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THURSDAY

DECEMBER 20, 2012



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 57

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Courtesy photo/Amanda Duforat

Elbow Elementary first grade classes joined together to play reindeer games in the gym, make reindeer food, play pin the nose on the reindeer and more for their annual Christmas party.

Howard Co: We're on the roads again

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

With roads on their mind, Howard County commissioners will meet for the last time in 2012 Friday.

Among the agenda items is discussion and possible action regarding a proposed agreement aimed at requiring area trucking companies profiting from the boom in the oilfield to help finance the rehabilitation of numerous county roads.

What: Howard County Commissioners Court convenes at 10 a.m. Friday.

Commissioners have been working on the pact for several months, said County Judge Mark Barr.

"Overall, the damage is estimated at approximately \$22 million right now," Barr said. "This isn't something we're going to be able to fix all at one time, obviously."

Local holiday highlights continue

Trees to be turned off at museum but lights festival just beginning

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The holiday season is waxing and waning, in a manner of speaking, in Big Spring.

On the down side, you can still get your Christmas fix at the Heritage Museum, but only for one more day. On the positive side, however, another holiday tradition, the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights, is just picking up

steam. The museum's Christmas Tree Forest, featuring more than 50 individually decorated trees, will close Friday afternoon, Curator Tammy Schrecengost said.

The exhibit attracted hundreds of visitors this season.

"It was a wonderful success," Schrecengost said. "The community support for this exhibit is always great,

and this year was no exception."

This year, the exhibit doubled as an American Cancer Society fundraiser.

"We had a special tree dedicated to the memory of Maurine Pittman," Schrecengost said. "She and her husband, Dale, were long-time



Schrecengost



Simmons

supporters of the Christmas Tree Forest, so we collected donations for Relay For Life in her honor."

More than \$5,000 was collected for Relay, she added.

Across town from the museum, the Festival of Lights has attracted more than 4,700 visitors since it

opened its 2012 run Saturday. The festival has attracted visitors from six foreign countries, including Denmark, Poland and Kenya, and from U.S. states as far away as Montana and New York.

"We're getting visitors pretty close to the rate I was expecting," said Pat Simmons, festival chairperson. "But

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Historic weekend slated for museum's Silver Wings Ball annual fundraiser

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

History will abound Jan. 12, as the air museum and a historic hotel combine for the Silver Wings Ball.

The ball — which serves as Hangar 25 Air Museum's primary fund raiser each year — is slated to be held at the Settles Hotel, which has undergone a massive renovation during the past several years. According to museum Administrator Genevieve Stockburger, combining both Big Spring mainstays is simply a perfect match.

"Both facilities — the Hangar 25 Air Museum and the Settles Hotel — celebrate the history of this community," Stockburger said. "The museum's board of directors came up with the idea of combining the two, which I really feel like is a great idea. The historic value of

both the Hangar and the hotel are a huge part of this city."

Stockburger said she hopes the team-up will also help encourage local residents — and those abroad — to attend the event.

"This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year, so it's very important to the operation of the museum," Stockburger said. "Last year's Silver Wings Ball was a bit disappointing from a fund-raising standpoint and the board wanted to do something extra-special this year. We're hoping the fact it will be at the Settles Hotel, which is just now getting ready to open its doors, will be an extra incentive for area residents to attend."

Stockburger said the event is formal; however, local residents shouldn't shy away because of that.

"Yes, it's a formal event. However, we really want everyone in the community to have the chance to attend," she said. "Don't let the fact it's formal keep you

See **BALL**, Page 3A



Dec. 20
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Obituaries

Sibyl Gilmore



Sibyl Gilmore, 94, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Eddy Pitchford and Rick Cunningham officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 28, 1918, in Callahan County, Texas and married Joe Clayton Gilmore Dec. 7, 1935, in Big Spring, Texas. He preceded her in death March 16, 1986.

Sibyl was a long-time resident of Big Spring. She was a homemaker and enjoyed crocheting. She was a faithful member of 14th and Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include one daughter, Nelda Joe Burnett of Sand Springs; one brother, Charles Lewis of Lubbock; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two sisters, Marga Lee Cleavenger and Sylvia Iris Prescott; and a granddaughter, Tatia Colvin.

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

Sheriff/EMS

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (68 prisoners were reported in the county jail):

- AMY NICOLE FAZ, 30, was jailed on a charge of hindering officers from discharging official duties.
- MARTIN A. MORA, 35, was jailed on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction.
- JULIAN JESUS MEDRANO, 35, was jailed on two motions to revoke probation for evading arrest/detention with a vehicle.
- JOLANDA GONZALES, 43, was jailed on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- TIMOTHY SCOTT REED, 43, was jailed on a district court order of modified conditions of community supervision.
- JOHN WILLIAM SALAZAR, 37, was jailed on municipal warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- ALEJANDRO GUTIERREZ, 23, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.
- SONNIE ESTRELLA KUNKLE, 27, was jailed on charges of displaying a fictitious motor vehicle reg-

istration and carrying a prohibited weapon.

- LESLIE AREVALO, 20, was jailed on a municipal warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- JOSHUA STEVEN WALKER, 22, was jailed on municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, speeding in a school zone, driving while license invalid and driving while license invalid with previous conviction.
- TIFFANY ANN ELDER, 30, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of Drexel. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Central. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 500 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2100 block of S. Monticello. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help pay funeral expenses for local resident Joe Gomez, who passed away on Dec. 12. Donations can sent to Myers and Smith Funeral Home at P.O. Box 2760 in Big Spring.

• Don't forget to visit the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights in Big Spring, on display nightly from Saturday through Dec. 31. More displays, more lights, and more fun — and admission is free. However, donations are gratefully accepted. Questions? Call 263-4607.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or

to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

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

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

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

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

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

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

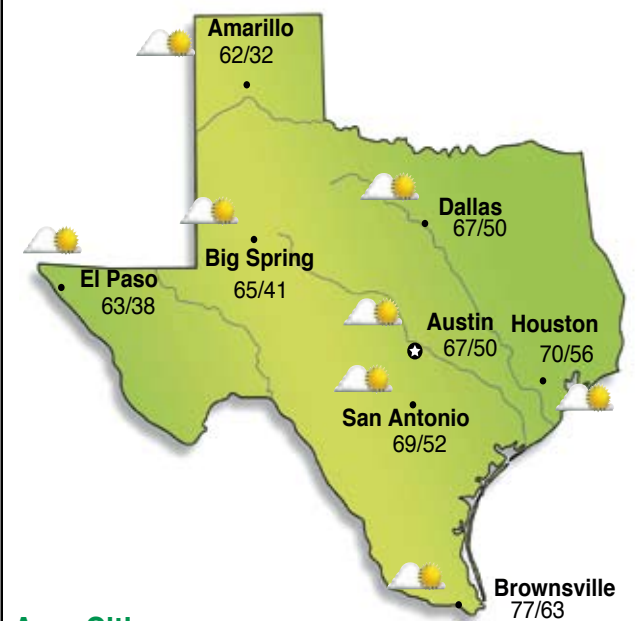
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 12/22	Sun 12/23	Mon 12/24	Tue 12/25	Wed 12/26
65/41 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	72/40 More clouds than sun. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	64/39 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	60/25 Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 20s.	53/32 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 5:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:48 PM



Texas At A Glance



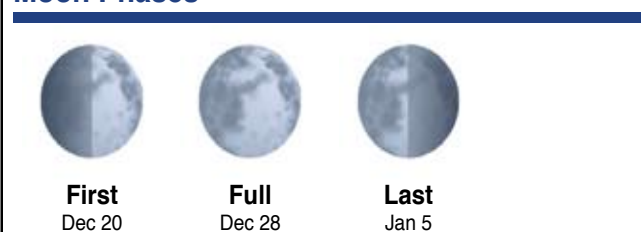
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	66	47	pt sunny	Kingsville	78	58	pt sunny
Amarillo	62	32	pt sunny	Livingston	66	52	pt sunny
Austin	67	50	pt sunny	Longview	64	52	pt sunny
Beaumont	67	54	pt sunny	Lubbock	66	35	pt sunny
Brownsville	77	63	pt sunny	Lufkin	66	53	pt sunny
Brownwood	68	47	pt sunny	Midland	68	44	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	75	59	pt sunny	Raymondville	78	59	pt sunny
Corsicana	66	50	pt sunny	Rosenberg	71	55	pt sunny
Dallas	67	50	pt sunny	San Antonio	69	52	pt sunny
Del Rio	67	45	pt sunny	San Marcos	68	51	pt sunny
El Paso	63	38	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	63	51	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	71	47	cloudy	Sweetwater	65	44	pt sunny
Gainesville	63	43	pt sunny	Tyler	65	52	pt sunny
Greenville	63	47	pt sunny	Weatherford	65	44	pt sunny
Houston	70	56	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	63	40	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	52	32	sunny	Minneapolis	27	13	pt sunny
Boston	41	26	cloudy	New York	41	32	pt sunny
Chicago	31	18	mst sunny	Phoenix	65	42	pt sunny
Dallas	67	50	pt sunny	San Francisco	57	53	rain
Denver	51	25	pt sunny	Seattle	43	38	mixed
Houston	70	56	pt sunny	St. Louis	48	31	sunny
Los Angeles	60	51	pt sunny	Washington, DC	44	33	windy
Miami	70	49	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sat 12/22	Sun 12/23	Mon 12/24	Tue 12/25	Wed 12/26
3	3	3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

Support Groups

FRIDAY

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) TX 0021 meets at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m. and meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. We have a different program each week.

Texas briefs

Texas governor asks cancer agency to halt grants

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A \$3 billion cancer-fighting effort that's already under criminal investigation received yet more humiliation Wednesday when Texas Gov. Rick Perry called for a moratorium on new grants until confidence is restored in a once-celebrated agency that has plunged into turmoil in just three years.

Leaders of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas quickly embraced the request from Perry, who unveiled the unprecedented state-run cancer fight in 2009 with promises of medical breakthroughs. But the effort has unraveled into one of Texas' biggest tempests involving a state agency in Perry's 12 years as governor.

A key Republican lawmaker who filed the original bill creating CPRIT piled on Wednesday by introducing new legislation, this time calling for new polices to bolster agency oversight and accountability. The agency also faces another round of scrutiny Thursday in front of a key state budget-writing committee.

"The mission of defeating cancer is too important to be derailed by inadequate processes and a lack of oversight," Perry said in a letter to CPRIT's oversight committee. That panel includes members appointed by Perry and some of his top political donors.

The governor added, "It is important that we restore the confidence of the Texas taxpayers who approved this important initiative before new funds are dispersed."

The letter was co-signed by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and state House Speaker Joe Straus, who also appoints members of the agency's governing board.

Texans join in silence

Friday for school victims

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry has asked Texans to join him in a moment of silence Friday in memory of the 26 victims of the Connecticut school shootings.

Perry on Thursday issued a proclamation declaring a moment of silence at 9:30 a.m. Friday to coincide with a day of mourning called for by Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy a week after the massacre.

Perry spokesman Josh Havens says the observance is meant for 9:30 a.m. local time in the state's two time zones.

