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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**  
**DECEMBER 27, 2012**



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## No surprise, gambling lobby to roll dice again in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Those who want to expand gambling in Texas say they're more united than they have been with the next legislative session set to begin next month, but they will likely face the same opposition they did before from social conservatives, fiscal responsibility groups and many Republicans. Previous pushes for more gambling have failed when groups representing different gambling interests have fought each other's proposals, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported Bill See **GAMBLE**, Page 3

# Education takes a step up in 2012

## Officials say new elementaries enhance pride, opportunities

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

It was a big year for Big Spring Independent School District — about 300,000 square feet big, to be exact.

That's the approximate square footage of the four new elementary campuses christened by BSISD this year as part of a \$60 million construction bond approved by voters two years ago. In addition to the new schools, the high school and junior high received considerable renovation.

The new elementaries are bigger, roomier, more secure and way more up-to-date than their predecessors and better positions the school district to meet the educational needs of

students for decades to come, officials say.

"You're always looking for ways to engage students, and all these things are tools to help us do just that," BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said earlier this year. "Plus, to have something nice that you can take pride in means something ... and we know that none of it would have been possible without the help of the people of this community."

Saldivar had joined Big Spring ISD as assistant superintendent shortly before a 2008 school bond failed at the polls, and was elevated to the superintendent position not long afterward, and one of his top priorities

**"You're always looking for ways to engage students, and all these things are tools to help us do just that."**



—Steven Saldivar, BSISD superintendent



Big Spring Independent School District unveiled four new elementary school campuses this year — Goliad (shown in this file photo), Marcy, Moss and Washington — part of a \$60 million construction project.

was to bring another, more workable, bond proposal before the voters.

In 2010, the school district campus that voters nixed tried again. This time, instead of one big elementary See **BSISD**, Page 3

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## Get those nominations in for Man and Woman of Year

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Special to the Herald

Notable people are all around and once a year the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce gives the community an opportunity to recognize those key players.

Nominations for the 2012 Man and Woman of the Year are being accepted through the local chamber until 5 p.m. Jan. 9.

"There are people all around us who are constantly working to make this community a better place," said Debbye ValVerde, chamber executive director. "Many of those people work in the background so as to go unnoticed, but little do they know someone is usually watching and noticing the amazing things they are doing."

Nominations for Man and Woman of the Year must be submitted by



a chamber member, but the nominees themselves do not have to be a member of the chamber, according to ValVerde. Any area resident who has shown an all around contribution to the community and has a consistent track record of doing so is able to be nominated.

"There are many people who do extraordinary things with their business or place of employment and we commend those performers, but we

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3

## Ex-President George Bush in intensive care

**RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI**  
 Associated Press

HOUSTON — Former President George H.W. Bush is being treated in the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital after suffering "a series of setbacks," including a stubborn fever, his spokesman said.

In a brief email Wednesday, Jim McGrath, Bush's spokesman in Houston, said the 88-year-old former leader had been admitted Sunday to the ICU at Methodist Hospital. McGrath said Bush, the oldest living former U.S. president, was alert and talking to medical staff.

He said doctors are cautiously optimistic about Bush's treatment and that the former president "remains in guarded condition." He said Bush was surrounded by family.

See **BUSH**, Page 3

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 Tuesday Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>

## Obituaries

## Wanda Faye Haney

With her daughter and son-in-law by her side, Wanda Faye Haney, 85, of Muskogee, Okla., was welcomed into her eternal home Friday, Dec. 21, 2012. She was born Aug. 9, 1927, in Merkel, Texas, the daughter of Grant and Annie Lee (Martin) Riggan.

Faye grew up in Big Spring, Texas, and lived most of her adult life in Midland, Texas, where she worked and retired from Amoco (now B.P. Oil Company). She moved to Muskogee, Okla., in 1995 to be near her family. Faye lived independently and enjoyed working in her yard until three years ago, when she became a resident at Magnolia Gardens Living Center. She was a member of First Baptist Church where she attended until her poor health would not allow her to attend.

Faye was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, George Riggan.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Patty George and husband Ronnie of Muskogee, OK; grandson, Kyle George and wife Mary Ann and great-grandson, Brandon, of Bedford, Texas; grandson, Michael Trevino and wife Lisa Marie and great-great grandson Ciaran of Houston, Texas; granddaughter, Kelli Burns and husband Greg and granddaughters, Taylor and Madison of Toledo, Ohio; grandson, Josh George of Tulsa, Okla.; her sister, Alva Gene Bishop of Pleasant Plains, Ariz.; nephew, Donnie Feathers and wife Beverly of Patoka, Ind.; niece, Linda McDougal and husband Freddie of Pleasant Plains, Ariz., and numerous great-nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate the life of Wanda Faye Haney at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012, in the Bradley Belltower Chapel with Brother Bill Crow officiating. Interment will be in Big Spring, Texas. Honorary pallbearers are her grandsons.

The family would like to express their deep appreciation to Magnolia Gardens, Solara and Good Shepherd Hospice for their attentive and loving care of their mother and grandmother and to First Baptist Church staff, church family and many friends for their love and prayers shown to the family during this difficult time.

The family has entrusted Bradley Family Funeral Service with the arrangements.

*Paid obituary*

## Carol Lewis



Carol Lewis, 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012, at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo, Texas. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012, at Myers and Smith Chapel.

She was born Oct. 31, 1954, in Big Spring, Texas to Inez (Logan) and Carl Hollingsworth. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She married Dalton Lewis on Dec. 15, 1995 in Big Spring. She was an office manager at Big Spring Housing Authority and was a Presbyterian.

She is survived by her husband, Dalton Lewis of Big Spring; one step-son, Michael Lewis and one step-daughter, Casandra DeLaCruz, both of Big Spring; her mother, Joyce Hollingsworth of Big Spring; two sisters, Grace Hardin and husband Paul of Austin and Sallie Goodrich and husband Robert of Big Spring; four grandchildren; and her best friend Teresa Bynum of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her father, Carl Hollingsworth; and a sister Vicki Hollingsworth.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

## Jo Ann Howell

Jo Ann Howell, 66, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

## Rudy Hilario

Rudy Hilario, 52, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

• ALISON LEA PLATTE, 19, of 416 Dallas, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• TRACY LEE PATTERSON, 50, of 3801 County Road 2, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear (two counts).

• JAMES ARTHUR WHITED, 47, of 309 W. Fifth St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson.

• THEFT was reported in the 1500 block of State Street.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 500 block of Dallas.

## Sheriff

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

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

• WILLIAM CARROLL CAIN, 34, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation, failure to identify as a fugitive — giving false information and a Burleson County warrant for theft of property — more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.

• YENISSA RAMERIZ VIERA, 28, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated — blood alcohol more than 0.15.

• TERRY WILLIAM SAWYERS, 51, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear — driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.

• ROBERT CASTANEDA, 22, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property — more than \$50 and less than \$500.

• FREDDIE ORTEGA SOSA, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for assault causing bodily injury.

• RAYMOND EUGENE DALBERT, 56, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on Taylor County warrants for theft by check, failure to identify (capias warrant) and an Austin parole violation.

• CODIE COY MAY, 33, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on Kerr County warrants for violation of probation — bail jumping and failure to appear and violation of probation — criminal mischief (More than \$50 and less than \$500).

• WILLIAM MACK RICHARDSON, 23, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for criminal trespass.

• CHAD ALLEN EVERETT, 41, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a Glasscock County warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

• RANDALL KIRK KIRKHAM, 22, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by DPS on a municipal warrant for minor in consumption.

• DAVID JOE VILLAREAL JR., was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear — burglary of a habitation and bail jumping — failure to appear.

• JESUS MANUEL RAMIREZ, 55, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of hindering officers discharging official duties.

• APRIL LYNN MARTINEZ, 29, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of making a false report to law enforcement.

• GARY LEE SMALE JR., 38, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on charges of theft of property — more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.

• LINSAY WAGNER, 26, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of material (aluminum, bronze, copper or brass valued at less than \$20,000).

• ENRIQUE ESPINOZA, 27, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• OSCAR MANUEL MADRID JR., 31, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear.

• RICHARD KEITH HUCKABEE, 52, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• NICHOLAS GRAIG MILLS, 33, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

• ROSS RHODEN EDMONDS, 30, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by DPS on a Martin County warrants for driving while intoxication — second offense.

• SAMUEL JAMES MORRIS, 18, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• JIMMY EUGENE BERRY, 53, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• ALEJANDRO JOSE GUZMAN, 17, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for possession/purchasing tobacco for a minor and failure to appear.

• ADAM LEE GUZMAN, 19, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license — when unlicensed and failure to appear.

• VICTORIA HANNABASS, 24, was booked into the county detention center Monday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• OTHO DALE NOGGLE, 33, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property — more than \$50 and less than \$500.

• RANDY LYNN KINARD, 46, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of assault by threat and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• LESLIE PAIGE MARTIN, 38, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• LONNIE MALCOLM JOHNSON, 38, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of issuance of a bad check, bail jumping — failure to appear, theft by check — more

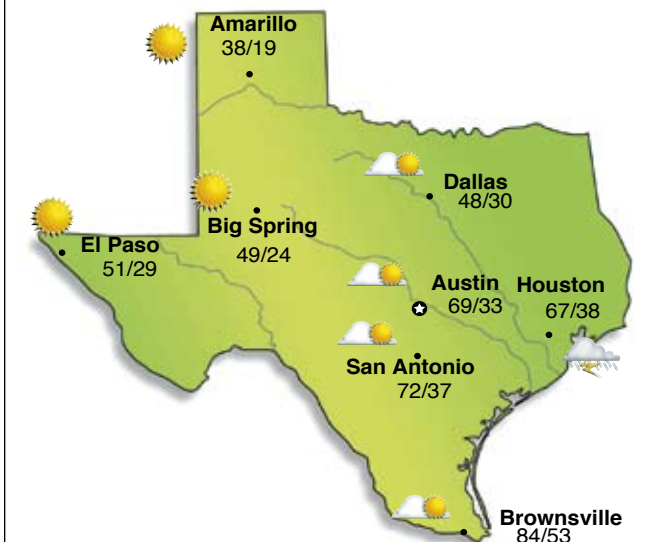
## Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 12/29	Sun 12/30	Mon 12/31	Tue 1/1	Wed 1/2
<b>49/24</b> Sunny. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	<b>52/31</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.	<b>55/38</b> Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	<b>53/27</b> Occasional showers possible. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	<b>53/30</b> Chance of showers. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:46 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:50 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:46 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:50 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:51 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:52 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:53 PM



## Texas At A Glance



## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	45	25	sunny	Kingsville	79	44	pt sunny
Amarillo	38	19	sunny	Livingston	63	34	t-storm
Austin	69	33	pt sunny	Longview	54	31	rain
Beaumont	70	41	t-storm	Lubbock	40	17	sunny
Brownsville	84	53	pt sunny	Lufkin	61	35	t-storm
Brownwood	53	28	sunny	Midland	51	26	sunny
Corpus Christi	76	44	pt sunny	Raymondville	82	49	pt sunny
Corsicana	51	29	pt sunny	Rosenberg	67	38	t-storm
Dallas	48	30	pt sunny	San Antonio	72	37	pt sunny
Del Rio	69	36	sunny	San Marcos	70	34	pt sunny
El Paso	51	29	sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	30	cloudy
Fort Stockton	55	30	sunny	Sweetwater	44	24	sunny
Gainesville	42	23	pt sunny	Tyler	56	31	cloudy
Greenville	47	26	cloudy	Weatherford	46	25	pt sunny
Houston	67	38	t-storm	Wichita Falls	41	20	pt sunny

## National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	52	41	cloudy	Minneapolis	27	16	sn shower
Boston	36	26	windy	New York	36	31	sunny
Chicago	33	29	flurries	Phoenix	55	37	sunny
Dallas	48	30	pt sunny	San Francisco	54	45	cloudy
Denver	31	14	sunny	Seattle	44	37	cloudy
Houston	67	38	t-storm	St. Louis	40	27	cloudy
Los Angeles	61	45	sunny	Washington, DC	43	35	pt sunny
Miami	79	70	pt sunny				

than \$20 and less than \$500, failure to maintain financial responsibility — second offense and failure to appear.

