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VEHICLE-PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Emergency responders attend to a man who was hit by a pickup truck near the intersection of Fourth and Gregg Street shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. According to officials with the Big Spring Police Department, the injured man — identified as 58-year-old transient Floyd McKenzie — attempted to cross the roadway, failing to yield the right-of-way to the oncoming traffic. He suffered major, yet non-life-threatening, injuries in the accident and was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Tax-Aide program gearing up; classes to begin for volunteers

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

While officials at the U.S. Internal Revenue Service scramble to prepare for the 2011 tax season, one local team of volunteers is well on its way to helping residents file their 2011 tax returns.

Part of the annual AARP Tax-Aide program, program volunteer and co-coordinator Gloria Hopkins said she and the band of volunteers will begin training for the tax season in time to begin preparing tax returns Jan. 30.

"Things are moving along nicely for us," Hopkins said. "Some of our volunteers from last year are back again this year, which really makes things easier. Also, Ray Alexander is taking over as head coordinator for the program, which has freed me up to work on other aspects of the effort. I'll be helping Ray get settled in and I'm sure he's going to

"I've been involved with the AARP Tax-Aide program for many years now, and it's a great feeling to help people file their tax returns when they might not have been able to do so without your help."

—Gloria Hopkins, program co-coordinator



do a fantastic job.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those who don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," she added. "AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them."

Tax law can quickly become confusing, according to Hopkins, and with so many changes being made from year to year it's easy to miss out on many government programs.

"There's just so much red tape involved, it's almost impossible for people to keep up with all of it," Hopkins said.

"And if they don't have the money to hire a tax professional, they can be missing out on all kinds of deductions and programs the government offers. This program gives them a chance to sit down with someone who is trained to deal with these things."

Area residents who would like to volunteer their time to help with the annual effort need to sign up as soon as possible, according to Hopkins.

"We'll be holding our tax classes starting Jan. 17, so anyone interested in volunteering needs to get in touch with us as soon as possible," she said. "We can explain what's required, including the classes and the hours. It's a very rewarding way to volunteer."

"I've been involved with the AARP Tax-Aide program for many years now, and it's a great feeling to help people file their tax returns when they might not have been able to do so without your help. These are people who have spent their entire lives working within our communities."

Hopkins said area residents planning to use the service should be sure to gather up their financial information before heading to the

See **AIDE**, Page 3

United Way anticipates banner year

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Generosity and hard work are just a couple of characteristics Big Spring and Howard County United Way board members saw in the community during 2011. Their hopes for seeing that again in 2012 are rather high.

"I believe 2012 will be a great year," Executive Director Sandy Stewart said. "Many lives will be enriched due to the hard work and generosity of this community."

Stewart stepped into the executive director position in July after the previous director, Jeanie Coor, stepped down due to her family relocating to Lamesa.

"Coming into this position right at the start of the campaign was without a doubt fast and furious and a little overwhelming at times, but with each day I am learning," Stewart said. "With the support of the board and a very caring community I know we can and will continue to advance the common good throughout the community."

For the past couple of years the United Way has not only met its goal but exceeded it, which in turn allowed the 15 agencies it serves to receive a little extra help.

See **UW**, Page 3

Canines get the flu, too

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Flu season is upon us — canine flu season, that is.

Canine influenza, a highly contagious respiratory infection of dogs caused by a virus, has caught media attention in recent weeks.

"The canine influenza is closely related to the virus which causes equine influenza and it is thought the equine influenza virus mutated to produce the canine virus and can now be passed from dog to dog," Daniel Holt, DVM at Sierra Animal Clinic, said.

"At this point, there is no evidence of transmission of canine influenza from dogs to people," Holt said.

Holt does not consider the canine flu to be anything that needs to cause major concern. He did say there have been fatal cases of pneumonia resulting from infection reported in dogs, but the fatality rate is up to 8 percent.

See **FLU**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Robert Henry 'Bob' Long



Robert Henry "Bob" Long, 87 of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 2, 2012. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Chaplain Cherise Felty officiating. Inurnment to follow at Trinity Memorial Park with military honors.

Robert was born Aug. 16, 1924, in Luther, Texas, the first child of Ben and Jimmie Long and lived most of his life in Howard County. He signed up for the United States Navy the day after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. He was actually stationed in the Hawaiian Islands until he was deployed on the USS Hinsdale. Injuries received after a kamikaze plane hit the Hinsdale led to his status as a disabled veteran. When World War II ended, he returned to Big Spring and worked for 25 years as an electrician and meterman for Cosden Oil Refinery, retiring as the foreman of the meter shop. He married Alma Joy Lawson and had two children.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Alma, his brother, Jim and Alma's brother, A.D. Lawson.

Bob is survived by his children, Russell Long and wife Jo-Anne of Charlotte, N.C., and Russlene Waukechon and husband John of Round Rock. He had five grandchildren who also survive him: Nicholas Long and wife Sheila of Columbus, Ohio, Matthew Long and wife Julie of Davidson, N.C., and Benjamin, Kateri, and Joseph Waukechon of Round Rock. He was thrilled to be a great-grandfather to Nick and Shiela's son, Alexander. Bob is also survived by his sister, Joy Henderson and husband Buddy of Donna; Alma's sister, Helen Adams and husband Edward of Pearland and his brother Jim's wife, Bonnie Long of Big Spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made in Bob's honor to Home Hospice of Big Spring, 111 E. Seventh St., Suite A, Big Spring TX 79720.

The family wishes to thank the Home Hospice and Marcy House staffs for their loving care of Bob and Alma during their last years.

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

Chris Castanuela



Chris Castanuela, 27, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born March 16, 1984, in Stamford, Texas. He worked as a driller for oil companies, including Basic, Patterson, Nabors and Robinson. He lived most of his life in Big Spring.

He is survived by his mother, Ollie Castanuela of Big Spring; father, Manuel Castanuela of Melvin; wife, Veronica Hernandez of Big Spring; four brothers, Rickey Haggard of Buda, Manuel Castanuela of Odessa, Jeff Haggard, Aaron DeLeon and Anthony DeLeon, all of Big Spring; grandmother, Vernia Haley of Big Spring; and a number of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Jason Castanuela; and grandparents, Douglas Randall, Josephina and Jesus Castanuela.

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

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Police blotter

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

- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 47, of 1405 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JACOB RAY ALBARADO, 19, of 700 Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to appear.
- DAWN MADSEN, 42, of 301 Spring Creek, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- TEPHANIE SHULTS, 38, of 2511 Fisher St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for theft - more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000.
- JANEY BELL MCCORMICK, 60, of 620 State St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for theft of service - more than \$20 and less than \$500.
- MEGAN RYNELL ARMSTRONG, 21, of Arlington, was arrested Wednesday for failure to identify as a fugitive - giving false information.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 5900 block of N. Service Road.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of San Antonio Street.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 1200 block of Runnels.
In the 100 block of E. 21st Street.
In the 4100 block of S. Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.

- DAWN MADSEN, 42, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a municipal warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- ROBERT LEE ALDRIDGE JR., 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of vehicles with previous two or more convictions.
- BRUCE ERVIN ESSIX, 45, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for delivery of a controlled substance - 10 years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility.
- JACOB RAY ALBARADO, 19, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage and failure to appear.
- TEPHANIE ANNE SHULTS, 38, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of property - more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000.
- ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 47, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JANEY BELL MCCORMICK, 60, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of service - more than \$20 and less than \$500.
- MEGAN RYNELL ARMSTRONG, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive - giving false information.

Fire/EMS

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

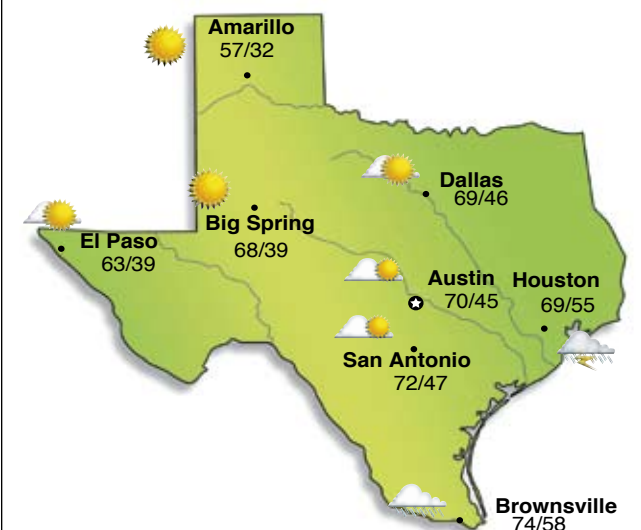
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Lynn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Mulberry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2000 block of E. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Wood Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Young. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of N. Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Mesa. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 1/6	Sat 1/7	Sun 1/8	Mon 1/9	Tue 1/10
68/39 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	55/34 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	56/33 A few clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	58/34 Few showers. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	64/36 Few showers. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	69	40	sunny	Kingsville	77	55	t-storm
Amarillo	57	32	sunny	Livingston	68	50	t-storm
Austin	70	45	pt sunny	Longview	66	51	cloudy
Beaumont	70	55	t-storm	Lubbock	63	32	sunny
Brownsville	74	58	rain	Lufkin	68	51	t-storm
Brownwood	72	43	sunny	Midland	68	39	sunny
Corpus Christi	72	56	t-storm	Raymondville	75	55	rain
Coriscana	67	46	pt sunny	Rosenberg	69	54	t-storm
Dallas	69	46	mst sunny	San Antonio	72	47	pt sunny
Del Rio	71	43	mst sunny	San Marcos	71	45	pt sunny
El Paso	63	39	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	66	47	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	73	41	sunny	Sweetwater	68	40	sunny
Gainesville	66	40	sunny	Tyler	65	49	cloudy
Greenville	66	45	mst sunny	Weatherford	68	40	mst sunny
Houston	69	55	t-storm	Wichita Falls	68	39	sunny

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Willia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Douglas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Hilltop Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Fourth and Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 600 block of State. The fire was extinguished by a police officer before BSFD officials arrived on the scene.

