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BIG SPRING HERALD



THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 22, 2012



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 34

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HERALD photo / Thomas Jenkins
Local resident Angela Pace braves the masses of shoppers at the HEB supermarket Wednesday morning to pick out a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

Let there be lights!

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

One of the surest — and brightest — signs of the season is back.

More than 30 lighted, oversized poinsettias adorn the Comanche Trail Lake dam, letting travelers along South Highway 87 know that the holiday season has arrived in Big Spring.

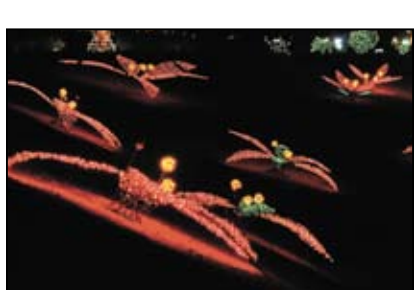
The poinsettias also herald the impending debut of the annual Festival of Lights, which will be held from Dec. 15-31 at the city park.

The festival will feature more than 1 million lights and hundreds of displays, turning a large section of the park into a West Texas style Christmas wonderland.

Aside from the aforementioned poinsettias, corporate-sponsored Christmas cards and other traditional attractions, this year festival also will honor former Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, who died in October, with a special display, Festival Chairperson Pat Simmons said.

And there will be a special event planned for the week immediately following Christmas, although Simmons is being purposely mum about details for the time being.

More than 20,000 visitors are expected during the event, which has attracted people



from across the United States and other countries.

"It's amazing to me the number of visitors we have from different states," Simmons said. "Last year, we had people from 38 states and 14 countries visit us."

The event is free to the public, although donations are gratefully accepted.

"Donations are what help the wheels of the organization move," Simmons said. "That allows us to pay for the electricity and buy more lights for next year."

Although Simmons is the, well, guiding light of the festival, it is by no means a one-person event.

"The committee always does a great job," she said. "And Howard Stewart and his family, the city parks department and trustees from the (Federal Corrections Institute) have done a superb job, as well. I honestly don't know what we'd do if we didn't have them ... I've been blessed to have them on board."

Volunteers will begin setting up the festival Monday, Dec. 3. To help, contact Debbie Wegman at the CVB, 264-2516 or 263-8235.

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



Church of Nazarene to make nativity scene come alive

Herald Staff Report

Starting with a handful of scenes more than 25 years ago, First Church of the Nazarene's Live Drive-Through Nativity has grown into one of West Texas' most enjoyed holiday attractions.

Today, the three-night presentation boasts a coast of more than 100 people — not including the live animals, of course. Each of the scenes — there are more than a dozen — is professionally painted and decorated to authentically represent the ancient buildings and places of years gone by.

As they enter the luminary trail, drivers are presented with a cassette tape or compact disc, to place in their vehicle's stereo. As they drive along the winding trail, the tape provides a striking narrative that describes each scene.

As always, the production is applicable for children and well as adults, and tells the story of Christ from birth to resurrection.



HERALD file photo
Church of the Nazarene will hold its living nativity scene Dec. 10-12.

The drive-through nativity is presented

See **NATIVITY**, Page 3



The Big Spring Herald offices at 710 Scurry will be closed all day today. Offices will open again at 8 a.m. Friday but close at noon. The Herald will be delivered at normal times though some readers may receive today's edition early.

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Take Note

• Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432-268-7730.

• Whiting Oil and Gas Big Spring employees are organizing a food drive to help families in need throughout the community. The drive will be held through Dec. 20. Food donations (non-perishable) can be dropped off at the Whiting Big Spring Field Office, 5306 South Service Road. For more information, call the local office at 432-264-0004 and ask for Cindy Klaus, Vickie Reynolds or Mark Strickland.

• An account for Bill Griffen has been established at the Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton. Griffen, a Big Spring resident, recently passed away and the family is in need of funds for funeral arrangements.

• An account has been set up at Western Bank for Kristen Lasater and family, who lost their home to a house fire Monday afternoon. The account number, for those wanting to make a donation, is 1004597.

• An account has been set up at Citizen's Credit Union for Emma Leos, who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer.

• Jo Anna Bailey, an aide for many years at Washington Elementary School, has been diagnosed with cancer. A medical donation account has been established for her at the Big Spring Education Credit Union, located at 1110 Benton. Your generosity will enable her to have much-needed tests and treatment.

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main.

Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

• An account has been established at Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union in the name of Glenda Berger, who was recently diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Donations will be used to help defer medical costs and mounting bills. All donations are greatly appreciated. Call Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union at 800-299-6761.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliances. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432-268-7535.

• Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

• An account has been established at American State Bank to help defray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. All donations will be appreciated.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy

a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239.






• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call 432-686-0647.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

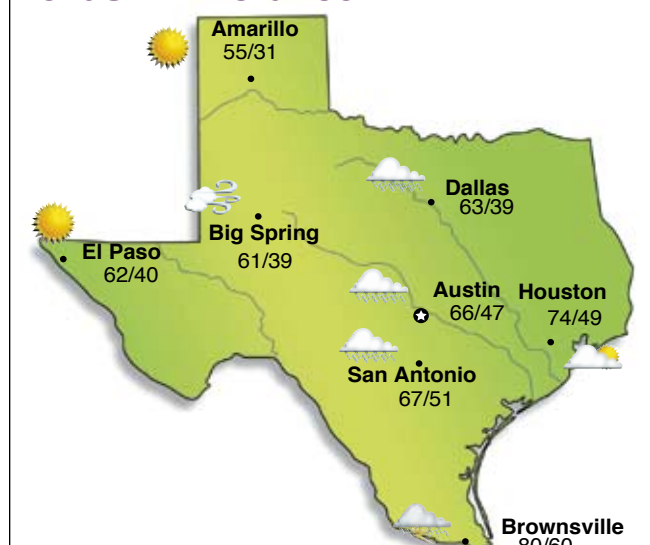
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 11/23	Sat 11/24	Sun 11/25	Mon 11/26	Tue 11/27
 61/39	 65/44	 75/49	 75/40	 58/39
Sunrise: 7:23 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM

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Stories for and about hometowns just like yours.
Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	60	37	windy	Kingsville	79	57	t-storm
Amarillo	55	31	sunny	Livingston	71	41	t-storm
Austin	66	47	rain	Longview	62	37	rain
Beaumont	75	45	cloudy	Lubbock	58	33	sunny
Brownsville	80	60	t-storm	Lufkin	69	41	t-storm
Brownwood	64	37	pt sunny	Midland	61	41	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	76	57	t-storm	Raymondville	80	58	t-storm
Corsicana	63	38	rain	Rosenberg	74	50	t-storm
Dallas	63	39	rain	San Antonio	67	51	rain
Del Rio	67	55	t-storm	San Marcos	67	47	rain
El Paso	62	40	sunny	Sulphur Springs	63	37	rain
Fort Stockton	56	42	pt sunny	Sweetwater	59	38	windy
Gainesville	60	33	rain	Tyler	64	39	rain
Greenville	61	34	rain	Weatherford	63	34	rain
Houston	74	49	cloudy	Wichita Falls	62	33	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	70	38	pt sunny	Minneapolis	28	20	pt sunny
Boston	58	41	pt sunny	New York	56	39	cloudy
Chicago	36	23	mst sunny	Phoenix	81	54	sunny
Dallas	63	39	rain	San Francisco	69	50	pt sunny
Denver	51	34	sunny	Seattle	48	45	rain
Houston	74	49	cloudy	St. Louis	47	28	mst sunny
Los Angeles	80	53	sunny	Washington, DC	63	41	pt sunny
Miami	78	55	pt sunny				

Support Groups

FRIDAY

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

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

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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Gasoline highest ever on Thanksgiving holiday

Special to the Herald

Motorists driving for holiday may be giving thanks for the recent downtrend in gasoline prices, but history will be broken as the national average will be the highest its ever been on Thanksgiving.

GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan is estimating that the national average will sit at \$3.43 per gallon today, some 10 cents higher than it was in 2011. In Texas, gasoline prices currently stand at an average of \$3.13/g, compared to last Thanksgiving, when prices stood at an average of \$3.12/g.

