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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 14, 2012



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 52

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Three killed in wreck

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Three Howard County residents were killed Thursday morning when the SUV they were traveling in was hit by an oilfield pumper truck near the intersection of FM 846 and U.S. Highway 87.

According to officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety, the accident was reported at 5:18 a.m. at the intersection, located approximately 10 miles from Big Spring.

Killed in the accident were Francis "Frank" Overton, 28, of Big Spring (an obituary received for Overton identifies the man as being from Knott); Dennis Richardson, 59, of Big Spring; and Sergio Gonzales, 32, of Forsan. All three men were employees of Big Spring-based Robinson drilling, according to reports.

According to DPS, the three men were traveling east on FM 846 in a Chevrolet Suburban approaching the intersection at U.S. Highway 87. The driver of the Suburban apparently disregarded a stop sign and the vehicle was struck by the pumper truck, which was traveling north on Highway 87.

All three men traveling in the Suburban were pronounced dead at the scene by Howard County Justice of the Peace Bennie Green at 7:58 a.m.

According to DPS communications officials with the DPS Regional Office in Midland, the driver of the Suburban's failure to regard the stop sign at the intersection was the

See **WRECK**, Page 3

Time to turn on the lights Festival of Lights opens Saturday in city park

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Light the lights. Comanche Trail Park will be transformed to a Christmas wonderland starting Saturday when the Festival of Lights begins its annual holiday run. Hundreds of exhibits featuring

more than a million lights will be on display. Themes range from traditional holiday scenes to patriotic displays, with a little West Texas flavor thrown in for good measure, organizers promise.

Aside from the trademark lighted poinsettias, which serve as the unofficial logo of the festi-

val, there will be corporate-sponsored Christmas cards, snowmen, Christmas trees, a representation of the Settles Hotel and much more.

A special display this year will honor former mayor Russ

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3



Courtesy photo
Big Spring Junior High Steevolution Choir member Chad Wash leads a solo with assistance from Junior High Choir Teacher Stacy Barr during the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council's Annual Christmas party Wednesday at the Big Spring Country Club. The 60-plus volunteers were treated to lunch while being entertained by the Steevolution Choir.

ISD: New performance guidelines 'fairer'

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The State of Texas is taking a longer view toward school accountability.

During their Thursday night meeting, Big Spring independent School District trustees heard about proposed changes to how the state will gauge school performance in the coming years.

Until now, state officials relied almost exclusively on standardized test scores

when assessing school performance. The new accountability system, however, promises to take more than just test scores into consideration. Factors such as student progress, college readiness and how well schools close performance gaps between students in different socio-economic groups also will be taken into account.

"The new system will be less pass-fail dependent," said Becky Saldivar, assessment

"I think what the state is preparing is something that will be fairer. It will give us better pictures on how our students are doing ... We want to be held accountable, but we want the system to be fair, also."

—Becky Saldivar, BSISD assessment director



and accountability director for BSISD. "The state will still depend on test scores, but they'll be looking at them in different ways ... it will be

a fairer way of doing things." Four factors, or "indexes" as they're called by state officials, will now be given more-or-less equal weight

when evaluating school performance:

- Student achievement — Test scores factor heavily in this section. Scores from the grade levels as a whole — rather by socio-economic group — will be assessed.
- Yearly progress — This fairly self-explanatory section will track how students' scores improve from one year to the next. Schools will

See **ISD**, Page 3




The holidays are 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.

Dec. 14
11 shopping days to Christmas

Walmart
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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

Spring Tabernacle hands out more than 1,500 toys

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
Managing Editor

More than 1,500 toys and articles of clothing were given away Wednesday at Spring Tabernacle Ministries — so many that the faith-based organization had to postpone its giveaway for a while to purchase extra gifts.

"It was wonderful. We had a ball but we were so tired when it was over we were bowlegged,"

See **TOYS**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Ruth Opegard



Ruth Opegard, 91, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, at Parkview Nursing and Rehab. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Friday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ruth was born Sept. 11, 1921, in Pennsylvania to Irene and William McBeth. She was a veteran of the army during World War II, serving in the Air Corps. She married Moran Opegard on Oct. 4, 1945, in Raleigh, N.C. He preceded her in death Jan. 14, 2004. She was a homemaker and a member of Alive In Christ Lutheran Church.

She is survived by one son, Kal Opegard and his wife Vickie of Sand Springs; two daughters, Jane O'Brien and her husband John of Big Spring and Nancy Hamilton and her husband Keith of Salemburg, N.C.; one brother, Gene McBeth and his wife Stella of Seminole; half-brother, Jack McBeth of Pennsylvania; two half-sisters, Lois Ciletti and Phyllis Teaters, both of Pennsylvania; eight grandchildren, Jeff O'Brien, Jason O'Brien and his wife Jenny, Denver Opegard and his wife Cindy, Jud Opegard and his wife Kelli, Ingrid Burgess and her husband Vince, Melanie Hamilton, Amy Opegard and Whitney Gressett and her husband Caleb; nine great-grandchildren, Cayley Opegard, Macey Opegard, Dawson Opegard, Weston Opegard, Anna Burgess, Benjamin Burgess, Dylan Aycock, Derik Aycock and Rose O'Brien; and one great-granddaughter due in April.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Alive in Christ Lutheran Church, 2805 Lynn, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at MyersandSmith.com

Paid obituary

Martin Diaz



Martin Diaz, 59, of Fort Worth formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday Dec. 4, 2012. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Oct. 9, 1953, in Big Spring to Benita and Gumersindo Diaz. He lived most of his life in Big Spring and later moving to Fort Worth. He worked most of his life in road and general construction. He was a Catholic.

He is survived by four sons, Martin Diaz Jr., Gomezindo Diaz, Ysidro Diaz and Hector Diaz, all of Big Spring; and three brothers, Ted Diaz of Big Spring, David Marquez and his wife Ramona of San Angelo and Benito Diaz of Holland, Mich. He is also survived by two sisters, Guadalupe Ramirez and husband Gilbert of Fort Worth, Irene Lara and husband Juan Trevino of Lubbock; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers, Gomezindo Diaz Jr., Felitee Diaz and Daniel Marquez Jr.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at MyersandSmith.com

Gloria Watson

Gloria Watson, 61, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Joe Gomez

Joe Gomez, 52, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Frank Overton

Frank Overton, 28, of Knott died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Sergio Gonzalez

Sergio Gonzalez, 32, of Forsan, died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, in Big Spring. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Dennis Richardson

Dennis Richardson, 59, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, in Big Spring. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Vivian Griffith



Vivian Griffith, 89, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, at the funeral home.

She was born July 26, 1923, in Comstock, Texas, and married Jay Maurice Griffith on Jan. 1, 1942, in San Antonio, Texas. He preceded her in death Feb. 8, 2011.

Mrs. Griffith had worked at Webb Air Force Base. She was a member of 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

Survivors include her son, Wayne Griffith of Austin; two grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

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

Rosie Flora Bell Nutt Posey



Rosie Flora Bell Nutt Posey, 84, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Jess Colegrove officiating. Interment will follow at 3 p.m. Sunday at Grape Creek Cemetery, Grape Creek.

She was born Aug. 23, 1928, in Muleshoe, Texas, and married Leonard Posey May 26, 1955, in San Angelo, Texas. He preceded her in death Oct. 22, 2007.

Rosie was a longtime resident of Big Spring and was a homemaker.

She was a member of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Edith Baker of Coahoma and Ann Taylor of Waco; two sons, Gary Strickland of Lafayette, Ga., and Tom Posey of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, C.B. and Rose Tivis Nutt; and one brother, David Nutt.

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

Adrian Garcia



Adrian Garcia, 63, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, at his residence. Visitation and viewing will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, with a vigil service at 7 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Committal services will be Wednesday at Coahoma Cemetery.

He was born June 7, 1949 in Ozona, Texas, to Sinforosa and Sotero Garcia and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring where he

worked most of his life in the oil field. He was a Catholic.

He is survived by one daughter, Veronica Delgado of Hamlin. He is also survived by one grandson, one granddaughter and one uncle.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Margie Garcia.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay you respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Police blotter

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

- FRANCISCO VEGA, 38, of 3807 Connally, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less, criminal trespass, driving while license invalid and failure to appear.
- JOHNNY LEE RIOS, 27, of 710 Creighton, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury – family violence.
- PAUL IRVING HAGLAND, 66, of 3304 Gail Highway, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn.

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Service broadcast Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
over KBYG 1400 AM Evangelistic Service.....6:00 p.m.
on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.



Randy Cotton
Pastor

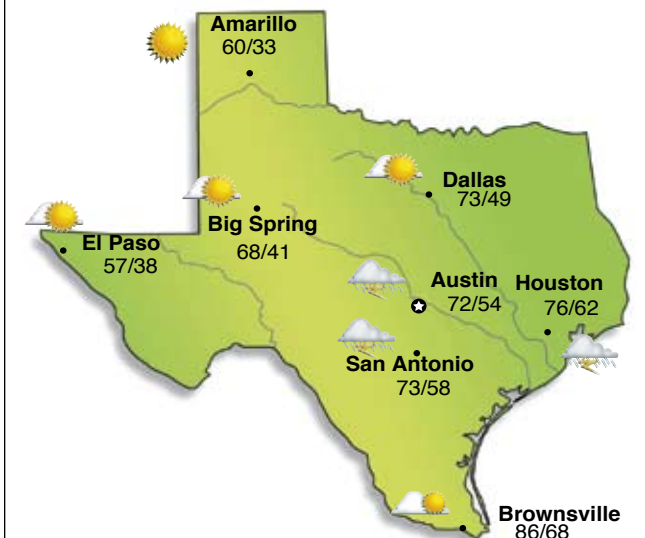
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 12/16	Mon 12/17	Tue 12/18	Wed 12/19	Thu 12/20
68/41 A few clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	65/38 Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun.	65/35 A few clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	69/43 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	75/36 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM

American Profile *We Celebrate Hometown Life*
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	70	46	mst sunny	Kingsville	84	66	cloudy
Amarillo	60	33	sunny	Livingston	73	57	t-storm
Austin	72	54	t-storm	Longview	72	52	rain
Beaumont	76	64	t-storm	Lubbock	61	35	windy
Brownsville	86	68	pt sunny	Lufkin	73	58	t-storm
Brownwood	73	47	pt sunny	Midland	66	43	windy
Corpus Christi	80	66	t-storm	Raymondville	87	66	pt sunny
Corsicana	73	48	mst sunny	Rosenberg	76	62	t-storm
Dallas	73	49	mst sunny	San Antonio	73	58	t-storm
Del Rio	72	51	cloudy	San Marcos	73	54	t-storm
El Paso	57	38	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	74	47	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	67	45	pt sunny	Sweetwater	68	45	windy
Gainesville	69	42	mst sunny	Tyler	73	53	pt sunny
Greenville	71	44	mst sunny	Weatherford	71	43	mst sunny
Houston	76	62	t-storm	Wichita Falls	70	40	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	62	52	cloudy	Minneapolis	36	27	rain
Boston	37	30	sunny	New York	44	39	pt sunny
Chicago	48	41	rain	Phoenix	53	42	rain
Dallas	73	49	mst sunny	San Francisco	54	50	pt sunny
Denver	44	25	cloudy	Seattle	42	39	rain
Houston	76	62	t-storm	St. Louis	59	43	rain
Los Angeles	60	49	pt sunny	Washington, DC	49	41	pt sunny
Miami	79	68	pt sunny				

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1900 block of Johnson.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.

• FRANCISCO VEGA, 38, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass, possession of marijuana – two ounces or less, driving while license invalid and violation of a promise to appear.

• JOHNNY LEE RIOS, 27, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury – family violence.

