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FRIDAY

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New schools prompt changes for students

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

You child may be moving next year — to a new school, that is.

At Thursday's Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees meeting, officials unveiled new maps detailing where students in grades kindergarten through 5 will attend school start-

See map,
Page 2A

ing with the 2012-2013 school year.

The new attendance zones will become a necessity next year when the district opens four new elementary campuses, shuts down Bauer Elemen-

tary and converts Kentwood Elementary to a pre-kindergarten campus.

Under the new map, student who attend Bauer this school year will transfer to either Moss or Washington elementaries in 2012-2013. Students currently attending Kentwood will move to

See **ZONES**, Page 3A

Standardized dress code gets look by BSISD officials

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Local public school officials are looking at a standardized dress code as one way to help improve the learning environment at Big Spring secondary campuses.

Big Spring Independent School District officials trustees vigorously debated the

idea during their monthly meeting at the high school board room Thursday night.

Proponents of a standardized dress code said the plan, which would effect students in grades 6 through 12, would help build a better learning environment at the junior high and high school.

Superintendent Steven Sal-

divar stressed the new code would not mean uniforms at the campuses.

"The students would wear polo-type shirts and jeans," he said. "We want to amp up the focus on academics and take away the focus on dress. Research shows that when

See **DRESS**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Designer Charles A. Smith and city crew members place a large arrow by the spring in Comanche Trail Park Thursday afternoon. The arrow serves as a symbol of Big Spring's designation on the Quanah Parker Trail.

Arrow marks historic trail

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

The Comanche tribes may have left Big Spring long ago, but the link they have to Howard County will never be erased.

Thursday afternoon, a giant arrow — created by Charles A. Smith of New Home — was placed at the spring in Comanche Trail Park.

Smith made the first arrow about 10 years ago, as part of an art collection for a man who wanted to note the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem, "I shot an arrow into the air, it fell to earth I know not where," according to Smith.

See **ARROW**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Saleen Burchett watches as Russell Parum, rabbit superintendent for Howard County Junior Livestock Show, weighs her rabbit Thursday afternoon. The livestock show continues today with a buyers' meal and auction set Saturday at the county show barn.

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Council approves incentive pact between EDC, Boyce Galvanizing

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council gave its stamp of approval Thursday for an incentive agreement between the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation and Boyce Galvanizing that could result in 40 new jobs.

The BSEDC board decided to move forward with an agreement with Boyce in order to help the company become operational in Big Spring. However, before the agreement could be implemented, the

city council had to give its approval. Final approval from the bank is expected to come today on an SBA (Small Business Administration) guaranteed loan. The project, not the incentive agreement, will also be considered by county commissioners at their next meeting.

"This is something that is needed out here. There is a huge market for it and that is part of the reason the company chose Big Spring as a location," BSEDC Executive Director Terry Wegman said. The project is estimated at

\$5 million and will bring in between 30 and 40 jobs and produce an approximate \$1.5 million dollar payroll.

"We think this is going to be a good industry for Big Spring," Wegman said. "This type business will help diversify our industry base and is not dependent on swings in the oil and gas business. This should be a stable business for years to come."

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



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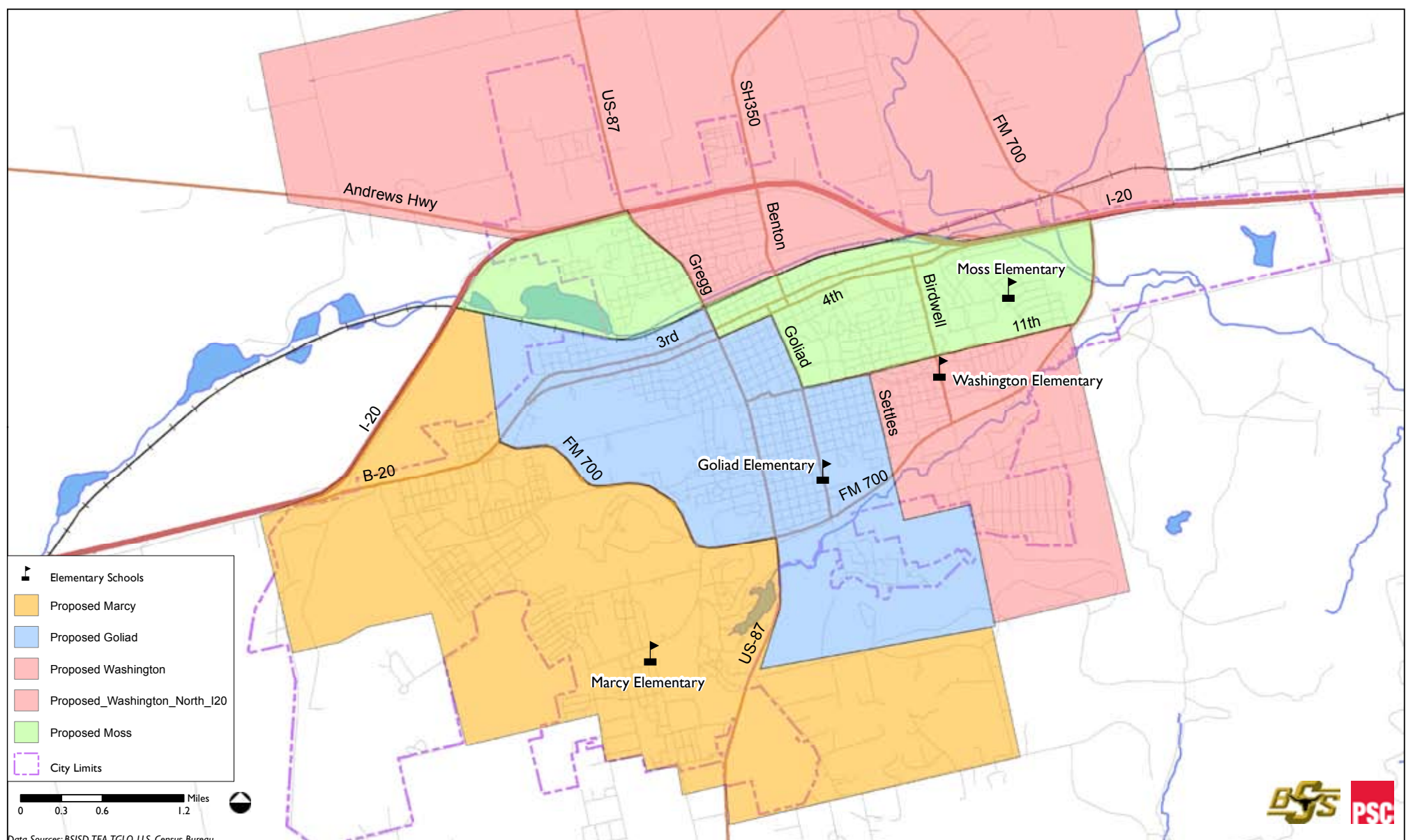
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2012-2013 BSISD Elementary School Attendance Zones



Courtesy photo

Big Spring Independent School District officials Thursday released a map showing new attendance zones for students in grades kindergarten through 5. The new zones will take effect for the 2012-2013 school year.

Obituaries

Charles 'Charlie' Trantham

Charles "Charlie" Trantham, 60, of Big Spring died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Chaplain Walter McCall officiating.

He was born May 29, 1951, in Germany. He lived in Big Spring most of his life. He was a truck driver for a moving company and was a member of the Church of Christ.

There are no known survivors.

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

Police blotter

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

- STEVE RODRIGUEZ, 30, of 2110 Runnels, was arrested Thursday on a charge of harassment.
- CURTIS DEWAYNE WOODRUFF, 26, of 214 N. Johnson, was arrested Thursday on warrants for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone (two counts), no driver's license - when unlicensed and a warrant from another agency.
- MANUEL GONZALES, 23, of 1101 Grafa, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for accumulated items/weeds/rubbish.
- RICHARD ARRENDONDO, 49, of Odessa, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CARLA ARRENDONDO, 49, transient, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANDREA MARIE RUIZ, 23, of 800 W. FM 700 Apt. 16, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.
- LONNIE RAY GRAY JR., 31, of 1515 Sycamore, was arrested Thursday on warrants for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, theft, failure to appear and a warrant from another agency.
- SUZANNE MARIE IRVIN, 33, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 237, was arrested Thursday on warrants for accumulated items/weeds/rubbish (two counts), failure to appear (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- SCOTTY RAY BLAND, 33, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd. Apt. 414, was arrested Friday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and a warrant from another agency.
- WELDON KOLE MCMILLIAN, 28, of Miles, Texas, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ROY DEWAYNE CARTER, 36, of 5320 Wasson Rd., was arrested Thursday on a warrant for theft - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.
- EDWARD LOPEZ, 23, of 411 N. Scurry, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.
- JOHN MICHAEL WILKINSON, 26, of 2304 E. FM 700, was arrested Thursday on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- MARTIN ANTHONY RAMIREZ, 21, of 1601 Stadium, was arrested Thursday on warrants for expired registration, assault by contact, failure to maintain financial responsibility, theft, violation of a protective order (two counts), consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to appear.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1400 block of Sycamore.

reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

- MANUEL GONZALES JR., 23, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of accumulated items - first offense.
- CURTIS DEWAYNE WOODRUFF, 26, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone (two counts), parole violation and no driver's license.
- ROY CARTER, 36, was arrested Thursday on a charge of theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.
- EDWARD LOPEZ, 23, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - open container.
- JOHNNY LARRY MERRICK, 66, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.
- ANDREA MARIE RUIZ, 23, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a warrant from the U.S. Marshals Office listed as non-reportable.
- MARTIN ANTHONY RAMIREZ, 21, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on capias warrants for displaying expired registration, no liability insurance, violation of a promise to appear, violation of

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail See **SHERIFF**, Page 3A

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What's Happening

Jan. 14
Volunteer Coffee and Orientation Hangar 25 Museum
For more info contact the museum at 432-264-1999

Jan. 19
Hangar 25 Membership meeting
Hangar 25 Museum 6pm
For more info contact the museum at 432-264-1999.

Jan. 26
Healthy Woman "Three Thrilling Years"
Dora Roberts Community Center
Featuring special guest **Lisa Smartt**
For more info contact **Kim Howell** at 432-268-4842

Jan. 28
Fraternal Order of Eagles 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off
Eagles Lodge 703 W. 3rd St.
Benefitting WTC Children In Need Fund
For more info contact **Landon Sturvidant** at 264-3247

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Take Note

• The Big Spring Art Association will have its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Community Room of the Howard County Library. The program will be "How to Gather and Prepare Natural Clay" by Dovie Shannon of Sand Springs.