Perry is also encouraging places of worship and buildings that have the capability to ring bells 26 times to honor each life lost when a gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Texas mayor gets probation in snow cone stand flap

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A South Texas mayor will serve a year of probation to resolve charges of a snow cone stand allegedly operating on his property in violation of city rules.

San Benito Mayor Joe Hernandez on Wednesday agreed to join a pretrial diversion program for dismissal of a felony charge of tampering with evidence. He wasn't required to enter a plea but must pay the \$500 program fee.

The Valley Morning Star reports Hernandez still

faces a misdemeanor charge of abuse of official capacity if he fails to complete probation.

A grand jury in October indicted Hernandez on charges he put an ordinance revision on a 2011 city council agenda that would benefit him. He also allegedly tried to obscure evidence of the snow cone stand illegally operating on his property.

Appeals court rejects Army post shooting suit

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A federal appeals court has dismissed a lawsuit brought by a Kentucky woman seeking compensation for the shooting death of her son at Fort Bliss in Texas.

The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday found that sovereign immunity prevents Renee Richardson of Louisville from suing the federal government. Richardson's son, 18-year-old Ezra Gerald Smith, died when a soldier went on a shooting spree at the military post on the Texas-New Mexico line on April 24, 2009.

Judge Denise Page Hood also wrote for a three-judge panel that medical professionals had no legal duty to disclose any threats made by Spc. Gerald Polanco to any third parties.

Polanco was charged with murder but later ruled incompetent to stand trial.

Smith was shot in the back of the head.

Windy conditions blamed for power outages in Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Strong winds have knocked out power to about 36,000 homes and businesses in parts of Texas.

Dallas-based Oncor (ON'kor) on Thursday reported more than 35,000 electric outages in North Texas. Utility crews worked to restore power in outages mainly reported in the Dallas area.

The National Weather Service issued a wind advisory for the Dallas area through midday Thursday as an associated cold front moved through the state.

Austin Energy by dawn Thursday had restored power to all but about 375 customers from an earlier count of nearly 4,900 outages in Central Texas.

Officials say a dust storm Wednesday afternoon in West Texas triggered traffic accidents on Interstate 27 north of Lubbock that left one traveler dead and at least 17 hurt.

Texas inmate pleads guilty to Obama threat

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — An inmate at a Southeast Texas prison has pleaded guilty to writing a letter threatening President Barack Obama and his family.

A federal judge in Beaumont on Wednesday accepted the plea from 26-year-old Joseph Scott Sword of Cooper. No sentencing date was immediately set for the Stiles Unit inmate, who faces up to five years in federal prison for making threats against the president.

Prosecutors say Sword in May wrote a letter from the prison in Beaumont saying he belonged to a violent gang and that the Obamas were being watched by fellow members on the street. Authorities did not immediately release additional details of the investigation.

Sword, who was indicted in July, is serving time for robbery and burglary in Hunt and Hopkins counties.

East Texan gets prison for \$2.5M fraud, bonuses

TYLER, Texas (AP) — An East Texas man must serve more than three years in prison for faking \$2.5 million in company profits in order to get bonuses.

A federal judge in Tyler sentenced 56-year-old Mark Eugene Thomas of Athens to 41 months behind bars. Thomas in March pleaded guilty to mail fraud when he was the accounting manager for Aigon Medical Devices Inc. in Athens.

Prosecutors say Thomas from 2004 to 2008 provided fraudulent data to the company and auditors to make the specialty medical products company appear more profitable. Investigators say Thomas and other workers then wrongly received performance incentives.

Thomas on Wednesday was also ordered to repay the company more than \$2.5 million.

Athens is 70 miles southeast of Dallas.

Female Texas trooper suspended amid body search

DALLAS (AP) — A female Texas trooper has been suspended amid an investigation of her videotaped body cavity search of two women along a busy highway.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Tom Vinger said late Wednesday that Trooper Kelley Halleson has been suspended with pay. Results of a Texas Rangers inquiry are expected to go to a Dallas County grand jury in January.

An Irving woman and her adult niece this week sued Halleson and a male trooper, plus DPS director Steve McCraw, over the July traffic stop.

Angel and Ashley Dobbs say the search videotaped by a patrol car camera was unlawful and humiliating.

The women say a male trooper says he saw them throw cigarette butts out a window, questioned them about drugs and summoned Halleson. No drugs were found.

Youth arrested in Dallas suburb for Twitter threat

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Police in a Dallas suburb have arrested a juvenile at a high school for making a threat on Twitter that "potentially jeopardized the safety of the school environment."

Police in Frisco issued a news release late Wednesday saying only that a boy of unspecified age allegedly made a threat "that was substantiated through investigation." The arrest occurred at Frisco Centennial High School.

The news release said it was unknown whether the boy had the means to carry out the threat. However, the alarm he caused school officials and the public met the elements for an arrest, the release stated.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

"We're looking for things to really pick up in the next few days."

The festival runs daily from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through Dec. 31.

Dozens of exhibits illuminated by more than a million lights greet visitors to the festival.

Aside from the trademark lighted poinsettias, which serve as the unofficial logo of the festival, there will be corporate-sponsored Christmas cards, snowmen, Christmas trees, a representation of the Settles Hotel and much more.

A special display this year honors former mayor Russ McEwen, a long-time supporter of

the festival, who died in October.

Admission is free, although donations are gratefully accepted. Simmons said donations help fund current and future festival operations.

To keep interest in the festival high in the week following Christmas, organizers have planned a geese-counting contest. Wooden geese will be

placed along the festival route and visitors will have a chance at a special prize if they guess the correct number of the ornaments, Simmons said.

The contest begins Dec. 26, she added.

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

BALL

Continued from Page 1A

from attending. It's truly going to be something the folks here in Big Spring won't want to miss."

The ball is expected to begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour in the Settles' Pharmacy Bar, located where the drug store at the historic hotel once was. According to Stockburger, the ball offers an excellent chance for those in attendance to reminisce about the former Webb Air Force Base, as well as the downtown landmark.

"There will be live music and dancing," she said. "Also, the Settles is handling all of the food for the ball, so I'm sure it will be delicious. We've planned a live auction, as well."

Event-goers will have the chance to win a one-night stay for two at the historic hotel, according to Stockburger.

Tickets for the Silver Wings Ball are \$50 each and can be purchased by contacting Hangar 25 board member Gloria McDonald or any other board member, according to Stockburger.

"They can also purchase their tickets at the museum," she said. "They are going to go pretty quickly, so make sure you get them early."

This is going to be a Silver Wings Ball no one is going to want to miss."

For more information, contact the Hangar 25 Air Museum at 432-264-1999.

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

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Joe Gomez, 52, died Wednesday. Funeral mass was at 11 a.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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

PROBLEM: ACHING NECKS, SHOULDERS AND BACKS, PAIN AND STRESS

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

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

BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$9.00 monthly; \$97.20 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

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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.

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OTHER VIEWS

Digging for the truth in growing research scandal

The Texas Cancer Registry predicts that before the year is out, 39,072 Texans will die of cancer. The registry also predicts that 110,135 new cases of the disease will upend the lives of those diagnosed as well as their families in 2012.

Cancer is an enemy — a ruthless one that Texans have pledged to fight. Now, the Travis County district attorney is investigating whether people entrusted to manage money intended for cancer research abused trust. District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg said investigators for the Travis County Public Integrity Unit are gathering information generated by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute on how decisions about grants were made. While unfortunate and uncomfortable, such an investigation is necessary to restore the agency's damaged credibility.

The agency was formed after Texas voters approved \$3 billion in bonds to fund a 10-year program looking for cures for cancer in 2007. The agency dispenses money in loans and grants for cancer research and was formed in 2009. Augmenting the investment of money was the investment of hope — hope that the money would lead to cures.

It was a big dream, but a worthy one.

Three years later, the agency is in turmoil and its activities the subject of an investigation both by the district attorney and the Texas attorney general.

It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions, and agency executives as well as the elected officials who oversee it are going to step on every cobblestone on that road before the investigations are concluded. An uncomfortable journey to be sure, but a necessary one.

Restoring the public trust the agency squandered is going to be a tall order. In announcing his resignation, agency Executive Director Bill Gimson said the agency had “wasted efforts expended in low value activities during the past eight months.”

The agency has been under mounting criticism since the disclosure that an \$11 million award to a private company never was reviewed. The agency's chief science officer and several out-of-state scientists who review grant applications resigned because a grant for a Houston incubator didn't get a scientific review.

The lax oversight was far from the noble promise that the money would be awarded on scientific merit after review by some of the top scientists in the field. As the exodus of top-name reviewers indicates, that promise has been broken.

The \$11 million grant that escaped review went to a Dallas-based biotech firm. Allegations that the decisions on grants were driven by politics rather than science have dogged the agency since the departure of top scientists who were supposed to review applications.

The state's reputation has been sullied and money that was intended to fight cancer has been tossed at — as Gimson put it — “low value activities.”

Dealings between the agency and a related private foundation have also come under review.

The foundation's undisclosed donors underwrite the agency's operations, including salary supplements for the agency's top two executives and helping to pay for scientific review of grant applications.

“You can't avoid looking at the foundation if you are looking at the agency,” State Auditor John Keel said of his pending audit of the agency.

The agency has thus far spent just over \$800,000 in tax-payer approved bonds.

Lehmborg stressed that the investigation is in its early stages. It is way too early to jump to conclusions. It will be an expensive investigation in more ways than one.

Texans need to know, however, that their trust is respected by the public officials who asked for it when campaigning for approval of the bonds.

As anyone who has ever had to live with the dreaded diagnosis of cancer can tell you, cancer invades not only the body, but the psyche and the soul. It is a cruel disease that has the capacity to disappear and reappear with uninhibited caprice.

The money was intended to wage a war on cancer. Texans need to be assured that public officials weren't giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

— Austin American-Statesman

Waiting for the good guys

After the sick feeling had passed, after the tears had been shed, a sense of outrage and grim determination filled many Americans.

Something must be done, they felt, to end the gun massacres in this country.

Surely, they hoped, our politicians must feel the same way. Even on Capitol Hill, where a great many people are skilled in the ways of doing very little, surely even they must feel the need for action.

But the gun lobby and its minions were ready. They, after all, have had a great deal of practice. And the social media quickly filled with the same message: too soon, too soon. Show respect for the dead. Do nothing now. Don't “politicize” tragedy.

Four adults are killed in Benghazi, and the right wing politicizes it endlessly. But 20 small children are slaughtered in Connecticut, and the nation is told to do nothing.

I have written about gun madness and the slaughter of the innocent for decades. The NRA playbook holds no mysteries: Demand delay. Sow confusion. Spread around money for the next election.

The NRA is too powerful, the politicians wail. We cannot defeat it.

The NRA is not that powerful. It can be defeated. It spent millions to defeat Barack Obama, and it failed.

But laws do nothing, the gun lobby says. The problem is moral decay!

And yes, Mike Huckabee went on Fox News after the massacre

in Newtown, Conn. — not to “politicize,” mind you, because that would be wrong — but to speak the truth as revealed to him.

“We ask why there is violence in our schools, but we've systematically removed God from our schools,” he said. “Should we be so surprised that schools would become a place of carnage?”

