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FRIDAY

DECEMBER 28, 2012



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Rising up

After being shuttered for almost **30 years, Hotel Settles is back**

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

For the second time in a century, the historic Settles Hotel will again open its arms to weary travelers tonight, as the downtown landmark marks its reopening with a special lighting ceremony.

With a public lighting ceremony slated for 7:30 p.m., the hotel — which is being operated by the La Corsha Hospitality Group — will see a rather unique set of visitors in the next couple of days, according to Publicity Specialist Ryann Collier.

"Hotel Settles will serve its first overnight guests Saturday," Collier said. "As a special 'thank you,' hotel reser-



Ryan

vations will open to only current and former Big Spring residents from Saturday until Monday, and will be available to all other guests starting Tuesday, Jan. 1. Nightly

room rates start at \$179 for a Historic Queen Room and go up to \$1,000 for the Presidential Suite." According to Collier, Hotel

Settles will light each floor this evening, beginning at 7:30 p.m., culminating with the red Hotel Settles sign at the top of the building. Also, the hotel will open its restaurant — the Settles Grill — at 7 a.m. Saturday with breakfast See **SETTLES**, Page 3

service for hotel guests.

The hotel will open to the public with light food service and cocktails at its bar, the Pharmacy Bar and Parlor, starting at 5 p.m. Saturday. Beginning Jan. 7, the Settles Grill will be available to everyone for breakfast and Jan. 9 lunch and dinner service will commence, according to Collier.

Renovation of the Settles Hotel — which had been empty and abandoned for many years prior — began in 2006 when former Big Spring resident Brint Ryan announced the formation of the Settles Hotel Development Compa-



George O'Brien Jr. VAMC more than a name change



The Big Spring VMAC was renamed the George H. O'Brien VAMC early this year after Big Spring's Medal of Honor recipient.

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Change, it seems, was a constant at the local VA medical center in 2012, starting with its name.

In January, the hospital officially changed its name to the George H. O'Brien Jr. VA Medical Center — in honor of the Big Spring native who received the Medal of Honor during the Korean War — and it seemed something new was popping up at the facility all the time after that.

"It was the external event which kicked off a lot of change here," said Jamie Park, executive assistant to the medical center director.

Most of the changes were made with modernizing, personalizing or improving access to services for the 16,000 veterans who live in the VAMC's catchment area.

Among the more noteworthy events for the West Texas VA in 2012 were:

• Expansion of the system's outpatient clinic in Abilene.

"Not only did we expand our space there, but we are now able to provide more specialized services to our veterans in that area," Park said, citing audiology, ophthalmology, pharmacy and physical training as the most

notable improvements. While officials were finishing up their work in the Abilene clinic, they laid the groundwork for expansion of services in the Midland/ Odessa area, as well. Park estimated that work will completed by the end

of 2013. Plans also call for similar expansion in San Angelo, she said.

See VAMC, Page 3

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Higher ed faces fiscal troubles

By JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The tugof-war between Texas Gov. Rick Perry and state universities is still going strong heading into the 2013 legislative session with new skirmishes over money looming.

After lawmakers cut nearly \$1 billion in higher education spending from institutions and financial aid for

(Gov.) Perry wants to shake up how universities get their money. He wants them to earn it. Tying funding to how many students earn degrees would be a sharp change from the current system that mostly connects funding to enrollment.

students, schools want that fer cheaper degrees and gradmoney back.

uate more students quicker. Perry wants schools to lock in four-year tuition rates, of-

And he wants schools to earn some of the funding they get by tying at least 10 percent of the money to how many students graduate.

University leaders hope to convince the Legislature that pumping money back into higher education helps the state by producing a bettereducated workforce and research that fuels economic development. The higher education cuts

See **STATE**, Page 3

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Obituaries



Ozona, Texas, to Victoria (Mendez) and Domingo Cantu. He lived most of his life in Howard County. He was a truck driver and had worked for Price Construction.

He is survived by his wife, Rita Cantu of Big Spring; one daughter, Angela Juarez (Beto) of Midland; four step-daughters, Mary Galaviz, Lupe Marquez (Ray), Rosalinda Salazar (Jeff) and Janie Galaviz (Enrique), all of Big Spring; four sons,

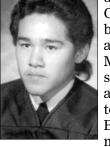
Chevito Galaviz (Leticia) of Big Spring, Frankie Galaviz (Marla) of Stanton, David Galaviz (Mandy) and Domingo "Bebe" Galaviz (Gloria), all of Big Spring; four brothers, Domingo Cantu, Pedro Cantu, Manuel Cantu and Tony Cantu, all of Big Spring; two sisters, Maria Elena Mendez of Brownwood and Josie Guiterrez (Manuel) of Big Spring; three grandchildren, including Michael Cantu (Danielle); several great-granchildren, including Savanah; and numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and maternal grandparents, Ramona Tijerena and Pedro Mendez; paternal grandparents, Sarah Rodriquez and Augustine Cantu; a daughter, Estella Cantu; one sister, Ramona Edmondson; one brother, Joaquin Cantu; and three step-sons, Rey Galaviz, Juan Galaviz and Robert Galaviz.

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

Paid obituary

Rudy Hilario



died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Prayer services will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Reynaldo Bennett officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Rudy Hilario, 52, of Big Spring

He was born Feb. 14, 1960, in Big Spring, Texas, to Pilar and Jacinto Hilario. He lived most of his life in Big Spring, except for a few years in North Carolina and California before returning to Big Spring in 2006. He had a family owned clothing business.

He was a member of Lighthouse Restoration Center. He married Mary Montez in 1978.

He is survived by his wife, Mary of Big Spring; four sons, Rudy Hilario, Richard Hilario, Raymond Hilario and Rocky Hilario, all of Big Spring; two daughters, Suzzana Hilario and Stephanie Cortez and husband Rigo, all of Big Spring; three brothers. Robert Hilario, Jacinto Hilario Jr. and Lorenzo Hilario, all of Big Spring; four sisters, Celia Rodriguez of California, Margie Salinas of North Carolina, Floralinda Lopez of New Mexico and Concepcion Viera of Big Spring; and three grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Reggie Hilario; one brother, Anselmo Hilario: and one sister, Gloria Garcia.

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

Joe Martin Doporto



Faye Price

at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Joe Martin Doporto, 55, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012, in Arlington, Texas. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Msgr. Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born March 20, 1957, in

Big Spring, Texas, to Mary Helen (Martin) and Jose Valdemar Doporto. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring except for living in Arlington, Texas, from 2000 until 2005. He had worked at Pizza Inn in Big Spring and for Mansfield Pizza in Mansfield, Texas. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic

He is survived by his father, Jose Doporto of Big Spring; five brothers, John Doporto and wife Crystal of San Antonio, Danny Doporto of Grand Prairie, Robert Doporto and wife Moraima of Odessa, Michael Doporto and wife Patricia of Big Spring and Chris Doporto of Waxahachie; two sisters, Sandra Doporto and Lora Doporto, both of Grand Prairie; a number of nieces and nephews; and four great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Mary Helen Doporto.

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

Roland Gore

Roland Gore, 60, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012. Services are pending at Myers &

Police blotter

Faye Price, 87, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring

died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012. Services are pending

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

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

- CURTIS THOMPSON, 53, of 500 S. Goliad, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts), possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and tampering/fabricating physical evidence.
- THOMAS ALLEN YOUNG, 17, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 15, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana in a drug free zone – two ounces or less.
- JOSHUA DAVID MITCHELL, 19, of 1106 Stanford, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.
- PAMELA KAY LEFLER, 50, of 1307 Mulberry, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxi-
- DENVER RAY HEFFINGTON, 27, of 4111 Muir, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxi-
- WILLIAM DILLAN LUXTON, 20, of Stanton, Texas, was arrested Thursday on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and parked
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue.
- THEFT was reported:

report.

- In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- In the area of County Road 36.
- In the 1700 block of E. Third Street. BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported
- in the 400 block of Young. BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in
- the 800 block of E. Third Street.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this

following activity:

Smith Funeral Home.

- THOMAS ALLEN YOUNG, 17, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana in a drug free zone – two ounces or less.
- CURTIS THOMPSON, 53, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts), possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and tampering/fabricating physical evi-
- JOSHUA MITCHELL, 19, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for criminal mischief – more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.
- WILLIAM DILLAN LUXTON, 20, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and parked facing traffic.
- DENVER RAY HEFFINGTON, 27, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of 18th Street and Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

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spirit in jars and open a

iar of it every month.

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SMMC. MEDICAL was

reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather Local 5-Day Forecast Mon Wed 12/30 12/31 1/1 1/2 1/3 53/31 53/38 49/27 48/24 53/29 Mix of rain Mostly Mostly Cloudy, peri-Chance of sunny. Highs in the low Cloudy ods of rain. and snow showers. Highs in the Highs in the Highs in the showers. 50s and low 50s and upper 40s low 50s and lows in the and lows in lows in the lows in the low 30s. upper 30s. the upper upper 20s. 20s. Sunrise: Sunrise: Sunrise: Sunrise: Sunrise: 7:46 AM 7:47 AM 7:47 AM 7:47 AM 7:47 AM Sunset: Sunset: Sunset: Sunset: Sunset: 5:50 PM 5:52 PM 5:53 PM We Celebrate Hometown Life Américan *Profile*

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City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	50	31	pt sunny	Kingsville	64	43	cloudy
Amarillo	46	24	sunny	Livingston	53	29	mst sunny
Austin	56	31	pt sunny	Longview	48	31	sunny
Beaumont	54	34	mst sunny	Lubbock	47	24	sunny
Brownsville			pt sunny	Lufkin	52	31	mst sunny
Brownwood	54	31	mst sunny	Midland	54	33	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	60	44	cloudy	Raymondville	62	46	cloudy
Corsicana	48	29	mst sunny	Rosenberg	55	35	mst sunny
Dallas	48	30	mst sunny	San Antonio	57	35	pt sunny
Del Rio	58	37	pt sunny	San Marcos	57	31	pt sunny
El Paso	55	37	sunny	Sulphur Springs	45	32	sunny
Fort Stockton	53	36	pt sunny	Sweetwater	51	30	mst sunny
Gainesville	45	24	mst sunny	Tyler	48	31	sunny
Greenville	45	26	mst sunny	Weatherford	48	26	mst sunny
Houston	55	35	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	46	24	sunny

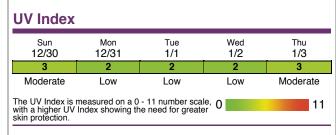
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	49	28	rain
Boston	34	26	sn shower
Chicago	30	20	cloudy
Dallas	48	30	mst sunny
Denver	37	18	pt sunny
Houston	55	35	mst sunny
Los Angeles	58	45	rain
Miami	84	57	pt sunny

		City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
		Minneapolis	21	9	pt sunny
eı	•	New York	35	31	sn shower
		Phoenix	61	40	cloudy
ny	,	San Francisco	50	41	rain
1		Seattle	44	36	cloudy
ny	,	St. Louis	33	23	pt sunny
		Washington, DC	40	32	mixed
1		-			

Moon Phases





- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 100 block of Interstate Highway 20. Six people were transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of W. Fourth Street. One person was transported to

UPCOMING.

