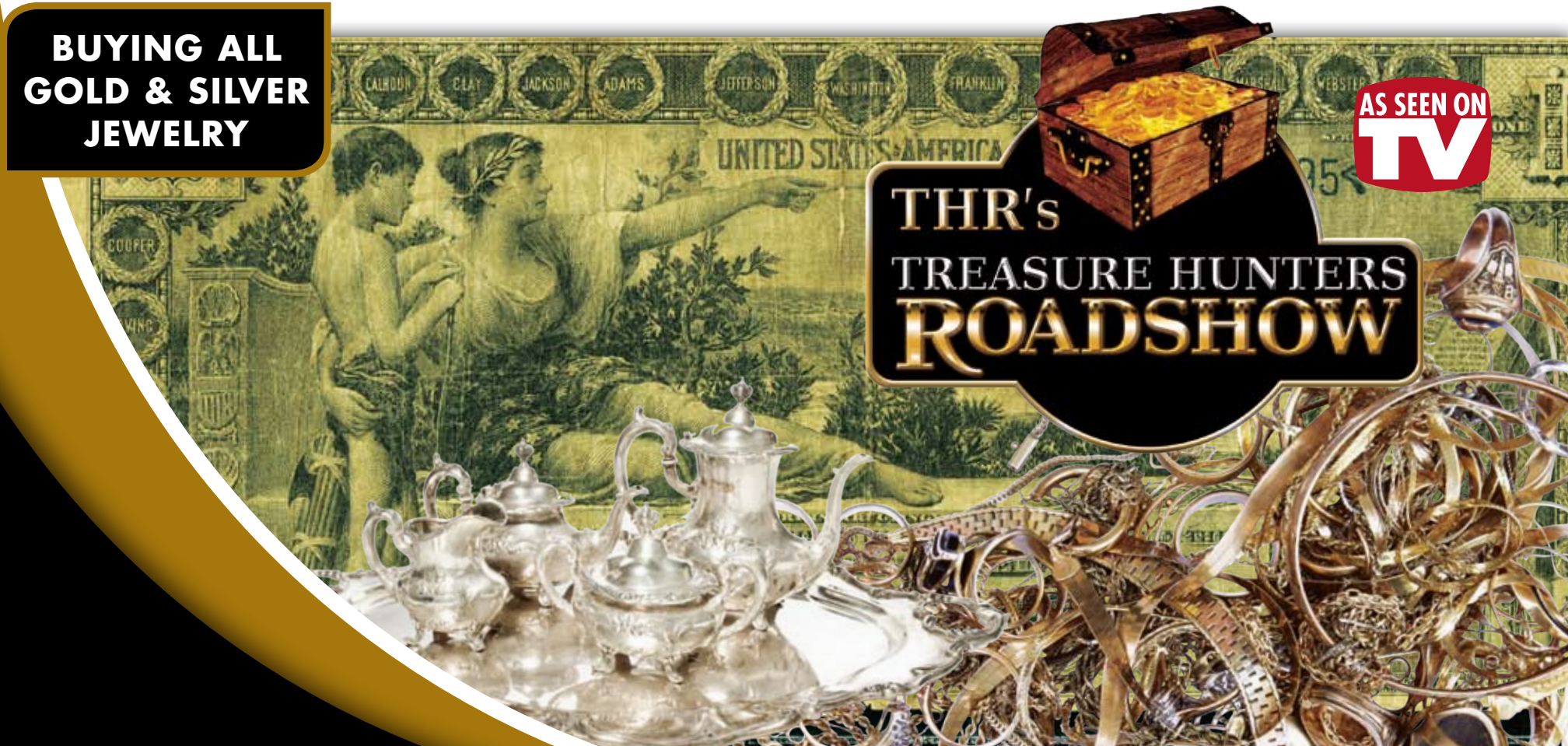


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Mavs end Thunder's unbeaten streak

DALLAS (AP) — In their sixth game, Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks finally looked like the reigning NBA champions.

They loaded up on easy baskets. They forced the league's last unbeaten team to miss way more shots than usual. And the best highlights came from their superstar, as Nowitzki scored 10 of his 26 points during a third-quarter spurt that sent the Mavs to a 100-87 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday

night. Dallas had been 1-4, with its roster seeming to show its age and a gaggle of new players looking like they needed more time to get in the flow. Yet while playing their fourth game in five nights, the Mavs had their best game so far.

