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*Christmas in the*  
**CROSSROADS**



*Photos by Bruce Schooler  
 and Lyndel Moody*



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# Obituaries

## Thresa Annetta Harris

Thresa Annetta Harris, 57, of Odessa died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012, in Zion, Ill. She was born in Winters, Texas, on Oct. 13, 1955, to Melvin Jarrell and Lavern Stevens Kimberlin. She was a home-maker.

Thresa worked at The Depot for 12 years and at Holloman Construction as a field secretary. She also worked with her husband running a ditching machine at Flint Construction.

Survivors include her husband, Willie Harris of Odessa; father, Melvin Jarrell and wife Barbara of Big Spring; son, James Miller and wife Jesica of Odessa; four daughters, Shelia Rose and husband Don and Shirley Drugan and husband Bob, all of Odessa, Kristy King of Springtown and Jamie Meek and husband Don of Midland; two brothers, Royce Jarrell of Odessa and Dwayne Jarrell of Longview; three sisters, Patricia Snowden of Big Spring, Deborah Barree of Dallas and Linda Lainer of Midlothian; 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and her black lab, Buddy.

She was preceded in death by her mother and one brother, Clarence Whitfitt.

Funeral services will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28, 2012, at Acres West Funeral Chapel, officiated by the Rev. Jimmy Braswell. Interment will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Trinity Memorial Cemetery in Big Spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, 2520 Elisha Avenue, Zion, IL 60099.

Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel and condolences to the family may be sent online at acreswestfuneral.com.

# Take Note

• Local resident Dale Pittman is planning a card crusade for the citizens of Newtown, Conn., who were devastated by the recent school shooting that took the lives of 26 people. No money is necessary, unless you want to help with postage. Just purchase and sign a card. "I wanted to be able to send them something ... and let them know that no matter how many miles may be between us, we still care and are thinking of and praying for them," said Pittman. Drop your card off at Big Spring Storage Zone, 23rd and Goliad. If no one is in the office, slide the card in the payment drop box. You may also drop them off at the visitors booth at Comanche Trail Festival of Lights. They will all be placed in a single box and mailed to Newtown.

• Holy Trinity Youth Group is hosting its 2nd Annual "Warming up our Community" Project on Dec. 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hall, 1009 Hearn Street. Donated items, such as jackets, blankets and various warm attire will be available for anyone in need. This is open to the community.

• 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 be 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.

• 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.

• 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.

## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 12/26	Thu 12/27	Fri 12/28	Sat 12/29	Sun 12/30
 <b>45/21</b> Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 20s.	 <b>45/28</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	 <b>59/34</b> More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	 <b>57/27</b> More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	 <b>57/33</b> Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:45 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:48 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:45 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:48 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:46 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:49 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:46 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:50 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:46 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:50 PM

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## Texas At A Glance



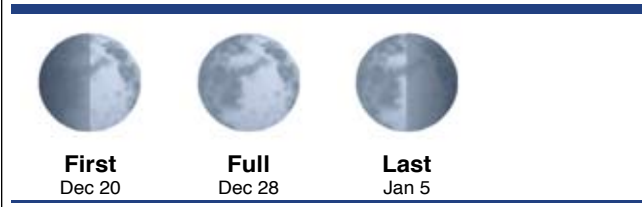
### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	43	21	rain	Kingsville	83	38	t-storm
Amarillo	26	14	sn shower	Livingston	68	27	t-storm
Austin	69	28	t-storm	Longview	52	26	t-storm
Beaumont	71	32	t-storm	Lubbock	36	17	windy
Brownsville	86	43	pt sunny	Lufkin	65	29	t-storm
Brownwood	51	23	rain	Midland	46	24	windy
Corpus Christi	80	38	t-storm	Raymondville	85	42	pt sunny
Corsicana	50	23	t-storm	Rosenberg	74	29	t-storm
Dallas	48	23	t-storm	San Antonio	73	32	t-storm
Del Rio	68	34	windy	San Marcos	71	28	t-storm
El Paso	53	32	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	23	rain
Fort Stockton	54	26	windy	Sweetwater	42	21	windy
Gainesville	41	17	mixed	Tyler	53	26	t-storm
Greenville	45	20	rain	Weatherford	44	19	t-storm
Houston	73	30	t-storm	Wichita Falls	34	17	mixed

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	52	32	rain	Minneapolis	12	7	pt sunny
Boston	36	34	pt sunny	New York	44	34	mst sunny
Chicago	33	27	sn shower	Phoenix	64	43	pt sunny
Dallas	48	23	t-storm	San Francisco	56	45	rain
Denver	33	19	pt sunny	Seattle	40	40	rain
Houston	73	30	t-storm	St. Louis	37	29	cloudy
Los Angeles	59	45	rain	Washington, DC	48	43	rain
Miami	85	62	pt sunny				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Wed 12/26	Thu 12/27	Fri 12/28	Sat 12/29	Sun 12/30
3	3	3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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# Rise of mariachi music continues in Texas, beyond

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Most Americans probably associate mariachi music with Mexican restaurants, not classrooms — but that's changing.

Schools from Oregon to Iowa to Tennessee now teach it as an art form. San Antonio, a city that plays it at the drop of a sombrero for civic events, weddings or funerals, long has led the way: teaching it in classrooms stretching from elementary school to college for a degree program in mariachi.

Some observers say it preserves the tradition and exposes it to new audiences; others see it as a way to engage Latino students. Generally, students can only study mariachi if their grades are in good standing.

But the growing interest is not restricted to just Latinos. This year, North East Independent School District added its first mariachi class ever at a middle school, attracting some Anglo and African American students.

Mariachi traces its roots to 19th-century Mexico. Its presence in San Antonio schools dates back more than four decades. The city's largest program, in the San Antonio Independent School District, started in 1970 and is often cited as a template for other school districts in the Southwest.

"Mariachi used to be considered, even by Latinos who looked down on it, as cantina music — and now look at it," said Belle Ortiz, who helped start SAISD's program and designed

mariachi curriculum used in many South Texas schools. "We were among the first to recognize it here."

Today, the program teaches mariachi to about 2,600 students in 18 schools. Nine other local school districts also offer it.

Mariachi is best known for its jubilant, boisterous sound — its lyrics often about soaring love that, at times, dramatically crashes down, punctuated by instruments such as the guitarrón and vihuela. Musicians are usually dressed in a "traje de charro": a dressy cowboy suit that includes pants adorned with silver button-like studding on the sides, a bolero jacket and the moño, a fluffy bow tie.

San Antonio's mariachi education community is interconnected and tight-knit. Many know Ortiz and her Grammy award-winning husband, Juan, not only as the godparents of mariachi education, but as the leaders of Mariachi Campañas de America, an ensemble that has played at the White House and modernized the genre by covering pop songs from artists such as Adele.

But a new generation of teachers, having

come out of local mariachi programs, is returning to neighborhood schools. Coincidentally enough, another married couple, Cirilo and Angela Campos, embodies the trend.

Both in their late 20s, they played professionally, were among the first to get master's degrees in music education with a specialty in mariachi offered at Texas State University and returned to their old schools to teach.

Cirilo Campos teaches at Irving Middle School in SAISD, while Angela Campos shepherds NEISD's first-ever program at Wood Middle School, a class that started a few years ago as an after-school group.