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UW

Continued from Page 1

This year the goal was set at \$275,000 and through numerous campaign pledges, donations and fund-raisers, the community donated \$295,000.

"It was nice to be able to offer each of the agencies a little extra help," Stewart said. "Each one of them serves a very important role in our community and every little bit helps them continue to offer their services."

As for the 2013 campaign, the goal has yet to be determined. Board members will meet in April at the annual board retreat to discuss and set a goal.

The 15 agencies supported by the United Way provide a wide array of services for all aspects of the community. Agencies supported

by the United Way are; American Red Cross of Southwest Texas, Buffalo Trail Council Boy Scouts of America, CASA of West Texas, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest, Howard County Council on Aging Mobile Meals, Howard County Humane Society, Isaiah 58, Northside Community Center, Rape Crisis/Victim Services of Big Spring, The Salvation Army, Westside Community Day Care Center, YMCA of Big Spring and the two new agencies; Big Spring Chaplains Association and Spring of Siloam.

To find out more about the United Way, contact Stewart at 267-5201.

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

FLU

Continued from Page 1

One of the symptoms Holt pointed out which can indicate a mild form of the canine flu is a soft, moist cough which persists for 10 to 30 days. Some dogs also have a dry cough similar to "kennel cough." Dogs may also show a thick nasal discharge, usually caused by a secondary bacterial infection.

"Due to the representation of 'kennel cough,' canine influenza in mild

form is often mistaken for kennel cough," Holt said.

Dogs with a severe form of the flu will develop a fever between 104 and 106 degrees along with signs of pneumonia, increased respiratory rates and strained effort.

"Because this is a newly emerging disease, almost all dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection and have no immunity," Holt said. "Virtually all dogs exposed to the virus become infected and nearly 80 percent show

clinical signs of disease. Fortunately, most affected dogs have the mild form."

Holt said there is not a recorded number of those that have contracted the dog flu because it is not classified as a reportable disease. At this point, he said there are some suspected cases he's seen, but none confirmed.

"I have some suspect cases because of the non-improvement to routine antibiotics and mucolytics, but I have not sent off a confirmatory test on any animals," Holt

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 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.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Chris Castanuela, 27, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM tonight at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jose A. Regalado, 70, died Monday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Tammy Torres, 47, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

AIDE

Continued from Page 1

Senior Center.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including W-2 forms and 1099 forms," Hopkins said. "They also need to bring any forms that show their 2011 earnings and their 2010 tax returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the re-

turn and a photo ID for the person filing."

Participants in the program will be able to e-file their tax returns at no charge.

"The e-file procedure is so much easier than having to mail in your tax return," Hopkins said. "And if you're due a tax refund, you can get it a lot faster. We've really had a lot of success with the e-filing over the past several years."

The program will continue each Monday from

the Jan. 30 start date until April 11 at the Senior Center — located at 1901 Simler Dr. in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark — from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information on the program — or on volunteering — contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

Contact Staff Writer

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

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Big Spring Travel Show Thursday, January 5 10:00 AM Dora Roberts Com. Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas	Abilene Travel Show Saturday, January 14 1:00 PM Southern Hills Church of Christ 3666 Buffalo Gap Road Abilene, Texas

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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

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OUR VIEWS

Say hello, 2012 and say good-bye, 2011

Another year has graced us with its presence.

For many, 2011 will be remembered as a year of drought, fire and an all-around bad year. Devastating fires scorched thousands of acres of land; lack of rainfall dried out water sources and hurt landscaping throughout Big Spring.

However, as we enter 2012, there is a renewed hope for what is yet to come.

New Year's resolutions have been made and residents are well on their way to doing their best to fulfill those resolutions.

As the new year begins, plans to eat healthier, save money and let bad habits die out start taking shape. At this point, it's too early to tell if the resolutions will end up as a success or just another failed attempt.

However, one thing is certain, individuals and businesses alike are looking forward with hope.

Area businesses and organizations are looking back on 2011 as a way to build onto better things. The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Conventions and Visitors Bureau, Big Spring Economic Development Corporation and other like entities are working hard to continue their promotion and betterment of Big Spring. Non-profit organizations, such as United Way and the Humane Society, are doing their best to ensure they are capable of providing their much needed services to residents in Howard County.

Along with the new year comes new opportunities and a chance to better ourselves, learn from past mistakes and pave new paths.

Nobody knows what the future holds, but one thing is certain: there are 12 months to make 2012 a memorable one.

The Herald staff will continue to bring up to date news and do our best to bring you stories you want to hear. As always, we look forward building our partnerships in the community and serving our readers to the best of our abilities.

Here's to a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, our long terms goals will be successful.

Amen

Let's talk about our resolutions

If you aren't totally weary of pondering the matter I would like to address the issue of New Year's resolutions and what I believe may be the missing element in making them more successful.

Oftentimes, lost in the shuffle of these traditional annual pledges to make positive and life-changing declarations is one particular component I wish to spotlight in my ramblings today which I believe just may be the "make or break" ingredient in the recipe for attainment of the desired goal.

Years ago I heard a less than hilarious joke about a woman whose apartment was overrun with cockroaches and she had tried everything she knew to rid herself of the despicable pests, but the problem had only gotten worse.

She was telling a friend about her frustration over the ineffectiveness of her attempts to eradicate them and her comrade said she knew exactly what to do because she had also experienced that situation and had done something which caused them to instantly scatter and she had not seen one roach since that day.

Excitedly she inquired about this miraculous cure and her friend said, "It was simple. I just asked them all for a commitment."

I told you it was a lightweight joke but, like many witticisms, there is often a message of truth embodied in the humor and I think there is a valuable nugget to be unearthed here.

It seems to me there are a lot

of folks who think commitment is a dirty word. Take an honest look at human relationships, the work place, sports superstars, and the government and I think you'll have to agree, loyalty and faithfulness are often exchanged for momentary gratification or a deceptive view of reality that far too often results in a lack of commitment.

Mario Andretti, the famous race car driver, made this insightful observation, "Desire is the key to motivation, but it is determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal — that will enable you to attain the success you seek."

Vince Lombardi of NFL coaching fame said, "The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."

Solomon, the wise Bible king, said, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

An entitlement mentality has become one of the major scourges of our society. People in the workplace expect more money to do less and have no qualms about demanding it. In almost every labor and social environment there are givers and takers and the latter usually far outnumber the former. There is always someone who does more than their share and others who are more than willing to let them.

I am unequivocally appreciative of programs and policies which help people who have genuine needs, but I have a hard time affirming people who want something for nothing and unashamedly expect someone else to provide for their every whim and desire.

Our country wasn't built on a mindset of laziness and exemp-

tion from responsibility and until there is a widespread restoration of commitment to ethics the problem will continue to multiply, much like cockroaches do.

Some of the definitions of this intimidating word are obligation, committal, promise and responsibility.

Interestingly those commodities seem to be in short supply in almost every area of life and are basically nonexistent except during the first week of every New Year. But these things should be embraced on a daily basis in the life of every self-respecting and decent human being.

I believe many of our political leaders and government policies have been the culprits in propagating this tragic blight on our society.

Big government breeds dependency and that seems to be at the heart of much of what makes up the platform of our present day leadership. Obligating the masses to loyalty through entitlement is an iniquitous form of manipulation and the mortal enemy of commitment to truth and integrity.

I say it's time for good people to get stirred up about it and make a difference.

Make your resolutions, but remember nothing of true value comes easily. We will all be better people if we will make genuine and sincere commitments to truth, honesty, integrity and being the kind of citizens who establish a pattern of loyalty and a standard of excellence that will inspire others to follow in our footsteps.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is the senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church. He can be reached by email at pasitorprince@msn.com.