So we must wait to act until America becomes as pious as Mike Huckabee? Oh, my, that might take a very long time.

Do nothing, do nothing! It's not guns, it's mental illness!

But other countries have mental illness. And yet they have much lower rates of murder and much less carnage than we do. Could that be because they keep guns away from the mentally ill? Do nothing, do nothing. It's society.

Society is rotten, the police cannot be everywhere, and so we must arm ourselves against the evil ones.

And so a woman in a safe neighborhood in Connecticut collects a small arsenal in her house to protect herself from the evil outside. Her son, some say, seemed disturbed, emotionally ill, perhaps. And yet she kept semiautomatic pistols and an assault-style rifle around the house with hundreds of rounds of ammunition?

It would be terrible enough if just she had paid the price for this. But 20 small children and six other adults paid the price, too.

Do nothing? Do nothing? Can we really be so foolish, so cowed, so helpless?

Don't tell me gun control doesn't work. We have never tried real gun control in this country.

Don't tell me the Supreme Court has forbidden gun control. It has forbidden no such thing.

And don't tell me to do noth-

ing. Don't tell me to keep silent while the guns bark in our classrooms and children fall shrieking to their deaths and semiautomatic rifles can be purchased at Wal-Mart amid the pots and pans and teddy bears.

“I think we could be at a tipping point,” Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said on “Face the Nation” Sunday and then listed three goals: “reinstate the assault weapons ban, limit the size of clips to maybe no more than 10 bullets per clip, and the third would be to make it harder for mentally unstable people to get guns.”

We spent billions of dollars and sacrificed thousands of lives for a war over imaginary weapons of mass destruction abroad. Surely now we can fight real weapons of destruction at home.

Sunday night, speaking from Newtown, our president said: “We are not doing enough. And we will have to change. We can't tolerate this any more. These tragedies must end.”

But words are not enough. And he knows that.

“In the coming weeks, I will use whatever powers this office holds,” the president said, “in an effort aimed at preventing more tragedies like this.”

The president has political capital. He must spend it.

The president knows what needs to be done. He must do it.

On Sunday, he told the story of a teacher barricaded in a classroom at Sandy Hook Elementary School telling the children, “Wait for the good guys; they're coming.”

We are waiting, Mr. President. We are waiting.

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



ROGER SIMON

Bullying left exploits Sandy Hook

The horror of the massacre of innocents at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. struck at the fabric of the American tapestry. Virtually every American has spent the last few days in a haze — shocked at the nature of evil, confused and frustrated by the inability to prevent such an atrocity, fearful at the possibility of such a monstrous occurrence repeating itself.

It is only natural in such times to discuss what we can do differently to prevent such things from happening. Nobody wants to see dead children, grieving parents or bullet-riddled schools. Nobody. We may disagree about what the proper solutions are, but we all want solutions.

So why can't those on the left admit that?

There is nothing viler than standing atop a heap of children's bodies denouncing all those who disagree politically as unfeeling monsters. Yet that is precisely what many on the left have done. Piers Morgan of CNN spent the evening of the tragedy berating gun rights advocates: “I'm so frustrated. I'm so furious that these kids have been blown away again, with legally acquired weapons. Some boy, who's got problems, takes his mother's three weapons — including this ridiculous assault

rifle — and goes in a school and kills these kids, and you guys on the gun lobby still want to tell me the answer is more guns. It is madness!” Democratic Representative of N.Y. Jarrod Nadler accused the National Rifle Association of enabling mass murder.

This is a bully tactic, pure and simple. Labeling your opponents heartless and cruel is a strategy designed to override logic and to end the political debate.

That's the only way the left can win this debate, and they know it. Adam Lanza, the shooter, was mentally unstable. The left has thwarted serious attempts at involuntary commitment of the mentally unstable for decades. An assault weapons ban was in place in Connecticut and did precisely nothing to stop Lanza from mowing down kindergarteners. Connecticut has heavy gun registration laws.

Sandy Hook Elementary was a gun-free zone, just as virtually every major mass shooting location in recent memory has been. The real solutions here lie in better protection for schoolchildren, either from armed guards or trained administrators, not in more pie-in-the-sky legislation. Lanza broke at least five laws before he even began shooting. None of them stopped him.

A real discussion of what to do about mass shootings would begin with three competing values: rights, risk and reward. First, the rights: Americans have the right to bear arms, not only for self-defense, but in preservation of a free society. The founders recognized it, and their logic is

still relevant. There are societal rewards to gun ownership by responsible people, including deterrence of crime and prevention of mass shootings (an attempted mass shooting in San Antonio was thwarted by an off-duty police officer who shot a would-be perpetrator four times over the weekend, for example).

There are risks to firearms, too. They are far more powerful than knives. They have a higher capacity for damage, and they are more efficient. That's why the proper solution would be to allow responsible gun owners to keep their firearms, while preventing non-responsible gun owners from obtaining theirs.

These decisions must be carefully calibrated. They ought not be made in haste or in the heat of passion. We ought to let Sandy Hook stir us to action — indeed, we cannot avoid letting it do so. But we cannot let that emotion drive us into idiotic laws that violate rights and make people less rather than more safe.

But this is not a discussion the left wants to have. They are more interested in demagoguing the issue by slandering conservatives as heartless and unfeeling. That's not just insulting to conservatives. It's insulting to the murdered children, who deserve more than to be used as a political chip in an attempt to ram through an ill-conceived agenda.

Ben Shapiro, 28, is a graduate of UCLA and Harvard Law School, a radio host on KRLA 870 Los Angeles.



BEN SHAPIRO

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 a return 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

News in brief

Old assault-weapons ban draws attention from Obama and others

WASHINGTON (AP) — One early focus of new gun regulations by President Barack Obama and some lawmakers would reinstate a federal ban on assault weapons, a law widely regarded as imperfect.

The ban, which existed for 10 years until 2004, would have made it illegal for the young gunman in Connecticut to use the 30-round magazines that allowed him to shoot so many elementary school students before he reloaded. But the ban and other U.S. gun laws wouldn't have prevented his mother's purchase of the powerful assault rifle or the especially deadly ammunition that he used to kill 26 people.

A generation of U.S. gun laws — and the inherent compromises intended to balance constitutional gun rights and public safety — reflects the intricacies of applying government policy to stem acts of mass violence.

Since July, there have been at least four mass shootings that killed 47 people and wounded dozens more in Connecticut, Colorado, Oregon and Wisconsin. The killing of 20 children and six adults in a Newtown, Conn., elementary school appears to be a tipping point that pushed Congress and the White House toward tackling new gun laws.

Obama on Wednesday directed Vice President Joe Biden to produce recommendations on new gun laws and pledged to push for them without delay.

Lawmakers press for answers on response to 9/11 Libya assault

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers want to know why security was "grossly inadequate" at the U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya when militants stormed the facility on Sept. 11, killing the ambassador and three other Americans, and why the military failed to respond faster during the nine-hour assault.

Members of the Senate and House foreign affairs committees on Thursday were to question Deputy Secretary of State William Burns, who is in charge of policy, and Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Nides, who is in charge of management, at back-to-back congressional hearings.

Their public testimony comes two days after an independent review panel issued a blistering report blaming management failures at the State Department for the lack of security at the Benghazi compound. It also comes as fallout from the report forced four State Department officials to step down Wednesday.

"Why, if we quickly did find out it was in part a terrorist attack, why wasn't there better security on that evening with the ambassador in Benghazi and in the consulate and what do we need to do to make sure?" said Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"People keep forgetting that was about a nine-hour attack moving from the consulate to the annex. We had already called up troops from Fort Bragg (North Carolina) and got them to Sicily before the attack was over," he said. "We knew it was

a big-time attack. We flew in two planes from Djibouti, additional assets from Croatia. We need to find out who knew what when."

Putin says draft bill banning U.S. adoptions of Russian children is 'appropriate'

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin says a draft bill banning U.S. adoptions of Russian children is a legitimate response to a new U.S. law that calls for sanctions on Russians deemed to be human rights violators. But he has not committed to signing it.

He says the measure, which received overwhelming preliminary approval in parliament, is also a response to an alleged U.S. failure to protect the rights of adopted Russian children.

Speaking at his annual marathon news conference Thursday, Putin said while most Americans who adopt Russian children are "kind and honorable," the protection for abuse victims is insufficient.

The bill faces a few more steps before it can reach Putin.

"I will make a decision depending on what is written there," he said.

Park Geun-hye elected South Korea's 1st female president, is open to North Korea detente

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Park Geun-hye's election as South Korea's first female president could mean a new drive to start talks with bitter rival North Korea, though it's unclear how much further she will go than the hard-line incumbent, a member of her own conservative party.

After five years of high tension under unpopular President Lee Myung-bak, Park has vowed to pursue engagement with Pyongyang despite its continuing nuclear program and its widely condemned long-range rocket launch last week. The daughter of late South Korean dictator Park Chung-hee, she placed more conditions on resuming negotiations than the liberal opposition candidate she defeated Wednesday, Moon Jae-in.

On Thursday, Park mentioned the North Korean rocket launch during a nationally televised speech.

"The North's long-range missile launch symbolically showed how grave our security reality is," Park said following a visit to Seoul's National Cemetery, where she paid silent tributes to late presidents, including her father.

North Korean state media have repeatedly questioned the sincerity of Park's North Korea engagement policy, since she and Lee are from the same party.

With a penny costing 2 cents, U.S. Mint tests new metals to make coins for less

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — When it comes to making coins, the Mint isn't getting its two cents worth. In

some cases, it doesn't even get half of that. A penny costs more than two cents and a nickel costs more than 11 cents to make and distribute. The quandary is how to make coins more cheaply without sparing our change's quality and durability, or altering its size and appearance.

A 400-page report presented last week to Congress outlines nearly two years of trials conducted at the Mint in Philadelphia, where a variety of metal recipes were put through their paces in the massive facility's high-speed coin-making machinery.

Evaluations of 29 different alloys concluded that none met the ideal list of attributes. The Treasury Department concluded that additional study was needed before it could endorse any changes.

"We want to let the data take us where it takes us," Dick Peterson, the Mint's acting director, said Wednesday. More test runs with different alloys are likely in the coming year, he said.

Budget deal could phase in higher monthly premiums for 1 out of 4 Medicare beneficiaries

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a health care change that President Barack Obama and Republicans both embrace: Expand a current, little-known law so more retirees the government considers well-off are required to pay higher Medicare premiums.

That plan is likely to be part of any budget deal to reduce the overhang of federal debt, raising \$20 billion or more over 10 years. It could come as a shock to many seniors who will have to pay the higher premiums even though they consider themselves solidly middle-class, and by no means wealthy.

That's what happened to Tom James. He and his wife recently got an official notice that they will have to start paying more for Medicare next year, about \$1,000 for the two of them. James is among the 5 percent of beneficiaries currently facing higher "income-related" premiums. If the budget change goes through, that number will grow to 25 percent.

"I was blindsided," said James, a retired bank examiner who lives near Philadelphia. "The camel has got his nose in the tent now, and the question is how far do they want to go with that?"