Randy Cotton

Pastor

Sunday School......10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Evangelistic Service....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.



432-268-4842 Jan. 26

l I th Annual Chili CookOff Eagles Lodge, 703 W. 3rd St For more info contact Landon Sturdivant @ 432-264-3247 Landon Sturdivant @ wtcmhmr.org

Big Spring



SETTLES

Continued from Page 1

"The Hotel Settles restoration has been a dream of mine for many years and I am excited we are reopening in time to ring in the New Year," said Ryan. "Countless people have worked hard to get us to this point and I know everyone will be amazed at the transformation. Hotel Settles truly is a representation of all the wonder and beauty of West Texas and I am proud to be a part of this historic occasion."

The cost of original construction was reported to be \$500,000, a fortune in those times. Opening in October 1930 to great fanfare and support by the local community, Hotel Settles was often compared to the finest hotels of the day. In its earlier incarnation, the Hotel hosted notable guests including Elvis Presley, Lawrence Welk and Herbert Hoover.

According to the most recent

reports from Project Director Bill Cole, the cost of the renovation has eclipsed the \$30 million mark. The Settles combines both historical and modern touches, according to Cole.

"We've tried to maintain the historical integrity of the hotel,' he noted. "At the same time, we have modern-day building and safety codes to take into consideration ... and we will have other modern touches that current-day travelers will expect."

The lobby, mezzanine and third floor are virtually unchanged from original designs; however. Cole said the hotel features many up-to-date, first-class touches, including:

- The Pharmacy Bar and Parlor Where the drug store used to operate in the old building will now be a bar and parlor that Cole says will evoke a "loungey, Rat Pack sort of feel," complete with a poker room, flat screen TVs and
- Day Spa— The old barbershop area is being converted into a

hair salon which will offer services such as styling, pedicures and massages.

• Settles Grill — Cole said the hotel will offer a full-service restaurant, including private dining room for special occasions and an al fresco dining area, offering breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days

• Recreation — The hotel

- basement will house several services, Cole said, including a fitness center, computer room and a "judge's chamber" for smokers to enjoy. Outside, a pool and hot tub are being constructed and the old Boy's Club immediately east of the hotel will soon make way for a mini-park, complete with hiking trails and a putting green.
- Mezzanine level The Settles' ballroom is being renovated to original standards and can be used for parties or other large gatherings. Also on this level will be two "junior" ballrooms and a conference room.
- Guest rooms Rooms on the third floor are being remodeled to conform to historical standards. From the fourth to the 13th floors, however, the atmosphere will be thoroughly modern and much more spacious, ranging from standard-sized hotel rooms to residential suites and even a penthouse. The renovations will reduce the number of guest rooms from the original 150 to 65, according to SHDC officials.

Reservations can be made online at HotelSettles.com or by calling 432-267-7500.

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

VAMC's 33-county ser-

vice area who don't

have the ability to travel

to the hospital. Instead,

teams of healthcare pro-

fessionals travel to the

"The goal is to allow

veterans in those areas

to have the same sort of

traditional long-term re-

lationship with a doctor

or a nurse that other pa-

tients have," Park said.

welcomed

Another

veterans' home towns.

Take Note

- Holy Trinity Youth Group is hosting its 2nd Annual "Warming up our Community" Project from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hall, 1009 Hearn Street. Donated items, such as jackets, blankets and various warm attire will be available for anyone in need. This is open to the
- A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help pay funeral expenses for local resident Joe Gomez, who passed away on Dec. 12. Donations can sent to Myers and Smith Funeral Home at P.O. Box 2760 in Big Spring.
- Don't forget to visit the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights in Big Spring, on display nightly from Saturday through Monday. More displays, more lights, and more fun — and admission is free. However, donations are gratefully accepted. Questions? Call 263-4607.
- Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432 268-7730.
- Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main.

in many categories including patient care. Give as much or as little time as you wish.

so to speak, at the top: For the first time in more than four years, the top four leadership positions at the hospital director, associate director, chief of staff and associate director for nursing — were staffed, Park said.

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

grants.

The Texas Grant program has spent more than \$2 billion helping more than 300,000 students since its inception in 1999. Higher Education Coordinating Commissioner Board Raymund Paredes has proposed limiting payments to cover only academic costs such as tuition, fees and books, if lawmakers don't put more money in.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Joe Martin Doporto, 55, Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

died Monday. He will lie in state from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Vigil services will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Tuesday. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Rudy Hilario, 52, died vices will be held at 7:00 pm Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at

Faye Price, 87, died

Roland Gore, 60, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

JoAnn Howell-Mason, 66, of Big Spring, died Thursday, December 27, 2012 at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral

died Tuesday. Vigil services will be held at 7:00 P.M. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Volunteers are needed mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity

Augustine Cantu, 67,

Carol H. Lewis, 58, died

Wednesday. Prayer ser-Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Thursday. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

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STATE

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well.

VAMC

Continued from Page 1

ry Care is a program in which a team of healthcare professionals will visit veterans in their homes to address their needs, instead of forcing the patient to come to the hospital. "We've seen signifi-

cant growth in this program," Park said. "The goal is to help keep peo-

Continued from Page 1

in 2011 came when

slashed about \$15 billion

overall from the state

budget, hitting not just

education but health

care programs for the

poor and disabled as

"The cuts were pain-

ful but understand-

able," said University

of Texas President Bill

Powers, whose school

lost about \$90 million

in funding and about

70 tenure-track teach-

ing positions, about 200

teaching assistant jobs

and cut about a third of

hope to convince the

Legislature that pump-

ing money back into

higher education will

lay the groundwork for

Rep. Dan Branch, R-

Dallas, chairman of the

House Higher Educa-

tion Committee, said he

worked to keep the cuts

from being even deeper

in 2011 and will try to

restore as much as he

"My message to my

colleagues is that higher

education is a very wise

But Perry wants to

shake up how universi-

ties get their money. He

wants them to earn it.

Tying funding to how

many students earn de-

grees would be a sharp

Branch

investment,"

said.

a prosperous future.

leaders

library staff.

University

lawmakers

or an institutional setting." • Telehelp — this

ple out of the hospital

program allows veterans to have access to specialized care not normally provided at the Big Spring facility, Park said. Patients can come into the VAMC and have video consultations with physicians in specialties ranging from mental health to dietary and nutrition to dermatology. They can

change from the current system that mostly connects funding to enroll-

"If you're not graduating your students, you'll get less state funding," Perry said when he introduced the idea in Oc-

Perry is also pressuring universities to keep their costs down for new students coming in and keep them moving along once they get to campus.

Texas deregulated tuition rates in 2003, allowing campuses to set their own. In the decade since, the average student at a state university has seen their tuition and fees jump by 55 percent, according to a recent analysis by the Dallas Morning News. Critics says the steeper costs are putting the state's premier campuses out of reach for many families.

Perry is pushing a flatrate, four-year tuition plan that he says would help families have more certainty in affordability and budgeting when sending a child to coleven have remote eye exams during the video conferences. • My Healthy Veteran

- this is a web-based program which allows veterans to access their appointment schedules, lab results and order refills for their prescriptions, as well as message back and forth with healthcare providers.
- **PACT** (Patient-Aligned Care Team) targets veterans in the further reaches of the

lege. Such a plan may cost more at the start but could be a cheaper option by the time a student graduates.

In the University of Texas System, the University Texas at Dallas, the most expensive in the system, uses a fouryear rate plan. At the University of Texas at El Paso, students have a choice of entering a four-year plan or paying annual rates.

Powers said he could support an optional fouryear tuition plan that allows students who need it to use it. He also has said the state could help ease student tuition burden with more consistent funding for higher education.

"If that's an option some families would like," Powers said. "It's something we could look in to.'

Perry argues the fouryear plan would encourage students to graduate quicker. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, only about 30 percent of students who initially enrolled change at the VAMC was the lack of change, as full-time students at four-year institutions graduate in four years. The six-year graduation

rate is about 58 percent. Texas' poor students, who also took a hit in the 2011 session with cuts to the popular Texas Grant financial aid program, could see more changes coming as well.

For the first time since it was created in 1999, lawmakers cut about \$65 million from the program, leaving it able to cover only about 30 percent of the more than 100,000 incoming students who were academically and financially eligible. The cuts also dropped about 30,000 students from renewal

sudoku **ANSWERS**

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"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."

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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Playing a shell game with our school dollars

t. Gov. David Dewhurst and state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, didn't have a lot of details to offer when they convened a news conference to talk about what they said were key education reform proposals. Still, they said a

As expected, they called for a "school choice" program that would pay to send some Texas students to private schools. Patrick, whom Dewhurst named chairman of the Senate Education Committee in October, has long been a proponent of paying for private schooling with public money.

Holding the news conference in a classroom of a Catholic school near the Capitol in Austin left no doubt about what he would say. He hasn't filed a bill for the plan yet, and he said he didn't know how many students it would affect or how much it would

Dewhurst said the whole thing might start with just a few districts taking part in a pilot project.