• TRACY LEE PATTERSON, 50, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of expired motor vehicle inspection, failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear and failure to appear.

• JAMES ARTHUR WHITED, 47, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

## Support Groups

## THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

## 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.ccbbigspring.org](http://www.ccbbigspring.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.

# Experts seek answers from West Nile surge

JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press

DALLAS — West Nile deaths were mounting quickly this summer as mosquitoes spread the virus across the country. The situation was especially dire in Texas, where some authorities resorted to aerial spraying for the first time in decades to curb what became one of the worst such outbreaks in U.S. history.

Nationally, more than 240 people died from the mosquito-borne illness — about a third of them in Texas.

Now with the mosquito population decimated by the cooler weather, health experts have turned their attention to learning lessons from the latest round of deadly cases. Federal health authorities are collecting data and examining potential factors, while Dallas County — the epicenter of the outbreak — has begun year-round mosquito surveillance and testing.

What remains unclear is whether experts will be able to shed light on

what caused the outbreak, why parts of Texas were so severely affected and if they can forecast the next major surge in the illness.

“I don’t think that we’re ever going to totally be able to sort it out,” said Dr. Lyle Petersen of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “For one reason, the ecology in the United States is extremely varied, so a factor that may affect an outbreak in Colorado may be different than a factor that causes an outbreak in Louisiana. The conditions in an urban area may be different than a suburban area.”

West Nile virus is believed to have first appeared in the U.S. in 1999 in the New York City area and then gradually spread across the country. Mosquitoes get the virus from feeding on infected birds and then spread it to people they bite. Most people infected show no symptoms, but the most severe form of the disease, called neuroinvasive, can cause a coma, con-

vulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and death.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported more than 835 neuroinvasive cases this year and 86 deaths, led by Dallas County’s 18 fatalities. The national death toll this year approached historic numbers from 2002, when 284 people died from the disease.

Petersen said the CDC is trying to determine what caused the latest outbreak by looking at factors such as heat, rainfall and the number of migrating birds that transmit the virus to mosquitoes. The agency is also researching the genetics of the virus to see if it may have mutated, but that doesn’t seem to have happened.

Petersen added that while a warm spring with ample rainfall in North Texas was likely a factor, it’s not known exactly what caused so many cases in the area.

“Probably, there was just the right combination of warmer weather and enough rainfall and

probably a good dose of bad luck as well,” Petersen said. “These outbreaks are subject to a fair amount of random variation.”

The situation became so severe in North Texas that the state paid for aerial spraying in areas of Dallas County and nearby Denton County. Dallas County had not conducted such an operation since 1966 when encephalitis was blamed for more than a dozen deaths.

The county began spraying insecticides from trucks with the first positive mosquito test in June and then added aerial spraying in August when it became apparent there were more areas with infected mosquitoes than they could cover with spray trucks, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said.

“If you look at this outbreak, it came upon us very suddenly,” Jenkins said. “We might have the same situation in the future where by the time people know there is a risk out there,

dozens of people have already been infected.”

Dr. Don Read knows firsthand how serious West Nile virus can be and has made a mission of spreading the word about taking precautions. The 70-year-old Dallas colon and rectal surgeon contracted the neuroinvasive form in 2005 and still wears leg braces from the ordeal.

“I tell people it’s something you don’t want to have,” said Read, who formed a support group of survivors.

“Initially, my legs were completely paralyzed. My arms were partly paralyzed. I couldn’t talk. I couldn’t hear. I couldn’t write.”

While there’s no way to tell how bad West Nile will be — or which area will experience the worst outbreak — Dallas County has already made changes in anticipation of whatever warmer weather next year brings.

The county has started doing year-round mosquito surveillance and has added two microbiologists to handle

the year-round testing, said Zachary Thompson, director of Dallas County Health and Human Services. Jenkins added that they can now get results from mosquito testing in one day instead of seven.

Thompson said they will also start their public information campaign earlier next year, advising residents to apply insect repellent, dress in long sleeves and long pants when outside, stay indoors from dusk to dawn and drain standing water on their property.

Thompson said all options will be considered to fight West Nile this coming year, including ground and aerial spraying. But he added that if residents follow their advice and targeted spraying is done, they may not have to do aerial spraying.

Jenkins notes, “Personal responsibility is important because we can’t possibly kill every West Nile mosquito.”

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Joe Martin Doporto, 55, died Tuesday. Vigil will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Carol Lewis, 58, died Tuesday. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Augustine Cantu, 67, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Rudy Hilario, 52, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jo Ann Howell, 66, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2013**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

## GAMBLE

Continued from Page 1

Miller, a political consultant and lobbyist, told the newspaper that won’t be a problem next year because they won’t be working against one another.

“They dramatically increase their chances,” Miller said.

John Pitts, a lobbyist for Wynn Resorts, said the Las Vegas casinos

have not all formally organized, but “the gaming industry appears to be more united than in past sessions.”

Texas has a state-run lottery and betting on horse and dog racing.

Gambling supporters argue that by not allowing casinos, Texas loses money because its residents go elsewhere to gamble, including Oklahoma and Louisiana. But Gov. Rick Perry and Republicans in the Legislature have previously

opposed expanding gambling. A gambling bill would need two-thirds support in each chamber and a successful statewide referendum.

John Montford, a former state senator now working for the pro-gambling group Let Texans Decide, said he thought it makes sense to try to keep Texas’ gamblers in the state.

“We’re hemorrhaging money to other states,” he said. “Why not regulate it, sanction it and

put some money in the treasury?”

Michael Quinn Sullivan, president of the group Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, said that Louisiana and Las Vegas each have struggling economies, even as they collect money from Texans. He said gambling opens the door to lawmakers awarding licenses to friends and contributors.

“That’s not free-market capitalism,” Sullivan said.

Miller said the ongoing school funding lawsuit could help if the Legislature is ordered by a judge to provide more education money. More than 600 school districts have sued the state after the Legislature voted in the last session to cut \$5.4 billion from public schools and educational grants.

“It’s an opportunity,” he said. “A golden one, actually.”

## BSISD

Continued from Page 1

in 2008, educators wanted to build three (later amended to four) smaller neighborhood schools and extensively renovate other campuses.

The price tag of \$60 million was steep — almost doubling what the district asked for in 2008 — but the voters were far more receptive to the new proposal, approving

it by a margin of greater than 60 percent.

Groundbreaking on the projects occurred in May 2011 and, in a somewhat unusual step, it was decided all four campuses would be built at the same time with an eye on opening the schools in time for the 2012-2013 school year.

The task of building four schools within a 14-month time frame was daunting, to say the least.

“This was an extremely compressed schedule,” said Lee Lewis, head of the construction firm that built the new schools. “To build four of these fast in the same community, while you’re fighting the oil field to find qualified workers ... is probably the most difficult job we’ve ever done.

“We couldn’t have done it without the architects and the school district working with

us,” he added. “It’s been a true team effort, one of the best I’ve ever seen.”

To save time and money, it was decided that all of the campuses would follow the same basic blueprint — each school would be a 75,000 square-foot building housing 27 classrooms, a gymnasium, library and a combination cafeteria/auditorium

The schools opened on schedule Aug. 27 and educators loved what they

saw.

“This is awesome — that’s the word that keeps coming to mind,” Marcy Elementary Principal Rita Faulkner said. “We have a wonderful campus that kids are going to love. And if the kids love coming to school, they’re going to learn.”

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

## BUSH

Continued from Page 1

Early Thursday, McGrath told The Associated Press he had no new information on Bush’s condition and that he would release another statement “when events warrant it.”

Bush has been hospitalized since Nov. 23, when he was admitted for a lingering cough related to bronchitis after having been in and out of the hospital for com-

plications related to the illness.

A fever that kept Bush in the hospital over Christmas had gotten worse and doctors had put him on a liquids-only diet Wednesday following “a series of setbacks.”

“It’s an elevated fever, so it’s actually gone up in the last day or two,” McGrath told The Associated Press. “It’s a stubborn fever that won’t go away.”

But he said the cough that initially brought Bush to the hospital had

improved.

Bush was visited on Christmas by his wife, Barbara, his son, Neil, and Neil’s wife, Maria, and a grandson, McGrath said. Bush’s daughter, Dorothy, was expected to arrive Wednesday in Houston from Bethesda, Md. The 41st president has also been visited twice by his sons, George W. Bush, the 43rd president, and Jeb Bush, the former governor of Florida.

Bush and his wife live in Houston during the winter and spend their

summers at a home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

The former president was a naval aviator in World War II — at one point the youngest in the Navy — and was shot down over the Pacific. He achieved notoriety in retirement for skydiving on at least three of his birthdays

since leaving the White House in 1992.

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

Continued from Page 1

want to recognize those people who go above and beyond day in and day out and strive continuously to improve the city of Big Spring and the community they live in,” ValVerde said. “We want those people to know that their work is not in vain and someone has noticed just what they have been doing.”

There are a few exceptions, however; those holding political offices should not be nominated. All nominees should be a resident in the area served by the Big Spring Area Cham-

ber of Commerce. When submitting a nomination, include any and all relevant information that should be considered in the selection process.

“We don’t want to make this a popularity contest and in order to do that, judges will only take into consideration the information provided in the nomination and not refer to any personal knowledge of one’s background,” ValVerde said.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the chamber office at 215 W. Third and should be returned no later than Jan. 9. Forms can be mailed to 215 W. Third or P.O. Box 1391, Big Spring, Texas. For more information or to request a nomination form, call the chamber at 432-263-7641.

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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.