"I tell the kids how it's a program that helped save me from some of the perils of the barrio," Cirilo Campos said, adding that he used money earned as a mariachi to fund his education. "I've been to Germany, Switzerland, Morocco, because of mariachi. And those stories help students see its potential in their lives."

It's not lost on students such as Bianca Beltran, 13, an eighth-grader who plays trumpet.

"It helps me a lot in staying on track in my classes," she said. "It

also makes me feel like I am part of a group, something that's important and keeps a tradition alive in our community."

During practice on a recent afternoon, almost 50 students jammed the classroom, some of them attempting the grito, the half-laugh/half-sob that mariachis shriek to underscore the passion of a song.

The effects of puberty on male voice boxes could be detected with cracked crescendos here and there, but the female students weren't shy about giving it a try, either.

The class at Wood, at less than half that size, is working to prove the program's worth and expand it to high schools. It's partly funded by NEISD but the group is raising money for new trajes like any mariachi would: by performing.

"Some people think it's cool, others think it's lame, but we like the kind of music. It's fun," said Mario Morado, 12, a seventh-grader who plays the guitarrón.

A reach beyond S.A. Mariachi's "cool" factor has pinged loudly on the nation's pop culture radar.

Lady Gaga sang her hit "Born This Way" with mariachis in a

viral video last year. And Prince Royce, a Dominican-American musician popular with Latino youths, fused the genre with his trademark bachata-style music in one of this year's biggest hits on the Billboard charts.

Add to that this year: — The PBS documentary, "Mariachi High," focused on students in the Texas border town of Zapata.

— An episode of NBC's "The Voice" featured mariachi Julio Cesar Castillo.

— The rock band Train incorporated mariachi into one of its hits.

— Fashion designer Michael Kors dressed as a mariachi this past Halloween.

And jaws dropped as Americans heard the voice of San Antonio mariachi Sebastian De La Cruz, a Salinas Elementary School student who floored critical judges on NBC's "Amer-

ica's Got Talent."

Like many of his peers, De La Cruz honed his craft through large contests often held in San Antonio, arguably as much the capital of student mariachi as it is for Tejano music. Two of the longest-running such events in the United States are the Texas High School Mariachi Competition, held in the Edgewood Independent School District, and Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza here.

Oddly enough, the genre has languished in Mexico, where schools have been opened to nourish the art form.

But San Antonio essentially has become a factory of sorts for mariachis, Belle Ortiz said.

Students can study the music from elementary school up to Texas State or Palo Alto College, the community college here whose mariachi certification program she and Juan Ortiz designed.

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## Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Action Fitness

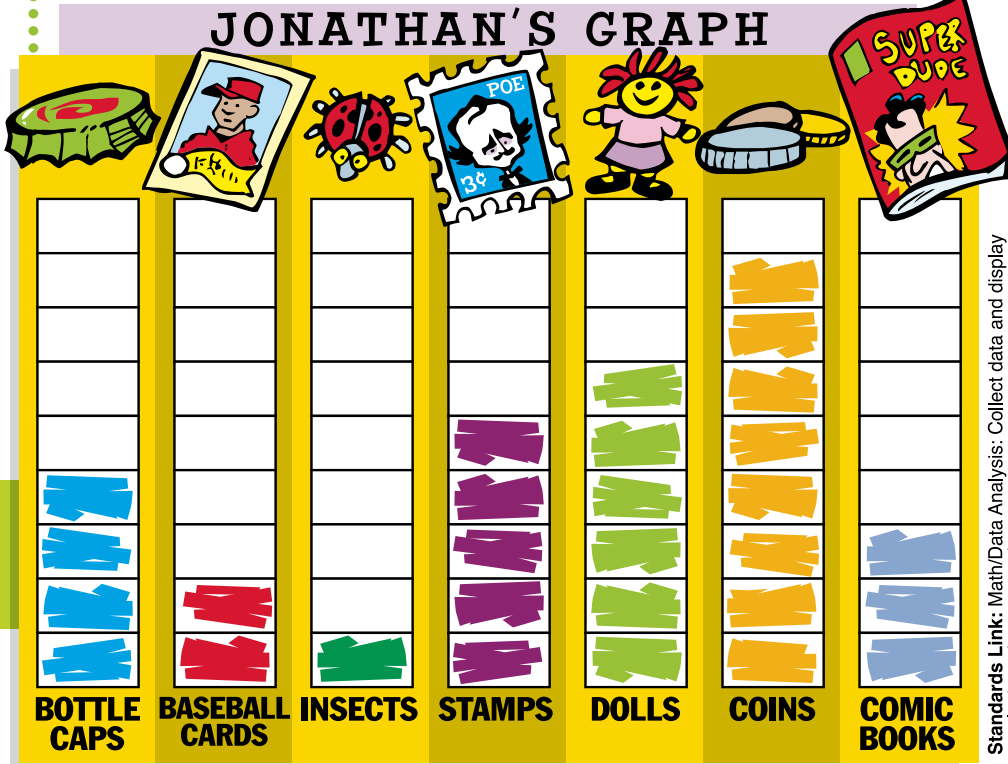
# January is Hobby Month!

Do you have a hobby? A hobby is something you do just for fun. Some people read for a hobby. Some people build model trains or create scrapbooks. Some people cook and some play basketball. Lots of people have more than one hobby!

## Collect Hobbies

Lots of people collect things for hobbies. Some of the things people collect are stamps, coins, feathers, bottle caps, toys, hats, and more.

Ask your class about their hobbies. Graph the results! Jonathan asked everyone in his class about their hobbies and graphed his findings. Look at the graph and answer the questions below. The letters that go in the circled spaces answer the Mystery Question.



Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Collect data and display results in a chart or graph.

### Mystery Question: What does a numismatist collect?

○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
1 2 3 4 5

1. What is collected by one less person than the number of people that collect stamps?

○ 2 ○ 1

2. What is collected by three students in Jonathan's class?

○ 3

3. What is collected by only one person?

○ 4

4. What is the second-most popular item collected by Jonathan's class?

○ 5

Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Interpret information displayed in graphs and charts.

## Collector Investors

Some people collect things just for fun. Some people collect things for investments. They hope that one day, what they have will be worth more than what they paid for it. Use the code to discover some items that have really grown in value.

◇ = 2	▽ = 6
⊗ = 3	● = 7
★ = 0	✱ = 4
♣ = 1	▲ = 5
	✳ = 9

In February 2000, a 1910 "Honus" Wagner T-206 baseball card sold for \$♣♦▼▲ million.

In 1999, the rare 1943 copper penny sold for \$♣♣♦,▲★★.

A British Guiana stamp that sold for \$✱⊗▲,★★★ in 1980.

A 1959 Barbie® doll in mint condition has sold for up to \$♣⊗,▲★★ while the original value was \$⊗★★!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## Sticker Patterns

Kala collects colorful stickers. Circle the sticker that comes next in each row of patterns.

Flower, Cat, Cat, Flower, Cat	Flower, Cat
Heart, Lightning, Star, Heart, Lightning, Star	Star, Heart, Lightning
Apple, Lemon, Apple, Apple, Lemon, Lemon	Apple, Lemon
Monkey, Monkey, Monkey, Monkey, Monkey, Monkey	Monkey, Monkey

Standards Link: Math: Extend simple patterns.