• An organizational meeting for Visual Awareness Support Group will be held at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad St. VASG is a support group forming to provide help to individuals that have poor or deteriorating vision. The

meeting is open to everyone but will focus on people who have significant vision problems, their family members, friends and care givers. It is the goal of this group to provide, through education, a sense of hope to people that have vision problems and help them and their care givers cope with vision loss. For more information, call 263-2501 or email eyeassocoone@ccrom.net.

• Crossroads Friends of NRA Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Tickets are \$25. Funds raised at this and other FNRA events in West Texas support local youth shooting groups (Boy Scouts, 4-H, JROTC, etc.) law enforcement, education, safety and many other areas. Giveaways, games, and live and silent auctions will be held. For more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 432-270-7384.

• 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.

• Spring of Siloam, a Christian women's job training group, will hold its next 12-week session beginning Feb. 6. Applications for the session, which is free to the public, will be accepted through Feb. 2. To submit an application, visit the group's web site at www.springof siloam.org. For more information, call 432-213-2857.

ZONES

Continued from Page 1A

Washington. In addition, the majority of the district's special needs elementary students will attend classes at Moss, officials said.

Assistant Superintendent Danny Ferrell said each new attendance

zone will average between 500 and 520 students.

"This should alleviate the overflow problem we've had the past few years (when overcrowding at certain elementary forced students to transfer to other campuses)," Ferrell said. Also, it should help us eliminate two or three bus routes." Ferrell conceded the

new zones will result in a certain degree of upheaval for some families in the near future.

"Some families may want their kids to go to (one campus), but they'll have to go somewhere else, and this may cause some disappointment for them," he said. "But we believe this map provides the best balance for everyone concerned."

Superintendent Steven Saldivar said there would be no advantage to students attending any particular elementary campus next year.

"One of the reasons we put together the plans we did for the four new elementaries is that when we place students in a school, they'd be going to the same school as any other student," Saldivar said. "No school

will be any better than any other school.

"Also, when I got here, there was no set curriculum between the campuses, so there may have been an advantage of going to one school or another," Saldivar added. "That's no longer the case ... The schools will be the same, the curriculum will be the same and the teaching structure will be the same."

Ferrell said bus routes to accommodate the new attendance zones will be finalized within the next few weeks.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

DRESS

Continued from Page 1A

you take away the focus on dress, that will assist you in moving forward and building a culture that is fully focused on learning.

"We're not saying we're going to do this. We're going to investigate it," Saldivar added. "I'm willing to consider anything that will improve students' learning."

He noted the plan also would help elimi-

nate class distinctions, which he said was doubly important considering that more than 70 percent of BSISD students are classified as coming from economically disadvantaged families.

Another, more practical, advantage to the plan, Saldivar said, was that students at schools with such a dress code like the idea because they no longer have to worry about what they're going to wear that day.

While the idea met with plenty of approval

from the school board, at least one trustee voiced concerns.

"We will still have to wrestle with families that opt out of the code," Kenneth McIntosh said. "Are you going to keep children from going to school because they're not wearing a polo shirt? ... And what about families that can't afford these new clothes? Are

we going to take their kids out of classes because of that?"

Saldivar said the idea will continue to be studied over the course of the next few months. A final decision is not likely before spring, he added.

In other business, trustees approved:

• An agreement to hold joint elections with

the city of Big Spring on May 12.

• The second phase of demolition work at Big Spring High School that will pave the way for voter-approved renovations at the campus.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

ARROW

Continued from Page 1A

Lubbock author and historian Holle Humphries, a member of the Quanah Parker Steering Committee, saw the arrow last March and contacted Smith.

"Holle was out one day and found this arrow ... she tracked me down and asked me if I would be a part of this Quanah Parker deal and that's how it all started," Smith said. "I love to do it, it's my hobby."

Each arrow takes about three days to complete, including paint time. In addition to creating the arrows free of charge for the project, Smith delivers each arrow to its destination.

"I have the time and I meet lots of great people," Smith said.

Some of the arrows have been blessed by Comanche tribes, according to Smith.

The arrow serves as a marker for Big Spring and its designation as part of the Texas Plains Trail Region and Quanah Parker Trail.

"Nancy Koger played a large role in researching the information needed to help authenticate our designation to the Quanah Parker Trail," said Debbie Wegman, director of the Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Several city officials, including Mayor Tommy Duncan, City Manager Todd Darden and councilwoman Gloria McDonald, were on hand for the installation of the arrow. Members of the Howard County Historical Commission and Big Spring State Park Manager Ron Alton also attended the event.

"This has been an incredible project for our regional tourism board, which is affiliated with the Texas Historical Commission," Delores Mosser, past president of Texas Plains Trail board, said.

The Quanah Parker Trail is a road trip guide compiled for the Texas Plains Trail Region, with each dot on every road trip map representing a place where a real or legendary connection is present to the famous chief, according to information from the Quanah

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2A

a protective order (two counts), assault - family violence and minor consuming alcohol.

• LONNIE RAY GRAY JR., 31, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of bail jumping - failure to appear, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for theft and failure to appear.

• SUZANNE MARIE IRVIN, 33, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for weedy lot - first offense (two counts), failure to appear (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• CARLA GAIL ARRENDONDO, 49, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• RICHARD ARRENDONDO, 49, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• SCOTTY RAY BLAND, 33, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of bail jumping - failure to appear and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

Fire/EMS

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Highland. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

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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	

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Convention and Visitors Bureau for providing continued support for Big Spring when it comes to finding ways to attract visitors to our community.

- All entries that have competed in the Howard County Junior Livestock Show this past week. Special congratulations to all those who placed as champion and grand champions in their respective classes.

- Big Spring City Council for listening to the voices of the community members when it comes to making a decision on how to fund the new water and wastewater facilities.

- Debbie Wegman and the Convention and Visitors Bureau for working to make Big Spring and Howard County the home of the 22nd giant arrow placed on the Quannah Parker Trail.

- All kids involved in the YMCA youth basketball season as well as all coaches and parents as they support their children and players as they go into this season.

- Our readers for submitting their thoughts and ideas to help make the newspaper better.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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.

- 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

You, Lord, are the one with our best interests at heart. May we come to You today through prayer.

Amen

Echoes of World War II and the place they hold in Normandy

No one told me January is the wrong time to visit Normandy (until afterwards, that is).

Most of the places we went to visit were closed. It was cold and wet and rainy.

It took more than three hours each way. But I haven't been to France in fifteen years, and who knows (especially after this trip) when I will go again.

Our driver was an older gentleman, a retired executive who kept himself busy as a tour guide.

As we left Paris, he enthusiastically pointed out the sights. This palace and that. This chalet and that. Napoleons' and Louis' and the rest. I finally told him, nicely, as Americans, we had a somewhat different attitude toward kings.

When that didn't work, I told him we'd be closing our eyes.

But as we got closer and found one place after another closed down, I started asking questions.

He was old enough to remember World War II, or at least to have learned about it, as I did, from my parents and relatives who fought in the war. His father was a doctor from right there.

I guess I should have known.

France had stayed out of the war, wisely he thought. After all, look at how many French soldiers died in World War I. Mar-

shall Petain, soldier, appeaser, chief of state of Vichy France, was right to make his peace with Hitler in 1940. Look how many lives he saved. It hardly seemed right that he was prosecuted for treason after the war.

What about the Jews? I asked him. Really, he didn't know. Didn't know?

There were many righteous men and women in France who tried to save their Jewish countrymen and -women.

Clearly, that did not include my driver's family. Nor the Vichy government.

All told, 76,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps in France.

Refugees were among the first to be rounded up.

Pity those who thought they would find refuge from Hitler in France. They were as much in the dark as I was. They paid with their lives.

All but 2,500 of those sent to the camps in France died.

The only place open was the American cemetery and the small museum adjacent to it.

Our driver apologized.

It hardly seemed worth the trip, he said.

Wrong again.

You might remember the cemetery from the opening scenes in "Saving Private Ryan."

But seeing it is different.

I stood there with my 18-year-old son. The rain poured down. We stared at row after row of crosses, interspersed with stars of David.

The museum, simple, powerful, told the story of these brave

Americans, many of them no older than my son.

Omaha Beach is quiet. Even on a rainy day, it is beautiful. But it was not beautiful on D-Day.

The ocean was dyed red with the blood of brave Americans who waded from their boats into enemy fire — kids who gave their lives to save each other, to liberate the French, to defeat evil.

On that day, as the tape in the museum says, they carried the fate of the free world — "the entire free world" — on their young shoulders.

They saved the world.

My friend Annie was the one who told me to go to Normandy.

She is the child of survivors, born in Munich after the war. She said that standing in that cemetery, she was overcome with pride to be an immigrant to this country.

For all our problems, we are still the luckiest people on the face of the globe. And one of the reasons for that is because of those young soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom — and for the freedom of people like my driver and his family.

He may not know enough to appreciate that. But I do.

God bless America.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Some long-overdue action, even if it is just a bit of politics

In yet another welcomed administrative move to ease the hardships of undocumented immigrants, the Obama administration, last week, proposed new rules that will allow some immigrants to remain in the country while they apply for legal residency.

It applies only to the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens who already qualify for legal status. All it does is shorten the time they would have to leave the country. Yet some GOP hardliners already are calling it "backdoor amnesty." Anything short of massive deportations is "amnesty" to them.

When Barack Obama ran for president in 2008, he promised to fix our broken immigration system. But Obama spent the first two years of his administration claiming there was nothing he could do without the consent of Congress. And yet, this announcement proves, once again, that there is indeed much that the president can do on his own.

The new rules are part of the series of changes the administration has been making in the past few months — the kind of changes many Latino and immigrant rights advocates had begged him to make for years.

Unfortunately, naively believing that he could get Republicans to negotiate if he behaved like a hawk for a while, Obama allowed his administration to break deportation records and took too long to come to the rescue of even legal immigrants when they were being threatened by state laws that encouraged racial profiling. He didn't realize that no amount of crack-down on undocumented immigrants would ever be enough to satisfy the Republicans, and he created resentment in the barrios.

After all, this is the president who was supposed to change the anti-immigrant climate in this country, the one who said, "Si se puede ... Yes we can" and raised Latino hopes and expectations like never before. And yet, that climate has worsened under Obama's watch!

