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Bomb threat a hoax

911 call prompts BSHS evacuation

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Big Spring High School was evacuated Monday morning following a bomb threat, however, law enforcement officials say the call was a hoax.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, the call was received at 9:52 a.m. by local law enforcement dispatch.

"Dispatch received a 911 call from a male subject who claimed there was a bomb in the high school," Everett said. "School officials were immediately notified and the building was evacuated. Officers responded to the scene and conducted a search of the premises."

Everett said searches like these are painstaking for the police officers who conduct them.

"There's no special equipment involved in a bomb or device search like this," he said. "You just have to have the officers walk through



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Calleigh Ayala displays her Christmas spirit as she and a group of Marcy Elementary students perform a short program of holiday songs for Big Spring Independent School District trustees Thursday.

Angel Tree deadline extension

SA to accept donations until noon Wednesday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Coordinators with the local Salvation Army Angel Tree program say an over-abundance of angel cards has forced them to extend the annual effort until noon Wednesday in hopes of providing for area low income children and seniors.

According to Bessie Flores, a social worker with the local charity, there are approximately 90 angel cards left on the program's last tree, representing a tremendous shortfall for the holiday effort.

"We've consolidated all of the Angel Trees throughout the community into one, single tree located in the grocery entrance of the local Walmart," Flores said. "We moved approximately 70 angels from the other trees and the Walmart tree still had nearly two-dozen cards on it, so we're looking at a very substantial shortfall this season."

"Each of the angel cards left on the tree represents a local senior citizen or child who won't likely have a Christmas present without the Angel Tree program. We've extended the deadline until Wednesday at noon in hopes people in the community will pick them up and help make this a happy holiday for them."

Flores said area residents looking to brighten the holiday season for others still have time to leave their mark.

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See ANGEL, Page 3



Boehner devises 'Plan B' on taxes

By JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just two weeks before the economy-threatening "fiscal cliff" is due to kick in, House Speaker John Boehner opened up a second legislative track to stop tax hikes from kicking in on Jan. 1 for people making up to \$1 million a year.

Boehner aides said the call for a separate tax bill, which the speaker presented to his caucus Tuesday morning, does not mean the Republican is cutting off negotiations with President Barack Obama on averting the full slate of tax hikes and spending cuts due to take effect next year. Obama and Boehner have each made significant concessions in recent days, signaling a new stage in the negotiations.

Boehner's latest move is an attempt to give Republicans political cover if Washington fails to reach a deal before the end of the year and taxes increase on all income earners. The White House had no immediate response to Boehner's "Plan B" proposal, but has previously rejected his attempts to extend tax cuts for families making up to \$1 million.

However, the president has dropped his long-held insistence that taxes rise on individuals earning more than \$200,000 and families making more than \$250,000. He is now offering a new threshold of

Boehner's latest move is an attempt to give Republicans political cover if Washington fails to reach a deal before the end of the year and taxes increase on all income earners.

\$400,000 and lowering his 10-year tax revenue goals from the \$1.6 trillion he had argued for a few weeks ago.

Obama and Boehner met privately at the White House on Monday, and then spoke again on the phone later that night. Boehner huddled with House GOP members on Capitol Hill Tuesday morning to discuss the status of the talks and review Obama's latest offer.

"We have to stop whatever tax rate increases we can," Boehner said in the meeting, according to prepared remarks released by an aide. "In the absence of an alternative, as of this morning, a "modified Plan B" is the plan."

Unless Congress acts, tax rates will increase on all income earners on Jan. 1. Boehner first opposed raising rates on any income earners, including the wealthiest Americans, but agreed on Friday to accept an increase in tax rates

for taxpayers who earn more than \$1 million. Boehner's plan would raise about \$1 trillion in taxes over 10 years.

In return, Obama also abandoned his demand for permanent borrowing authority. Instead, he is now asking for a new debt limit that would last two years, putting its renewal beyond the politics of a 2014 midterm election.

And in a move sure to create heartburn among some congressional Democrats, Obama is proposing lower cost-of-living increases for Social Security beneficiaries, employing an inflation index that would have far-reaching consequences, including pushing more people into

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News in brief

As Newtown embarks on string of funerals, classes are resuming — but not at Sandy Hook

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — With security stepped up and families still on edge in Newtown, schools are opening for the first time since last week's massacre, bringing a return of familiar routines — at least, for some — to a grief-stricken town as it buries 20 of its children.

Two 6-year-old boys were laid to rest Monday in the first of a long, almost unbearable procession of funerals. A total of 26 people were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history.

While classes resume Tuesday for Newtown schools except those at Sandy Hook, some parents were likely to keep their children at home anyway. Local police and school officials have been discussing how and where to increase security, and state police said they would be on alert for threats and hoaxes.

Suzu DeYoung said her 15-year-old son is going back to the high school.

NRA goes unusually silent after Connecticut school shooting leaves 20 youngsters dead

WASHINGTON (AP) — Where is the NRA?

The nation's largest gun-rights organization — typically outspoken about its positions even after shooting deaths — has gone all but silent since last week's rampage at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school that left 26 people dead, including 20 chil-

dren.

Its Facebook page has disappeared. It has posted no tweets. It makes no mention of the shooting on its website. None of its leaders hit the media circuit Sunday to promote its support of the Second Amendment right to bear arms as the nation mourns the latest shooting victims and opens a new debate over gun restrictions. On Monday, the NRA offered no rebuttal as 300 anti-gun protesters marched to its Capitol Hill office.

After previous mass shootings — such as in Oregon and Wisconsin — the group was quick to both send its condolences and defend gun owners' constitutional rights, popular among millions of Americans. There's no indication that the National Rifle Association's silence this time is a signal that a change in its ardent opposition to gun restrictions is imminent. Nor has there been any explanation for its absence from the debate thus far.

In a slaughter's aftermath, grateful parents offer small indulgences to their kids

NEW YORK (AP) — There's snow on the ground in Londonderry, N.H., nearly 200 miles to the north of the still-raw slaughter at a Connecticut elementary school, and dad Eric Heenan found himself in a routine fuss with his 9-year-old son over boots.

"It's not cool to wear snow boots to school," he said Monday, "and then I was like, you know what, God forbid the last conversation we have is this. There but for the grace of God go we."

Parents around the country are letting the small stuff slide, indulging their kids just a little bit, re-

lieved as Heenan is to have them safe only a few days after a gunman claimed the lives 20 students and six adults in Newtown.

In Safety Harbor, Fla., close to Tampa Bay, Christie O'Sullivan feels it with her two boys, 5 and 6, the latter the same age as many of the victims at Sandy Hook Elementary.

She returned home Friday afternoon, several hours after Adam Lanza's rampage and suicide, to find a sink clogged by toilet paper and dirty tissues all over the floor of her guest bathroom as she madly tried to clean for a holiday party.

Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, decorated veteran, dies at age 88 after 50-year Senate career

HONOLULU (AP) — On Dec. 7, 1941, high school senior Daniel Inouye knew he and other Japanese-Americans would face trouble when he saw Japanese dive bombers, torpedo planes and fighters on their way to bomb Pearl Harbor and other Oahu military bases.

He and other Japanese-Americans had wanted desperately to be accepted, he said, and that meant going to war.

"I felt that there was a need for us to demonstrate that we're just as good as anybody else," Inouye, who eventually went on to serve 50 years as a U.S. Senator from Hawaii, once said. "The price was bloody and expensive, but I felt we succeeded."

Inouye, 88, died Monday of respiratory complications at a Washington-area hospital. As a senator, he became one of the most influential politicians in the country.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1

higher income tax brackets.

Those changes, as well as Obama's decision not to seek an extension of a temporary payroll tax cut, would force higher tax payments on the middle class, a wide swath of the population that Obama has repeatedly said he wanted to protect from tax increases.

As public posturing has given way to pragmatism, both sides still seem willing to lock in on a substantial agreement rather than just putting off a fiscal day of reckoning. To that end, Obama has conceded that a big bargain would require giving up some of his proposals.

"I understand that I don't expect the Repub-

licans simply to adopt my budget," he said during his post-election news conference last month. "That's not realistic. So, I recognize we're going to have to compromise."