## Double Double Word Search

- JANUARY
- HOBBY
- STICKERS
- STORY
- PENNY
- COLLECTION
- CREATE
- TRAIN
- COMIC
- STAMPS
- DOLLS
- TOYS
- CAPS
- CARD
- VALUE

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

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

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



**Roll!**  
Skateboarding is really good exercise. Practice a few new tricks or skate over to a friend's house (but don't forget to wear a helmet!).



**Dance!**  
Play your favorite songs and move to the music.



**Dribble!**  
Dribbling up and down the basketball court is a way to really get a workout. Play a game of one-on-one.



**Wiggle!**  
Use a hoop and see how long you can keep it going.

Standards Links: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

## Kid Scoop-doku

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

C	O				
O					
I		O			
N			O		
S				O	

## BEYOND Kid Scoop

### Chopped Talk

Find an interesting story in the newspaper and read it through to understand the sequence and details of the story. Now rewrite the story using SUBJECT-VERB sentences only.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Sequence events in a narrative; write sentences with subjects and predicates.



## Why couldn't the pirate play cards?

ANSWER: Because he was sitting on the deck.

## Write On!

### Winter Poem

Write a poem about winter that is no more than five lines long.

# Bird Poop: A helping hand for the holidays

After the 80's bust, the industry was slowly recovering. Offered a job as a roustabout, the young man seized the opportunity.

Work was hard, long, and dirty. Although he'd miss Christmas with his family, he appreciated the income.

Turning off the highway, his truck crossed the cattle guard. The familiar cadence of tires on steel pipes was his early morning reminder of the day ahead.

Heading toward the rig, he glanced in the rearview mirror. A large cloud of caliche dust would follow his vehicle the rest of the way.

In open country, the old, picturesque mesquite to his left was the only landmark to be seen. Nothing else towered above dry grasses and prickly pear cactus.

To his amazement, standing at the base of the tree was what appeared to be an owl. Large, and gray, with owl-like facial discs, the bird didn't move when he drove by.

He had reckoned it would fly. As he watched dust begin to settle over the tree and the raptor, his curiosity caused him to stop.

Unable to turn around, because of the cactus thorns his tires would collect if he did, the man shifted into reverse. Slowly he backed over hardened ruts until he reached the tree.

The bird didn't move. "Something's wrong," he thought.

Grabbing his jacket, he left the truck. His approach seemed to go unnoticed. Since the bird seemed to be "out of it," the man came from behind to place his coat over it. The raptor of-

fered little resistance.

Since the young man lived in Big Spring on the east side of town, he offered to bring us what he had found. Ten minutes after the time he had said he would arrive, his truck pulled into our driveway.

"Sorry I'm late," he said after introducing himself. He had stopped by his house to tell his wife about the owl and where he was going.

Slowly unwrapping our latest delivery was primary. Not knowing where the owl's feet and talons were prompted extreme caution. Too often injured raptors would quickly strike at the nearest movement or sound.

Fortunately, its feet were revealed first. "Those aren't the feet of an owl," I thought.

Peeling the rest of the jacket from around the bird revealed a Northern harrier, a raptor that has facial discs resembling those of owls. The contours created by the feathers channel sound to its ears, and often enable the bird to hear its prey before seeing it.

Another identifying feature of this specie was its white rump.

While this male was a pale gray above, his coloration only extended to his upper chest on the underside. His belly and beneath were white with flecks of cinnamon.

With his long, narrow wings extended, the man could appreciate how the gray above, and white below, were accented with black tips. Also seen was the obvious abrasion to its right wing. Bruised, but not broken, the injury had caused the harrier

to be earthbound.

As the young man related details of his work site, we knew he had probably seen this raptor and others hunt the open fields. When we mentioned a harrier tilts from side to side during graceful glides along fence lines, he nodded and smiled.

"There are brown ones, too," he offered. Telling him those were the females, we noted that this specie has a definite color designation between the sexes.

Due to a harrier's almost silent flight, small animals were often seized before sensing any presence of danger. This harrier was weak from not being able to hunt. While we had not felt any broken bones, an x-ray would reveal the extent of the wound. To be considered, also, would be any nerve damage.

Before turning to leave, the young man said initially he was afraid we might be closed for the holidays. He was relieved to know we'd take the harrier.

We mentioned that during past holidays, we had dealt with a white pelican paddling, but not flying, at UTPB; a roadrunner trapped in a furniture store; a grebe and belted kingfisher coated in oil from a spill on the Pecos River.

Courtesy photo

**With its slender body and long tail, the Northern harrier is often seen during the winter as it glides three to thirty feet over the ground. With the ability to hover, it may suddenly plummet to the ground in order to seize its prey. Sexes are readily determined by color. The male is gray, while the female is brown.**



Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop from Bird Poop". She

is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

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## The joy of giving instead of receiving

Christmas is a time when dreams come true. Every year it rolls around and you think it can't be time for another one, but there it is with all its hope and joy and the promise of wishes granted.

What do I wish for? I wish for the power to return some of the love that's been given me; to share in the beauty of this earth. A drop of water is a wondrous thing, especially in West Texas. A spade full of earth is a kingdom in itself as discovered in Holland. A desert dweller has found that a cloud is worth watching until it passes from one horizon to another. A construction worker notices that a bird building its nest is as wondrous as men building a pyramid.

It all comes into focus at Christmas. It's a tender time. We grow cautious because we open ourselves to love. We exchange gifts, but what those presents really say is "I love you." Some folks are uncomfortable to say or hear these words. Maybe it's because they never learned the secret of the giving heart.

We are people with giving hearts and I pray that it will always be so. It's part of our strength. It's something we learned as innocent children that we can share with the fellow who's down on his luck, with those who have suffered calamities, the loss of their home, their land, or their hope.

Let's take pleasure in the trappings of Christmas. Be merry like the songs say, revel in the tinsel and the glitter and the sparkle and sing the old songs for all the joy that's in them and the memories they bring back.

But to touch the real Christmas, to feel the true spirit of the season, look to your own heart and find all the secret treasures that they're there to give. There is nothing sadder in this world than to awaken Christmas morning and not be a child. Not to feel the cold on your bare feet as you rush to the Christmas tree in the living room. Not to have your eyes sparkle at the wonderment of discovery. Not to rip the ribbons off the shiny boxes with such abandon.

A child of Christmas doesn't have to be a toddler or a teen. A child of Christmas is anyone who believes that kings have birthdays. Children of Christmas are givers. That's what the day is for. They give thanks, love, gratitude, joy and themselves to one another.

How sad indeed to awaken on Christmas and not be a child. Time, self-pity, apathy, bitterness and exhaustion can take the Christmas out of the child, but you cannot take the child out of Christmas.

Christmas is for learning what giving is all about; it's to enjoy the act of giving instead of receiving. It's to learn the twinkle in the eye of the receiver and glean reward from seeing it. And it's to marvel with amazement as we watch children and in our minds to become a child again and once more enjoy the glory of Christmas.

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



DARRELL  
RYAN

## Santa visits SMMC kids

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Special to the Herald  
It's all about the suit ... well, in Santa's case it is anyway.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center offers many services to the community, but one special service that has been kept a well-hidden secret is the resident Santa Claus.

Heath White, respiratory department director, takes on an additional role during the holidays to help out Jolly Old Saint Nicholas and make sure all the kids in the hospital are able to enjoy the season even if they aren't feeling their best.

"This is just something that I

do to bring a little cheer to our patients, especially the children," White said.

