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Monday

DECEMBER 31, 2012



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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

After several years and more than \$30 million worth of work, the Settles Hotel re-opened to the public in late December.

EDC election, Settles re-opening dominated headlines Spring's only Medal of Honor one night in early November had dreamed of but secretly

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

construction elections, crime, death and drought — this was the year that was.

Soon after the calendar flipped to 2012, the Veterans Administration Medical Center was renamed after Big

recipient, and just before the when local residents headed feared would never occur. year drew to a close, a long- to the polls. awaited re-opening nearly four decades in the making took place.

In between, there were 12 months full of news, good and bad, but no news was bigger in 2012 than what happened

Here are the top 10 stories of 2012, as voted upon by the *Big Spring Herald* editorial staff:

No. 1: The EDC election — Simply put, Big Spring voters were asked to decide, in large degree, on the economic future of this community.

At stake was whether funds from the local Economic Development Corporation would remain strictly ear-marked for economic development purposes or if the money also could be used for community improvement projects.

The issue caused much heated debate (and more than a few hurt feelings) in the weeks leading up to the election. Proponents of the change argued that community improvement projects would serve as incentives to attract new businesses, while improving the quality of life for everyone. Opponents, on the other hand, feared changing the EDC's mandate would effectively choke off economic development efforts.

By the time all the votes were counted, it was clear local residents weren't in any mood for a change — more than 60 percent chose to keep the EDC as it was.

File photo

No. 2: The Settles re-opens It was a day many residents

The Hotel Settles, built in 1930, has long been Big Spring's most recognizable landmark, but for most of the past 40 years, the building had also been the butt of derisive comments and/or jokes.

That's because it had been vacant since the 1970s and had fallen into a serious state of disrepair in the intervening years.

Enter Brint Ryan.

Ryan, a Big Spring native and owner of the seventhlargest tax services firm in the United States, put millions of dollars of his own money into a multi-year restoration of the dilapidated landmark,

See **YEAR**, Page 3



Officials gathered in January for a ceremony renaming the local VA hospital after Medal of Honor recipient George H. O'Brien Jr.





Big Spring ISD trustees Kenneth McIntosh and Irene Rodriguez share a hug during ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the district's new elementary campuses in August.

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BIG SPRING HERALD LOCAL Monday, December 31, 2012

Obituaries

JoAnn Howell-Mason



JoAnn Howell-Mason, 66, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, at her residence. The family will receive friends from 6 P.M. until 8 P.M. Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Phil Babcock, pastor of New Testament Baptist Church

of Midland, officiating. Graveside services will be held at 3 pm. at Resthaven North Cemetery in Midland, Texas.

She was born Sept. 18, 1946, in Lamesa, Texas, to Fannie (Richardson) and C.W. Smith. She was a resident of Big Spring for more than 17 years, coming from Midland. She was a member of New Life Ministries C.O.G.I.C. She was employed at the Big Spring State Hospital.

She is survived by her husband, Odell Mason of Big Spring; three sons, Melsyki Edwards of Big Spring, Khaki Edwards of Midland and Jared Edwards of Midland; three daughters, Pebbles Evans of Abilene, April Edwards of Dallas and Didget Post of Big Spring; three brothers, Vernon Smith of Levelland, Jimmy Ray Smith of Lubbock and Mart Smith of Midland; one sister, Pamela Vaughn of Midland; 16 grandchildren and 22 greatgrandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Don Smith; and a grandson.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7

- MICHAEL DEAN NALL, 34, of 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 5, was arrested Sunday on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant from another agency.
- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 72, transient, was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- DARRIN JAY CROOKS, 53, of 4200 Bilger, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- THEFT was reported:
- In the 1500 block of Tucson.
- In the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 1400 block of Johnson.