But the key to Patrick's plan is how it would be financed. He wants to give businesses and insurance companies credits of up to 25 percent of their state taxes for donations to non-profit entities that offer scholarships for students to go to private schools. Some other states have similar plans. It's a shell game, shifting money from place to

place. Money won't go straight from the state to any re-

ligious schools. That avoids the argument about breaching the church-state divide that some legislators have used against private school vouchers in the past.

No money goes straight from the state to the program at all. Patrick is able to say, and he did, "It doesn't take money away from public schools."

Still, that's a linguistic escape from reality. The same dollar that a business would otherwise pay to the state in franchise tax would instead go from the business to a non-profit, then be passed on (minus administrative expenses, presumably) to a school as a student's scholarship. If intentionally bringing in fewer dollars to the state is not the same thing as costing the state money, it's at least a financial clone.

And public schools get money from the state based on how many students attend those schools.

When students go to a private school instead, that means the public school doesn't get as much state financing. Again, it's the equivalent of a cost for the school.

Patrick says the goal is to give parents a choice about where to send their children to school and to keep students from being trapped in failing public schools. That's the same thing as giving up on those public schools.

And it's against the spirit, if not the letter, of the state constitution. That foundation of Texas government requires the Legislature "to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

Setting up a system to channel money away from the state to private schools because some public schools are inadequate can't in any way be seen as an efficient use of state resources to improve failing schools. And giving up on public schools is just plain wrong.

Patrick's other proposals include reducing the number of standardized tests high school students must pass before they can graduate, lifting the state cap on the number of charter schools, allowing students to take more career and technology courses and aiding online teaching.

There's no doubt that education will be among the most prominent issues of the legislative session that begins Jan. 8.

Diverting money to private schools should be among the most quickly rejected ideas.

—THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson With You, Lord, we can face earthly challenges with heavenly help.

Amen

We did what we could do

'n December 2001, my father sent his first-ever Christmas card to me.

He even signed it, "Love, Dad." Unprecedented. Throw some tinsel on my

head and watch me sparkle like a snow globe; that's how happy I was. Dad came from

the "show, don't tell" school of parenting. He supported his family and shoveled the snow from the walkway before any of us were out of bed. His love was to be understood.

His postscript on that 2001 card made clear that despite the arrival of his one-time-only Christmas greeting, nothing had

"I got a card from the wife of a man I used to work with," he wrote. "She was at the church when you spoke, and she said you were the best they ever had. Don't get the big head." What he didn't mention was

that he had attended my speech, too, delivered in the church of my childhood. He also skipped the part about how he had grinned through the whole darn thing.

Each December, I pull out Dad's Christmas card and prop it up on my desk. He's been gone for six years now, and the sight of his cramped handwriting makes him feel a little less far away. His admonishment about this head of mine is a reminder that in his own way, he loved me very much.

I spent way too much energy wishing my father would just come out and say it. Well into my version of adulthood, I'd end every phone call with, "I love you, Dad." His response: "Yep." Sometimes he'd mix it up by saying, "OK."

Once in a while, I'd push back. "A-a-a-a-nd you love me, too?" His response every time: "Well, if you already know it, there's no need for me to say it."

CONNIE

 \mathbf{S} CHULTZ

When he finally wrote "Love, Dad" on that card, there was no victory. It was his second Christmas without my mother, and his heart was broken.

How I longed for the days when Mom was still around and Dad's "yep" was code for what he meant to say. Some things we learn too late.

This has been a long year for many Americans. Even if our own lives bobbed along without incident, it was hard to ignore the suffering of those around us. We did what we could. We attended funerals and hospital rooms, wrote checks and volunteered, worried ourselves sick and bowed our heads in prayer. Some of us smiled for no reason, and strangers felt a little less alone.

This Christmas season, the tragedy in Newtown, Conn., altered the holiday for all but the most hardhearted among us. One minute we were shopping for stocking stuffers; the next minute we were trying to remember to breathe. Twenty young children and six adults

who risked their lives to save them were dead. What? What? It was that horrible, that unbelievable. We never will be the same.

And yet, Christmas came. Now the new year barrels toward us, a force of promise and uncertainty. May we welcome it with gratitude that we are here

As I write this, snow is threatening to bury our house here in Ohio. My youngest daughter and her boyfriend spent the morning on cellphones, trying to reschedule canceled flights home. Halfheartedly, I try to hide my joy. They are in a hurry, but I'm

old enough to be on the other side of that impatience. All of our family was happy and healthy this Christmas. I know that kind of luck runs out. I also know that my daughter's

heavy sighs mean only that she is young, with plans that did not include two more nights with her mother. I will not misread her signals, nor will I complain. Her love is understood.

For that, we can thank her grandfather for a lesson once learned too late.

Connie Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and an essayist for Parade magazine. She is the author of two books, including "...and His Lovely Wife," which chronicled the successful race of her husband, Sherrod Brown, for the U.S. Senate. To find out more about Connie Schultz (con.schultz@yahoo.com) and read her past columns, please visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Take some time to rest and reflect before the new year

year ago, I resolved to spend 2012 praying more and, in my prayers, asking for

patience. I have prayed, I have asked, I have received, but not enough. Ask my family, and they may attest that I must not have prayed enough, as my patience often runs thin.

This year has been more than interesting and full of challenges. My

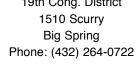
father, Newt Gingrich, ran for the Republican nomination. Just one year ago this week, on Dec. 27, 2011, our family of four (me, my husband, Jimmy and our two children) boarded a plane from our home in Atlanta to Des Moines, Iowa, for the caucuses. We were not the only people on the plane in the political arena. Numerous reporters and photographers were also on our flight. My husband and I instructed our children to watch what they said and did lest they inadvertently

JACKIE

GINGRICH

CUSHMAN

become news stories. It was an indication that the



GOVERNMENT

RICK PERRY Governor

State Capitol, Room 2S.1

year to come would not be normal. There were incredible ups and downs: the negative campaign in Iowa, the cold fight in New Hampshire and the exciting win in South Carolina, where the ballroom was so crowded and hot that sweat was literally dripping off our noses. This was quickly followed by a win in Georgia on Super Tuesday, followed soon afterward by the disappointing defeats in Alabama and Mississippi.

Soon after my father's bid for the nomination ended, my mother, Jackie Gingrich, suffered a series of strokes.

My sister Kathy and I, and our families, rallied around our mother. With help of many friends, might I say angels, my mom moved into a rehabilitation center. With her hard work, and the excellent care provided by the center's staff, she has made incredible progress and was able to spend both Christmas morning and Christmas evening with

The roller coaster of life has been in high gear, with numerous ups and downs.

It's been hard for me to take in everything that has happened, to process, and to determine what

it all means. It's all at once overwhelming and unimaginable. I'm so thankful this year for my husband, Jimmy, who has been my anchor, and for our children.

between Christmas and New Year's, not in looking back, or in forcing myself forward, but in the moment. In watching our new puppy bound around, in watching my mother's face light up as the puppy licks her face, in being a bit more gracious, not only with others, but also with myself. Enjoying spending time with family and friends. Trying to remember that not everything can be done in a day, not even if I try with all my might! If it's been a long year for you, as well, take time to rest, relax and recover from the year at hand, and get ready for the New

features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit

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who remind me daily of what is most important in life. I am going to spend this week,

> Year to come. To find out more about Jackie Gingrich Cushman, and read www.creators.com.



First United Methodist Church

On this last Sunday in 2012, we welcome back to Big Spring and the pulpit at First Methodist Church, J.D. Nelson, our summer intern. Nelson, who is currently in seminary in Waco, will be bringing the message at both the 8:30 and 10:50 service of worship. We will also be welcoming back a number of our college chancel choir members taking part in our services during their holiday break from school.

Church offices will be closed New Year's Eve and New Year's Day; this next week there will be no Children's Day Out, Wednesday Noon Bible Study and Luncheon or Wednesday Night Real Life.

As things get back in full swing following the holidays, there are some special events to look forward to. The Senior Adult Ministry, generally know as SAM, will host a church wide New Year's dinner on Sunday, Jan. 6 following the 10:50 service. SAM, under the direction of Chuck and Bonnie Miller, will be serving up ham, blackeyed peas and cornbread. Your salads and/or desserts would be welcome.

January 9, we are thrilled to announce the Texas A&M choir will be in Big Spring presenting a special program at First Methodist.

As this year comes to an end, we think back at the last sermon series taught by our pastor Bill Ivins. He urged us to above all follow the church's calling to offer compassion to a hurting world, to prepare a place for people to grow in community and to offer the hope of the gospel to those who don't yet know Christ.

We also take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed in so many ways to Operation Christmas Child, the Angel Tree and the Epic Youth food and gift drive, just a few of the ways our congregation shared Christ's love. And to all those who decorated our

church and worked so hard to once again bring Big Spring the gift of The Living Christmas Tree, we send our loving thank you.

From each of us at First United Methodist Church, we wish you a blessed new year.

First Christian Church

You are invited to attend First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), at 911 Goliad. Each Sunday starts with school for all ages at 9:45. Church starts at 10:50. We celebrate Communion every week. The Lord's Table is the center of our worship each time We practice an open table, which

means anyone who is a follower of Jesus is welcomed at the Communion table. Christ is remembered as we offer to one another the bread and cup of remembrance.

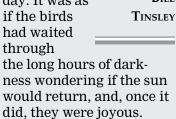
This Sunday, which will be first Sunday after Christmas in the Christian Calendar — the Rev. Ken McIntosh message will be "Practicing POSADA in 2013" from "Matthew" 1: 18-25 Elders will be Hollis McCright, and

Joe McCright; deacons will be Wanda Brock, Bo Reagan, Jo Best and Laura Sickles; worship leader will be Eulaine McIntosh, communion prep will be Laura Sickles and Hollis Mc-

Sunrise Season

I sat in the pre-dawn dark, watched the gathering glow in the east and heard the first bird break the stillness with song. Soon others

joined him in the gathering light until they filled the air with a chorus of calls celebrating the break of day. It was as if the birds had waited through



We sometimes feel that way, when the darkness closes in on us, as it has this Christmas season with the slaughter of innocent children in Connecticut. We sometimes wonder, as the birds seem to do, if the dawn of light and goodness will ever again dispel the darkness of violence and pain.