However, White ran into a little problem last year when his Santa suit went out of commission. White had been using his grandfather's Santa suit that had been handed down and after years of use it finally gave out.

"Heath has been our Santa for as long as I can remember," Beverly Grant, SMMC employee, said. "Each year during the month of December he slips on the suit and takes the time to visit the kids in the hospital. It may be a small gesture, but it sure does help make the child's stay a little bit better especially at this time of year."

With White providing such a

valuable service and the problem of no Santa suit arising, the SMMC volunteers jumped in.

"After hearing about what had happened to his suit the volunteers got together and not only bought a new Santa suit, but had one made especially for Heath," Grant said.

According to hospital staff, the volunteers are always jumping in to help - kind of like Santa.

"I really am grateful to the volunteers for taking this on and getting a new suit," White said.

"It means a lot to me and now I can slip on my suit and get back to visiting the patients and spreading the holiday cheer."



White



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A drive around Big Spring and through Comanche Trail Park reveals plenty of Christmas lights for those looking a family outing this holiday season.

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# Tale of lost military jacket prompts curiosity

**MIKE FELBERBAUM**  
Associated Press  
RICHMOND, Va. — As soon as she read the news, Mary Helen Taft went straight from her computer to her closet, pulling out a gray jacket that, until that moment, she had thought was an elaborate costume.

When the story of an 80-year-old military tunic found among Superstorm Sandy debris at the Jersey Shore made national headlines, she knew the item she had picked up on consignment about 20 years ago was no longer just a run-of-the-mill coat stashed in the back of her closet.

After examining the worn-down label inside, Taft uncovered the jacket's own storied past.

"I really had no idea what the history behind the jacket was, or that it may be meaningful or valuable to somebody," said Taft, 63, who lives outside Zimmerman, Minn. "Suddenly there was a face and a history of service and a human connection that is very real and it made me see the jacket with new eyes.

"Isn't that what motivates us all — those heart-touching human connections and a sense of community?"

The alumni association for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point has researched a handful of inquiries from people seeking to put a face with their second-hand finds since the story last month about the discovery of a 1930s jacket belonging to the late warrior Chester B. deGavre. The AP reported on a New Jersey woman who found the jacket among Sandy debris, tracked down its owner with the help of the storied military academy and reunited the jacket with deGavre's 98-year-old widow on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

"Maybe they thought it was just a neat thing to have, but then it kind of got them thinking about the person behind the coat and who that person was," said Kim McDermott with the West Point Association of Graduates, who has searched alumni databases, yearbooks and memorial pages to help curious owners of the jackets, which have been used at the academy since 1816. "We're just wired for stories, as humans."

With its tails, intricate stitching, and slanted gold braids on the shoulders, the jacket hasn't changed much since it was first adopted and is still worn by cadets for formal occasions and in parades. The heavy coats, studded with brass buttons down the front and sleeves, have been issued to nearly 70,000 cadets over the years, so it's no wonder some have changed hands from their original owners.

When people buy antique china, they often wonder how many tables it's been on or what conversations took place around it. But with everyday apparel, "I don't think anyone really thinks much about it," said Adele Meyer, executive director of the Association of Resale Professionals, which represents more than 1,100 consignment and thrift stores.

"A military jacket — that's different. That has a history to it," Meyer said.

Taft has learned that the coat hanging in her closet for so many years belonged to Joseph Francis Albano, a 1971 graduate and football standout from New Jersey known as "the Jersey Streak."

After graduation, Albano was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army and served five years of



AP photo

**People sometimes forget there are stories behind every article of military clothing. Some are surprising.**

active duty at Fort Benning in Georgia; in Germany; and at West Point in the athletic department. Following years in the finance business, the 64-year-old

now splits his time between Florida and Wyoming.

News of his jacket being found brought back a lot of fond memories for Albano of his

time at the academy, which he said he admired for its rich history and tradition. Albano said he isn't sure how the jacket ever left his possession and invited Taft to contact him.

For 43-year-old Michael McCoy of Baltimore, finding the name of the owner of the jacket he picked up in the mid-1990s at a Pennsylvania antique store for \$100 is only the beginning.

"It's an object that has meaning now," said McCoy, who has begun tracing the life of John Loren Goff, a 1920 graduate from New Jersey who was first assigned to the Army Coast Artillery Corps. Goff retired as a colonel from Fort Lewis, Wash., in 1953 after serving in World War II and as the base's inspector general. He died in 1985 at the age of 86.

"It was neat because it was a West Point jacket ... but now it's a West Point jacket that's owned by this gentle-

man who had this military career."

Two of the jackets are even appearing on stage in Connecticut for the Hartford City Ballet's inaugural performance of the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker."

Dartanion Reed, the ballet's artistic director, said he acquired the coats from another theater troupe that had shut down.

"I just thought they were a brilliant costume," Reed said. "We always say that people (in performing arts) add bells and whistles to things, but these actually have bells and whistles."

Now that Reed knows the jackets belonged to 1943 graduate Frank Williams Jones Jr. and 1937 grad Harry Francis Van Leuven, he plans to preserve them and use them more often.

"Historic preservation goes hand in hand with what we do in the performing arts every day," he said. "It's wonderful to learn where they come from."

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### Sports Calendar

#### THURSDAY

##### Boy's Basketball

- Forsan vs. TBA, Reagan County Tournament (varsity only), through Saturday.
- Coahoma vs. TBA, Reagan County Tournament (varsity only), through Saturday.
- Stanton vs. McCamey, Reagan County Tournament, 1:30 p.m., through Saturday.
- Sands vs. TBA, Lubbock Caprock Tournament, through Saturday.

##### Girl's Basketball

- Big Spring vs. Tulia, Lubbock Caprock Tournament, Lubbock Coronado, 1:30 p.m., through Saturday.
- Coahoma vs. TBA, Reagan County Tournament, (varsity only), through Saturday.
- Forsan vs. TBA, Reagan County Tournament (varsity only), through Saturday.
- Stanton vs. TBA, Reagan County Tournament (varsity only), through Saturday.
- Sands vs. TBA, Lubbock Caprock Tournament (varsity only), through Saturday.

#### FRIDAY

##### Men's Basketball

- Howard College vs. Salt Lake Community College, 2 p.m., at Mesa College Tournament, Mesa, Ariz., through Saturday.

##### Boy's Basketball

- Big Spring vs. TBA, Bridgeport Tournament (varsity only), through Saturday.
- Grady vs. Wink, 8 p.m., Grady Black & White Cotton Classic Tournament, through Saturday.
- Garden City vs. Ira, 5 p.m., Grady Tournament, through Saturday.

##### Girl's Basketball

- Grady vs. Lovington, N.M., 12:30 p.m., Grady Black & White Cotton Classic, through Saturday.
- Garden City vs. Midland Trinity, 9 a.m., Grady Tournament, through Saturday.