Sheriff

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

reported having 67 inmates at the time of this

• BOYCE LEE HORTON, 54, was booked into the

county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for running a stop sign. • PAMELA LEFLER, 50, was booked into the

county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- NOEL MICHAEL MARTINEZ, 17, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a • JESSICA FAYE BROOKS, 25, was booked into
- the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a motion to adjudicate guilt for delivery of marijuana and charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts) and delivery/ offering delivery of a dangerous drug.
- VICTORIA HANNABASS, 24, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- BENJAMIN ANTHONY ISLAS, 20, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving under the influence by
- ANDY PIPER, 26, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for open container – passenger and violation of a promise to appear.
- ALVIN CHARLES SMITH JR., 28, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a Lewisville warrant for organized retail theft – less than \$50 and a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- JAMES ROBERT SIMPSON, 28, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROBERT LEE AIKENS JR., 49, was booked into
- the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property – more than \$50 and less than \$500. • EDGAR GALLEGOS, 18, was booked into the
- county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a Dallas warrant for possession of marijuana.
- LEROY ZUBIATE, 28, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and speeding.
- SARAH NICOLE DUNLAP, 28, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of theft of property – more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug para-
- phernalia and driving while license invalid. • MICHAEL DEAN NALL, 34, was booked into the drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to

county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on charges of bail jumping - failure to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.

- DARRIN JAY CROOKS, 53, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 72, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass. ALVINO NOYOLA, 60, was arrested Sunday by
- the HCSO on a Glasscock County warrant for order modifying conditions of probation. DAVID LAMONT BUSBY, 38, was booked into
- the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a Travis County parole warrant.
- BOBBY RAY MOLETT, 44, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property – more than \$50 and less than \$500.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Wyoming. One person was transported to SMMC. • TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of
- Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Alabama. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of S. Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 3400 block of E.
- Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 2100
- block of Alabama. One person was air evacuated from the scene. TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported three miles
- south of Big Spring on S. Highway 87. One person was air evacuated from the scene. MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Oil
- Mill Road. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Dallas and Lancaster. One person was transported
- to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of
- Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC. TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of
- Lexington. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Oriole. Service refused.
- · MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- Note Officials with the Howard County Jail Spring Education Employee's Federal Credit Union Cantu at 263-4016. for Afficia R. Hernandez, daughter of Tony and Christy Hernandez. Alicia has been struggling with medical issues since February and will be going to Fort Worth's Cook Children's Medical Center in January for tests. Donations should be sent to: BSEEFCU c/o Alicia Hernandez Medical, 1110 Benton St. Big Spring, Texas. 79720.
 - 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.
 - Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432 268-7730.
 - The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432 268-
 - would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main. Volunteers are needed in many categories includ-

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you

ing patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

- Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.
 - Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery

Corsicana 32 cloudy Rosenberg Dallas 32 cloudy San Antonio Del Rio 52 41 cloudy San Marcos El Paso 51 28 sunny Sulphur Springs Fort Stockton 48 30 pt sunny Sweetwater 42 Gainesville 25 cloudy Tvler Weatherford 28 cloudy Greenville Wichita Falls **National Cities**

Hi Lo Cond.

51 41 cloudy

31

20 sunny

32 cloudy

10 pt sunn

48 39 cloudy

66 44 sunny 80 67 pt sunn

pt sunn

43 14 sunny

47 36 cloudy

49

54

39 cloudy

32 cloudy

45 rain

43 rain

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu

1/3

48/25

Mix of sun

and clouds.

Highs in the

and lows in

the mid 20s

Sunrise:

Sunset:

Texas At A Glance

Amarillo

Big Spring

7:48 AM

upper 40s

1/4

52/27

sunny. Highs

in the low

lows in the

upper 20s

Sunrise:

Sunset:

7:48 AM

50s and

Mainly

Sat

1/5

57/29

Abundant

Highs in the

upper 50s

and lows in

the upper

Sunrise:

Sunset:

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories for and about hometowns just like yours

7:48 AM

sunshine.

Sun

1/6

61/33

Highs in the

low 60s and

lows in the

low 30s.

Sunrise:

Sunset:

Austin Houston

Brownsville

46 34 cloudy

44 33 cloudy

47

47 37 cloudy

46 18 pt sunny

50 27 pt sunny

42 rain

47 40 cloudy

42 32 cloudy

44 34 cloudy

43 27 cloudy

44 26 pt sunny

47 27 pt sunny

36 cloudy

39 cloudy

San Antonio

Kingsville

Livingston

Longview

Lubbock

Lufkin

Midland

Raymondville

7:48 AM

Sunshine.