Although the anti-immigrant measures mostly come from Republicans, many Latinos can't seem to forget Obama's broken promise to push comprehensive immigration reform through Congress.

The fact that many Latinos still are reluctant to re-elect Obama, in spite of a field of Republican opponents who favor mass deportations, is a clear indication of how disappointed many remain with the president.

Although all of the GOP presidential candidates already have assured us that they would be much more draconian than Obama on illegal immigration, the Democrats are rightfully worried that many Latinos might choose to stay home on Election Day.

That's the only reason why the Obama administration finally decided in August to cut down on deportations by asking the Department of Homeland Security to suspend deportation proceeding against illegal immigrants who pose no threat to national security or public safety and to only go after undocumented immigrants who have criminal records.

Latino voter apathy and the threat it represents to Obama's re-election is also the reason for the new rules proposed last week.

Instead of forcing undocumented immigrants to leave the country for years while applying for legalization, Homeland Security is now proposing to allow U.S. citizens to apply for "hardship waivers" on behalf of their undocumented relatives and to shorten the time the immigrants would have to leave the country, from years to only days

or weeks. They would have to go back to their home countries, but only long enough to pick up a visa that would allow them to return almost immediately. The proposed change will undergo a review before it is implemented, but it does not require congressional approval and has some Republicans throwing tantrums.

It is "intended to reduce the time that U.S. citizens are separated from immediate relatives who are required to remain outside the United States for immigrant visa application processing and during the adjudication of waivers of inadmissibility," according to a Homeland Security summary that makes no mention of Obama's clear political intentions.

Unfortunately, the president's newfound methods to help undocumented immigrants are coming now that he is seeking re-election and desperately needs the Latino vote. Had these changes been made a little sooner, perhaps they could have earned Obama a little more loyalty among Latinos.

The timing of these changes clearly shows that Obama isn't doing this out of heartfelt compassion or commitment but political expediency.

It also shows the growing power of the Latino vote. Had it not been for the pressure Obama feels from Latino advocates and from the many voters who are still looking for an alternative, none of these changes would be happening.

Obama is finally showing that "Si se puede ... Yes we can" — but not without some arm-twisting from amigos he tends to neglect.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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SUSAN
ESTRICH



MIGUEL
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Church News

First Christian Church

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is located at 911 Goliad. Sunday starts with fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Church starts at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday the Rev. Ken McIntosh will bring the message from 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 "A Word to the Church: Marriage."

Elders will be Shirley Burgess and Carol Stephens; Deacons will be Josh Hamby, Michelle Hamby, Shirley Lee and Laura Sickles; Worship Leader will be Roy Smith; Communion Prep will be Shirley Lee and Michelle Hamby; Greeter will be Carol Stephens; Homebound Communion will be Shirley Burgess.

Isaiah 58 will be open at 4:30 p.m. Monday and 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Also, Monday the TOPS Group will meet at the church in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. for weigh-in and the meeting at 6 p.m.

Wednesday at noon there will be a Stewardship meeting at the church. All members of this committee are asked to attend. Choir practice will be at 6 p.m. in the choir room. Also, the youth will meet at the church at 6 p.m. for their weekly meeting.

For questions or further information, call the church office 432-517-4821 or view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com or email to fcbs125@yahoo.com.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive. Our church phone number is 432-264-7818. Our new website is <http://www.m2ctexas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/>. Our e-mail address is aliveinchrist@crcom.net.

Sunday service is at 9 a.m. with Sunday School following at 10:15 a.m. Pastor Carroll Kohl will conduct the worship service Sunday.

Phillip Reid will be reading the liturgy. The readings are 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), Psalm 139:1-10, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and John 1:43-51.

Anyone interested in reading, contact Dolline Budke. This is a small gift to God that is very important to our service.

The flowers on the altar are given in glory to God by Janette and Harold Bentley. If you are interested in donating flowers, please sign up on the flower chart. The general consensus is to plan on using the flowers two or three weeks.

Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on KBYG each Sunday morning.

The Elders meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at the church.

Scheduled meetings for January include: The Board of Assimilation

will meet January 24th at 7:00 pm at the church. Other boards and groups are continuing to meet and make plans for the various activities of the church.

Scheduled 7 p.m. meetings at the church for February include: The LWML will meet Feb. 9. February 13, LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Feb. 14. The elders meet Feb. 16. The Board of Assimilation will meet Feb. 28.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The lectionary Bible study, led by Tom and Craig Holstedt, at 5:17 p.m. at First Presbyterian in Big Spring, meets Wednesday.

Dan Miracle will preach Sunday in the absence of Tom, who will be at Prude Ranch with the Tres Rios Youth Retreat.

Saturday, Jan. 21, is the date of the next frolic, which begins at 7 p.m. in the church social hall with a light supper.

We will have the installation of church officers during worship Sunday, Jan. 22.

The lectionary is I Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets Wednesdays at 5:17 p.m. in the church library. The children's choir meets at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday and the chancel choir practices at 6 p.m.

The encouragers group meets at 6 p.m. Monday in the fellowship hall.

Presbyterian Women's Bible study group will meet Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 2 p.m. in the church library. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will lead lessons four and five from our study book: Greatly Honored Are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice and Greatly Honored Are Those Who Show Mercy.

The regular monthly meeting of the session is at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the church library. This will be the first meeting for newly installed session members Betty Earl, Nancy Koger and David Wilson. The session will have a training retreat Saturday at 10 a.m. in the church parlor.

Claudie Patterson is in charge of "Take Ten" refreshments this week. Liturgist is Helen Glass. Ushers for the month are Gordon and Susan McDaniel and Paula Farquhar.

The lectionary is I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Corinthi-

ans 6:12-20; John 1:43-51. The chancel choir will offer the anthem "Awake, My Heart" by Jane Marshall and sing "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" arranged by Dudley Buck for the offertory. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon.

Listen on KBST 1490 AM at 11 a.m. To have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org. On our website.

First United Methodist Church

Last Sunday evening, Pastor Bill Ivins and members of the Administrative Board hosted a dinner honoring our new member families.

Sunday Pastor Ivins will begin a multi-part sermon series entitled "Old Testament Challenge" with scripture readings from Genesis. The first eight weeks of this series will be based on Old Testament references from Genesis through Deuteronomy. Sunday services of worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday school meets at 9:45 a.m.

During our worship services we offer hearing assisting devices for those who need them. See an usher.

There have been some changes in the radio broadcast of the 10:50 a.m. service of worship. It can now be heard on station KXCS 105.5 FM. The 8:30 a.m. service continues on KBYG 1400 AM.

Wednesday noon Bible study and luncheon is held in Garrett Hall each week. Pastor Ivins is beginning a new study "Down the Roman Road" based on the richness of Paul's letter to the Church at Rome. Al's Barbeque will cater the meal this week with serving beginning at 11:50 a.m.

Real Life Wednesday begins with a meal at 5:30 p.m. in Garrett Hall followed by activities for adults, EPIC youth group and children's music. Cost of the meal is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and an entire family a maximum of \$20. Make your dinner reservations by calling the church office at 267-6394.

Our new children's Sunday school curriculum is going to be Elevate's "The Great Sky Bridge Showdown" beginning Jan. 22. Becky Woodall is in need of construction type items such as orange cones, construction tape, construction signs, hard hats and anything yellow and black striped as well as any item associated with construction. Call Becky at the church or email her at rdwest4@hotmail.com for addition information. Your loaned items will be returned when the eight week series is completed.

Marci Lykken introduced the new Care Bear Ministry to the congregation this past Sunday. The bears are available for someone who just needs a hug, is going through sickness or sorrow.

The Mission Team to Nicaragua 2012 is asking Sunday school classes to make school kits for the children and then to pray over them. There are 15-200 children who we will be teaching the Good Word and they will need supplies to color and write. The complete list of items needed can be obtained at the church office.

Children are reminded to bring an item from home for the Sermon in a Sack on Sunday. This week our youth director Beau Niewoehner will be doing the sermon. Last Sunday's draw from the sack yielded a small bottle of hand sanitizer which resulted in a wonderful story about being cleansed of sin and the kids loved it.

For complete information on events and scheduling, go to our website at www.fumchs.com.

Two Forces in Galatians

Love, joy, peace, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness, kindness, long suffering, self-control.

These are the fruits of the spirit of God.

As we enter into 2012, I can't help but look back and think how much fruit is left from last year.

After going through trials and burdens, heartaches, persecution ... I know these burdens overcome some people. I think as I look back what the Lord said he wished above all things, we bear fruit and our fruit would remain.

Galatians 5:15-26, Paul speaks of people who were being catty and critical.

Paul said watch out. Beware of ruining each other Paul said in verse 16, I advice you to obey only the Holy Spirits instructions.

He will tell you where to go and what to do and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things the Holy Spirit tells us to do.

Paul knew about the struggles and temptations because in one verse he says these two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us and our wishes are never free from their pressures.

But when you follow your own wrong inclinations your lives will produce these evil results ... impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, spiritism that is encouraging the activity of demons, hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaint and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group and there will be wrong doctrine, yes the list goes on to say that these will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, and more, these fruits are important for example how can we forgive someone who persecutes us and seeks our hurts without a cause.

How can I pray and have a burden for lost souls if I have no love? How can I be gentle, kind; How can I control my mouth, my spirit, my flesh, if I don't have self-control. Long-suffering, what better example than the lord Jesus Christ when he himself said how much longer must I endure, referring to the disciples of little faith at the time.

Paul said the fact he was being persecuted proves he was still preaching salvation through faith in the cross of Christ alone. I believe whenever we obtain fruit in our lives, there's less room or no room for jealousy, hatred, criticisms, etc in our lives.

Paul a spirit filled man of God obtained fruit, through the things he suffered.

Galatians 5:25, if we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Then we won't need to look for honors and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings.

I pray you bear much fruit in your walk with God, and that he will take pleasure in it and bless you even more.

Don't be like a fig, when Jesus wanted to partake of it's fruit, it was barren and cursed it.

JoElle Ludington

Preventing wrinkles

"Age defying," says the label on a little jar of night cream on my bathroom shelf.

The miracle in the little jar is guaranteed to prevent wrinkles and make my skin look younger and healthier. At least I think that is what all the tiny print on the small label says.

I'm not really sure I am reading it correctly. It seems more logical to put large print on a bottle of wrinkle cream.