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Glenn Stifflemire</b> Publisher	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Brian McCormack</b> Sports Editor	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## Kay Bailey Hutchison put Texas first

The Dallas Citizens Council wrapped up a recent glowing luncheon tribute to Kay Bailey Hutchison with numerous prominent residents proclaiming on a video, “Welcome Home, Kay.” This newspaper suspects that many of them were also privately thinking, “Are we ever going to miss you in Washington.”

Hutchison’s constituents, whether Republican or Democrat, all find something substantial to appreciate in her nearly two decades of work on behalf of this state and, particularly, North Texas. Without Hutchison, the Wright amendment may never have been lifted at Love Field, the Trinity River development might not have proceeded and UT Southwestern Medical Center may not have reached its incredible research heights.

In each of those cases, she was a major, effective player. She corralled dissenting parties to finally resolve the perennial Wright amendment issues so more flights could depart from Love Field. She nudged the slow-moving Trinity project through the labyrinth of federal agencies. And she secured investments in math and science, including for research work at UTSW and the University of Texas at Dallas.

She didn’t labor on behalf of North Texas projects simply because she hails from Dallas. They were part of a larger portfolio she carried on behalf of the entire state.

For example, Texas homemakers, as well as those throughout the nation, now can put money aside tax-free thanks to her work in the 1990s to get Congress to create individual retirement accounts for them. Fittingly, her co-author of that bill, Maryland Democratic Sen. Barbara Mikulski, and Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn introduced legislation this month to rename those IRAs the Kay Bailey Hutchison Spousal IRA.

Hutchison stood up for women in other ways as well. Her support for math and science was based partly in her belief that the nation has too few women in engineering and science. Much earlier in her career, as a member of the Texas House in the 1970s, she sponsored unprecedented legislation to protect rape victims.

At times, her actions on behalf of women’s rights were disappointing. Because she didn’t come out of her party’s anti-abortion camp, this newspaper would have liked her to have been more assertive in standing for women’s freedom of choice. Instead, she worried too much that her party’s more vocal members would come after her because of her qualified support for abortion rights.

Hutchison also failed to join the movement that her fellow Texan, George W. Bush, led as president to reform the nation’s outdated immigration laws. She backed a guest-worker program that could have allowed some future immigrants to qualify for visas, but she was not part of the bipartisan campaign to go beyond that, including creating realistic ways for illegal immigrants already living in Texas to step forward and legalize their status. Stronger leadership would have helped unknot an issue that particularly creates headaches for Texans and their communities.

However, as her career drew to an end this fall, she bucked some Republicans to offer a reworked version of the DREAM Act. Along with Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl, another retiring Republican, Hutchison presented a plan to give qualified children of illegal immigrants the opportunity to serve in the military, attend college and legalize their status. The bill is a big step toward finally recognizing that children don’t deserve to be punished for their parents’ decisions to come here illegally.

When she leaves Washington at year’s end, we stand among those Texans who will miss her leadership, which started when she went to Capitol Hill in 1993 to finish out Democrat Lloyd Bentsen’s Senate term. Cornyn and Hutchison’s successor, Republican Ted Cruz, should take a deep breath and think about her record, including the part about a broader Republican Party. Hutchison rightly told the Citizens Council audience that parties can’t succeed when they expect everyone to think exactly alike.

As Kay Bailey Hutchison resumes her life in Dallas, this newspaper, too, says welcome back. Thanks for fighting effectively for our state.

—THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

# God suffers with us

I can’t imagine anything more painful for a person than the loss of one’s child, and so I won’t pretend that I can adequately express the horror of the savage murders at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

When such tragedies occur, most of us engage in sober reflection about the preciousness of life and especially of our own loved ones. As much as we hurt for the families who lost children at the hands of this murderer, we thank God our children are safe.

But we know it can happen to any parent; these victims did absolutely nothing to provoke this wanton act of evil.

How could an all-powerful, all-loving God permit such horrors to occur? Indeed, isn’t the prevalence of evil in the world a major reason so many people through the years have rejected the notion of a personal God altogether? Isn’t it why St. Augustine flirted with Manichaeism and its idea of the duality of good and evil? Isn’t it why a few of our founding fathers latched on to belief in a deistic god who created the universe and human beings but then abandoned them to fend for themselves without any further intervention in history? Manichaeism, Deism and even Eastern religions don’t seem to present as severe a conundrum concerning the problem of evil.

Without question, apparent intellectual obstacles sometimes mask the greater root causes of our doubt, chiefly human pride and human sin, but I am convinced that intellectual doubts about evil and suffering are a genuine impediment to faith for some.

How terrible it would be for a tragic occurrence such as Sandy Hook to undermine people’s

faith at the very time they most desperately need it.

In my spiritual journey, I’ve discovered, ironically, that certain questions that used to haunt me with doubt now serve to reinforce and even bolster my Christian faith.

With absolutely no intention of offending adherents of any other faiths, I firmly believe that no other worldview or religion comes close to describing and providing an answer for the human condition and for the evil, pain and suffering in the world.

As loving beings, we will never be able to process fully and bear such indescribable pain as the Sandy Hook parents are now experiencing. But the God of the Cross provides us authentic hope and refuge, because unlike any other gods ever contemplated by the mind of man, the God of the Bible suffers right along with us and, because of His superior capacity for love, to a degree immeasurably greater than even we experience.

Far from being an impersonal God, the God of the Bible created human beings in His image, knowing in advance that they would disobediently separate themselves from Him through sin and thus require His divine redemption.

This, in turn, would require His own deep spiritual pain and suffering. For there was no other way for God to reconcile man to Himself than by lowering Himself to human form, suffering all the indignities of human existence, and then volunteering Himself for a humiliating and excruciating but wholly undeserved death on the Cross so that by faith in Him we could be saved as a result of His sinless life, his death and his ultimate triumph over death through His resurrection.

Evangelist Ajith Fernando wrote, “At the cross we see the immensity of God’s pain as He endured the sacrifice of Jesus. And God experienced that pain of the cross from the time He

created the world, for the Bible describes Jesus as ‘the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.’”

That God was willing to suffer and sacrifice for us shows that He is a God who loves us and can relate to us (and to whom we can relate) through His own sufferings.

Christian writer John Stott beautifully encapsulated this idea. He wrote, “I could never myself believe in God were it not for the cross. ... For the real sting of suffering is not misfortune itself, nor even the pain of it or the injustice of it, but the apparent God-forsakenness of it. Pain is endurable, but the seeming indifference of God is not. Sometimes we picture him lounging, perhaps dozing, in some celestial deck-chair, while the hungry millions starve to death. We think of him as an armchair spectator, almost gloating over the world’s suffering, and enjoying His own insulation from it. Philip Yancey has gone further and uttered the unutterable which we may have thought but to which we have never dared to give voice: ‘If God is truly in charge, somehow connected to all the world’s suffering, why is He so capricious, unfair? Is He the cosmic sadist Who delights in watching us squirm?’ Job had said something similar: God ‘mocks the despair of the innocent (Job 9:23).’ It is this terrible caricature of God which the cross smashes to smithereens. We are not to envisage Him on a deck-chair, but on a cross. The God Who allows us to suffer, once suffered Himself in Christ, and continues to suffer with us and for us today.”

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, “The Great Destroyer,” reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. 2012 CREATORS.COM*

## Seven things parents can do

These simple common-sense steps are adapted from a post I published on my blog after the horrific Newtown, Conn., massacre. Our hearts ache, but we are not completely helpless or hopeless in the face of evil and the unknown. And we are not alone.

This Christmas, cherish life, keep faith and practice self-empowerment.

7. Teach our kids about the acts of heroes in times of crisis. Tell them about Newtown teacher Vicki Soto’s self-sacrifice and bravery. Tell them about Clackamas mall shopper Nick Meli, a concealed-carry permit-holder whose quick action may have prevented additional deaths. Tell them about Family Research Council security guard Leo Johnson, who protected workers from a crazed gunman. Tell them about the heroic men in the Aurora movie theater who gave their lives taking bullets for their loved ones. Tell them about armed Holocaust Museum security guard Stephen Tyrone Johns, who died fighting back against the museum’s nutball attacker. Tell them about armed private citizen Jeanne Assam, who gunned down the New Life Church attacker in Colorado Springs and saved untold lives.

6. Train our kids. When they see something troublesome or wrong, say something. Students, teachers and parents, if a young classmate exhibits bizarre or violent behavior toward himself or herself, report it right away. If it gets ignored, say it louder. Don’t give up. Don’t just shrug off the “weirdo” saying or doing dangerous things, and don’t just

hope someone else will act.

5. Limit our kids’ time online, and control their exposure to desensitizing cultural influences. Turn off the TV. Get them off the bloody video games. Protect them from age-inappropriate Hollywood violence. Make sure they are active and engaged with us and the world, and not pent up in a room online every waking moment.

4. If you see a parent struggling with an out-of-control child, don’t look the other way. If you are able to offer any kind of help (your time, resources, wisdom), do it. Don’t wait.

3. We still don’t know the medical condition of the Newtown shooter. But we do know that social stigmas are strong. We don’t need government to take immediate, individual action to break those stigmas.

There are millions of children, teens and young adults suffering from very real mental illnesses. Be silent no more about your family’s experiences, your struggles, your pains and your fears. Speak up.

2. Prepare and protect your community. Joe Cascarelli of Westcliffe, Colo., wrote me about how he and other citizens took their children’s safety into their own hands. “It was 10 years ago that our sheriff put an ad in the local paper to initiate the formation of the Sheriff’s Posse. About 40 of us volunteered; today we have about 20 active Posse members. Eight years ago, the Posse command staff offered to provide the local school district with daily security patrols when the school was in session, at school athletic events and during school dances including the annual prom.” Law enforcement conducted emergency drills, training to prepare for mass shootings and joint sessions with first responders.

“The Posse has continued its patrols at school events and during the school day. Posse patrols have become a visible, accepted part of our community,” Cascarelli told me. “Anyone intent on harm would see armed uniformed personnel at the school daily. The Posse even has an Amber Alert at the local rodeo. When an atrocity like Columbine, Virginia Tech and most recently in Newtown, Conn., happens, all we hear is carefully crafted words of grief, heartrending interviews with parents, and TV’s talking heads with knee-jerk ‘solutions.’ Well, our little community has implemented a local solution. Trained, armed volunteers daily protect our children. What is the matter with the rest of the country? Where are concerned parents and citizens willing to carve out some time to provide similar security?”

1. Teach our kids to value and respect life by valuing and respecting them always. And in loving and valuing life, teach them also not to fear death. The Catholic hymn “Be Not Afraid” offers time-tested solace and sage advice:

If you pass through raging waters, in the sea, you shall not drown.

If you walk amidst the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.

If you stand before the pow’r of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you, through it all.

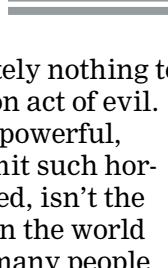
Be not afraid, I go before you always.