Not a ringing endorsement

Mitt Romney may be the best candidate in the 2012 GOP primary, but that's not saying much. It's like being the best mayor of Oakland, Calif.

Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota may not be ready for the Oval Office, but she's been a feisty challenger not afraid to take on Romney, Newt Gingrich and Rick Perry. She will emerge from the primary with more authority than she had when she entered the race.

Radio talk show host Herman Cain won points with his unique personal success story in the corporate world, no small feat for a black

man who grew up in the Jim Crow South. It is sad that Cain's campaign started to melt down after a barrage of sexual harassment allegations, because other factors should have sunk his candidacy. Cain lacked the political experience to run for the highest office in the land. GOP fans might have liked his plain talk, but they were fooling themselves if they thought a political rookie could win in November.

For a while, it looked as if Perry, with his 11 years of experience as Texas governor, could win the nod. Then Perry got into the debates, and he didn't catch on. So he started flailing — hitting gays in the military one day, a full-time Congress the next — in a manner that appeared gratuitous and scattershot.

Then there's Perry's amateur-hour failure to muster the 10,000 signatures needed to qualify for the Virginia ballot on Super Tuesday.

Former House Speaker Gingrich also failed to qualify for the Virginia ballot — and he lives in Virginia. Worse, his campaign director quickly announced that he and Gingrich agreed that the fiasco was analogous to Pearl Harbor — a sneak attack that left 2,403 dead. Later, Gingrich

explained to the media that his campaign had hired a fraudster who had submitted 1,500 "false signatures." This is not the crack team you want running the White House.

GOP primary voters might have told pollsters that they liked Gingrich because he was at the top of his game during debates. But Republicans didn't like the Gingrich package. They didn't like that Freddie Mac, the mortgage giant with a role in the nation's housing meltdown, paid Newt Inc. about \$1.6 million. They had begun to remember how much work it became for House Republicans to carry the ethically challenged Speaker Gingrich through his verbal gaffes and ethics probes.

Rep. Ron Paul of Texas could win Iowa, but he cannot win the GOP primary. Republican voters understand that — however much they may want to downsize the federal government — a candidate who wants to eliminate the Internal Revenue Service, capital gains taxes and the Transportation Security Administration is not going to beat President Barack Obama.

Now it may be former Sen. Rick Santorum's turn to be the GOP's shiny new toy. While Santorum is a bedrock social conservative, he also is strong on foreign policy. Early on, Santorum was the best challenger to Paul's quirky views on Iran. Santorum argues that his ability to win two elections in Pennsylvania shows that he can attract independent voters. Alas, he lost his Senate seat to Democrat Bob Casey in 2006.

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman is the Republican whom Democratic readers cite as credible. Why? Because he insulted the GOP base — not a smart thing for a candidate to do — when he tweeted, "I believe in evolution and trust scientists on global warming. Call me crazy."

Thing is, Huntsman isn't even a strong moderate. During an August debate, Huntsman raised his hand to join all the other Republicans in pledging to walk away from a deficit reduction deal that would raise \$1 in taxes

for every \$10 in spending cuts. In a recent head-to-head debate with Gingrich, Huntsman had a chance to take on the former speaker. Instead, Huntsman co-zied up to the Newt. The man has no fire.

Romney emerges as the survivor, the Republican who has endured the spotlight under which others withered. In debates, he has been judicious of word. He's lived in the pressure cooker, and still voters do not question his personal character.

He has written a thoughtful book, "No Apology," which lays out the case for American exceptionalism and against European-style government. Without ignoring the sometimes painful costs, Romney makes the case for the free market and makes it well.

Former Ambassador to France Howard Leach was a Romney supporter in 2008, but he waited until recently to endorse Romney for 2012. "I delayed supporting him just to see who the potential candidates were and how they might stack up," Leach told me. After looking around and considering Romney's record as a manager — he turned around the Utah Olympics — Leach concluded, "Romney is head and shoulders above the other candidates."

I remain unconvinced that Romney can beat President Obama in November, but at this moment, he looks to be the only Republican in the race with a chance.

Oddly, the movement of Romney's positions could help him in November. Yes, he was pro-abortion rights in 1994 and now opposes abortion rights. Yes, he brought Romneycare to Massachusetts and now he promises to issue Obamacare waivers for all 50 states. On the bright side, Obamaland won't be able to paint Romney as a rigid ideologue.

Most important: I don't think Romney will embarrass me.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. Find out more about Saunders by visiting www.creators.com.

Looking for love — gorilla style

By **DAVID FLICK**
Dallas Morning News
DALLAS — After a lonely bachelor existence, a long-term relationship may finally be in Patrick's future.

But first he has to learn some manners. Patrick, the Dallas Zoo's 21-year-old lowland gorilla, does not have a good track record for courting the ladies.

A few years ago, two females — Tufani from the Cincinnati Zoo and Makena from Disney's Animal Kingdom — were brought in as prospective partners.

The first time Patrick was introduced to Makena, he bit her on the leg.

It was boorish, even for a gorilla, but not entirely Patrick's fault, said Lynn Kramer, the zoo's deputy director. "Makena was partly

raised by humans and wasn't familiar with gorilla etiquette."

Normally, females will stay out of the way of a mature male, known as a silverback. She didn't. "Patrick overreacted," Kramer said. "In any case, it clearly wasn't working out."

It wasn't the first time Patrick had exhibited anti-social behavior.

When zoo staffers gave Patrick toys to play with, he would tear them up and eat them. He was known to throw rocks at the observation glass.

"I'm told he has a thing for women with toenail polish. If visitors stand outside the exhibit with painted toenails, he'll tap the glass and point," Kramer said. "I've never seen that myself."

In any case, Tufani and Makena were

shipped to the Kansas City Zoo in Missouri. In the years that followed, Patrick spent much of his time alone or, more recently, as part of a bachelor gorilla troop that zoo officials are putting together.

Now, zoo officials are trying once again to improve Patrick's social skills.

Earlier this year, Kramer received approval from the Species Survival Commission, which oversees the placement of endangered animals, to temporarily acquire two new female gorillas.

Madge, 30, and Shanta, 15, arrived in Dallas from the Cincinnati Zoo last month and are in temporary quarantine.

Maria Ross, a Dallas Zoo mammal keeper, spent time at the Cincinnati Zoo observing

their behavior before bringing them down to meet Patrick.

Unlike Dallas, the Cincinnati Zoo has a large troop, where the two females were well-schooled in proper primate behavior. Ross said.

Kramer said he believes that like a lot of troublesome young males, Patrick is a product of a poor upbringing.

Born in the Bronx Zoo, he was hand-raised by humans, Kramer said. Once in Dallas, he was partnered with Jabari, another young male gorilla. After Jabari was killed by Dallas police during an escape in 2004 that injured three zoo visitors, Patrick spent years largely by himself.

None of this worked to foster good gorilla man-

ners. If anything, Kramer said, he is surprised that Patrick's behavior is as normal as it is.

Unlike some silverbacks raised by humans, Patrick doesn't walk upright on two legs but drags his knuckles as a gorilla with any pride should. He doesn't stare at other gorillas (which indicates hostility) but glances sideways.

Patrick's basic problem, Kramer said, appears to be boredom.

"He's a bit hyper," he said, "but I also think he's beginning to mellow out a little bit."

We'll know soon enough.

The first step is putting the prospective love interests in adjacent enclosures — a process known as the "howdy phase." Then, if all goes well, they will be intro-

duced soon. If everything goes really well, Patrick and Shanta may get approval from the Species Survival Commission to mate.

Patrick would then be allowed to join a full-fledged breeding troop. If that doesn't work out, then he may be consigned to the Dallas Zoo's bachelor troop.

And if he can't even get along with the other guys, then it may be back to life on his own. Kramer considers that to be the least likely outcome.

Still, he said: "Patrick has one strike against him. If he can't be socialized with them (Madge and Shanta), then I don't think the SSC will be inclined to send us any more. At this point it all depends on his own behavior."

Deaf woman speaks through artwork

By **J.R. ORTEGA**
Victoria Advocate

VICTORIA — The chilly winter air flutters tufts of short, mousey brown hair away from Laura Lang's face as she dabs a brush into a paint palette.

"Muh," the 44-year-old groans as she mixes soft and hard paint strokes onto a picnic table at Dad's RV Park — an artistic talent she recently tapped into.

Reds transition into yellows and gradually the parrot that Lang has been drawing and painting since the morning is brought to life.

Staring at her mother, Lang signs and uses facial expressions to communicate why she likes birds.

Lang breaks into a hearty laugh and claps. Her mother cracks a smile.

"Cause they're pretty" her mother translates.

Lang was born partially deaf and by the time she was 5 years old, she was completely deaf.

Today, Lang pretty much takes care of herself.

The family has moved around most of their lives and last lived in Des Moines, Iowa.

Lang has been drawing for about five years, but it was not until three months ago that she expressed interest in drawing and painting for others.

Sketching floral arrangements with chalk was what Lang first picked up on.