"This team is set up to get better month-by-month," Nowitzki said. "We should have a good team in March and April. Saying that, we've still got to find ways to win. ...

This team has a lot of potential, with a lot of scorers, a lot of veterans who know how to play. We can be a very dangerous team."

The Thunder, who lost to the Mavericks in the Western Conference finals last season and beat Dallas with a buzzer-beater last week, were the more dangerous team coming in. They started the night 5-0, joining Miami as the league's last unbeaten. The Heat lost to Atlanta while this game was going on.

Oklahoma City had a chance to take a healthy lead in the opening minutes, when the Mavericks missed nine of their first 11 shots. But the Thunder just never got going — on either end. They gave up 34 points in the second quarter then scored just 18 in the third.

"We didn't have any energy from the beginning," said Kevin Durant, who scored 27 points. "We need energy. It changes the whole game. We need to play with more effort.

Everybody looks to me so I've got to start the game better."

Russell Westbrook added 18 points and eight rebounds, and Harden had 16 points and seven rebounds.

"(Losing) one game out of six isn't the end of the world," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "They played much better than us throughout. It wasn't our night. They shot better than us. And we

See **MAVERICKS**, Page 2B

Baylor downs Aggies in Big 12 opener

WACO (AP) — Texas A&M quickly found itself in a hole in its last scheduled Big 12

night in the Big 12 opener for both teams and remained undefeated.

from our bench offensively."

Turner had 21 points and Middleton had 14.

Perry Jones III had 14 points with 12 rebounds for Baylor, which has its first 14-game winning streak in school history.

After moving up two spots to No. 4 in the new Associated Press poll earlier Monday, the Bears (14-0) never trailed during the game, which they won 68-57.

"I make sure, being the captain of the team, that we don't pay attention to that," senior Quincy Acy said. "It's good to have it, but we want more. ... Just make sure that we don't pay attention to that, and we go out every night and play like we have something to lose."

Part of Baylor's opening spurt was Pierre-Jackson's half-court alley-oop pass to Jones for a slam dunk.

It was the first double-double of the season for Jones, the Big 12's preseason player of the year. Jones, a 6-foot-11 sophomore who bypassed the chance to be a high NBA draft pick last summer, missed the first five games this season while completing a six-game NCAA suspension for accepting improper benefits.

This was the 204th meeting for the Texas teams from along the Brazos River. Baylor has won four in a row, but A&M still leads the series 127-77.

It was the last Big 12 matchup between the two teams in Waco with A&M's pending move to the Southeastern Conference after this season. They play again Feb. 1 at College Station.

"Obviously like everyone else I wish they were still in the Big 12, but we've got a pretty good league, and there's a reason the last four years RPI-wise the Big 12's been the best confer-

ence in basketball," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "It's outstanding basketball. We know the future's very bright for the Big 12."

The Bears had already matched the school-record winning streak of 13 in a row set in 1946 by winning their 13 non-conference games. Baylor has won five consecutive Big 12 openers.

Acy added 13 points for Baylor, while freshman Quincy Miller had 11 points with eight rebounds in his first Big 12 game. A.J. Walton had 10 points.

Turner's 3-pointer got Texas A&M within 10 with 5 minutes left before consecutive turnovers that Baylor turned into baskets.

After Anthony Jones forced an A&M turnover, Cory Jefferson made a jumper. Jackson then had a steal that led to Walton's baseline jumper in the front of the Baylor bench.

"I wasn't real pleased with that play," Kennedy said. "He made a tough shot."

Turner hit another 3-pointer with 2:25 left to get the Aggies within 57-48, but they never got closer.

Texas A&M made only 18 of 63 field goals (29 percent) overall, but that was actually an improvement after making only 6-of-28 (21 percent) in the first half.

There was an 8-minute stretch for Texas A&M with 10 consecutive missed shots. After Turner's jumper with 9:39 left in the first half, when Baylor led 17-9, the Aggies didn't make another field goal until Middleton's 3-pointer with 1:39 left when they still trailed 28-14.

"Defensively, I'm proud of our guys. We did a good enough job defensively," Kennedy said. "But when you go 6-for-28 in the first half and you've got two of your best players on the bench not playing, it's going to be tough."