HERALD file photos/Tony Claxton  
**Big Spring's Ty Sealy (above) takes a shot during Friday's 66-59 home loss against Seminole. The Steers (5-10) will be back in action Friday as they travel to a tournament in Bridgeport, while Logan Yarbar and Yaneira Tuitt (right) fight for control of the ball with a San Angelo Lake View player during a game earlier in the season. The Lady Steers (10-7) will be opening the Lubbock Caprock Tournament on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. against Tulia. Both tournaments are slated through Saturday.**



## 2012-2013 NCAA BCS bowl schedule

- Little Ceasar's Pizza Bowl, Central Michigan vs. West Kentucky, Detroit, MI, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 6:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Military Bowl, Bowling Green vs. San Jose State, Washington D.C., Thursday, Dec. 27, 2 p.m., ESPN.
- Belk Bowl, Cincinnati vs. Duke, Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, Dec. 27, 5:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Bridgeport Education Holiday Bowl, Baylor vs. UCLA, Thursday, Dec. 27, 8:45 p.m., ESPN.
- AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl, Ohio vs. ULM, Shreveport, LA, Friday, Dec. 28, 1 p.m., ESPN.
- Russell Athletic Bowl, Rutgers vs. Virginia Tech, Orlando, FL, Friday, Dec. 28, 4:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas, Minnesota vs. Texas Tech, Houston, TX, Friday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., ESPN.
- Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, Air Force vs. Rice, Fort Worth, TX, Sat. Dec. 29, 10:45 a.m., ESPN.
- New Era Pinstripe Bowl, Syracuse vs. West Virginia, Bronx, NY, Saturday, Dec. 29, 2:15 p.m., ESPN.
- Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl, Arizona State vs. Navy, San Francisco, CA, Saturday, Dec. 29, 3 p.m., ESPN2.
- Valero Alamo Bowl, Oregon State vs. Texas, San Antonio, TX, Saturday, Dec. 29, 5:45 p.m., ESPN.
- Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, Michigan State vs. TCU, Tempe, AZ, Saturday, Dec. 29, 9:15 p.m., ESPN.
- Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl, N.C. State vs. Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN, Monday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m., ESPN.
- Hyundai Sun Bowl, Georgia Tech vs. USC, El Paso, TX, Monday, Dec. 31, 1 p.m., CBS.
- AutoZone Liberty Bowl, Iowa State vs. Tulsa, Memphis, TN, Monday, Dec. 31, 2:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Chick-fil-A Bowl, Clemson vs. LSU, Atlanta, GA, Monday, Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Heart of Dallas Bowl, Purdue vs. Oklahoma State, Dallas, TX, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 11 a.m., ESPN.
- TaxSlayer.com Gator Bowl, Mississippi State vs. Northwestern, Jacksonville, FL, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 11 a.m., ESPN2.
- Capital One Bowl, Georgia vs. Nebraska, Orlando, FL, Tuesday, Jan. 1, noon, ABC.
- Outback Bowl, Michigan vs. South Carolina, Tampa, FL, Tuesday, Jan. 1, noon, ESPN.
- Rose Bowl, Stanford vs. Wisconsin, Pasadena, CA, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 4 p.m., ESPN.
- Discover Orange Bowl, Florida State vs. Northern Illinois, Miami Gardens, FL, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 7:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Allstate Sugar Bowl, Florida vs. Louisville, New Orleans, LA, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, Kansas State vs. Oregon, Glendale, AZ, Thursday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m., ESPN.
- AT&T Cotton Bowl, Oklahoma vs. Texas A&M, Arlington, TX, Friday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m., FOX.
- BBVA Compass Bowl, Ole Miss vs. Pittsburgh, Birmingham, AL, Saturday, Jan. 5, noon, ESPN.
- GoDaddy.com Bowl, Arkansas State vs. Kent State, Mobile, AL, Sunday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m., ESPN.
- BCS National Championship Bowl, Alabama vs. Notre Dame, Miami Gardens, FL, Monday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., ESPN.



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**HERALD**

**Annie's Mailbox**



**KATHY MITCHELL  
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That we will come to see more clearly not that which divides us, but that which unites us.

That each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of ourselves over our own evils and weaknesses.

That the true spirit of this Christmas Season, its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all, its abiding faith, may be among us.

That the blessings of peace be ours, the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence.

**Dear Readers:** Last year, we printed the PNC Christmas Price Index figures for the cost of purchasing all the items listed in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

According to the PNC, this year, True Loves must pay more than \$107,300.24 for all 364 gifts, an increase of 6.1 percent. And while the price of the partridge, two turtle doves, four calling birds, eight maids-a-milking, nine ladies dancing and 10 lords-a-leaping remained the same,

those pesky swans jumped 11.1 percent to \$7,000. The pear tree is 11.8 percent higher at \$189.99. Also costing more this year are 11 pipers piping, 12 drummers drumming, three French hens and five gold rings, which rose 16.3 percent due to the dramatic rise in gold prices.

**Dear Annie:** It seems people are always complaining about not having gifts acknowledged. In our house, when you received a gift, you could play with it the day you received it. Then it was put away until you had written your thank-you note. If the child didn't want to write one, that was OK, and the toy was donated. The same applied to monetary gifts. You couldn't spend it before writing a thank-you note, and if you didn't write one, the money was given to charity.

This works even with a 2-year-old. You explain why saying "thank you" is important. Then ask them to tell you what they would like to say so you can write it for them. I always let the child write something, as well, even if it's only a scribble. One of the children once drew a happy face, which was so sweet.

Every Christmas, I would include note cards and stamps in their Christmas stockings. After

a while, they would simply come to me saying they needed to write their thank-you notes and would ask for my assistance. It is such a simple policy to implement. — *Proud Grandma*

**Dear Grandma:** We highly approve of your methods and wish more parents would implement them.

On that note, here's Annie's Snippet for Christmas Day (credit Oren Arnold): Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.*  
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8	4	1	2	3	6	7	9	5
9	6	3	8	7	5	2	1	4
2	7	5	9	4	1	3	6	8
4	8	9	6	5	7	1	3	2
6	5	7	3	1	2	4	8	9
1	3	2	4	8	9	6	5	7
7	1	6	5	2	8	9	4	3
3	9	8	7	6	4	5	2	1
5	2	4	1	9	3	8	7	6

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# Tis the season to treat your cat

(Family Features) — This holiday season, as you're making a list and checking it twice; don't forget to treat your most loyal companion — your cat.

According to a new survey conducted by TEMPTATIONS® Treats for Cats, you won't be alone. Nearly half of all cat owners go the extra mile this time of year to buy their cat the pawfect gift.

Ladies, if you think you're spending more on your cat than the men, think again. It was discovered that men are more likely to outspend women on their cat during the holidays. More than 34 percent of men surveyed said they'd spend upwards of \$11 to \$20 on their cat's gift, while just over 38 percent of women estimate spending closer to \$6 to \$10.

"Incorporating treats into your holiday and daily routine can build and strengthen your relationship with your cat and reinforce your cat's behavior," said Dr. Tiffany Bierer, a nutrition manager for Mars Petcare U.S., the makers of TEMPTATIONS® Treats for Cats. "A positive reward helps your cat recognize what you want them to do, and creates playful moments during the holidays and beyond."

Consider this advice when shopping for treats and toys to fill your feline friends' stockings:

- Even though more than 84 percent of respondents say they'd buy their cats toys for the holidays, cat owners mostly believe their cats actually want treats (41.1 percent). Treating your cat not only builds and strengthens the pet/owner relationship, but it also reinforces behavior, as positive rewards help the pet recognize what you want your feline friend to do.

- If keeping your kitty fit this holiday is a priority, then TEMPTATIONS® Treats for Cats have you covered. At only 2 calories per treat, they pack a great combination of flavor and nutritional benefit.