Wed

1/2

49/25

Times of sur

and clouds.

Highs in the

upper 40s

and lows in

the mid 20s.

Sunrise:

Sunset:

7:47 AM

5:53 PM

American Profile

El Paso

Area Cities

Amarillo

Beaumont

Brownsville

Brownwood

Corpus Christi

Austin

51/28

	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
	Minneapolis	24	14	cloudy
y	New York	33	26	pt sunny
	Phoenix	59	35	sunny
	San Francisco	59	43	mst sun
y	Seattle	43	34	sunny
-	St. Louis	33	23	pt sunny
	Washington, DC	38	30	pt sunny
У				

City

Atlanta

Boston

Dallas

Denver

Miami

Houston

Los Angeles

Chicago

• A medical fund has been established at Big help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.
- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
- The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www. BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.
- · Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-
- New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

Psychiatric exam for suspect in NYC subway death

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman accused of pushing a man to his death in front of a subway train told police she did so because she blamed Muslims for the Sept. 11 attacks, and because "I thought it would be cool," prosecutors said at a court hearing.

Menendez was murder as a hate crime after she told police she spontaneously pushed Sunando Sen.

She laughed so hard during her arraignment in Queens criminal court that Judge Gia Morris told her lawyer: "You're going to have to have your client stop laughing."

Defense attorney Dietrich charged Saturday night with Epperson said Menendez's

behavior in court was no different from how she had been acting when he spoke to her privately, and said his client didn't really think the proceedings were funny. He represented her for the arraignment only and had no further comment.

Menendez was held without bail and ordered to have a mental health exam. Her next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 14.

Prosecutors said Menendez pushed Sen, a 46-year-old native of India, to his death Thursday night because she blamed "Muslims, Hindus and Egyptians" for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I pushed a Muslim off the

train tracks because I hate Hindus and Muslims — ever since 2001 when they put down the twin towers I've been beating them up," Menendez told police, according to the Queens district attor-

nev's office. Friends and co-workers said Sen, a native of Calcutta,

9 die as tour bus crashes on icy Oregon road

PENDLETON. (AP) — The stretch of rural Oregon interstate where a tour bus crashed through a guardrail and plummeted 100 feet down a steep embankment is so notorious that state transportation officials have published a specific advisory warning of its dangers.

Nine people were killed and more than two dozen injured when the charter bus veered out of control around

Ore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday on snow- and ice-covered lanes of Interstate 84 in eastern Oregon, according to the Oregon State Police.

The bus crashed near the start of a 7-mile section of road that winds down a hill. It came to rest at the bottom of a snowy slope, landing beaten and battered but upright with little or no debris visible around the crash site.

The East Oregonian said it spoke with two

topher Castanuela be-

South Korean passengers, ages 16 and 17. Both said through a translator that they were seated near the rear of the bus when it swerved a few times, hit the guardrail and flipped. They described breaking glass and seeing passengers pinned by their seats as the bus slid down the hill. Both said that they feared for their lives.

The paper said that the teens, one of whom injured a knee and the other suffered a broken collarbone, were staying at a hotel arranged by the Red Cross.

More than a dozen rescue workers descended the hill and used ropes to help retrieve people from the wreckage in freezing weather. The bus driver was among the survivors, but had not yet spoken to police because of the severity of the injuries the driver had suffered.

Lt. Gregg Hastings said the bus crashed along the west end of the that snow and black ice Blue Mountains, and west of an area called Deadman Pass. The area is well known locally for its hazards, and the state transportation department advises truck drivers that "some of the most changeable and severe weather conditions in the Northwest" can lead to slick conditions and poor visibility. Drivers are urged to use "extreme caution and defensive driving tech-

are common in the fall

through the spring. The bus had been carrying about 40 people. St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton treated 26 of them, said spokesman Larry Blanc. Five of those treated at St. Anthony were transported to other facilities.

Blanc did not elaborate on the nature of the injuries but told the Oregonian that the hospital brought in additional staff.