• PAUL HAGLAND, 66, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of N. Highway 87 and FM 846. Information regarding transportation was not provided.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Tucson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Tucson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Lindbergh. No transport.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 22
Christmas Tree Forest
Heritage Museum.
For more info contact the museum at
432-267-8255.

Dec. 14
A Hangar Christmas
Hangar 25 Museum
6pm-9pm
Join us for Christmas Lights and Treats.

Dec. 15
Big Spring Symphony
presents:
A Symphonic Christmas
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium
310 E. 3rd St.

Dec. 15-31
Festival of Lights
Comanche Trail Park
6pm-10pm Nightly
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State briefs

Amarillo orthodontist admits to Medicaid scheme

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A West Texas orthodontist has pleaded guilty to improperly billing the state Medicaid program for millions of dollars.

The Amarillo Globe-News reports Michael David Goodwin pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of health care fraud. The 63-year-old Goodwin faces up to 10 years.

An investigation by authorities showed that Goodwin was billing Medicaid for work done by dental assistants and booking patients at 10-minute increments, pushing them to rush treatments. He also billed for work he supposedly did at his Amarillo office on days that flight records showed he was in Indiana.

Goodwin admitted filing \$2.6 million in billings, some of which were not medically necessary, for at least four years starting in 2008.

Prosecutors have moved to dismiss related charges against Goodwin's wife and office manager.

Houston man sentenced in stolen ATVs case

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP) — A federal judge in Lake Charles, La., has sentenced a Houston man to 57 months in prison for moving stolen vehicles across state lines.

The judge also ordered Luis B. Calixto Sr. to pay \$309,933 in restitution and served three years of supervised release.

Calixto and two co-defendants, Shaun Cody Gauthreaux and Allen Joseph Morehead Jr., both of Kinder, La., were charged in December 2011 with conspiracy to transport stolen motor vehicles.

Prosecutors say they took part in a theft ring involving all-terrain vehicles that were stolen in Texas and Louisiana and transported to Calixto's home in Houston.

Authorities say 60 ATVs and outdoor vehicles —

valued at about \$363,000 — were taken.

The American Press reports Gauthreaux and Morehead pleaded guilty in October and were sentenced.

Friend: Texas plane crash victim won flight

DALLAS (AP) — Family and friends are mourning the death of a 30-year-old Dallas-area man who won the chance to fly in a plane that crashed in North Texas.

A family friend of Fisher Floyd told The Dallas Morning News that Floyd won at an auction the chance to fly in a single-engine L-29 Delfin plane with 77-year-old Noell Rather, an experienced former commercial pilot.

Neither Floyd nor Rather survived the crash Thursday morning in Kaufman County near Scurry, about 30 miles southeast of Dallas.

The newspaper reports Floyd attended high school in Highland Park, an enclave within Dallas' city limits. He has two young sons, ages 1 and 2.

A friend of Rather's says he spent years restoring the Soviet-era plane he was flying Thursday.

Court rejects appeal

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — An appeals court has upheld a Corpus Christi man's capital murder conviction for the death of his girlfriend's toddler son.

The 13th Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas on Thursday rejected an appeal from 23-year-old J.J. Garza. Garza was convicted last year of beating 21-month-old Texas Ruiz to death.

Garza is serving life without parole for the boy's death. An autopsy showed the boy was hit in the head and torso. A Child Protective Services investigator testified at Garza's trial that agency workers suspected child abuse before the boy was killed.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

McEwen, a long-time supporter of the festival, who died in October.

Admission to the festival is free, although donations are gratefully accepted. Festival Chairperson Pat Simmons said the donations help fund current and future festival operations.

"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."

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."

For more information, contact the Convention

and Visitor's Bureau at 264-2516.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Sue Balios, 76, died Tuesday. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. today at First United Methodist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ophelia Galan, 78, died Monday. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Ruth Oppgaard, 91, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be 4:00 p.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park.

Martin Diaz, 59, died Tuesday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Adrian Garcia, 63, died Thursday. Visitation and Viewing will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday. Vigil Services will be 7 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Committal Services will be Wednesday at Coahoma Cemetery.

Joe Gomez, 52, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Francis "Frank" Overton, 28, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

ISD

Continued from Page 1

be credited for how well test scores improve over time.

Closing performance gaps — This section will gauge how well schools are doing in eliminating the disparity in test scores between economically disadvantaged students and those in other groups.

Post-secondary readiness — Graduation rates, student performance in ad-

vanced classes and the percentage of students who graduate via advanced or recommended programs will be factored in this section.

Saldivar saluted the proposed changes. "I think what the state is preparing is something that will be fairer," she said. "It will give us better pictures on how our students are doing ... We want to be held accountable, but we want the system to be fair, also."

Final approval of the accountability system is expected in March.

In other business Thursday, trustees ap-

proved:

The district's 2011-2012 audit and annual investment report.

The employment of the following individuals: DAEP teacher Marni Franco; Moss Elementary Principal Rosie Lain; Moss Assistant Principal Robert Mills; Washington Elementary first-grade teacher Robyn Mires; and junior high school sixth-grade teacher Amy Sagona.

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

WRECK

Continued from Page 1

approximate cause of the accident. The name of the driver has not

been released. Drugs and alcohol are not believed to have played a role in the crash, according to the investigating trooper's report.

The driver of the pumper truck — Joseph

Kimble Jr. of Rhome, Texas, according to reports — was listed in fair condition following the incident Thursday.

Contact Staff Writer

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

TOYS

Continued from Page 1

Spring Tabernacle Pastor Mona Lue Tonn said with a laugh.

It was the 16th annual toy giveaway for the ministry, which on Thursday also gave away holiday dinners to an appreciative crowd.

Wednesday, some 390 children were provided four presents each. A parent or guardian selected the gifts — some new, some refurbished — from items the church collects throughout the year. Organizers had to hold up the line for almost two hours to go purchase additional gifts.

"People were so appreciative," said Tonn. "They'd have tears in their eyes and tell us their children wouldn't have anything for Christmas if it weren't for the toy giveaway."

Tonn said the ministry expects to present gifts to more than 400

children this Christmas season. Several families were unable to make it to Wednesday's giveaway but will still be accommodated, she explained.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



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 Fri.: 12:00 7:10
 (Digital) 3:35 10:45
3D Sat.: 12:00 7:10
 (Digital) 3:35 10:45

Rise of the Guardians (PG) 3D
 Fri.: 2:30 7:20
 Digital 4:55 9:45
3D Sat.: 2:30 7:20
 Digital 4:55 9:45

Twilight Saga Breaking Dawn Part 2 PG-13 (Digital)
 Fri.: 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sat.: 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

PG-13 Fri.: 2:25 5:00 7:35 10:10
 Sat.: 2:25 5:00 7:35 10:10

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EXP. 12/31/12

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Keith Graumann, Music Director and Conductor

Presents

A Symphonic Christmas

Coahoma Choir Kids
 Led by
 Sandra Wallace, Director

"A New Decade, Home at Last"

Saturday, December 15, 2012 8:00 p.m.
 Big Spring Municipal Auditorium

Tickets Available at: Blum's Jeweler's, The Heritage Museum & The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce



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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
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OUR VIEW

Bring on the music

If you aren't already captivated by the Christmas spirit, consider yourself the Scrooge of Grinch Town.

You've had the opportunity to enjoy the *Herald* Community Christmas Parade, the Methodist's Living Christmas Tree, the Nazarene Church's Living Nativity and other wonderful activities.

You've had — and will continue to have — the opportunity to donate to as many as a dozen charitable organizations hoping to make the holidays brighter for low-income families. You may have helped hand out toys to one of hundreds of happy children; you may have seen a grandmother — tears in her eyes — thankful she has a new robe for the cold winter nights.

You may have been there when Santa visited the Heritage Museum, the VA Medical Center and numerous service clubs.

You've probably noticed that the Comanche Trail Lake dam is blooming with poinsettias. And keep in mind that the Festival of Lights will open Saturday evening.

Fortunately, that's not all of the fun and fellowship the holidays bring.

One of the most entertaining activities each year is the Big Spring Symphony Christmas concert, set for 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium. If it cannot get you in the holiday spirit ... well.

A family affair, the program features not only Sandy Wallace's Coahoma Choir Kids, two well-known soloists and a narrator (not to mention Santa himself) but it lets the audience into the festivities by having a couple of singalongs.

As usual, tickets to the concert are not expensive — \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Parents get a break this year because the Symphony board decided not to charge students.

There will be other activities before Christmas Day, and, of course, all that last-minute gift-buying and food preparation. But whether you are musically inclined or not, take our word for it, the symphony knows how to celebrate the holidays.

For a real holiday treat, join them Saturday.

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

Our intense ambitions get an opportunity to become reality with Your help, Lord.

Amen

Christmas in Santa Monica

Christmas in my home city of Santa Monica is different this year. It used to be that there were elaborate displays depicting the birth of Jesus in the big public park by the ocean. I've always believed that Christmas is a major religious holiday, and the display reflected that. According to people who know more about such things than I do, the large dioramas told the story of Jesus' birth according to the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

That is precisely what non-Christian groups objected to. So the Santa Monica city council responded, initially, by saying there would be a lottery for who got to showcase their faith — or lack thereof — in the park. I didn't pay much attention to the displays last year, but apparently they were enough to convince the city council to give up on the lottery and instead adopt a rule that there would be no religious — or anti-religious — displays in the public park.

And, of course, that led to a lawsuit, which the city won. There may or may not be something unconstitutional about a religious display in a public park, but as a professor of First Amendment law, it's hard to see the case that it's unconstitutional not to have a display. The court agreed, and this year there is no display — of the nativity scene, anyway. There have been plenty of public displays of

anger, many of them directed at those terrible atheists who are ruining Christmas.

I decided a long time ago that even though I think Christmas is a religious holiday, even though my childhood is full of memories of feeling different (and lesser) in places where it should not have mattered (like public school, where the rule that the girl with the longest hair got to play Mary in the school play was abandoned my year because — consider the irony — it would be wrong to have a Jewish girl play Mary), I don't fight about creches in public places. It's not worth the backlash, not worth all the angry letters about taking the Christ out of Christmas (I believe in doing just the opposite).

But I can't help but speak out about the ugliness of the debate in the city where I live. Almost every day, I pick up a newspaper or turn on the radio and hear another attack on the godless atheists who are supposedly propagating hate by asking that public parks not endorse any religion. Just to be clear: It isn't just Christians launching the attacks. The one that caught my eye recently in a Los Angeles paper was written by a rabbi who used it as an opportunity to defend the country's religious roots against the God-forsaken atheists.

The First Amendment includes two key clauses. One protects the right of every American to the “free exercise” of his or her religion. The other prohibits a government “establishment” of religion. Together they reflect a philosophy that has served us well over the past two centuries: that the best protection for

religion and religious people is to give the individual both the power and freedom to practice as they choose, and to give the government neither. The idea that not having a religious display in a public park threatens religion is, to me, ludicrous. Christianity is strong enough in Santa Monica to survive the threat of a handful of atheists. There are many, many private places — shopping malls a block away, churchyards, front yards and the rest — where the birth of Jesus is celebrated.

As I write this, Jews are celebrating Hanukkah. The way I learned my Jewish history, Hanukkah is actually a pretty minor holiday and would be treated that way if it fell in any month other than December. But in an effort to see that their children don't feel left out, many Jews treat Hanukkah with more attention than the “big” holidays that fall in months like September and October. That's their choice — another aspect of religious freedom — although I have to point out that there really is no such thing as a Hanukkah bush.

But I don't need to see a menorah in a public park to remember that I'm Jewish. And it's hard for me to see the hardship suffered by those who have to look elsewhere for a creche — or simply put one up in their own front yard.

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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Taxman to Middle Class: Bend over

President Barack Obama in 2008, and again during the 2012 election, promised absolutely, positively no tax hikes on the middle class. The rich, however, must pay more: “It's not me being stubborn, it's not me being partisan — it's just a matter of math.”