Come follow Me and I shall give you rest.

*Michelle Malkin is the author of “Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies” (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is mal-kinblog@gmail.com.*



DAVID LIMBAUGH



MICHELLE MALKIN

# 1 year later, transplant patient breathes easier

By ALEX BRANCH  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH, Texas — Randy Gideon spent last Christmas Day in a respirator mask, seated alone, watching his family celebrate the holiday from across the living room.

He breathed with help from an oxygen tank. He was weak, but even if he had been strong enough, Gideon couldn't cross the room to join his loved ones because he couldn't risk catching a virus.

If he got any sicker, his family knew, he could not undergo a lifesaving double lung transplant.

Just that month, Gideon had temporarily been removed from the organ donation waiting list at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas after coming down with the flu.

No one wanted that to happen again.

Gideon had spent much of the preceding weeks isolated in his west Fort Worth home.

Gideon, 60, an architect whose many projects include the Fort Worth Police & Firefighters Memorial, the Intermodal Transportation Center and the Tarrant County Family Law Center, had been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis four years earlier. It's a disease in which the lungs become damaged or scarred and stop functioning properly.

Often doctors cannot pinpoint the cause, and Gideon's case is one of those mysteries.

He has never smoked. He exercised three times a week.

Over time, Gideon's condition worsened until merely getting dressed was a time-consuming, utterly exhausting task. He needed air from his oxygen tank to have the energy to move.

On Dec. 9, 2011, he was placed on the organ donation waiting list. His doctors expressed confidence that lungs would become available, but he knew that his situation was dire.

He and his wife, Beth, prepared for the worst, discussing his wishes and finalizing paperwork with an attorney.

The uncertainty hovered over Gideon's family that Christmas Day: Would it be his last?

"I had to come to the reality that I may not be able to have the transplant in time," Gideon said.

After the Gideons went to sleep that night, they awoke to a late Christmas gift — a phone call summoning them to the hospital.

A few hours later, surgeons were lowering new lungs into Gideon's chest cavity.

One year later, those lungs breathe strong.

Gideon is up and walking, even returning to work. He arrived home from a successful one-year checkup Monday and found that friends had decorated his front yard with balloons and handmade signs celebrating the upcoming anniversary of his transplant.

Inside, his home is decorated brightly for another Christmas.

Loved ones — his three adult daughters, a 16-year-old son and a whirlwind of other relatives — will gather once again, sharing gifts and embraces.

He will be right in the middle of it.

"It's going to be special," Gideon said.

It started with shortness of breath.

Gideon noticed it about five years ago when he exerted himself hiking or working out. It seemed strange because he considered himself in fairly good shape.

He eventually went to a pulmonologist, who diagnosed him with fibrosis. Gideon learned that the disease can plateau for a long time — or worsen quickly. Many people live only three to five years after diagnosis, according to the American Lung Association.

"It's a scary thing, but you really have to think about it logically and what you want to do," Gideon said.

His condition worsened over time. A doctor recommended that he go to UT Southwestern to explore clinical trials, but Gideon didn't fit the programs. By fall 2011, he could no longer walk across the room without stopping to rest.

His lungs had essentially lost the capacity to push enough air through his body, he said.

He went from 175 pounds to a bony 138. His skin looked pale, unhealthy.

His family's fear level rose sharply, Beth Gideon said.

"It was a very rapid decline," she said. "We had always been so active; it was scary to see the toll it was taking."

She and her husband's physician began working toward adding Gideon to the list for a double lung transplant at UT Southwestern. After a period of evaluation, Beth Gideon said, doctors held a meeting, reviewed the case and agreed that he was a good candidate.

His lungs were failing so quickly, she said, that they put him at the top of the list.

Last Christmas night, Gideon's friends surprised him by singing carols outside his home. Beth Gideon opened the back door so he could hear them.

After everyone had left the house, the couple watched television, then retired early to bed.

Randy Gideon awoke at 6 a.m. to a buzzing noise, which he realized was his wife's phone, vibrating. He shook his wife awake and told her that he heard the phone.

Impossible, she said. She had turned up the volume on the ringers before bed.

"You're dreaming, honey," she told him. "Go back to sleep."

But he insisted. When she got up and looked at her phone, her heart sank. Three missed

calls. All from UT Southwestern.

Transplants have a small window when they can be performed. They knew they would have three hours at most to get to the hospital once the call came. Beth Gideon, realizing that she had somehow turned the ringer off instead of up, felt full-blown panic.

Was it already too late?

She dialed back the transplant coordinator, who assured Beth Gideon that she had been calling for only 20 minutes.

"But how fast can you get here?" the coordinator asked.

Beth Gideon hurriedly dressed herself and her husband, a process that reminded the Gideons of what happens when a woman goes into labor and her husband prepares for the trip to the hospital.

In the Gideons' case, she scrambled from room to room while he focused on breathing.

Beth finally got her husband and his oxygen tanks into the car. She backed out of the driveway, but the car handled strangely. They heard a dashboard warning sensor activate.

A rear tire was low on air.

Beth got out of the car and stared.

The tire was nearly flat but still round enough, the couple decided, to make it to the nearest gas station on White Settlement Road.

That would be faster than reloading Gideon and his heavy oxygen tanks into another car.

If the tire wouldn't hold air, they would call an ambulance.

At the station, she stuffed quarters into an air machine and filled the tire. Then they were back on the road. At that hour, the day after Christmas, the highway was mostly empty.

"My wife drove safely," Gideon said. "But very fast."

At St. Paul University Hospital, Beth Gideon climbed onto her husband's bed and curled against him while waiting for the transplant to begin.

The lungs were arriving on an airplane. The Gideons hadn't called many family members yet because they had been warned that false alarms happen.

They didn't want everyone to drive to Dallas and then learn that the lungs weren't a match after all.

But the doctors said the surgery was a go. And it was time to start.

The Gideons knew the risks. Three percent of double lung transplant patients die within 30 days.

"We said goodbye and it got a little teary," Beth Gideon said. "But mostly, it was a peaceful time."

"We felt it was going to be OK. We had great doctors, amazing support from our friends and our community. We felt their prayers."

The surgery took six to seven hours, said Dr. Fernando Torres, director of the lung trans-

plant program at UT Southwestern. Surgeons connected the new lungs to the bronchi and two large blood vessels, the pulmonary vein and the pulmonary artery.

Doctors weakened Gideon's immune system so his body would accept the new organs, Torres said. That's why the patient cannot have an infection like the flu during a transplant. The infection would spread with the immune system so low.

UT Southwestern performed 50 lung transplants last year and has done 63 this year, Torres said.

Gideon's surgery went "very well," Torres said. Afterward, he was taken to the intensive care unit connected to a breathing machine. He had a tube in his throat and tubes draining fluid from each side of his chest.

Gideon does not remember exactly when he became alert in the hospital. But at some point, when he was off the ventilator, he remembers blinking to clear his blurry eyesight.

Then he realized that he could breathe.

It felt amazing, he said.

The holidays will bring not only the one-year anniversary of Gideon's transplant but also the end of another important period.

Transplant officials ask that organ recipients wait at least one year before contacting the donor's family.

Gideon said he believes that the wait is meant to give the family time to grieve, as well as to see how the transplant patient recovers. If the patient dies, that could add to the family's trauma, he said.

As of now, the Gideons know nothing of the person, just that he shared a blood type.

But he knows that the holiday gift he received last year was almost certainly the result of a heartbreaking Christmas for another family.

So he has asked transplant officials to find out whether the family members will accept correspondence from him.

If they will, he is not certain exactly what he will write. But he said the letter will try to convey what his family feels this holiday season:

Gratitude.

## News in brief

### Odessa man charged with killing ex-wife

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — A West Texas man is in custody on accusations that he killed his ex-wife and critically injured her son in a shooting on Christmas Eve.

The Odessa American reports that L.C. Davis Jr. led police on a high-speed chase from Midland to Odessa. The 55-year-old Davis is accused of shooting his ex-wife, 50-year-old Venesta Davis, and her 20-year-old son, Andrew Darius Thurman.

Police say the shootings occurred Monday night. On Tuesday, Midland police spotted a car they believed Davis was driving. Police say that when an officer tried to arrest Davis, he fled on Interstate 20.

Davis has a lengthy criminal record that includes convictions on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

He remains in the Ector County Jail. Online records did not list an attorney.

### New Houston DA will try cop-shooting suspect

HOUSTON (AP) — The incoming top prosecutor in Harris County says he will personally try the man accused of killing a police officer and a bystander in the parking lot of a Houston body shop.

Mike Anderson will be sworn in as Harris County district attorney on New Year's Day.

Harlem Harold Lewis is charged in the Christmas Eve deaths of 53-year-old Bellaire officer Jimmie Norman and 66-year-old business owner Terry Taylor.

Anderson tells the Houston Chronicle that he hasn't decided whether to seek the death penalty against the 21-year-old Lewis. He says the district attorney should personally prosecute defendants accused of killing a police officer.

Anderson spent 17 years as a prosecutor and 12 years as a state district judge.

### Kemah Boardwalk evacuated in harmless bomb scare

KEMAH, Texas (AP) — A harmless device spotted in the water off a Southeast Texas marina led to the area being evacuated for several hours.

The device was spotted late Wednesday off the Kemah Boardwalk, southeast of Houston on Galveston Bay. Kemah emergency management coordinator Bill Kerber says the device looked to some like a bomb.

The boardwalk was emptied while police divers investigated. Divers found what appeared to be a device once used for military training. It appears to have been lost from an old salvage yard.

Kerber says the device will be scrapped.

### San Antonio Zoo's white rhino dies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A white rhino at the San Antonio Zoo has died.

The zoo says Gertrude suffered from chronic kidney failure caused by old age. She was 46.

Gertrude came to the San Antonio Zoo in 1970. The zoo says she was one of the 11 oldest white rhinos in any zoo in the world.

Zoo director Steve McCusker tells WOAI-TV that he remembers Gertrude having an easy disposition. McCusker says she was "one of the real pets of the institution."

### Dallas slaughterhouse faces waste-dumping charges

DALLAS (AP) — A city slaughterhouse and two officials have been indicted after being accused of flushing pig's blood into a creek feeding into the Trinity River.

The grand jury returned a total of 18 indictments against Columbia Packing and two officials, Joseph Carl Ondrusek and Donny Russell Ondrusek.

Prosecutors say investigators from several agencies saw blood and other waste from the processing of pigs being dumped into Cedar Creek, which feeds into the Trinity.

Columbia officials have admitted the plant spilled contaminants, but said it was by accident.

Columbia Packing and Joseph Ondrusek are charged with water pollution with water pollution. Both Ondruseks and the company are charged with tampering with evidence.

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## News in brief

### Powerful storm begins lashing Northeast a day after sweeping through nation's midsection

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A powerful winter storm was expected to drop one to two feet of snow on parts of the Northeast just a day after it swept through the nation's middle, dumping a record snowfall in Arkansas and ruining holiday travel plans for thousands.