"She's very proud of them (paintings)," her mother said, smiling. "As are we."

In the past three months, Lang has painted picnic tables with lighthouses, floral arrangements, landscapes but more specifically, birds.

She has drawn pheasants, blue jays and cardinals.

Her painting is bright, detailed and vivid.

Not only is Lang communicating through sign language, but also her painting shows her overall mood — she's just plain ol' happy.

Lang may not be able to hear the high-pitched tweets of a bird, but that does not make the detail in her paintings less powerful.

"When God takes one sense from us, he gives us another," her mother says.

Lang hops off a slow moving golf cart and walks between RVs.

Seven picnic tables with her art illustrations are sprinkled throughout the park; and like any good artist, she knows exactly where each one sits and the drawing it displays.

"Well, I think we're

going to another one," her mother says as Lang hops back into the cart.

Lang's mother passes by a table with a single parrot that was auctioned off.

Outside one of the RVs is Becky Watts, whose decor clearly shows her affinity for ladybugs.

Lang has painted a picnic table for her in the past.

The table sits in front of the RV with painted lady bugs and red trim.

Watts appreciates Lang's talent and is amazed by the work she does.

"She's fantastic," she says. "She really does great."

Lang smiles — a gesture that is universally understood.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

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

Federal stalking statistics

In January, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the largest-ever study of its kind on stalking, "[Stalking Victimization in the United States](#)," (pdf) an Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)-sponsored report based on supplemental data gathered from the National Crime Victimization Survey.

The report showed that technology, including Internet-based services like e-mail and instant messaging along with other technology such as GPS and computer spyware, have been used to harass one in four stalking victims. That translates into about 1.2 million victims whose stalkers used some form of technology to find them.

However, law enforcement remains under-equipped to deal with stalking. When it comes to technology use in the crime, the problem worsens. There are many reasons for this, but the end result, as revealed in the survey, is that victims have mixed feelings about police response to their problem.

INTERNET SAFETY

Computers record everything you do. It is IMPOSSIBLE to clear your tracks completely. Your computer stores hundreds of bits of information about everything you do with your computer, including information about which websites you've visited, your passwords, and what your emails say. Your abuser can readily track the websites you visit or read your email messages.

If you suspect your activities are being monitored, they probably are. Abusive people are often controlling and want to know your every move. You don't need to be a computer programmer or have special skills to monitor someone's computer activities — anyone can do it and there are many ways to monitor your activities — even without having direct access to your computer.

If you must use a computer that your abuser knows about, we suggest "safer" Internet surfing. For example, if you are planning to flee to California, don't look just at California web pages for jobs, apartments, bus tickets, etc. Look for the same information in at least a half dozen other states too.

EMAIL SAFETY

Email is not a safe or confidential way to communicate.

Sending email is like sending a postcard through the mail. Anyone along the path can read what it says. If you need to talk to someone about the danger or abuse in your life, if possible, please call a hotline instead.

If you must use email to discuss your situation we suggest you use an account that your abuser doesn't know about. Set up a new account with a free email service like hotmail, yahoo, or gmail.

PASSWORD SAFETY

DO NOT use a name or password that contains any identifying information (no names, nicknames, initials, birthdates, zipcodes, etc.) Instead use a name and password that contains a random mix of letters, CAPITAL letters and numbers (for example, HJ3v67Tn) -

Make sure you can remember the user name and password. If you must write it down somewhere, put it in a place your abuser is unlikely to find it.

If the computer asks if you would like it to save your password or login information tell it NO.

Permalink:
<http://www.stopfamilyviolence.org/pages/2>

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263-3312

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News in brief

In Iowa, Santorum breaks out with shoe leather, Romney avoids disappointing with little effort

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — In many ways distinctly different, Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney took near opposite paths to twin victories in Iowa's presidential caucuses.

The little-known, cash-strapped Santorum broke through as the leading conservative contender by cutting a painstaking path through every Iowa county. Romney, the GOP's deep-pocketed national front-runner, wanted to avoid being seen as underperforming and captured the state's more urban areas with little effort.

Both of their strategies went almost perfectly according to plan.

Santorum, a fierce abortion-rights opponent, caught fire with undecided social conservatives in the campaign's final two weeks, while Romney won over undecided Republicans who were concerned about finding a candidate to beat Democratic President Barack Obama.

Their near-even finish at about 25 percent each, punctuated by libertarian-leaning Ron Paul's close third-place showing, illustrates the sharp divide in the GOP going forward and the work ahead for the candidates hoping to establish a winning coalition.

Perry returning to Texas to reassess his GOP campaign

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday that he would head home "to determine whether there is a path forward" for his White House bid after he finished a distant fifth

in the Iowa caucuses.

At times pausing to collect his emotions, Perry told supporters that he appreciated their work but that he needed to consider whether there was a viable strategy for him to restart his campaign in South Carolina.

"With the voters' decision tonight in Iowa, I decided to return to Texas, assess the results of tonight's caucus, determine whether there is a path forward for myself in this race," Perry said, his family standing behind him.

Before Perry spoke, his advisers tried to paint the first contest in the South as the real start to his strategy and braced for a lackluster performance in the Iowa caucuses, which typically winnows the field of presidential hopefuls.

Perry entered the race in August to great fanfare only to nosedive. He had planned to make South Carolina his final stand, but the events he scheduled there for Wednesday were put on hold while he headed to Austin.

Bachmann tells supporters she's staying in race

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Michele Bachmann told a small group of supporters Tuesday night that she's staying in the presidential race as the only true conservative who can defeat the sitting president, despite a bleak showing in the Iowa caucuses.

The Minnesota congresswoman was running in last place among six candidates as returns came in from the nation's first Republican presidential nominating contest.

"I believe that I am that true conservative who can and who will defeat Barack Obama in 2012," she said. "What we need is a fearless conservative, one with no compromises on their record on spending on health care, on crony capitalism, on defending America, on standing with our ally Israel."

Shortly before Bachmann spoke, her campaign manager suggested she might leave the race. Asked if he could say with certainty whether she would go forward with her candidacy, Bachmann campaign manager Keith Nahigian told The Associated Press in a telephone interview, "I don't know yet."

Nahigian added, "It's hard to tell, but everything is planned."

Many South Koreans pine for unification

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A single, reunified Korea has long been a cherished dream of people on both sides of the world's most heavily fortified border. South Korea even has a Cabinet-level ministry preparing for the day.

And while Kim Jong Il's death last month has raised those hopes higher among some in Seoul, few are eager to talk about the cold reality: Sudden reunification could be traumatic for both countries.

Any North Korean collapse and hurried reunification, analysts say, could spell the end of Pyongyang's ruling class while flooding Seoul with refugees and causing huge financial burdens — perhaps trillions of dollars — for South Koreans who have only recently gotten used to their country's emergence as a rising Asian power.

Korea observers aren't predicting such a collapse or the kind of "big bang" reunification that happened in Germany, which saw the overnight fall of the communist side and its swift absorption into its Western neighbor. The new North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il's son Kim Jong Un, is fast consolidating power, winning key backing from the government and military.

Still, the extraordinary changes in North Korea following the Dec. 17 death of the man whose iron rule lasted 17 years have stirred up dreams of a single Korea among some in the South. And not just in those with memories of life before the country was divided into U.S.- and Soviet-occupied zones in 1945.

In crucial Ohio, Obama seeks a share of the political limelight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is pushing his economic message in Ohio, brandishing his presidential megaphone in a politically important state to make certain his appeal to the middle class is heard amid the boisterous start of the Republican campaign for the White House.

Obama was traveling Wednesday to the most Democratic congressional district in Ohio, a Cleveland suburb, a day after Mitt Romney won Iowa's Republican presidential caucuses by just eight votes. Obama's trip signals the White House's intent to keep the president in the public eye even as the political world focuses on the GOP's selection process.

The White House's choice of Ohio for Obama's first presidential trip of 2012 underscores the state's high-profile role in presidential politics. It is a swing state that went for George W. Bush in 2004 and for Obama in 2008. A top manufacturing state, Ohio has seen its jobless rate follow the national pattern; unemployment was 8.5 percent in November compared with 9.6 percent a year before.

Obama set the tone Tuesday for a White House strategy that aims to maintain pressure on congressional Republicans while promoting an economic plan that serves as much as a policy prescription as it does a political platform for the general election.

Addressing Iowa Democrats by teleconference as the GOP caucus counting was still under way, Obama described Republicans as embracing a "theory that says we're going to cut taxes for the wealthiest among us and roll back regulations on things like clean air and health care reform, Wall Street reform, and somehow that automatically that assures that everybody is able to succeed."

Official: LA arson suspect cursed America at mother's court hearing before fires began

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shackled in handcuffs and flanked by three U.S. Marshals, Dorothee Burkhart scanned a Los Angeles courtroom looking for her son.


"Can you bring my son inside?" she pleaded with court officials. "Where is my son?"