Briefs

Chicano Golf meeting slated

Chicano Golf Association members will hold a meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in the Comanche Trail Club House.

Coahoma finishes in second

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**

Sports Editor

BIG LAKE — Tanner Ruiz was good for 23 points in the championship game, but it would not be enough to tackle Water Valley and take the title. After a good run, the Coahoma Bulldogs fell in the final match of the Mary Tatum Holiday Classic basketball tournament at Big Lake to Water Valley by the score of 46-59.

The Bulldogs could never get rolling as they had in previous tournament outings and found themselves behind after the first quarter 6-14. A big push in the second period got them a bit closer, but they still found themselves down 20-25 going into halftime.

Aaron Acevedo registered 11 points for Coahoma in the championship game to join Ruiz on the All-Tournament Team.

Feeling the momentum trying to change in favor of the Bulldogs, Water Valley came out strong in the second half, pushing themselves toward a game-high 20 points in the third quarter and widening the gap between the two teams. When the fourth quarter started Coahoma was down an almost insurmountable 45-32.

The 13-point lead would hold as both teams scored 14 points apiece in the game's final frame.



AP file photo

BIG PAPA BEAR — Baylor's Perry Jones III was a dominant force in the Bears' Big 12-opening defeat of Texas A&M Monday. Jones had 14 points and an astounding 12 rebounds in the win for Baylor.

trip to fourth-ranked Baylor. Early fouls and poor shooting certainly didn't help.

While Baylor scored the first eight points, Texas A&M leading scorer Khrist Middleton and guard David Loubeau both picked up two earlier fouls.

"We were prepared. We were just playing timid and a little bit overwhelmed, I guess," Aggies guard Elston Turner said. "The fact that we weren't really making shots in the first half. It just kind of got our offense out of sync."

The Bears led throughout in a 61-52 victory Monday

Loubeau picked up three fouls in only two minutes in the first half, and Khrist Middleton was limited to 10 minutes before halftime after two early fouls.

"We have a small margin of error, with Khrist and Loubeau being in foul trouble in the first half," coach Billy Kennedy said. "That's part of playing against that zone. It's very big. The back line of that zone is very big and it takes a while to adjust. But I thought we got some pretty good looks early. We just couldn't make them. Then we got into foul trouble and didn't get a whole lot of help

Rangers rally to beat Flyers 3-2 in Winter Classic

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Alone in the cold, it was up to Henrik Lundqvist to preserve a Classic comeback.

His signature moment came with 19.6 seconds left after New York defenseman Ryan McDonagh was whistled for covering the puck in the crease. Flyers center Danny Briere streaked down the ice — a replica of the Liberty Bell and bundled-up fans behind his back — trying to send this one into overtime.

Lundqvist dropped to his knees on top of a chilly baseball field and stoned Briere with his pads while the center tried to sneak it through his legs.

This made-for-TV showcase had found its brightest star.

Lundqvist stopped 34 shots, Brad Richards scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and the New York Rangers rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat the Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 in the Winter Classic on Monday at Citizens Bank Park.

"I was just trying to be patient and do my thing," Lundqvist said. "He's a sneaky guy, and there was a lot of pressure on me."

More pressure than any other regular-season games in January. While this game meant two points in the standings, like the four

other NHL games set for Monday night, it received the kind of hype normally reserved for the Stanley Cup finals. NBC televised the game and HBO had 12 camera crews filming the game and behind-the-scenes action for its "24/7" series.

Rangers coach John Tortorella wondered if the officials wanted their own time in the spotlight to build the drama.

"They called a penalty shot which I still don't understand," he said. "I'm not sure if NBC got together with the refs to turn this into an overtime game. I thought the game was reffed horrible.

"I just thought tonight, in that third period, it was disgusting."

Mike Rupp scored twice as New York won for the third time this season against Philadelphia.

Playing on a rink that stretched from first base to third base, the Rangers made the league's fifth Classic event a memorable one to stay atop the Eastern Conference standings.

The NHL surrounded the rink with Christmas trees, firewood, fake snow, and even trash-can fires. But there was nothing artificial in the elements with snow flurries late in the second period and temperatures that dipped into

the 30s, forcing 46,967 fans to layer in jerseys for the big event.

All that was missing was one of the breakout stars of HBO's NHL show.