The storm, which was blamed for six deaths, pushed through the Upper Ohio Valley and made its way into the Northeast Wednesday night. Within hours, there was anywhere from a few inches of snow to a dozen in some locations.

National Weather Service spokesman David Roth said the Northeast's heaviest snowfall would be in northern Pennsylvania, upstate New York and inland sections of several New England states before the storm ended Friday morning and headed to Canada.

Little or no accumulation was expected in the East Coast's largest cities: New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Other areas were to get a messy mix of rain and snow or just rain — enough to slow down commuters and those still heading home from visits with family.

Hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed on Wednesday and scores of motorists got stuck on icy roads or slid into drifts. Said John Kwiatkowski, an Indianapolis-based meteorologist with the weather service: "The way I've been describing it is as a low-end blizzard, but that's sort of like saying a small Tyrannosaurus rex."

### Fiscal deal still eludes both sides as deadline nears; debt ceiling rises in the horizon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers are engaged in a playground game of "who goes first," daring each political party to let the year end without resolving a Jan. 1 confluence of higher taxes and deep spending cuts that could rattle a recovering, but-still-fragile economy.

President Barack Obama returns from Hawaii Thursday to this increasingly familiar deadline showdown in the nation's capital, with even a stop-gap solution now in doubt.

Adding to the mix of developments pushing toward a "fiscal cliff," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner informed Congress on Wednesday that the government was on track to hit its borrowing limit on Monday and that he would take "extraordinary measures as authorized by law" to postpone a government default.

Still, he added, uncertainty over the outcome of negotiations over taxes and spending made it difficult to determine how much time those measures would buy.

In recent days, Obama's aides have been consulting with Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid's office, but Republicans have not been part of the discussions, suggesting much still needs to be done if a deal, even a small one, were to be struck and passed through Congress by Monday.

### \$1 billion settlement closes major part of Toyota's legal troubles, but more lawsuits remain

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With a proposed payout of more than \$1 billion, one major chapter of a nearly four-year legal saga that left Toyota Motor Corp. fighting hundreds of lawsuits and struggling with a tarnished image has ended, though another remains.

The settlement — unprecedented in its size according to a plaintiff's attorney — brings an end

to claims from owners who said the value of their vehicles plunged after recalls over sudden and unintended acceleration.

Lawsuits claiming that the defects caused injury or death remain, with the first trial beginning in February unless another major deal comes first.

Steve Berman, a lawyer representing Toyota owners, said the settlement is the largest in U.S. history involving automobile defects.

"We kept fighting and fighting and we secured what we think was a good settlement given the risks of this litigation," Berman told The Associated Press.

### South Africa: Nelson Mandela rests at Johannesburg home after leaving hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The doctors treating former South African leader Nelson Mandela believe he should remain in Johannesburg for now to be close to medical facilities that can provide care to the 94-year-old, the government said Thursday.

Mandela left a hospital Wednesday evening after nearly three weeks of treatment there, and was brought to his home in the Johannesburg neighborhood of Houghton. The anti-apartheid icon, also known by his clan name, Madiba, has lived over the past year and more in the rural village of Qunu in Eastern Cape province, where he grew up.

"Where Madiba goes, in which period, in which times, is a matter that is entirely dependent on his own wishes. Whatever he wishes, we will do," presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj said in an interview with eNCA, a South African television news channel.

"But right now, the doctors have considered it necessary and good that he should be in Houghton so that he's close to all the facilities where we can give him high care," Maharaj said.

Mandela was admitted Dec. 8 to a hospital in the South African capital of Pretoria, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Johannesburg. The ex-president was treated for a lung infection and also had a procedure to remove gallstones.

### N.Y. charity works to find warm shelter for dozens of homeless in the Hamptons

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (AP) — It's not so easy to spot the homeless in the Hamptons in the summer, when celebrity A-listers fly in by helicopter and Wall Street whizzes drive out in their Jaguars and Lexuses.

It's not that the homeless don't exist in the string of famously exclusive waterfront communities on the eastern end of Long Island — they just blend in more easily when it's warm.

Some landscape laborers curl up in barns with the mowers and leaf blowers. Others, who struggle with mental problems or drug and alcohol issues, live in tents deep in the Long Island woods. Then there are those with minimum-wage jobs who simply can't afford prohibitive Hamptons rents and live in their cars.

But when the November winds blow and the mercury plummets faster than falling leaves, several dozen are given refuge by an organization called Maureen's Haven.

"Essentially, in its purest form, we exist to prevent homeless adults from freezing to death during the coldest winter months," said Tracey Lutz, executive director of the privately funded charity founded about a dozen years ago to provide a place to stay and a warm meal for those unwilling or unable to avail themselves of government-run shelters.

### China tightening controls on Internet after embarrassing postings about official abuse

BEIJING (AP) — China's new communist leaders are increasing already tight controls on Internet use and electronic publishing following a spate of embarrassing online reports about official abuses.

The measures suggest China's new leader, Xi Jinping, and others who took power in November share their predecessors' anxiety about the Internet's potential to spread opposition to one-party rule and their insistence on controlling information despite promises of more economic reforms.

"They are still very paranoid about the potentially destabilizing effect of the Internet," said Willy Lam, a politics specialist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "They are on the point of losing a monopoly on information, but they still are very eager to control the dissemination of views."

This week, China's legislature took up a measure to require Internet users to register their real names, a move that would curtail the Web's status as a freewheeling forum to complain, often anonymously, about corruption and official abuses. The legislature scheduled a news conference Friday to discuss the measure, suggesting it was expected to be approved.

That comes amid reports Beijing might be disrupting use of software that allows Web surfers to see sites abroad that are blocked by its extensive Internet filters. At the same time, regulators have proposed rules that would bar foreign companies from distributing books, news, music and other material online in China.

### Hawaii governor names Democrat, Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz, to succeed Inouye in U.S. Senate

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii's lieutenant governor spent time in the morning telling fellow Democrats why he should become the state's next U.S. senator. Hours later, he was hitching a ride to Washington with President Obama to be sworn in as the late Sen. Daniel Inouye's successor.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie appointed Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz to the post Wednesday, going against the dying wishes of Inouye, who wanted U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa to take his place.

Schatz, 40, said his top priorities would be addressing global climate change, preserving federal funds used in Hawaii for things like defense spending and transportation, and getting federal recognition for Native Hawaiians in forming their own government, similar to many Indian tribes across the United States.

Schatz, who ran with Abercrombie for the state's top two offices in 2010, beat out Hanabusa and Esther Kiaaina, a deputy director in the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The three candidates were selected by state Democrats Wednesday morning from a field of 14. The candidates briefly made their cases before the state party's central committee, which handing the three top names to the governor.

### India gang-rape victim sent to Singapore hospital as prime minister promises to protect women

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh pledged Thursday to take action to protect the nation's women while the young victim of a gang rape on a New Delhi bus was flown to Singapore for treatment of severe internal injuries.

The Dec. 16 rape and brutal beating of the 23-year-old student triggered widespread protests in New Delhi and other parts of India demanding a government crackdown on the daily harassment Indian women face, ranging from groping to severe violence. Some protesters have called for the death penalty or castration for rapists, who under current laws face a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

Rape victims rarely press charges because of social stigma and fear they will be accused of inviting the attack. Many women say they structure their lives around protecting themselves and their daughters from attack.

Singh's government set up two committees in response to the protests. One, looking into speeding up sexual assault trials, has already received 6,100 email suggestions. The second will examine what lapses might have contributed to the rape — which took place on a moving bus that passed through police checkpoints — and suggest measures to improve women's safety.

"Let me state categorically that the issue of safety and security of women is of the highest concern to our government," Singh told a development meeting. He urged officials in India's states to pay special attention to the problem.

### D.C. police investigating incident in which 'Meet the Press' host displayed ammunition magazine


WASHINGTON (AP) — District of Columbia police say they are investigating an incident in which NBC News reporter David Gregory displayed what he described as a high-capacity ammunition magazine on "Meet the Press."

Police spokesman Tisha Gant said Wednesday the department is investigating whether Gregory may have violated D.C. firearms laws that ban the possession of high-capacity magazines. She declined to comment further.

While interviewing National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre on Sunday's program, Gregory held an object, apparently as a prop to make a point, and said it was a magazine that could hold 30 rounds.

High-capacity ammunition magazines are banned in the District of Columbia, regardless of whether they're attached to a firearm. "Meet the Press" is generally taped in Washington.

An email seeking comment from NBC was not immediately returned.



## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
**A Drop in the Bucket**

West dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 8 4  
♥ Q 10 8 2  
♦ A Q J 10 5  
♣ A

**WEST**  
♠ K J 9  
♥ K 6 4  
♦ K 7 3  
♣ J 10 8 3

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ 10 7 3  
♥ A J 9 7 3  
♦ 9 6 2  
♣ Q 7

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥  
Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥  
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

In most cases, declarer's prime objective is to make his contract. He pays very little attention to scoring overtricks — if only 20 or 30 points per trick — if doing so would jeopardize making the contract.

Similarly, a defender's aim is to stop declarer from making the contract. He should be willing to yield an overtrick to declarer if, in doing so, he gives his side a chance to defeat the contract. A defender should be acutely aware of the vast discrepancy between the value of a

game and the value of an overtrick, and shouldn't mind risking a small number of points while trying to avoid losing a much larger number.

Consider this deal where West leads a club to dummy's ace and declarer returns the queen of trumps, losing to West's king. West is now at the critical point of the play.

It should be evident to him, in view of the diamond position, that there is virtually no chance to stop the contract unless East has the ace of spades. West does not know whether East has the ace, but he assumes it. To assume otherwise would amount to conceding the contract.

West therefore decides to shift to a spade. He knows that this play might hand declarer an extra trick if South has the ace of spades, but it does not bother him at all. An overtrick is a mere drop in the bucket. The only problem West has to solve is which spade to lead.

It is not difficult to prove that the jack of spades is the correct play. In the actual case, South cannot avoid losing three spade tricks in succession, whether he covers West's jack with the queen or plays low from dummy. But if West returns either the king or the nine of spades at trick three, South makes the contract with proper play.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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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.

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

### Sports Calendar

#### TODAY

##### 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, 1:30 p.m., Reagan County Tournament, through Saturday.
- Sands vs. TBA, Lubbock Caprock Tournament, through Saturday.

##### Girl's Basketball

- Big Spring vs. Tulia, at Lubbock Coronado, 1:30 p.m., Lubbock Caprock Tournament, 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.

#### 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.
- 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 Tournament, through Saturday.
- Garden City vs. Midland Trinity, 9 a.m., Grady Tournament, through Saturday.

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



HERALD file photo  
Big Spring's Tavaris Walker goes for a layup during a game earlier this season. The Steers (5-10) will be in action Friday at the Bridgeport Tournament, while the Lady Steers (10-7) will play Tulia today to open the Lubbock Caprock tourney.