I have watched the sun rise over the snow-covered hills of Minnesota, painting the landscape with crimson and gold, its light sparking like diamonds on ice covered limbs. I have watched the sun stain the eastern horizon with purple and gray before penetrating the breaking clouds with shafts of gold. I have watched the day dawn over the mountains of Montana and Switzerland. I have seen it transform the sea into pink and purple waves. I watched the sunrise on the first day of the new millennium, bursting above the horizon as a brilliant ball of light in a clear blue sky.

The sunrise is the perfect symbol for God's intervention into our world.

When Jesus' cousin, John, was born, his father, Zechariah, understood the importance of his son's birth. For nine

months he had reflected on the angel's announcement to him in the temple that he would have a son in his old age. He had been mute throughout Elizabeth's pregnancy. But when John was born, his tongue was loosed and he burst into praise. He said, "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." (Luke 1:76-79).

In every generation, those who have faith have seen the sunrise of God. Darkness cannot conquer it. Corrie Ten Boom and Dietrich Bonhoffer saw it during the dark days of Hitler's holocaust. Louis Zamparini discovered it after surviving the Japa-

nese POW camps. Rachel Scott and Cassie Bernall bore witness to it during the massacre at Columbine. The Amish of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania gave testimony to it after their daughters were gunned down in a oneroom school. And thousands have borne witness this week in Connecticut to that light that refuses to be extinguished.

This is what John meant when he wrote, "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:4-14).

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

Cright; Children's Church will be Maria Rainwater; greeter will be Jo Best; homebound communion will be Joe McCright.

Right after Sunday Service the congregation will meet to approve the board's amendment to the First Christian By-laws.

Each week Isaiah 58 is open at 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 Mondays and Tuesdays. We also need are now working on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11, sorting and cleaning items from Wal-Mart, so we need volunteers for those days to help.

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

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

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

We believe the church is built by people worshipping together and we welcome you to visit at any time. For questions or further information, call the church office, 432-517-4821, or view our website at www.fcbs125@ yahoo.com or email to fcbs125@@ya-

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, did not meet and the Chancel Choir did not practice Dec. 26, but both will resume regular schedules Jan. 2.

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

Vicki McLean is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." The youth will serve as liturgist.

The lectionary for the First Sunday after Christmas Day is I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52. The Chancel Choir will present the

anthem. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The Noisy Offering will be collected during the ser-

A called meeting of the congregation will follow worship to approve the pastor's 2013 compensation.

If you cannot attend worship, lis-

Other non-operating revenues

Income before other revenue

Capital contributions

Net assets - beginning of year

Increase in net assets

Net assets - end of year

Other revenue

Net non-operating revenues

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

ten in on KBST 1490 AM., beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www. fpcbs.org.

On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Holstedt.

388,333

25,046,432

1,845,414

2,691,740

35,601,284

38,293,024

233933

See **CHURCH**, Page 7

Howard County Junior College District STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended August 31, 2012

	2012
REVENUES	
Operating revenues	
Tuition and fees (net of discounts of \$4,946,746)	\$ 4,163,082
Federal grants and contracts	2,857,420
State grants and contracts	756,890
Local grants and contracts	6,209
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	1,032,383
Sales and services of educational activities	349,216
Auxiliary enterprises (net of discounts of \$1,093,951)	366,615
Other operating revenues	807,062
Total operating revenues	10,338,877
EXPENSES	
Operating expenses	
Instruction	10,773,476
Public service	923,413
Academic support	2,434,859
Student services	2,303,594
Institutional support	6,505,326
Operation and maintenance of plant	3,090,782
Scholarships and fellowships	4,153,859
Auxiliary enterprises	1,588,690
Depreciation	1,765,896
Total operating expenses	33,539,895
Operating loss	(23,201,018)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
State appropriations	12,326,329
Property taxes for operations	4,258,586
Property taxes for debt service	1,773,050
Payments in lieu of taxes	138,196
Federal revenue, non operating	7,145,347
Investment income (net of investment expenses)	33,473
Interest on capital related debt	(1,020,991)
Gain (loss) on disposal of fixed assets	4,109

Hangar 25 Air Museum's annual fundraiser is coming up in January!

The Silver Wings Ball will be

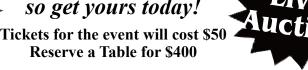
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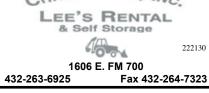
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News in brief

Second lawsuit filed in Midland rail crossing crash

DALLAS (AP) — A widow to one of four military veterans killed when their parade float was struck by a train at a West Texas railroad crossing has filed a wrongful death suit.

Catherine Stouffer, the wife of 37-year-old Gary Stouffer Jr., seeks unspecified damages in the suit filed Thursday in Dallas.

It's the second lawsuit filed since a train traveling 62 mph in November struck a flatbed truck that was part of a Midland parade honoring wounded vets and their wives.

Among the suit's assertions is that Union Pacific was negligent for failing to maintain a safe crossing.

Raquel Espinoza, a Union Pacific spokeswoman, expressed sympathy to the family but said in a statement that investigators confirmed the crossing signals worked properly

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

Some push concealed-carry for Arlington teachers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Two National Rifle Association members say they want the Arlington school district to allow teachers and administrators to carry concealed weap-

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports that David McElwee and Bill Sandlin tried to push a similar proposal a year ago and were unsuccessful. After the school massacre in Connecticut that left 20 children dead, McElwee says they will try again.

But school board president Peter Baron says he doesn't support the idea.

Baron says McElwee is "welcome to come and say his piece, as is any citizen," but doesn't expect the board to be swayed. He says the board is reviewing security in the wake of

A district spokeswoman says Arlington police keep officers at junior and senior high

Arlington is east of Fort Worth.

Officer who helped stop 1966 UT sniper rampage dies

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Houston McCoy, the Austin police officer who helped stop Charles Whitman's deadly 1966 sniper rampage from atop the University of Texas clock tower that killed 16 people and wounded dozens more, died Thursday. He was 72.

McCoy died in the rural West Texas town of Menard after battling a long illness, said Wayne Vincent, president of the Austin Police Association.

Following more than an hour of mayhem on the UT campus — Whitman was so terrifyingly accurate with his high-powered rifle that he shot people as far as 500 yards away — McCoy and a small group of others made their way to an observation deck atop the 28-story tower. McCoy fired twice from his 12-gauge shotgun, shooting Whitman in the face. Officer Ramiro Martinez also fired on Whitman.

In an interview with the Austin American-Statesman in 2011, McCoy insisted he didn't want Whitman mentioned in his obituary and was reluctant to even utter the sniper's name. He wondered whether he could have saved more lives if he had reached the observation

Planned Parenthood seeks order in health program

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Planned Parenthood is asking a Texas judge to order the state to continue funding the organization's preventive health care for poor women.

The Republican-controlled Legislature doesn't want any money going to doctors or clinics affiliated with Planned Parenthood, even if all they do is provide birth control. Planned Parenthood complains that the new rules set to take effect on Jan. 1 are unconstitutional and will ask a judge on Friday for a restraining order to block them.

Federal authorities are cutting off funding effective Dec. 31 because they say the affiliate rule violates federal law by denying a woman the right to choose her doctor. That forced the Texas Department of Health and Human Services to start a new Women's Health Program on Jan. 1 without federal funding.

Texas school board facing scandal names new head

CANUTILLO, Texas (AP) — A West Texas school board has promoted an associate superintendent after it ousted the previous superintendent during a cheating scandal. The Canutillo Independent School District

Thursday night named Annette Brigham as interim superintendent, less than a month after suspending former superintendent Damon Murphy. A district audit showed possible attempts to cheat on federal accountability standards. The Texas Education Agency has since said

it will investigate cheating allegations at Canutillo.

Brigham is a 25-year veteran of the district. She has denied knowing about any wrongdoing that may have occurred.

Chief: Austin had 'bloody year' of traffic deaths

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The police chief in Austin says there's no excuse for the highest number of traffic deaths the city has seen since 2000.

Austin has recorded 77 traffic deaths this year, up from 54 last year. Art Acevedo tells the Austin American-

Statesman that 2012 was "a bloody year on our highways. There is no excuse for it. We can't sit back." Traffic deaths had declined earlier in the

year, but surged again by October.

Acevedo says he's considering using more overtime to put officers on traffic enforcement. He says officers will hand out more tickets than warnings. He says police will meet with prosecutors

and officials from neighboring counties to see how they can boost safety.

Police say alcohol factored into at least 32 deaths — more than 40 percent.

Man killed, wife hurt in Houston-area crash

HOUSTON (AP) — A man is dead in a Houston-area car crash and his wife injured after authorities say his car swerved into oncoming traffic.

KHOU-TV reports that the man was driving a Jeep that went into oncoming traffic on Boudreaux Road in northwest Harris County. His vehicle collided with a Chrysler 300 sedan. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The Harris County Sheriff's Office says the

driver of the Chrysler tried to go into the oncoming lane to avoid the Jeep, but the two crashed when the Jeep driver returned to his His wife was hospitalized and reported in

stable condition.

Neither person was identified.

Four people in the Chrysler were also hospitalized.

Coin flip decides Seguin city council race

SEGUIN, Texas (AP) — The only thing separating two city council candidates near San Antonio is a coin flip.

Jeannette "Jet" Crabb and Ben Amador were both running for city council in Seguin. They finished tied after a Dec. 18 runoff, 141-141. So city Mayor Don Keil decided the race Thursday by flipping a coin.

Crabb and Amador each received slips of paper — one that said "heads," one with "tails." Then Keil threw a silver dollar in the air. It landed on the table as tails. Crabb won.

She was immediately sworn in to begin a four-year term.

The Texas Election Code allows ties to be settled by a "casting of lots."

State Fair taking donations to rebuild Big Tex

DALLAS (AP) — The State Fair of Texas is taking donations to help build a new Big Tex.

The 52-foot-tall cowboy and fair icon for 60 years burned this year due to an electrical short. The fire left charred remains and twisted metal.

Fair organizers have vowed to build a new Tex, but it won't come cheap. Fair spokeswoman Sue Gooding tells The Dallas Morning News that the cowboy was insured for close to \$200,000 — well short of the estimated \$450,000 to \$600,000 a rebuild will take.