"Gasoline prices have continued their slow decline in the last week across a solid majority of the United States, with the national average sagging to its lowest level since this early summer," according to DeHaan. "Even though consumers are seeing gasoline prices decline in most parts of the country, and we're certainly thankful for that, the national average will remain higher than where it was a year ago." As pump prices have fallen, GasBuddy has asked surveyed motorists about their travel plans. Results from the poll of

over 15,000 GasBuddy households showed some surprises. Sixteen percent of respondents in this year's poll indicated they would not be driving at all for holiday gatherings, up from 15 percent last year. Fifty-three percent indicated they would be driving a similar amount compared to last year, up from 50 percent the year before. More notably, 18 percent of respondents said they would be driving less than last year, a drop of 4 percent from the previous poll, which showed 22 percent of motorists would be driving less. Overall, 8 percent of those surveyed said they would be driving slightly or significantly more than last year, down from 9 percent a year ago. The results of the poll indicate that drivers drove more last year, and are planning similar travels this year, as gasoline prices have trended lower.

"Overall, we believe more Americans will be hitting the road for this Thanksgiving Day compared to last year. Gasoline prices have come down over the last month, dramatically in some states, leading motorists to feel better about things- including driving the car to get to their destinations," added Gregg Laskoski, also an analyst with GasBuddy.com.

Three killed Senior home staff had complained about suspect

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — Residents and staff members at a senior high-rise in California had complained in the past about erratic behavior by an elderly man now suspected of killing two women and himself at the facility, authorities and employees said.

Some people at the Golden West Tower apartments in Torrance even sought the eviction of the man in his 80s.

"People knew that he was a little bit off," employee Alex Galindo said told NBC4. "People were warned, but nobody did anything, so I know there's going to be blood on a lot of people's hands. That's all I can say at this point."

The shooting of the women occurred shortly after noon on Tuesday before the man apparently turned the gun on himself in the lobby of the high-rise, police Sgt. Robert Watt said.

Autopsies were planned Wednesday on the bodies of Charlie Vanhager, 54, and Maria Leon, 53, whose names were released by Los

Angeles County coroner's spokesman Ed Winter.

Watt said one of the victims was an employee at the apartment complex, but it was unclear which one.

The shooter's name was being withheld until relatives can be located, which Winter expected later in the day.

Witness Arturo Ramirez, who works at Golden West Towers, told the Los Angeles Times he locked himself in an office to call 911 after seeing a man who lived in the facility holding a gun.

Ramirez recalled hearing one of the women say, "Please, no! Please!" and then two gunshots. The final gunshot came a few minutes later.

Police were still investigating a possible motive. A handgun was recovered.

Residents and staff members told NBC4 the man had been behaving erratically, and many wanted him kicked out of the complex.

Watt said building management had received complaints but police were never alerted.

The building management's voicemail box was full and The Associated Press could not leave a message seeking comment.

Police were trying to obtain surveillance-camera recordings of the shooting, Watt said.

Golden West Towers is a 180-unit, privately owned and operated facility, the Torrance city website says. The low- and moderate-income housing is for seniors who can live independently.

It was the latest attack involving California senior centers in recent years.

In a shooting last month, investigators suspect Colin McGrattan, 45, shot and killed his ex-wife and her two nieces before killing himself at O'Connor Woods Senior Living center in Stockton.

In 2010, Arthur Baar, 77, shot and killed his wife, Caryl, 72, before turning the gun on himself in Laguna Woods, a south Orange County retirement community formerly known as Leisure World.

Detroit man accused of murder at 14 to get \$1.1M

DETROIT (AP) — The city of Detroit has been ordered to pay \$1.1 million to a young man who was rousted out of bed as a 14-year-old, charged with murder and held in a violent juvenile lock-up for nearly two years before being acquitted of a fatal shooting in his neighborhood.

Caleb Sosa, now 19, claimed police violated his civil rights by coercing him to put his initials on a confession that he couldn't even read. The allegations in this lawsuit were never tested, however, because the case ended in an extraordinary way. A judge declared a default when city lawyers failed the most basic procedural step: They never filed a timely answer in court.

"The judge found that mistakes were made," acknowledged Krystal Crittendon, the head of Detroit's law department.

Sosa's attorney, Ronnie Cromer Jr., believes he had a strong case and could have persuaded

a jury to award even more money if the lawsuit over police tactics had gone to trial. Nonetheless, it's an embarrassing result for a city that is nearly broke and typically pays out more than \$20 million a year in legal claims.

The lawyer who botched the case no longer works for Detroit.

"That's flat-out malpractice," said Deborah Gordon, an attorney who regularly sues local governments. "Municipalities should be sophisticated and responsible to deal with this stuff. Even if you're overwhelmed with work, you cannot allow a default. Get a calendar."

The lawsuit centered on how Detroit police arrested and interrogated Sosa after a sensational murder in 2007. A 13-year-old on the southwest side was fatally shot in the middle of the night, the unintended victim of a gang feud. Another person who was shot and survived identified Sosa as the

masked gunman.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Sosa said he was asleep and wearing only pajama pants when an officer entered his bedroom to take him away for an interview. He was released but picked up again a month later.

"They're telling me, 'You killed somebody.' I kept telling them over and over again: I had nothing to do with it," Sosa said this week.

"I did not know how to read. I did not know how to write. As far as a confession, I had no idea what it was," he said. "Police told me to sign right here and you can go home. I didn't even know how to put my initials. I asked them to show me how to write a 'C' and a 'V' and an 'S.'"

Sosa was charged with first-degree murder. The first trial ended without a unanimous verdict. Worn down by his time in custody and fearing a life sentence, Sosa was close to pleading guilty before a second trial in exchange for a 15-year

prison term.

"I saw it as a way out," he explained. "I grabbed a pen. I looked at my mom. I barely put down the first letter of my name. I dropped the pen. I looked at the judge's face and said, 'I cannot sign this paper.'"

His second trial in 2009 ended with an acquittal. After 631 days in custody, Sosa went home. No one else has been charged in the slaying.

Cromer filed a civil rights lawsuit in 2010, accusing Detroit police of creating a phony confession and covering up evidence that would have helped Sosa. The lawsuit was amended in 2011 and hand-delivered to the city's law department. But city attorney Jane Mills never filed a formal response in federal court.

Cromer, frustrated by the inaction, asked U.S. District Judge Sean Cox to declare the city in default. Cox agreed, saying, "This is not a case involving excusable neglect."

In September, Cox

awarded \$1.1 million to the young man and \$80,380 to his mother. The case still is pending while lawyers work out a 40-year schedule of payments to Sosa.

Mills, who now works for a law firm, declined to comment. Crittendon, head of the Detroit law department, declined to say whether Mills quit or was fired. She also declined to discuss how the Sosa case was managed.

No matter how he won the lawsuit, Sosa hopes the public doesn't lose sight of his innocence and his time in a juvenile lockup. He said he was repeatedly beaten by inmates much older than him and suffered a dislocated jaw, broken

ribs and other injuries.

His mother, Amparo Hernandez-Sosa, said she often parked her minivan outside the detention center and flashed the headlights to wish her son a good night.

"I was 14. I was a baby," Sosa told the AP. "This is a scar inside my head and inside my heart. ... I got arrested for a crime I did not commit. They grabbed me and put the blame on me."

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Willie Williams, 79, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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NATIVITY

Continued from Page 1

free of charge, though there is an opportunity to make a financial contribution near the exit. The contributions help keep the production going each year.

This year's presentation will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

Dec. 10-12 in the church parking lot, located at 1400 S. Lancaster.

The entrance to the drive-through is best approached from the west on Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn south

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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
Glenn Stifflemire Publisher
Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Brian McCormack Sports Editor
Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

OUR VIEW

Let's give thanks for our blessings

Today, as most of us gather with family, let us be most thankful.

Thankful for friends, for blessings, for our health, our spouses, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers. Thankful for good food, the fall season, the West Texas sky. There are so many things for us to enjoy.

Let us remember that no matter how difficult things seem to be, we always manage. We can always find someone less fortunate, more needy.

We're thankful for the material things — turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce and that special fruit salad. And of course, we have to mention football, another holiday tradition. But we're also thankful for things not-so-material — a warm hug, a grandmother's kiss, a smile by a longtime friend.

As you sit over dinner with your family, or a restaurant with your spouse, or just a simple sandwich with no company but your own, remember to give thanks. Remember why we are so thankful — likely because of all the wonderful experiences we've had, and because somewhere along the way, others reached out and touched our lives and made things better. And let's remember that we can always reach out our hand to others who may need a little help or an encouraging word.

From our family at the *Herald*, we wish we could all understand the true meaning of Thanksgiving and experience the warmth and joy of sharing our wealth with others.