## Spurs snap Raptors' five-game winning streak

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Toronto Raptors could only nod their heads in admiration as their five-game winning streak came to an abrupt end Wednesday night against the San Antonio Spurs.

Tim Duncan scored 15 points and San Antonio rolled to a 100-80 victory over Toronto, snapping the Raptors' longest winning streak in three years.

Manu Ginobili added 14 points, Tony Parker had 13, and Tiago Splitter and Stephen Jackson each had 10 for San Antonio, which has won three straight.

Kawhi Leonard had

nine points and 10 rebounds.

"I've been on that other side; I know what the composure is - experience," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said. "This team has been together forever. You got Hall of Famer(s) in Ginobili, and Duncan and Parker, and it's a huge difference. We're trying to learn to keep that composure through those stretches and do the right things; make the right plays offensively and defensively."

The Raptors had difficulty accomplishing those tasks from the start.

San Antonio's starters

averaged just 24 minutes, but still managed to outscore their counterparts 54-25.

None of Toronto's starters scored in double figures. Starting guards DeMar DeRozan and Jose Calderon were each 3 for 9 from the field in scoring eight and seven points, respectively.

Alan Anderson and Amir Johnson each had 12 points for Toronto.

Duncan had six rebounds and was 6 for 11 from the field in only 27 minutes as San Antonio's balanced attack wore down Toronto.

Every active Spur scored and eight had at least eight points.

"It took us a while to get going," Duncan said. "We're going to have times like that, have nights like that. You can attribute it to whatever you want to attribute it to. Bottom line is we got it turned around and going the way we wanted it to go in the second half."

San Antonio closed the third quarter on a 13-4 run to wrest control of the game after Johnson's 17-foot jumper pulled the Raptors within 57-54 with 4:24 left in the period.

San Antonio outworked Toronto during the run, including two offensive rebounds on

the same play that led to a double-digit lead.

Parker missed a float-er and Leonard followed his own 3-point miss with a one-handed dunk to give San Antonio a 63-53 lead with 2:38 left in the third quarter.

"They got a couple of offensive rebounds, we made a couple of turnovers and they made a couple of 3s," Calderon said. "They took it to 10 or 11 points and we couldn't get back in (the game). They played a little bit better down the stretch and that was it."

Leonard matched his season-high in rebounds and had two assists and three steals.

"Huge, huge for us," Ginobili said of Leonard. "With his length and ability to read situations, he can get a lot of deflections and steals that give you a good lift in some parts of the game."

The Raptors kept the game close early despite some poor shooting.

Some Antonio shot 58 percent in the first quarter compared to 38 percent for Toronto, but the Raptors trailed only 20-18 by taking nine more field goal attempts.

Terrence Ross' 19-foot jumper gave Toronto its first lead of the game at 29-27 with 7 minutes left in the first half.

## Cowboys expect more dynamic plays from RG3

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys get another shot at Robert Griffin III after he put them through their worst quarter of the season in a loss on Thanksgiving.

They aren't talking all tough about how it will be different this time around for Washington's dynamic rookie quarterback in a Sunday night game that will decide the NFC East champion.

Dallas might not even be surprised if the Heisman Trophy winner from Baylor goes 8 of 8 for 178 yards with three entirely different

types of touchdown throws. That's what he did in the second quarter last month to give Washington a 28-3 lead in a 38-31 victory.

"No, I don't say he can't do that again because he can," Dallas defensive end Marcus Spears said. "He can create so many plays and get himself out of trouble a lot, which in turn helps him make a lot of the plays where you look and say, 'Man, how did that happen.'"

Griffin's first big NFL play in Texas was a perfect deep throw to Aldrick Robinson for a 68-yard touchdown. He threw a ball behind Pierre

Garcon — but just beyond the reach of Dallas linebacker Bruce Carter — on a 59-yard score. A sideline throw that only Santana Moss could catch in the final seconds of the half finished the first 28-point quarter for the Redskins (9-6) in 13 years.

When the Cowboys (8-7) pulled within a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, Griffin had three first-down throws on a time-consuming drive to a field goal that essentially sealed the win.

"Obviously you see the

See **COWBOYS**, Page 12

## Houston hopes for more offense against Colts

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans didn't score a touchdown for the first time in more than six years and had their fewest yards of the season in a loss to the Vikings.

They must get their offense going for Sunday's game against the Colts. They need a win to secure a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

The offense is struggling at a time when it should be peaking. The unit failed to score a touchdown for the first time

since Oct. 15, 2006, a span of 106 games.

Matt Schaub said he knows everyone has to do their jobs for the offense to click, but he takes more responsibility for the group as the quarterback.

"There's plenty of stuff from the game that I can correct from my own play and I've got to do that first, and then look to other places to help the group as a whole do that," he said. "You take it upon

See **TEXANS**, Page 12

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**Annie's Mailbox**



**KATHY MITCHELL**  
**MARCY SUGAR**

**Dear Annie:** My friend "Rachel" is very dear to me. We've been best friends since the 11th grade. Now that we've entered the adult world, however, she's encountered some difficult situations.

She had a drug problem, has always had family problems, lost her license, owes back taxes and has been unemployed for a year.

Rachel has two male roommates who I'm pretty sure were recently homeless. She feeds them and cleans up after them. She has always had an

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want, a Facebook account. Our friend knows this, but when we sent her a picture of our newest grandchild via e-mail, she posted this picture with full details on her Facebook page without our permission.

We didn't say anything to her, but of course, we no longer send her any photographs. Please tell your readers that posting such things without permission is a violation of someone's trust in you. Do you agree? — *Not a Facebook Fan*

**Dear Not:** Yes — and no. Many people don't mind and don't care. The fact that your friend knows you don't have a Facebook account doesn't mean she has any idea that you object to her posting your grandchild's photograph. She may have thought she was doing you a favor. Please don't be silent. Tell her you would appreciate it if she would remove the photo immediately and not post any others without permission.

**Dear Annie:** "Disappointed in Ohio" complained that the husband of one of her friends kept attending their regular all-girl get-togethers. You printed a response from "Omaha," who said that she and her friends have been having lunch for several years. Since one of their friends has Alzheimer's, her husband brings her to the luncheon and stays to enjoy lunch with the ladies. "Omaha" said they enjoy his company, and when his wife can no longer attend, they will still invite him.

I want to say hats off to those ladies for including their friend, despite the fact that she has Alzheimer's, and for their willingness to include her husband. This speaks volumes for the kind of friends they are. And hats off to the husband for going the extra mile to make sure his wife doesn't miss out on social gatherings. "Omaha" really touched my heart. — *Minot, N.D.*

**Dear Worried:** As long as the dishes are eventually washed with soap and water, it doesn't matter that the dog licked them and they are piled in the sink. And if Rachel likes to feed and clean up after her roommates, that is her choice. The coughing is an issue only if it is causing Rachel to become ill. (And if there is a possibility of pneumonia or TB, we hope the roommates have been checked.) But it seems to us that Rachel is at loose ends and is possibly using her caregiving skills as a means to avoid finding a job.

You can express your concern and suggest she talk to a professional, but beyond that, she has to steer her own course.

**Dear Annie:** We are very private people and do not have, nor do we

*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 © 2012 CREATORS.COM



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Saturn Cleans Up Christmas Aftermath

If you didn't get all that you wanted for Christmas and you just can't shake the longing that goes with that unfulfilled desire, you're not so bad off. Yearning makes the mind obsidian-sharp. The relationship between Saturn and Pluto brings an opportunity to steel your discipline and clarify your goals.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). There's not just one way to feel good. Your good feelings will take many forms today, including a thrill in your belly, a spark in your mind and the warm buzz of social acceptance.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Your confidence may dip for no good reason. Chalk it up to a combination of social circumstances, weather, chemistry and your general mood. A small achievement will be all it takes to buoy you anew.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You like creative people because they get your humor, solve your problems and easily relate to their own kind, namely you. You'll explore a few of the many ways there are to be creative.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Everyone's a critic, but not everyone is qualified to be one. Only listen to feedback from those who know you and your work well and have an honest interest in seeing you improve.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). What motivates people to behave the way they do? What motivates you? These questions will be answered in some regard. Where there was vagueness, you will now have clarity.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Caution is not the same thing as pessimism. Your realistic assessment of a situation may

inform you that it's unwise to rush in, especially when you can easily test the waters.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It will take one small move to change a situation. But which one? If only there were an expert you could call. Alas, trial and error is the only way to figure this one out.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A feeling of "let's get this over with" may lead you into action, but you'll soon get with the program — and not because you have to, but because you want to.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your impulse to move on comes with mixed feelings. Sure, a rolling stone gathers no moss. But maybe that's a good thing. Who said that stones need moss to be awesome?

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What's appropriate in one situation is terribly wrong in another. The nuanced nature of etiquette makes it difficult to determine what is best for today's scene, so follow the lead of someone who's been there before.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your capacity to love keeps getting bigger. You're not exactly learning something new about your family, but you'll come to understand what you know in a new light.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Often the difference between true and false depends on whom you ask. You'll have a very different opinion about what occurs today than the others around you.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 27). Your focus on home, family and closer ties will bring success on many levels. Desire will be fulfilled in March. Emotional attachments change, and relationships grow through April. June brings a most favorable working arrangement. You could buy or sell a home in August. Aquarius and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 2, 14, 38 and 40.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I'm a Sagittarius dating a Leo I like a lot, but I don't want to make her my exclusive girlfriend right now. She assumes she's the only one in my life, and when other girls call, she goes crazy. Seems like I'm not that good at apologizing or explaining anything to her."

Your sign has wild oats to sow. You're better off making that clear to your dates from the beginning. The justifications you make to your Leo provide her with the ammunition to continue arguing. Also, by explaining yourself, you position yourself in a lower status than your Leo, implicitly asking her to approve of your story, motives and claims. You are suggesting that you don't have the right to do what you do, want what you want or feel what you feel. My suggestion is to stop apologizing, explaining and justifying your actions and come clean — to yourself and to your Leo — with the truth about what you want. You want a nonexclusive relationship. You want to date her and others. You want to be with someone who can understand and respect this. I predict you'll not only find the truth liberating, but you also just might get what you really want.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Capricorn singer Hayley Williams, who has been touring and recording with a new lineup of her band Paramore, admits that for a 24-year-old she feels like an old soul for having endured the rollercoaster that is a life in rock. Williams was born under a theatrical Leo moon, indicating that it's only natural for her to turn that drama into quality entertainment.