Yes, it's time to welcome ın a new year

It's time — time to pick up all those plastic Santas that have fainted on lawns and inflatable snowmen that have melted in front yards all over town. It's time to throw away all the torn wrapping paper and sort through

the bows worth saving and those to be tossed in the trash. It's time to shake the last bit of candy out the stockings and pack them away. It's time to take down the lights and bring the wreaths inside. It's time to dismantle Christmas trees and stuff the decorations back into the closet for another year. It is also time to polish off the last of the

Christmas fudge and resolve to start a new

diet tomorrow or the next day. It's time to

start walking again and get back to aerobics classes. It's time to dust off exercise bikes and see whether the wheels still turn or if they have frozen up from lack of use. It's time to lift weights and see how much heavier they got during the holidays. It's time to take the bathroom scales out of hiding

and face reality. It's the time of the year to buy new weekly planners and add more folders to those crowded file cabinets. It's time to rip up expired coupons and shred no-longer-needed receipts. It's time to read Christmas cards one last time and

make changes in address books. It's time to delete email

forwards and clean out inboxes. It's time to pay bills and make budgets. It's time to hang up new calendars and start writing 2013 on checks. King Solomon, whom many believe was the author of the book of Ecclesiastes, was known for his wisdom. He observed: "There is an appointed time for everything. And

there is a time for every event under heaven — "(Ecclesias-

tes 3: 1 NASB). Whether we're glad that 2012 is finally over or wish that it could have lasted another month, the appointed time has come. It's time to forget regrets and look toward the future. It's time to welcome a new year.

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

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

Spring Creek Fellowship

We hope that you are safe and healthy as we all celebrate

New Sunday School classes/Connection Groups will begin Jan. 6. New studies include "Epic" by John Eldredge, led by Danny Whitehead/Kevin Freeman; "Getting to the Heart of Parenting," by Paul David Tripp, led by Chance Nichols; "The Blessed Life," by Robert Morris, led by Casie Fillingim; "Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working," led by Joe Wennik; "1,2,3 John & Jude," by John MacArthur, led by Mindy Whittenburg; and "Life Values," led by Dee Highly. Check out classes with topic/subject-based studies ranging from six to nine weeks in length and relevant to today's Christian adventure. Classes are available for all ages and meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

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

The Big Spring Homeschool Educational Co-operative is offering classes for high school and junior high homeschool students. Classes to begin Jan. 7 are American Sign Language, Art, Junior and Senior High English, Math/Algebra, Drama, History of Christianity, Texas History, Music Theory, Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University for Teens, ACT

Prep & Test and Human Anatomy & Physiology. The "Between the Lines," Women's Ministry cookbooks, are available for \$15. Call the church office to get a copy.

Weekly Happenings:

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

Monday-6:30-8:30 p.m., "Celebrate Recovery," Women. Tuesday- 1:45, Praying Effectively for the Lost; "Wings"

Dance Academy meets for girls ages 4-12. Wednesday- 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Meal; 6 p.m., Bible Study and youth and children's activities; 6 p.m., Boy Scouts.

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

Saturday- 7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast & Fellowship. If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, please contact the church office.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane in Big Spring. (Across from Denny's). Contact us at (432)714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

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

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News in brief

White House meeting with congressional leaders presents a last chance for a fiscal deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid partisan bluster, top members of Congress and President Barack Obama were holding out slim hopes for a limited fiscal deal before the new year. But even as congressional leaders prepared to convene at the White House, there were no signs that legislation palatable to both sides was taking shape.

The Friday afternoon meeting among congressional leaders and the president — their first since Nov. 16 — stood as a make-or-break moment for negotiations to avoid across-the-board first of the year tax increases and deep spending cuts.

Obama called for the meeting as top lawmakers alternately cast blame on each other while portraying themselves as open to a reasonable last-minute

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid all but conceded that any effort at this late date was a long shot. "I don't know timewise how it can happen now," he said.

For Obama, the 11th-hour scramble represented a test of how he would balance the strength derived from his re-election with his avowed commitment to compromise. Despite early talk of a grand bargain between Obama and House Speaker John Boehner that would reduce deficits by more than \$2 trillion, the expectations were now far less ambi-

His days of stormin' behind him, retired Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf chose charities over politics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Truth is, retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf didn't care much for his popular "Stormin' Norman" nickname.

The seemingly no-nonsense Desert Storm commander's reputed temper with aides and subordinates supposedly earned him that rough-and-ready moniker. But others around the general, who died Thursday in Tampa, Fla., at age 78 of complications

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

South Dble What would you bid now with

each of the following four hands? 1. ♠ A7 ♥ KQ98 ♠ K3 ♣ AK542

2. ★ K1073 ♥ A85 ♦ Q94 ♣ AJ2 3. ★ K82 ♥ AK8 ♦ 6 ♣ AKQ943 4. ♠ AQ3 ♥ K92 ♦ AJ8 ♣ KQJ5

1. Double. This is a takeout double, just as your previous one was. Basically, this double asks partner to bid hearts or clubs, the two suits the opponents haven't bid. At the same time, the second double tells partner you have values well beyond those implied by the initial double.

A two-club bid, instead of a second double, would be wrong on two counts. First, it would understate your actual values. Second, it could also result in winding up in the wrong suit, clubs, instead of the right suit, hearts. The best way to find the proper contract is to double again and let partner choose the suit.

2. Pass. You have no extra values beyond those already indicated, so you should pass one spade. Your partner had a chance to bid voluntarily over one spade and turned it down. If you were to bid one notrump at this stage, you'd be looking for trouble. Besides, West might have difficulty making one spade, since he will be playing the hand in

your best suit. 3. Three clubs. This bid, in conjunction with your earlier double, indicates pretty closely the values you have. It shows that your hand was not only too good for a two-club bid on the previous round, but also too good for a two-club bid now, even after having doubled.

Three clubs urges partner to bid three notrump with a diamond stopper and very little more, since you've guaranteed a strong club suit and an excellent all-around hand

4. One notrump. This might seem a gross underbid given your 20 highcard points, but you must face the realities of the situation. The chance of finding your partner with six or more points is almost nil; he is much more likely to be in the zero- to three-point range. You should therefore restrain yourself and try to reach the safest partscore contract possible.

Note that in the present case, as contrasted with the first problem, you don't double for takeout a second time. This is because your distribution here is notrump-oriented rather than suit-oriented. Besides, your partner still has the option of bidding a five-card (or longer) heart or club suit at this stage if he is so

301 E. 24th

Tomorrow: An auction bridge tale.

from pneumonia, knew him as a friendly, talkative and even jovial figure who preferred the somewhat milder sobriquet given by his troops: "The Bear."

That one perhaps suited him better later in his life, when he supported various national causes and children's charities while eschewing the spotlight and resisting efforts to draft him to run for

He lived out a quiet retirement in Tampa, where he'd served his last military assignment and where an elementary school bearing his name is testament to his standing in the community.

Schwarzkopf capped an illustrious military career by commanding the U.S.-led international coalition that drove Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in 1991 — but he'd managed to keep a low profile in the public debate over the second Gulf War against Iraq, saying at one point that he doubted victory would be as easy as the White House and the Pentagon predicted.

Russia says it's ready to meet with Syrian opposition coalition

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's foreign minister says Moscow has proposed talks with the main Syrian opposition coalition, despite previous Russian criticism of Western countries' recognition of the

Sergey Lavrov told a news conference on Friday that Russia has contacted the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces through the Russian Embassy in Egypt and "we expressed readiness to conduct a meeting" with coalition leader Mouaz al-Khatib.

The statement comes in the wake of comments by officials, including President Vladimir Putin, that suggest Russia is resigned to its longtime ally Syrian President Bashar Assad losing power.

The opposition coalition was formed in November and recognized by Western countries as legitimate representatives of the Syrian people. Russia has criticized such recognition as running counter to agreements to seek political transition in Syria.

Asian stocks up, Europe mixed as U.S. leaders prepare new round of 'fiscal cliff' talks

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian stock markets rose Friday, hours before President Barack Obama and key lawmakers were to meet at the White House to try to hammer out an 11th-hour budget compromise to avert the so-called fiscal cliff. Wall Street also appeared set for a session of gains.

Lawmakers have until Monday night to reach a deal before hundreds of billions of dollars in automatic tax increases and deep cuts to government spending kick in. Such a drastic reshuffling of money could throw the U.S. into another recession, economists have warned.

However, failure to avoid the fiscal cliff doesn't necessarily mean tax increases and spending cuts would become permanent, since the new Congress could pass legislation canceling them retroactively after it begins its work next year.

Ahead of the opening bell, Dow Jones industrial futures were marginally higher at 13,005. S&P 500 futures gained nearly 0.1 percent to 1,411.80. European shares were mixed in early trading. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.1 percent to 5,959.89. Germany's DAX was nearly flat at 7,653.34. France's CAC-40 shed 0.1 percent to 3.670.03.

The day's market strength was in Asia. Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.7 percent to 10,395.18, its highest level since March 10, 2011, the day that a mammoth earthquake and tsunami pummeled Japan's northeastern cost. Export shares posted big gains as the country's currency continued to recoil against the dollar. Mazda Motor Corp. jumped 4.8 percent and Isuzu Motors Ltd. surged 4.5 percent.

China court orders Apple to pay Chinese writers in copyright dispute

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese court has ordered Apple Inc. to pay 1.03 million yuan (\$165,000) to eight Chinese writers and two companies who say unlicensed copies of their work were distributed through Apple's online store.

The Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court

ruled Thursday that Apple violated the writers' copyrights by allowing applications containing their work to be distributed through its App Store, according to an official who answered the phone at the court and said he was the judge in the case. He refused to give his name, as is common among Chi-The award was less than the 12 million yuan (\$1.9

million) sought by the authors. The case grouped together eight lawsuits filed by them and their pub-An Apple spokeswoman, Carolyn Wu, said the

company's managers "take copyright infringement complaints very seriously." She declined to say whether the company would appeal.