Commuters warned of blizzards, whiteouts as Midwest gets its first major snowstorm this season

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Midwest's first major snowstorm of the season was sweeping across several states early Thursday, shuttering schools, creating treacherous roadways and threatening to slow down one of the nation's busiest airports ahead of the holiday weekend.

Forecasters warned that heavy snowfall coupled with strong winds would create blizzard conditions for morning commuters from Kansas to Wisconsin.

Nebraska's largest school district canceled classes because of heavy overnight snow, as did many districts across Iowa, where drivers were being told to stay off the roads starting Wednesday evening because of whiteout conditions.

Texas town allows teachers to carry concealed weapons

By ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press

HARROLD, Texas — In this tiny Texas town, children and their parents don't give much thought to safety at the community's lone school — mostly because some of the teachers are carrying concealed weapons.

In remote Harrold, the nearest sheriff's office is 30 minutes away, and people tend to know — and trust — one another. So the school board voted to let teachers bring guns to school.

"We don't have money for a security guard, but this is a better solution," Superintendent David Thweatt said. "A shooter could take out a guard or officer with a visible, holstered weapon, but our teachers have master's degrees, are older and have had extensive training. And their guns are hidden. We can protect our children."

In the awful aftermath of last week's Connecticut elementary school shooting, lawmakers in a growing number of states — including Oklahoma, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota and Oregon — have said they will consider laws allowing teachers

and school administrators to carry firearms at school.

Texas law bans guns in schools unless the school has given written authorization. Arizona and six other states have similar laws with exceptions for people who have licenses to carry concealed weapons.

Harrold's school board voted unanimously in 2007 to allow employees to carry weapons. After obtaining a state concealed-weapons permit, each employee who wants to carry a weapon must be approved by the board based on his or her personality and reaction to a crisis.

Employees also must undergo training in crisis intervention and hostage situations. And they must use bullets that minimize the risk of ricochet, similar to those carried by air marshals on planes.

CaRae Reinisch, who lives in the nearby community of Elliott, said she took her children out of a larger school and enrolled them in Harrold two years ago, partly because she felt they would be safer in a building with armed teachers.

"I think it's a great idea for trained teach-

ers to carry weapons," Reinisch said. "But I hate that it has come to this."

The superintendent won't disclose how many of the school's 50 employees carry weapons, saying that revealing that number might jeopardize school security.

The school, about 150 miles northwest of Fort Worth near the Oklahoma border, has 103 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Most of them rarely think about who is carrying a gun.

"This is the first time in a long time that I've thought about it," said Matt Templeton, the principal's 17-year-old son. "And that's because of what happened" in Connecticut.

Thweatt said other Texas schools allow teachers to carry weapons, but he would not reveal their locations.

The Texas Education Agency said it had not heard of any other schools with such a policy. And the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence did not know of any other districts nationwide that allow school employees to carry concealed handguns.

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A year for enduring pop icons to shine

NEW YORK (AP) — Marilyn Monroe. The Rolling Stones. And Bond — James Bond. What do they have in common?

Sure, one's long gone, and one's fictional. But all three marked a golden anniversary in 2012.

And after a half-century in our pop-culture consciousness, they each displayed a surprisingly enduring appeal.

So even though, as a culture, we still worshiped at the fountain of youth this year, marveling at the precocious talents of a Lena Dunham, a Taylor Swift, and a slew of charming young Olympians, let's also give a shoutout to some of our most enduring icons. Turns out some things never go out of style.

Once again, our highly subjective pop-culture journey through the year:

JANUARY:

Here begins the incredible ascendance of LENA DUNHAM, as HBO picks up the actress-director-writer's "Girls," a meditation on the awkwardness of being female and 20-ish in New York. By year's end Dunham, at 26, will have gathered so much buzz, she'll be on her way to becoming what her character, Hannah Horvath, can only dream of being: "The voice of my generation. Or at least, A voice. Of A generation."

FEBRUARY:

Let's hear it for the adults! MERYL STREEP, 62, wins her third Oscar for "The Iron Lady." It's her 17th nomination, a record. The whole ceremony has a vintage feel: BILLY CRYSTAL is back as host a year after the rocky appearance of the "young and hip" hosts, James Franco and Anne Hathaway. The best supporting actor, Christopher Plummer, is 82, and the best picture, "The Artist," is a throwback to silent films. Meanwhile, all hail MADONNA — at 54, not only does she score at the Super Bowl with her halftime show, but by year's end, her MDNA global tour will be the highest grossing of any in 2012. (Second place? That goes to BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, age 63.)

MARCH:

Enter springtime, and youth again: Billboard's top moneymaker for 2011 is TAYLOR SWIFT, less than half Madonna's age. In 2012, Swift will have the biggest sales week for any album in a decade, for "Red." She also writes for the soundtrack of one of the year's hottest movies, THE HUNGER GAMES. Speaking of which, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, 22, becomes a breakout star this year, rocketing to fame as Katniss Everdeen in the first installment of the Suzanne Collins trilogy. In fashion, MARC JACOBS' Louis Vuitton show in Paris has models in Edwardian hats step-

ping off a reconstructed retro steam train, with valets carrying vintage-inspired hat boxes.

APRIL:

In technology news, FACEBOOK buys INSTAGRAM for a cool \$1 billion, banking on people's insatiable desire to share photos of their most mundane moments. And oh yes, it's an election year, and it's dog eat dog: Talk focuses on SEAMUS, GOP candidate Mitt Romney's Irish setter. The pooch is long departed, but the image of him strapped to the roof of the family car, suffering gastric distress, is too much for many dog lovers to stomach (sorry) and will continue to dog Romney (sorry) for some time. Romney supporters, meanwhile, point out that Barack Obama sampled dog meat as a child.

MAY:

The weather's getting warm, and certain phrases are fast becoming ingrained into our consciousness. One of them is "Call Me Maybe"; Carly Rae Jepsen's dangerously catchy tune hits No. 1 on iTunes. Another is "Fifty Shades of Grey." The so-called "Mommy Porn" trilogy — the publishing sensation of the year — is banned by some public libraries due to its steamy content.

JUNE:

"Call Me Maybe" hits No. 1 on the Billboard chart. But let's dedicate the month to NORA EPHRON, the author, filmmaker and essayist whose searing wit put her in a class of her own. Her death at age 71 brings a flood of tributes. And rarely does a secretary of state

make it onto our pop culture radar, but let's welcome HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, ever more popular, who wears green-and-purple cat-eye sunglasses this month to swear in a purple-loving public servant. (By now she's famous for her shades-wearing power texting, the subject of an Internet meme.) She apologizes for not wearing a purple pantsuit; it's the only color she doesn't own, she quips.

JULY:

Who'd have thought the cheesy words "Hey, Sexy Lady" would go so far? South Korean singer PSY's video of his song "Gangnam Style," emerges this month and the rest is history — it will become the most watched YouTube clip of all time. At the London Olympics, young athletes like the ebullient gymnast GABBY DOUGLAS and swimmer MISSY FRANKLIN, both 17, shine, but MICHAEL PHELPS — now 27 — still shows fellow swimmers how it's done, and 70-year-old SIR PAUL McCARTNEY delivers a soulful "Hey Jude" at the opening ceremony. Meanwhile, QUEEN ELIZABETH II gamely participates in a sketch in which she parachutes into the stadium.

AUGUST:

Fifty years ago this month, MARILYN MONROE died, and look how a '50s icon has become a 21st-century phenom. Her platinum locks, slightly parted ruby lips, and curvy, clinging styles are copied by actresses and singers from MADONNA to TAYLOR SWIFT to LINDSAY LOHAN to RIHANNA to NICOLE KIDMAN.

And there are a slew of Marilyn-themed enterprises on the horizon. Meanwhile, crusty CLINT EASTWOOD, 82, makes our night at the GOP convention with his infamous "empty chair" chat with President Obama. It becomes one of the enduring moments of the campaign, if also the most puzzling.

SEPTEMBER:

The most uninhibited person on the planet is now officially DUNHAM, who gets naked at the Emmys — she sits naked on a toilet and eats a birthday cake, to be precise, in an opening skit. At the MTV Video Music Awards, the boy band One Direction makes its mark as a new teen-girl obsession. But look who's also making waves: BILL CLINTON, 66, who rocks the Democratic Convention with an energetic speech that shows he can still inspire the masses. As for little SASHA and MALIA OBAMA, the country does a double-take; in four years they've become two mature and fashionable young women.

OCTOBER:

Binders full of women! Big Bird! Malarkey! Debate season is on, so let the instant memes begin. This is the first election where you could have followed the debates purely via Twitter. Surprise, DUNHAM's in the news again — and let no one doubt the value of pop-culture prominence, however ephemeral: Her new book deal with Random House is reportedly worth more than \$3.5 million. But let's hear it for another 50th birthday: Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is back on Broadway exactly a half-century after it first premiered,

and it's getting some of the best notices of the season.

NOVEMBER:

BOND. JAMES BOND. Embodied by the tough and chiseled DANIEL CRAIG, the world's most famous British spy is in better shape than ever as the franchise marks its 50th anniversary with "Skyfall," regarded by many as one of the best Bond films. Another iconic image doesn't fare so well: Lohan's turn as Liz Taylor in a new TV film is pilloried. Sometimes the original just shouldn't be touched. And hail to the first statistician to achieve pop-culture cred: Blogger NATE SILVER scores with his spot-on predictions of the election's outcome. And we must mention the oldest pop-culture hero of the year: ABRAHAM LINCOLN is back, courtesy of STEVEN SPIELBERG's movie and a typically mesmerizing performance by DANIEL DAY-LEWIS.

DECEMBER:

As the year ends, the world is abuzz with news of a royal pregnancy. Soon, a baby will be one of the biggest celebrities in the world. But for now, let's give a shoutout to the ROLLING STONES, whose average age is 68-plus, slightly older than the average Supreme Court justice. In five concerts marking their 50th year as a rock band, the grizzled foursome shows the world they still have the power to rock huge arenas (at huge prices), and upstage celebrity guests like LADY GAGA with their own charisma. Along with aging rockers McCARTNEY, SPRINGSTEEN, THE WHO and PINK FLOYD, they dominate a televised benefit for storm victims.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Bit of Extra Effort

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 8 7 5
 ♥ J 9 6 3
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ 9 3 2

WEST
 ♠ J 9 3 2
 ♥ Q 7 2
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ K Q J 4

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 4
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 10 9 7 4 3
 ♣ 10 7 6 5

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

The bidding:
 South 2♠ * West Pass North 2♦ ** East Pass
 2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
 6♥

* strong, artificial ** negative Opening lead — king of clubs.

You wouldn't think that the order in which declarer played his diamonds would make a difference in the outcome of this deal. But by going to great lengths to disguise his actual holding in the suit, South managed to deceive one of the defenders and made the slam as a result.

West led the king of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and cashed the A-K of trumps, learning that he had to lose a trump trick. This unlucky development placed the slam in obvious jeopardy, since

South also had a potential club loser. Declarer would have gone down had he simply tried to cash his diamonds at this juncture in an effort to discard two clubs from dummy. This very reasonable line of play would have succeeded had West held more than two diamonds, but would have failed on the actual lie of the cards.

However, South was not inclined to rely only on this one possibility. He decided to mask his actual diamond holding so that he'd have an additional chance for the slam even if West had only two diamonds.