Flyers goalie Ilya Bryzgalov, who signed a nine-year, \$51 million contract in June, saw a recent slump send him to the bench. Sergei Bobrovsky, instead, took the call from coach Peter Laviolette and failed to hold the early lead built in front of a decidedly orange-and-black crowd.

The Flyers ended the game without Jaromir Jagr, their star forward who played only a minute in the second period before leaving the game

for good. The 39-year-old Jagr, a former Ranger, said after the game he injured his left leg and expected to return soon.

Even with Jagr out, his presence was noted.

Rupp's first goal late in the second came with a salute toward the Flyers' bench — the same move Jagr makes for the home crowd after one of his goals. Rupp smiled as his teammates mobbed him along the boards and the crowd booed his attempt at showing up Jagr.

"I was happy I had the goal," Rupp said, "and that's kind of where I'll leave it."

See **CLASSIC**, Page 2B

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News	King	Scrivner Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Miami	Auction	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Hills	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me Wheel	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Mark Blitz	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Miami	Auction	Bones		Wizards of Waverly Hills	College Basketball	College GameDay
7:PM	Last Man Standing	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Glee	Ent	Una Maid en	The Biggest Loser	Big Bang	Upd	Egypt's Gold Empire	The Secret Circle	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Fugitive, Sela Ward	Auction	Bones	Movie: Life, Obba Babatundé	Wizards of Waverly Hills	Pre/Post	
8:PM	Celebrity Wife Swap		New Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles	Flor Salvaje (SS)		Big Bang	Alewine	Egypt's Gold Empire	The Secret Circle	Dirty Jobs		Auction	Movie: 300, David Wenham	Wizards of Waverly Hills	Movie: 16 Wishes	SportsNation	2012 Allstate Sugar Bowl: Michigan vs. Virginia Tech.
9:PM	Body of Proof	Protagon. Ahora	Simpsons	Unforgettable	La Casa de al Lado	Parenthood	Big Bang	Conan	Frontline	Caps	Swamp Loggers		Flip Men		Movie: The Brothers, Bill Bellamy	Austin Jessie	NFL Live	
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias Sin Senos no	News	Conan	Chevalme Dr.	Charlie Rose	King	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Fugitive, Sela Ward	Auction	CSI: NY	Good	Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman			Office	Ministerios Vida	World	South Pk	Swamp Loggers		Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards of Waverly Hills	NFL Live	(:08) SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Upd	Roseanne (Off Air)	Roseanne	Dirty Jobs		Auction	CSI: NY	Movie: Life, Obba Babatundé	Good	NBA	
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News		Alewine	Focus 4	Homecoming	American Loggers		Flip Men	Rizzoli & Isles	ANT Farm	ANT Farm	SportsNation	2012 Allstate Sugar Bowl

DENNIS THE MENACE

"ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO GET KETCHUP BACK IN THE BOTTLE?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"Hereafter I go jogging alone."

HAGAR

"WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HAGAR?"
"WHAT SHOULD WE DO??"
"IF YOU DON'T MIND LOSING YOUR HOOK... I SUGGEST YOU CUT THE LINE!"

BLONDIE

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE TAKING RESERVATIONS?"
"I'VE GOT SOME GREAT IDEAS FOR THE NEW YEAR."
"FANCY NEW NAPKIN HOLDERS, LUNCH CANDLES, PLUS FANCY RE-LAMINATED MENUS!"
"HOW 'BOUT FANCY FOOD?"
"DON'T PUSH IT!"

WIZARD OF ID

"SORRY, RODNEY, HE'S BAD ABOUT JUMPING UP ON PEOPLE."

AGNES

"Dear Whoever, Please send me a dollar out of the goodness of your heart."
"IF I GET AMILLION OR SO PEOPLE TO RESPOND, I'LL BE ON EASY STREET!"
"COOL! ...HOW MANY STAMPS DO YOU HAVE?"
"IF BOTH PEOPLE RESPOND, WE'LL GO BUY GUM!"
"I STILL THINK ONE OF THOSE STAMPS WAS A STICKER OFF A BANANA."

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2012. There are 363 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 3, 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

On this date:

In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.

In 1861, more than two weeks before Georgia seceded from the Union, the state militia seized Fort Pulaski at the order of Gov. Joseph E. Brown. The Delaware House and Senate voted to oppose secession from the Union.