Apparently she was unaware that less than two miles away, her 24-year-old son Harry Burkhart, also was behind bars suspected of more than 50 arson attacks over New Year's weekend that caused \$3 million in damage.

Authorities believe Burkhart, angry over his mother's legal troubles, went on a nighttime rampage of burning parked cars a day after she made an initial court appearance last week.

On Tuesday, court documents were unsealed that revealed Burkhart's mother is charged in their native Germany with 19 counts of fraud, including failing to pay for a 2004 breast-augmentation surgery and pilfering security deposits from renters.

Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

A Double Squeeze

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 5
♥ A K 10
♦ A 9 8 7 4
♣ 10 4 2

WEST
♠ A K Q 10 2
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ 5 2
♣ 8 5

EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ Q 9 8 4 2
♦ K 10 6 3
♣ 9 7

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ 5
♦ Q J
♣ A K Q J 6 3

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣
2 ♠ Pass Pass 4 ♣
Pass 5 ♣

Opening lead — king of spades.

Declarer can often take advantage of the opponents' bidding to achieve the maximum result during the play. Take this case where West led the king of spades and continued with the A-Q after East played the 7-4. When dummy ruffed high, East discarded a heart, and South then had to score the rest of the tricks to make the contract.

Declarer still had a spade loser, which he knew could not ruff safely in dummy, and he also had a poten-

tial diamond loser. He could discard one or the other on one of dummy's top hearts, but not both.

South saw that he could stake the outcome on a diamond finesse, but he knew there was almost no chance that the finesse would succeed. It was highly unlikely that West, who had already shown up with the A-K-Q-10-2 of spades, would have passed as dealer if he also had the king of diamonds.

So, rather than rely on the diamond finesse, South crossed to the ace of trumps, led the queen of diamonds and put up the ace after West followed low. He then cashed four more clubs, producing this position:

	North		East
	♥ A K 10		♥ Q 9 8
	♦ 9		♦ K
West		South	
♠ 10		♠ 9	
♥ J 7 6		♥ 5	
		♦ J	
		♣ 6	

South now led his last trump. West had to keep his high spade, so he discarded a heart as dummy discarded a diamond. East had to keep his king of diamonds, so he also discarded a heart, and dummy then scored the last three tricks with the A-K-10 of hearts.

Tomorrow: The vicissitudes of fortune.
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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.

5	1				9			
	2	7		3	1	5		
	4		9		7		1	
6	7		4				2	
			3	9	6			
	5				2		9	8
	8		6		9		3	
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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



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Big Spring basketball teams win

Steers hold off Cooper

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**
Sports Editor

WOODROW — A fourth quarter rally would fall short for Lubbock Cooper, as Big Spring held on for a wild 59-57 win Tuesday night.

The Steers were led by Marc Segundo in the non-district game with 18 points. Chazzell Robertson added 12 for Big Spring, as well, in the winning effort.

Big Spring outscored Lubbock in the first three quarters to take a 44-36 lead into the game's final frame, while holding Cooper to 12 points in each of the first three frames, Big Spring scored 16, 15 and 13 respectively.

Ty'ral Menefield scored 10

points for the Steers, while Tavaris Walker registered eight. Tyler Graves added three points and Tyler Wigginton was good for four.

Cooper would score a game-high 21 points in the fourth quarter, but it would not be enough to cap the comeback. The Steers added 15 of their own points to stay just ahead of the rally and claim the win.

Segundo drained five 3-pointers in the game for the Steers, while Walker added two.

The 9-12 Steers will be on the road again Friday night as they travel to Levelland for a 6:30 p.m. tipoff.

In JV action, Big Spring fell to Cooper 45-52.

Lady Steers end non-district stretch with win in Abilene

ABILENE — In their final game before district starts Friday, the Lady Steers rolled past Abilene High for a 58-49 win Tuesday night at Eagle Gym.

Cerbi Ritchey led the Lady Steers with 14 points as Big Spring scored double digits in every quarter to combat an early Abilene High win.

Abilene jumped out to a 13-10 lead after one period, but the Lady Steers defense held strong in the second, allowing only five points, while scoring a game high 18 of their own. The 28-18 halftime lead would hold, though the Eagles tried to make a run of it late. Abilene outscored Big Spring 18-16 in the third quarter, but the Lady Steers added to their lead in the fourth to clinch

the victory.

Bridgette Tuitt scored 13 points in the game. Mackenzie Stone added 11 points, which included all three of Big Spring's 3-pointers.

Also making the scoreboard light up were Dyrshae Vanderbilt and Diamond Mayes with four points, Yaneria Tuitt with seven, Logan Yarbar with three and Ambra Hill with two.

Ritchey grabbed six rebounds, Yaneria Tuitt had five and Mayes snagged four. Also making the stat sheet were Bridgett Tuitt with five steals. Vanderbilt had four.

The 16-5 Lady Steers will start district play Friday, when they host Abilene Wylie at Steer Gym. The game is set to start at 7:30 p.m.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

BIG MAN IN THE PAINT — Chris Nunez makes his way behind a Lubbock Cooper player to get a closer shot at the basket in Tuesday night's 59-57 win in Woodrow.

Forsan teams sweep Post

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**
Sports Editor

The Forsan basketball teams combined for a sweep of Post Tuesday night as the girls won by a score of 45-38 and the boys found themselves on the winning side of a 40-34 score.

The Lady Buffs improved their district record to 2-2 with the win, as Cheyenne Galloway scored all of the team's eight points in the first quarter on her way to a 14-point, eight rebound night. Post managed to score 10 in the frame to take an early lead. At the half, Post had stretched their lead to 17-14.

When Post added to their lead in the third period, it seemed like a long night was getting longer, but then the Lady Buffs found their stride in the game's final frame.

Brittney Hergert scored nine of her 14 points in the fourth to lead the Lady Buffs' last charge. Forsan blew by Post in the period, outscoring them 23-11 for the 45-38 win.

Maria Ortiz scored nine points and grabbed five rebounds, while Ali Knight added seven points and two boards for Forsan. Jahnia Willard had four assists in the game.

The Lady Buffs will be in Denver City Friday night, with a tip-off scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

The boys basketball team also waited until the second half to pull away for the win, as both teams scored 10 points in the first period and nine in the second.

Dillon Bagnall led the Buffs with 10 points, while grabbing six rebounds, and Aric Hernandez was good for nine points and three boards.

Forsan came out in the third period defensive-minded. They held Post to five points in the third period, while registering eight of their own. In the fourth, Forsan outscored Post 13-10 for the win.

Matthew Mims added seven points in the effort, while Kade Fannin and Patrick Robles each scored five points. Fannin was also responsible for a game-high nine rebounds — five offensive boards. Bryson Phillips added four points to the winning effort.

The 11-6 Buffaloes are 2-0 in district as they head into Friday's clash with Denver City. That game is scheduled to start immediately after the girls' game, with an estimated start time of 7:30 p.m.

Kobe's 37 points lead Lakers past Rockets

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andrew Bynum is acutely aware how many Lakers fans spent the offseason coveting Dwight Howard.

Judging by his first three games of the season, Bynum seems determined to prove to every basketball fan in Los Angeles that this team already has a star center.

Kobe Bryant scored 37 points, and Bynum had 21 points and 22 rebounds in the first 20-20 game of his career, and the Lakers beat the Houston Rockets 108-99 Tuesday night for their fourth victory in five games.

With healthy knees and plenty of energy after a four-game season-opening suspension, Bynum gave yet another dominant low-post performance. He barely missed his career-high of 23 rebounds in his second career 20-rebound game, playing a team-high 38 minutes.

"I think I'm getting a lot more touches, so it's easier to be confident," said Bynum, who's averaging 22.7 points and 17 rebounds in his first three games. "Before the practices every day, I'm putting in work, so it's paying off."

Although Bynum has been increasingly out-

standing when healthy in the past two years, he turned up in multiple trade rumors during the offseason, most surrounding Orlando's All-Star center. After several years of trade speculation, Bynum insists he's immune to it — and it's reflected in his current play.

"We all know the amount of talent he has, and he's really worked on it," Bryant said of Bynum. "The thing that I like about him is that he has an engine inside of him, and he wants to dominate. He has ambition to be great."

The Lakers also got 14 points from fellow 7-footer Pau Gasol, who was nearly traded to the Rockets last month in a three-team deal for Chris Paul. Bynum and Gasol patrolled the paint on defense and repeatedly beat Houston inside, combining for 17 points in the second half.

"It's not just tonight, but the way he's played these three games," Gasol said of Bynum. "He's been really aggressive, really decisive, and just pursuing every ball. I'm glad to see him with this level of intensity and energy, because it takes desire and will."

What's the best part about Bynum's dominance to

Lakers coach Mike Brown? The big guy still isn't in game shape.

"He's still working on his conditioning," Brown said. "His conditioning is getting a little better. If he can get it to a point where it's great, oh my gosh."