So at trick four, he led a spade to the king, returned a diamond and "finessed" the queen, trying to sell West the idea that East had the king. South then cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the jack. If West had ruffed and played the queen of clubs, it would have been the end of the line for South. But declarer's diamond plays had convinced West that East had the king of diamonds, so he discarded a club, and so did dummy.

West's discard proved fatal when South now produced the king of diamonds and disposed of dummy's last club. West ruffed, but South's club loser had flown the coop.

It is easy to blame West for the outcome, but the fact remains that South should get full credit for luring West down the garden path to disaster.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Dancing cop stops holiday traffic

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Ah, Christmas in Rhode Island. Exquisitely decorated mansions in Newport. A red nose on the giant termite that sits atop a Providence exterrinator's building. And a traffic cop, doing disco and salsa moves in the middle of rush-hour traffic.

Officer Tony Lepore is as much a holiday tradition as anything else in the state that issued

the first jail sentence for speeding 108 years ago. Since 1984, he has entertained drivers, pedestrians and gawkers with dance moves in downtown Providence — all while directing traffic.

"He is a Rhode Island landmark, more or less. He's an icon, he's like a little mini celebrity," says Michelle Peterson, of Warwick.

This year, she took her boys to see Lepore, 65, perform.

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Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Boy's Basketball
• Seminole at Big Spring, 9th, 5 p.m.; J.V., 6:15 p.m., Varsity, 7:30 p.m.
• Grady at O'Donnell, 8 p.m.
• Colorado City at Forsan, J.V. 5 p.m., Varsity, 7:30 p.m.
• Veribest at Garden City, (varsity only), 8 p.m.

Girl's Basketball
• Grady at O'Donnell, 6:30 p.m.
• Colorado City at Forsan, J.V., 4 p.m.; Varsity, 6 p.m.
• Veribest at Garden City, (varsity only), 6:30 p.m.

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

BSHS Players of the Week

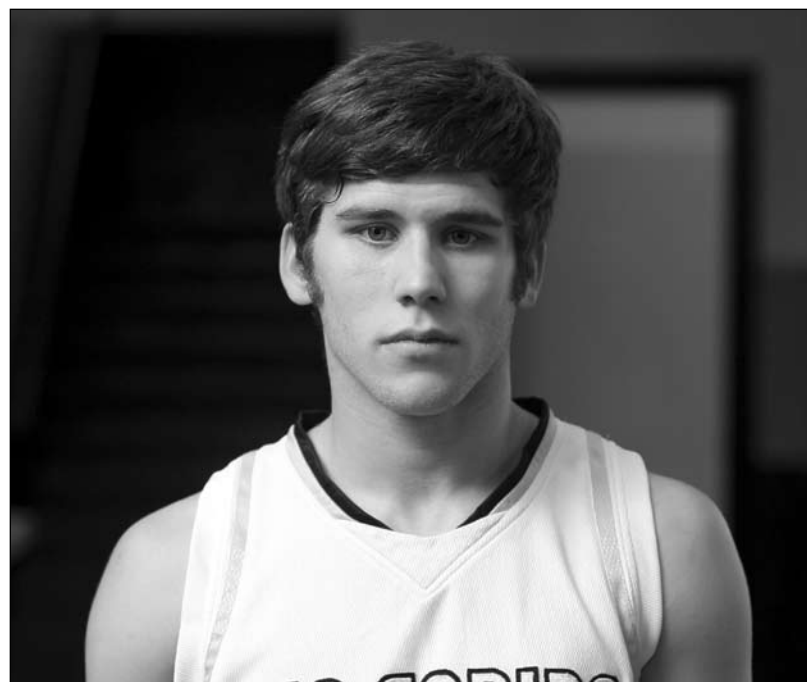


Yaneira Tuitt, Post, Senior

BSHS Head Girl's Basketball Coach Mike Warren said senior Yaneira Tuitt forces opposing teams to concoct a game plan — just to cover her.

"She's playing well," Warren said. "She's a physical presence on the inside. When we run zone, we put her right in the middle. She can block you, shut you down and she can intimidate you. Teams we play run zone to stop her."

The Lady Steers (10-7), will resume play after the Christmas holiday when they travel to Lubbock Caprock next Thursday. BSHS will open play at Lubbock Coronado against Tulia at 1:30 p.m.



Tyler Wigington, Guard, Junior

Junior Tyler Wigington is a "hustle player", according to BSHS Head boy's Basketball Coach Cliff Thompson — the type of kid any coach would love to have on a sports squad.

"He will always give 100 percent," Thompson said. "He's always on time to practice, he's a reliable kid."

Wigington is known to score in double digits offensively, but defense is where he often shines while on the court.

"He's real good defensively," Thompson added. "He's not that tall, but he gets as many rebounds as any other guard and he has a knack for route plays."

The Steers will host Seminole on Friday at Steer Gym; game time is slated for 8 p.m.

Tannehill-led Dolphins cling to playoff hopes

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

DAVIE, Fla. — It might be easier for the Miami Dolphins to make the playoffs than to explain how it could happen.

Both tasks are daunting.

With two games left in the regular season, seven teams have a better record than Miami (6-8) in the AFC race for six playoff spots. The Dolphins have a 2.3 percent chance of earning a postseason berth, according to the web site MakeNFLPlayoffs.com.

Hey, it beats being mathematically eliminated. And it gives the Dolphins something to play for Sunday against Buffalo (5-9).

"I heard we're still in the hunt and still have a chance," safety Reshad Jones said Wednesday. "It does kind of surprise me."

The Dolphins have been above .500 for only one week all season. They recently lost five times in a six-game stretch, and they're ranked in the lower half of the league in both offense and defense.

Even so, they remain eligible. Barely.

"It's a crazy league," said rookie quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who last week erroneously declared the Dolphins out of the playoffs. "You see a strange situation every year. Anything can happen. We've just got to keep plugging away."

Don't ask them to explain the sequence of results that would get them into the playoffs.

"I really have no idea," tight end Anthony Fasano said. "I don't know what it takes. You control what you can control; no need to exert energy on

other things."

To have any chance at the postseason, the Dolphins must beat Buffalo and win their regular-season finale at New England.

Four other games in the final two weeks must also go the Dolphins' way. They need for the Bengals to lose their final two games, the Steelers to lose to Cleveland, and the Jets to lose once.

If all of those things happen, the Dolphins would finish tied with the Bengals and Steelers at 8-8 and would win the tiebreaker.

Running back Reggie Bush was among those fuzzy on the details. When they were outlined to him, he shook his head.

"That's too much remembering," he said. "I'm just worried about what we can control."

He offered a slight twist on football's favorite cliché.

"We're just trying to take these next two games one game at a time," Bush said.

First-year coach Joe Philbin hasn't talked about the playoffs all season, and he said it's not a point of emphasis this week.

"The emphasis is a division opponent coming into our home stadium — a team that we haven't beaten yet," Philbin said. "If you want to be a consistently good football team in the National Football League, you've got to win your home games and you've got to win your division games. So that's the real emphasis this week."

Playoffs haven't been talked about much at the Dolphins' complex for the past decade. They've reached the postseason only once during that

span.

A week ago, when the Dolphins had won just one game since Halloween, it was understandable for Tannehill to declare his team a non-contender.

"We realize we're out of the playoff race," he said.

Tannehill was quickly corrected by the coaching staff. Then the Dolphins beat Jacksonville, while two other teams contending for the final wild-card berth lost.

Tannehill made certain his assessment of the Dolphins' playoff chances this week was more mathematically precise.

"We still have something to play for at this point, even if it may be realistically small," he said. "We just have to go out and take care of what we can, and that's winning Sunday."

Harden scores 33 as Rockets rout 76ers

HOUSTON (AP) — Philadelphia 76ers coach Doug Collins knew what was coming before James Harden even stepped on the court.

"To me, when he's coming down the floor, he's very similar to LeBron James," Collins said before Wednesday night's game in Houston.

"He combines size, strength and shooting, and he loves to make contact."

Harden played up to Collins' description, finishing with 33 points and seven assists to lead the Rockets to a 125-103 victory over Philadelphia.

Collins mentored Harden when he played at Arizona State and said he frequently told the young player that he had "no motor."

"(Collins) taught me a lot," Harden said. "I was too nonchalant and just chill. That's how I still am, but I have a little motor in me now. That's the difference."

Harden topped 20 points for the seventh straight game to send the 76ers to their fifth straight loss. He made a career-high 17 of 18 free throws, including six in the fourth quarter, as Houston improved to 9-2 in its last 11 home games.

"James is kind of the head of the spear," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said. "He's the guy that takes us out and gets us going."

Toney Douglas heated up in the fourth quarter for the Rockets, hitting five 3-pointers and scoring all 17 of his points.

Jeremy Lin had 18 points and six assists, and Omer Asik added 17 points and 15 rebounds for Houston, which led by as many as 14 in the first half and was ahead 56-51 at the break.

Dorell Wright scored 20 points in a reserve role for Philadelphia, and Thaddeus Young added 17 — his 16th straight game in double figures.

Investigation: steroids on rise in NCAA

WASHINGTON (AP) — With steroids easy to buy, testing weak and punishments inconsistent, college football players are packing on significant weight — 30 pounds or more in a single year, sometimes — without drawing much attention from their schools or the NCAA in a sport that earns tens of billions of dollars for teams.

Rules vary so widely that, on any given game day, a team with a strict no-steroid policy can face a team whose players have repeatedly tested positive.

An investigation by The Associated Press — based on dozens of interviews with players, testers, dealers and experts and an analysis of weight records for more than 61,000 players — revealed that while those running the multibillion-dollar sport believe the problem is under control, that is hardly the case.

The sport's near-zero rate of accurate steroids tests isn't an accurate gauge among college athletes. Random tests provide weak deterrence and, by design, fail to catch every player using steroids. Colleges also are reluctant to spend money on expensive steroid testing when cheaper ones for drugs like marijuana allow them to say they're doing everything they can to keep drugs out of football.

"It's nothing like what's go-

ing on in reality," said Don Catlin, an anti-doping pioneer who spent years conducting the NCAA's laboratory tests at UCLA. He became so frustrated with the college system that it drove him in part to leave the testing industry to focus on anti-doping research.

Catlin said the collegiate system, in which players often are notified days before a test and many schools don't even test for steroids, is designed to not catch dopers. That artificially reduces the numbers of positive tests and keeps schools safe from embarrassing drug scandals.

While other major sports have been beset by revelations of steroid use, college football has operated with barely a whiff of scandal. Between 1996 and 2010 — the era of Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, Marion Jones and Lance Armstrong — the failure rate for NCAA steroid tests fell even closer to zero from an already low rate of less than 1 percent.

The AP's investigation, drawing upon more than a decade of official rosters from all 120 Football Bowl Subdivision teams, found thousands of players quickly putting on significant weight, even more than their fellow players. The information compiled by the AP included players who appeared for mul-

tiple years on the same teams, making it the most comprehensive data available.