Enjoy the spirit, and above all, have a very happy Thanksgiving.

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

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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

May our actions speak louder than our words, Lord, showing Your love.

Amen

Be prepared for Black Friday

At Thanksgiving, I am pretty traditional. I give thanks for my family, my friends and all the blessings I have in life — which are many. I take a moment to count those blessings and feel the comfort and joy typically associated with the season.

But that comfort is generally interrupted when I look across the table to see some family members inhaling their dinners so that they could get some sleep before the midnight blockbuster sales.

To me, the thought of standing in line in frigid temperatures during the early morning hours of Black Friday is something akin to certain invasive medical procedures, but millions of shoppers will join the frenzy this year.

Black Friday is considered one of the biggest shopping weekends of the year. If you're

planning to fight the crowds this year, Better Business Bureau offers the following tips to help save time, stress and money:

- Plan ahead. Take time to print out or clip ads for items you are interested in buying to help outline your shopping day in advance.

- Create a budget. Know whom you are buying gifts for and how much you are willing to spend. As you buy gifts, keep track of the cost and avoid impulse purchases to prevent over-spending.

- Research products. Just because an item is in high-demand and being offered at a cheap price, doesn't mean the product is worthwhile or right for you; a bad product is a bad product no matter how cheap it costs. Be sure to thoroughly research any product you're interested in purchasing.

- Don't be misled by tricky advertisements. Read the fine print on all advertised sales to make sure you are truly saving money, and bring the ad with

you. Watch for discrepancies in advertised prices and the prices on the shelf. Verify the real price before checking out.

- Ask about return policies. Many stores have a 30-day return policy, but it is important to read the terms and conditions associated with each purchase. And remember that the refund policy usually applies to the day you purchase the item not when you give the item as a gift.

- Think twice about store credit cards. Some retailers will offer additional savings to incentivize consumers to sign up for their credit card. However, these cards often times carry high interest rates or annual fees. If you do not plan on shopping at a particular retailer very often, the credit card might not be financially beneficial for you.

Tyler Patton is regional director of the Better Business Bureau in the Permian Basin. He can be reached at 432-563-0213 or by email at tpatton@permianbasin.bbb.org



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When the flesh is weak

It may turn out that David Petraeus was one of the more honorable participants in what I now think of as Petraeus-Broadwell-Kelley-Allen-Shirtless FBI Guy-gate.

Compared with Marine Gen. John Allen, who currently commands U.S.

and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Petraeus may be a paragon of virtue.

Not sexual virtue. Petraeus is an admitted adulterer. But while he was playing hide-the-bazooka with Paula Broadwell, he appears to have been trying to do his job as director of the Central Intelligence Agency and allegedly was not fooling around when he was Allen's predecessor.

While in Kabul, there is no evidence that Petraeus ever took his mind off his primary job of propping up a corrupt and detested regime.

Gen. Allen, on the other hand, seems to have found time to exchange 20,000 to 30,000 allegedly inappropriate emails with Tampa "socialite" and "society hostess" Jill Kelley. (An FBI agent allegedly emailed a shirtless picture of himself to Kelley, a risky act. Risky not so much because it endangers his career, but because few guys I see on the beach should immortalize their chests in a database.)

In fairness, both the number and nature of the Allen emails is in dispute. Allen's defenders are now saying the 30,000 figure may not refer to the number of emails, but merely their page length.

Fox News has reported that one "official described some of the emails as sexually explicit and the 'equivalent of phone sex over email.'"

But The New York Times quotes a senior administration official as saying: "If you know Allen, he's just the kind of guy to respond dutifully to every email he gets — 'you're the best,' 'you're a sweetheart,' that kind of thing."

Other officials, however, told the paper that the emails were "overly flirtatious."

But it is not the nature of the emails that bother me as much as their sheer volume. Gen. Allen has one giant bandwidth.

We are talking about 30,000 emails (or 30,000 pages) over a two-year period.

If I wrote emails about every sexual encounter I had in my life — with others or alone — I am not sure it would add up to 30,000. Even if I threw in every pre-teen fantasy starting with Hayley Mills in "The Parent Trap," I am not sure it would hit that number.

If Gen. Allen and Jill Kelley had engaged in just one inappropriate act or fantasy a day, it would have taken them more than 82 years to reach 30,000.

Where did Allen find the time to do it in two years? I hope our troops were not waiting in line trying to send emails to their spouses and kids while Gen. Allen was hogging the broadband.

Even if you accept the best-case scenario that Allen merely exchanged 30,000 pages of emails, who in his right mind exchanges 30,000 pages of emails with a Tampa society hostess while holding the fate of 87,000 U.S. troops in his hands?

Didn't he have more important

stuff to do? Stuff that dealt with troop deployments and helicopters and artillery and all those other piddling details he had to fit into his life in between sending emails saying "you're the best" and "you're a sweetheart"?

And, by the way, what on earth is a Tampa society hostess? What on earth is Tampa society? Are these the people who get to go to the head of the line at Busch Gardens?

But you can see the enticements that Jill Kelley offered. She held parties for military brass that appear to be the I-4 corridor version a Caligula romp. At one, as The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Petraeus and his wife arrived escorted by 28 police officers on motorcycles to a pirate-themed party ... Guests dined on lamb chops and crab cakes, beside hot dog and funnel cake carts."

Personally, I wouldn't sell my soul for anything less than pign-blankets, but that's just me.

Who are these silly people? I know that "society" folk are snobs trying to look more important than they really are. But in Washington, we just call that reporters going on TV.

Jill Kelley took herself seriously, however. Why shouldn't she? She has one general coming to her private parties and another exchanging thousands of pages of emails with her, while somehow getting herself the honorary (and meaningless) title of "honorary consul to South Korea."

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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ROGER SIMON

Turkey: Pet or food?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Turkeys: Main course or animal companion?

OK, so it isn't even close. According to the industry group National Turkey Federation, more than 46 million of the big birds will be served as Thanksgiving dinner this year. Just a few hundred will get to experience the holiday as a pet, said turkey rescue Farm Sanctuary.

"I believe they make amazing companions, but they are different than cats or dogs," said Susie Coston of Watkins Glen, N.Y. For one thing, turkeys get too hot and are too messy to come indoors, said Coston, the national shelter director for the Farm Sanctuary.

Taking the large bird on as a companion requires more responsibilities than owning a dog or a cat, experts say. "If people are adopting domesticated turkeys, they should be aware that it's not a simple endeavor and would take a considerable amount of work," said NTF spokeswoman Kimmon Williams.

Like other animals that serve as companions to humans, turkeys come in different breeds, with some weighing as much as 60 pounds, Williams said. Every turkey has its own personality — and some can be aggressive, she said.

Most pet turkey owners agree the birds aren't the kind of pets that can be walked on a leash or dressed for the Christmas family photo.

Coston said, for instance, that she wouldn't sleep with her turkey "like I do my dogs and cats. But I don't love dogs more than I do pigs or dogs and cats more than chickens and turkeys. I have a different relationship with each of them."

"Turkeys are inherently nervous and do not tend to be warm and cuddly. Turkeys also need plenty of space to run around in and be fed the appropriate diet," Williams noted.

Despite their differences, turkeys and traditional pets share traits such as the ability to love unconditionally, loyalty and intelligence, owners said. Dr. Drucilla Roberts, a pathologist from Millis, Mass., pointed out a bonus: "They give us manure and eggs."

Like dogs, some turkeys grow attached to their owners. Oeh recounted how her last turkey, Ariala, followed her around the garden.

Review: Gift guide to full-size tablets

NEW YORK (AP) — Tablets are at the top of many wish lists this holiday season. But what to get? The choice used to be pretty limited, with the iPad dominating the latecomers. But this year, the field is more even, as tablets from Apple's competitors have matured. In addition, Google and Microsoft are diving in with their own tablets, providing more choice.

The first step in the buying process is to decide on the size of the tablet. They fall into two rough categories: the full-sized tablet, pioneered by the iPad, and the half-size tablet, epitomized by the Kindle Fire.

Full-sized tablets, which generally have screens measuring about 10 inches on the diagonal, are better for surfing websites designed for PCs, and far better when it comes to displaying magazines and documents. Overall, they go further toward replacing a laptop. They cost \$400 and up.

Half-sized tablets, which have screens measuring roughly 7 inches on the diagonal, are cheaper and lighter, but just as good as full-sized tablets for e-book reading. It's an excellent first computing device for a kid, or a gentle nudge into the digital world for an older adult with little computing experience. This year's crop costs \$199 and up, but last year's models are available for less.