How does Obama intend to pay for our cradle-to-grave welfare state? Why, by charging the dastardly “millionaires and billionaires” who “can afford to pay a little bit more.” No more extending the Bush-era tax rates for the rich. To do so, Obama tells us, would “cost” \$700 billion — over 10 years. So this “break” for the rich “costs” \$70 billion a year — or a mere 6 percent of the trillion dollar annual deficits that Obama has rung up since he became president.

This leaves us short about \$930 billion per year — just for the annual deficit, never mind paring down the ever-growing national debt. From where is the shortfall to be made up?

Lots of deluded Obama voters no doubt truly believe “the mess we're in” is due to “two unpaid for wars and irresponsible tax cuts for the rich.” End the wars and slap the rich with Clinton-era tax rates, and voila, watch the deficit and debt go poof! But with Obama safely re-elected, some Democrats now speak the truth: The middle class, contrary to Obama's promise, will see substantial tax increases in order to pay for the welfare state the voters once again signed on to by re-electing Obama.

Former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean, appearing on MSNBC, said: “The only problem is — and this is, a little, initially going to seem like heresy from a progressive — the truth is everybody needs to pay more

taxes, not just the rich. That's a good start. But we're not going to get out of this deficit problem unless we raise taxes across the board — to go back to what Bill Clinton had and his taxes. And if we don't do that, the problem is the pressure is going to be on spending even more.”

Obama, however, still insists that any budget deal include tax rate hikes on the top 2 percent — a violation of the anti-tax-increase pledge most Capital Hill Republicans signed. He's winning the argument. Several Republicans now repudiate the pledge.

The “controversial” pledge states that the signer promises to his/her constituents and the American people to: “ONE, oppose any and all efforts to increase the marginal income tax rates for individuals and/or businesses; and TWO, oppose any net reduction or elimination of deductions and credits, unless matched dollar for dollar by further reducing tax rates.”

But with post-election polls showing that Americans support raising taxes on the rich, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, now places “revenue on the table” — meaning the GOP accepts the election returns as a referendum for a “balanced approach” to dealing with our deficits and debt.

By “revenue,” Boehner means closing “loopholes” and “capping deductions” used by “the rich” to pay less in taxes. And more recently, fiscal conservative Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., now says he would accept a hike in tax rates, provided the Democrats present a plan to reform entitlements.

Polls show that if Congress and the President fail to come to a deal to avoid the so-called “fiscal cliff,” Republicans will be blamed. And as the Democrats pin blame, expect their friends in the media to assist with joy and enthusiasm.

The Media Research Center tells us that ABC, NBC and CBS have a distorted view of the

term “balance.” After the election, those networks spent way more time on the issue of tax hikes than on the issue of spending cuts. ABC, says MRC, was the worst: “In the three weeks following President Obama's re-election, ‘World News’ devoted more than 10 minutes, 18 seconds to talk of tax hikes and just 35 seconds to spending cuts (a 17-to-1 margin).” So much for the balanced approach.

But the problem remains how to get rich people to pay for all the things voters want: insurance companies that are forbidden from turning away people with pre-existing illnesses; federal disaster relief; the placing of millions of uninsured on Medicaid; “world-class education”; “investments” in “green jobs of the future”; regulations to combat “climate change”; extending unemployment benefits again; etc.

In 1900, government spending at all three levels — local, state and federal — amounted to about 10 percent of national income. Government spending today amounts to 40 percent — or 50 percent, if one places a dollar value on the unfunded mandates imposed on states and businesses by Washington. The voters re-elected a President who increased the national debt faster and by a greater amount than any previous administration. And there are simply not enough rich folks to pay for it.

Obama, on Nov. 6, won the political argument to continue to expand government. But the election did nothing to change “the math.” Memo to the middle class: Get ready, you're next.

Larry Elder is a best-selling author and radio talk-show host. To find out more about Larry Elder, or become an “Elderado,” visit www.LarryElder.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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SUSAN ESTRICH



LARRY ELDER

Church News

First United Methodist Church

This Sunday at the 8:30 a.m. service of worship, Pastor Bill Ivins will continue his sermon series, "Christmas in 3-D".

Randall and Heather Capshaw will light the Advent Candle.

At 9:45, during Sunday school, there will also be a new members fellowship for those who have been attending our church and are wondering what it means to be a member. Pastor Ivins will share a bit of the church's history and where he sees the church headed in the future. He'll also discuss how to become a Christian and the church's membership vows.

The JAM Children's Choir will present and "Operation Christmas Child" program at the 10:50 service. There will be lots of special music and a children's version of the nativity story narrated by Pastor Bill. The Larry Cole family will light the Advent candle.

Our EPIC Youth group has begun collecting canned goods to be distributed to families in need before Christmas. Stacy Shepherd, youth sponsor, informed the congregation of the three local families who would be receiving our gifts. Their stories touched our hearts and made us much more aware of the needy who surround us. Please prayerfully consider helping to make this a wonderful Christmas for them by contributing to this project. The donation boxes will be in the narthex and the church office. If you have any questions or want to help, contact Stacy or call Beau at 432-312-7923.

The Children's Day Out program has been focusing on exploring the sights, sounds, states, smells and feelings of December. The main focus, however has been on celebrating the birth of our Savior and that learning to give presents to others is a way of honoring Him. The last day of CDO will be Monday, Dec. 17. The program will resume Jan. 7.

Noon Bible study and luncheon as well as Real Life will meet this Wednesday but will not meet Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.

We are happy to announce that the Wesley Foundation program is now in full swing at both Howard and Midland College with our own Charles Abuyeka (Chuck Abu) as director for both colleges. Dozens of students from both Midland and Howard College enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner recently in Garrett Hall. Following the meal, students came together in the Partee Building for a time of worship and celebration with students from both colleges leading the worship. On the evening prior to the beginning of final exams, Chuck Abu served of meal of Thanksgiving Re-dos plus. We look forward to more students and more special events for this next full semester and we salute the Big Spring District of the United Methodist Church for helping to make this fellowship possible.

Remember our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. Dec. 24, at the corner of Fourth and Scurry, in the heart of downtown Big Spring.

College Baptist Church

Pastor Ken McMeans continued his series of sermons on "A Heavenly Look at Lambs" with the sermon, "Why Sheep?" We don't really like to think of ourselves as sheep but if we are followers of Jesus Christ, the good shepherd, then that isn't a bad thing.

Saturday at 6:30 p.m., the Adult 3 Sunday school class will hold a Christmas party in the home of one of the couples.

The G.A.s, young girls from first through fifth grade in school, have set up the G.A. Post Office in the church sanctuary so people of the church may exchange Christmas cards with

The question in the manger

Last week, my aunt, a devout believer in her 80s, asked me if there will be animals in Heaven. Perhaps it is a good question to ask during this season when live nativity scenes spring up in every town complete with donkeys, goats, sheep, cows and camels. If live animals were important to the birth of Christ, maybe they will be important in Heaven.



BILL TINSLEY

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the 20th century theologian and martyr, once counseled a 10-year-old boy whose German Shepherd died. The boy was distraught. He asked Bonhoeffer if his dog would be in Heaven. Bonhoeffer said, "I quickly made up my mind and said to him, 'Look, God created human beings and also animals, and I'm sure he also loves animals. And I believe that with God it is such that all who loved each other on earth — genuinely loved each other — will remain together with God ...'"

Man, of course, was made in God's image. God breathed into us the breath of life and we became a living soul.

But God's love for all creatures

in his creation is abundantly clear. When God made the world and all that is in it, he included the animal kingdom. After He had divided the light from darkness, brought form out of chaos and fashioned the continents and oceans, He filled the earth with living things: fish, birds and beasts (in that order). Before man ever walked the earth, when the world was as He planned it to be, "God saw that it was good."

After sin entered the world, mankind sank deeper into selfishness, deceit, violence, murder and rebellion against the Creator. When God's judgment could be postponed no longer, He sent a catastrophic flood. But God showed his love for man and beast by providing a means of escape through Noah's ark. God instructed Noah, "You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you."

Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." (Genesis 6:19-21). God's love for all living things was further reflected in Jesus' statement that not one sparrow falls to the ground outside

the Father's care.

Looking forward to the day when the Messiah's Kingdom would replace our world, Isaiah wrote: "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-9).

If God so loved us that he blessed us with the companionship and service of animals on earth and chose them to surround the birth of His Son, would He withhold His love from us in Heaven by depriving us of these creatures who shared our mortal joys and sorrows? Is it possible that having demonstrated his glory in the beauty and balance of nature in this world that the new heaven and the new earth would be limited to men and angels?

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

each other without having to find addresses and mail them. With some of the money that you save on postage, they hope you will give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

The Adult Choir of College Baptist, under the direction of Jamie Scott, will present a Christmas musical called, "All is Well" by Dennis and Nan Allen on Sunday morning at 10:45. Come and enjoy this wonderful music, filled with hope and celebration of our Savior's birth.

First Christian Church

You are invited to attend First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located at 911 Goliad. Each Sunday starts with fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before Sunday school for all ages at 9:45. Church starts at 10:50. We celebrate Communion every week. The Lord's Table is the center of our worship each time we worship. We practice an open table, which means anyone who is a follower of Jesus is welcomed at the communion table. Christ is remembered as we offer to one another the bread and cup of remembrance.

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent in the Christian Calendar, the Rev. Ken McIntosh's message will be "The Lesson of Scrooge" from Isaiah 35: 1-4.

Elders will be Erma Dunne and Frank Sickles; deacons will be Laura Sickles, Barbara Ervin, Dan Miracle and Hollis McCright; worship leader will be Shirley Burgess; communion prep will be Laura Sickles and Barbara Ervin; children's church will be Laura Sickles; greeter will be Maxine Myers; homebound communion will be Erma Dunne.

Each week, Isaiah 58 is open at 4:30 Mondays, and 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays. We are now working on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to around 11, sorting and cleaning items from Wal-Mart, so we need volunteers for those days to help.

Also, every Monday evening, the TOPS Group will meet in the church fellowship hall at 5 for weigh-in and the meeting at 5:30.

On Wednesday, the Stewardship Committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. to check the budget before the monthly

board meeting.

Wednesday, there will be choir at the church at 6:30 p.m. Call Ruth Jackson for more information.

The Samaritan Counseling takes place at our church on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 11 to 4.

We believe the church is built by people worshipping together and we welcome you to visit at any time. 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

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. in the church library. The Chancel Choir and the Children's Choir practice at 6 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. respectively Wednesday.

The Boy Scouts meet in the entrance room of the fellowship hall at 6 p.m. Monday.

The Encouragers' Christmas Party is at noon in fellowship hall on Monday.

The Session meeting for December is Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. in the church library.

First Christian Church has invited our congregation and St. Mary's Episcopal to an evening of Christmas deserts and carols at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Bring a dessert and your best singing voice.

Sue Carter is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." Rip Patterson is liturgist for December.

The lectionary for the Third Sunday in Advent is Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

The Chancel Choir will present "People, Look East" by Tom Mitchell as the offertory anthem. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST 1490 AM., beginning at 11. If you wish 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.fcbs.org. There, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Holstedt.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

Dennis Haralson of Seminole will be in the pulpit this week. The lessons for the Third Sunday of Advent will cover the scriptures Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, and Luke 3:7-18.

Tuesday, the Garden of Eden Club will meet at 5 p.m. Gaylon and Gwen Harding have ordered red blooming yucca, flowering kale and pansies to plant in flower beds. The rock will be picked up Thursday for the new flower bed borders and new church sign. We have a sign to paint hours of service on, so anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome to join us.

Wednesday, at 6:30, the Daughters of the King High School Youth Group will be going out to eat to celebrate the Christmas season. All are welcome. We might even go check out the Christmas lights.