For decades, scientific studies have shown that anabolic steroid use leads to an increase in body weight. Weight gain alone doesn't prove steroid use, but very rapid weight gain is one factor that would be deemed suspicious, said Kathy Turpin, senior director of sport drug testing for the National Center for Drug Free Sport, which conducts tests for the NCAA and more than 300 schools.

Yet the NCAA has never studied weight gain or considered it in regard to its steroid testing policies, said Mary Wilfert, the NCAA's associate director of health and safety. She would not speculate on the cause of such rapid weight gain.

The NCAA attributes the decline in positive tests to its year-round drug testing program, combined with anti-drug education and testing conducted by schools.

"The effort has been increasing, and we believe it has driven down use," Wilfert said.

Big gains, data show
The AP's analysis found that, regardless of school, conference and won-loss record, many players gained weight at exceptional

Cowboys giving receiver Bryant discretion over injury

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys couldn't trust receiver Dez Bryant to even run the right routes less than two months ago.

Now they're letting him dictate whether he plays with a broken left index finger. They are also drawing inspiration from Bryant's insistence on waiting until after the season for a surgery serious enough for owner Jerry Jones to startle his emerging star by mistakenly saying it would involve taking bone from his hip.

"Finding a way to play shows a lot of toughness because that's not easy to do," said tight end Jason Witten, who would know because he once ran 30 yards downfield without a helmet before get-

ting tackled and played in the opener this season with a lacerated spleen. "He earned my respect."

Bryant broke the finger on a catch against Cincinnati two weeks ago. He scored a critical touchdown in the 20-19 win after the injury and made it clear early last week that he would play against Pittsburgh.

Playing with a padded glove that exposed the tip of the broken finger, Bryant looked like a decoy in the first quarter because Tony Romo kept throwing to Miles Austin, but he still scored a touchdown for the sixth straight game — catching a ball away from his body, fingers first — and finished with four catches for 59 yards.

The Cowboys (8-6) beat the Steelers 27-24 in overtime last weekend and emerged with control of their playoff hopes. Dallas moves on with wins over New Orleans (6-8) at home on Sunday and at Washington in the finale.

"I just wanted to be out there and I felt like I needed to," Bryant said. "Miles came up to me and said, 'We're all really inspired by you playing.' I can tell from the guys that it meant a lot."

Seven weeks earlier — in that same locker room — Bryant had to acknowledge that his route-running wasn't precise enough, and that it cost Romo one of four interceptions in a 29-24 loss to the New York Giants. He also botched a punt return so badly that

coach Jason Garrett took those duties away from him.

Bryant did have 110 yards receiving that day — a season high at the time — and made a spectacular catch that appeared to win the game in the final seconds. But a replay showed that his fingers came down first out of bounds, so he still had just two touchdowns through seven games.

The third-year pro was on his way to another mediocre season, and still didn't know whether Dallas County prosecutors would pursue family violence charges against him over an altercation with his mother during the summer. That incident came after his first two years were marred by lawsuits over unpaid bills for tickets and jewelry and a

scene at the mall for wearing sagging pants.

Just as his career-best touchdown streak started, though, Bryant got word that a deal had been reached that could lead to dismissal of the family violence charges. He celebrated by having the same career high in receiving yardage twice — 145 against Cleveland and Washington. With eight touchdowns in six games, Bryant is now tied for the among NFL receivers with 10 scores.

"I'm proud of him," Witten said. "You talk about him dealing with all the stuff he's dealt with the three years he's been here. He's almost like a little brother. You keep offering him support and encouragement. He's a good kid."

STEROIDS

Continued from Page 1B

rates compared with their fellow athletes and while accounting for their heights. The documented weight gains could not be explained by the amount of money schools spent on weight rooms, trainers and other football expenses.

Adding more than 20 or 25 pounds of lean muscle in a year is nearly impossible through diet and exercise alone, said Dan Benardot, director of the Laboratory for Elite Athlete Performance at Georgia State University.

The AP's analysis corrected for the fact that players in different positions have different body types, so speedy wide receivers weren't compared to bulkier offensive tackles. It could not assess each player's physical makeup, such as how much weight gain was muscle ver-

sus fat, one indicator of steroid use. In the most extreme case in the AP analysis, the probability that a player put on so much weight compared with other players was so rare that the odds statistically were roughly the same as an NFL quarterback throwing 12 passing touchdowns or an NFL running back rushing for 600 yards in one game.

In nearly all the rarest cases of weight gain in the AP study, players were offensive or defensive linemen, hulking giants who tower above 6-foot-3 and weigh 300 pounds or more. Four of those players interviewed by the AP said that they never used steroids and gained weight through dramatic increases in eating, up to six meals a day. Two said they were aware of other players using steroids.

"I just ate. I ate 5-6 times a day," said Clint Oldenburg, who played

for Colorado State starting in 2002 and for five years in the NFL. Oldenburg's weight increased over four years from 212 to 290, including a one-year gain of 53 pounds, which he attributed to diet and two hours of weight lifting daily. "It wasn't as difficult as you think. I just ate anything."

Oldenburg told the AP he was surprised at the scope of steroid use in college football, even in Colorado State's locker room. "College performance enhancers were more prevalent than I thought," he said. "There were a lot of guys even on my team that were using." He declined to identify any of them.

The AP found more than 4,700 players — or about 7 percent of all players — who gained more than 20 pounds overall in a single year. It was common for the athletes to gain 10, 15 and up to 20 pounds in

their first year under a rigorous regimen of weightlifting and diet. Others gained 25, 35 and 40 pounds in a season. In roughly 100 cases, players packed on as much as 80 pounds in a single year.

In at least 11 instances, players that AP identified as packing on significant weight in college went on to fail NFL drug tests. But pro football's confidentiality rules make it impossible to know for certain which drugs were used and how many others failed tests that never became public.

What is bubbling under the surface in college football, which helps elite athletes gain unusual amounts of weight?

Without access to detailed information about each player's body composition, drug testing and workout regimen, which schools do not release, it's impossible to say with certainty what's behind the trend. But Catlin has little doubt: It is steroids.

"It's not brain surgery to figure out what's going on," he said. "To me, it's very clear."

Football's most infamous steroid user was Lyle Alzado, who became a star NFL defensive end in the 1970s and '80s before he admitted to juicing his entire career. He started in college, where the 190-pound freshman gained 40 pounds in one year. It was a 21 percent jump in body mass, a tremendous gain that far exceeded what researchers have seen in controlled, short-term studies of steroid use by athletes. Alzado died of brain cancer in 1992.

The AP found more than 130 big-time college football players who showed comparable one-year gains in the past decade. Students posted such extraordinary weight gains across the country, in every conference, in nearly every school. Many of them eclipsed Alzado and gained 25, 35, even 40 percent of their body mass.

Even though testers

consider rapid weight gain suspicious, in practice it doesn't result in testing. Ben Lamaak, who arrived at Iowa State in 2006, said he weighed 225 pounds in high school and 262 pounds in the summer of his freshman year on the Cyclones football team. A year later, official rosters showed the former basketball player from Cedar Rapids weighed 306, a gain of 81 pounds since high school. He graduated as a 320-pound offensive lineman and said he did it all naturally.

"I was just a young kid at that time, and I was still growing into my body," he said. "It really wasn't that hard for me to gain the weight. I had fun doing it. I love to eat. It wasn't a problem."

In addition to random drug testing, Iowa State is one of many schools that have "reasonable suspicion" testing. That means players can be tested when their behavior or physical symptoms suggest drug use.

Despite gaining 81 pounds in a year, Lamaak said he was never singled out for testing.

The associate athletics director for athletic training at Iowa State, Mark Coberley, said coaches and trainers use body composition, strength data and other factors to spot suspected cheaters. Lamaak, he said, was not suspicious because he gained a lot of "non-lean" weight.

"There are a lot of things that go into trying to identify whether guys are using performance-enhancing drugs," Coberley said. "If anybody had the answer, they'd be spotting people that do it. We keep our radar up and watch for things that are suspicious and try to protect the kids from making stupid decisions."

There's no evidence that Lamaak's weight gain was anything but natural. Gaining fat is much easier than gaining muscle. But colleges don't routinely release information on how much of the weight their players gain is muscle,

as opposed to fat. Without knowing more, said Benardot, the expert at Georgia State, it's impossible to say whether large athletes were putting on suspicious amounts of muscle or simply obese, which is defined as a body mass index greater than 30.

Looking solely at the most significant weight gainers also ignores players like Bryan Maneafaiga.

In the summer of 2004, Maneafaiga was an undersized 180-pound running back trying to make the University of Hawaii football team. Twice — once in pre-season and once in the fall — he failed school drug tests, showing up positive for marijuana use. What surprised him was that the same tests turned up negative for steroids.

He'd started injecting stanozolol, a steroid, in the summer to help bulk up to a roster weight of 200 pounds. Once on the team, where he saw only limited playing time, he'd occasionally inject the milky liquid into his buttocks the day before games.

"Food and good training will only get you so far," he told the AP recently.

Maneafaiga's coach, June Jones, meanwhile, said none of his players had tested positive for doping since he took over the team in 1999. He also said publicly that steroids had been eliminated in college football: "I would say 100 percent," he told The Honolulu Advertiser in 2006.

Jones said it was news to him that one of his players had used steroids. Jones, who now coaches at Southern Methodist University, said many of his former players put on bulk working hard in the weight room. For instance, adding 70 pounds over a three-to-four-year period isn't unusual, he said.

Jones said a big jump in muscle year-over-year — say 40 pounds — would be a "red light" that something is not right.



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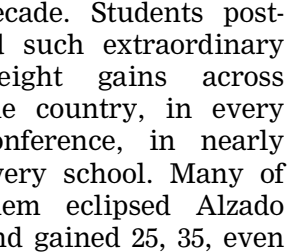
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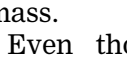
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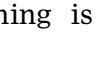
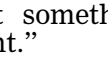
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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News CBS	King King	Yohanan House	Charlie Rose	King King	Auction Auction	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
6:PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cerado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld R. Shap	Swallow R. Shap	PBS News-Hour	Rules Rules	Property Wars	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	NBA Basketball: Thunder at Timberwolves	Shake It Austin	Audibles	Football	College Football: San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl	
7:PM	Dog for Christmas	Por Ella Soy Eva	The X Factor	Big Bang Two Men	Rosa Diamante (SS)	White House	Family Guy	Upd Mark Blitz	Story of England	The Vampire Diaries	Property Wars	Movie: Miracle on 34th Street	IMPACT Wrestling		Apollo Live	Nightmare-Christmas	ProFILE ProFILE	ProFILE ProFILE	
8:PM	CMA Country Christmas	Amores Verdaderos		Person of Interest	Corazón Valiente	Office Parks	Big Bang Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	To Be Announced	Beauty & Beast	Auction Auction			NBA	BET Awards 2010	Good Good	NFL's Greatest Games		
9:PM		Amor Bravo (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	(:01) Elementary	Escobar Rostro de	Rock Center	Big Bang Big Bang		Antiques Roadshow	Seinfeld Texas Car Wars		(:15) Movie: Miracle on 34th Street	Ink Master	Basketball: Miami Heat at Dallas Mavericks.		Good Good	Phineas ANT Farm	Sport Sci. NFL Live	
10:PM	News Nightline	Noticiero Raymond	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	McGee Justice	Charlie Rose	Til Death Auction			Ink Master		Wendy Williams	Wizards Wizards	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Al Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan	Upd R. Shap	World (Off Air)	70s Texas Car Wars		Movie: Dead Poets Society, Ethan Hawke	Movie: Enter the Dragon, Jim Kelly	Inside the NBA	Cold Case	Movie: What She Wants for Christmas	Deck Deck	Good Good	
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Earl Earl	Light of the Southwest		Browns Browns	Property Wars			Perception		Good Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	American TMZ	Ent	Pagado	(:05) Today	Earl Earl			Bluegrass	Property Wars								