Although I can't say for sure what I would look like without the miracle mix in the jar, I suspect it isn't working. I've thought about asking for my money back, but I fear having someone laugh in my face. I suppose I'll just be content to stand in the senior-discount line

with my other seasoned friends. We may be able to deny age, but we can't defy it. It still creeps up on us inch by inch, wrinkle by wrinkle.

Although we can't stop the aging process, we can control our attitudes about it. A Jewish poet by the name of Samuel Ullman once said, "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul."

Sometimes our souls do get tired and wrinkled. None of us are immune to illness, discouragement and stress. When troubles come our way, we tend to worry and lose our zest for life. Our energy level drops and our motivation to get things done slows. We do desert our ideals and our enthusiasm fades.

From a Christian perspective, the way to prevent wrinkling of the soul is to place our faith in Christ. The apostle Paul wrote,

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6 NASB).

I'm not sure how to prevent wrinkles in the skin, but the way to avoid a wrinkled soul is to enthusiastically trust God when life's hurdles threaten our faith. The God who had a plan for our lives when we were young continues to have a plan for us regardless of our age.

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.

sudoku
ANSWERS

6	9	4	2	7	3	8	1	5
5	1	2	8	6	9	4	7	3
7	3	8	1	5	4	6	9	2
2	6	1	7	4	8	3	5	9
9	5	3	6	2	1	7	8	4
4	8	7	9	3	5	2	6	1
8	4	5	3	9	7	1	2	6
3	7	6	5	1	2	9	4	8
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www.sudoku-puzzles.net



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Reflections

Talking about the thin places

Celtic Christianity has a term to refer to those moments when the separation between this world and heaven becomes so minimal we sense the presence of God. They call these the "thin places." They are the places where love and compassion reign. Where forgiveness overcomes resentment. Where selfishness is swallowed up in sacrifice. Where prejudice surrenders to acceptance. Where the violent flame is quenched and people live in peace. They are the times when our soul is overwhelmed with awe and we worship God.

The news usually focuses on "thick places" where our world is farthest from God. For some strange reason people gravitate to the sick stories of murder, corruption, abuse, crime and war. But God gives us moments when He comes near, moments when we sense the fragrance of His presence and we hear the whisper of His voice.

Occasionally the media alert us to a thin place, like the recent story of strangers who plunged into the icy waters of a Utah river to rescue children drowning in an overturned car. We witnessed another thin place when the Amish community in Lancaster, Pa. provided food and comfort to the family of the killer who murdered their daughters in the Amish school a few years ago.

Sometimes we sense the thin place when we stand before God's creation and marvel at its majesty, beauty, complexity and balance. Sometimes we feel it in cathedrals and churches or informal and intimate gatherings with other believers. Sometimes the thin places appear in everyday life. Often, when they do, they are unexpected.



BILL
TINSLEY

When Jesus came, the reign of God broke through upon the earth so we were able to see, in a brilliant flash, what God's Kingdom really looks like. This is what John meant when he said, "That was the true light, which, coming into the world enlightens every man ... we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father." Wherever Jesus went he created a thin place. This is why Jesus said, "the Kingdom of God is at hand."

When He sent his followers out, Jesus taught them to live and speak in such a way people would know they had come into a "thin place."

"Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Luke 10:8).

As followers of Jesus our task is to help create the thin places. We do so by living in such a way the reign of God rules in our hearts, controlling our speech, our actions and our decisions. We are to create "thin places" wherever we work or study, among our co-workers, fellow students, family, friends and even our enemies.

Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." He was teaching us to pray that we might become instruments for the thin places. This is why Jesus said, "You are the light of the world ... let your light so shine that men may see your good works and glorify your father who is in Heaven." God desires that His reign and rule should be displayed and celebrated.

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. For more info visit www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.

► Religion brief

RI atheist, 16, thrilled with prayer banner order

LAURA CRIMALDI,
Associated Press
PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Rhode Island teen who won a legal battle over a prayer banner displayed at her high school said Thursday that a federal court order requiring the banner's removal reflects "what true American values are."

Jessica Ahlquist, 16, who describes herself as an atheist, said the prayer banner displayed in the Cranston High School West auditorium does not belong in a school.

"When I saw it there, I knew it didn't belong," Ahlquist told reporters. "And every time that I saw it, it was a reminder that my school wasn't doing the right thing and that my school didn't necessarily support me and my views."

A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the banner to be removed immediately. Attorney Joseph Cavanagh Jr., who represented the city, said the banner is being covered up pending a decision from the School Committee on whether to appeal.

The Rhode Island chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union sued the city and school committee last year over the banner on Ahlquist's behalf.

The school committee plans to discuss the litigation at its next meeting on Tuesday.

Some board members are saying they do not want to appeal because of the potential costs of continued litigation. The court order also requires the city to pay for the ACLU's legal fees. Cavanagh has handled the case so far for free.

Committee member Michael Traficante said he's "extremely disappointed" in the ruling.

"What's ironic is this banner has to be removed because one individual after 50 years believed it to be offensive because of her disbelief in any religion," Traficante said.

Gov. Lincoln Chafee said he agrees that the banner violates the Constitution and supports the court order.

The city argued the banner is a part of the school's history and has no religious significance.

Reader's Corner

Song

Some days I wake up with a song in my heart.
A song that I long to share with others,
but often the ones I chose to share my song with
don't have the time or patience to listen to my
song;

And that brings sadness to my heart,
but there is one who always has time to listen to
my song.

He is my Jesus Christ my savior.
The one who gave my heart a reason to sing.

Lana Anguiano

How does he do it

Lord I seek not signs and wonders tonight
I seek not the silver nor the gold
I seek no one, but you tonight
For there 's a little boy who needs
only your touch
to calm his fears , erase any doubts
Your still God in the highest
He needs for you to be real
in the midst of this storm
to be able to see and feel your love
the love that conquers all things
Be there for when i'm not able to be there Lord
Be in his dreams , his thoughts , his heart
Lord he thinks you're an awesome God
do it all

In Jesus Christ
tonight
JoELLE LUDINGTON

Jesus

Someone once asked me what did your name mean to me.

And I thought about just what did your name mean to me.

And one word came to mind, that word is everything.

For without Jesus I have nothing, but with Jesus I have everything.

Lana Anguiano

Spring Creek Fellowship

We will conclude our "New Year's Revolutions" sermons series with at a family focused event. Dr. Marty Akins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bedford, Texas will be here for our deacon/leadership training starting Friday evening, Jan. 27, 2012.

Saturday, Jan. 28 in the evening, Spring Creek Fellowship will host the Big Spring premier of the movie "Courageous." Tickets will be available very soon. Marty will wrap up our sermon series with Revolutionary church Sunday, Jan. 29.

We will be hosting a "Super Bowl Party" on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012. The game will be shown on the large screens in our worship area. We hope you can join us.

Coming soon to Spring Creek University is: "The School of the Spirit," "Financial peace university," "Celebrate recovery," "Weird: Because normal isn't working," "Experiencing God," "Breaking free," "The secret to the marriage you want," "The truth project," and "Be prepared."

Sunday school classes meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. "Holy Grounds Café" is open from 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. with snacks and fellowship. Worship is scheduled from 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We meet Wednesdays for a meal at 5:30 p.m.; Bible study, youth and children's activities at 6 p.m. and praise team practice is at 7 p.m. Youth meets Wednesday evenings for junior and senior high students.

A weekly men's prayer breakfast and fellowship is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining room at the church. "Between the Lines" women's ministry will meet Saturday, Jan. 20, 2012.

"Manna House" food pantry is low on supplies. Contact Casie Fillingim and Jennifer Boyd for more information.

"Free Indeed," a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship, is in need of donations of new underwear, socks, coats, etc. for the cold months ahead.

If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, please contact the church office.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

East South West North
Pass Pass Pass 1♥
Pass ?

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- ♠K2♥10983♦64♣AQJ84
- ♠A5♥Q72♦QJ743♣965
- ♠Q107♥J6♦QJ104♣AJ72
- ♠KJ94♥10♦KQ962♣Q63
- ♠3♥AJ854♦1093♣KQ87

1. **Three hearts.** Responses by a player who previously passed fall into a different category from those made by a player who did not previously pass. Obviously, an original pass denies the values for an opening bid, and it follows from this that the opener need not bid again if he thinks game is either impossible or highly unlikely.

Here, a two-club response would not compel partner to bid again, whereas if you had not passed originally, the change of suits would be 100 percent forcing. Similarly, the jump-raise to three hearts, while highly encouraging, is not forcing, and partner may pass. It should be added, though, that a response of three hearts is much more likely to induce a further bid from partner than a response of two clubs.

2. **Two hearts.** The choices are one notrump, two diamonds or two hearts, none of which forces a rebid from partner. The heart raise is preferred because it has more chance of stirring him into bidding again, since the announced trump support will increase the value of his hand.

3. **Two notrump.** Ordinarily, this would indicate 13 to 15 points, but after an initial pass, the jump in notrump shows 11 or 12 points.

4. **Two diamonds.** You have enough points to respond on the two-level, so there is no reason why you shouldn't bid your longer suit first. You plan to bid spades next if partner rebids two hearts, thus informing him that you have more diamonds than spades. Game is unlikely if partner passes two diamonds.

5. **Four hearts.** Since 10 tricks seem highly probable even if partner has a minimum opening bid, you shouldn't run the risk of his passing a three-heart bid. You should always avoid inviting partner to go to game when you are reasonably certain in your own mind that a game can be made. In such situations, just bid the game yourself. (If you play "splinter" bids, a jump to three spades, indicating heart support plus a singleton or void in spades, carries the same message.)

Tomorrow: The disappearing trick.