Thursday is the prayer blanket meeting. We meet at 5 p.m. We have three prayer blankets to stitch up at this time. We are always in need of fabric and thread donations if you are cleaning out your closets for more Christmas gifts. We also need machine embroidery of short Bible verses on pieces of fabric.

Sunday at 10 a.m. we will share in Java for Jesus. Join us for a light breakfast and fresh coffee. We also have an Adult Bible Study Class reading the book "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan. It has been wonderful so far, and the group attending has been heart-warming. The Explorer's Youth Sunday School Class will present "The Christmas Alphabet" during the 11 a.m. church service.

Upcoming events:
December 19: Presbyterian Women's Group will meet for Christmas Party and Bible study lesson.

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 7

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(Psalm 103:11)

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CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring at 6 p.m.
Jan. 3: Session meeting at 6 p.m.
Feb. 8-9: The Rev. Craig Holstedt will lead a needs assessment for the church congregation.

Forsan Baptist Church

We are continuing through a message series Sunday mornings titled, "Who Is Jesus?" Join us as we explore the many wonderful aspects of our Lord. Wednesday and Sunday evenings at 6, we are continuing an in-depth study of the Book of Revelation.

Approval for all sanctuary renovations came through last week, so a complete remodel is underway. Plans for this renovation phase will encompass the expansion of our stage area with the addition of a choir loft and moving the baptistery. We will also be raising the ceiling, installing a new sound system, replacing the carpet, dry-walling and texturing the interior, replacing windows and giving the interior an overall facelift. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of the progress.

Since we will be uprooted from our sanctuary for a few weeks, some of our Christmas programs will be taking place at the high school auditorium. Our youth and children's program will be Sunday morning at 10:50. Please join us for this community-wide celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Our church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday school begins at 9:50, with worship services at 10:50 and 6 p.m.

Wednesday youth activities have resumed and will continue throughout the school year. We will provide a meal and refreshments for these activities. Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m. Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

Spring Creek Fellowship

The Prison Ministry Angel Tree Party is tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A special guest is scheduled to make an appearance.

A blood drive is scheduled for Saturday from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sign up at the church or online at www.unitedbloodservices.org.

Movie Night is Saturday, at 6 p.m. The movie is "The Star of Bethlehem" by Rick Larson. It is a great movie about how all things on earth and in the heavens came together to fulfill the prophecy of Christ's birth. Admission is free. Popcorn and drinks will be available. Hope to see you there.

Our December sermon series, "Experience Christmas," will include: "The Willingness of Mary" — Luke 1:26-38; "The Courage of Joseph" — Matthew 1:18-25; "The Joy of the Shepherds" — Luke 2:1-20; "The Peace of Simeon" — Luke 2:22-32.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and "Cookie Giveaway" are scheduled for Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.

The Cookie Giveaway is a yearly event where we, as members of Spring Creek Fellowship, deliver homemade cookies as we leave candlelight to folks who have to work on Christmas Eve. If you know of someone who will be working Christmas Eve, let us know and we will bless them with some goodies!

The "Between the Lines" Women's Ministry Cookbooks are available. The cost is \$15. Call the church office to get a copy or for more details. These cookbooks make great Christmas gifts.

New Sunday school classes/Connection Groups will begin again in January.

Come check out classes with topic/subject-based studies ranging from six to nine weeks in length and relevant to today's Christian adventure. Classes are available for all ages and meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Big Spring Classical Academy is now in session with classes for Pre-K and kindergarten. Visit our website at <http://bigspringclassical.org> for more information.

The Big Spring Homeschool Educational Co-operative is offering classes for high school and junior high homeschool students. New classes are being planned for the semester starting in January.

Classes to begin Jan. 7 are American Sign Language, Art, Junior and Senior English, Math/Algebra, Drama, History of Christianity, Texas History, Music Theory, Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University for Teens, ACT Prep and Test and Human Anatomy and Physiology.

Weekly Happenings:

Sunday- 9:15-10:15 am-Sunday School/Connection Groups; 10:15-10:45 a.m., "Holy Grounds Café" is open with snacks and fellowship; 10:45 a.m.-noon, worship service. You can listen to recent sermons on our web page at www.springcreekfellowship.org; 5 p.m., girls Bible study.

Monday- 6:30-8:30 p.m., "Celebrate Recovery," women.

Tuesday- 1:45, Praying Effectively for the Lost; "Wings" Dance Academy meets for girls ages 4-12.

Wednesday- 5:30 p.m., fellowship meal; 6 p.m., Bible study and youth and children's activities; 6 p.m., Boy Scouts.

Thursday- 6:30-8:30 p.m., "Celebrate Recovery," men; 7 p.m., "Crazy Love" college age Bible study by Francis Chan.

Saturday- 7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast & Fellowship.

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 in Big Spring. (Across from Denny's). Contact us at (432)714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

"Every Member a Minister"-1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church would like to invite you to join us this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for worship, followed by the Word. Last week the title was "No Fear; No Retreat" and was taken from 2 Timothy 1:7. We discussed how fear can distort your view, discourage your outlook and be a distraction. This week, we look forward to hearing another powerful message.

Wednesday evenings from 5:50-6:50, CCC holds its Overcomers: Recovery & Restoration class, followed by Discipleship 101 Bible Study at 7. If you have ever or are currently struggling with addictions (substance, alcohol, food, etc.) this would be a great class to look into. We welcome all to come join us.

CCC Annual Christmas Caroling will be held Saturday at three local retirement living centers. The first stop will be at Parkplace Retirement Living at 4:30 p.m., then on to Marcy House and last stop will be Parkview Nursing & Rehab Center. We look forward to the beginning of a yearly tradition where we can honor the residents with Christmas songs.

CCC will be hosting its annual Christmas dinner Sunday, Dec. 23 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School cafeteria.

We welcome one and all to join us for a wonderful holiday feast, and amazing fellowship. If you would like to bring a side dish, or help with serving, contact us at the number below and we will get you in contact with our food service director. Thank you so much!

CCC offers ministries in the following areas: New Beginnings (Newborn to 18 months); Tiny Tots (19 months.- Kindergarten); Kovenant Kids (1st-6th grade); Chosen Generation (7th-12th grade); Covenant U - College Ministry (18-24 years.); Men's & Women's Ministries; and Marriage Enrichment.

CCC meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Discipleship 101 Bible Study and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship. (Sunday morning services are recorded, so if you'd like a free copy of a CD for those services, please see our Multimedia Dept.)

Mother's Lounge and Children Church are offered for both mid-week and Sunday services.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th Street, (on the corner of 12th and Owens St.) For more information, contact us at 264-0015, visit us on the web at www.cccbigspring.org or check out Covenant Connect on Facebook, Twitter or Myspace.

Coahoma First United Methodist Church

Come worship with us this Sunday. We are located at 401 N. Main. Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. for all ages and worship service begins at 11 a.m. with Pastor Sammy Espinosa leading the service.

Youth group meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. for students sixth through 12th grade.

Donations for the Coat Closet are going strong and many coats have already been given away. With each donation you will receive a complimentary card from the Coahoma Dairy Queen for an ice cream treat.

We will be having our Christmas service, "Lessons and Carols," this Sunday.

Our church office number is 432-394-4432 or call the mobile number at 432-270-1602. Contact us by email at coahomaumc@gmail.com and visit with us on facebook. We look forward to seeing and worshipping with you Sunday.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

Our pastor is Lannon Martin.

Our motto is "Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our lives."

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

We would love to have you join us for church on Sundays at 9 a.m. with breakfast treats following and Sunday school around 10:15.

Mid-week classes this week - soup supper at 5:30 p.m., Bible study at 6:15 p.m. and Advent Worship at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

George vonHassell will present the readings this week. This week's sermon reference is "Rejoice in

Proclamations of Christmas

Long ago, an American poet, Henry W. Longfellow, penned the words "I heard the bells on Christmas day." Compelled to write by the recent death of his wife and the war-time injury of his son, Longfellow wrote in despair, "There is no peace on earth." But as the chimes rang out and the bitter words flowed from his pen, the poet heard a "chant sublime" as the bells proclaimed "Peace on earth, good will to men."



BONNIE WHEAT

The bells of Christmas are still ringing. Some find merriment in the sound of jingling bells proclaiming the fantasy world of sleighs and reindeer. Others find cheerfulness in the sound of the Salvation Army bells tolling a season of sharing and caring. But many find joy in the crisp pealing of church bells announcing the birth of the Savior.

Today, the proclamations of Christmas are seen as well as

heard. The stars we place atop our trees are reminiscent of the star that guided the wise men of the Bible to Bethlehem in search of the new born king. Even the star-shaped red leaves of the poinsettia remind some of the star that proclaimed the birth of Christ.

Further more, the lights that we string around our homes are proclamations that Jesus is the "Light of the World." Christmas wreaths are declarations of the eternal love of God, and the holly that we see at Christmas is a reminder of the crown of thorns that Christ wore to the cross.

Even the colors of Christmas extol the story of the baby in the manger. The red represents the blood of Christ, and the green reminds us of the eternal life that his death on the cross made available to anyone who would receive it.

The angels we hang on our trees and place on our mantels at Christmas also remind us of the messengers who brought the news of the birth of Christ to the shepherds. Even though the Bible doesn't say that they were singers, we associate their song of praise with the birth of Christ.

The Scripture says that an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before the shepherds who were frightened by the glory of the Lord shining around them. As they quaked with fear, the angel spoke: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11 NASB).

The proclamations of Christmas are everywhere, but sometimes in our despair, we like Mr. Longfellow fail to understand the message that we hear.

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

the Lord."

Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts."

A new website offered by The Lutheran Hour Ministries is available. The site, www.jcplayzone.com, promises fun and Christian educational based games and videos. Fun for all ages and offered in several languages, this safe internet site is something to check out.

First Assembly of God

First Assembly of God will be presenting a Christmas program Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. It will be called God's Gift. Everyone is invited no admission will be charged.

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News in brief

Pentagon to send Patriot missiles, 400 troops to Turkey to help NATO defense against Syria

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (AP) — The Pentagon says it will send Patriot air defense missiles and 400 troops to Turkey as part of a NATO force meant to protect Turkish territory from potential Syrian missile attack.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta signed a deployment order Friday en route to Turkey from Afghanistan.

The order calls for 400 US soldiers to operate two batteries of Patriots at undisclosed locations in Turkey, Little told reporters flying with Panetta.

Turkey is a founding member of NATO and requested that the alliance provide Patriots. They will be sent by NATO members Germany and the Netherlands as well as the U.S. for an undetermined period.

Kerry vaults to top of list to lead State as Rice declines, Hagel front-runner for Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic Sen. John Kerry, who unsuccessfully sought the presidency in 2004 and has pined for the job of top diplomat, vaulted to the head of President Barack Obama's short list of secretary of state candidates after U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice suddenly withdrew from consideration to avoid a contentious confirmation fight with emboldened Republicans.

The exit of Rice and elevation of Kerry shook up Washington on Thursday and was coupled with the potential for even bolder second-term changes in Obama's national security team next month. Chuck Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska, emerged as the front-runner to serve as defense secretary.

The possible selection of Kerry and Hagel would put two decorated Vietnam War veterans — one Navy, the other Army — at State and the Pentagon.

Official word on replacements for Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in an Obama Cabinet remake could come as early as next week. The choice of Kerry would open a Massachusetts Senate seat, boosting the prospects for recently defeated Republican Sen. Scott Brown to win back a job in Washington.

Kerry, a senator for nearly three decades and the current Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, has won praise from his Senate Democratic and Republican colleagues and should be confirmed easily, if nominated. He has been Obama's envoy to hot spots such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, the administration's point man in 2010 on a nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia and was a stand-in for Republican Mitt Romney during Obama's debate preparation.