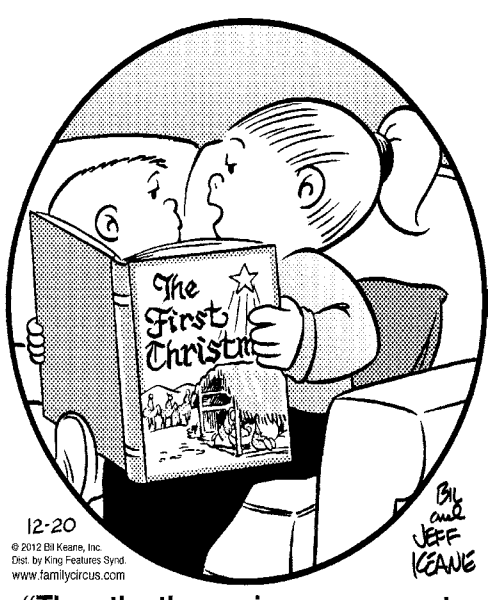
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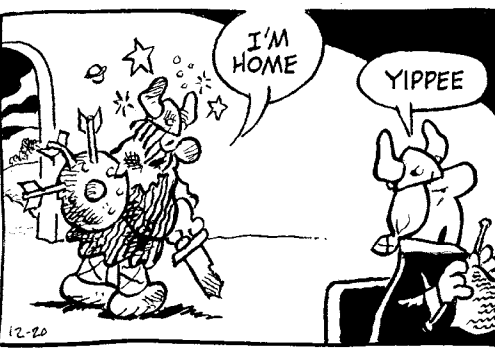
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



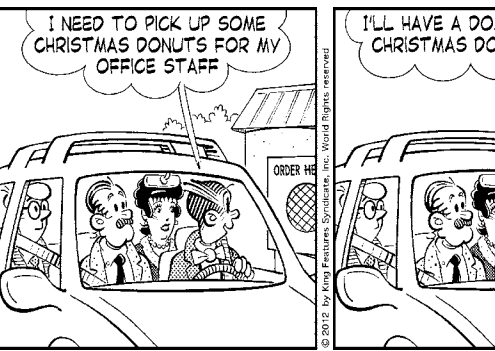
"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping."

12-20

HAGAR



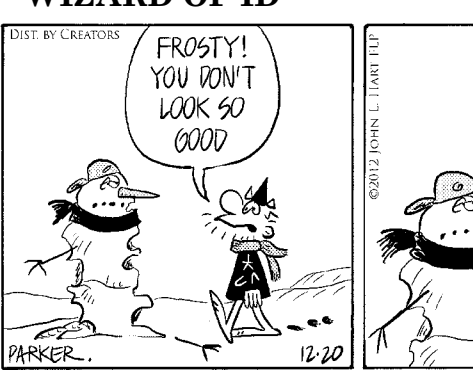
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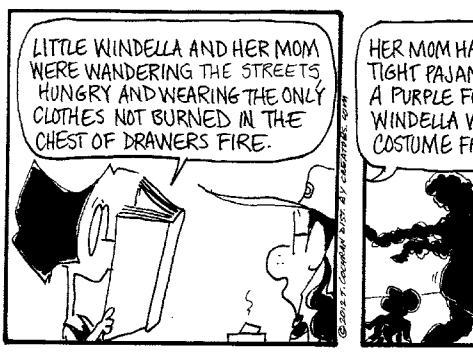
IN A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE, THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IS VERY IMPORTANT



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



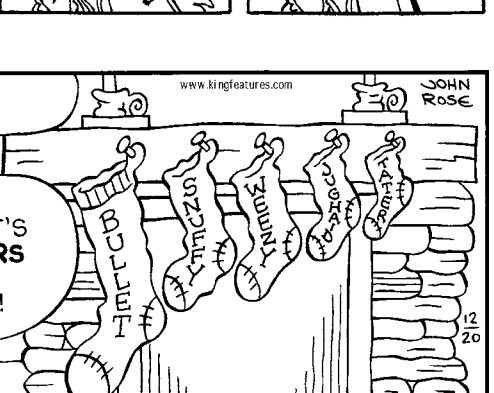
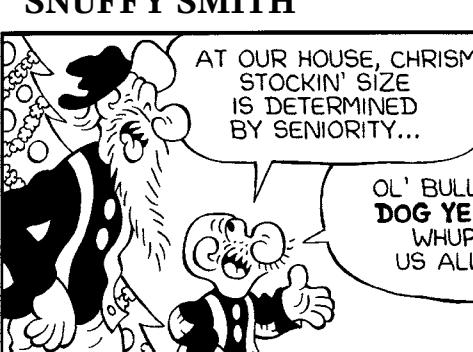
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 20, the 355th day of 2012. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1812, German authors Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published the first volume of the first edition of their collection of folk stories, titled "Children's and Household Tales."

On this date:

In 1790, the first successful cotton mill in the United States began operating at Pawtucket, R.I.

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as

Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1912, the play "Peg O' My Heart," a "comedy of youth" by John Hartley Manners starring his wife, actress Laurette Taylor, opened on Broadway.

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1972, the Neil Simon play "The Sunshine Boys" opened on Broadway.

In 1978, former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was released from prison after serving 18 months for his role in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme

Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples of the opposite sex.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Audrey Totter is 95. Actor John Hillerman is 80. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 68. Rock musician Peter Criss is 67. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 66. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 66. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 64. Actress Jenny Agutter is 60. Actor Michael Badalucco is 58. Actress Blanche Baker is 56. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 55. Actor Joel Gretsch is 49.

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Newsday Crossword

SPY-FI GUY by Lonnie Burton
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bordeaux buddies
 - 5 WWII sub
 - 10 Urban pollution
 - 14 DEA agent
 - 15 Hunter's arm
 - 16 Pulled apart
 - 17 With 58 Across, novel by
 - 19 Press for
 - 20 ATM input
 - 21 Verdi opera
 - 23 With 52 Across, novel by
 - 27 M*A*S*H or Friends
 - 30 Rules of English
 - 31 Colorful cats
 - 32 Suffix meaning "adherent"
 - 33 Sound of satisfaction
 - 35 Happening now
 - 36 Spy-fi novelist
 - 39 Dieter's lunch
 - 42 Arrange in a row
 - 43 Any birthstone
 - 46 Cast out
 - 48 Romeo and Juliet, e.g.
 - 51 Jewel box
 - 52 See 23 Across
 - 53 Come to
 - 55 Kind of camera: Abbr.
 - 56 Garb of India
 - 58 See 17 Across
 - 63 Greek sandwich
 - 64 Tenor's repertoire
 - 65 Municipality
 - 66 Typical texter

- DOWN**
- 1 Aesopian insect
 - 2 ___jungg
 - 3 "Once again..."
 - 4 Philosophical rift
 - 5 Vase with a foot
 - 6 Smidgen
 - 7 No longer using
 - 8 Regularly
 - 9 Spanish saint
 - 10 Thwart
 - 11 Casablanca setting
 - 12 End of the ASPCA's URL
 - 13 "That's awesome!"
 - 18 Word on US coins
 - 22 Shade of purple
 - 23 ___ Friday's (Applebee's rival)
 - 24 Timecard data: Abbr.
 - 25 Sir's counterpart
 - 26 Prophet
 - 28 Tic-tac-toe winner
 - 29 Colo. Spgs. clock setting
 - 31 French fashion house
 - 34 Arabic prename
 - 36 Government revenue source
 - 37 Keats or Byron
 - 38 Dudley Do-Right's girlfriend
 - 39 [not my error]
 - 40 Furthermore
 - 41 Smiley's People author
 - 43 Auto part
 - 44 Make a blunder
 - 45 Ed.'s stack
 - 47 Ogle
 - 49 Spirit ___ Louis
 - 50 Jai alai ball
 - 52 Contribute
 - 54 Claudius
 - 56 Marines NCO
 - 57 Aberdeen assent
 - 59 Desk wood
 - 60 Civil War initials
 - 61 Shearing candidate
 - 62 Hosp. personnel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17			18						19			
		20				21		22				
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51							52					
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56	57					58		59	60		61	62
63						64				65		
66						67				68		



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with in-store coupons



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H-E-B Fully Cooked Beef Brisket whole or pre-sliced whole, flat, split or Texas style split,
or H-E-B Spiral Sliced Bone-In Half or Whole Ham, assorted varieties,
or H-E-B Fully Cooked Boneless Beef Prime Rib Roast

get 6 items

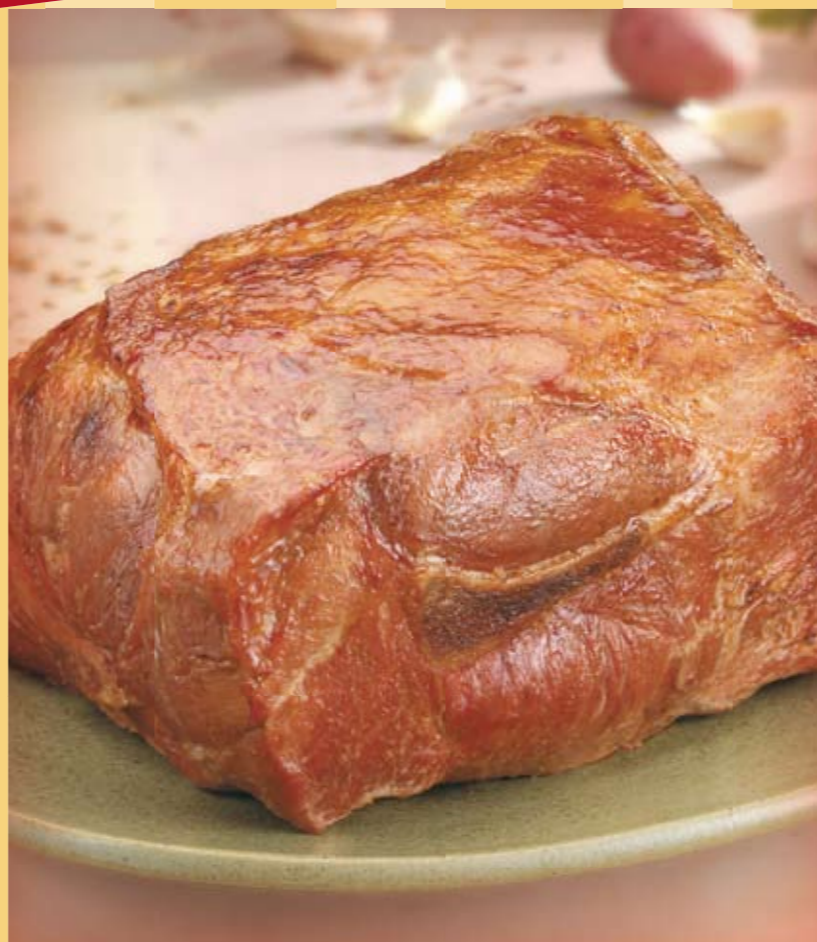
free!