The talks, facing a looming deadline, seek to avoid spending cuts at the Pentagon and in domestic programs that are set to kick in at the start of the new year. Economists inside and outside the government have warned that the combination of spending cuts and tax hikes could stall a weak recovery and threaten a new recession.

Despite signs of progress, there are still plenty of disputes to iron out.

And people familiar with Obama's proposal were careful not to describe it as his final offer.

The Obama plan seeks

\$1.2 trillion in revenue over 10 years and \$1.2 trillion in 10-year spending reductions. Boehner aides say the revenue is closer to \$1.3 trillion if revenue triggered by the new inflation index is counted, and they say the spending reductions are closer to \$930 billion if one discounts about \$290 billion in lower estimated debt interest.

"Any movement away from the unrealistic offers the President has made previously is a step in the right direction," Boehner spokesman Brendan Buck said. "But a proposal that includes \$1.3 trillion in revenue for only \$930 billion in spending cuts cannot be considered balanced."

Either way, though, there is no doubt Obama has moved in Boehner's direction after Boehner opened the door to a tax rate increase.

Obama's plan, like Boehner's, would also raise taxes on dividends and capital gains from 15 percent to 20 percent. Both would also reduce the number of deductions and exemptions that wealthy taxpayers can claim. Obama's proposal also would let estate taxes revert to 55 percent on estates after allowance for a \$1 million exemption.

In making his offer, Obama stiff-armed Republican demands to increase the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67, a goal Democrats strongly reject.

He also sought to contain cuts in Medicare and other health care programs to about \$400 billion over 10 years, less than what Republicans want. And he is continuing to seek spending on unemployment assistance and on public works projects.

Obama's willingness to reduce future cost-of-living increases in Social Security would also mean smaller annual increases in government pensions and veterans' benefits. Annual adjustments to income tax brackets would be smaller, pushing more people into higher tax brackets.

Over time, because annual adjustments to the poverty level would be smaller, the new index could reduce the number of people eligible for programs such as Medicaid, Head Start, food stamps, school lunches and home heating assistance.

To avoid some of that risk, Obama wants lower-income recipients to receive protection against any loss from scaling back future cost-of-living increases, people familiar with his plan said.

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Adrian Garcia, 63, died Thursday. Committal Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Coahoma Cemetery.

Joe Gomez, 52, died Wednesday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Frank Overton, 28, died Thursday. Funeral Service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Louise Terry, 92, died Friday. Graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

John J. "Jerry" White, 92, died Saturday. His body will be in state at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Wednesday and Thursday. Graveside services with Military Honors will be at 2:15 p.m. Friday at DFW National Cemetery in Dallas.

ANGEL

Continued from Page 1

"The process is pretty simple," Flores said. "All they need to do is go to the Walmart Angel Tree and pick out an angel card. On the card is a list of the items the child or senior would like to have this holiday season. Simply take the card, purchase the items and gather them together, then drop them off at the Salvation Army office. It will make all the difference in the world for local families who won't otherwise have

presents."

In addition to the cards which haven't been chosen, Flores said there is also a large number of cards which have been taken from the tree, but the presents have not yet been delivered.

"We really need the folks who have chosen angel cards to get them — along with the gift items — back in as quickly as possible. That way something important doesn't come up in the meantime and they aren't able to get them back to us," she said.

While the annual program provides local

families a chance to be charitable during the holiday season — as well as teach their children, by example, the importance of helping out the less fortunate — Angel Tree Coordinator Ada Lafler said it's very important to remember what a tremendous impact it can have on the recipients.

"Many of these children feel like society — and even life — have given up on them. That's a tough position to handle when you're only 10 or 11 years old," Lafler said. "This program, however, offers them a reminder that people

still care.

"It shows them that even though most people are caught up in the everyday hustle and bustle of the world, especially during the holiday season, they are still taking time and money from of their own lives and giving them a reason to wake up Christmas morning with a smile. No child should ever have to wake up Christmas morning without a gift under the tree."

The deadline for donors to return their angel cards and gifts is now Wednesday at noon. For more information on the program,

call 432-267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth Street.

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

sudoku

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

BOMB

Continued from Page 1

the school and look for anything suspicious. If they find something, however, we have services available to us through the military and other agencies. It's a pretty painstaking process."

No bomb or device was found, according to Everett, and students and school faculty were sent back to their classes after approximately 40 minutes.

"The 911 system shows the call came from a

dead cell phone," he said. "Investigators are following up on this."

According to Everett, a "dead cell phone" is any mobile device which isn't currently activated for mobile phone service.

"A cell phone that is not activated or doesn't currently have service from the carrier can still dial 911," Everett said. "These pre-paid cell phones we toss in the trash can be dug out by someone, charged

and used to dial 911. Our investigators are following up on the call itself and the type of device used to make it."

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, we can see our future through rose colored glasses. Amen

The wonderful police beat

With the responsibility of gathering arrests and reports on criminal activity for publication on a daily basis, I have to admit, some pretty weird stuff comes across my desk.

OK, let me back up. Some of these items seem to be weird — and, obviously, worthy of this rather tiresome disclaimer — because, for the most part, I'm only getting a very brief, face-value report on what has actually transpired.

I'll give you an example. A guy gets arrested and his name listed on the daily arrest sheet for a single charge: evading arrest or detention. Sometimes it's with a vehicle, others it's on foot (it's the foot-racers I truly feel sorry for, because I can only imagine how ticked the law enforcement officer must be about being inadvertently entered into a sprint or marathon).

Either way, this guy is headed to the can on just one charge, evading arrest or detention. By my own rationale — which is quite often flawed, mind you — if this guy had just stood still, he wouldn't have spent the next couple of days showering with a large man named Jojo.

This, my friends and neighbors, amazes — and amuses — the living daylights out of me.

I mean, what goes through this person's mind in that moment right before they choose to take off? "Hmm, I might have an outstanding traffic ticket." Maybe they are just scared of police officers. Maybe they were abused as a child by a man or woman in a police uniform, or even a costume?

Another thing I see that makes me chuckle is local residents

arrested for public intoxication. Or, more specifically, those who have been arrested on the charge repeatedly.

One Big Spring man — I'm omitting his name to protect the identity of the insanely guilty — has been arrested for public intoxication more than 80 times, with 28 of those coming just in the past year. And, believe it or not, he's running a distant second place to another Big Spring man; however, I'm sure through hard work and perseverance he can win that crown of inebriation.

Now, bear in mind, I love a good beer, or even better, a stout ale. However, the aching head and twisted stomach I normally wake up with after imbibing a bit too much of he stuff is more than enough to make me swear it off for at least a month or so.

I often wonder if this gentleman, who jailers at the Howard County Detention Center tell me is quite the cooperative type, is on a first-name basis with the police officers and deputies who regularly arrest him? Maybe he has his own cell, sort of like Otis Campbell from the "Andy Griffith Show," and just sort of comes and goes as he needs to.

For those of you who are new to alcoholic beverages, it's like my college professor once said, "Nothing good ever came from an inebriated person saying, 'I think I'll take a walk.'" Then again, that same professor was arrested for driving under the influence — that's what they call it in South Carolina, by the way — just a few weeks after my last semester ended.

Oh, the irony. However, the crown jewel of the local lawbreakers, at least in my opinion, anyway, are the ones who get pulled over on a regular traffic violation and end up charged with about a dozen different crimes, all of them completely foreseeable.

I'll give you an example, directly from the hallowed pages of our dear Herald:

John Q. Public was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana — two ounces or less, driving while intoxicated — open container, driving while license suspended, expired motor vehicle registration, no valid inspection certificate, failure to maintain financial responsibility and disregarding a stop sign.

For the uninitiated, Mr. Public — aka Captain Bonehead — ran a stop sign with a law enforcement officer in sight, was pulled over and the charges began ringing up like a lottery winner with the munchies. Beep!

The part of this story that intrigues me, however, is not the arrest. Oh, I think we can all say we saw that one coming. No, it's that moment right before Mr. Public got behind the wheel of this vehicle, the one with the registration and inspection certificates out of date, with no insurance, no driver's license and a pocket full of weed and meth.

You honestly have to wonder if it ever crossed his mind, "Hey, dude ... maybe this snack run isn't such a good idea."