If you've settled on a large tablet, here are some top choices. A review of smaller tablets ran Monday.

— Apple iPad, fourth generation (starts at \$499)

Apple usually updates the iPad once a year, so it was a surprise when it dropped a new model in October, with a faster processor and the new "Lightning" connection and charging port, replacing the wide port inherited from the iPod. Like the third-generation iPad launched in March it has an ultra-high-resolution "Retina" screen. The model's resolution of 2,048 by 1,536 pixels is only surpassed by the Google Nexus 10.

That means the current iPad is two generations ahead of the iPad 2 that was on sale last holiday season. It packs enough improvements to make the upgrade worth it. The iPad 2 is still on sale for \$100 less, but it's not a very good value for the money: if \$400 is all you can spend, there are better

tablets out there than the iPad 2.

While other tablets are starting to approach it in terms of hardware, the iPad still enjoys the best support by far from third parties, both in terms of quality applications and accessories like cases.

One caveat: the base model of the iPad has only 16 gigabytes of storage, which fills up fast these days. The thoughtful giver goes for at least a 32-gigabyte model, for \$100 more.

Other than that, there are few downsides to the iPad: no one will frown when opening this package.

— Barnes & Noble Nook HD+ (starts at \$269)

For a book store, Barnes & Noble makes some amazing tablets. The HD+ is its first model that approaches the iPad in size, with a screen that's 9 inches on the diagonal. That makes it slightly smaller than the iPad, and the resolution is lower as well, but still very respectable. At 1,920 by 1,280 pixels, it can show more detail than a living-room HDTV.

The Nook is family-friendly too. You can create user accounts and restrict them from certain content, so there's less risk that your kids will stumble on your copy of "Fifty Shades of Grey."

Like the basic iPad, the basic Nook HD+ comes with just 16 gigabytes of storage memory, but it can be expanded with a microSD memory card. That means another 32 gigabytes will cost you just \$25 — a good deal.

But the Nook is the least versatile tablet in our roundup. The number of apps available is small, and it's focused on Barnes & Noble content like e-books, magazines and movies. It doesn't have any cameras, while the competitors have two each. It's best for someone who's likely to stick to media consumption, and doesn't need the latest apps and games.

— Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 (starts at \$499)

If the Nook is for the avid reader or movie watcher, the Galaxy Note 10.1 is for the creative type. It's the only tablet in our roundup that comes with a "pen" that can be used to write and draw on the screen. In our test, this worked well, though the number of apps that take advantage of the pen is still small. (Other tablets, like the iPad, only respond to finger-like objects, so third-party

styluses for them are of necessity thick and clumsy.)

The Note 10.1 runs Google's Android software, giving it access to a wide array of apps originally written for smartphones. The selection is not on par with the iPad's but better than other alternatives.

The Note's screen falls into the low-resolution category, sporting 1,280 by 800 pixels. That's a third of what the iPad musters.

Like the Nook, the Note 10.1's storage memory can be expanded with cards.

The Note's appeal is somewhat niche, but it could be just the thing for the budding or established artist.

— Microsoft Surface (starts at \$499)

Microsoft's first tablet seems at first like a throwback to the first iPad. It's thick, heavy and rugged. But it's really doesn't have much in common with the first iPad or any Apple- or Google-powered tablet. It runs Windows RT, a version of Windows 8 adapted for tablets. It comes with a version of Microsoft's Office suite and the ability to connect to wireless printers and some other peripherals, like USB drives. The covers for it have functional keyboard printed on the inside.

The screen resolution is 1,366 by 768 pixels, placing it in the low-resolution category.

The Surface screams "work, work, work." It's the tablet for those who are wedded to Word and want to take their writing on the go.

One thing to note

about the Surface: the basic model starts out with "32 gigabytes" of memory, but of that, only 16 gigabytes are available to the user. It accepts memory cards of up to 64 gigabytes, however, so expanding the memory is cheap.

Note that even though it runs Windows, the Surface doesn't run standard Windows applications. It will run only programs specifically adapted for Windows RT. The selection is, for now, quite limited.

— Asus Vivo Tab RT (starts at \$599 with a dock)

Asus has a quality line of Android tablets they call "Transformer" because they dock into a keyboard with an extra battery. The combination folds up just like a small laptop and has excellent battery life. The Vivo Tab RT essentially takes a Transformer and stuffs it with Windows RT instead of Android.

The tablet part is smaller and thinner than the Surface. Together with the keyboard, it makes for a familiar little setup: a tiny laptop running Windows. Like the Surface, it has a memory card slot and a USB port. The screen resolution is the same.

The Vivo Tab is a

good tool for those who want to get some work done on the commute or plane, or those who can't decide if they want a laptop or a tablet.

— Google Nexus 10 (starts at \$399)

This is Google's first full-size tablet and the only tablet from any manufacturer that beats the screen resolution of the iPad. It boasts 2,560 by 1,600 pixels, a third more than the fourth-generation iPad.

It's also the only tablet in this roundup that has speakers on either side of the screen when it's held horizontally, making for good stereo reproduction when you're watching movies. It has a grippy, rubberized back and widely rounded corners. There's no memory card slot or an option for a cellular modem.

The array of third-party software is wide, just as it is for the Note 10.1. Most people don't associate Google with online books, music or movies, so it may feel odd that the Nexus steers buyers to Google's Play store. Of course, given the open nature of Google's Android operating system, there are apps available for other entertainment stores, including Amazon's, and for streaming services like Netflix.

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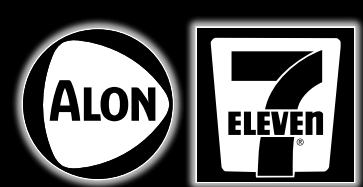
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Jail prepares thousands of holiday meals

By STEVE CAMPBELL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH, Texas — Some 160 gallons of pinto beans bubble in huge stainless steel vats, ready to add to the mounds of soft chicken tacos, 800 pounds of boneless turkey and hundreds of pumpkin pies stacked in walk-in freezers bigger than many apartments.

Nearby, 34 members of a rather unique 24-hour cleaning crew scrub and mop, watched by a very interested audience.

Across Tarrant County this Thanksgiving season, thousands of special meals will be whipped up and served — 6,000 or so from Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex; 2,000 or so from the Salvation Army; hundreds from various restaurants and diners.

But none of them can touch the food prep operation in the big-

gest kitchen in Tarrant County, where workers prepare 12,000 hot meals a day, every day.

The meals cost a mere \$1.04 each, so the only steaks on the menu are Salisburys.

The food had better be good, nonetheless. This is not a dinner crowd that anyone wants to see restless.

Inside Tarrant County's jails, where 3,500 or so people are fed daily, food is the great pacifier.

"We don't get any complaints about the food, and we want to keep it that way," said Sheriff Dee Anderson, who presides over Tarrant County's brand new maximum security jail.

"Food is the No. 1 thing that will cause unrest if you are locked up. That's all you have to look forward to," Anderson added.

On Thanksgiving Day, the inmates' meal will feature sliced turkey breast and stuff-

ing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, bread and pumpkin pie. The same spread will be dished up at Christmas.

The food is cooking faster and being served hotter now that cooks, crooks and jailers have moved into the kitchen in the \$78.6 million Lon Evans Corrections Center in downtown Fort Worth.

"It's like the difference between a Model A and a Jaguar," Executive Chief Deputy Bob Knowles said of the new facility, which Anderson believes is the first maximum-security county jail in the nation.

This is not your average dining spot.

The 34 trustees who work in the kitchen (one of the most sought-after inmate jobs) never touch the food to ensure that there's no monkey business.

Meats are boneless because something as

innocuous as a chicken leg can turn into a lethal weapon.

Fruit and bread are limited because they can be fermented into hoosegow homebrews.

"They'll make it in toilets. They'll hide it in plastic bags ... underneath garbage can liners," Knowles said. "The last thing you want in a jail is a day room full of drunks. They can be really creative."

The kitchen serves all four of the county lock-ups, with meals trucked to the Cold Springs and Green Bay facilities. There are no dining rooms; inmates eat in their cells or in day rooms.

Preparation, cooking and serving are handled by 70 employees of a Dallas-based contractor, Five Star Correctional Services.

"Everything cooks on time now, like in a professional restaurant," said Anthony Shanklin, food services manager

for Five Star.