The Lakers survived a tight fourth quarter with Bryant's brilliance and tough defense, holding the Rockets without a field goal for just under 6 minutes. Kobe scored seven consecutive points down the stretch of the Lakers' third straight win over the Rockets at home.

Kyle Lowry scored 22 points and Luis Scola added 20 for the Rockets, who opened a three-game trip with their eighth loss in 11 road games against the Lakers. Kevin Martin had 12 points on 5-of-17 shooting, missing seven of his eight 3-point attempts.

"We played an outstanding game all the way to the fourth quarter," Scola said. "Towards the end, we missed some shots that we usually make, and they made some tough shots. But we were kind of expecting that, because Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol are big players. Bynum is a tough

See **ROCKETS**, Page 12

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Jupiter in Taurus amplifies the hungry tendencies of the Taurus moon. Luckily, there are some things you can still be ravenous for without compromising your health and integrity. While it may not be your first inclination, it will certainly be energizing to cultivate your hunger for knowledge, joy and spiritual fulfillment.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You started out working hard because

you liked a certain person and you wanted this person's approval. Now you just work hard because it feels right to do it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll feel uncharacteristically impatient. Your diligence will make a difference, though not in one day. Commit to doing the same action for three weeks, and you'll be amazed at where you wind up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You feel protective, recognizing how fragile people really can be. Your conscientiousness extends not only to your loved ones, but to people you don't even know.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll get the kind of rare challenge that focuses your thoughts. Instead of being reactive and critical, you'll be active and creative, bringing all your knowledge to bear on the situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Something that now requires a great deal of discipline to accomplish will require far less discipline once you've established a series of habits to support the activity. Keep going.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may be in a position to report to another person about your work, but no one is really the boss of you. You'll take charge and feel in control of what you will or won't do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Action doesn't have to be momentous and revolutionary to create progress. What occurs out of consistent, small steps will be remarkable, meaningful and crucial to the big picture.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your general excitement about life will stir up something brave in your soul. You'll need to put all that energy into something, and today brings an endeavor just risky enough to appeal to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are changing, and the environment around you will transform to meet your new needs. What brought you pleasure yesterday is not the same thing that will bring you happiness in the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It takes strength

to move a relationship forward, but it also takes vulnerability. Being willing to let others lead once in a while shows both qualities at the same time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's something you need to know, and you'll set a kind of trap to try to get the information you want. You may not realize exactly what you're doing. So many of the games people play happen on subconscious levels.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone with a similar background is the most fun person to be around today. No matter how far away you are from where you grew up, you'll feel like you're home.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 4). This year your creativity will be met with inspired action, and the result will be explosive success. You'll build a bridge to someone's heart this month. March is your chance to trade in "old baggage" for shiny new luggage — and you'll take a trip to celebrate, too. New professional situations open up in July. Sagittarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 14, 43, 6 and 28.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The world would be a much different place for the visually impaired were it not for the efforts of Capricorn Louis Braille, whose revolutionary form of communication changed millions of lives and continues to do so today. Braille was a determined Capricorn with his Mercury in the determined sign, as well, and his natal Venus in altruistic, philanthropic and future-thinking Aquarius.