While I know our local law enforcement officers are entirely too professional to do so, I firmly believe they should be allowed to sit the handcuffed perp on the sidewalk and point and laugh for a minimum of a half-hour. Cruel and unusual? You decide.

These are just some of the things which break up the monotony of my daily trek to the dispatchers' office for arrest and activity reports, and thank goodness for them, each and every one.

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

Pot: Crashing federal hypocrisy

Ah, the great American West, where man can generally breathe free and also inhale — woman, too. Thank you, thank you, voters in Colorado and Washington state, for legalizing marijuana. But will Washington, D.C., leave you alone? Attorney General Eric Holder said this week that the Justice Department will weigh its response to the state referendum.

A new national poll finds 58 percent of Americans in favor of making marijuana legal and only 39 percent against. A raft of other state laws easing the prohibition on pot and growing public contempt for the existing law should be enough to change the policy. And so should a basic sense of decency.

We persecute ordinary Americans for using an illegal drug smoked by the last three inhabitants of the White House. President Obama admitted — and George W. Bush all but admitted — to having experimented (don't you love the word "experimented"?). Not only with pot, but with cocaine.

Courts rarely inflict heavy prison terms on users of marijuana these days, Tony Ryan, a retired lieutenant from the Denver Police Department, told me, "but it's still a drug arrest, so if you're 18 years and older, it goes on your record."

That means you may not be able to get a job at a steel plant, join the Navy, obtain a student

loan or keep your child in a custody battle. But wide knowledge that you smoked pot is apparently not enough to stop you from becoming commander in chief of the United States Armed Forces.

Ryan is on the board of a group called Law Enforcement Against Prohibition — former police and other law officers calling for the end to the War on Drugs. A Denver cop for 36 years, he's intrigued at what the Obama administration will do next. In Colorado, the feds decided to mostly leave medical marijuana alone. But to flex their muscles, they started picking on medical marijuana dispensaries within 1,000 feet of schools.

"I said, OK, what high school student is going to go to convince a doctor under threat of losing his license that he is ill and needs to have medical marijuana," Ryan commented, "when he can just walk down the halls of the school and get whatever he wants?"

In 2008, candidate Obama said he would not use Justice Department resources to frustrate state laws allowing medical marijuana. But President Obama did just that, even letting attorneys general threaten government employees at state-run medical marijuana facilities.

Ignoring the scientific evidence, the feds deem marijuana a dangerous substance that allegedly acts as a "gateway" to harder drugs. The political reality is that legalizing marijuana is a gateway to ending the ludicrous War on Drugs — a \$40 billion-a-year failure off which many Americans find employment. Last year, 80 percent of

the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's seizures were of marijuana. If marijuana were legalized, what would those agents, lawyers, judges and prison guards keep us safe from marijuana do?

Oddly, liberal Democrats seem more afraid of letting go of the ban on marijuana than libertarian Republicans and even some social conservatives. (Evangelist Pat Robertson says it ruins the lives of too many young people.) In the Colorado vote, former Rep. Tom Tancredo, a hard-right Republican, supported the constitutional amendment regulating marijuana like alcohol, and Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper opposed it. To his credit, Hickenlooper subsequently declared the amendment official and put a legalization advocate on the committee setting up a regulatory process.

The successful ballot measures in Colorado and Washington give the Obama administration another opportunity to find its bearings and stop throwing billions down the hole of marijuana prohibition. That money could be put elsewhere, so we're told.

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

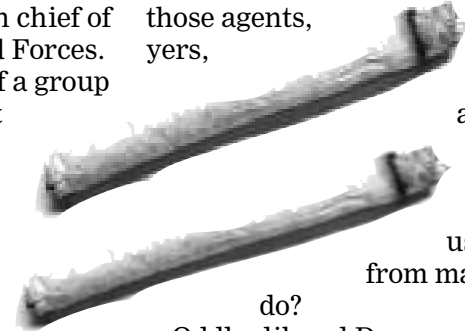
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What is sometimes bigger than Santa, sometimes smaller than Santa, but doesn't weigh anything at all?

To reveal the answer, use the hints to fill in the empty boxes and create 3-letter words. The answer will appear by reading shaded boxes vertically.

1.	H		
2.	S		
3.			D
4.	A		
5.			Y
6.		A	
7.			I
8.			W
9.			N

HINTS:

1. Frosty wears one on his head.
2. Taking a tiny drink of hot cocoa.
3. The opposite of the happy.
4. What's left after a fire.
5. Timid
6. Movie stars do this.
7. A weak light, not bright.
8. To pull a vehicle with another.
9. The opposite of lose.

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Snowman Puzzles

Chill out with this cool collection of brrrr-ain teasers.



Circle every other letter to reveal the punchline for each riddle.

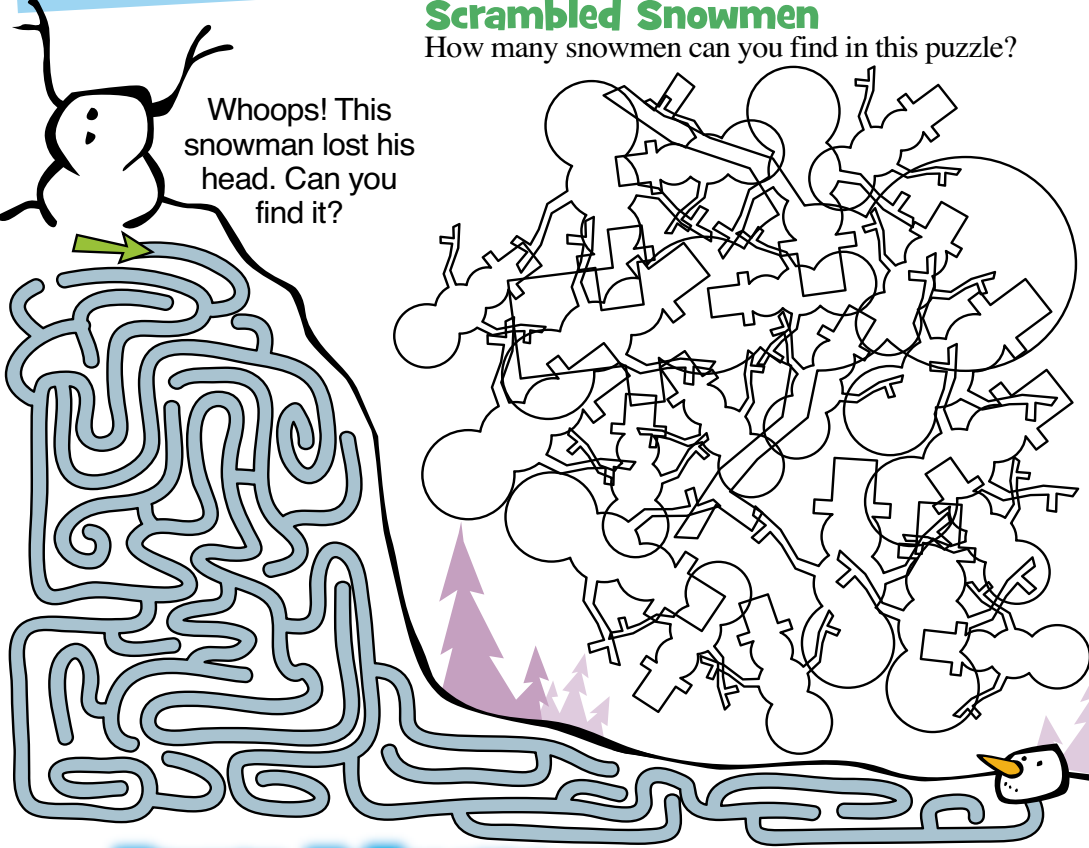
Cross out the words that rhyme with FREEZE.

"TREES YOU SQUEEZE GO ON KNEES AHEAD KEYS PLEASE AND I'LL BEES JUST HANG SKIS AROUND BREEZE."

What did the scarf say to the hat?

Scrambled Snowmen

How many snowmen can you find in this puzzle?



Whoops! This snowman lost his head. Can you find it?

What is a snowman's favorite food?

R I D C J E R B L E
K R H G M E P R F S

What does a snowman put on a taco?