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). © 2012 CREATORS.COM



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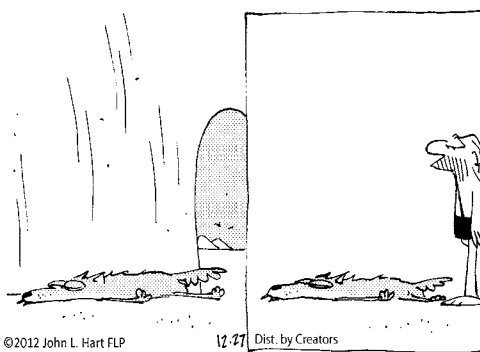
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
<b>5:PM</b>	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News King	King King	Yohanán House	Charlie Rose	King King	Amish Mafia	Poseidon Adventure	Jail Jail	The Mentalist	& Basketball, Alfre Woodard	Phineas Good	SportsCenter	
<b>6:PM</b>	Jeopardy!	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cerado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld R. Shap	Swallow R. Shap	PBS News-Hour	Rules Rules	Amish Mafia		Jail Jail	The Mentalist	ANT Farm Jessie	Audibles	College Football: Belk Bowl -- Cincinnati vs. Duke.	
<b>7:PM</b>	Charlie Brown	Por Ella Soy Eva	Mindy Mindy	Big Bang Two Men	Rosa Diamante (SS)	All Night	Family Guy	Upd Mark Blitz	Story of England	The Vampire Diaries	Amish Mafia	Movie: Poseidon, Jacinda Barrett	IMPACT Wrestling	NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Thunder	Apollo Live	Star New Year	NFL Live	
<b>8:PM</b>	Grey's Anatomy	Amores Verdaderos	Mindy Mindy	Person of Interest	Corazón Valiente	Office Parks	Big Bang Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	To Be Announced	Beauty & Beast	Moonshiners				Apollo Live	Shake It Gravity	College Basketball	
<b>9:PM</b>	(:02) Scandal	Amor Bravo (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	(:01) Elementary	Escobar Rostro de	Rock Center	Big Bang Big Bang		Antiques Roadshow	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Ghost Town Gold	Movie: Predator, Jesse Ventura	Movie: Universal Soldier: Re-generation	NBA Basketball: Celtics at Clippers	Movie: Beauty Shop	ANT Farm Phineas		College Football: Bridgepoint Education Holiday Bowl -- Baylor vs. UCLA.
<b>10:PM</b>	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	McGee Justice	Charlie Rose	Til Death Til Death	Moonshiners				Movie: Wendy Williams	Wizards	SportsCenter	
<b>11:PM</b>	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Al Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Office Office	A. Shelby Scrivner	World T. Smiley	70s 70s	Ghost Town Gold				Wizards			
<b>12:AM</b>	Extra Paid	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd R. Shap		Browns Browns	Amish Mafia	Movie: Poseidon, Jacinda Barrett		Inside the NBA Dallas	Movie: Roll Bounce, Mike Epps	Deck Deck	(12:15) Audibles	(12:15) SportsCenter
<b>1:AM</b>	Paid	Par Ases	American TMZ	Paid	Pagado	(:05) Today	Earl	Light of the Southwest		Cops Bluegrass	Auction	Movie: Scary Entourage			Good Good	College Football: Belk Bowl		

## DENNIS THE MENACE

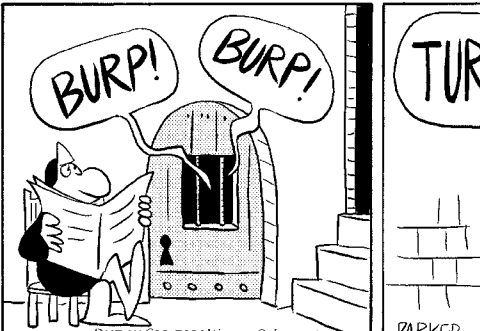


"I DON'T THINK YOU GET TO ACT LIKE A KID UNTIL YOU HAVE KIDS."

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



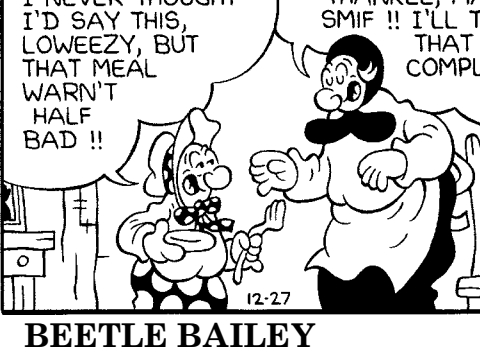
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST

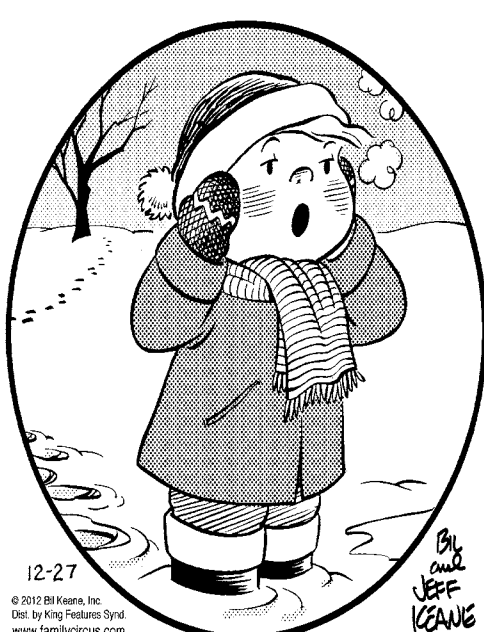


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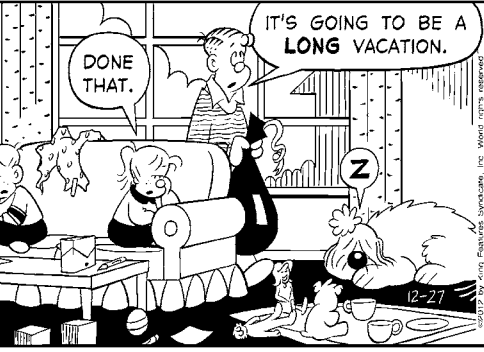
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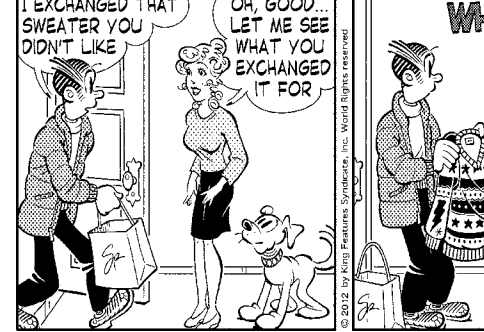


BEEBLE BAILEY

## HAGAR



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 27, the 362nd day of 2012. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1932, New York City's Radio City Music Hall opened to the public in midtown Manhattan. (Opening night, consisting of several hours of live acts, was considered a disaster, prompting the owners to shift to a format of showing a movie followed by a stage show.)

On this date:

In 1512, King Ferdinand II issued the original Laws of Burgos, which were intended to regulate the treatment of indigenous people on Hispaniola by Spanish settlers.

In 1822, scientist Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France.

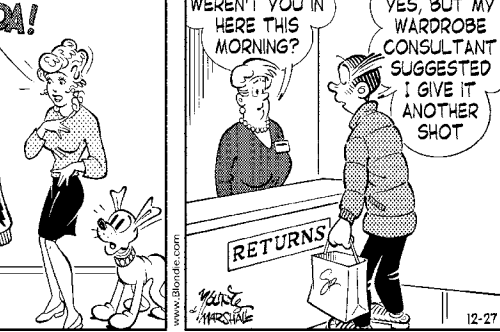
In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1904, James Barrie's play

## HAGAR



BLONDIE



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In 1904, James Barrie's play

"Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.

In 1947, the original version of the puppet character Howdy Doody made its TV debut on NBC's "Puppet Playhouse."

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1970, the musical play "Hello, Dolly!" closed on Broadway after a run of 2,844 performances.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan.

President Hafizullah Amin (hah-FEE'-zoo-lah ah-MEEN'), who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 19 victims were killed, plus four attackers who were slain by police and security personnel. American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

Today's Birthdays:

Rockabilly musician Scotty Moore is 81. Actor John Amos is 73. Actress Charmian Carr (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 70. ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 69. Rock musician Mick Jones (Foreigner) is 68. Singer Tracy Nelson is 68. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 64. Jazz singer-musician T.S. Monk is 63.

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Answer to previous puzzle

POCO	TOTEM	ETCH
AMOK	ELOPE	GAZA
YAYA	AARON	GRAM
THE	PERFECT	STORM
VARIED	HOPI	
	SCOWL	RAMJET
PSI	WHOA	DEERE
SINGIN	INTHER	RAIN
STORK	ZETA	NED
TENANT	RURAL	
TOWS	DROWSE	
GONE	WITH	THE WIND
IPOS	SEEYA	FLOG
VEVO	TEMPT	ALOE
EDEN	SPIES	TSPS

## Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gift-box attachment
  - 5 Police squad
  - 10 "Are you serious?"
  - 14 Tech-support caller
  - 15 Joan \_\_\_ (French saint)
  - 16 Vagabond
  - 17 Teutonic two
  - 18 Hebrew matriarch
  - 19 News piece
  - 20 Cappuccino consequence
  - 23 GM navigation subsidiary
  - 24 \_\_\_-mo
  - 25 Pekoe pouch
  - 28 Bring in
  - 31 El Greco's city
  - 33 Skater's leap
  - 38 "Sorry to interrupt . . ."
  - 39 Yuletide greenery
  - 40 Old hand
  - 41 Cover with cloth
  - 42 Peter and the Wolf duck
  - 43 Pink stone
  - 45 Elmo's street
  - 47 Schooling, for short
  - 48 Phila. clock setting
  - 49 Batter's stat.
  - 51 "You are not!" comeback
  - 56 Filled pancake
  - 59 Dominican currency
  - 62 Back-to-health center
  - 63 Qatar's capital
  - 64 The gamut
- DOWN**
- 1 Incan Empire capital
  - 2 City on the Nile
  - 3 Snorkeling areas
  - 4 Wander aimlessly
  - 5 Emphatic refusal
  - 6 The Lady with \_\_\_ (Velázquez portrait)
  - 7 Steak order
  - 8 Curmudgeons
  - 9 Starbucks CEO
  - 10 Howard
  - 11 Phenom
  - 12 Penny profile
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## EASY ENDINGS by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman  
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# Rangers add C Pierzynski, say he will start

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — A.J. Pierzynski can joke with Texas manager Ron Washington about last season's All-Star snub now that he's the starting catcher for the Rangers.

They shared a laugh over lunch a few days before Wednesday's announcement that Pierzynski's one-year free agent contract with Texas was complete. Both considered the All-Star issue dead after it happened in July, even though Pierzynski had a cryptic retort when Washington explained the difficulty of the decision.

"Everybody keeps trying to make a big deal out of it, but I've known Wash for a really long time," Pierzynski said. "It's not going to change the way I feel about Ron Washington because I know what he's done in this

game and I know where he stands and what he's all about. It's over and done with for me."

Washington said Pierzynski will be the primary catcher, pushing Geovany Soto to the backup role after he re-signed as a free agent. Pierzynski hit .278 with a career-high 27 home runs in 135 games for the Chicago White Sox, while Soto took a pay cut after hitting .196 in 47 games following a trade with the Chicago Cubs.