Menus are based on a 2,600- to 2,700-calorie diet.

The 300 jailers on duty at the four jails eat from a separate lunch menu, in three shifts.

"We only have 30 minutes for lunch, so people have to stay here and eat," Knowles said. "It's good. I got the recipe for the Yakisoba noodles last week."

The meal plans are rotated every 28 days to keep things interesting.

"They like variety. It keeps them content," Shanklin said. "We have some of the same entries, but we'll serve them with different gravies and vegetables."

On one recent day, breakfast consisted of potatoes and eggs, grits, corn tortillas, taco sauce, milk and coffee. Lunch was Salisbury steak, macaroni and cheese, green beans, biscuits, cookies and a fruit drink.

Dinner was soft chick-

en tacos, beans, Spanish rice, corn tortillas, cake and a fruit drink.

Hearty and filling pot pies are an inmate favorite, Shanklin said.

But the most popular meal of the week is the regular Friday breakfast: frosted flakes, coffee cake, biscuits, fruit, milk and coffee.

The biggest challenge is not the cooking but the logistical dance of matching supplies with menus, transporting it all, and then dishing it up on an iron-clad schedule, Shanklin said.

A well-tuned kitchen is crucial, Knowles said. Judges don't accept the "I was late because of lunch" excuse.

And keeping prisoners calm is everyone's goal.

"A lot of riots that have occurred across the country have been over food," Knowles said. "So, we require things to be almost perfect. We can't say we'll catch it next time."

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sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Judge: Tough standards may reflect new reality

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The judge in Texas' sweeping school finance trial wondered Tuesday if "maybe we as a state have been satisfied with mediocrity" — adding that tougher academic standards may simply reflect a new global reality.

State District Judge John Dietz made the comment while hearing testimony from Nabor Cortez, superintendent of La Feria Independent School District in the Rio Grande Valley. Cortez said schools with large concentrations of low income-students struggle to meet Texas' rising performance standards.

Last year, the state began implementing a new, more difficult standardized test known as STAAR.

Cortez said at least 83 percent of La Feria's 3,700 students

come from low-income families and that none of the district's 266 English language-learners — students that need additional instruction — passed the STAAR English Reading 1 test.

He said 90 percent of La Feria's low-income students didn't pass the English Language 1 test and that virtually none of the district's students are on track to pass the higher STAAR standards that will be phased in through 2016.

Dietz interjected, suggesting Texas previously had been content with mediocre student performance.

"Maybe through our testing and accountability, we have been kind of pushing people through the education factory," Dietz said. "Maybe this — with the increased rigor — is an attempt to

reach reality."

The judge also noted that students are not only competing against others in the United States, but also against their counterparts from "South Korea, France, Holland, Germany, from Russia, Latvia, trying to be bigger, better, faster, stronger, smarter than anybody else."

Cortez responded: "We don't have a problem getting kids to that level. We just need the resources to be able to do it."

Cortez, who said he came to the United States from Mexico at the age of 10, said schools "can do it. But right now, with the limited funds, with the limited staff development ... we are not able to train them so they can climb that high." He also said that without adequate resources, doing so was "unrealistic."

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
A Common-Sense Solution

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 9 4 3
♥ 10 8 5
♦ 5 4 2
♣ J 10 5

WEST
♠ Q J 10 8 2
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K
♣ 6 4 3

EAST
♠ K 7 5
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A 10 8
♣ 9 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ 6
♥ A K Q
♦ Q J 9 7 6 3
♣ A K Q

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

Opening lead — queen of spades.

It is certainly not necessary to memorize tables of probabilities to be a good cardplayer. In many deals, the right play can be determined by applying a common-sense approach.

In today's deal, declarer chose a line of play that ran counter to probabilities and common sense, and so cost himself a game. He won the spade lead in dummy, played a trump and lost the queen to the king. West

returned a spade, ruffed by South, but since he had no further entries to dummy for another trump lead, he had to lose two more trump tricks to East's A-10 and go down one.

Declarer would have made the contract had he played the nine of trumps instead of the queen at trick two, in which case he would have lost only two trump tricks instead of three.

In determining whether the nine or the queen is the better play, the correct approach is to ignore all trump divisions where it makes no difference whether the queen or nine is played. For example, if West has the A-K-10, declarer's play does not matter, since he must fail whatever he does.

Similarly, if the trumps are divided 2-2, South's play is also immaterial. He loses only two trump tricks, whatever he does. A 4-0 trump division is also irrelevant because declarer cannot prevail.

In the final analysis, after East produces the eight on the first diamond lead, the only case that matters is a 3-1 division with West holding the singleton ace, king or ten. Because it is twice as likely that West will have the singleton ace or king rather than the ten, the correct play is the nine.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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Economy means sacrifice for travelers

By JASON KEYSER

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Feeling the pinch of the sluggish economic recovery, many Americans setting out on the nation's annual Thanksgiving migration had to sacrifice summer vacations, rely on relatives for airfare or scour the Web for travel deals to ensure they made it home.

It's not just tight family finances making travel tough. Airlines struggling to save on jet fuel and other expenses have cut the number of flights, leading to a jump in airfares.

Those hitting the roads face high gas prices and rising tolls. Now, with talk of the nation sliding off a "fiscal cliff" come January, many travelers said they're accepting that sacrifices for pricy holiday journeys have become the norm.

"You become immune to it, I guess," said Chris Zukowski, a 43-year-old locomotive engineer from the Chicago suburb of Huntley, as he hugged his wife and three children goodbye at Chicago's O'Hare Airport and lamented he could not afford to join them on the holiday trip to New Jersey.

"You have to cut back on things just to make sure that you can afford to do stuff like this, so they can go visit grandma," he said, referring to his son and two daughters.

Weather was also upsetting some travel plans. Dense fog in the Chicago area forced the cancellation of 90 inbound and outbound flights at the city's two airports Wednesday morning, according to flightstats.com. More than 400 other flights were delayed at O'Hare and Midway.

Visibility was near zero at both airports for several hours, said National Weather Service meteorologist Richard Castro. The fog was expected to lift as the day progressed.

If the nation's travel patterns are any kind of barometer for the state of the economy, the travel forecast for Thanksgiving week suggested a slight upward nudge as people and businesses recover slowly from the 2007-09 recession in which Americans lost nearly a quarter of their wealth.

Around 43.6 million Americans were expected to journey 50 miles or more between Wednesday and Sunday, just a 0.7 percent increase from

last year, according to AAA's yearly Thanksgiving travel analysis. After a couple years of healthy post-recession growth, this year's numbers suggested it will take a stronger economy to lift travel demand significantly, the travel organization said.

More people are driving, fewer are flying and the average distance traveled was expected to be nearly 17 percent — or about 120 miles — shorter than a year ago, it said.

As car ownership declines among younger Americans, many of those hitting the road were jumping onto buses.

"I can't afford to own a car; it's too expensive," said 21-year-old web design student Kayla Sprague of Minneapolis.

She was setting off on a 235-mile bus trip to Fargo, N.D. From there, her parents would be driving her the rest of the way to a family gathering in Grand Forks.

Army Pfc. Jordan Clark, of Biloxi, Miss., said he was only able to fly because relatives pooled their resources to buy his ticket.

"It's been difficult. My parents help out, my grandparents," the 20-year-old serviceman said before getting on a

flight from Chicago to San Antonio. He wasn't so lucky over the summer, when he had to make the same journey by bus in what became a three-day ordeal thanks to breakdowns. But it saved him more than \$200.

Some families are even agreeing to bump Thanksgiving dinner to Saturday, for example, allowing those traveling long distances to get cheaper, off-peak fares and avoid crowds, said Joseph Schwieterman, a transportation researcher at DePaul University.

Aided by smartphone apps, social media and other technology, consumers are getting better at sniffing out deals and are realizing they need to be flexible with dates and even with which airports they chose when booking, said Courtney Scott, a senior editor at Travelocity.

"I think people are really becoming smarter, more creative travelers and shoppers," Scott said.

For some travelers, the coping mechanism was decidedly less sophisticated: Travel now, worry about the costs later.

"I think it's my personal style to say, 'It's the holidays.

Who cares?' And deal with the consequences later," said Olivia Melman, who flew from Chicago to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old, who works in human relations at Citigroup in New York City, said the costs would set her back, but family is a priority.

Having skipped their Thanksgiving trip last year, Nishiya Sivaruban and her husband were able to save enough to take their two children to the Hawaiian island of Kauai on a special holiday journey. They saved about \$200 each on airfare by flying out of O'Hare instead of Milwaukee, which is closer to their home in Waukesha, Wis.