W C S H A I Y L B L
T Y N P B E Q P J
P W E D R K S

What do you call a family of snowmen around a cozy fireplace?

T P G U Y D T D
W L H E U S

Frozen Followers

Draw the snowman that should come next in each row to continue the pattern.

	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Complete patterns.

Snowman Stumper

The kids on Holly Lane built these four snowmen. Can you figure out who made each of these snowmen?

Kayla's snowman is between Jordan's snowman and Greg's snowman. Sophie's snowman is next to Jordan's snowman. Greg's snowman is not the largest.

Standards Link: Problem Solving: Use a variety of strategies, including logic, to solve problems.

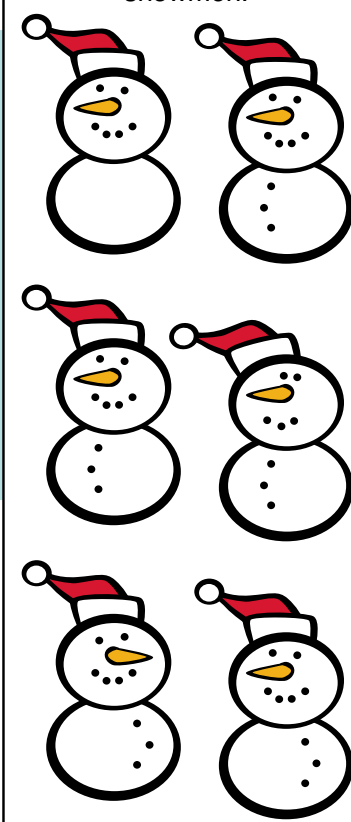


Extra! Extra!

Winter Words

Look through the newspaper for words that could be used to describe a cold winter. Use them in a sentence to describe the weather today.

Standards Link: Writing: Write sentences using descriptive details.



Kid Scoop-doku

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

F	R	S	T	O	Y
R	T				
O		F			T
S			Y		
T				S	
Y		O			R

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Aunt Artica likes lots of ornaments on her Christmas tree. But she doesn't have room for all of them. By adding the numbers on the ornaments, can you circle the ones she can use? The total can't be higher than 50 or less than 35. Then have a friend try. Who was able to use the most ornaments?



Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Calculate sums.

Double Double Word Search

CHRISTMAS
HOLLY
SNOWMAN
FREEZE
FOOD
WINTER
COOL
RIDDLE
CHILL
HOT
COLD
LOST
SKIS
COZY
FIND

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

L	D	N	I	F	K	T	H	S	Y
O	K	S	I	K	S	W	A	O	L
S	F	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	R
W	Y	F	L	E	T	C	D	L	I
V	L	M	O	S	Z	T	O	H	D
Y	L	P	I	O	R	E	L	O	D
Z	O	R	Z	Y	D	U	E	W	L
O	H	W	I	N	T	E	R	R	E
C	H	I	L	L	D	L	O	C	F

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

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

Hot and Cold

A player selects a picture from the newspaper. Another player tries to identify the picture by asking questions that can be answered "yes" or "no." Give clues like you are "hot" when getting close and "cold" when getting farther away.

Standards Link: Reading: Ask and answer questions; follow directions.



What do you call an old snowman?

ANSWER: Water!

Write On!

Snow Day

Imagine that you are a snowman or snowwoman. Write a journal entry about a typical day in your life from morning until evening.

Bird Poop: A wren recovers from trauma

Our creosote's yellow blossoms have been causing honeybees to fly hurriedly to and fro in the front yard. Rock lilies continue to launch their long stemmed, fragile flowers. The oddities of last year are continuing into the last of 2012.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

Although ocotillo blossoms are starting to fade, five different varieties of yellow and white wildflowers are tempting black-orange, yellow and white butterflies to flit about our side yard.

While the hummingbird plant has offered its last, tempting coral array, a red yucca is still blooming in the back yard.

Flying insects are abundant not only in the daytime, but evident on an infrared camera that catches our guest opossum's nightly visit. Somehow, with the high 70s to low 80s,

it just doesn't seem like December.

Another year, the final month was similar in its winter warmth. Bug populations were abundant and a constant nuisance in Midland. When Harry Hopkins answered his phone, a distraught woman was nearly hysterical over the plight of two birds.

"They're stuck," she cried. "You have to do something!"

Through tears, the woman had told him of her constant battle with insects on her screened-in back porch. Among her holiday guests were small children who were constantly going in and out to play. Often, the door was left ajar as they reentered her den.

Taking advantage of the open invitation to her home, bugs had readily accepted such an easy entry. To combat the problem, the woman had placed sticky traps near the ceiling for the invading insects, and on the floor behind a bench for an occasional mouse. She had never expected to find two small, avian bodies trapped by a

two-foot long, hanging adhesive.

Allowed to respond, rescue, and transport birds under our permit, Harry had dealt with owls in hangars and attics. Truckers had alerted him to roadside incidents. His employment had been instrumental in defining problems in the oil fields.

Separating feathers from sticky strips was, however, a new adventure. After telling him of a product that could be used, I asked him to call back.

Later, he asked if we could meet him in Stanton. Within half an hour, we saw the results of his efforts.

Migrating, these house wrens, in comparison to other wrens, were the plainest. They could be described as almost nondescript.

Above they were a moderate brown. Having no eye-stripes, the sides of their heads and below were a pale grayish-brown. Dark brown barring on their wings and tail, however, augmented the dullness of their feathers. Their long, thin bills were typical.

Inquisitive and active, the twosome had started investigating the open, screened-in structure while the woman and her guests were having a meal. Perhaps this temporary accommodation for their journey had been welcome.

Flitting about the convenient two-by-fours that framed and accented the porch, they had innocently flown too close to one of the corners.

Having successfully extracted each wren from the strip, Harry had noticed that one was more active than the other. A deep, cardboard box offered both a chance to rest from their ordeal.

Since the house wrens



Courtesy photo

Spending its summers in the northern part of the United States and northwestern Canada, the house wren usually migrates through Texas from mid-September until the middle of November. Weighing almost half an ounce, it uses its repertoire of sounds to sing melodically during courtship, or to scold with a strident chatter in voicing its disapproval.

had suffered the trauma of being trapped, and endured the extraction from the adhesive, we decided to hold them overnight. Once home, we prepared an enclosure.

Carefully opening the lid, I slid my hand down into the box. Art kept a towel wrapped around my arm and over the box so that neither bird could escape.

Brushing against the back of my hand, one of the wrens was eager to elude me. By trapping it in a corner, I was able to lift it out and into the quiet sanctuary we offered.

Easing my hand back into the box for its companion, I could not feel or hear any movement. "Is it that elusive?" I thought. Realizing it could not disappear within the box, I continued to search the bottom with my fingertips. Then I found it.

With no movement, I realized it had been overcome by the difficult, possibly painful experience with the sticky trap and resulting rescue. Its fellow traveler had been more fortunate.

Left to its own privacy, the remaining songbird surprised us the next morning. With time to ruffle its feathers and preen, it was quite presentable. Obviously, it had appreciated the bowl of water for bathing, and a dish of mealworms.

Since no drastic cold fronts were forecast, we felt the house wren could hunt for insects at its leisure in our side yard.

Searching yuccas, juniper, dried growth, and the trunks of mesquites, our visitor could then move to our backyard to discover a stack of firewood.

With its freedom

came the use of the wren's short, rounded wings. Rapid beats took it to a nearby tree.

After looking about and feeling safe, it proceeded to the stalk of a spent yucca bloom. Inside the opened pods, the small bird found hidden spiders. Moving higher, it feasted on tiny insects pried from beneath the curling bark of older mesquites.

The welfare of the wren and its insatiable metabolism had guided us in our decision. Aware that often nature's healing grace outweighs our abilities, we felt on that Christmas Eve that the house wren's recovery would be complete in a natural setting.

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

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Parent's Corner: Be appreciative

My mother grew up in a home of 11 children; however, five died during childhood. My mother's mother died when my mother was only 12 years old. Her father did not marry until many years later so he attempted to raise the remaining children as a single dad. Some of the children were old enough to help a lot but the responsibility of the



DARRELL
RYAN

parent still rested upon his shoulders.