Breaching the 'fiscal cliff' may clear path for Congress to reach January tax-spending accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — To get to "yes" on a "fiscal cliff" accord, Congress and the White House first might have to get to "no."

That is, an impasse that sends them over the cliff by missing their Dec. 31 deadline to pass a major deficit-reduction plan.

Such a breach would immediately change the political dynamics, making it easier for many lawmakers — especially Republicans — to agree to a second-chance compromise in the new year.

This scenario strikes a good number of Washing-

ton insiders as irresponsible and improbable — who knows how the markets will react? But others argue it will be easier to round up the congressional votes needed for a big compromise if the deadline passes and lawmakers rush back to Washington next month under a starkly new political reality.

The new landscape would allow President Barack Obama to face his liberal base — and, more importantly, let House Republicans face their conservative constituents — and say in essence: "See, I did the best I possibly could, and it didn't work. The other side didn't blink. Now everyone's taxes have gone up, and it's time for compromise."

AP-GfK Poll: Belief in global warming rises with thermometers, even among science doubters

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 4 out of 5 Americans now think temperatures are rising and that global warming will be a serious problem for the United States if nothing is done about it, a new Associated Press-GfK poll finds.

Belief and worry about climate change are inching up among Americans in general, but concern is growing faster among people who don't often trust scientists on the environment. In follow-up interviews, some of those doubters said they believe their own eyes as they've watched thermometers rise, New York City subway tunnels flood, polar ice melt and Midwestern farm fields dry up.

Overall, 78 percent of those surveyed said they thought temperatures were rising and 80 percent called it a serious problem. That's up slightly from 2009, when 75 percent thought global warming was occurring and just 73 percent thought it was a serious problem. In general, U.S. belief in global warming, according to AP-GfK and other polls, has fluctuated over the years but has stayed between about 70 and 85 percent.

The biggest change in the polling is among people who trust scientists only a little or not at all. About 1 in 3 of the people surveyed fell into that category.

Within that highly skeptical group, 61 percent now say temperatures have been rising over the past 100 years. That's a substantial increase from 2009, when the AP-GfK poll found that only 47 percent of those with little or no trust in scientists believed the world was getting warmer.

Russia's Foreign Ministry denies its Syria point man talked of Assad's impending defeat

MOSCOW (AP) — A day after a senior Russian official was widely quoted as saying that Syria's President Bashar Assad was losing control, Russia's Foreign Ministry on Friday rolled back on his assessment by insisting that Moscow's stance on the crisis hasn't shifted.

Russia's pointman on Syria, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, was quoted by three Russian news agencies, two of them state-owned, telling a Kremlin advisory body on Thursday that "there is a trend for the government to progressively lose control over an increasing part of the territory," adding that "an opposition victory can't be excluded."

But the Foreign Ministry insisted in a statement Friday that Bogdanov only was referring to the claims of the "Syrian opposition and its foreign sponsors forecasting their quick victory over the regime in Damascus."

"In that context, Bogdanov again confirmed Russia's principled stance that a political settlement in Syria has no alternative," the ministry's spokesman, Alexander Lukashevich said in the statement.

Bogdanov was speaking before the Public Chamber, a Kremlin advisory body. His statement quoted by Russian news agencies marked the first official acknowledgment from Moscow that Assad's regime may fall and was certain to be seen as a betrayal by the Syrian ruler, further eroding his grip on power amid the opposition successes on the ground and a recognition of the Syrian opposition by the United States and other leading world powers.

Rocket shows North Korea's young leader willing to take risks, defy international criticism

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — A triumphant North Korea staged a mass rally of soldiers and civilians Friday to glorify the country's young ruler, who took a big gamble this week in sending a satellite into orbit in defiance of international warnings.

Wednesday's rocket launch came just eight months after a similar attempt ended in an embarrassing public failure, and just under a year after Kim Jong Un inherited power following the death of his father.

The surprising success of the launch may have earned Kim global condemnation, but at home, the gamble paid off, at least in the short term, projecting the 20-something Kim to his people as powerful, capable and determined.

Pyeongyang says the rocket put a crop and weather monitoring satellite into orbit. The rest of the world, however, sees it as a thinly-disguised test of banned long-range missile technology. And the fresh round of U.N. sanctions it could bring would increase his country's international isolation and potentially strengthen the hand of the only entity that poses a threat to his rule: the military.

To his people, the launch's success, 14 years after North Korea's first attempt, shows more than a little of the gambling spirit in the third Kim to rule North Korea since it became a country in 1948.

Health care overhaul could reduce treatment options for nation's 11 million illegal immigrants

ALAMO, Texas (AP) — For years, Sonia Limas would drag her daughters to the emergency room whenever they fell sick. As an illegal immigrant, she had no health insurance, and the only place she knew to seek treatment was the hospital — the most expensive setting for those covering the cost.

The family's options improved somewhat a decade ago with the expansion of community health clinics, which offered free or low-cost care with help from the federal government. But President Barack Obama's health care overhaul threatens to roll back some of those services if clinics and hospitals are overwhelmed with newly insured patients and can't afford to care for as many poor families.

To be clear, Obama's law was never intended to help Limas and an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants like her. Instead, it envisions that 32 million uninsured Americans will get access to coverage by 2019. Because that should mean fewer uninsured patients showing up at hospitals, the Obama program slashed the federal reimbursement for uncompensated care.

But in states with large illegal immigrant populations, the math may not work, especially if lawmakers don't expand Medicaid, the joint state-federal health program for the poor and disabled.

When the reform has been fully implemented, illegal immigrants will make up the nation's second-largest population of uninsured, or about 25 percent. The only larger group will be people who qualify for insurance but fail to enroll, according to a 2012 study by the Washington-based Urban Institute.

Company that owned ill-fated Jenni Rivera plane under investigation by DEA

PHOENIX (AP) — The company that owns a luxury jet that crashed and killed Mexican pop superstar Jenni Rivera is under investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the agency seized two of its planes earlier this year as part of the ongoing probe.

DEA spokeswoman Lisa Webb Johnson confirmed Thursday the planes owned by Las Vegas-based Starwood Management were seized in Texas and Arizona, but she declined to discuss details of the case. The agency also has subpoenaed all the company's records, including any correspondence it has had with a former Tijuana mayor who U.S. law enforcement officials have long suspected has ties to organized crime.

The man widely believed to be behind the aviation company is an ex-convict named Christian Esquino, 50, who has a long and checkered legal past. Corporate records list his sister-in-law as the company's only officer, but insurance companies that cover some of the firm's planes say in court documents that the woman is merely a front and that Esquino is the one in charge.

Esquino's legal woes date back decades. He pleaded guilty to a fraud charge that stemmed from a major drug investigation in Florida in the early 1990s and most recently was sentenced to two years in federal prison in a California aviation fraud case. Esquino, a Mexican citizen, was deported upon his release. Esquino and various other companies he has either been involved with or owns have also been sued for failing to pay millions of dollars in loans, according to court records.

The 43-year-old California-born Rivera died at the peak of her career when the plane she was traveling in nose-dived into the ground while flying from the northern Mexican city of Monterrey to the central city of Toluca early Sunday morning. She was perhaps the most successful female singer in grupero, a male-dominated Mexico regional style, and had branched out into acting and reality television.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand in the North-South game. You are in a contract of 3NT. The bidding was:

WEST EAST
 ♠ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand in the North-South game. You are in a contract of 3NT. The bidding was:

WEST EAST
 ♠ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

3. The first problem is with the 10 of hearts. The declarer has a choice of playing the 10 of hearts to the king or to the queen. Which is the better play? Explain your answer.

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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.

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www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Boy's Basketball

- Stanton at Big Spring, Varsity, 7:30 p.m.; J.V., 5 p.m.; 9th, 5 p.m.
- Hermleigh at Coahoma, Varsity, 8 p.m.; J.V., TBA.
- Forsan at Roscoe, Varsity and J.V., TBA.
- Irion County at Garden City, Varsity, 8 p.m.; J.V., 5 p.m.

Girl's basketball

- Stanton at Big Spring, Varsity, 7:30 p.m.; J.V., 6:15 p.m.; 9th, 5 p.m.
- Hermleigh at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Roscoe, Varsity and J.V., TBA.
- Blackwell at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.
- Borden County at Grady, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Boy's Basketball

- Sands vs. Jayton at Lubbock Estacado, TBA.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com

Lillard scores 29, Blazers blast Spurs

AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — Trail Blazers rookie Damian Lillard says he saw Portland's victory over San Antonio coming, and not just during the course of the game. "I think this whole week we've been locked in as a team. It had that feel," Lillard said. "Guys were excited to play."

Lillard scored a career-high 29 points in Portland's 98-90 win over the Spurs on Thursday night. It was the second consecutive loss for San Antonio, which has dropped just six games this season.

Lillard, the sixth pick in last June's NBA draft, added seven rebounds and six assists. He has scored at least 20 points in 13 games this season. "I think I've had a few better games even

though this is the most points I've scored," he said. "I think this was the best I've done in a game we really needed."

And that needed win came in a nationally televised game against the Spurs, who are second only to Oklahoma City in the Western Conference.

San Antonio trailed by as many as 12 points in the second half but Manu Ginobili's layup over the deficit to 89-85. J.J. Hickson answered for the Blazers with a running hook that made it 91-85 with 2:36 left.

Danny Green hit a 3-pointer to pull the Spurs closer again, but Portland clung to the lead and Nicolas Batum — who has been bothered by a sore back — made a 3 that gave Portland a 96-90 advantage

See **SPURS**, Page 15

Hamilton latest loss for Rangers as slugger signs with rival Angels

AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Rangers general manager Jon Daniels was talking before lunch Thursday about the team still wanting to resign Josh Hamilton.

Just more than an hour later, after getting a call from Hamilton's agent, Daniels was telling the same group of reporters that the five-time All-Star slugger and 2010 AL MVP had agreed to a deal with the AL West rival Los Angeles Angels.

So far, it has been that kind of offseason for Texas.

Zack Greinke, the top free-agent pitcher also targeted by the Rangers, chose the Los Angeles Dodgers instead last weekend.

"Now we go back and look at some of our other options," Daniels said after getting word that Hamilton was suddenly gone, too.

"We've talked all along that we want to play some of our own guys. We were hoping to do it alongside Josh, and I liked the idea of our young players playing with some of our established guys," the GM said. "We still have a very good nucleus, but it is what it is. He's a big part of the club the last few years, and now he's on the other side."

All-Star right-hander James Shields, another pitcher Texas likely would have been interested in pursuing in a trade, was instead dealt from Tampa Bay

See **SLUGGER**, Page 16



HERALD file photo/Tony Claxton
Big Spring's Chazzell Robinson gets fouled as he takes a shot during a game against San Angelo Lake View earlier in the season. The Steers will host Stanton today at 7:30 p.m. at Steer Gym.

Steelers next up in pivotal meeting after emotional week for Cowboys

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys have a game to play. Again. Their playoff hopes could ride on the outcome. Again. Their opponent is an AFC North team fighting for the same thing. Again.

This time, the Cowboys will be eight days removed from finding out about the death of practice squad linebacker Jerry Brown instead of less than 24 hours. They know defensive tackle Josh Brent will miss the rest of the season after being charged with intoxication manslaughter in the one-car accident that killed Brown.

"This is not a one-game thing," said fullback Lawrence

Vickers, who didn't hide his emotions before, during or after last weekend's 20-19 win at Cincinnati. "We have a task. Regardless of what obstacles or what tragedies and what steps we have, we still have to protect the goal at the end of the day."

There will be one difference Sunday. This isn't just any AFC North opponent. It's the Pittsburgh Steelers renewing one of the NFL's best rivalries for the first time at Cowboys Stadium, where they lost the Super Bowl to Green Bay two years ago.