Free items may vary by store.

with in-store coupons

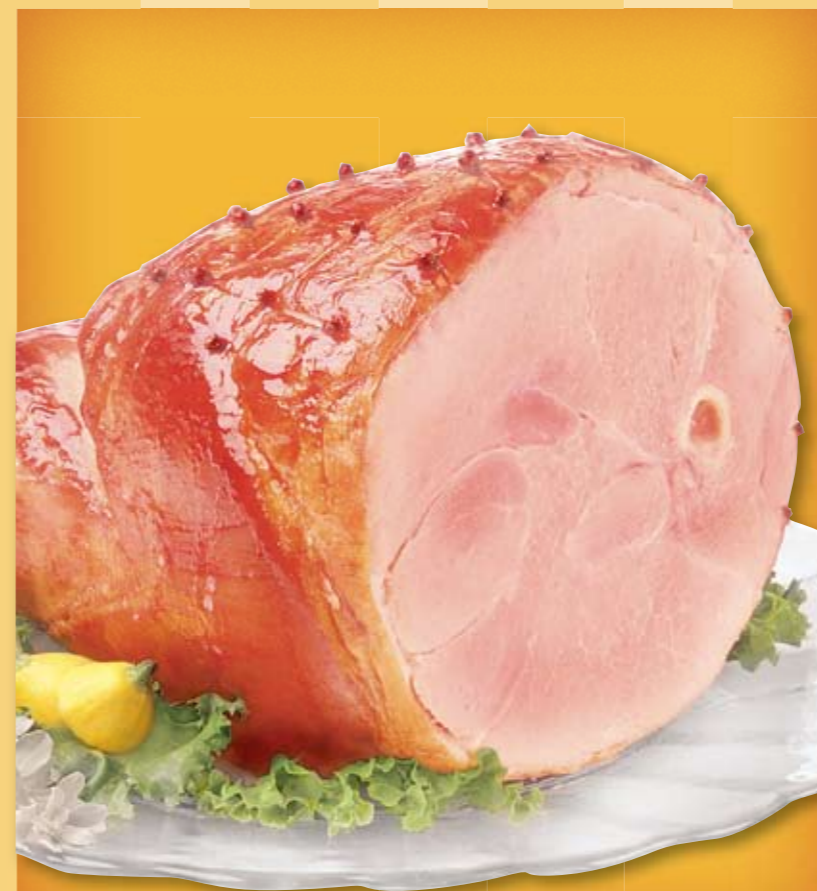


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- **H-E-B Pure Cane Sugar Soda** 12 pk., 12 oz. cans, assorted varieties
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- **H-E-B Texas Style Rice Mix** 10.3 - 10.7 oz., assorted varieties
- **Central Market Cranberry Orange Chutney** 12 oz.



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Smithfield Premium Butt Portion Ham, \$1.47 lb.



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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.

(Two) Full-Time CNA'S

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Full-Time RN CHARGE Nurse
7p-7a shift
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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.

BARTENDERS & COCKTAIL WAITRESSES. Outgoing & Enthusiastic? No experience necessary. Must be 18 or older. Call 432-213-0946 for application, San Franciscan Bar & Grill.



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

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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.

Help Wanted



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.

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...



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



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WANTED: SALES Clerk, 3 years experience required, computer skills. Call (432)267-7501, come by The Record Shop, 211 South Main Street, 9:30-1:30.

Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehabilitation is now hiring: ***Full Time-Certified Med Aide** 2pm-10pm and split shifts ***Charge Nurse** 10pm-6am shift Competitive Pay & Insurance *** Laundry Aid/Housekeeper** Experience a plus. You may apply on-line at www.parkviewnursing or in person at 3200 Parkway.

PIZZA INN

NOW HIRING COOKS. MUST BE AVAILABLE DAYS, NIGHTS, AND WEEKENDS. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

PIZZA INN

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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.



PROSPERITY BANK is seeking a Part-Time teller. Cash handling experience required. If you would like to join our growing team of experienced bankers, please apply online at www.prosperitytx.com under the careers section. EOE D/V/M/F Member FDIC



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.

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 120 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

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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.

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VACUUM TRUCK Drivers, Mechanics and Conductor Crews. Call 325-884-2255 Apply Online @ Pinnergy.com



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

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Manager Trainee

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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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: My 50-something male cousin has brought a 20-something female cousin to live with him. He calls it "mentoring." The poor girl is learning disabled.

They are the only two people living in the house, and the arrangement has caused concern for his parents and children. Is this normal? What's your take on the situation? — *Just Wondering*

Dear Just: We don't know what kind of learning disability would require that a 20-year-old live with her older cousin — or anyone. If you mean that the girl is mentally disabled, then someone needs to check on the situation and intervene should the older cousin be taking advantage of her. Because the girl is over 18, it may require legal intervention.

If, however, the 20-year-old is perfectly

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capable of managing her own life and chooses to live with this cousin, there's not much you can do. We hope her family is keeping an eye on things.

Dear Annie: We recently lost our dear pet dog, "Buster," and are considering getting another dog. I want to find one who is the same breed and color, call him "Buster" and go on as if his predecessor had not died, but rather had a stroke and needed to be retrained. My wife thinks I'm crazy. What do you think? — *RH*

Dear RH: We don't think you're crazy, but you do seem to be in denial. You should properly grieve for Buster. Pretending another dog is still the same one after a stroke doesn't do justice to your feelings. It also doesn't allow you to love your new dog for his own sake. Even with "retraining," you will continue to expect him to respond to you and behave as Buster did. Please take a little time to mourn the original Buster before you make any decisions about a new dog.

Dear Annie: The various suggestions for where to go to meet someone all sound extremely dangerous to me. Whatever happened to single people letting their married friends know they would like to meet someone? I would never take seriously a potential date who didn't come "pre-screened" for suitability and safety.

As a single woman, I cannot imagine getting into the car of a man I had met on a hike, in a class or even at church. I've been at the same church for more than 30 years, and I know plenty of single men and women there. Believe me, I wouldn't introduce any one of them to a friend as a potential mate. — *Cautious in Los Angeles*

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Legals

Notice of Application for Commercial Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit
Henderson & Erickson, Inc / 410 North Main, Midland, Texas, 79707 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Clearfork, FM 818 SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 8.9 miles SW of Big Spring, in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Howard County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3360 to 5800 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). #7609 December 20, 2012



The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for a **Field Operations Manager**.

Position is responsible for all activities relating to the maintenance of the District's water supply systems, water quality enhancement systems, and safety and security programs.

The successful candidate will have the experience necessary to successfully plan, direct, organize, and oversee the daily activities of crews maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pumps, and pump stations. Must have progressive experience managing multiple projects and personnel. Prior experience in water supply operations and distribution strongly preferred.

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, by calling (432) 267-6341 or www.crmwd.org

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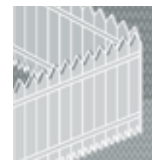
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

End of Season
Wrap-Up

It may feel like you're already there, but the solstice tomorrow is the official start of winter. On this the last day of the season, say goodbye to the adventures, pleasures, hardships and happenings of the past year. The passionate Sagittarius sun and the invigorated Aries moon will help you imagine what you have to look forward to next.



HOLIDAY
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ARIES

(March 21-April 19). It can be hard to take care of yourself without sacrificing a relationship when partners seem to need you so much. You can accomplish this and more. You'll also take care of the relationship without sacrificing your soul.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You go by feelings. So even though you logically know better than to bank on a person's potential, if your gut feeling is strong enough, you'll buy into the promise of a kindred soul.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The minute you expect to make money at an endeavor, you set

yourself up for a compromise. The payer and payee must be on the same page for the transaction to occur. Consider the perks of amateur status.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your secret addiction isn't really a secret. People know what you like, and they want to give you just that. By the end of the day, you might feel a bit spoiled by all the provisions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The opportunity you are given will come with a caveat. That part could be a deal breaker. Stay your ground. If you're willing to lose it all, you'll probably walk away with exactly what you wanted in the first place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Before you can be in control of yourself and your life, you must know yourself. So the time that you spend pondering your past and your inner world will be instrumental in growing your personal power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Mutual trust is developed slowly over a long period of time. So whether you deal with shareholders, a potential mate or in-laws, expect the relationship-building to be a long-term process.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a new sharpness to your mind. You'll be savvy in a

pinch, do well on a test or say just the right thing to make strangers laugh. People will want to know you better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You love to jump into something new and open yourself up to the possibilities. An entrepreneurial spirit takes hold of you today, and you'll begin on a path that many will join at a later date.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Dig deeper to figure out the root of an issue. You may be surprised at what you find. For instance, maybe what you think is a commitment problem is actually just a transportation problem.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No wonder people want to talk with you. You listen with your heart, and this shows in your face. You don't offer up too many opinions. In fact, you realize that sometimes it's better not to have an opinion at all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Riches, talent and wealth don't make you immune to relationship woes. There's something comforting in the fact that everyone on Earth struggles at some time with the art of getting along.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 20) Your intentions for your personal life are clear, and because you

express them so well, you'll be pleased with what unfolds in the next six weeks. Projects advance, and you'll take on an exciting responsibility in January. You'll develop a talent in February. You'll celebrate family additions in April. Capricorn and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 39, 45 and 12.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Tell me what to say to interest a Virgo woman. I know it's probably a bad idea to date someone who lives in my apartment building, but I would love to ask her out. Right now we're friendly. I've chatted with her three times. I run into her a few times a week. How can I move this to the next level? I'm a Capricorn man."

Your Virgo woman is one of the hardest to "hit on," because she's analytical to the point of being critical, and she has no compunction about weeding out prospects in the first few minutes of meeting them. So if you've had three successful conversations, you're already doing well. Just don't fall into the trap Capricorn achiever-types sometimes end up in: mentioning your impressive accomplishments to get her attention and respect.

You can't really seduce a Virgo woman with your deeds or words; you do it with your attention.

Since you're both earth-sign traditionalists, it's wise to ease into this horrible idea of dating someone in your apartment building. You could take the dating pressure off by inviting her to a party you're throwing at your place.

This way she could see you with your friends, comfortable and having fun with people who think you're great. Best of luck!

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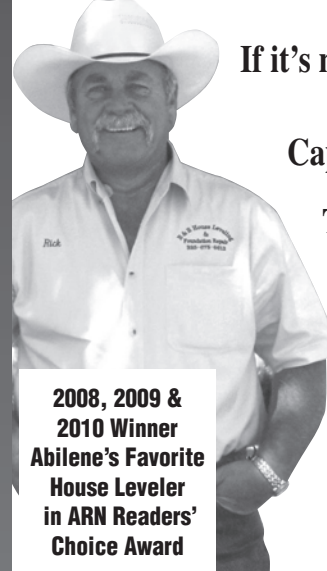
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