Needless to say, the family didn't have very much. These were the days before social security, welfare or any other governmental organizations that stepped in with assistance; family had to do it on their own and most of them were successful. In their struggles, they learned many important lessons.

One of the lessons they learned was to be appreciative, especially to be appreciative of each other, of the things each other would do and how they would act. My mom always told me that being appreciative of even

the small things was a blessing in itself.

I have always tried to be aware of these things and to show that I was indeed very appreciative, even of things that were expected. An example would be someone with whom I work doing their job and doing it well. Yes, they are being paid for that action, but I have discovered that the appreciation of others for the job they are doing made them feel good and usually made them try to even do a better job.

I've found that expressing appreciation has numerous awards but mainly, it just makes people feel good.

People who feel appreciated are happier, less-stressed, more creative, more enthusiastic and usually much more loyal to their friends, family and co-workers than those who feel they are not appreciated. It doesn't matter who they are or what job they do, being appreciated has its rewards.

Think back in your own life and the times you were shown appreciation. How did you respond? How did the simple act of someone saying, and meaning, "you are appreciated" make you feel?

It also makes the one dishing out the dose of appreciation feel better. Offering genuine appreciation is stress-relieving and just feels good. It's good to know that you are helping another person feel acknowledged and helping them to bring out the best of themselves. As Yogi Berra would say, "I learned a lot from my parents, especially my mother and my dad!"

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Things Are Ruff All Over

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 7 3
♥ 9 7 6
♦ —
♣ A 10 9 6 4 3 2

WEST
♠ K J 10 9 2
♥ 4 2
♦ Q J 5 3 2
♣ Q

EAST
♠ Q 8
♥ A 5 3
♦ A 10 8 7
♣ K J 8 7

SOUTH
♠ 6 5 4
♥ K Q J 10 8
♦ K 9 6 4
♣ 5

The bidding:
East South West North
1♦ 1♥ 1♠ 2♣
Pass 2♥ 3♦ 4♥

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

When declarer is playing a suit contract, one of the first questions he must resolve is whether or not to draw trumps. Fortunately, the answer is usually obvious and depends much more on common sense than on following a general rule.

Consider the present case where West leads the queen of clubs against four hearts. Declarer wins with dummy's ace and immediately ruffs the deuce of clubs with the ten of

trumps. When West discards a diamond at trick two, South realizes that trying to establish dummy's clubs is sure to lead nowhere, and he therefore opts for a crossruff.

Accordingly, he trumps a diamond in dummy at trick three, then ruffs a club, a diamond, a club and another diamond, producing this position with the lead in dummy:

North
♠ A 7 3
♣ 10 9 6

West
♠ K J 10
♥ 4 2
♦ Q

East
♠ Q 8
♥ A 5 3
♦ A

South
♠ 6 5 4
♥ K 8
♦ K

Declarer now leads a low club from dummy, ruffing with the heart eight after East discards a spade. Next comes a spade to dummy's ace, followed by another club. There is no way East can prevent South from scoring his now-singleton king of hearts, and the contract is home.

Observe that adopting the cross-ruff allows South to get the maximum mileage out of his trump suit. He scores the ace of spades, the ace of clubs and eight separate trump tricks!

Tomorrow: Believe it or not.
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Sports Calendar

TODAY

Boy's Basketball

- Big Spring at Lamesa, J.V., 6:30 p.m.; Varsity, 8 p.m.
- Forsan at Coahoma, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 7:30 p.m.
- Klondike at Grady, TBA.
- Garden City at Water Valley, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- O'Donnell at Sands, 5 p.m.

Girl's Basketball

- San Angelo Lake View at Big Spring, 9th, 5 p.m.; J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Coahoma, J.V., 4 p.m.; Varsity, 6 p.m.
- Klondike at Grady, TBA.
- Garden City at Water Valley, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- O'Donnell at Sands, 5 p.m.

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

Thunder thump Spurs 107-93 to stay atop West

JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Serge Ibaka ripped away an offensive rebound, got hacked in the process and found his way toward midcourt to flex his muscles in celebration.

Ibaka is a force to be reckoned with, and what better way to show it than by delivering his best game of the season against a rival who had a player take a jab at him on Twitter?

Ibaka tied his career best with 25 points and grabbed a season-high 17 rebounds, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the San Antonio Spurs 107-93 Monday night for their 11th straight win.

The victory kept San Antonio from creating a virtual tie with the Thunder for the NBA's best record.

It was the first meeting for the teams since

San Antonio's Stephen Jackson made a threatening post about Ibaka on Twitter, drawing a \$25,000 fine from the NBA.

"I don't want to talk about it," said Ibaka, who set the tone for Oklahoma City by making his first seven shots. "A great win for us. We need that. It's about a team win."

Jackson just happened to make his return after missing the previous 14 games with a broken right pinkie finger.

The two had a chance for a confrontation in the first half when Jackson stood in the way as Ibaka went up to catch an alley-oop from Durant. Jackson stood his ground to prevent Ibaka from dunking, and Ibaka fell to the floor. But Jackson simply raised his hand to claim credit for the foul and peace

See **SPURS**, Page 12

Lin leads Rockets' 109-96 rout of Knicks

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Jeremy Lin will never forget that brief, beautiful stretch of basketball known as Linsanity.

His first trip back to Madison Square Garden was memorable, too.

Lin had 22 points and eight assists in his return to New York, leading the Houston Rockets to a 109-96 victory Monday night that ended the Knicks' 10-game home winning streak to open the season.

The undrafted point guard from Harvard said before the game he would always remember his breakthrough, no matter how long he plays. But he wasn't thinking about it Monday, even as he put together a good imitation of it.

"I've moved on, they've moved on," Lin said.

James Harden had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who blew out the Knicks for the second time this season. They have won the last seven meetings, including a 131-103 rout in Houston on Nov. 23.

The Rockets outscored the Knicks 54-29 over the middle two quarters, denying New York its first 11-0 start at home since the 1991-92 season.

The Rockets trailed by just five midway through the third quarter before the Rockets blew it open with a 15-0 run.

Lin saw some fans wearing his old jersey, but said he didn't let his mind drift back to last season during the game. He doubled his scoring average in what he called an up-and-down season so far.



HERALD file photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Yaneira Tuitt shoots over a Stanton defender Friday. The Lady Steers (9-7) topped the Lady Buffs 49-30. BSHT girls will be hosting San Angelo Lake View today at Steer Gym at 6:30 p.m. The boys squad (5-8) will be in action today on the road against Lamesa.

Big 10 teams underdogs in bowl season

LUKE MEREDITH

AP Sports Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Big Ten spent much of the year as a national punch line.

It might get worse during bowl season.

The Big Ten could only fill seven of its eight predetermined bowl slots — and each of those bowl-bound teams is currently an underdog.

From the five-loss Wisconsin team that still wound up in the Rose Bowl to the 6-6 Purdue squad that fired its coach, the beleaguered Big Ten isn't expected to do much of anything in the post-season.

The league went just 1-6 in bowl games in 2008. According to odds makers, things could go even worse in 2012.

"I'm not apologizing for us to go to the Rose Bowl with five losses," Wisconsin athletic director

Barry Alvarez said during his press conference to announce he would coach the Badgers in that game.

"I didn't have anything to do with two teams being ineligible in our division. That allowed us to play in that championship game, and we soundly defeated the champion from the other side."

That they did, thumping Nebraska 70-31.

Still, the current symbol for the league's plight has to be Badgers (8-5, 4-4 Big Ten).

They finished four games behind Ohio State and one behind Penn State in the Leaders Division. But the Buckeyes and Nittany Lions weren't eligible for the Big Ten title game, and the Badgers made the most of their lucky break.

Wisconsin is currently in upheaval after Bret Bielema

stunned nearly everyone by bolting for Arkansas a few weeks ago. Alvarez will lead the Badgers in their third straight Rose Bowl, where they're about a touchdown underdog to 11-2 Stanford. Afterward, he'll resume his search for a new coach.

"It will be a great challenge for us, but I think it's a good matchup. I think it's a great bowl matchup. The game hasn't changed," Alvarez said.

The way Wisconsin manhandled the Huskers also took some buzz out of the Capital One Bowl.