"I can imagine that it is an important game for the fans for obvious reasons," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "The rich history that the two franchises hold and how they interacted some 30, 40

years ago is something that is timeless and special."

Like Terry Bradshaw before him, Ben Roethlisberger knows how the beat the Cowboys (7-6). He's 2-0 against Dallas, including a 24-20 win at old Texas Stadium in 2004, when he was 13-1 as a rookie. He has two Super Bowl titles, but right now is just trying to get back into game shape in his second start after missing three games with a sprained right shoulder.

Roethlisberger threw for 285 yards and three touchdowns in his return, but most of that came after the Steelers had fallen behind 27-3 to San Diego in a 34-24 loss. Pittsburgh (7-6) has jeopardized its playoff hopes by

See **COWBOYS**, Page 16

Texans prepare for talented rookie Luck

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The last time the Houston Texans faced an inexperienced quarterback they forced second-year pro Jake Locker into five turnovers and sacked him six times in a win over the Titans.

Two weeks later, they get a shot at Andrew Luck, the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft last April, and they can clinch the AFC South title with a win.

Luck has thrown for 3,792 yards for the Colts, but leads the AFC in interceptions with 18, and has lost five fumbles. He's also been sacked 32 times, and will now have to deal with AFC sacks leader J.J. Watt.

"We need more sacks," said Watt, who

has a single-season franchise record with 16½. "I need to rush the passer better. As a defensive line, we need more pressure and we need to bat some more balls. We'll put it on us up front."

Coach Gary Kubiak noted that Luck is challenging because even if the defense gets to him for a sack, his size (6-foot 4, 234 pounds) makes him difficult to bring down.

"It's got to be a big conscious effort for us to keep him contained, and then when we do have our opportunities you got to really work to bring him down," Kubiak said. "You can make just an incredible highlight reel of people just hanging on to him and him still making plays."

Kubiak likened Luck to Ben Roethlisberger because of his size, and said that when he was studying the draft last year he thought he was the best quarterback to come out since his predecessor Peyton Manning.

"He's sure as heck hasn't disappointed," Kubiak said. "He's been excellent this year. I told the team he's playing like an eight-, nine-year football player. He's handling a ton of offense."

Despite his development, Luck hasn't found a way to limit his turnovers. He has nine interceptions in the last four games.

Watt has batted down 15 passes this season. He's the only player since the league began tracking passes de-

fensed in 1991 to have at least 15 sacks and 15 passes defended in a single season.

Some teams have used brooms or other sticks in practice to try and replicate what it's like to throw against Watt when preparing for the Texans.

"I've seen ladders, brooms, everything, and balls still get batted in games," Ariens said. "They're so good at disengaging when they're not going to get to the quarterback and getting in that throwing lane that it's really hard to replicate."

The Texans plan to use a variety of tactics to try and make Luck uncomfortable on Sunday. But from what they've seen from him so far, they know that will be difficult.

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DOWN SIZING Sale: 2413 South Anderson Road, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9:00-5:00. Windberg prints, saddles, horse clocks, oak furniture, Montarray western ware, Fred Roberts china, misc. items. Call (432)267-3547.

GARAGE SALE: 1004 N. Lamesa Hwy, Saturday and Sunday 8-5. Home decorations, Christmas decorations, furniture, recliners, Reduced Price for washer and dryer, desiner purses, women and childrens clothing.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 7:30-1:00, 2304 Allendale. King size, queen size and twin mattresses. Microwave, small dorm room size frig, interior doors, knick-knacks, coffee table and end table.

INSIDE MOVING SALE: 1605 Indian Hills, Saturday 7:00am-2:00pm. Clothes, shoes, boots, cookie jars, purses, jewelry, furniture, tools, decorative items & lots more. Cash Only!!

INSIDE SALE: 210 East 11th Place, Saturday 8:30am-?, Xmas items, toys, jewelry, dolls collectibles, steel toe boots, purses, and lots of misc.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale: 2302 Cindy, Friday & Saturday 8am-5pm. Lots of furniture, baby items, plus size clothing, dishes, knick-knacks, pictures, tools, and lots more.

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\$30,000 SIGN-ON BONUS
NEED TRANSPORT/BOBTAIL
Driver for fuel deliveries. Starting Salary \$23.00 per hr., all full medical benefits paid, retirement plan, vacation and sick leave. Must have CDL, hazmat & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels/ Chevron, Big Spring. (432)263-0033.

COMET CLEANERS Full-time Counter help, Apply in person at 1500 East Marcy.

Help Wanted

(Two) Full-Time CNA'S
7a-7p shift
Full-Time RN CHARGE Nurse
7p-7a shift
Needed

Martin County Hospital District in Stanton, Texas is a Rural 18-bed critical access hospital with a 4-bed ER that is seeking dedicated, energetic, compassionate employee's to work in a team-nursing med-surg/ER environment. Contact Paula Dority @ 432-607-3227 or pdority@martinch.org or apply in person at 600 Interstate 20 East, Stanton, TX.

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE
Department taking applications for Oil Change Tech and Porter Apply In Person @ Pollard 1501 East 4th Street, Big Spring, TX.

Check this one!

COOKING POSITION
8:30pm-1:30pm, Mon. through Fri. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

DAY'S INN needs Front Desk and Housekeeping person. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

EXPERIENCE FARM Hand Wanted! Call after 7:00p.m. (432)684-5418.

EXPERIENCED WAIT-STAFF needed for day and evening shift. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please.

FAST GROWING Wireless Company needing Assistant Manager. Email resume to melissa@mobileadiction.com or call 806-433-3919.

TOP JOBS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS Life Insurance Company is actively recruiting for a Select Producer who will be representing FDLIC and an area Funeral Home to discuss preplanning with client families. We are looking for a self driven individual who has the ability to inspire, motivate and consistently execute results. The ideal candidate must have proven track record of successful sales, excellent communication and strong interpersonal abilities. Current Texas preneed insurance license or ability to obtain within 30 days as well as a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Excellent income potential, benefits options, 401(k) and lead generation. To build a successful and rewarding career in sales and a confidential interview, email your resume to directconnect@funerallife.com or visit our website at www.funerallife.com

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KNOW HIRING Blade and Dozer Operators. Benefits available. Salary DOE. Contact J.A.L. Contractors @ (432)264-7828.

Help Wanted

HIRING EXPERIENCED CDL drivers. 1-2 yrs experience required, with clean driving record. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 Service Service Rd., Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604 for more information.

HIRING EXPERIENCED dozer and maintainer operators. 2 yrs. minimum heavy equipment experienced required. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Valid DL required. Apply in person at 9400 S. Service Rd., Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604 for more info...

Check this one!

INFANT & TODDLER POSITIONS 12:00pm-6:30pm. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

TOP JOBS

Join our professional cleaning team! Advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies and uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call **J. Williams Management** at 432-699-2090

KITCHEN HELP & CARHOPS-16 Yrs. old or older. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest & Dependable. No experience necessary will train. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!

LAQUINTA INN & SUITES-- Hiring Full-time Housekeeping and Full-time Maintenance. Must be able to work weekends. Apply at 1102 West I-20. No phone calls please.

TOP JOBS

LOOKING FOR Front Desk Clerks & Housekeeping. Apply at Motel 6, 600 West I-20. No Phone Calls Please.

MAINTENANCE TECHS needed for property in Big Spring. Both full and part time positions available. Applicants must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. Fax resume to (432)264-1761 or apply in person at Knollwood Heights 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NOW ACCEPTING Resumes For Plant Operator @ Natural Gas Processing Plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Excellent Salary, Paid Vacation, Medical Insurance, and 401k. Please Send Resume To: Plant Supervisor 11703 E. FM 846 Coahoma, TX 79511 Or Fax (432)399-4290 Or Email carcher@wtggas.com

OPENINGS FOR Pharmacy Technician, Maintenance Positions- daytime & overnight. Apply online www.walmart.com/apply

PART-TIME KITCHEN Help needed for Christian Pre-School. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd. No Phone Calls Please.

Help Wanted

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NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING WAIT STAFF. MUST HAVE SUPER STAR PERSONALITY AND GREAT WORK ETHICS. MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK DAYS, NIGHTS, AND WEEKENDS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

POSITION OPENINGS
Coahoma ISD is accepting applications for the following two positions: Cafeteria Manager and Custodian. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 600 North Main St, Coahoma TX or at coahomaisd.com Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Coahoma ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

TOP JOBS

RECOVER HOME Therapy is seeking a **certified Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist** to serve in the Big Spring area. **Please contact Steven Sanchez @ 432-889-3916.**

ROLLING PLAINS Physicians Office in Sweetwater has a position for a full-time X-Ray Technician ARRT certified. Schedule M-F, no call. Benefit package includes PTO, Holiday Pay, 401k, Health Insurance. Interested parties may fax resume to (325)235-5925 or contact TWC for application.

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed
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(432)520-1573

SHOP HAND NEEDED- Must be able to read a tape measure. Monday thru Friday 6:00am-4:30pm. Call (432)267-4700.

SHOP/FIELD MECHANICS
Basin Engine and Pump Shop and Field Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Tools, Uniforms provided. Benefits package. Pay DOE. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to shawn@basinengine.com Office 432-570-1114. Applications may be filled out at 1914 South County Road. 1083-Midland, TX.

SUBSTITUTES AND part-time caregivers needed for busy Christian preschool. Apply in person at New Hope Christina School 118 Cedar Rd.

Check this one!

VAN DRIVER 3:00pm-4:30pm, Mon. through Fri. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

Help Wanted

West Texas Gas, Inc. has an immediate opening for a natural gas liquids (NGL) Pipeline Operator for the Big Spring/Midland area. Primary responsibilities require experience in pipeline operations including measurement, regulation, pump stations, line locates, routine maintenance, computer skills and cathodic protection systems. Duties also include pipeline regulatory compliance responsibilities. Benefits include group health insurance & 401K Plan. Salary DOE. Interested applicant can forward resume to West Texas Gas, Inc., 211 North Colorado Midland, Tx 79701 or e-mail to employment@westtexasgas.com

WORLD ACCEPTANCE Corp
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The Big Spring, TX branch of World Finance is now accepting applications for a motivated individual looking for a career with a company that offers room for advancement. Promotion to Manager possible within 15 months.

Interested applicants should be self motivated, possess the ability to learn rapidly, have great people skills and be goal oriented.

Management experience helpful but not necessary. Complete training provided. High school diploma, dependable vehicle and clean background check required. Competitive entry level starting salary along with full benefit package.

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SEASONED MESQUITE Firewood for Sale: \$165.00 for half cord. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

Miscellaneous

AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for hands on Aviation Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified. Job Placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance. 877-803-8630

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3202 AUBURN, 3 bdr, 1 bath, CH/A, tile floors. \$975/month \$900/deposit. Call (432)816-1255.

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CRMWD

Colorado River Municipal Water District

The Colorado River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions in the Big Spring Area.

Financial Accountant - Assist with the maintenance of the district's financial records, accounting systems and processes necessary to manage the district's business. Including billing of accounts receivable, maintain district banking and reconciliations. Maintain fixed assets. Strong computer skills required including Microsoft Word and Excel. Accounting degree preferred or 3-5 yrs experience in related field.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341, or our website www.crmwd.org



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If this sounds like the opportunity for you the responsibilities would include working with a highly trained team to provide daily living skills training and supports to clients. West Texas Centers has part-time openings up to 32 hours weekly starting at \$9.30 an hour. Full time positions are also available with salary \$9.93 per hour plus benefits. Full time positions offer a full benefit package to include health insurance, dental, generous paid personal time off and a great retirement program.

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~ Dear Margo ~

When Sticky Fingers Are a Sticky Wicket

Dear Margo: Two sons and their wives visited us for Christmas last year. We have a large three-story home and live five to seven hours away from our children. I decorated the stairs leading to the second floor with three framed Christmas embroideries from our Serbian daughter-in-law. I removed three



MARGO HOWARD

expensive, framed Chinese pictures (from the other son) and carefully placed them together in a closet.