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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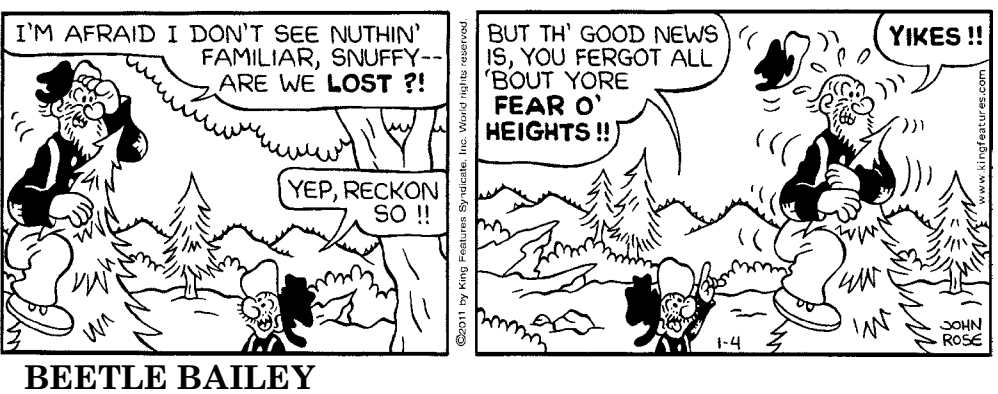
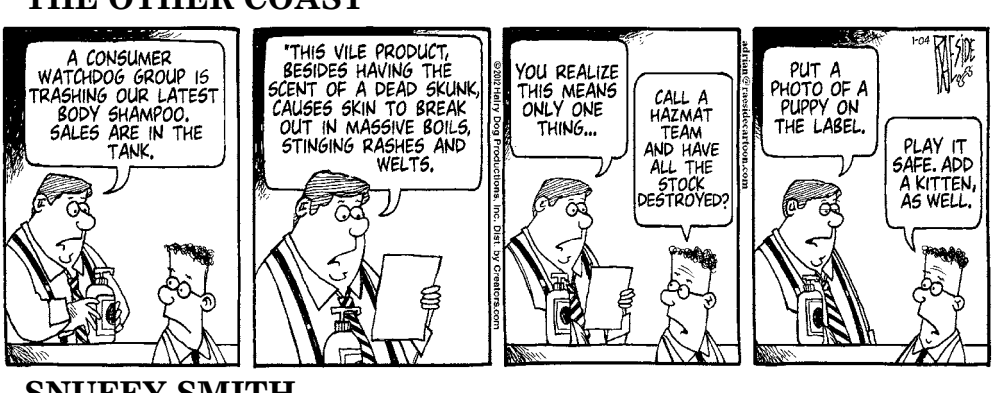
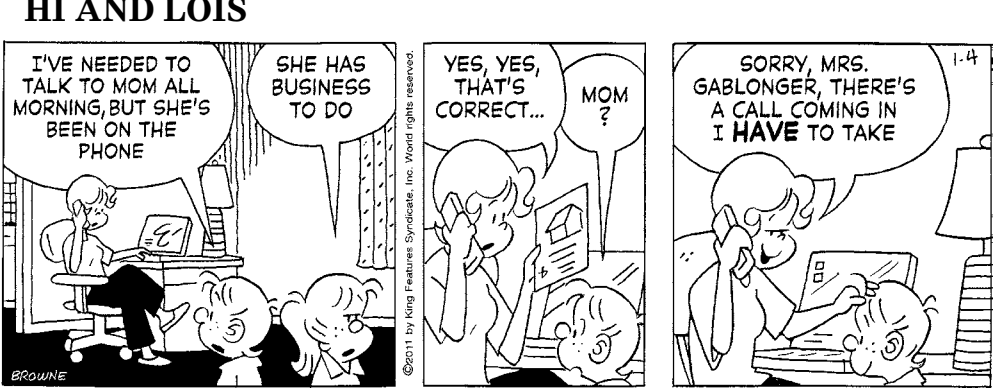
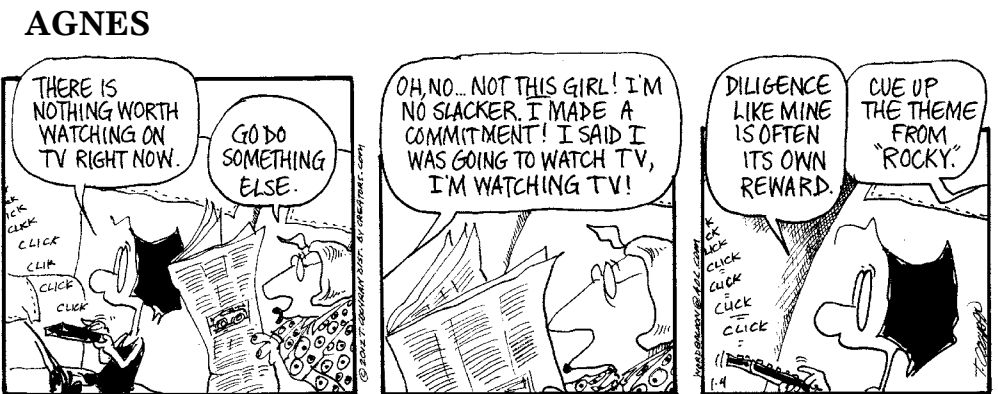
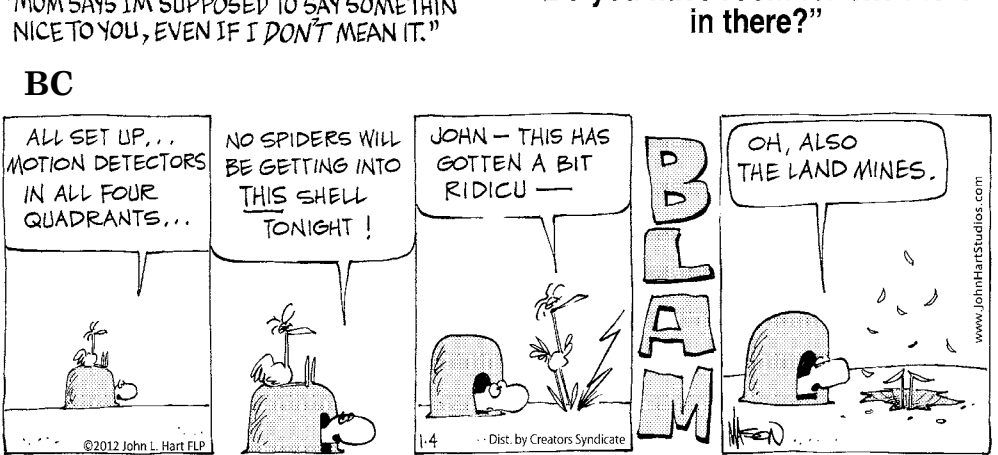
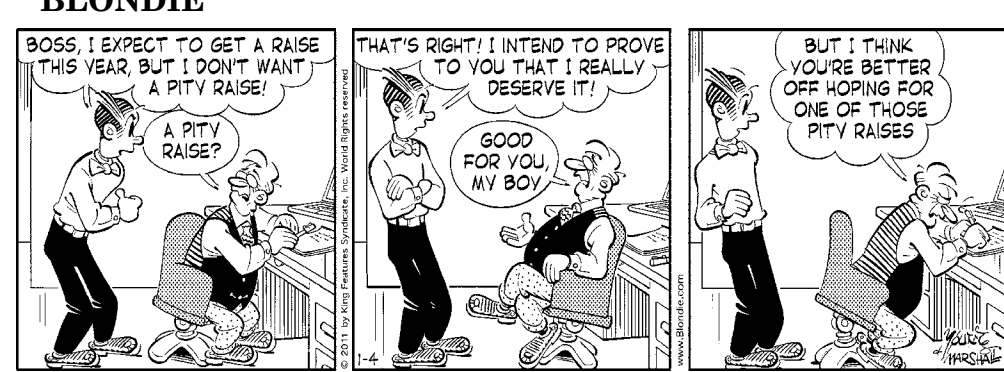
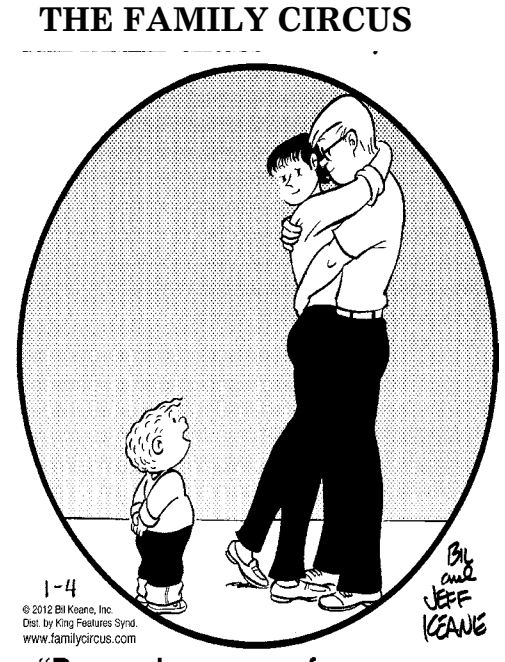
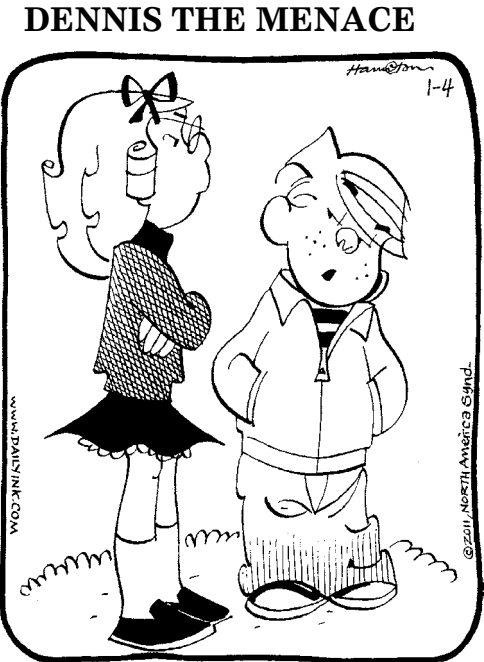
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma	Big Bang CBS	News	Noticias	News	King	Swallow House	Charlie Rose	Til Death	Sons of Guns	CSI: Miami	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Place	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	King	Dr. Diana	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Sons of Guns	CSI: Miami	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	Movie: Ray, Regina King	Wizards	College Bas-ketball: Duke vs. Temple.	College GameDay
7:PM	Wheel	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Glee	I Got That a Lot	Una Maid en	Millionaire	Seinfeld	CCM	Nature (DVS)	The Secret Circle	Sons of Guns	Movie: Eras-er, Vanessa Williams	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	Movie: The Game Plan	Wizards	High School Football	Discover Orange Bowl: Clemson vs. West Virginia.
8:PM	Family Happy	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	La Casa de al Lado	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang	NOVA (DVS)	Cops	Moonshiners	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed	Leverage	Game	Jessie	Good	SportsCenter	
9:PM	Revenge	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	McGee	Charlie Rose	King	Sons of Guns	Movie: Eras-er, Vanessa Williams	UFC Un-leashed	CSI: NY	Game	Good	SportsCenter	
10:PM	News	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Sin Senos no	Jay Leno	Office	Yohanani	World	Roseanne	Sons of Guns	MAN	MAN	CSI: NY	Wendy Wil-liams	Wizards	NFL Live	(:08) SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Dr. Denis	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Roseanne	Sons of Guns	MAN	MAN	CSI: NY	Movie: I Do... I Did!, April Scott	Good	Classix	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	Light.	Focus 4	Sons of Guns	MAN	MAN	Franklin & Bash	MAN	Random	Winter X Games	2012 Discov-
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Paid	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	Seinfeld	Tripp	Sons of Guns	MAN	MAN					



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2012. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 4, 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul (sohl).

On this date:

In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Md.

In 1861, Alabama seized a federal arsenal at Mount Vernon near Mobile.

In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

In 1904, the Supreme Court, in *Gonzalez v. Williams*, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legis-

lation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1948, Burma (now called Myanmar) became independent of British rule.

In 1960, Algerian-born French author and philosopher Albert Camus (al-BEHR' kah-MOO') died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France, at age 46.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI began a visit to the Holy Land, the first papal pilgrimage of his kind, as he arrived in Jerusalem.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson outlined the goals of his "Great Society" in his State of the Union Address.

In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Md.

In 1990, Charles Stuart, who'd claimed to have been wounded and his pregnant wife fatally shot by a robber, leapt to his death off a Boston bridge after he himself became a suspect.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Rush is 85. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Don Shula is 82. Actress Dyan Cannon is 75. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 75. Author-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin is 69. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 57. Actress Ann Magnuson is 56. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 56. Country singer Patty Loveless is 55. Rock singer Michael Stipe is 52. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 50. Actor Dave Foley is 49. Actor Rick Hearst (TV: "The Bold and the Beautiful") is 47. Actress Julia Ormond is 47.

Answer to previous puzzle

BOWS	FROST	ROOM
AREA	LEVER	EURO
RELY	OFANY	GREW
BODY	BUILDING	
EAR	TEAURN	
CREST	RAT	VENUE
HUNT	BERATE	WSW
AEROBIC	EXERCISE	
CFO	YOUSEE	ASIS
HULLS	ROD	CLEAT
ALLIES	SUE	
	CALISTHENICS	
MASH	ANNOY	DOLE
PIKE	SKATE	ATIP
GRIN	HYPHER	RAPT

Newsday Crossword

START OF THE YEAR by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 *Moby-Dick* captain
5 Biblical "you"
9 Corrosive chemicals
14 Zilch, south of the border
15 Deserve to get
16 Dashboard device
17 What *The Iliad* chronicles
19 Salon shortenings
20 To-do list entry, perhaps
21 Easter flowers
23 Colorant
24 Coffee alternative
26 *Antiques Roadshow* network
27 CIO's union partner
30 Sound of keys
33 *Gone With the Wind* locale
36 Theater signal
37 US/Canada defense group
38 On the rocks
39 New Englanders, informally
42 Actress Hatcher
43 In between ports
45 Fountain-pen filler
46 Noticed
47 Brazil tourist mecca
51 Broadcast
52 Hit head-on
53 Ending for acetyl
54 Lumberjack's tool
57 "That's unfortunate"
60 Like some furniture polish

DOWN

62 Malicious deeds
64 Ted Turner ex
66 Specialized slang
67 Rhapsodic verses
68 Food plan
69 Not prohibited
70 "Darn it!"
71 Vane direction

8 Not ready to harvest
9 Craftsperson
10 Give a darn
11 "It doesn't seem that way to me"
12 Poorly lit
13 "Send help now"
18 Send like contra-
22 President after JFK
25 Juan's water
28 Emergency signal
29 Did ushering
30 World-weary
31 First Soviet leader
32 Untrue
33 Diamond headwear
34 Intermission follower

35 Finally turning (to)
40 Place for a pants patch
41 Like some franks
44 Type of spray can
48 Boxing punch
49 Three-sharp key
50 Navigation hazard
54 Justice Sotomayor
55 Much of Chile's topography
56 Earp of the Old West
58 Gymnast Korbut
59 Infant's parent
61 Method
62 Right-angle shape
63 Compete
65 After taxes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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66						67				68				
69						70								71

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Texans prepare for playoffs with Yates at QB

HOUSTON (AP)—T.J. Yates figured he'd spend his rookie year with the Houston Texans on the sideline learning from veteran quarterback Matt Schaub.