Nebraska (10-3, 7-1) fell to the game in Orlando following their loss to the Badgers. The Huskers face Georgia (11-2) in a matchup that would have looked like good on paper — in mid-November.

While the Bulldogs were within about 5 yards of beating

See **UNDERDOGS**, Page 12

Texans look for improvement before playoffs

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans clinched the AFC South with a 29-17 win over the Colts to help erase the memory of a blowout loss to New England.

Coach Gary Kubiak still sees plenty of room for improvement after Sunday's game and is challenging his team to play better with gaining home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs still within reach.

San Francisco's win over New England on Sunday night left the Texans needing just one win in their last two games to secure home-field advantage.

"It'd be huge for this team because playing at home in this league and having the benefit of your crowd and getting off on cadence and all those types of things, it's a big, big factor in success in this league," Kubiak said. "We worked hard to get to the playoffs. We worked hard to win a division and now we got to continue that same effort to try to find a way to possibly be a one seed in this playoff hunt."

One of Kubiak's biggest concerns is Houston's inability to finish drives lately. Houston was just one of five on red zone opportunities on Sunday.

The Texans scored their only offensive

touchdown on their second drive, and settled for field goals the rest of the way.

"It was disappointing because we could have really put some points on the board," Kubiak said. "You only get so many opportunities in this business and boy, you have to take advantage of them."

Houston ran for 178 yards on Sunday, led by a season-high 165 yards from Arian Foster. But Foster and the Texans didn't fare very well running the ball in the red zone against the Colts.

Houston's red zone production was also hindered when Matt Schaub was sacked for a loss of 7 yards on sec-

ond-and-8 in the third quarter.

There has been some criticism of why Houston didn't go to Andre Johnson more in the red zone after he scored its only offensive touchdown early in Sunday's game. Johnson leads the AFC with 1,360 yards receiving.

Kubiak said it often doesn't make sense to force it to Johnson in those situations because the defense is focused on stopping him.

Kubiak also raved about the work of defensive end J.J. Watt, who is tied with San Francisco's Aldon Smith for most sacks in the NFL with 19½.

"He's been exceptional," Kubiak said.

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Mike Vick, 36 E. Twohigh #405, San Angelo, Texas 76903 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of oil and gas produced salt water by well injection into a formation not productive for oil and gas. The applicant proposes to dispose oil and gas produced salt water into the San Andres formation on the lease, Mike Vick-SWD #1. The proposed disposal well to be drilled is located 10 miles west of Garden City, Texas in the Dewey Lake S. (Strawn) Field in Glasscock County, Texas.

The oil and gas produced water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3180' to 5000' feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #7607 December 18, 2012

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Prophetic Dreaming Under the Pisces Moon
Day and night will have completely different tones as the moon goes from Aquarius to Pisces. Social efforts and encounters by daylight will provide fodder for an introspective night of mysterious and insightful dreaming. So keep paper and pen by the bedside, and before you go to sleep, affirm that you'll remember your dreams.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be a translator of sorts, helping people communicate. Just as a song sung half in one language and half in another catches more ears, your work in two different areas will attract customers in both.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's something about a formal setting that brings out the best and worst in people. When the stakes seem high, every move becomes significant. Formalities provide the opportunity for observation and analysis.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Stay attuned to the people around you. Also, beware of those who are more interested in the rest of the room than in the ones they are with. It's either a sign of distress or a weakness of character.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Would you rather be with someone who talks nonstop or someone who barely speaks at all? You may get a taste of both personalities now, as both colorful and quiet people will be attracted to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If the effort to be fun makes you feel frantic instead, consider that it might not be your fault. Maybe it's the other person. You deserve to have a stable presence in your life, someone who makes you feel safe and relaxed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You long for life to bring a new color that your eyes have never touched. You crave a freshness you can inhale. It could happen if you're willing to go out of your way to crush monotony.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though you don't like the dirty, icky, squishy things that sometimes happen organically, you still have a capacity for becoming enthralled by nature. You'll experience such beauty tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You know how comforting it is to get the signals from others that you are accepted "as is." Therefore, you give those signals to others, making them feel relaxed and welcome to be themselves without pretension.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like the flow of traffic on a freeway, the current pacing of your environment is the result of many collaborative factors. Matching the pace is smart. Pushing it along or holding it back isn't.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have talent; no one will argue that. But you lack a few of the tools and techniques you need to get your talent to the world. Someone will help you remedy that situation today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In the future, people will behave much the same way they are behaving right now. Because you expect this, your antennae are fully extended. You are ready to dissect and interpret each move.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The wound healed long ago, but the scar remains to tell the story. In time, that too will fade. But for now it's part of you. If you embrace it, everyone else will, too.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 18). A different way of eating or exercising improves your health and image. A funny coincidence triggers a chain of good luck. Follow your curiosity into a new circle of friends in January. New living arrangements are featured in March. April brings the happy settlement of a negotiation. Libra and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 14, 38 and 20.
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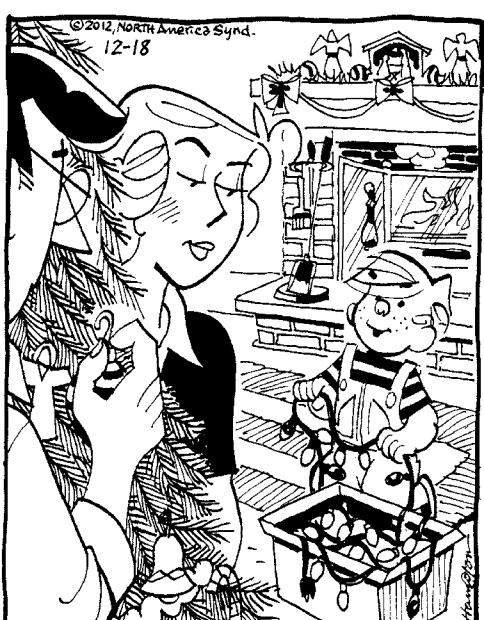
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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News	Noticias Noticiero	News	King	Justice King	Charlie Rose	King	Deadliest Catch	Hugh Bonneville	Ink Master	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana Sala	PBS News-Hour	Rules	Deadliest Catch		Ink Master	The Mentalist	Movie: The Last Fall, Vanessa Bell Calloway	Shake It Austin	College Basketball: Richmond at Kansas.	
7:PM	Charlie Brown	Por Ella Soy Eva	Raising Ben-Kate	NCIS (DVS)	Rosa Diamante (SS)	The Voice	Big Bang	Upd	First Freedom: Fight	It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas	Deadliest Catch	Movie: A Christmas Carol, Edward Woodward	Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles		Dog Good	Women's College Basketball	
8:PM	Happy Apt. 23	Amores Verdaderos	New Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles	Corazón Valiente	The Voice	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Iranian Amer	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch		Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles		Jessie	College Basketball	
9:PM	Private Practice	Amor Bravío (SS)	Simpsons	Vegas	Escobar		Big Bang	Conan	Frontline (DVS)	Seinfeld	Deadly Seas	Movie: A Christmas Carol, Edward Woodward	Ink Master	Leverage	Vindi	Good	NBA Coast to Coast	
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Shepherd's Heart		Til Death	Deadliest Catch		Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles	Soul Man	Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Al Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	The Office	Ministerios Vida	T. Smiley (Off Air)	'70s	Deadly Seas		Ink Master	Leverage	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	Daly	Conan	Upd		Browns	Deadliest Catch	Movie: A Christmas Carol	Tattoo	Cold Case	Movie: Next Day Air, Wood Harris	Deck	NBA	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(:05) Today	Earl	Light of the Southwest		Cops	Deadliest Catch		Tattoo	Major Crimes	Good	Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter
1:30	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	De'siones		Earl			Gaither	Catch	(:45) Movie: Entourage	Entourage		Good	Good	Poker	