When Christmas was over, I went to put the Chinese pictures back up, but one was missing! I have searched every corner in this house and have not found it.

We are sure our second light-fingered son stole it. My heart is broken that he and his wife would be so bold as to steal something so large and personal while staying with us.

What do I do? If I confront them, I may never see my granddaughter again. But I can't let it go, and here come the holidays! — *Forlorn*

Real Estate for Sale

BY OWNER: 2715 Rebecca. 3/2, 2 car garage, total electric, corner lot, sprinkler yards, 12x18 shop/stg, 12x24 carport in back. Asking \$115,000.00, Call 432-263-8016, 213-4984.

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Dear For: When you refer to your "light-fingered son," there is more than a suggestion that he is known for this behavior and has done it before. Kleptomaniac or not, the arrow of guilt points nowhere else. You clearly put the Chinese pictures away together, and one was missing.

It would have been good if you had dealt with this earlier, but better late than never. I would call him and say you have done a very careful reconstruction of the situation and, given

his history, you would like the Chinese picture back. If there is denial, a reminder of his history is in order. Dealing with him is better than "them," and I don't think they would withhold your granddaughter. And for this visit, count the silver. Merry Christmas. — *Margo, directly*

Another Pushy M-I-L

Dear Margo: I'm sure you've heard this a million times, but I don't know how to deal with my mother-in-law.

She's a master manipulator who pits her own children against each other, and she's a know-it-all. I planned a wedding with my guy in mind, choosing all of the things he would like.

I never wanted a big wedding, but I did it for him. She bad-mouthed me all weekend to anyone who would listen, and got so drunk she had to be carried out. Her own friends apologized for her behavior, but she denies anything ever happened.

Now I'm pregnant, and she's on my case about my choice to breastfeed. (She didn't, so obviously that is what everyone should do.)

When I tell her it's a personal decision, she tells me my mood swings are making me cranky. I have been lucky enough to have a wonderful pregnancy so far.

I'm still working full time, cooking and cleaning for my husband,

and life is good. But now I can't bear to pick up the phone anymore. Talking to her is like talking to a brick wall.

My husband is supportive, but his position is: "That's just how Mom is." She insists on staying with us when the baby is born because I obviously have no idea what I'm doing. I just can't take any more, and I'm ready to cut her off. What is my next step? — *Upset*

Dear Up: Because your husband sounds mostly supportive, take the bit in your teeth, and tell the battleaxe that your own mother is coming (if she is alive) or that you've arranged for some help. To reinforce your do-not-show-up dictum, have your husband buttress the edict with a phone call of his own. If push comes to shove, be prepared to lay it on the line that you and your husband are running your lives, not she. I do not believe in being held hostage by pushy people, parents included. — *Margo, independently*

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

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Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

apartment, it was a step in the right direction. But whenever the chips are down, he goes right back to his family. This is not unusual, but if it's a long-term pattern, it could prevent him from making any commitment to you. Until Joe is ready to become independent, the two of you don't have much of a future. But you also seem overly focused on affluent vs. working class. If you want someone more ambitious, look elsewhere.

Dear Annie: I'm a 54-year-old single woman and a part-time college professor. I have three grown, successful children.

At the time I met my boyfriend, "Joe," I was living in a nice boardinghouse in an affluent area.

Joe, 63, was divorced and for five years had been living with two of his sisters in the old family home in a working-class neighborhood. Joe had a great job as a contractor.

After a year, my friends and I finally convinced Joe to move out of the family house, and we got an apartment together.

Life was great until I found out he was giving the rent money to his youngest son, 24. My income alone wouldn't cover the rent, and we were evicted. Joe moved back to the family nest. I was not invited and was left homeless.

After six months, I got back on my feet. Joe wanted to repair our relationship and got an apartment in the city. Meanwhile, his eldest son and his daughter (along with her baby) moved into the family house, although they both have good jobs.

After a year in his apartment, Joe lost his job and moved back in with his sisters.

I begged him to find a place where we could live together, but he made excuses about the money. I think the problem is that the familial need to live together is permanently instilled. I love him, and he says he loves me. What should I do? — From a Boardinghouse

Dear Boarding: When Joe found his own

Dear Annie: Would you please settle an etiquette question? When one hosts a party and guests bring a dish to share, do they take home whatever is left over, or do the hosts get to keep it?

I was taught that what one brings to a party is left with the hosts. Now we wonder whether this is correct, because we recently moved, and all of our new friends pack up whatever remains and take it home with them. — Wondering in Maine

Dear Maine: If all the guests are asked to bring a dish because the dinner is potluck, they may take their leftovers home. Guests who bring a dish or a bottle of wine as a hostess gift, shared or not, should definitely leave it. The only exception is when the hosts do not want the leftovers and ask that people please take food home with them. That said, however, if the custom within your group of friends is that everyone brings a dish and they each take their leftovers home, it's best to cooperate.

Dear Annie: This letter is in response to "Grateful Mama of Little One," who wanted to know the proper way to ask that no toys be given at her 1-year-old's birthday party.

Although I agree that birthday invitations should not come with "wish lists," saying "no toys, please" is a courtesy.

As someone who spends a great deal of time selecting the perfect gift, I would feel miffed if I discovered the child's mother had marched the

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gift right back to the store. There is no harm in putting "no toys" on the invitation. Everyone may be grateful. — Grand Island, Neb.

Dear Grand: A gift is just that and should not be dictated. But we do like the idea of parents creating a "theme party," where guests are asked to bring a book or another item to be donated.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Flourless chocolate cake can set a decadent mood

By ALISON LADMAN
Associated Press

You want something rich and decadent for the holidays. Something chocolate. Something that will impress. Something that really screams celebration.

But you don't want to spend hours making it. The answer? A flourless chocolate cake. It's like a baked truffle — simple, yet sensational enough to impress your guests. All you have to do is dress it up with whipped cream and fresh berries. Be sure to cut small slices from this; it really is amazingly rich.

FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE CAKE
Start to finish: 1 hour, plus cooling
Servings: 16

- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) unsalted butter
- 12 ounces bittersweet chocolate bits
- 3/4 cup strong brewed coffee
- 6 eggs
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons brandy or rum
- Whipped cream, to serve
- Fresh berries or shaved chocolate, to serve

Heat the oven to 350 F. Coat an 8-inch cake pan with cooking spray. Line the bottom of the pan with a piece of parchment paper cut to fit. Set the cake pan in a larger baking dish, such as a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.

In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the

chocolate bits until completely melted and smooth. Stir in the coffee.

In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the eggs, brown sugar, cocoa powder, salt and brandy for 2 to 3 minutes, or until slightly thickened. Beat in the chocolate-butter mixture. The batter should resemble a thick pudding. Pour the batter into the cake pan, jiggling the pan to settle the batter so that it's level.

Place the larger pan with the cake pan in it into the oven. Pour hot water into the larger pan, being careful not to get any water on the cake batter. Add enough water to bring it halfway up the sides of the cake pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until the cake is slightly puffed and set in the middle.

Carefully remove the pan from the oven; be careful not to splash the hot water. Remove the cake pan from the water bath and allow the cake to cool fully in the pan. Place a serving plate over the cake pan and invert so that the pan is on top of the serving plate. Gently lift the cake pan off, then peel away the parchment paper.

Serve topped with whipped cream and fresh berries or chocolate shavings.

Nutrition information per serving: 340 calories; 250 calories from fat (74 percent of total calories); 28 g fat (16 g saturated; 0.5 g trans fats); 115 mg cholesterol; 23 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 18 g sugar; 5 g protein; 40 mg sodium.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Alison Ladman is a recipe developer for the AP. Follow her on Twitter at https://twitter.com/CrustAndCrumbCo

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Moon Waxes Un-poetic

The Capricorn Moon has nothing against poetry and song, and yet such frivolity is not a top priority. There's so much serious work to be accomplished between now and the end of the year! Tomorrow brings a Venus transit and thus a change of heart. Diligently tend to the work that's dear to your heart today as though it's your last chance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It will be challenging to strike the right balance between your personal and professional life unless you pick up the pace at work. Getting everything done in time to leave work at a decent time will make for a happy personal life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In the morning, it will be difficult to recognize the excellent circumstances you're in. But once you see where the real opportunities lie, you'll feel spoiled for choice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a difference between being very direct and being tactless. You'll deliver a sharp message with a kind touch — a skill you'll be admired and possibly employed for.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be successful as you execute a negative imitation — in other words, you'll do the exact opposite from what someone else does to terrific effect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Scientists widely accept the theory that the universe happened, though few have a theory as to why. If you can supply a "why" for the things you cause in your part of the universe, you'll be ahead of the game.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're generally even tempered, so when you do speak passionately, as you will today in an impressive outburst, people listen and



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

give your sentiments great importance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you could take another person's pain and feel it instead, you would. But even the greatest love doesn't allow for this. However, you will be a help. Life is easier for someone because you're in it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Choose your sacrifices carefully. Being at your healthy best is also what's best for your people. Caring for yourself is an expression of gratitude to everyone around you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a generous mood, as usual. As your sign mate Sir Winston Churchill suggested, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have gumption. You've applied it, you know what it is and what it feels like to possess. Many do not know and haven't experienced such a quality yet and cannot be blamed for the lack.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The same thin line that's between love and hate runs between romance and annoyance. Give others the benefit of the doubt as you interpret gestures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your loyalties are many, but hopefully not so many that you don't have time left for yourself. Right now, it is crucial to spend a few hours alone, doing only what pleases you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 14). Your tastes become even more refined as you are exposed to quality experiences in the next 10 weeks. Intellectual pursuits and tests will be featured at the top of the year. The one who stimulates your mind will steal your heart. You take control of your environment in March when moves and changes happen. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 21, 44, 39 and 25.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: The activities that you find most engaging are also the

luckiest for you, especially if they involve other people. You'll meet a kindred spirit while following your bliss. TAURUS: Your smile fills up someone's senses. GEMINI: Take your time in romantic matters — what's the rush? CANCER: You don't have all the answers, but you have all the answers you need to make love strong. LEO: You take the time to listen, and this sets you apart from the others. VIRGO: Share those big dreams — that you dare to dream them speaks of your healthy self-esteem. LIBRA: What you want matters. You'll make requests — assertively but not aggressively. You'll strike perfect balance. SCORPIO: Your supportive efforts should be much appreciated. If not, consider that you may be giving to the wrong person. SAGITTARIUS: You're on a hot streak. Ask for exactly what you want. CAPRICORN: There are but a few prospects who will meet your high standards. Seek those few. AQUARIUS: Someone will take your harmless flirting quite seriously. PISCES: How you express your desire will make a huge difference. A rose, by any other name, is a totally different flower.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Sagittarius and Capricorn are each strong in their own right but it's not a rigid kind of strength. Each possesses the flexibility needed to jump on to the other's wavelength. Let Capricorn make the plans this weekend, as this sign's discerning tastes and organizational skills will contribute to relaxation, comfort and romance. All Sagittarius has to do is relax and let natural charm shine through.

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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Table with 18 columns (channel names like KMID, UNI, KPEJ, etc.) and 24 rows (time slots from 5:30 PM to 1:30 AM) listing various TV programs and movies.

DENNIS THE MENACE



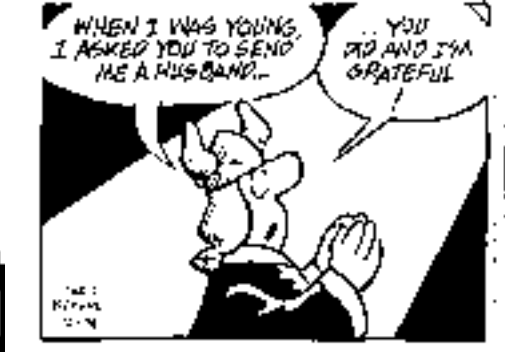
"SHOULDN'T YOU BE SELLING ONLY ONE OF THESE?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"It'll be a lot happier once it gets its costume on."