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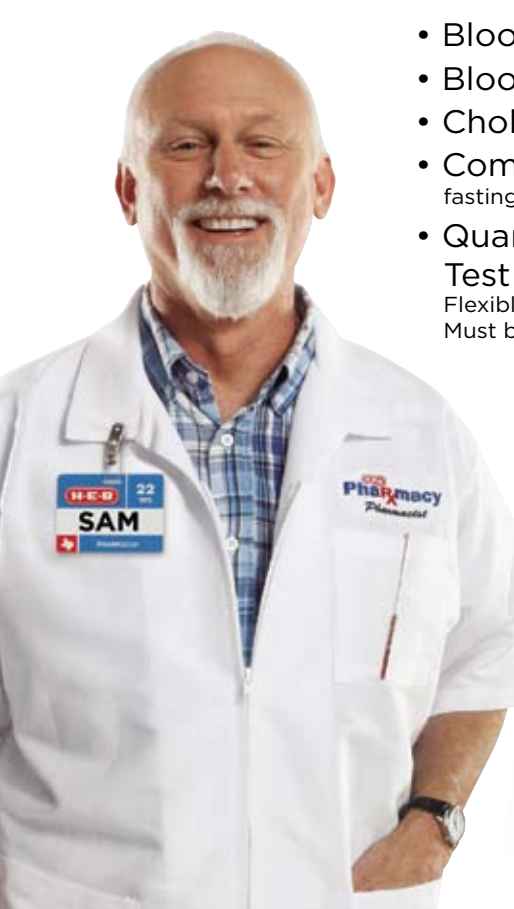
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Discover ways to stay active

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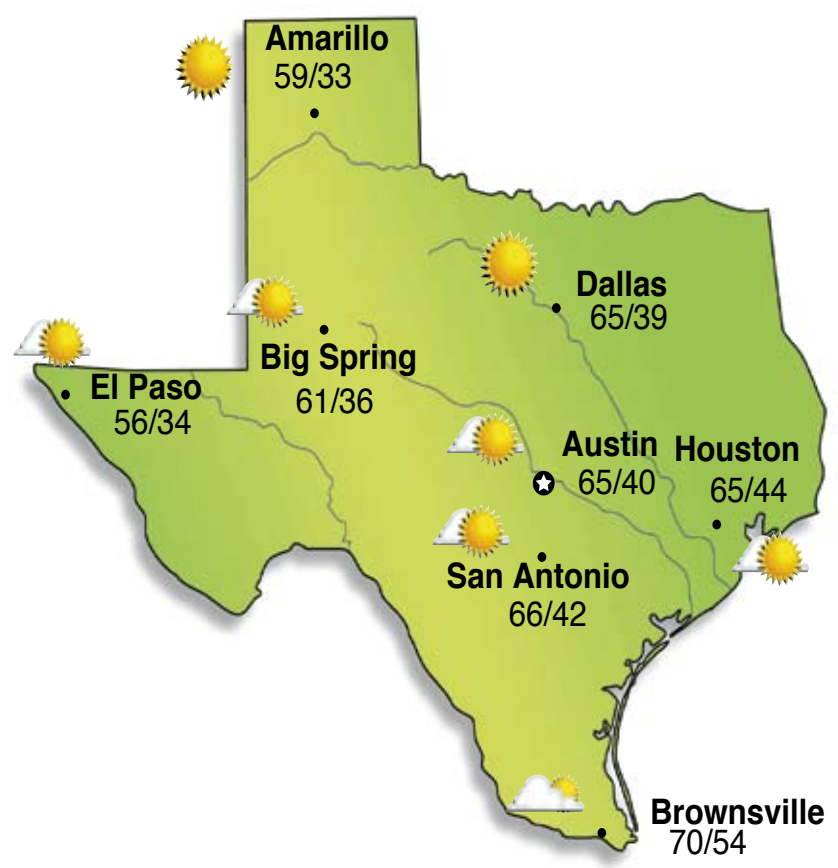
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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sat 1/14		Sun 1/15		Mon 1/16	
61/36		67/46		70/39	
Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 61F.		Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 40s.		Windy with clouds giving way to sun.	
Sunrise 7:48 AM	Sunset 6:03 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM	Sunset 6:03 PM	Sunrise 7:47 AM	Sunset 6:04 PM

Texas At A Glance



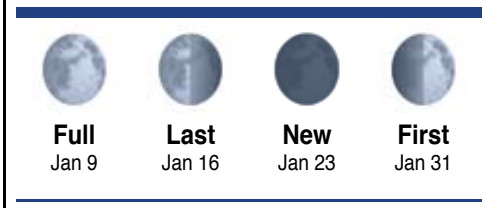
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	65	39	sunny	El Paso	56	34	mst sunny	Midland	62	39	mst sunny
Amarillo	59	33	sunny	Fort Stockton	63	42	mst sunny	Raymondville	69	51	cloudy
Austin	65	40	mst sunny	Gainesville	62	35	sunny	Rosenberg	65	43	mst sunny
Beaumont	64	42	sunny	Greenville	62	35	sunny	San Antonio	66	42	mst sunny
Brownsville	70	54	cloudy	Houston	65	44	mst sunny	San Marcos	66	40	mst sunny
Brownwood	66	40	sunny	Kingsville	70	51	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	63	39	sunny
Corpus Christi	67	51	pt sunny	Livingston	64	37	sunny	Sweetwater	63	38	mst sunny
Corsicana	63	38	sunny	Longview	63	37	sunny	Tyler	62	36	sunny
Dallas	65	39	sunny	Lubbock	60	32	sunny	Weatherford	63	36	sunny
Del Rio	63	43	pt sunny	Lufkin	64	38	sunny	Wichita Falls	62	34	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	49	30	sunny	Houston	65	44	mst sunny	Phoenix	71	44	sunny
Boston	32	9	pt sunny	Los Angeles	72	47	pt sunny	San Francisco	66	44	mst sunny
Chicago	23	9	sn shower	Miami	71	49	mst sunny	Seattle	41	33	rain
Dallas	65	39	sunny	Minneapolis	28	14	sn shower	St. Louis	42	24	sn shower
Denver	54	33	sunny	New York	38	21	pt sunny	Washington, DC	36	28	pt sunny

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sat 1/14	Sun 1/15	Mon 1/16
4	4	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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News in brief

U.S. assures Afghans of full probe of video

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pentagon officials worry that outrage over a video purporting to depict Marines urinating on Taliban corpses will tarnish the reputation of the entire military. Some also fear it could undermine prospects for exploratory Afghan peace talks.

After roundly condemning the Marines' alleged behavior, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and top military leaders on Thursday promised a full investigation and sought to contain the damage at home and abroad.

Panetta also said the incident could endanger the outlook for peace talks, although the Obama administration and the Taliban each voiced readiness Thursday to try peace talks while pledging to carry on the military conflict until their rival objectives are met. The separate statements by senior American and Taliban officials illustrated the improved environment for Afghan reconciliation efforts as well as the daunting task ahead.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the law enforcement arm of the Navy, is heading the main inquiry, which is expected to weigh evidence of violations of the U.S. military legal code as well as the international laws of warfare. Separately, the Marine Corps is doing its own internal investigation.

By Thursday evening, the NCIS had interviewed two of the four Marines appearing in the video. At the time they were filmed urinating on the bodies, the four were members of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, which fought

in the southern Afghan province of Helmand for seven months before returning to their home base at Camp Lejeune, N.C., last September.

Conservatives torn over defending Romney or backing someone else

WASHINGTON (AP) — Torn between reality and their political dreams, leading conservatives are defending Mitt Romney against attacks on his work in the private sector even as they search for a more palatable candidate amid a growing sense that his nomination may be certain.

Romney is marching steadily through South Carolina, a state still uncertain about him, and picking up a prominent conservative's endorsement while sending a message to his party: It's time to stop the bickering.

Not just yet, some conservative leaders say.

"Honestly, it looks like Governor Romney's nomination is inevitable," said the Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas. "Evangelicals, come November, might have to hold their noses and vote for the lesser of two evils. But it's not November yet."

Just over a week before South Carolina's first-in-the-South vote, there are signs that the conservatives are struggling with their goal of finding what some would call "the anti-Romney." They appear no more organized in their search for a credible challenger than they were before former Sen. Rick Santorum raised their hopes with his second-place finish in Iowa.

NCAA's Emmert favors 4-team football playoff

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — NCAA President Mark Emmert would support a four-team playoff in college football — as long as the field doesn't grow.

After giving his annual state of the association speech Thursday in Indianapolis, Emmert acknowledged he would back a small playoff if that's what Bowl Championship Series officials decide to adopt.

"The notion of having a Final Four approach is probably a sound one," Emmert said when asked what he heard coming out of New Orleans this week. "Moving toward a 16-team playoff is highly problematic because I think that's too much to ask a young man's body to do. It's too many games, it intrudes into the school year and, of course, it would probably necessitate a complete end to the bowl system that so many people like now."

Emmert spoke two days after the 11 Bowl Championship Series conferences met to discuss possible changes to the system starting in 2014, but there is no consensus yet.

BCS Executive Director Bill Hancock said Tuesday that 50-60 possibilities for various changes were presented during a deliberate meeting in New Orleans, where Alabama

beat LSU in the BCS title game Monday night. Hancock anticipates it will take another five to seven meetings to reach a conclusion in July.

One possibility is the four-team playoff, or the so-called plus-one approach, that would create two national semifinals and a championship game played one week later. The original proposal, made in 2008 by the commissioners of the Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference, was emphatically shot down by the leaders of the Big Ten, Pac-10, Big East, Big 12 and Notre Dame.

The BCS title game pits the nation's top two teams based on poll and computer rankings.

But momentum is clearly growing for a larger playoff system.

Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany acknowledged this week that he would now consider the prospect of a four-team field.

"Four years ago, five of us didn't want to have the conversation," Delany told reporters earlier this week. "Now we all want to have the conversation."

Then on Thursday, the BCS picked up another major endorsement for a potential playoff.

Emmert has long said he expected changes to the BCS system and has repeatedly offered to help the BCS debate if they want it. The NCAA licenses bowl games, but does not run them. It also has no direct authority over the BCS system.

BSHS to face Brownwood



Big Spring's Cerbi Ritchey (44) puts up a shot against a pair of Wylie defenders earlier this season. The Steers and Lady Steers will host Brownwood in District 3-5A action tonight in Steer Gym. The girls play at 6 p.m., followed by the boys at 7:30 p.m.

Classic matchup: Saints vs. 49ers

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

As NFL matchups go, this one is a classic: unstoppable offense against impenetrable defense.

The second round of the playoffs begins Saturday in San Francisco, where one of the league's top defenses — the 49ers yielded 229 points and ranked fourth overall in yards allowed, first against the run — takes on Drew

Brees and the Saints' record-setting attack.

If defense wins championships, as has been the theory in pro football for decades, the edge clearly belongs to the 49ers. Then again, the NFL hasn't seen an offense as prolific as the Saints.

"They've been very consistent all year," Saints coach Sean Payton said of the NFC West champion Niners (13-3). "The formula has been out-

standing defense. ... They're the No. 1 team in taking the football away and they're the No. 1 team in protecting the football offensively. Those are significant numbers.