- Gifts that do double-duty can make you just as happy as your kitty companion. For example, a new scratching post is a fun new diversion, but it also helps direct kitty's attention away from your

furniture and carpet.

- Look for a variety of toys. Some are intended for solely independent play; while others let you get in on the fun and create bonding opportunities.

If you're still stumped on what gift will be the cat's meow, check out the wish-list generator at [www.facebook.com/temptations](http://www.facebook.com/temptations). Answer a few simple questions about your cat's personality, and the wish-list generator will produce customized gift ideas to delight even the most fickle feline.



## Tomorrow's Horoscope

### Cosmic Christmas Forecast

"Peace on Earth, good will toward men" may be a Christmas ideal, but it's an attainable one. The harmony you create inside yourself will count toward the effort and spread to loved ones and out into the world. Mars enters Aquarius, driving philanthropic efforts and encouraging us to take personal responsibility for one another's well-being.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). With your guiding planet on the move into charitable Aquarius, you'll be swept up in the humanitarian spirit, sensing what you can do to help and heal your corner of the world.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're not exactly selfless; you happen to love the feeling of giving. Fate smiles on you because you desire what is good for you and for everyone else, as well.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You've been excited about the prospect of surprising your dear ones with unpredictable expressions of your love, and now you'll pull it off. The moon in your sign gives you a creative advantage.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You'll get caught up in the flurry of activity, but you'll never stray far from the heart of it all. You'll will yourself to slow down and savor the meaning of the moment.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Leading with a playful spirit, you'll make the effort to meet the needs of those around you. You'll seize the opportunity to be kind, forgiving, charitable and compassionate.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be effective in creating your own snow globe of a world. It will be as though you and your loved ones exist inside the protective bubble of your collective care.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The sun seems to shine just for you today, as your efforts pay off brilliantly, especially the ones that required an artistic touch. Your highly attuned visual sense contributed to the specialness of this day.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). All of the lights, decorations and anticipation seem to build to a moment, but that's not entirely how it is. This won't end soon.

The feeling of unity will carry you into the new year and continue on.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're the one voted most likely to turn the traditions you've known on their ear. Last-minute touches will be most effective. You're terrific when the pressure is on.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll get exactly what you need, even if it's not exactly what you want. As the great musician Clarence Clemons said, "I wanted an electric train for Christmas, but I got the saxophone instead."

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As Mars enters your sign, good fortune

may seem to befall you randomly, but it more likely happens because you so fully appreciate the fragrant brilliance of life.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll take a high level of responsibility for the way things happen, and because of this, all goes well. You'll be an instigator of laughter and a bestower of blessings.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 25). Intrigue surrounds you — an accidental benefit of your recent choices. Relationships heat up over the next seven weeks. You'll charm your way into an exclusive arrangement and experience the best of what's available. You'll take February's training to the bank. April brings a profitable sale. July brings a move. Pisces and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 4, 38, 31 and 14.

**YOUR COSMIC CHRISTMAS GIFT:** What will the stars give you this Christmas that you couldn't possibly buy in a department store? ARIES: The undivided attention of someone you admire (and might have fallen in love with).

TAURUS: The dedication to your craft necessary to take it to the next level. GEMINI: A friendship credit that you can cash in whenever you need it most or just think it would be fun. CANCER: A tendency to see and act on the opportunity inside of each problem. LEO: Unstructured time to yourself in which you're free to do whatever you want sans guilt. VIRGO: The social savvy that will make people from all

walks of life instantly connect with you. LIBRA: The kind of play that will boost your immune system and make you feel like you're on top of the world. SCORPIO: The imagination necessary to turn an unsatisfactory arrangement into a sheer pleasure. SAGITTARIUS: The opportunity to be part of a team — to share, teach, negotiate and solve problems with others. CAPRICORN: The resolution of a conflict and the ability to be your own advocate, preventing any similar dynamics in your future. AQUARIUS: The tenderness you so deserve. PISCES: The answer to a prayer.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Whether Sir Isaac Newton was hit on the head by a falling apple is debatable, but few would argue that this Capricorn was the greatest scientist of the 17th century and possibly of all time. His work in the area of gravity, motion, optics, astronomy, mathematics, religion, alchemy and more changed the world forever. Newton was born when the moon and Venus were in the sign of the future.

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

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## sudoku

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

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

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## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Not Even an Aspirin Can Help

The dealer North deals the following hand:

**NORTH**  
♠ A 7 2  
♥ A J 7 6  
♦ J 10 7  
♣ 10 7 4

**WEST**  
♠ K 10 9  
♥ K 8 5 4  
♦ 10 2  
♣ J X 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 6 3  
♥ 2  
♦ A 10 5  
♣ A 9 8 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q 9 2  
♥ K Q J 10  
♦ K 8 5 2  
♣ 8 3

Each player has a very difficult opening bid. The dealer's hand is very difficult to bid. The dealer's hand is very difficult to bid. The dealer's hand is very difficult to bid.

But bridge is a peculiar game, and South can very easily make the right bid. The dealer's hand is very difficult to bid. The dealer's hand is very difficult to bid.

Looking at all four hands, it might seem that South can go with one spade. However, the dealer's hand is very difficult to bid.

Merry Christmas

From the dogs and cats

At the

Howard County Humane Society

ADOPT A PET!

	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWWT (14)	DISC (28)	AMC (31)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telamundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:PM :30	ball: Thunder at Heat	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News	Noticias	News	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	Justice A. Shelby	Charlie Rose	King	To Be Announced	Plains Driiter, Marianna Hill	Bronx Tale, Lillo Brancato	(-14) Rizzoli & Isles	Roots: The Next Generations	Jessie	NFL Live	SportsCenter
6:PM :30		Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News	Pelicula: The Lion King 1 1/2	News	Millionaire	Dr. Diana Sala	PBS News-Hour	Rules	To Be Announced			(-07) Rizzoli & Isles		Shake It Dog	Sport Sci.	
7:PM :30	Grinch	Por Ella Soy Eva	New Girl	Ent	NCIS (DVS)	Movie: Horton Hears a Who!	Big Bang	Upd Alewine	Breakfast Special 2	Hart of Dixie	To Be Announced	Movie: El Dorado, James Caan	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Rizzoli & Isles	Roots: The Next Generations	Good Luck Charlie	College Basketball	NBA Basketball: Houston Rockets at Chicago Bulls.
8:PM :30	Movie: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Amores Verdaderos	New Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles	Pelicula: Ratatouille, Lou Romano (SS)	Go On Normal	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Downton	Emily Owens, M.D.	To Be Announced			Rizzoli & Isles		ANT Farm	College Basketball	NBA Basketball: Nuggets at Clippers
9:PM :30		Amor Bravo! (SS)	Simpsons	Vegas		How I Met	Big Bang	Conan	Frontline (DVS)	Seinfeld	To Be Announced			Leverage	Roots: The Next Generations	ANT Farm	College Basketball	
10:PM :30	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Big Bang	Conan	Shepherd's Heart	Til Death	To Be Announced	Movie: Big Jake, Maureen O'Hara		Rizzoli & Isles	Roots: The Next Generations	Jessie	College Basketball	
11:PM :30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Victorinos (SS)	Jay Leno	Big Bang	Office	Ministerios Vida	Til Death	To Be Announced			Leverage		Shake It	SportsCenter	
12:AM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Al Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Big Bang	Office	Conan	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	'70s	To Be Announced	Movie: Lucky Number Slewin, Ben Kingsley	Cold Case	Reed	Deck	NBA	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Extra	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	Daly	Big Bang	Upd	Chevalme	Browns	To Be Announced			Dallas	Reed	Good	NBA Basketball: Celtics at Nets	SportsCenter
	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(-05) Today	Earl	Light of the Southwest		Cops	To Be Announced			Entourage	Reed	Good		