She and her husband are originally from Sri Lanka and have family links to the founder of a Hindu temple and monastery on Kauai that they were excited about visiting.

"There's a lot of things we're thankful for so we wanted to go to that temple," she said.

Associated Press writers Maryclaire Dale in Philadelphia and Patrick Condon in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

San Francisco sheds part of free-spirited past

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco shed a vestige of its free-spirited past as local lawmakers narrowly approved a citywide ban on public nudity.

Casting aside complaints that forcing people to cover up would undermine San Francisco's reputation as a city without inhibitions, the

Board of Supervisors voted 6-5 on Tuesday in favor of an ordinance that prohibits exposed genitals in most public places, including streets, sidewalks and public transit.

Exemptions would be made for participants at permitted street fairs and parades, such as the city's annual gay pride

event and the Bay-to-Breakers street run, which often draws participants in costumes or various states of undress.

Supervisor Scott Wiener introduced the ban in response to escalating complaints about a group of men whose bare bodies are on display almost daily in the

city's predominantly gay Castro District. He said at Tuesday's meeting that he resisted for almost two years but finally felt compelled to act.

"It's no longer an occasionally and quirky part of San Francisco. Rather, in the Castro, it's pretty much seven days a week," Wiener

said. "It's very much a, 'Hey, look what I have' mentality."

Wiener's opponents on the board said a citywide ban was unnecessary and would draw police officers' attention away from bigger problems. Supervisor John Avalos also expressed concerns about what the ordinance would do

to San Francisco's image.

"We are a beacon of light to other parts of the country, and sometimes there is a little bit of weirdness about how we express ourselves," Avalos said.

Boos and calls for Wiener's recall filled the board's chambers after Tuesday's vote.

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Courtesy photo/Valerie Avery
The Grady Wildcats (8-3) will be appearing in the second round of the area six-man playoffs Friday in Hermleigh where they will face Petersburg (10-1). Shown are the some Wildcats with Head Coach Chris Kuykendall after Grady's 80-56 postseason opening win over Ropes.



Local Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Football

• Grady (8-3) vs. Petersburg (10-1) at Hermleigh, 6 p.m. (Area playoff).



Courtesy photo/Valerie Avery

Grady varsity hoopster Cayley Oppegard wrestles Wink defenders for possession of the ball Tuesday. Leading the Lady Wildcats (3-2) in scoring during the 60-24 victory over Wink was Ellyn Avery with 25 points, nine rebounds, five steals and two blocks. Sarah Clay added six points and eight rebounds and Charmynee Arnold contributed two points and 10 rebounds. Grady will host Garden City on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Rookie QB Tannehill, Dolphins want to get ground game going

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

DAVIE, Fla. — The Miami Dolphins' offense has stalled, and the long list of reasons includes too many turnovers, not enough big plays and too many rookie moments by quarterback Ryan Tannehill.

So what bugs offensive coordinator Mike Sherman the most? None of the above.

"Aw, just the run game," Sherman said Monday. "Everything jells around the run game. If you can run the ball, you can throw the ball. It just makes life a lot easier."

The Dolphins haven't rushed for 100 yards since September, which helps explain why the offense has scored one touchdown in the past 10 quarters. As a result, Miami (4-6) takes a three-game losing streak into Sunday's game against Seattle (6-4).

"The running game hasn't been effective lately," guard Richie Incognito said. "That puts a lot of pressure on the rest of the offense. We know we have to get the running game going and execute better. It comes down to guys winning one-on-one blocks."

It also comes down to Sherman jump-starting an offense that showed promising signs before the recent lull. He's among the newcomers to Miami under first-year head coach Joe Philbin, and the recent lack of productivity has made Sherman's game plans and play calling targets for criticism.

Philbin defended Sherman's scheme and said the offense has been executed.

"Collectively we have a good bit of experience in the league as a staff," Philbin

See **DOLPHINS**, Page 14

Teams looking closer at secondary ticket market

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Chipper Jones was down to the final few games of his distinguished career when the Atlanta Braves opened a series at Pittsburgh last month. The Pirates, who play in one of the majors' most picturesque ballparks, were closing out their best season in 15 years.

And a few hours before Michael Bourn stepped into the batter's box for Jeff Locke's first pitch, there were 23 tickets listed on StubHub.com for 15 cents or less.

There were lots of one purchase on that Oct. 1 slate of games. Two seats at Wrigley Field were available for six quarters, but you had to watch the Chicago Cubs take on the lowly Houston Astros. Miami's new ballpark had 881 tickets listed on StubHub for less than \$5 apiece.

"For baseball games, it has been great because I spend a lot less money than I would if I was buying the tickets from Cubs.com," said Josh Shpayer, an attorney from Skokie who recalled paying more in taxes and fees than he spent on four tickets in

one purchase on the website.

Such bargains have been a joy to fans but are drawing increased attention from sports teams concerned about the effect of the cheap tickets on their ability to sell their remaining inventory. It could mean subtle changes that impact how fans get into their favorite stadiums, ballparks and arenas across the country.

Major League Baseball Advanced Media and StubHub are in negotiations over the website's role as the official

See **MARKET**, Page 13

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Cosmic Porthole to Higher Love Opens

The harmonious trine of Venus in Scorpio and Neptune in Pisces is like a porthole for spiritual love to pour through. If you're having trouble letting yourself be happy, the act of giving thanks, when done sincerely and with a sacred quality of attention, can turn a heart into a receptacle for beauty, abundance and joy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll feel called to perform certain tasks, and you'll do so regardless of how laborious they may be. The moon entering your sign this evening warms your emotions and inspires you to share in new ways.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will carefully bring order to chaos and clarity to the picture. Whatever you have, it suddenly seems like more than enough to make not only your heart full, but many other hearts, as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being ahead of your time proves that you think faster than most people, but it has little

else to offer. Slow down your thinking so that you're right in step with today's opportunities.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some of your activities will be dependent on the completion of other activities over which you have no control. Be patient, but keep others on task with your gentle inquiry.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll choose your words carefully today. You feel that it's your duty not only to express your gratitude, but also to live by it. That which you are thankful for, you will also take care of, protect and develop.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have luck doing your own thing, within certain bounds. You'll build on a tradition, repeating the steps that have worked in the past and adding a few detours and embellishments to make it your own.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the morning, the day may seem more complicated than it really is. "Begin at the beginning," the King said gravely, "and go on till you come to the end; then stop." — Lewis Carroll, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Venus newly exploring your part of the

sky bodes well for forming easy connections. You'll be a part of an experience that reflects your values and serves the community of which you are an integral member.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Most challenges are small, and you take them for the normal part of life they are. Today's slightly bigger challenges will make you feel passionately engaged with your purpose.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're wise to limit your communication output and welcome opportunities for greater input. In other words, talking less will say more. Listening will open the way to connection and love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll react to a rapidly changing plan. Your ability to go with the flow is impressive and attractive. Tonight, an exception to the rule will surprise you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The day brings a fulfilling experience. Neptune, your guiding planet, harmonizes with Venus to bring more love, beauty and sharing into your world than you expected to enjoy.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 22). The next four weeks bring happy

coincidences and fortunate encounters. Then it will be as if you're balancing on skates in late December and January. Challenges knock you around, and victories pull you up and help you glide gracefully to life's music. An investment pays in April. July changes your career course. Aquarius and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 25, 41, 17 and 39.

HOLIDAY COPING STRATEGIES BY SIGN: Helping you bring the thankfulness, astrology style. **CAPRICORN:** Sometimes the people you want to be there aren't, and those you don't want to be there are present in full force. There are never enough chairs or matching silverware. You inevitably run out of something important, like eggs, toilet paper or antidepressants. But the very things that might be considered negative are what give personality to your family time together — and make for a good story later. **AQUARIUS:** Setting differences aside is your usual habit. During the holidays, it helps to broaden that rule to include not only differences, but also expectations, judgments, grievances and your attachment to any outcome whatsoever. This is hard. But if you can let

go of this sort of family baggage, you achieve a personal Zen state of family unity that all of your relatives can feel. **PISCES:** Your creativity is key to keeping the holidays bright. A creative Pisces is a happy Pisces. Projects that tickle different parts of your brain and give your heart expression and your intuition a channel to work through will keep your mood light while you produce results and memories. — "Rock Your Stars, Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All"

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Scarlett Johansson plays Janet Leigh in the upcoming film about the marriage of Alfred Hitchcock and Alma Reville during the 1959 filming of "Psycho."