"I think you can see week to week on tape their production on both sides of the ball. You're talking about a Pro Bowl punter and a kicking game that's near the top of the league in almost every statistic. In all three

phases, they've been consistent. They've received great production and as a result they've played very well."

The 49ers have five All-Pro: linebacker Patrick Willis and NaVorro Bowman, defensive tackle Justin Smith, who also plays a lot at end, kicker David Akers and punter Andy Lee. Their offense has been so efficient that San Francisco had only 10 giveaways, which equaled the 2010 Patriots for

fewest in NFL history.

"It's going to be a battle," Willis said. "We know that and I'm sure they know that as well. They're going to do what they need to do to prepare to come in to play against us and we're going to do that same (thing). We'll see where the chips lay when the game is over, but we're certainly going to come with every-

See SAINTS, Page 2B

In brief

Rodgers named 2nd team academic all-state

Big Spring High School senior Toby Rodgers was named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Class 3A academic all-state football team, officials announced.

Rodgers played wide receiver for the Steers during the past football season.

"This is what it is all about at Big Spring ISD," BSISD Athletic Director Philip Ritchey said. "For our kids to succeed in extra-curricular activities and to also get it done in the classroom as well is awesome."

"Toby worked hard in both areas — academics and athletics," Ritchey added. "This is just the best of both worlds and a great achievement for him."

Stanton wins battle of the Buffs vs. Forsan

FORSAN — The Stanton Buffalos broke open a tight defensive game in the third quarter en route to taking a 44-28 victory over Forsan in basketball action earlier this week.

Leading 19-12 at the intermission, Stanton took control of the contest by outscoring Forsan 12-6 in the third quarter.

Stanton improved to 3-1 in district play with the win, while Forsan dropped to 2-2 in league action.

Stars beat Kings, 5-4, in shootout

By BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Dallas Stars and Los Angeles Kings took another game down to the wire, reflective of the jockeying going on between the Western Conference rivals in the standings.

Loui Eriksson scored twice and then netted the deciding goal in a shootout to help the Stars rally for a 5-4 victory Thursday night that left them one point behind the Kings, who are tied with Minnesota for the eighth and final playoff spot.

"We always play tight games against L.A., but we came back pretty good and finally won the game," Eriksson said. "So it's two big points for us. It was really intense out there. I thought we took too many penalties, but we stuck with it and found a way. We played a hardworking game the whole way through."

Eriksson tied the game 4-all on a power-play goal at 14:35 of the

third period. He tried to center the puck in front of the net, and the Kings' Willie Mitchell inadvertently knocked it in when he tried to clear it.

Eriksson, the Stars' second shooter in the tiebreaker, pushed the puck over the goal line as goalie Jonathan Quick fell over. Trevor Lewis then failed to connect for the Kings.

"I try to tell myself not to look at the standings, but it's a little like an addiction for me," Dallas coach Glen Gulutzen said. "Every day I'm searching them out to see if they've changed from 3 to 4 o'clock. We are playing playoff hockey. It's going to be a tough stretch here, but (games) 40 through 60, we've got to be strong."

Kari Lehtonen made 37 saves to earn his 150th NHL victory. Quick, named to his first All-Star team earlier Thursday, stopped 34 shots for the Kings.

Jack Johnson and Dustin Brown

scored consecutive power-play goals to give the Kings a 4-3 lead in the third period.

"Our PK was great and they found a way to get a fluke one," Brown said. "It takes overtime and a shootout."

Johnson assisted on two second-period goals for his second straight multipoint game and third of the season. Anze Kopitar had a goal and two assists before leaving with 7:48 remaining in the third after getting tossed into the boards by Brenden Morrow.

"He told me he's fine, so we'll see what that means," Kings coach Darryl Sutter said.

Kopitar lay face down in a corner before slowly getting up and leaving under his own power. The Kings said he had an upper body injury. He was circling behind the net when he put his left shoulder into Morrow, who raised his right arm and sent

See STARS, Page 2B

Ryan confident Rangers will sign Yu Darvis

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas Rangers President and Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan was impressed by his first meeting with Japanese sensation Yu Darvish and is confident a contract will be completed by next week's deadline.

"My expectations are that we'll get something done," Ryan said Thursday night, then added the term "optimistic."

The Rangers last month bid a record \$51.7 million under the posting system to win the right to negotiate with the 25-year-old Darvish, considered Japan's best pitcher. The 30-day negotiating window for the two-time defending American League champions ends Wednesday at 4 p.m. CST.

Ryan declined to elaborate on negotiations, but didn't express any concern about the possibility of them going down to the wire.

"That's the nature of these things," Ryan said before a team awards show that kicked off the Rangers' annual winter FanFest weekend.

The 6-foot-5 Darvish last week visited Texas for the first time with his representatives and family members. He visited Rangers Ballpark and met with team officials, includ-

ing Ryan, before returning home to Japan.

"Obviously, he was bigger than I thought," Ryan said. "I thought he's built like a pitcher. He looks good. I think he understands a lot of English and I just like his attitude about wanting to compete. To me, he represented all I had been led to believe, so I felt really good about it."

That's quite a compliment coming from Ryan, the hard-throwing Texan who played a record 27 major league seasons and is baseball's career strikeout king.

The Rangers, who have been scouting Darvish's games in Japan for at least two years, only pay the \$51.7 million posting fee if he signs with them.

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

Darvish, who turned pro at 18, pitched in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was a member of the Japanese team that won the 2009 World Baseball Classic. The right-hander has superb control and throws seven effective pitches.

Howard breaks FT attempts mark, Magic top Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — With Dwight Howard getting fouled in record-setting fashion, Orlando Magic coach Stan Van Gundy finally just sat back in his chair and stopped barking out orders.

He walked into the huddle during a timeout early in the first half Thursday night, and his assistants started bombarding him with the usual play-calling suggestions. Van Gundy could only laugh.

"I'm looking at them like, 'We're not going to run a play. He's going to foul him,'" Van Gundy said. "What are we going to bother with diagraming a play? Make the free throw, play some defense."

That about summed up this historic night.

Howard broke Wilt Chamberlain's nearly 50-year-old NBA record for most free throw attempts in a game, making 21 of 39 in the Orlando Magic's 117-109 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

The Warriors hacked Howard intentionally throughout, sending

the notoriously poor shooter to the line early and often. Chamberlain, who Howard idolized growing up and used to have a photo clipping of the center in his Orlando locker, shot 34 for the Philadelphia Warriors against St. Louis on Feb. 22, 1962.

Howard finished with 45 points and 23 rebounds, and Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points to propel the Magic to their third straight victory. It also marked the first time a player had at least 40 points and 20 rebounds since Shaquille O'Neal — another poor free throw shooter — had 48 points and 20 rebounds against the Celtics on March 1, 2003.

"I just tried to be aggressive and get to the line. I didn't care if I missed 30," Howard said. "I was still going to go up there and shoot the next one with confidence."

Monta Ellis had 30 points and 11 assists, and David Lee added 26 points and 12 rebounds for the short-handed Warriors, playing with-

out injured starters Stephen Curry and Dorell Wright and backup center Kwame Brown.

All that combined to take the Hack-a-Howard routine to a whole new level.

Howard had never shot more than 24 free throws in a game — which he had four times previously — and fouled so early.

Howard eclipsed his old mark with 2:09 remaining in the third quarter, getting hacked and held intentionally at the end of each quarter with mixed results. If nothing else, Golden State rookie coach Mark Jackson's strategy slowed down the pace and refused to let the Magic's potent shooters find their rhythm.

Howard tied Chamberlain's record when Andris Biedrins fouled him — and fouled out — with 7:17 remaining in the fourth quarter, making 1 of 2 to give the Magic a 93-92 lead. Howard has shot just below 60 percent at the line for his career and entered the game at just 42 percent this season.

SAINTS

Continued from Page 1B

thing we have. It's either win or go home."

The Saints tore through the NFL, setting NFL marks for total yards on offense (7,474) and yards passing (5,347, including sacks), with Brees shattering Dan Marino's 27-year-old record of 5,084 yards passing by throwing for 5,476. He had 468 completions, breaking Peyton

Manning's 2010 mark of 450, and completed 71.6 percent of his passes, breaking his own 2009 record of a 70.6 completion percentage.

Darren Sproles had an NFL-record 2,696 combined yards, easily breaking the previous mark of 2,690 set by Derrick Mason with Tennessee in 2000.

"We always go into every game with an aggressive mentality," Brees said. "We're going to be balanced, but within the

framework of that we're going to take our shots. We're going to throw the kitchen sink at everybody with our tempo, personnel groups, formations, running the ball, outside, drop-back pass, bootlegs, heavy play-action, everything. But within the framework of that, you understand, especially early on, you check it down, move on."

Also looking to move on Saturday are the AFC East champion Patriots (13-3), who host the AFC West winners, the Denver Broncos (9-8). On Sunday, AFC South winner Houston (11-6) is at AFC North champ Baltimore (12-4) before defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay (15-1) hosts NFC East champ New York (10-7).

New England has lost its last three postseason games: the 2008 Super Bowl to the Giants, then home matchups with Baltimore and the Jets the last two Januarys.

Now comes the Tim Tebow phenomenon, and it's become difficult to doubt Denver with the way it has responded to tough times.

After blowing a 14-point lead and being forced to overtime by Pittsburgh, the Broncos needed all of one play — a dynamic 80-yard catch-and run by Demaryius Thomas — to beat the far more experienced Steelers.

The challenge is just as formidable in Foxborough.

"You're definitely at a high, you're feeling great, a lot of momentum, and that's good," Tebow said. "But you really have to take that enthusiasm, that momentum into the next week's work, using that as fuel for next week and trying to continually improve on that. I think you can't necessarily relish on it too much because the next day we have to get ready for a big game and the

Patriots."

Baltimore is getting ready for its first playoff home game under coach John Harbaugh, Jim's brother.

The Ravens have made the playoffs in all four seasons under Harbaugh, but as wild cards.

They won their eight home games in 2011, including beating the Texans 29-14 in October.

"We did what we had to do to get that first-week bye," defensive end Cory Redding said. "We came out of the back stretch 3-1, and that was our main focus. Guys are fighting on the field with big gashes down their legs and almost bruised ribs, messed up knees and toes and ankles and hands, and yet we still fought our way."