DENNIS THE MENACE



\*REMEMBER, DAD YOU CAN'T TAKE A NAP AFTER DINNER. WE'VE GOT SOME TOYS TO PUT TOGETHER.\*

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

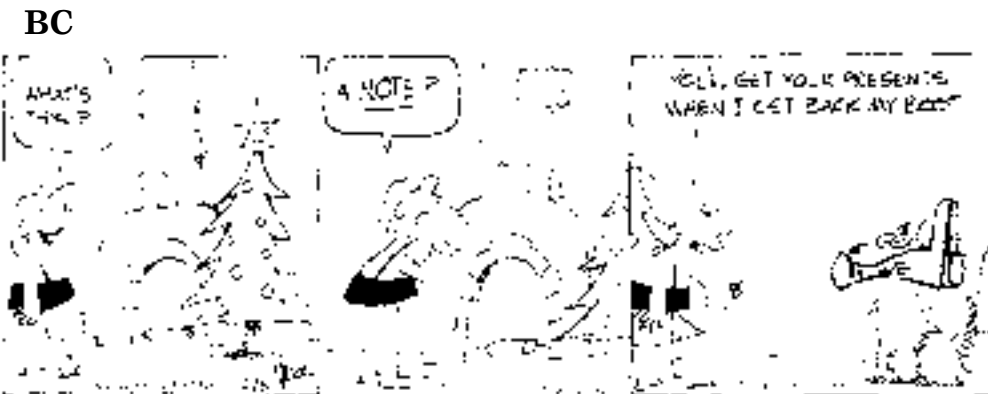


"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



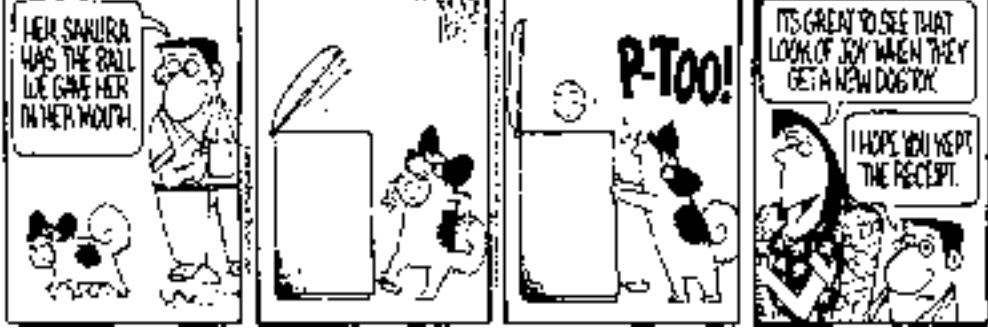
AGNES



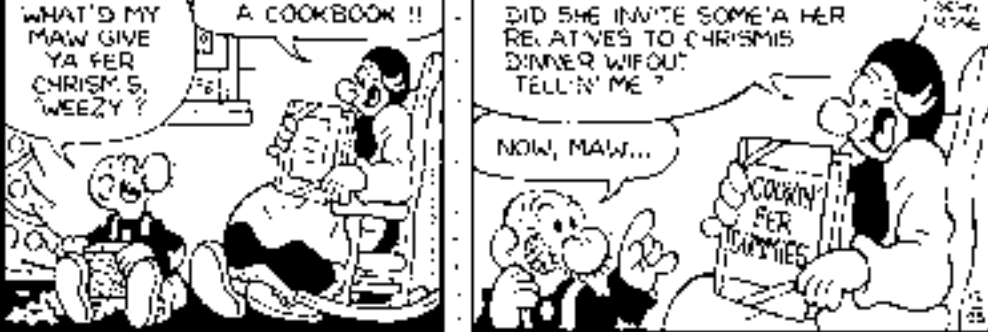
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 25, the 360th day of 2012. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 25, A.D. 336, the first recorded celebration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

On this date:

In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned king of England.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, N.J.

In 1868, President Andrew Johnson granted an unconditional pardon to all persons involved in the Southern rebellion that resulted in the Civil War.

In 1887, Conrad Hilton, founder of the hotel chain bearing his name, was born in San Antonio, Territory of New Mexico.

In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito.

In 1931, New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire live opera over radio for the first time: "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck.

In 1937, the NBC Symphony Orchestra, led for the first time by conductor Arturo Toscanini, performed a Christmas concert featuring works by Vivaldi, Mozart and Brahms.

In 1941, during World War II, Japan announced the surrender of the British-Canadian garrison at Hong Kong.

In 1962, the movie version of "To Kill a Mockingbird," adapted from the Harper Lee novel and starring Gregory Peck, opened in Los Angeles.

In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo) and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising.

In 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

In 2009, passengers aboard

Northwest Airlines Flight 253 foiled an attempt to blow up the plane as it was landing in Detroit by seizing a man who tried to set off explosives in his underwear.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dick Miller is 84. Author Anne Roiphe is 77. Actress Hanna Schygulla (SHEE'-goo-lah) is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 68. Actor Gary Sandy is 67. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 66. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Larry Csonka is 66. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 64. Actress Sissy Spacek is 63. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 62. Singer Annie Lennox is 58.