YEAR

Continued from Page 1

vowing to return it to its former splendor.

A few years and some \$30 million later, Ryan made good on his promise - on Dec. 28, the hotel re-opened its doors with a special lighting ceremony and comed overnight guests the following night. Hotel officials promise to maintain much of the building's historic touches while also offering modern touches, as well.

No. 3: New schools -In August, Big Spring Independent School District's elementary campuses entered the 21st Century.

When the school year

opened Aug. 27, students at Goliad, Moss, Marcy and Washington elementaries were welcomed into brand new buildings, the centerpieces of a \$60 million district-wide renovation approved by voters two years earlier.

The new campuses are basically everything their older counterparts weren't — more spacious, more secure and much better equipped to meet modern educational needs.

campuses are designed to hold around 550 students and each house 27 classrooms, a library, computer labs, a combi-

nation cafeteria-audito-

rium and gymnasium.

The 75,000 square-foot

"This is awesome that's the word that keeps coming to mind," Marcy Principal Rita Faulkner said, looking around her new workplace. "We have a wonderful campus that kids are going to love. And if the kids love coming to school, they're going to learn."

No. 4: Crime — Unfortunately, not all the news was good in 2012.

The new year got off to a bad start when Chris-

Dragon China Buffet, 1300 Gregg 268-8888

\$1_00_{Off Per Adult} **U**Off Per Child Up to 10 People (NOT FOR CARRYOUT)

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came the first homicide victim of 2012 on New vear's Day, and another Big Spring man was ruled the victim of a hitand-run homicide a few days later. Among the other low-

lights of the year: Former KBST News

- Director Kyle Guthrie received a six-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to a charge of online solicitation of a · Howard County resi-
- dent Edgar Dale Whitt received a 10-year prison sentence for prohibited sexual contact after law enforcement officials discovered he had fathered a child with his daughter.
- · Chris Daniel Marquez, 19, was arrested in late October and charged in the shooting death of 33-year-old Luis

No. 5: Enrollment **surges** — In the words of a Big Spring ISD trustee, "Thank goodness we built those new schools."

All that extra space the new elementary campuses provided was put to use as the 2012-2013 school year unfolded. The oil boom brought more than workers to West Texas — it brought the workers' families, also. The result was a veritable explosion in enrollment, particularly at the elementary level, for BSISD.

October's overall enrollment exceeded 2,000 students, the first time that had happened locally since 2000. Figures have tapered off slightly since that time, but the school district still fac-

BIG

SPRING

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Glenn Stifflemire

Bill McClellan

Rick Nunez

Robert Smith

Tony Hernandez

Rachel Martinez

es an increase of more than 200 students from this time last year.

It is a good news/ bad news situation for BSISD — more students mean more state money for the district, but it also requires administrators to hire more teachers. And facing a tight job market, officials were scrambling to find new teachers at year's end.

No. 6: Wastewater fa**cility improvements** The city of Big Spring's proposed \$13 million overhaul of the municipality's water and wastewater facilities received overwhelming approval in the May 12 municipal election. The measure passed

with 1.182 ballots in favor — 71.51 percent of the vote — with 471 casting their ballot against proposition, counting for 28.49 percent of the tally.

The project will be funded by both the city and the local Economic Development Corpora-

As part of the agreement between the council and the Big Spring Economic Development board of directors, the EDC will provide \$750,000 a year for the first two years, and then 40 percent of its sales tax revenue — with a floor of \$500,000 and a ceiling of \$750,000 for the following 18 years — with the city of Big Spring picking up the remainder of the tab.

No. 7: Hogue hon**ored** — Local, county and state law enforcement officials honored a fallen hero in 2012.

Missed Your Paper:

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Trov Hogue, a Big Spring native and former Department Public Safety trooper who was murdered in the line of duty in 1994, was honored locally when the new joint law enforcement center which houses both the Big Spring Police Department and Howard County Sheriff's Office — was named after Also in 2012, the DPS

honored Hogue by naming one of its four new interceptor patrol boats after the Big Spring native. The boat will be used for border patrol and drug interdiction efforts along the Rio Grande River.