DENNIS THE MENACE



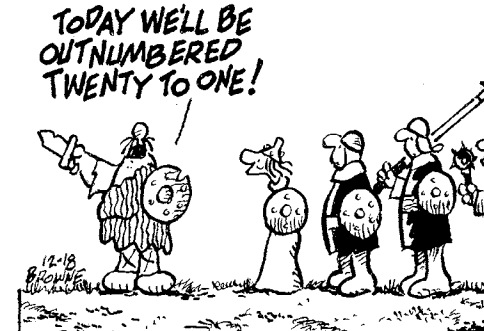
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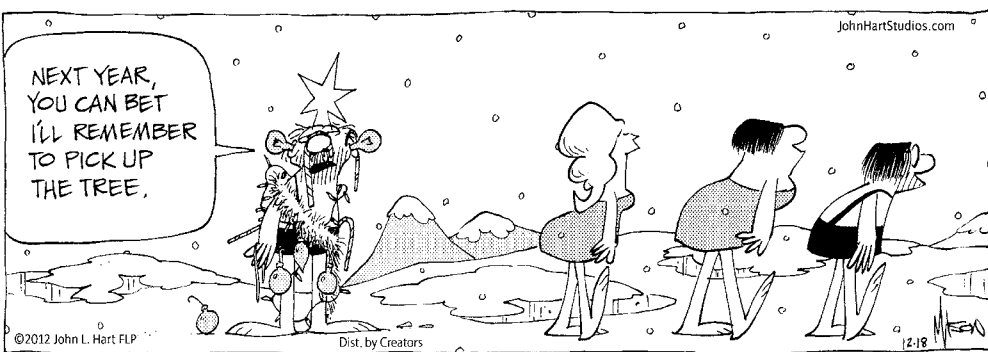
HAGAR



BUT WHO CARES ABOUT NUMBERS?



BC



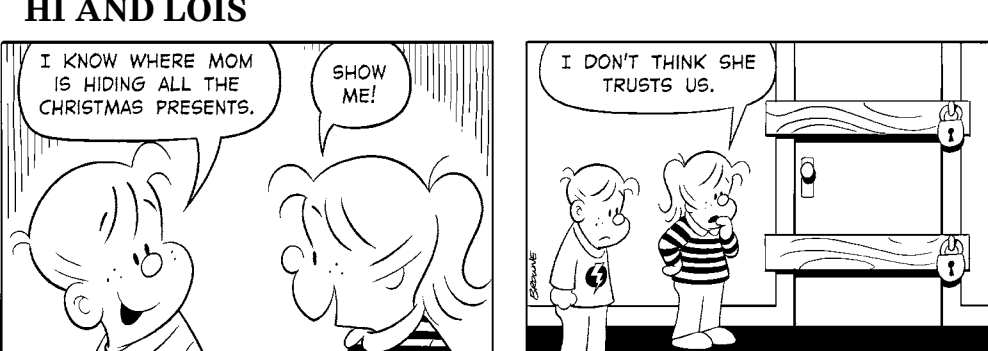
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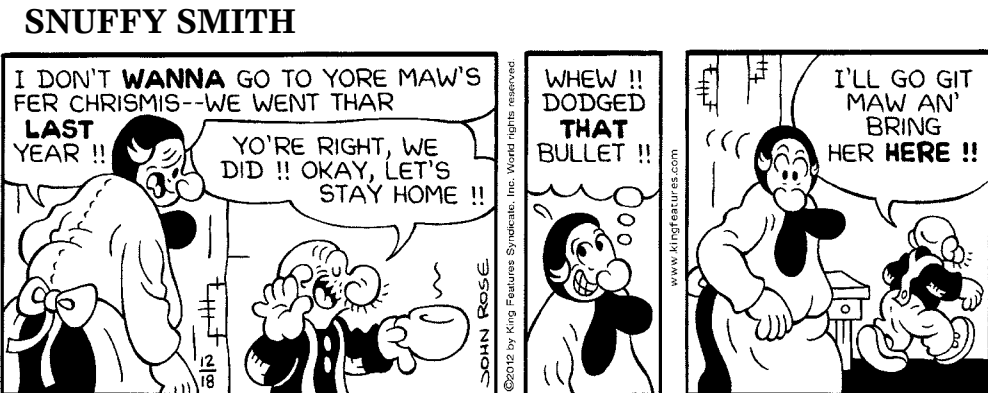
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



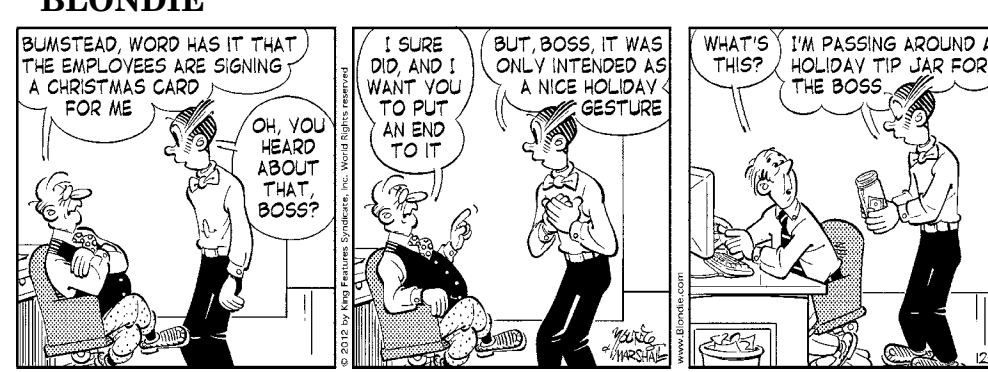
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 18, the 353rd day of 2012. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1912, the Piltdown Man made its public debut as fossil collector Charles Dawson reported to the Geological Society of London his discovery of supposedly fragmented early human remains at a gravel pit in Piltdown. (More than four decades later, the Piltdown Man was exposed as a hoax.)

On this date:

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson, widowed the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt at her Washington home.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler ordered secret preparations for Nazi Germany to invade the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, in a pair of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the wartime relocation of Japanese-Americans, but also said undeniably loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1958, the world's first communications satellite, SCORE (Signal Communication by Orbiting Relay Equipment), nicknamed "Chatterbox," was launched by the United States aboard an Atlas rocket.

In 1962, "Mister Magoo's Christmas Carol," an animated musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens story, first aired on NBC-TV.

In 1971, the Rev. Jesse Jackson announced in Chicago the founding of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

Answer to previous puzzle

AMASS	SOSO	TAGS
SOFTC	TALL	OHIO
KOREA	ATAD	REAR
STOPLIGHTS	TAPE	
DRS	HEEDED	
EXPOSE	LIONS	
ARIA	BOOD	LEI
SANTACLAUS	SEALS	
EYE	FOODS	SEAL
	HALTS	SPOUSE
RECORD	FREE	
OXEN	FIRETRUCKS	
MILE	EDIT	INANE
ALLS	ELSE	LINEN
NEST	TEES	STIED

Newsday Crossword

IT'S A GAMBLE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Rural water sources

6 Statuesque

10 Arizona city

14 Freeze over

15 Song for a diva

16 Working hard

17 Biblical queen's land

18 Religious offshoot

19 Hairpieces

20 Hold 'em wager

22 Dull pain

23 Pig's place

24 Piano piece

26 Steal

30 Glossy fabric

32 And others: Abbr.

33 "Sad to say . . ."

35 Drink like a cat

39 Prefix for final

40 Immature

42 Army training area

43 Last Greek letter

45 "Are you ___ out?"

46 Neck-and-neck

47 "Laughing" beast

49 Fall blooms

51 Make plump

54 Tachometer letters

55 Decorative pitcher

56 Building inspector's discovery

63 Cab

64 Poems of praise

65 Variety show

66 Historical periods

67 Flew the coop

68 Sing like a bird

69 Piece of office furniture

70 Speaker's platform

71 Alpine song

DOWN

1 Trace of smoke

2 Resound

3 Onion relative

4 Garage job, briefly

5 Thinly scattered

6 Delicious

7 Square footage

8 Defeat soundly

9 Most up-to-date

10 "Sure about that?"

11 New York city

12 Could possibly

13 Totally confused

21 Homeless cat

25 Lubricate

26 Mexican coin

27 Line on a list

28 Weak, as an excuse

29 Unlikely bail recipient

30 Spa hot spot

31 "It will come ___ surprise . . ."