"That was the biggest thing. We got that accomplished. We got control in the AFC North accomplished, and now it's time to rest, recover and get ready for the sec-

ond season and winning Game 1. That was the mindset for the guys. It was a big accomplishment."

Like the Texans, the Giants are trying to accomplish a difficult feat: winning at Lambeau Field, where the Packers were 8-0, and defeating a team that beat them in early December in the Meadowlands.

New York is banking on a revived defense, especially the pass rush, and an invigorated running game.

"Persistence ... and the ability to ride the ups and the downs and stay together," Giants coach Tom Coughlin credited for his team's recent surge. "The development of the feeling of 'team.' The confidence that grows from a little bit of success. The ability to put some of the pieces to the puzzle together that haven't been there, that weren't there, that do breed the confidence."

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STARS

Continued from Page 1B

Kopitar flying.

"We watched it on slo-mo and we watched it again, and in my mind, it was a clean hit," Gulletzen said. "But he fell very awkwardly into the

boards. I don't know the extent of it, but I hope he's OK. I don't think anything will come of it, but that's for the league to decide."

As a result, the Kings' Mike Richards received penalties for instigating a fight, unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting and a 10-minute misconduct, while Morrow was sent off for fighting. Dallas then went on a 4-minute power play that led to Eriksson's tying goal.

"We're a very tight

team. Everybody is going to stick up for each other and that was really good on his part," Justin Williams said of Richards. "It's a shame we didn't kill it off for him."

Dallas took a 2-0 lead on goals by Eriksson and Eric Nystrom 51 seconds apart in the first. Eriksson scored on a 3-on-2, and Nystrom put in his own rebound.

"It was a huge win for us," Nystrom said. "The last few games we've

been just forcing plays a little bit and maybe didn't have our usual jump. But tonight we pursued the puck and were getting pucks to the net and taking what they were giving us. That really helped us out."

The Kings sandwiched goals by Kopitar and Lewis, his first of the season, around one by the Stars' Alex Goligoski, leaving Los Angeles trailing 3-2 in the second.

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Send resumes to Ron Midkiff, publisher P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring TX, 79720 or fax to 432-264-7205 Resumes may also be emailed to publisher@bigspringherald.com or editor@bigspringherald.com

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Mail resume to: Ronny Babcock, RPA, RTAC Chief Appraiser Howard County Appraisal District PO Box 1151 Big Spring, TX 79720

Howard County Road Department Will Accept Applications from January 23, 2012 through January 27, 2012 **ROLLER OPERATOR.** Applications May Be Picked up and Returned from 8:00 Am to 5:00 Pm Monday through Friday at 1011B N. San Antonio St. **ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE PRE-JOB DRUG TESTED.** Eddy James County Road Administrator

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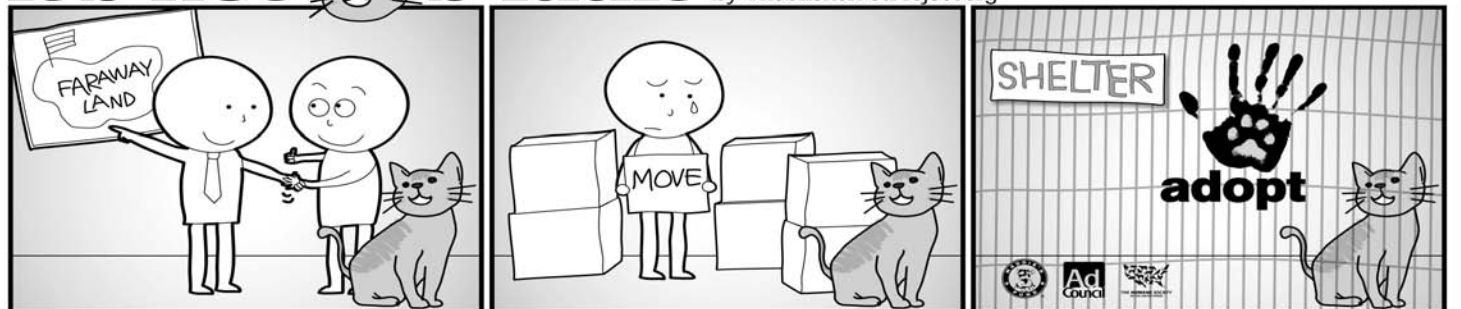
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Legals

INVITATION TO BID

The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 7 Big Spring Pump Station for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is January 26th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com. Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7223 January 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 & 23, 2012

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Southwest Royalties, Inc., 6 Desta Drive, Suite 2100, Midland, Texas 79705 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Queen Sand formation of the Hooks Lease, well number #18. The proposed injection well is located 6 miles East of Forsan, Texas in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) Field, Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000' to 3300'. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the State Wide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967. Telephone (512)463-6792. #7233 January 13, 2012

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Only 13 days into the year, and this will be one of the freakier Fridays of 2012. Love goddess Venus favorably angles Saturn in the relationship realm of Libra to put some twists and surprises in the romantic plot. Mercury and Pluto line up, and so will Venus and Neptune, making sure that there will be an audience for the day's weird show.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Bring your emotions to everything you do. You could miss something by living too much in your head or approaching every situation from an intellectual standpoint. Engage your body and feelings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Something that only takes a moment or two — for instance, keeping your keys in the same place consistently or writing down all appointments — will yield a huge return on your investment of attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). An old saying goes "loose lips sink ships," and that's not all they sink. Relationships, opportunities and reputations also hang in the balance now. By remembering past mistakes, you'll be careful of what you reveal and to whom.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You haven't had the time to read as much as you would like. An obligation will drop from your schedule, and the ideal way to spend this newfound time will be with your nose in a book.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). One person sees a big dog and thinks: threat. Another person sees the same dog and thinks: friend. Either one could be correct. Realizing that others don't perceive things as you do gives you an advantage today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are those who will take up your time with pointless chatter. If it's pleasant, you won't mind. But if it's both pointless and boring, you'll take precautions not to be caught in the same situation again.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There will be an opportunity to make money while learning. You probably won't be making much, but the education is so valuable that you'll come out very much ahead if you seize this chance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Gentle movement will bring harmony to your world. Walking is a kind of active meditation. Also, the sensory input of the changing scenery is like a wonderful workout for your brain.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Kindness is your calling card. You'll embody the qualities of compassion, patience and love just when someone in your midst most needs this influence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have a competitive edge because you don't mind seeing an endeavor for the competition it really is. Others might say it's "just for fun," but part of the fun is that only one team can win.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Mix with those who have experience in the realm in which you want to succeed. Learn from someone who has "been there and done that." You'll gain insights and create the same success for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be surprised by the shards of past pain that reemerge long after you thought you were past it. Be patient. Moving on is a process. You're developing perfectly.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 13). You'll be more perceptive and attuned to the world around you. In the next 10 weeks, you'll seize an opportunity to make money. You'll accept a proposition in March. Travel and adventure are connected to what's going on with your family in April. You'll be widening your skill base and experience in July. Aquarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 10, 2, 13 and 28.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** You don't like to depend on another person for what you can do yourself — such as banking and making life plans. **TAURUS:** Chatter gets annoying no matter how interesting the person chattering may be.

GEMINI: You'll take the initiative to do what helps life run smoothly for you and yours. **CANCER:** You'll become more financially stable on your own, and this helps your romantic life, as well. **LEO:** You'll be focused on satisfying your desires, a sign that you have been depriving yourself lately. **VIRGO:** Express your creativity, and romance comes rushing into your life. **LIBRA:** Avoid gossip. It will only weaken your position. **SCORPIO:** Dare to show your feelings, whether or not it seems socially acceptable to do

so. Someone connects with your open heart. **SAGITTARIUS:** There is strength in the silent language of the body. Lock eyes with the one you are interested in, and see where it goes from there. **CAPRICORN:** A loved one senses that you can give yourself all that you deserve and admires you for this. **AQUARIUS:** Your compliments will bring someone nearer to you. **PISCES:** Keep minor everyday problems out of the conversation, and maintain your mysterious aura of attractiveness.

COUPLE OF THE

WEEKEND: With the sun in Capricorn and the moon still large in Libra, these signs are apt to reflect each other's more intriguing characteristics.

Both have a strong streak of loyalty and don't really need to be taught how to be supportive. It's as though they were born knowing how important it is to give and receive respect. It's not to say their relationship is problem-free, though it will certainly seem that way this weekend.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Dear Margo: Keep reminding yourself, you're the boss

Dear Margo: I'm in a big mess. Last year I started a new job that was a huge step up for me. It has provided enough stability to allow my husband to go back to school. But now, almost a year in, the job has become very stressful. (I am a student adviser at a college.)

The administrative staff (the politically correct term for "secretaries") decided they don't like me, and they are very often nasty. They get aggressive with me if I say I am too busy for a student walk-in, even though we don't normally take walk-ins. They make things up about me to tell the boss, such as my not returning phone calls or emailing students back. One of the admins, as we call them, is now giving me the silent treatment. Some of my students have even complained about their treatment by my staff.

When I tried to talk to my boss about this, he said only vague things about "finding balance" and "getting along." This is very hard for me, but it's also bad for our office. I need to make this job work until my husband is done with school two years from now. Can you help me figure out how to handle it? — *Distressed in Denver*

Dear Dis: You really must take up this matter with your boss — again. I would suggest documentation, even if you have to reconstruct various episodes. Tell him that "finding balance" and "getting along" is advice he needs to give the admins. When you, as the boss, and students, who are the "clients," think there is something wrong with your staff, there is something wrong with your staff.

I suspect it will be very different the second time

As a prelude, however, to returning to the airy-fairy Zen master who is the boss, have a sit-down with the admins and tell them things have reached a critical mass, with both you and the students finding them unhelpful. Ask what the real problem is. (Perhaps they were attached to your predecessor, or maybe they walked all over her, too.)

I would listen carefully, and if there is anything they have to say that has validity, make it a point to say you are happy to know this and will work on it. Often an admission of deficiency can go a long way to placating complainers.

If Mr. "Finding Balance and Getting Along" is still vague about what he can do, I would recommend going one step higher. There is no reason you need be held hostage by recalcitrant "admins." — *Margo, remedially*

Jumping Back In
Dear Margo: After a marriage of 20-some years, I am about to dive into the middle-aged dating pool.