Sagittarian actors enjoy visiting different eras and worlds in their work — a professional perk that suits their driving need to explore. Johansson also has strong Scorpio influences in her natal chart that turn up the sizzle in any role she takes on.

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

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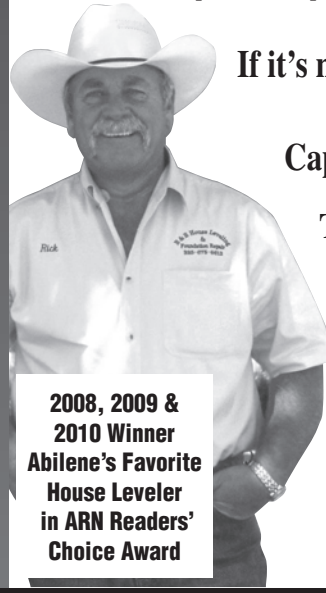
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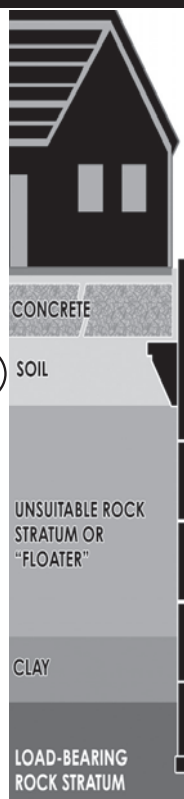
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DENNIS THE MENACE



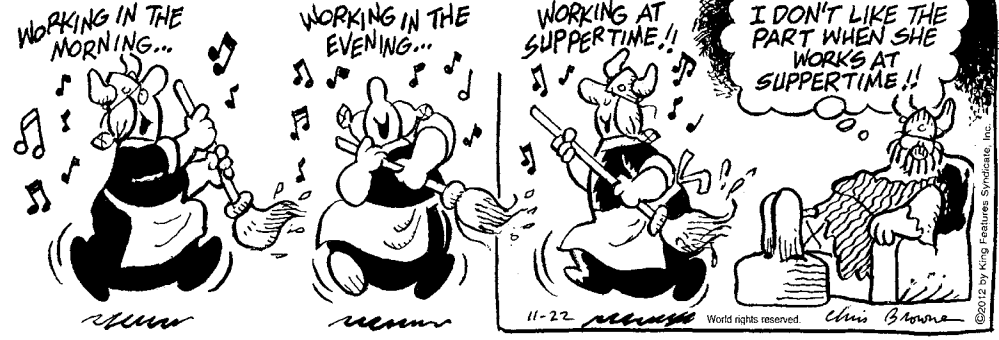
"I'D BE MORE THANKFUL IF WE WERE HAVIN' HOT DOGS AN' FRIES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Did the pilgrims play football with their kids before Thanksgiving dinner too, Daddy?"

HAGAR



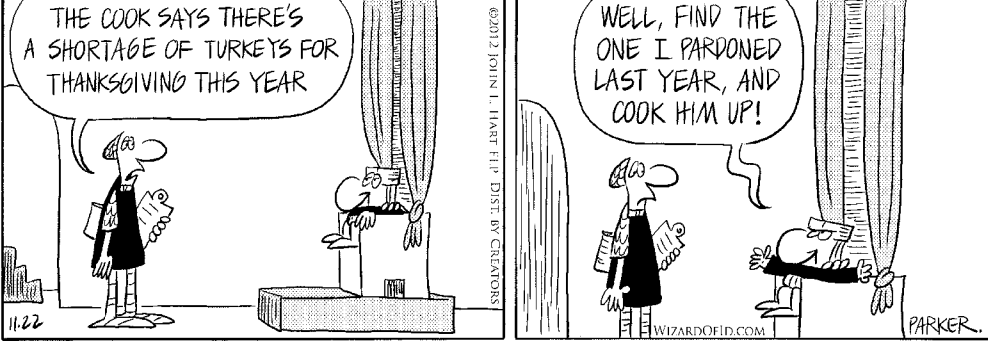
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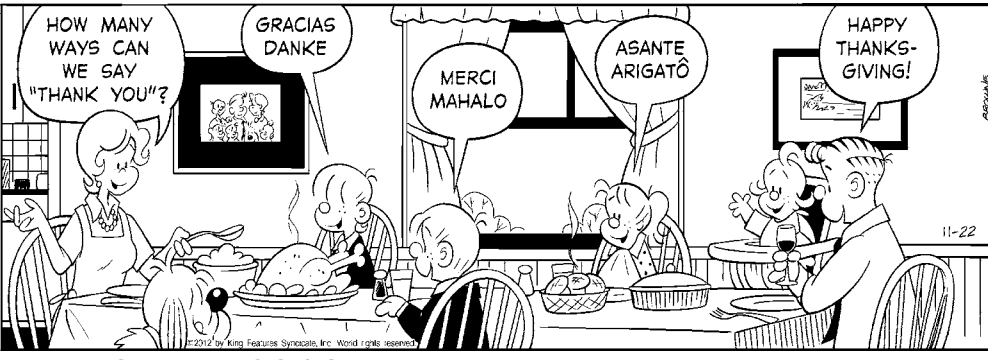
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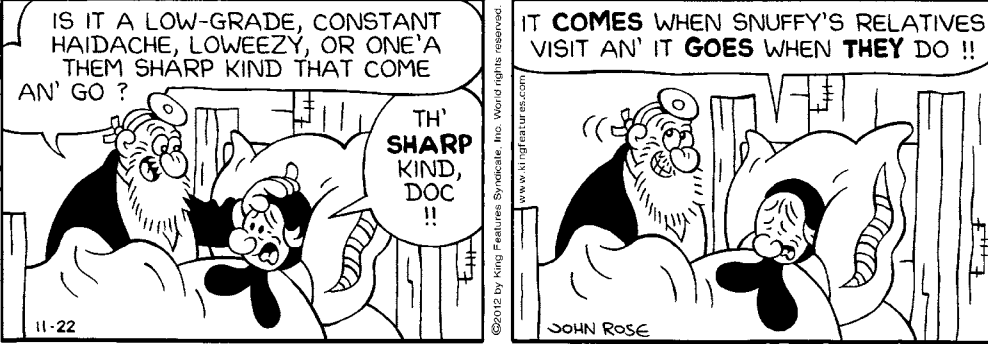
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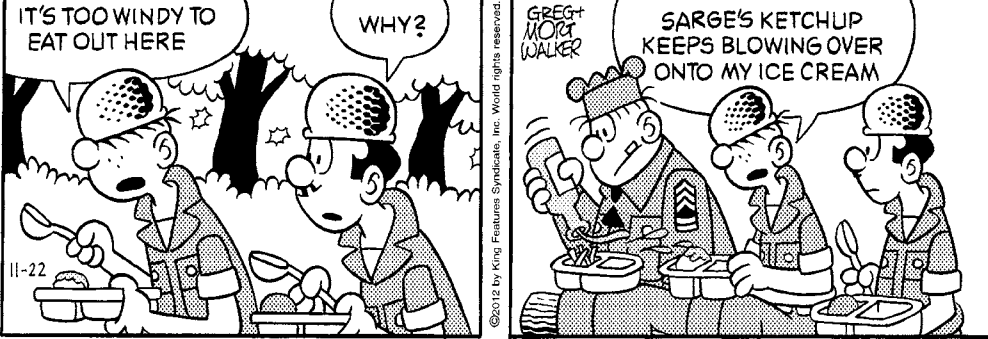
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 22, the 327th day of 2012. There are 39 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day. Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was shot to death during a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, in the same open car as the president, was seriously wounded. A suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, was arrested.

coverage of an American college football game as Harvard defeated Yale, 13-0. In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, Calif., carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek (chang ky-shehk) met in Cairo to discuss measures for defeating Japan. Lyricist Lorenz Hart died in New York at age 48.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced her resignation. Today's Birthdays: Movie director Arthur Hiller is 89. Actor Robert Vaughn is 80. Actor Michael Callan is 77. Actor Allen Garfield is 73. Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 72. Actor Tom Conti is 71. Astronaut Guion Bluford is 70. International Tennis Hall of Famer Billie Jean King is 69. Rock musician-actor Steve Van Zandt (a.k.a. Little Steven) is 62. Rock musician Tina Weymouth (The Heads; Talking Heads; The Tom Tom Club) is 62.