34 Beef cut

36 Cover with asphalt

37 Computer operator

38 Pigs' places

41 Pictorial chart

44 Sailor's affirmative

48 Wrap around

50 Wise guy

51 Honored with a party

52 In the know

53 Houston's home

54 Takes a break

57 Flash of inspiration

58 Loan adjustment, for short

59 Nothing at all

60 Enthusiastic

61 Reign over

62 Small valley

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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SU's Boeheim wins 900th, appeals for action on firearms

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — With his wife, Juli, looking on at the postgame press conference and his young children close by, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim's final remarks were not about his milestone 900th career victory.

Instead, he was thinking about two 6-year-old boys who were buried Monday, victims along with 18 other children and six adults in a shooting massacre last week at an elementary school in Connecticut.

"If we cannot get the people who represent us to do something about firearms, we are a sad, sad society," Boeheim said Monday night. "If one person in this world, the NRA president, anybody, can tell me why we need assault weapons with 30 shots — this is our fault if we don't go out there and do something about this. If we can't get this thing done, I don't know what kind

of country we have."

It was a sobering end to what was a memorable evening for Syracuse basketball. The third-ranked Orange's 72-68 victory over Detroit in the Gotham Classic made Boeheim just the third Division I men's coach to reach 900 wins.

Boeheim, 68 and in his 37th year at his alma mater, is 900-304 and joined an elite fraternity. Mike Krzyzewski (936) and Bob Knight (902) are the only other men's Division I coaches to win that many games.

"To me, it's just a number," said Boeheim, whose first victory was against Harvard in 1976. "If I get 900, have I got to get more? That's why maybe it's just not that important to me because to me it's just a number, and the only number that matters is how this team does."

So far, it's done OK.

After a victory that nearly was short-circuited, Boeheim was presented a jersey encased in glass with 900 emblazoned on it.

"I'm happy. I've stayed around long enough. I was a little nervous," Boeheim said at center court. "I'm proud to be here. To win this game is more pressure than I've felt in a long time. I wasn't thinking about losing until the end. That wouldn't have been a good thing to happen, but it very well could have."

Michael Carter-Williams hit three of four free throws in the final seconds to secure the win.

"Michael made big-time free throws you've got to make. If he misses a couple, it's a new game. That was the difference," Boeheim said.

Carter-Williams finished with 10 assists and 12 points, his sixth straight double-double.

UNDERDOGS

Continued from Page 7

Alabama and earning a shot at Notre Dame in the BCS national championship, the Huskers were embarrassed by the five-loss Badgers a few hours later.

Georgia is a 10-point favorite over the seemingly reeling Huskers.

"They're resilient," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "They look forward to going out and playing again. They were hurting, but you know what, they are grown men. You move on. That's what you have to do. We'll be ready to go."

Perhaps no bowl matchup epitomizes the current gap between the Big Ten and the powerhouse Big 12 and SEC more than Purdue-Oklahoma State in the Heart of Dallas Bowl.

Even though the Boilermakers fired coach Danny Hope, they're still on a three-game winning streak. Yet the Cowboys, who at 7-5 are just a game better than Purdue, are an 18-point favorite.

That's the biggest line of the postseason — bigger than even Florida State over MAC champs Northern Illinois in the Orange Bowl.

Minnesota (6-6, 2-6) is also a heavy underdog in its matchup with Texas Tech in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, even though the Red Raiders (7-5) lost coach Tommy Tuberville to Cincinnati.

Even with all those apparent mismatches, going 0-7 is probably a long

shot for the Big Ten.

Michigan (8-4, 6-2) and South Carolina should make for an entertaining Outback Bowl. Few would be surprised if the Wolverines won their second straight bowl game under coach Brady Hoke.

Northwestern (9-3, 5-3) can reach the 10-win plateau for just the third time with a win over Mississippi State in the Gator Bowl.

The Wildcats, who were perhaps the only Big Ten team that can claim they were underrated in 2012, are just a 2-point underdog.

"Our guys are hungry. This is an opportunity for 10 wins for this ball club and to potentially be ranked in the top 15 in the country. That's an unbelievable foundation of success that this senior class will have laid. Ten wins makes a good season great," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said.

Michigan State and TCU are also a virtual toss-up in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl.

The Spartans were one of the nation's most disappointing teams, but five of their six losses were by four points or less.

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio is hoping his team can finally catch a few breaks.

His Big Ten colleagues might be thinking along those same lines.

"One play here, one play there, we're a different football team. But you have to play what you've got. We want to point our compass north. I believe the glass is half full, not half empty," Dantonio said.

SPURS

Continued from Page 7

prevailed.

"I'm leaving that alone," Jackson said. "It's all basketball. Whatever was said on the court is going to stay on the court and I'm going to leave it alone."

"I wish Serge the best."

The Spurs never found an answer for Ibaka, who had just four points while fighting foul trouble in Oklahoma City's season-opening

loss at San Antonio. He finished 10 for 16 from the field, led the Thunder to a 49-37 rebounding advantage and also blocked three shots.

"He hurt us bad. ... He was hitting everything," said Jackson, who apologized to Ibaka on Twitter after the initial post.

"That's the same way we lost last year in the playoffs, by him hitting those same shots. I take my hat off. He played a great game tonight."

The teams hadn't faced each other at Chesapeake Energy Arena since the Thun-

der overcame a 2-0 deficit in last season's Western Conference finals by winning the next four games.

The Spurs drew a measure of revenge in the season opener by beating Oklahoma City on Tony Parker's jumper as time expired.

There were no such dramatics in this one, with Parker and Tim Duncan remaining out of the game even after James Anderson stole an ill-advised Ibaka pass and ran out for a two-handed dunk to get the deficit down to 93-84 with 5:29 remaining.

The Spurs came up empty on two possessions with chances to make it closer before Kevin Martin sank a 3-pointer. Ibaka — who else? — and Durant each had two-handed slams in the final minutes to ice it.

"It was just another game on the list for us," said Kevin Durant, who scored 19. "We really respect this team, we really knew it was going to be a tough game. It was

good for us to get a win, but we've got to keep moving on."

Parker and Nando De Colo had 14 points apiece to lead the Spurs. Manu Ginobili did not play because he bruised his left quadriceps in Saturday's win at Boston.

Russell Westbrook chipped in 22 points and nine assists and Kevin Martin scored 20 for the Thunder, who had no interest in fanning the flames on the Ibaka-Jackson feud.

"I think he's just a great player and it showed again tonight," teammate Thabo Sefolosha said.

Westbrook didn't even want to admit knowing about the bad blood.

"I don't know what you're talking about," he said. San Antonio rallied behind its reserves and went up 41-39 on Tiago Splitter's basket underneath before the Thunder pushed ahead for good with a 12-2 response.

Oklahoma City

stretched its lead with 11 straight points during the third quarter, punctuated by Nick Collison's putback that made it 71-56 with 4:27 remaining in the period.

The Spurs tried going to their cornerstones to break up the spurt but Duncan had the ball stolen by Westbrook and then a shot blocked by Ibaka on consecutive possessions and Parker followed by missing a corner 3-pointer off the side of the backboard and then getting a fast-break layup swatted by

Durant.

Collison then scored off of Sefolosha's missed 3-pointer.

It was on the next possession that Ibaka flexed his muscles after grabbing three straight offensive rebounds.

"He's growing every single day," Durant said.

"He's shooting the jumper well, he's taking guys off the dribble. Of course, you know he blocks shots and rebounds but his offensive game is expanding and that's what we need."

MANUEL R. CARRASCO, MD

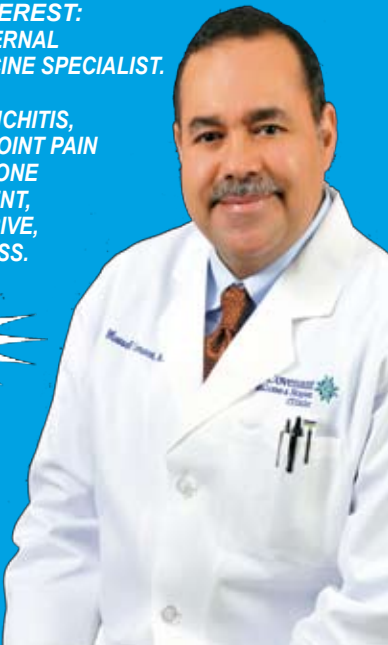
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