I suspect it will be very different the second time

around, but part of me thinks it may be just like picking up where I left off. Friends tell me, however, that it's a whole new ballgame and difficult. You seem like the perfect person to ask because I know you know about this, no offense. — *Bella*

Dear Bel: None taken. The similarity with then and now is that when dating someone new, there's an effort on both sides to sell oneself so as to be seen in an appealing light. The big difference is that with mid-life dating, both parties have quite a bit of personal history behind them.

There's a catching-up dynamic with middle-aged people that I call "And what did YOU major in?" You will wind up telling a potential boyfriend about your education, kids, maybe grandchildren, the ex, and a million little details that did not figure into dating the first time around.

But ... chins up. The men you will be seeing are just as nervous as you are, and I'm here to tell you that you will get the hang of it. — *Margo, optimistically*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at www.creators.com/dearma rgo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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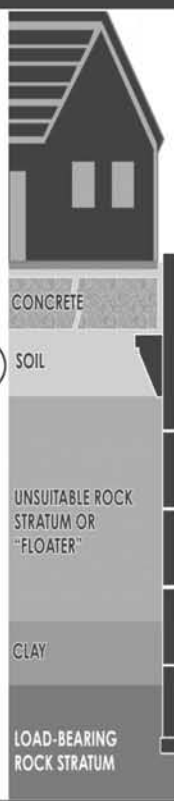
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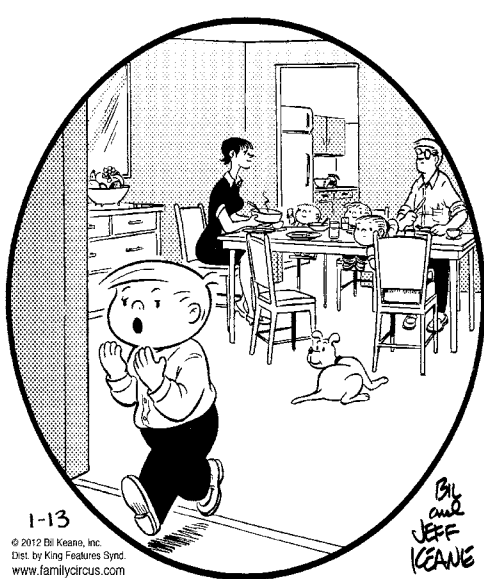
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias	News	King	Bible	Charlie Rose	Til Death	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	ANT Farm	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Denis	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	ANT Farm	NFL Kickoff	Content
7:PM	Wheel	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Denis	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	ANT Farm	NFL Kickoff	Content
8:PM	Extreme Makeover	La Que No	Fringe	CSI: NY	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Grimm	Payne	Door-Wisdom	Wash. Need	Nikita	Gold Rush	Movie: There Will Be Blood, Kevin J. O'Connor	Gangland	Law & Order	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	Movie: Frenemies	Boxing: Teon Kennedy vs. Chris Martin.	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Boston Celtics.
9:PM	20/20	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	Blue Bloods	La Casa de al Lado	Dateline NBC	Movie: 17 Again, Thomas Lennon	Cops	Flying Wild Alaska	Til Death	Flying Wild Alaska	Movie: The Rundown, Rosario Dawson	Movie: The Fast and the Furious	Movie: State Property 2, Michael Bentt	Movie: State Property 2, Michael Bentt	ANT Farm	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Denver Nuggets.
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Titulares	Upd	Charlie Rose	King	Gold Rush	Movie: Pet Sematary Two	Movie: Unleashed, Morgan Freeman	Movie: The Fast and the Furious	ANT Farm	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Denver Nuggets.	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	(20) Movie: Music and Lyrics	Dr.	T. Smiley	Roseanne	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	MAN	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	ANT Farm	NFL Live	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	Holiday Gift Guide	(20) Movie: Music and Lyrics	Dr.	T. Smiley	Roseanne	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	MAN	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	ANT Farm	NFL Live	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	Today	(20) Movie: Music and Lyrics	Dr.	T. Smiley	Roseanne	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	MAN	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	ANT Farm	NFL Live	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I KNOW, IT WOULD SAVE ME A LOT OF STEPS IF I HAD A FRIDGE IN MY ROOM."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



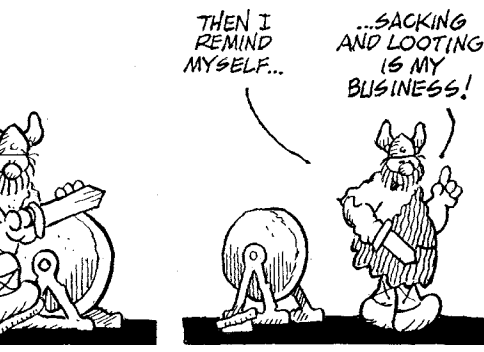
"If I can't see any germs before I wash my hands, how do I know when I get them all off?"

HAGAR



SOMETIMES, LATE AT NIGHT, I ASK MYSELF THIS QUESTION... "WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO SACK AND LOOT THE GREAT CASTLES OF ENGLAND?"

BLONDIE



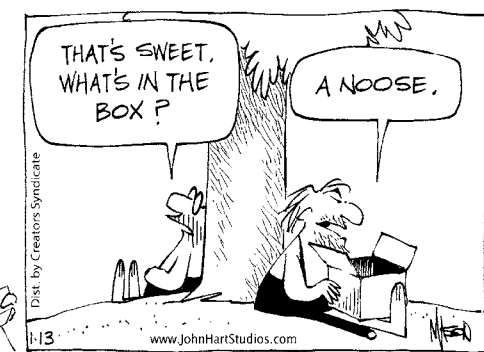
I CAN'T SLEEP. IT'S ALL THOSE NAPS YOU TAKE DURING THE DAY. WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE SLEEPING, YOU SHOULD TAKE A WALK AROUND THE BLOCK. SO HOW CAN I SLEEP WHEN I'M WALKING AROUND THE BLOCK?!

BC



A GIFT FROM MY AGENT! SOME WRITERS ARE APPRECIATED EVEN MORE WHEN THEY HAVE PASSED ON FROM THIS EARTH.

WIZARD OF ID



THAT'S SWEET. WHAT'S IN THE BOX? A NOOSE.

AGNES



I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SEXY IN THE PETITE SECTION. AGNES, WHAT IS TWELVE TIMES SIXTY-FOUR? A BIT OVER SEVERAL, BUT WAY SHY OF MANY. I WANT AN EXACT NUMBER, PLEASE. TWO? IS TWO AN EXACT NUMBER?... OR IS IT PRIME?... NO, I'LL GO WITH TWO. WELL, HER QUESTIONS DON'T EXACTLY CUT TO THE CHASE EITHER, YOU KNOW!

HI AND LOIS



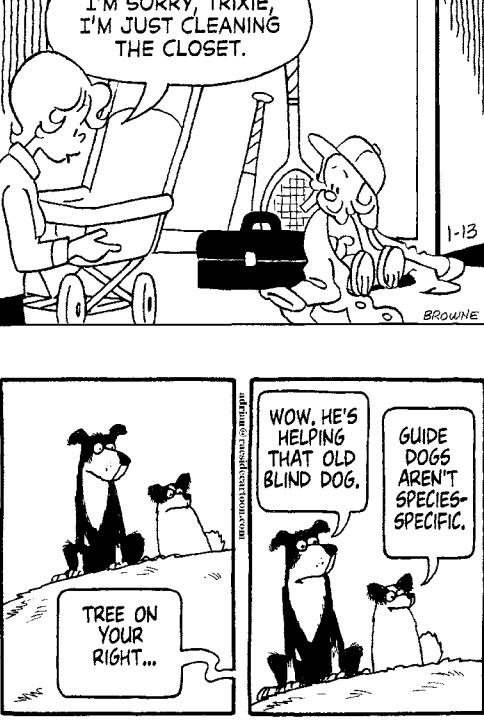
THE STROLLER'S OUT. I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS! I'M SORRY, TRIXIE, I'M JUST CLEANING THE CLOSET.

THE OTHER COAST



...WATCH OUT FOR THE ROCK RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU... THERE'S A LEFT TURN COMING UP... TREE ON YOUR RIGHT... WOW, HE'S HELPING THAT OLD BLIND DOG. GUIDE DOGS AREN'T SPECIES-SPECIFIC.

SNUFFY SMITH



OL' BULLET NEVER GITS IN TH' GARBAGE?! NOPE!! TRAINED HIM AS A PUP... T' ONLY GIT INTO BARLOW'S!!

BETLE BAILEY



COULD YOU TEACH ME SOME OF YOUR RECIPES, COOKIE? SURE. WHAT'S FOR DINNER? AUTHENTIC ARMY MEATBALLS!

This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2012. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 13, 1864, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River after taking off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people; four passengers and a flight attendant survived. (Half an hour after the Air Florida crash, a Washington Metro train derailed during rush hour, killing three passengers.)

On this date:

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, S.C., while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the

Newsday Crossword

LESS FILLING by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

65 Cozy home

66 Pension-guide verb

67 Points on train maps

DOWN

1 Caterer's device

2 Potter's need

3 Prefix like pan-

4 Viper's weapon

5 "Well, then . . ."

6 Without peer

7 Curbside call

8 Black cat, maybe

9 Qualm

10 Rock guitarist Sambora

11 Made goo-goo eyes at

12 Cursor mover

13 Word on some buttons

21 Due, to Domenico

22 Popular houseplants

25 Caller of nursery rhymes

26 Exploits

27 Cut short

28 Boot enders

29 Sedate

30 Come down hard

31 Burro

33 Pre-release software

34 Insignificant section

35 World-atlas

36 "Ahem" alternative

38 Improbable win

39 Camcorder button

40 Barely beat

44 Senior

45 Hear clearly

46 Historical records

47 Quarterer

48 Serenity

49 Alteration candidate

50 "Hush!"

52 Newfangled set

53 Pennsylvania or New York county

54 Long-handled vessels

55 Stage direction

56 Fodder holder

57 Laundromat buy

61 Roast VIPs

Answer to previous puzzle

WEB	EBERT	AARP
ICON	MARES	CLIO
SHOO	BLANK	CHECK
CORN	COBS	HIREE
	SOSO	COUNTRY
CLEAR	SAILING	
LADLE	TANK	UVA
URGE	SPANK	ASIN
BUY	AUEL	ELECT
	EMPTY	CALORIE
PRIVATE	LUSH	
RIDES	PAGEANTS	
OPEN	ESAME	OAHU
MUST	ERROR	EPIC
OPTS	LIARS	ASH

Newsday Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
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