Unlicensed copying of books, music, software and other products is widespread in China despite repeated government promises to stamp out viola-

Official acquitted in prison death of Russian whistleblowing lawyer; case sparked U.S. law MOSCOW (AP) — The only official charged with

walked free on Friday after a Moscow court acquitted him of negligence, in a case that has become a rallying point for human rights advocates and sparked escalating legislation in the U.S. and Rus-Sergei Magnitsky died in jail in 2009 after his pan-

the death of a Russian whistleblowing lawyer

creatitis went untreated, and an investigation by Russia's presidential council on human rights concluded he was severely beaten and denied medical treatment. Prison doctor Dmitry Kratov was the only person to face trial in the case. Judge Tatyana Neverova said she found no evi-

dence that Kratov's negligence could have caused the lawyer's death. The acquittal was widely expected after prosecutors earlier this week dropped their accusations, saying they had decided there was no connection between Kratov's actions and Magnitsky's death.

The case has angered both Russian activists and the West. The U.S. Congress passed legislation this month in Magnitsky's name, calling for sanctions against officials deemed to be connected with human rights abuses. The bill provoked retaliation from Moscow, including a measure barring Americans from adopting Russian children that President Vladimir Putin is expected to sign.

Magnitsky, a lawyer for the Hermitage Capital fund, was arrested in 2008 on suspicion of tax evasion by the same Interior Ministry officials he accused of using false tax documents to steal \$230 million from the state. He died while in custody awaiting trial.

NRA envisions armed volunteers, but experts say trained police are needed for school security

WASHINGTON (AP) — The student's attack began with a shotgun blast through the windows of a California high school. Rich Agundez, the El Cajon policeman assigned to the school, felt his mind shift into overdrive.

People yelled at him amid the chaos but he didn't hear. He experienced "a tunnel vision of concentration."

While two teachers and three students were injured when the glass shattered in the 2001 attack on Granite Hills High School, Agundez confronted the assailant and wounded him before he could get inside the school and use his second weapon, a handgun.

The National Rifle Association's response to a Connecticut school massacre envisions, in part, having trained, armed volunteers in every school in America. But Agundez, school safety experts and school board members say there's a huge difference between a trained law enforcement officer who becomes part of the school family — and a guard with a gun.

The NRA's proposal has sparked a debate across the country as gun control rises once again as a national issue. President Barack Obama promised to present a plan in January to confront gun violence in the aftermath of the killing of 20 Sandy Hook Elementary School students and six teachers.

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Page 9 Friday, December 28, 2012

Sports Calendar

TODAY

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 at Bridgeport Tournament, through Saturday.
- Grady vs. Wink, 8 p.m., Grady Black & Gold Cotton Classic, through Saturday.
- Garden City vs. Ira, 5 p.m., Grady Black & Gold Cotton Classic, through Saturday.
- Forsan vs. Ozona, 10:30 a.m., Reagan County Mary Tatum Holiday Classic, through Saturday.
- · Stanton vs. Fort Stockton, 4:30 p.m., Reagan County Mary Tatum Holiday Classic, through Saturday.
- Coahoma vs. Reagan County, 7:30 p.m., Reagan County Mary Tatum Holiday Classic, through Saturday.

Girl's Basketball

through Saturday.

- Big Spring vs. Floydada, noon, at Lubbock Monterey, Lubbock Caprock Tournament, through Saturday.
- Coahoma vs. San Angelo TLCA, 9 a.m., Reagan County Mary Tatum Holiday Classic, through Saturday.
- Stanton vs. Sonora, 3 p.m., Reagan County Mary Tatum Holiday Classic, through Saturday. • Forsan vs. Ballinger, 6 p.m., Reagan

County Mary Tatum Holiday Classic, through

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

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237,

or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com



Courtesy photo/Valerie Avery

Grady's Ellyn Avery shoots a three-pointer during a game against Monahans earlier in the season. Grady is hosting the Black & White Cotton Classic Tournament throughout the weekend. The Lady Wildcats will begin tourney play today against Lovington, N.M. Grady boys will be in action tonight at 8 p.m. against Wink.

Raylor hlitzes Rruins 49-26

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — Routing the UCLA Bruins almost seemed like a sidelight for Baylor Bears quarterback Nick Florence.

Nabbing one of Robert Griffin III's school records? Now that was a big deal.

The Bears overwhelmed the No. 17 Bruins 49-26 in the Holiday Bowl on Thursday night as Florence threw for two scores and ran for another. Glasco Martin ran for three touchdowns.

Florence completed 10 of 13 passes for 188 yards, giving him 4,309 for the season to break RG3's school record of 4,293 set in his 2011 Heisman Trophy-winning season.

"For me, I just wanted a chance to play. I just happened to fol-

low a Heisman Trophy winner," Florence said. "I'm not Robert. I'm not 6-3. I don't run a 4.3. You saw that tonight. Man, if I could run a 4.3 it would be nice. So I just had to be me. I tried to manage this offense and play within myself. He's a heck of player, he's done a heck of a job for this program, put us on the map. I'm humbled and honored to hold that record. He deserves it. I never thought that would have happened this year. I just wanted to win games."

Baylor (8-5) won its final four games and five of six.

"That was a question we asked all our players, 'What was going to happen now that Robert's gone?" coach Art Briles said. "And our guys responded, fought together, believed in each other.

They have always sustained and

never lost focus." Lache Seastrunk rushed 16 times for 138 yards and one score for Baylor, which outgained UCLA 494-362. The Bears came in leading the nation in total of-

fense with 578.8 yards per game. Baylor's defense came up big, too. The Bears sacked Brett Hundley six times, including two by Chris McAllister, and shut down UCLA's career rushing leader Johnathan Franklin. Franklin, who averaged 130.8 yards this season, gained 12 vards on his first carry of the game but was a non-factor after that, finishing with just 34 yards on 14 carries.

Overall, the Bruins gained

See BAYLOR, Page 14

Westbrook rallies Thunder past Mavs, 111-105

JEFF LATZKE AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA **CITY** Here's a new twist on the Oklahoma City Thunder's budding rivalry with the Dallas Mavericks: With a game coming down to crunch time, Dirk Nowitzki didn't want the ball.

Instead, it was Russell Westbrook who shrugged off a shaky start and closed out a Thunder victory.

Kevin Durant scored 40 points while Westbrook added eight of his 16 points in overtime to help Oklahoma City beat Dallas 111-105 on Thursday night for their 11th straight win

Westbrook turned the game around with six straight points after the Mavs had gone up 104-101 on Chris Kaman's bucket inside midway through overtime. Westbrook had a layup, hit a jumper over the rusty Nowitzki and then made a leaping steal of an O.J. Mayo pass that led to a fast-break layup. The sequence left Mavericks owner Mark Cuban shaking his head in his seat near the team's

"I just try to make an impact on the game," said Westbrook, who also had 10 assists, six

rebounds and three steals. "Maybe it's not scoring. Maybe it's rebounding, maybe it's passing, maybe it's defending. "But I just try to make

an impact on the game every night."

Until the end, it had been Westbrook who frustrated. missed eight of his first 10 shots and struggled to contain ex-UCLA teammate Darren Collison, who scored a seasonhigh 32 points and hit a desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer to force overtime.

"Sometimes there's nights like that," Westbrook said. "You've just See MAVS, Page 14

got to continue to play, fight through it and play your game." When asked specifi-

cally about Collison, Westbrook cut off his postgame interview and cussed on his way out of the locker room.

"He kept fighting and kept fighting for the team," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. " ... I love Russell. I love what he does. I love what he's about. He competes every time. He's a big part of why we're a good

Still working his way back into shape, Nowitzki proved to be a

Thursday's Area

Boys

- Fort Stockton defeated Forsan, 54-52.
- Coahoma defeated San Angelo TLCA, 53-

Basketball Scores

- Stanton defeated McCamey, 67-25.
- Sands defeated Morton, 67-38.

Girls

- Tulia defeated Big Spring, 52-43.
- Forsan defeated Reagan County, 47-35.
- Sonora defeated Coahoma, 67-37. Stanton defeated Pecos, 55-15.

Tech not distracted by coaching change

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Texas Tech quarterback Seth Doege has seen this before.

The Red Raiders head into Friday's Meineke Car Care Bowl against Minnesota after some serious upheaval with coach Tommy Tuberville abruptly leaving the team for the job in Cincinnati. Doege, a senior, remembers how the team came together for a win in the Alamo Bowl under an interim

coach just days after coach Mike Leach was fired in the 2009 season. The Red Raiders have hired Kliff Kingsbury to replace Tuberville, but interim coach Chris

Thomsen will lead Texas

Tech against the Golden

"It's settled now, and the young guys are excited. I remember ... when I was younger how close we became as a football team," Doege said. "Because with all the uncertainty, all the distractions, that's what gets you through it."

Thomsen, who coached the offensive line before becoming the interim head coach, said he believes his team has dealt with the changes and is ready to move forward. "It's really just busi-

ness as usual for us," Thomsen said. "The great thing about this team, the staple of this team, has been leadership all year, and we define leadership as guys who come out

See TECH, Page 14

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Dear Margo ~

Jekyll-and-Hyde Roommate

Dear Margo: I am a 30year-old woman recently relocated to a larger city for no good reason other than my desire for a change.

I met my roommate on Craigslist. He rode a bus 300 miles to drive my moving van and pull my car, because

didn't think could drive it. Because I had only met him one time, but I am not ignorant of the male thought process, knew



Howard

immediately that he liked me. I was not initially

attracted to him, but homesickness opportunity seemed to coalesce, and we ended up sleeping together.

Foot rubs, handholding hikes, beachfront strolls and dinner dates seem to have been figments of my imagination, because complete

transformation occurred.

He's gone from the sweet. thoughtful, attentive guy who would text me throughout the day to a chauvinistic male stereotype who will barely clean up his dishes and can't wait to tell me which of my new finds friends he attractive.

My friends warned me not to move in with a heterosexual male. Now the question is: Should I move?

I don't have a lease, this housing but situation was a true find in a very trendy/spendy city. The inconvenience of moving alone has kept me here, but it is silly to think we can remain roommates.

He was not even a good lover, but now he acts like I am after him! He was after me and got me and then lost interest. Yes, I am bitter. This was the first guy I had clicked with in several years. But now I think I was just in a new city and lonely.