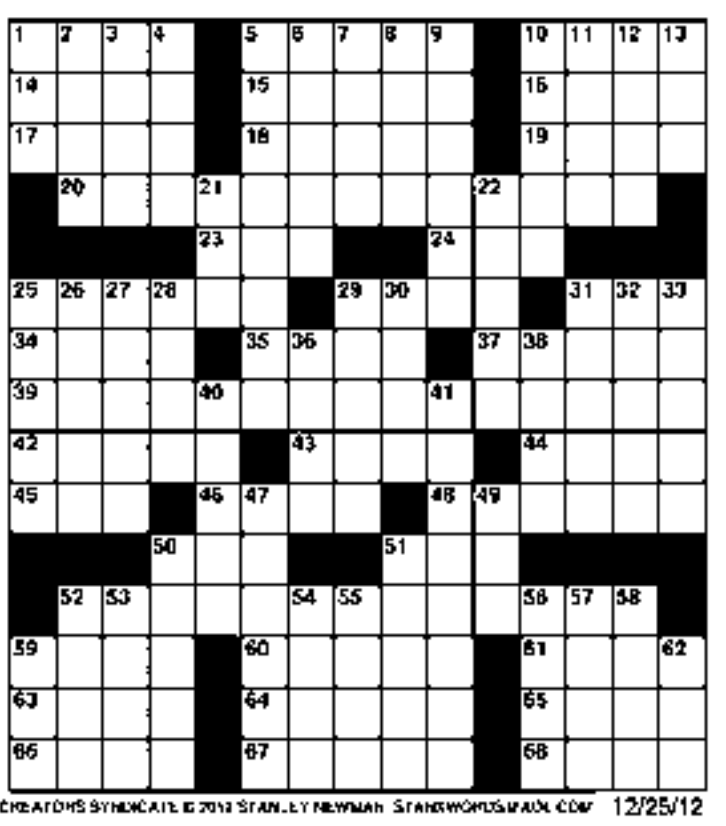
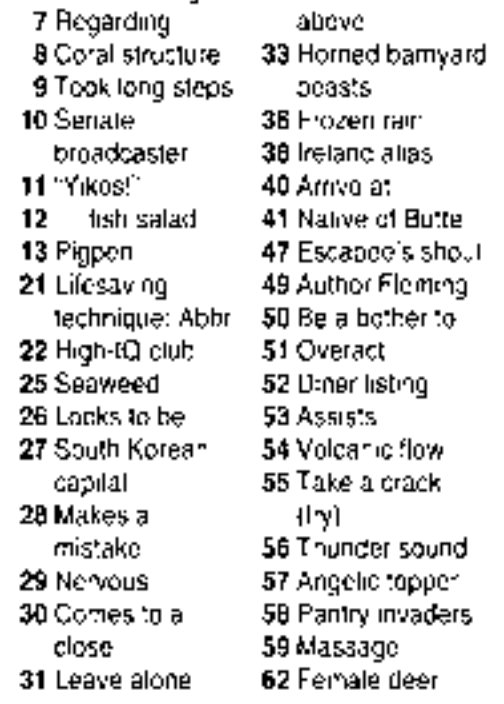
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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Not as much
  - 5 Brings up
  - 10 Uses a scissor
  - 14 K a or Cadillac
  - 15 Earliest stage
  - 16 Tight y closed
  - 17 A um
  - 18 Speak
  - 19 Small horse
  - 20 Warren B. fetti s nickname
  - 23 capita income
  - 24 Family room
  - 25 State with confidence
  - 29 High schooler
  - 31 Capta n's journal
  - 34 S y g ance
  - 35 A l that time
  - 37 Take care c'
  - 39 Wash ngtons. the first First Fam y
  - 42 Entertain
  - 43 "This sudden"
  - 44 Sceptic's comment
  - 45 Class for recent immigrants. Abbr.
  - 46 Ceramic square
  - 48 San Francisco NFLers. for sho'l
  - 50 24-hr. cash source
  - 51 Cockpit announcement Abbr.
  - 52 Musical about Don Quixote
- DOWN
- 6 Walk on stage
  - 7 Regarding
  - 8 Coral structure
  - 9 Took long steps
  - 10 Senate broadcaster
  - 11 "Yikos!"
  - 12 fish salad
  - 13 Pippet
  - 21 Lifesaving technique: Abbr.
  - 22 High-tQ club
  - 25 Seaweed
  - 26 Looks to be
  - 27 South Korea'n capital
  - 28 Makes a mistake
  - 29 Nervous
  - 30 Comes to a close
  - 31 Leave alone
  - 32 None of the above
  - 33 Horned banyard coats
  - 36 Frozen rain
  - 38 Ireland alias
  - 40 Arrive at
  - 41 Native of Butte
  - 47 Escapoe's sho.l
  - 49 Author Fleming
  - 50 Be a bother to
  - 51 Overact
  - 52 U-ner listing
  - 53 Assist
  - 54 Volcanic flow
  - 55 Take a crack (ly)
  - 56 Thunder sound
  - 57 Angelic 'oppe'
  - 58 Pantry invaders
  - 59 Massage
  - 62 Female deer

LAST LAUGH by Sally R. Steir

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com



# Texas tech pulls three from bowl for breaking rules

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas Tech official says three Red Raiders won't be playing against Minnesota in Friday's Meineke Car Care Bowl because they violated team rules.

Football program spokesman Blayne Beal on Monday would not divulge the rules violated. He says Red Raiders starting defensive back Cornelius Douglas, Chris Payne, a linebacker who played mostly on Texas Tech's special teams, and backup

defensive tackle Leon Mackey won't play in the bowl game.

The Red Raiders (7-5) take on the Gophers (6-6) about three weeks after Tommy Tuberville unexpectedly left to take the head coaching position at Cincinnati. Interim head coach Chris Thomsen, who handled the offensive line under Tuberville, will coach the bowl game.

Former Red Raiders standout quarterback Kliff Kingsbury was hired as a successor.

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# AFC playoff lineup all set

**BARRY WILNER**  
AP Sports Writer

All set in the AFC, except for the matchups.

As for the NFC playoff race, there's still plenty of intrigue.

Indianapolis finished off its remarkable one-year turnaround by beating Kansas City 20-13 Sunday to grab an AFC wild card.

The Colts went 2-14 in 2011, drafted Andrew Luck first overall and now are 10-5.

"We were a confident locker room from Day 1," Luck said. "I remember going in trying to gauge the feel of what it would be like, and guys were confident. There are guys on this team who have never missed a playoff, those guys know how to win, and I think they imparted that on the younger guys in the locker room, and I think it worked out."

Cincinnati made the playoffs for the second straight year, the first time the Bengals managed that since 1982.

They beat archrival Pittsburgh 13-10 on

Josh Brown's 43-yard field goal with 4 seconds remaining.

The Bengals have been around since 1968. This is the first time they'll make the postseason in two straight non-strike years.

"I know they just think that there's some complex; there's no complex, you've just got to come play and win," coach Marvin Lewis said. "This group in there has very little history of anything."

Baltimore clinched the AFC North by routing the New York Giants 33-14.

Houston owns the South even though it lost to Minnesota 23-6. Denver has the West and won its 10th in a row by romping over Cleveland 34-12.

New England is the East champion and beat Jacksonville 23-16.

As for the NFC, Seattle's 42-13 victory over San Francisco muddled the West, but earned the Seahawks at least a wild card. The 49ers lead the divi-

sion by a half-game and have clinched a postseason berth.

North winner Green Bay's 55-7 rout of Tennessee moved it up to the second seed behind South champion Atlanta.

The Falcons have home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs after defeating Detroit 31-18 on Saturday night.

The East lead belongs to Washington thanks to a 27-20 win at Philadelphia, while the Giants fell to the Ravens and Dallas was beaten 34-

31 in overtime by New Orleans. The Redskins and Cowboys meet next Sunday, with the winner taking the division.

Washington also can get a wild card, as can New York, but the defending Super Bowl champion Giants need lots of help.

Chicago's 28-13 victory at Arizona kept it in the wild-card chase.

Also Sunday, it was St. Louis 28, Tampa Bay 13; Miami 24, Buffalo 10; San Diego 27, the New York Jets 17; and Carolina 17, Oakland 6.

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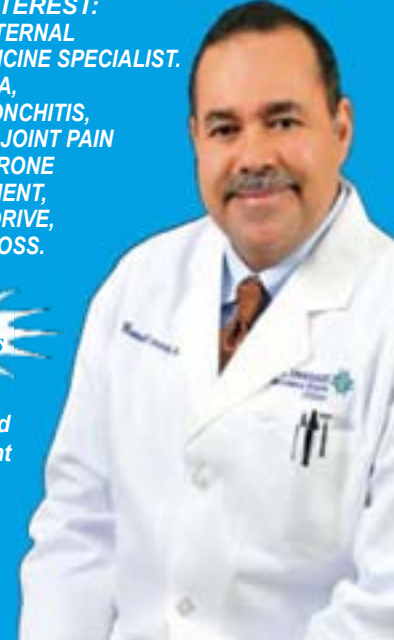
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