Pierzynski, a two-time All-Star who has been to the playoffs four times and won the 2005 World Series with the White Sox, has long been known as an irritant to opposing players and even someone who didn't always please his teammates either. Washington says he always felt otherwise.

"I always loved him; I never hated him," Washington said. "I always loved him because he always believed he did anything and everything he had to do to try to beat you. I admired that."

The Rangers needed a left-handed power hitter after losing All-Star slugger Josh Hamilton in free agency to the Los Angeles. They also had a void at catcher because Mike Napoli, a key to Texas reaching a second straight World Series in 2011, bolted for Boston.

Soto became a free agent when the Rangers didn't agree to a contract before a deadline earlier this month. But he eventually agreed to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract, a more than 20 percent decrease from his \$4.3 million payroll last season. Terms of Pierzynski's deal weren't disclosed.

Pierzynski is a .284 career hitter in 1,629 games with the White Sox (2005-12), San Francisco (2004) and Minnesota (1998-2003). He could also play some designated hitter. He caught 121 games last year, leads and all active players with 1,559 games as a catcher and doesn't see a need to slow down even though he turns 36 on Sunday.

"Physically, I feel awesome," said Pierzynski, who matched his career high with 77 RBIs last season. "Mentally, I'm as good as I've ever been. I always joke that I have to thank my mom and dad because they gave me good genes as far as health goes."

To make room for Pierzynski on the 40-man roster, the Rangers designated catcher Luis Martinez for assignment.

## TEXANS

Continued from Page 7

yourself to correct what you personally did wrong, and if everyone does that together and is on the same page that is the recipe for success."

The Texans believe better execution and keeping third downs manageable will be keys to success this week in Indianapolis, a place they've never won.

Houston was 1 of 11 on third downs against the Vikings. Some of the trouble came from plays in the running game with negative yardage on earlier downs, but they were also slowed by nine penalties for 60 yards.

Offensive coordinator Rick Dennison is focused on cleaning things up and eliminating the penalties this week. He's also talked to his team about the importance of putting together long drives. Seven of Houston's possessions against the Vikings ended after five plays or less.

"Staying on the ball is, I think, for anybody the key to winning in the NFL," Dennison said. "Just continuous drives. Not only does it wear their defense down, it secures points ... and helps your defense get a chance to rest. It is a momentum and confidence builder if you're on the field for longer drives."

A major component to doing that will be getting the running game going again. In Houston's three losses this season the team has averaged 3.8 yards or less a carry, and the Texans managed a season-low 2.1 against Minnesota. Those numbers aren't acceptable to left tackle Duane Brown.

"I don't think we've performed up to par at all," Brown said. "We've had some moments where we've broken out some big runs, but consistently we haven't done our jobs good enough to get to where we need to be. Averaging two or three yards a carry is not going to cut it for us. It's not going to cut it this week, and it's not going to cut it in the postseason."

Coach Gary Kubiak was very unhappy with Houston's work against the Vikings and hopes his players are just as upset.

"Anybody who is worth their salt from the standpoint of competing, when you don't succeed or you don't play the way you expect yourself to compete, then of course you're bothered," he said.

Veteran receiver Andre Johnson is encouraging the team not to dwell on its mistakes from last week, but rather learn from them and move on. He said they must establish themselves early to be successful against the Colts.

"We just need to go out and get off to a fast start and get into a rhythm," he said. "The biggest thing is just going out and making plays. That's something we didn't do last week, we didn't make any plays."

# Peyton Manning, RB Peterson make Pro Bowl

NEW YORK (AP) — Peyton Manning and Adrian Peterson want to cap their sensational comebacks with Super Bowl appearances. For now, they can be proud of Pro Bowl spots.

So can Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, one of two rookies chosen Wednesday for the Jan. 27 NFL all-star game.

Manning missed all of the 2011 season with neck and back problems that required several operations. He then signed with Denver as a free agent and has led the Broncos on a 10-game winning streak to take the AFC West.

"I know there's great players out there in the NFL, but there's some great players on this team this year that deserve to go," said Manning, whose 12th Pro Bowl is a record for quarterbacks. He ranks fourth in league passing this year, has thrown 34 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Four other Broncos made the AFC roster: DE Elvis Dumervil, linebacker Von Miller, CB Champ Bailey and tackle Ryan Clady. Bailey's 12th appearance is a record for defensive backs.

"My goal has always been to go out and help the team win and play at a high level," Manning added. "Anything that comes along with that, like being honored as a Pro Bowl selection, is very humbling."

Minnesota's Peterson tore up his left knee on Christmas Eve last year, underwent major surgery, then was back for the season opener. He's gone from uncertain to unstoppable, running away with the rushing title with a career-high 1,898 yards and lift-

ing the Vikings toward an NFC wild card.

"Coming into the season after going through the rehab process, I just told myself that I wanted to lead my team to a championship and make sure that I contribute and do my part," Peterson said. "I've been doing it."

Griffin is one of three rookie QBs who had superb debut seasons, along with Andrew Luck of Indianapolis and Russell Wilson of Seattle. Luck and Wilson weren't voted to the Pro Bowl by players, coaches and fans, although their teams are in the playoffs; Griffin can get to the postseason if Washington beats Dallas on Sunday.

"You can't play down those kind of things," Griffin said. "I've always said my whole football career that you don't play for awards. They just come. You don't say you're going to win the Heisman. You don't say you're going to win MVP. You go out and you prove it on the field, and if everyone feels that way then they'll give you that award."

San Francisco had the most players selected, nine, including six from its second-ranked defense. Houston was next with eight, six on offense.

Kansas City, despite its 2-13 record that is tied with Jacksonville for worst in the league, had five Pro Bowlers, including RB Jamaal Charles, who like Peterson is coming back from a torn ACL.

One other rookie, Minnesota kicker Blair Walsh, was chosen. Walsh has nine field goals of at least 50 yards, an NFL mark.

The AFC kicker is at the other end of the spectrum: Cleveland's Phil Dawson earned his first selection in his 14th NFL season.

"I deliberately tried not to know," Dawson said. "We wanted to watch the show with my kids. I had a really good idea what was going on, but it was a pretty priceless moment when we saw the name flash up on the screen. My kids went nuts 'cause my wife went nuts. That makes these 15 years of waiting worth it."

Another record setter will be heading to Honolulu: Detroit WR Calvin Johnson.

Johnson broke Jerry Rice's single-season yards receiving record and has 1,892 yards with a game left.

Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez set the record for Pro Bowls at his position by being chosen for the 13th time.

The league's top two sackmasters, DEs Aldon Smith of San Francisco and J.J. Watt of Houston, were first-time selections. Watt has 20 1-2 sacks, one ahead of Smith; the NFL record is 22 1-2.

Other newcomers, along with Griffin, Walsh and Dawson, were AFC players tackle Duane Brown and guard Wade Smith of Houston; safety LaRon Landry of the Jets; kick returner Jacoby Jones of Baltimore; and punter Dustin Colquitt of Kansas City.

Eight teams had no Pro Bowl players: Carolina, Philadelphia and St. Louis in the NFC, Tennessee, Buffalo, Jacksonville, San Diego and Oakland in the AFC.

## COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7

guy out there making plays and you don't like that," Spears said. "A lot of that was stuff that we didn't do very well either. At any rate, it's more from how is he going to try to attack us and hurt us this second time."

Spears says Griffin

makes it easy to forget about another rookie, running back Alfred Morris.

He leads first-year backs with 1,413 yards, and his 113-yard game against the Cowboys was the first of three straight during a six-game winning streak that vaulted Washington from an also-ran to sole possession of the division lead.

Morris scored the oth-

er touchdown in the big second quarter and set up Griffin's final TD toss with a first-down run to the Dallas 6.

"RG3, everybody's enamored," Spears said. "It's not like he's back there alone. He can hand the ball off to a guy that can make plays."

Still, Griffin wasn't named to the Pro Bowl on Wednesday night because he was handing off. And that's not what the Cowboys took away from the Thanksgiving game.

Dallas owner Jerry Jones was still talking about Griffin's game at Cowboys Stadium when asked last weekend about the Sunday night showdown. Cowboys coach Jason Garrett didn't need to see Griffin live to believe he could pick through the Dallas defense the way he did.

"We thought he was pretty darn good in col-

lege, and we thought he was pretty darn good in the early part of the season," Garrett said. "We had a tremendous amount of respect for what they were doing on offense going into our ballgame when we played them on Thanksgiving."

With so much talk about Griffin's mobility — he's just 30 yards shy of the top 10 in the league in rushing — it's easy to overlook his 20 passing touchdowns against just five interceptions. Those are rare numbers for a rookie, but he did the same thing at Baylor for three years.

"I don't think people pay attention to how well the guy throws the ball," Spears said. "He could play in a system where it was a five-step drop and he didn't have to run. He throws the ball that well."

The Cowboys did pressure Griffin in the

Thanksgiving loss, even though it didn't really look like it with his 132.6 rating on 20-of-28 passing for 311 yards and four touchdowns with one interception.

Spears and Anthony Spencer, who had two of the four sacks of Griffin, will be chasing again with a defense even more compromised than it was a month ago.

The Cowboys are missing five starters, and

linebacker DeMarcus Ware is trying to play through hamstring, elbow and shoulder problems.

"It's no secret we've got a lot to defend on our end of the ball," Spears said. "With that being said, we feel like we left some plays out there the first game and we have to do a better job of playing and keying around the football this time around."

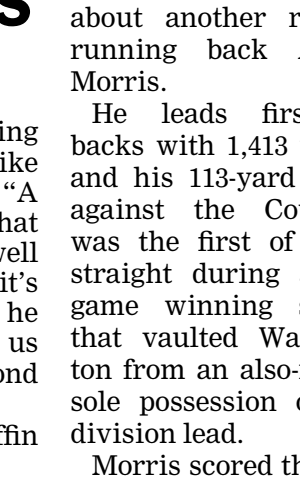
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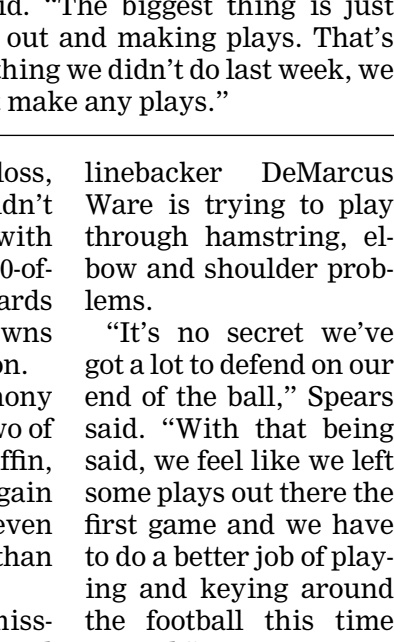
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