In any event, my ego is bruised. I believe in the Buddhist tenet destruction of the ego leads to enlightenment, but I go back and forth between ego-angst and acceptance. And then he texts me to say how cute my friend is. Should I stay, or should I go? —

Dear Bea: Go. Or if you can manage it, tell him to go — though vou say you are not on the lease, so I would guess you have no leverage. The Buddhists may be right that destruction of ego leads the enlightenment, but I'll bet the rest of that precept is: "Take you damaged ego and your newly enlightened self to a separate dwelling." For your self-respect, you should sever this Only connection. masochist would stay. — Margo, decisively

A Gift Has Been Given in Her Name

Dear Margo: letter about getting "gifts" in one's name to a charity was the most interesting letter ever. I would suggest to anyone who is displeased with the organization that benefits to ask the donor how they would feel if a donation was sent in name their to organization they abhor.

I totally disagree that this is like any other gift and that people don't get choose the gift. Thoughtful gifts of this kind are donations to causes that would be welcome.

Unless it's a group situation Christmas, where family's card goes to everybody announcing "a gift has been made in your name"), I find it is passive-aggressive.

People who are friends know the other's beliefs. If someone doesn't get agreement on this, they should return the favor and give to their own favorite LGBT group or Planned Parenthood in the other person's name. — Charitable Giver

Dear Char: Sounds good to me. Though even if one chooses a supposed one-size-fits-all politically neutral charity, there still could unhappiness. I know people who, for various reasons, don't care for United Way or the Red Cross. Personally, I think the donation route is a lazy person's way of giftgiving. Margo,

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form

www.creators.com/dearmargo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered. © 2012 MARGO HOWARD

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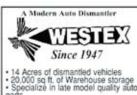
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Don't Feel Sorry for Her

English Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley consoled the moon "wandering companionless" through the sky, asking: "Art thou pale for weariness/Of climbing heaven and gazing on the earth?" No need for concern now, as the full moon is robust with emotion in her home of Cancer and quite content on her own,

much.
ARIES (March
21-April 19). You'll
be inspired to

thank you very

share what you find funny, helpful or heartfelt. And if it's not received exactly the way you expected, at least you'll know your crowd a little

least you'll know your crowd a little better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have charisma, so you don't have to push or persuade to get your way. Relax and be who you are. Those who are uncertain will gradually come around to your way of

HOLIDAY

thinking. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Good fortune in the early stages of a project doesn't promise a happy ending. But you'll figure out the essential steps and continue steadily on until you get results.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The full moon in your sign brings an emotional fullness. You'll express your feelings with ease in their own language, which probably has very little to do with words.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't stand on the edge watching

everyone else have a good time. This moment is for you, too. Claim it. The full moon close to your part of the sky is a push onto the dance floor of life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's easy for people to get so preoccupied with what they want out of a situation that they lose perspective. You don't want anything, and that gives you a definite advantage.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The word "karaoke" means "empty orchestra" in Japanese. If you're not singing, the orchestra around you will mourn the loss. Nothing will seem complete until you add your voice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Most of the pains of life fade naturally with time. Toothaches are the exception. Toothaches don't go away on their own. You'll be a hero, solving a problem for someone that is the emotional equivalent of a toothache.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As is the case with most presentations, there is much to be worked out behind the scenes before the show is ready to bring to an audience. If you do the work right, the result looks effortless. Don't be fooled.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't have to make a big fuss about giving your talents and your love. Those things can't help but leak out in every small thing you do. The insightful person sees you in action and knows immediately who you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). With Mars newly in your

realm, a strong motivational force is churning at your core. You can make fast progress on a project. Onward with velocity!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll pay close attention to what others are doing and gain a competitive edge. You'll see beyond the mechanics of a situation and into the soul of it. You'll ponder the purpose and come up with an answer.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 28). Your efforts to develop your career won't work out exactly the way you plan, but they will work out brilliantly when you stay aware of all of the opportunities around you and roll with the opening and closing doors. January sparks exciting relationship. February brings family growth. March brings a boost in income. Cancer and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 4, 31, 18 and 20.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Consider flashy footwear. It's a conversation starter you'll have fun with. TAURUS: You will do the right thing and be someone's hero because of it. GEMINI: Get your look together even for the grocery store or gym. You'll run into people worthy of knowing the best you. CANCER: You're experiencing your charismatic strength now that the moon is in your sign, so try not to break hearts. LEO: Playful fun is on the agenda, and you will try to wriggle free from anyone who traps you in a serious

conversation. VIRGO: Avoid generic style and blending in. You'll be the standout who catches the right person's eye. LIBRA: You'll freshen up your image with deeper self-care and will have the salon receipt to prove it. SCORPIO: Your comfortable, confident attitude will get you into high-ticket scenarios without having to pay the price. SAGITTARIUS: Spend time with Aquarius, and your thirst for adventure will be satisfied. CAPRICORN: You'll overcome any anxiety about talking to new people and will fall into an easygoing conversation with interesting someone. AQUARIUS: Avoid the person who talks a big game. Action speaks the truth. PISCES: A past love sparks a new interest

in you. **COUPLE** \mathbf{OF} THE WEEKEND: Capricorn and Cancer both start with the letter "C," and that's about where the similarities end. loves ambitious Capricorn work and a busy social schedule, while the ideal for Cancer is an emotionally fulfilling domestic life and the means to live as beautifully and comfortably as possible. Though they come at happiness from different angles, they can most certainly find it together.

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

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KMID 3

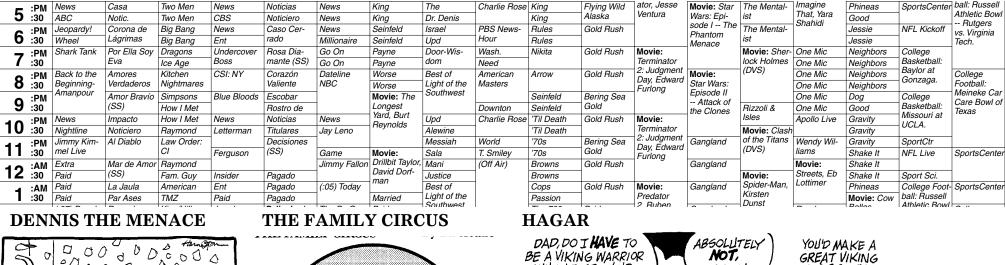
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KPBT 13

WTBS 111 KMLM 12

DISN 27

ESPN2 28



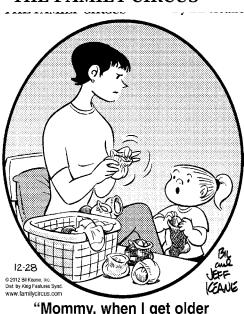




"IF IT TAKES CHRISTMAS SO LONG TO get here, why doesn't it stay longer?"

DIDN'T I SEE YOU FELLAS

HERE LAST YEAR?



can you teach me how to make sock balls, too?"

THE PITFALLS OF

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT



BLONDIE



TO NARROW IT DOMN!! L OVERLOAD



BC





THIS IS

HOW I

SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 28, the 363rd day of 2012. There are three days left in the year. Today's Highlight

History: On Dec. 28, 1912, San Francisco's Municipal Railway began operations with Mayor James Rolph Jr. at the controls

of Streetcar No. 1 as 50,000 spec-

tators looked on. On this date:

In 1612, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei observed the planet Neptune, but mistook it for a star. (Neptune wasn't officially discovered until 1846 by Johann Gottfried Galle.)

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of dif-President ferences with Andrew Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson was born in Staunton (STAN'-tun), Va. In 1897, the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Edmond Rostand,

TNT 23

BET 26

MASCOT!

SPIKE 22

21

premiered in Paris. In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published "A Neglected Anniversary," a facetious, as well as fictitious, essay by H.L. Mencken recounting the history of bathtubs in

In 1937, composer Maurice Ravel died in Paris at age 62.

America.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

Williams play "Night of the Iguana" opened on Broadway. died in Washington at age 89.

mier of North Korea, was named the country's president In 1982, Nevell Johnson Jr., a

wounded by a police officer in a Miami video arcade, setting off three days of race-related disturbances that left another man

to light as the bodies of 14 relatives of Ronald Gene Simmons

were found at his home near Dover, Ark., after Simmons shot and killed two other people in Russellville. (Simmons was executed in 1990.)

Today's Birthdays: Comic book creator Stan Lee is 90. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 83. Actor Martin Milner is 81. Actress Nichelle Nichols is 80. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 78. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 74. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., is 68. Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., is 66. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 66. Actor Denzel Washington is 58. Country singer Joe Diffie is 54. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 54.

AGNES I HAVE TAKEN FIRM CONTROL GOOD OF MY DESTINY.

HI AND LOIS

C'MON! MOVE

YOUR BODY!

A COOKIE

CRUMB FELL

ONTHE FLOOR.

THE OTHER COAST



YOU'RE JUST

WIGGLING

YOUR FINGER!



IT'S CALLED

THE CHIP

THAT WAS

PRETTY SLICK,

KOKO.

I COME FROM

ALONG LINE

OF CRUMB.