That plan changed when Schaub and backup Matt Leinart had season-ending injuries.

Yates was thrust into the starting job and responded by guiding the Texans to their first playoff berth. Now the fifth-round pick will lead the franchise in the biggest game of its 10-year history, a first-round playoff matchup against Cincinnati on Saturday.

Yates bruised his left shoulder while being sacked on Houston's first series against Ten-

nessee on Sunday and didn't play after that, but said he's fine and will be ready to play against the Bengals.

Though he's played just six NFL games, the 24-year-old Yates said he's been through so much that he feels he's been playing for a lot longer.

"It's been a long season," he said. "Even though I haven't been playing the entire season, I don't really feel like a rookie anymore. I've had a long time to get comfortable with this offense and comfortable with the teammates around me. Hopefully going into this playoff game, I don't have those rookie feelings anymore."

Star wide receiver Andre Johnson has been impressed with his quarterback's confidence, saying he never behaved like a rookie. Yates already had that confidence when he entered the huddle before his first NFL snap after Leinart broke his collarbone in the second quarter against Jacksonville.

"He came in the huddle at Jacksonville with a smile on his face," Johnson said shaking his head. "He was just like: 'Hey guys, let's go.' Most rookies would come in nervous and that's something you don't see in him. If he is nervous, he does a great job hiding it. I have a lot of confidence in his

ability and what he can do."

Yates helped the Texans win that game at Jacksonville and one the next week against Atlanta, before rallying Houston from a 9-point deficit in the last six minutes for a 20-19 win over the Bengals. He found Kevin Walter on a 6-yard touchdown pass with 2 seconds left to give the Texans that thrilling win.

Yates believes having success against the Bengals in that game will boost the team's confidence as it prepares to face them again.

Houston has dropped three straight since then, including a 28-13 loss to Carolina in which Yates threw two

interceptions. He said there have been a lot of difficulties in being thrown into this job, but the biggest one is that he's had to develop while the Texans were trying to make the playoffs.

"Going through the learning process while this team was on a run and having some of those growing pains at the wrong time was kind of hurtful to the team," he said.

"Every single game that I've played, whether I played bad or good or we won or lost, I've been learning every week and learning from my mistakes and just trying to get better."

He's been helped by a cadre of veteran quar-

terbacks with decades of experience. Schaub and Leinart are always there if Yates needs help or pointers, and the two players backing up Yates — Jake Delhomme and Jeff Garcia — have combined to play in the NFL for 25 years. And then there's Houston coach Gary Kubiak, a former quarterback.

"They know that I'm hearing it from all angles and they do a good job of not giving me too much information or too much advice," Yates said of Delhomme and Garcia.

"But having them to go through the experiences with me, they can reflect on what they've done in the past and it helps me a lot."

ROCKETS

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center to play against. He's pretty big and athletic, and he looks like he's very focused. He got a lot of rebounds and had a good game."

Rockets swingman Courtney Lee had to be helped off the court with 10:40 to play after he collapsed in obvious pain from his right leg on a noncontact play in front of the Lakers' bench. Lee, who scored nine points, couldn't put weight on the same leg that bothered him with cramps during training camp.

After the game, Lee said the nasty-looking injury was only a strained calf muscle.

"I have no idea what happened," Lee said. "I went to the hole, got ready to run back and then my leg just buckled and I went down. I didn't feel anything at the time, so I didn't know what it was. So I tried to get back up run again, and I couldn't."

The Lakers were smooth down the stretch in their seventh game in 10 days, matching Oklahoma City for the NBA's busiest early-season schedule.

Houston scored six straight points to trim Los Angeles' lead to 93-89 with 3:54 to play, but Bryant hit a jumper and converted a three-point play on consecutive possessions before willing home a fallaway jumper with 1:59 left, putting the Lakers ahead by 11.

"We fought back a couple of times and hung around, but Kobe making a couple of those turnaround fadeaways, and those are tough shots to defend," Houston coach Kevin McHale said. "We were trying to get our guys to come over and be more aggressive, but we haven't yet gotten to the point where we're trusting everybody on defense to come over. It's still a process."

NOTES: Lakers F Josh McRoberts sat out with a sprained left big toe. ... Fans near courtside included Ashton Kutcher, Alex Rodriguez, Torrie Wilson, Cindy Crawford, Rande Gerber, Tom Petty and Milwaukee Brewers owner Mark Attanasio.

Sugar Bowl win sweet for Michigan

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As Brady Hoke trotted across the Superdome field, his Michigan players celebrating all around him, a big bucket of ice water suddenly came splashing down on the coach's head.

It had been quite a while since the Wolverines won a BCS bowl and they were going to enjoy it.

"All the tough times we've been through makes it even more special," senior defensive tackle Mike Martin said. "To be the fifth team that ever in Michigan history has won 11 games in a season, it means a lot."

Brendan Gibbons drilled a 37-yard field goal down the middle in overtime, lifting No. 13 Michigan to a 23-20 victory over 17th-ranked Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl at the Superdome on Tuesday night.

The victory capped an impressive debut season for Hoke, who has led the Wolverines (11-2) back to prominence with their first BCS bowl victory since the 2000 Orange Bowl.

"I'm just real proud," Hoke said, noting that only five Michigan teams in 132 have won 11 games

in a season. "Real proud of our seniors, real proud of how they took this football team last January and molded it and did a tremendous job,"

Denard Robinson highlighted an otherwise un-spectacular night with touchdown passes of 45 and 18 yards to game MVP Junior Hemingway.

"It shows everything we put in from Day One, all the long days, long nights," Hemingway said, his voice cracking with emotion. "Man, I'm telling you, it feels too good, man. Too good."

Virginia Tech gave the Wolverines all they could handle and might have won if not for some key miscues.

"I'm about half-sick right now," Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer said. "They weren't stopping us; we were stopping ourselves."

Virginia Tech (11-3) more than doubled Michigan's total yards, 377-184, and had 22 first downs to Michigan's 12, but settled for four field goals in regulation by third-string kicker Justin Myer.

However, Myer was unable to connect on his fifth try from 37 yards away in the opening possession of overtime.

Robinson finished 9 for 21 for 117 yards passing and threw an interception. He rushed 13 times for a season-low 13 yards.

"I feel like this was a team that didn't quit and we just kept fighting," Robinson said. "We held everybody accountable for what we had to do to win."

Virginia Tech first-year starter Logan Thomas was 19 of 28 of 214 yards with one interception.

Thomas scored Tech's only touchdown on a 1-yard keeper that tied the game at 17 — after a 2-point conversion — early in the fourth quarter.

Virginia Tech senior receiver Danny Coale had eight catches for 117 yards, and nearly made a spectacular diving catch for a touchdown in overtime. Coale held on to the ball for what was initially ruled a score, but the play was overturned on video review, which showed the receiver narrowly landed on the sideline.

"Danny's play is so close, and it seemed like there was just quite a few of those there tonight," Beamer said.

The result of that third-down play forced Tech to

try for Myer's failed field goal.

Michigan then used three runs to set up Gibbons in the middle of the field.

As his kick sailed through, Gibbons sprinted toward the Wolverines' sideline and was mobbed by teammates while the Michigan band belted out the school's fight song, "The Victors," while Michigan fans, in rhythm, thrust a sea of maize pom-poms in the air.

Virginia Tech fell behind late in regulation after gambling on a fake punt. Michigan's Jake Ryan stopped it at the Tech 45, leading to a short drive that set up Gibbons' go-ahead 39-yard field goal with 4 minutes left.

That left just enough time for the Hokies to tie it, even though they had to start at their own 9 after a holding penalty on the kickoff.

Thomas marched the Hokies 83 yards in 3:58, setting up Myer's game-tying 25-yarder.

Hemingway staked Michigan to a 17-6 lead in the third quarter when he soared over Tech's Antone Exum for an 18-yard catch in the back of the end zone.

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