Newsday Crossword

THROW IN THE TOWEL by David W. Cromer Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Gaping gorge 6 Football great Tarkenton 10 High point 14 Authoritative book 15 Hold sway over 16 Glide along 17 Primitive weapon 18 Loses strength 19 Luau dance 20 Elvis film of '64 23 Alias introducer 26 Spoken for 27 Stunned 28 College major, for short 30 So far 32 Free (of) 33 Ancestry chart 34 African slitherer 36 More, in Madrid 38 Ice skating Olympian of '84 43 Tribulation 44 Conducted a campaign 45 Solemn agreement 47 Word before cloud or cry 50 Paid spots 52 British ritual 54 Locales 56 Loose change 58 Wrecker's job 59 Bail jumper's pursuer 62 Lose at blackjack 63 Speck 64 Feelings, so to speak 68 "Understood" 69 Central portion 70 Delight 71 Thomas Hardy heroine 72 Brewpub offerings 73 Undergo chemical change 10 Very pale 11 Panther 12 Zambia neighbor 13 Wiped off 21 Left the premises 22 More than important 23 Fitting 24 Fashion designer 25 Tina's 30 Rock costar 29 "That hurts!" 31 Renowned 35 Equal footing 37 Numerical datum 39 Best man's offering 40 Early shows 41 Pass over 42 Title fish in a Pixar film 46 Just out 47 Elmer Fudd's quawwy 48 Stir from slumber 49 Conserves, in a way 51 Dean's employer 53 Letter closer 55 Starting chips 57 Bizarre 60 Place to learn CPR 61 Vex 65 Sound at a shearing 66 List ender 67 No longer changeable

Crossword grid with numbers 1-73 indicating starting positions for clues.

MARKET

Continued from Page 13

secondary ticket market for MLB after their first deal expired following this season. The NBA partnered with Ticketmaster to create a website which went live last month and is both a primary and secondary ticket outlet.

"The secondary market isn't going away," Minnesota Twins President Dave St. Peter said. "It's always going to be a significant part of the ticket procurement process and an option for fans. As we focus on the primary market, we also have to look for ways to make sure the secondary market will not be a hindrance to the primary market."

Baseball's agreement with StubHub essentially means the website provides a secondary online platform for any team that wants one. Both sides seem to want to continue the partnership, but have yet to announce a new deal.

Matthew Gould, a spokesman for MLBAM, said talks are ongoing and detailed some of the positives of the partnership to date.

"We have seen benefits," he said. "While some of those are economic, the most important benefits have come from the amount of data that we have been able to have both on the buying and selling side, which will be very important as we formulate our future plans for the secondary ticket market."

StubHub spokesman Glenn Lehrman said Wednesday the San Francisco-based company has enjoyed a "great

relationship" with Major League Baseball and is "cautiously optimistic about continuing that relationship moving forward."

One of StubHub's central tenets is a free market, with no ceilings and floors, and baseball could be pushing for more control over ticket prices, possibly complicating the discussions between the sides.

"It's been talked about, some type of a floor," St. Peter said.

"Whether that will be a reality, I don't know. Some of the timings of offerings as well, may be establish a window by which offerings for game tickets at certain levels are taken down. A lot of this is a promotional issue."

"We don't have a relationship with Ticketmaster because Major League Baseball's preferred ticketing method is through tickets.

com, which it owns. So we wouldn't likely do a deal with Ticketmaster. We'd be more likely to do a deal with StubHub."

StubHub struck one of its first major sports deals with the Seattle Mariners in 2001 and has separate partnership agreements with about half of the 30 major league teams, covering everything from signage to promotions. It signed a five-year deal to become the "Official Fan to Fan Ticket Marketplace" for MLB.com in 2007.

John Davis, the vice president for ticket sales for the Cincinnati Reds, said the relationship with StubHub "provides valuable insight and data into the secondary market that we wouldn't have otherwise."

"Teams are provided a clear picture as to nuances of the secondary buyer by pricing categories, proximity to

the ballpark, and timing in regards to time of purchase and the actual game," Davis said. "All these factors are extremely helpful in understanding our fan base, how best to message to them, and how to properly price our tickets."

Any new deal between the sides could have a much different feel without one of baseball's most popular franchises.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press that the New York Yankees are planning to opt out if baseball signs another deal with StubHub.

The person said the Yankees would announce their own arrangement at some point soon.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing contract negotiations.

The Yankees groused

about StubHub when they had some empty seats for some of their home games in the playoffs. The actual effect of their absence from any new arrangement is uncertain, since fans still would be able to buy and sell Yankees tickets on the site — the consumer may not notice much of a difference.

StubHub.com declined to release team-specific ticket sales, but acknowledged the big-market clubs generate the most business.

The NBA announced its partnership with Ticketmaster in August, and they opened their new website before the season started. Billed as the official ticket marketplace for the league,

NBATickets.com provides access to tickets sold by the team and by other fans. The league says teams can set minimum ticket prices on the site.

"I think that you're going to see it move more toward where the NBA is," said Bill Sutton, who is the director of the sport and entertainment management program at the University of South Florida and spent four years as the NBA's vice president for team marketing and business operations, "where it's going to be instead of rivals you've got to be partners, because neither seller is going away, so you've got to figure out a way to partner."




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DOLPHINS

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said. "I think we know things that can work in this league, and things that aren't real sound and don't work."

Miami's lack of a deep threat at receiver has allowed opposing defenses to gear for the run, but Sherman said predictability hasn't been a problem. The offense varied its personnel packages in the past two games and lost both — against Tennessee and Buffalo, two of the league's worst defenses.

The Dolphins had seven turnovers in the two defeats, including five interceptions by Tan-

nehill. Their longest gain was 19 yards, and they went 5 for 23 converting third-down situations.

"My goal is obviously for us to be better than we are right now, which isn't very good," Sherman said. "We need to function better as an offense."

During one stretch Miami went 27 consecutive offensive possessions without a touchdown.

"It's really frustrating," Tannehill said, "especially with some of the success we had earlier in the year being able to move the ball."

Early in the year, Miami ran the ball well. Reggie Bush ranked second in the league in rushing after two weeks, but he has netted only 82 yards during the losing streak.

Against Buffalo last Thursday, Miami's running backs managed only 53 yards in 23 carries, an average of 2.3 per play. Bush lost 5 yards on one carry and 4 on another, creating long-yardage situations that have been part of Miami's third-down problem.

"You want your run game to get you into manageable third downs," Sherman said.

Fits and starts are to be expected when players are still learning an offense, Sherman said. He predicted they'll become more comfortable with his system in his second or third year with Miami.

But the schedule won't wait, and the Dolphins must find a way now to shake their scoring slump.

ACC won't be able to fill its eight bowl slots

BOSTON (AP) — Miami chose to stay home, self-imposing a bowl ban for the second straight year in the hopes of staving off more drastic punishments later on.

The NCAA told North Carolina to sit this one out.

Boston College, Virginia and Maryland are already out of bowl consideration, with too few wins to qualify. And unless Wake Forest and Virginia Tech can win this weekend, the Atlantic Coast Conference could have only five teams in bowl games — the fewest for the league since 2000, before beginning an expansion that brought it to 12 schools.

"I think the guys need to know what's at stake," said Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe, whose team plays Vanderbilt on Saturday. "We have smart guys at Wake Forest, and I think they know that it's either win or go home."

Even if the Hokies and Demon Deacons do reach the requisite six wins, the ACC would only have seven bowl-eligible teams for eight bowl slots.

Virginia Tech has

the third-longest bowl streak in the nation, reaching the postseason for 19 consecutive years. Coach Frank Beamer, whose team plays Virginia this weekend, said he doesn't think the lack of bowl-eligible teams is a long-term problem for the conference.

"Absolutely, I think the league is strong," he said.

No. 10 Florida State, which has a non-conference game against Florida this weekend, has clinched a spot in the ACC title game against Georgia Tech on Dec. 1; the winner will go to the Orange Bowl. No. 12 Clemson would likely be the next choice for the bowls.

With six wins and the potential for seven, North Carolina State and Duke — which has not played in a bowl since the 1994 season — are in the next group.

Wake Forest and Virginia Tech could earn their sixth wins this weekend and fill spots in the Dec. 28 Independence Bowl and the Dec. 31 Music City Bowl. But even if they both win, the league wouldn't have a team to send to the Dec. 27 Military Bowl.

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