I WAS TRYING

Newsday Crossword

- **15** Antiseptic gel source
- 16 Big-beaked bird
- crayon
- words
- consonants]
- 24 Part of some portfolios
- Jedi rescuee
- Unusual Day"
- 31 Lace place
- 37 Partner of
- 39 Queen's subject
- 40 Have down
- [no repeated
- letters1 44 Brigadier's
- insignia
- 45 Pungent
- 46 California's
- 47 Lighten
- 48 Grand-

In 1961, the Tennessee

- Former first lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson,
- In 1972, Kim Il Sung, the preunder a new constitution.
- black man, was mortally

In 1987, a mass killing came

© 2012 The Associated Press. Answer to previous puzzle CARDNARCS

WAXYEAGLE TERA

58 Athena's

status [three

consecutive

64 Nobel Prize

category

66 Clumsy one's

comment

67 Rainwater

diverter

68 Gas name

69 At liberty

70 Autocrat

71 Be frugal

72 Don't eat

gear

DOWN

3 Cook up a

scheme

17

20

73 Backpacker's

2 Mental concept

since '73

identical letters]

ACROSS

- 1 Goes quickly 5 Slam
- 9 Something
- seen 14 For no reason

- 17 Brightly colored
- 18 Encouraging
- 19 Esteem
- 20 Slogan [six
- consecutive
- 23 Whodunit stock characters: Abbr.
- 25 Return of the
- **27** "It's
- 33 Pilfers
- James A. Bailey
- cold 41 Public-domain

- motto

WORD ODDITIES by Lonnie Burton Edited by Stanley Newman

- 4 Harmony 5 Corp. woe 6 Hilo greetings
- 7 Film genre 8 Coexist
- 9 Medal of
- Freedom architect
- 10 Scuff up
- 11 Word before
 - rain or test
 - **12** City southwest of Jerusalem
 - 13 Fleecy females
 - 21 Ask for a loan
 - 22 Be agitated
 - 26 Turkish capital
 - 27 Maltreatment
 - 28 Shark cousin
 - 29 Black-and-white
- dolphins 1 Metal in pennies

15

18

21

- 30 Napped noisily
- 32 Hispaniola
- sharer

35 Former Grammy category

34 Napping

36 Give testimony

www.stanxwords.com

- 38 Rescuee's cry 42 With restricted
- access
- 43 Goes sour
- 49 Brunch
- servings
- 52 Catalyst
- 54 Useful quality
- 55 Big brutes 56 Biblical
- passage
- 57 Skirt length 59 Toon explorer
- 60 Faction 61 Mental
- cloudiness
- **62** Physiologist Pavlov
- 63 Saucy
- 65 Allegro _ brio
- 10 11 12

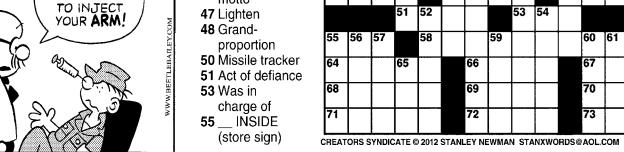
19

12/28/12

24 25 26 27 28 | 29 32 33 34 35 36 37 40 42 43 45 48 49

41 44 47 52 53 56 64 66 67

68 69 70 72 73





BOY! ARE YOU A WIGGLE-WORT!





GREG+ MOTO

TECH

Continued from Page 9

every single day focused and do it. If you can do that, you can lead as a freshman, sophomore, senior; it doesn't matter. And that's really the way they've approached it."

Minnesota coach Jerry Kill doesn't expect any drop off for the Red Raiders with Tuberville's departure.

"I don't think a whole lot is going to change with them," Kill said. "Their system, offensively all the way back to coach Leach, has stayed the same, pretty much ... they've got good football players, a good system, and I know they'll be prepared to play."

Texas Tech returns to a bowl game after seeing an 18-year bowl streak snapped with last season's disappointing 5-7 finish. This is their fourth straight bowl game in Texas and their eighth since 2000. They've won their last two bowl games.

The Gophers are in a bowl for the first time since 2009 and looking for their first bowl win since 2004. They won six games this season, which is the same number of games they won in the previous two seasons combined.

"We're in the building blocks of a program right now," Kill said. "There's no question that getting a bowl victory gives you great momentum going into the offseason. We won our last game of the year last year, and I feel like it took some momentum into the offseason. I think getting a bowl win would be certainly special for this group of kids, and certainly our seniors that have been through so much."

A win on Friday would give Minnesota a winning record for the first time since going 7-6 in 2008.

To do that they'll have to figure out how to slow down Texas Tech's passing attack. Doege is fourth in the nation in yards passing with 3,934 and his 38 touchdown passes are second in the country. He needs just 66 yards to join Graham

Harrell as the only players in school history to throw for 4,000 yards in consecutive seasons.

He'll face a Minnesota defense that is 11th in the nation against the pass, allowing 178.5 yards a game. The Gophers have allowed just one 300-yard passer this season. Doege has nine games with more than 300 yards passing this season, and two for

more than 400, including a season-high of 499 against West Virginia.

"I don't think we have to do anything a lot different, and they're not going to do anything different," Kill said. "And I think that the style gives us an opportunity to try to keep their offense off the field, but we have to stay on the field. We didn't do a real good job of that over the last two

ball games."

Texas Tech tight end Jace Amaro, who was injured Oct. 13 and hasn't played since because of internal bleeding, returned to practice this week and expects to play Friday. He said he wants to help the seniors go out with a victory.

"We have a lot of personal emotion going into this game," he said.

MAVS

Continued from page 9

liability during Oklahoma City's 17-6 fourth-quarter comeback. He sagged off of Durant far enough that the three-time NBA scoring champion could drill a 3-pointer from the left wing, then was trailing a play when Mayo backed into him and lost the ball to set up Durant's fast-break dunk and three-point play.

"I don't really have the stamina or the legs there, so I couldn't really put on the brakes. I mean, I kicked the ball out of his hands," Nowitzki said. "It was just some ugly stuff."

In overtime, Carlisle pulled Nowitzki in favor of Shawn Marion for defense at one point. And he wasn't his usual clutch self with the game on the line — as Oklahoma City knows well from the Western Conference finals two seasons ago.

"I didn't really want the ball that much," Nowitzki said. "I don't really feel like I've got the stamina, the lift to do something out there with the ball, make a one-on-one move.

"I think that I'm a week or two away of really dominating the ball down the stretch and making some stuff happen."

Nowitzki said his knee feels "phenomenal," going as far as saying he thinks the surgery will be good for the rest of his career, but at this point his legs feel heavy.

"I don't really have any bounce or lift," Nowitzki said. "I don't really have that bounce in my step yet, but I'll keep working. As long as the knee respondes the right way, I think my legs will come back sooner or later." Serge Ibaka added 19 points

and matched his season high with 17 rebounds as Oklahoma City charged back from 10 points down in the final 7:17 of regulation and found a way to win after losing back-to-back games for the first time this season.

After Westbrook put Oklahoma City up 107-104, Mayo was fouled on Dallas' next possession while shooting a 3-pointer. He missed the first two foul shots with 33 seconds left as the sold-out Chesapeake Energy Arena crowd roared louder with each miss.

Westbrook hit two free throws after that to put it away — this time for good.

Collison came up with a desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer to send it to overtime after Dallas had given up the lead for the first time since the opening 4 minutes.

Marion inbounded from the sideline with 2.2 seconds left, collected a deflected pass and headed toward the lane before kicking the ball out to Collison, who caught the ball in mid-air and heaved it toward the basket for the tying 3 from the right wing.

Replays showed he released the shot with one-tenth of a second left on the clock.

"He was phenomenal for us tonight and fun to watch. I hate to waste an effort like that from him obviously," said Nowitzki, who had nine points in his second game back after offseason knee surgery. "We definitely need him to keep playing like that. Obviously, he's not going to score 30 every night but we need him to attack and make some stuff happen."

Kaman ended up with 17 points and Marion chipped in 14 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks, who were swept on a treacherous three-game road trip that featured stops at West contenders Memphis, San Antonio and Oklahoma City despite getting Nowitzki back. Dallas has lost seven of eight to fall to 12-17.

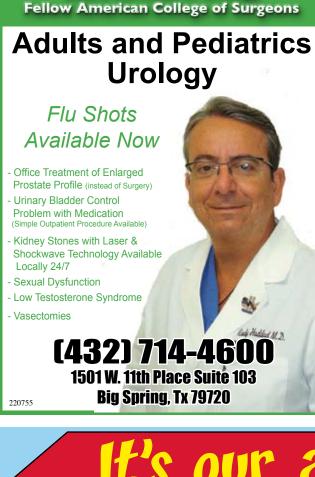
"I think the goal is still the playoffs. I don't think that's going to change," Nowitzki said.

Dallas had been 11-1 this season when leading at the beginning of the fourth quarter and 11-2 after holding a 10-point lead or larger. Mayo, who had been averaging 20.6 points, scored only four and has 29 total over the last four games.

Oklahoma City had won 12 in a row before losing back-to-back games at Minnesota and Miami.

The franchises have grown quite familiar over the past two seasons, with each team taking a turn knocking the other out of the playoffs — in addition to their proximity along Interstate 35 and a handful of preseason matchups to go with the usual regular-season meetings. Dallas eliminated Oklahoma City in the Western Conference finals before winning the NBA title in 2011 and the Thunder swept the Mavs in the first round last season.

Other than Nowitzki and coach Rick Carlisle, there aren't many remnants of those Dallas teams left.



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Continued from Page 9

only 33 yards on 28 carries. They came in having averaged 202.9 yards rushing.

"They played well upfront," UCLA coach Jim Mora said. "When we are at our best is when we can run the football. We couldn't find any room to the football. They played physical." Hundley was 26 of 50 for 329 yards and three touchdowns to set UCLA's season passing record with 3,740 yards. The old record was 3,470 by Cade McNown in 1998.

UCLA (9-5) lost its final three.

The Bruins were never in this one. Baylor raced to a 21-0 lead by early in the second quarter on Martin's 4-yard run and Florence's TD passes of

8 yards to Antwan Goodley and 55 yards to Tevin

Reese.

UCLA punted four times and lost the ball on downs before getting a break when Baylor's Jordan Navjar fumbled after a reception when he was hit by Eric Kendricks, with Randal Goforth recovering at the Bears 21. Two plays later, Joseph Fauria caught a 22-yard pass from Hundley to pull

the Bruins to 21-7.

Baylor quickly added two more touchdowns to put it out of reach at 35-7. Martin burst up the middle for his second touchdown of the game, a 26-yarder, and, after UCLA punted yet again, Seastrunk broke free for a 43-yard touchdown run with 1:58 left before halftime.

UCLA then converted two fourth downs, including a fake punt, to move to the Baylor 12 with 7 seconds left. On fourth-and-10, Mora opted to go for a field goal and Ka'imi Fairbairn converted from 30 yards.

Martin added a 1-yard TD run in the third quarter and Florence had a 1-yard scoring run in the fourth.

Baylor rushed for 306

yards.
"We knew coming in

that we could run the ball well, and the Oline did a heck of a job and made my job easy," Florence said. "It makes throwing a lot easier."

Hundley threw a 24-

Hundley threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Shaq Evans early in the fourth quarter and a 34-yarder to Logan Sweet as the game ended.



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