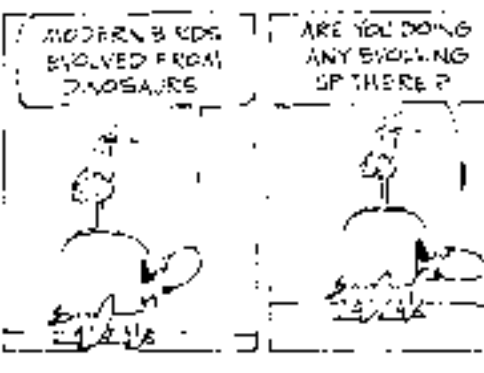
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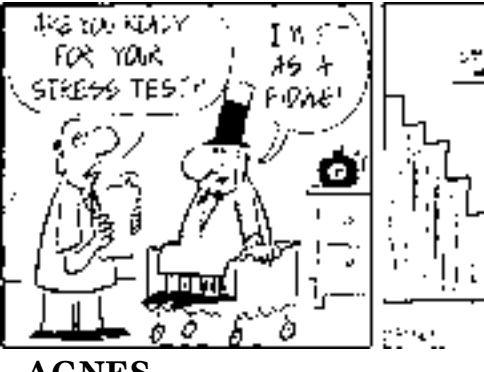
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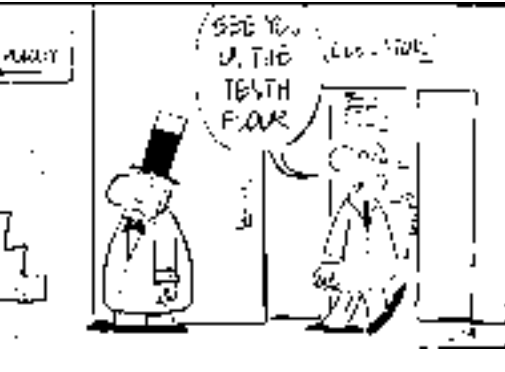
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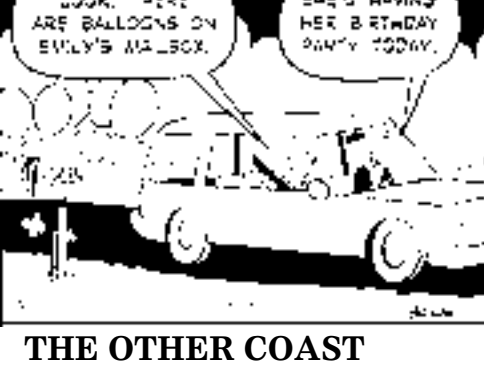
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



AGNES



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 14, the 349th day of 2012. There are 17 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 14, 1962, the U.S. space probe Mariner 2 passed Venus at a distance of just over 21,000 miles...

REGIME TIME

REGIME TIME by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.slanxwords.com

Answer to previous puzzle

DIAMA SNOW TESS ADIOS XONA TMOK IDEASPIEGEL LADY ISASHIMI STOPGAP DEALIN NESTS IBSEN TIDE TOGA SAAB LIEGE HOP HYPO ENVY ANNIE UNITE CROONS SCARY LIAR HANGUPS TRISECT ANTE KISALVAADON WAST FOOL VARISE SLY ASLY LAYTE

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Remark of a socialist 5 Foster's 9 Software update 14 locale 15 Cheese in a wheel 16 Allergic reaction, maybe 17 As compared to 18 igneous rock source 19 "Go ahead and ask" 20 Grown-up character 23 Ten North Frederick author 24 Camp snow org 25 W.I. Smith biopic role 28 Dam, to a colt 30 Grad student's hurdle 32 Neglected to 34 Anomaly 35 Lumberjack, at times 40 'What's Opera, Doc?' antagonist 41 Jacket material 42 Pizza order 45 Home of Odysseus 50 Casserole tidbit 51 'That's marvelous!' 52 Ring edges 53 Has a benefactor testimonial 57 Principal 60 Yarn spinner 61 Around the Fish artist 62 Siam neighbor

Crossword grid with numbers 1-67 and some pre-filled letters.

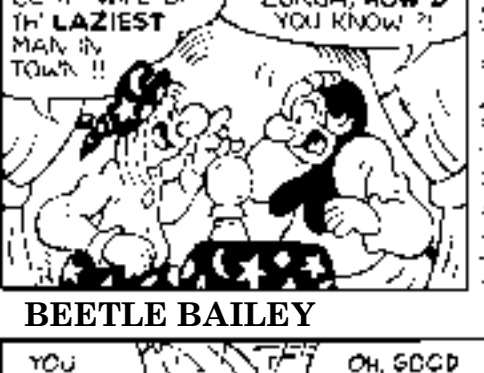
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AGNES



SPURS

Continued from Page 9

with 1:08 left. Batum hit two free throws with 8 seconds to go for the final margin.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 points and Hickson finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who won their second straight and improved to 10-12.

Tony Parker had 21 points for the Spurs, who were coming off a 99-96 loss at Utah on Wednesday night that snapped a five-game winning streak.

"I don't know if it was fatigue," said Tim Duncan, who finished with 16 points and six rebounds. "We just couldn't really ever find our rhythm."

The Blazers were coming off a 92-74 victory over Toronto on Monday during which Port-

land set an NBA record by going 0 for 20 from 3-point range.

The Blazers were without starter Wesley Matthews for the second straight game. Matthews strained his left hip in the fourth quarter of a loss last Saturday to the Kings. The injury put him on the bench in street clothes for the first time in his four-year NBA career. He had played in 250 straight games, second-most among active players behind Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook.

Batum also missed the victory over the Raptors, but he started on Thursday night.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Batum's 3-pointer decided it.

"We hung in there but Nicolas killed us with that 3 at the very end," Popovich said. "It could have been anybody's game but for that 3."

Luke Babbitt made a 3-pointer to put Portland in front 32-25 early on. But former Trail Blazer Patty Mills hit a 23-foot jumper to tie it 32-all, and Green added a fast-break layup to give San Antonio the lead. It didn't last long, however, and Portland reclaimed the lead with Will Barton's dunk and another 3 by Babbitt.

Lillard made a long jumper to end the first half with the Blazers up 49-45.


His pull-up jumper made it 61-57 midway through a tight third quarter. Already-hurting Portland got a scare a short time later when Aldridge fell hard to the court and took a few moments to get up.

Lillard and Babbitt each hit long jumpers and Sasha Pavlovic added a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 72-61. Lillard had 12 points in the third quarter alone.

San Antonio is 4-2 on the back end of back-to-back games. The other

loss came against the Miami Heat on Nov. 29, notable because Pop-

ovich did not play starters Duncan, Parker, Gi-nobili and Green.



Dr. Bruce Cox, Thank You

for over 30 years of medical service to the Big Spring area. You will be missed!
We wish you the best in your new endeavors.

**God Bless
&
Voya con Dios!**

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COWBOYS

losing three of four.
"I feel like I took a couple weeks off and it took

a little bit to get back into it," Roethlisberger said. "I think maybe the second throw that I had, I threw it a little short and that was, I think, just a little bit of anxiousness and rust getting back into it."

Dallas quarterback Tony Romo might not have Dez Bryant on the other end of any of his passes after Bryant broke his left index finger against the Bengals. However, Bryant did catch a touchdown pass that started a fourth-quarter rally after getting injured, and he said Thursday he planned to play.

If the injury forces Bryant out, it will interrupt the best stretch of his career.

He has his first 1,000-yard season and has scored at least one touchdown in a career-best five straight games. He's already tied his career high with nine TDs

this season.

"Dez has been a big part of our team," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said.

"But like every team in the league, you have injuries and you have to deal with season-ending injuries, you have to deal with injuries game by game, you have to deal with injuries within the game."

When Mendenhall was battling injuries early in the season, Jonathan Dwyer and Isaac Redman kept the Steelers moving on the ground, but they've gone three straight games without 100 yards rushing.

"Not a hard decision," Tomlin said. "This is a critical time for us. We need all hands on deck. He didn't live up to his expectations, so there are consequences associated with that."

Pittsburgh could get a boost on the offensive line this week with the

regular-season debut of first-round pick David DeCastro, who injured his left knee in a pre-season game after winning the job at right guard. He's been active the past two weeks but only played on special teams.

The Steelers suddenly find themselves in danger of missing the playoffs with their recent slide, but the Cowboys have been playing that way for a month. They've thrived, too, winning four of five in a stretch that was capped by beating Cincinnati on Dan Bailey's field goal on the final play. Dallas players streamed onto the field showing much more relief than joy.

Against Pittsburgh, the Cowboys will be at home for the first time since Brown died, possibly with a uniform patch honoring a player who had only been with

them for six weeks.

Dallas cornerback Brandon Carr will carry an emotional burden into his third straight game. A week before Brown died, Carr's former teammate, Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher, fatally shot his girlfriend before driving to the team complex and committing suicide in front of his coach and general manager.

Both deaths happened the day before a game, and the Cowboys won both. Carr even had a big interception to set up a touchdown against the Bengals. Garrett gave the team Monday off, and they attended a private memorial for Brown on Tuesday.

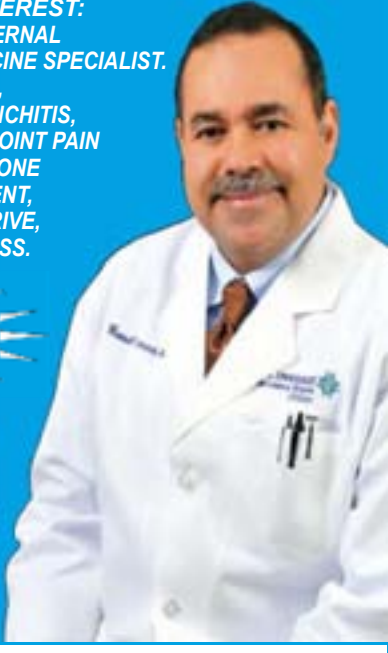
"These last two weeks, I didn't think none of that would be possible with all that's going on in life," Carr said. "We still know what's at stake right now."

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SLUGGER

Continued from Page 9

to Kansas City. And the Arizona Diamondbacks have said now that it's "highly unlikely" they will deal young slugging outfielder Justin Upton after a three-team trade this week that got the Diamondbacks a desired shortstop.

The Rangers have been to the playoffs three consecutive seasons, but last year dropped a winner-take-all wild-card game at home to Baltimore after losing the division title to Oakland on the last day of the regular season. They went to the previous two World Series.

When Rangers presi-

dent Nolan Ryan was asked Thursday to assess the offseason so far, he responded, "It hasn't probably gone as we had hoped to this point."

And that was before agent Michael Moyer called the Rangers with Hamilton's decision.

"We still feel like we have a good ballclub and we feel like we're in a good position," Ryan said.

"So I don't think that we're feeling like any pressure to go out and make something happen."

Michael Young, the longest-tenured player in Texas with 12 seasons, was traded to Philadelphia last week for two young relievers.

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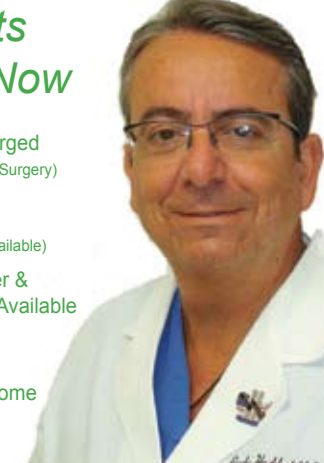
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