In 1911, the first postal savings banks were opened by the U.S. Post Office. (The banks were abolished in 1966.)

Today's Birthdays: Record producer Sir George Martin is 86. Actor Robert Loggia is 82. Actor Dabney Coleman is 80. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 76. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Hull is 73. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 69. Musician Stephen Stills is 67. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 66. Actress Victoria Principal is 62. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 56. Actress Shannon Sturges is 44. Contemporary Christian singer Nichole Nordeman is 40. Actor Jason Marsden is 37. Actress Danica McKellar is 37. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 36. Singer Kimberley Locke ("American Idol") is 34.

Answer to previous puzzle

CONE	ATLAS	ARCS
ARIA	NOOSE	BORE
SECT	SYRIA	AMEN
HOE	SWEET	POTATO
GAPED OPENER		
TWOCAR	FORTS	
ARIES	GAITS	LOW
PENS	OWN	NOVA
ENG	THANK	WAVED
HAILS SATIRE		
APPALL	SPYON	
WARM	CLOTHES	GAP
ATIP	THORN	AGRE
RICE	ONRED	SUES
DOER	PONDS	SPAT

HI AND LOIS

"WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME MY ENTIRE YEAR'S ALLOWANCE IN ONE LUMP SUM?"
"WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?"
"BUY A NEW GUITAR."
"THAT'S WHY."

Newsday Crossword

- GET IN SHAPE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Gift-package decorations
 - 5 Winter windshield coating
 - 10 Kitchen or den
 - 14 Square footage
 - 15 Prying tool
 - 16 Money in France
 - 17 Count (on)
 - 18 __ consequence (significant)
 - 19 Got bigger
 - 20 Type of fitness training
 - 23 Musical ability
 - 24 Caterer's hot-water dispenser
 - 28 Top of a wave
 - 31 Lab maze runner
 - 34 Event locale
 - 35 Search (for)
 - 36 Scold harshly
 - 38 U-turn from ENE
 - 39 Type of fitness training
 - 42 Corporate money mgr.
 - 43 Explainer's intro
 - 44 With no warranty
 - 45 Seed shells
 - 47 Fishing pole
 - 48 Golf-shoe feature
 - 49 Wartime partners
 - 51 Go after in court
 - 52 Type of fitness training
 - 59 Prepare, as potatoes
- DOWN**
- 1 Pointed remark
 - 2 Black-and-white cookie
 - 3 Fuse, as metal
 - 4 Accept an offer from
 - 5 Bread baker's need
 - 6 Altered mortgage, for short
 - 7 0-shaped
 - 8 Place in the mail
 - 9 "Have a taste" two if __
 - 10 Jamaican music
 - 11 Your and my
 - 12 Unrefined metal
 - 13 Cut the grass
 - 21 Flying mammal
 - 22 At no time
 - 25 Foolish
 - 26 Moscow's country
 - 27 Most up-to-date
 - 28 Fast ballroom dance
 - 29 Feeling regret
 - 30 Sign up
 - 31 Happen again
 - 32 "Am not!" rejoinder
 - 33 Imposed a levy on
 - 36 Life story, briefly
 - 37 Golf peg
 - 40 "... land, two if __"
 - 41 Appointment list
 - 46 Growth on rock walls
 - 48 Pool player's stick
 - 50 Reduce drastically
 - 51 More timid
 - 53 Pitch-black
 - 54 Break sharply
 - 55 Beach bag
 - 56 Smidgen
 - 57 Film excerpt
 - 58 Mo. when summer ends
 - 59 Car-sticker info: Abbr.
 - 60 Football filler
 - 61 Glide on snow

THE OTHER COAST

"THE HAZARDS OF ONLINE DOG CHAT ROOMS..."
"describe myself? Well, I'm a Rottweiler, 3 feet tall..."

SNUFFY SMITH

"HOW COME MIRACLES DON'T NEVER HAPPEN THESE DAYS, PARSON?"
"OH, BUT THEY DO, SNUFFY!!"
"THEY JEST KINDA GIT LOST IN TH' 24-HOUR NEWS CYCLE!!"

BEEBLE BAILEY

"I'VE ALWAYS WORRIED THAT THERE WAS SOME WEIRD LIFE IN OUTER SPACE"
"BUT I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, HARVEY, I'M VERY RELIEVED"

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