No 8: VAMC name **change** — The Big Spring VA Medical Center's name was officially changed to the George H. O'Brien Jr. VA Medical Center. O'Brien is the only Medal of Honor recipient who ever called Big Spring home. U.S. Marine Corps

2nd Lt. O'Brien was presented the medal on Oct. 27, 1953, exactly one year after he spearheaded the capture of an enemy-held hill while wounded by enemy fire in Korea. O'Brien continued to serve in the Marine Reserves where he ultimately received the rank of lieutenant colonel.

is situated near the entrance to the medical

A statue of O'Brien

No. 9: Water strictions eased The drought that has plagued this area for the past few years didn't magically go away, but enough rainfall was received to allow officials to loosen water rationing regulations.

niques," and warned

Increased ies from the Colorado River Municipal Water District allowed the Big Spring city council to downshift from mandatory to voluntary water rationing in late 2012.

The shift from mandatory restrictions to voluntary restrictions means the city will no longer issue citations for misuse of water. However, officials said the municipality will be looking at usage levels very closely.

No. 10: Human remains found — A grisly discovery of human remains at the city airpark in mid-March led many to believe the body of missing Colordo City teenager Hailey Dunn or some other long-missing area resident had been located at

examination After

COWBOYS STEAKHOUSE and restaurant

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Must Be Presented For Discount Expires 12-31-12

by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, however, the remains were determined to be that of an unidentified elderly male.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Rudy Hilario, 52, died Wednesday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial was at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Faye Price, 87, died Thursday. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

JoAnn Howell-Mason, 66, died Thursday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m at Resthaven North Cemetery in Midland,

Texas. Roland Gore, 60, died Thursday. Vigil services will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Family visitation will begin directly following the vigil until 9 p.m.. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic

Church. George G. Bass, 87, passed away Friday. Private family services will be held at a later date.

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

The Silver Wings Ball will be

Saturday January 12, 2013 at the newly restored

Hotel Settles Ballroom

Evening events will begin at 6:00pm with a cocktail hour. Join us for a night of dining, dancing, and live auction



Tickets will go quickly, so get yours today! Tickets for the event will cost \$50

Reserve a Table for \$400



DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: JANUARY 5TH

Contact Hangar 25 or Gloria McDonald for tickets (432) 264-1999 or (432) 270-3644 or hangar25@crcom.net

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News in brief

German magazine mistakenly publishes Bush obituarv BERLIN (AP) — Germany's respected news

weekly Der Spiegel mistakenly published an obituary Sunday for former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, hours after a family spokesman said the

88-year-old was recovering from ill-

Bush was hospitalized in Houston Nov. 23 for treatment of a bronchitis-related cough and moved to intensive care on Dec. 23 after he developed a fever. On Saturday, spokesman Jim McGrath said Bush was moved out of intensive care into a regular hospital room again after his condition improved.

Bush

The unfinished obituary appeared on Der Spiegel's website for only a few minutes Sunday before it was spotted by Internet users and

In it, the magazine's New York correspondent described Bush as "a colorless politician" whose image only improved when it was compared to the later presidency of his son, George W. Bush.

"All newsrooms prepare obituaries for selected figures," the magazine said on its Twitter feed. "The fact that the one for Bush senior went live was a technical mistake. Sorry!"

Hundreds of thousands to ring in 2013 in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of revelers from around the globe are expected to cram into New York City's Times Square to see the ball drop and ring in 2013.

The giant ball is covered with 2,688 Waterford crystal triangles and illuminated by more than 32,000 LEDs in red, blue, green and white.

Security will be tight.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly says Times Square will be the "safest place in the world on New Year's Eve."

Along with an army of uniformed officers, police will use barriers to prevent overcrowding and for checkpoints to inspect vehicles, enforce a ban on alcohol and check handbags.

Plainclothes officers are assigned to blend into the crowd.

Kelly stressed there are no specific terror threats related to the celebration.

Dems, GOP try resolving tax and spending disputes with 'fiscal cliff' deadline hours away

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Senate Republicans sorted through stubborn disputes over taxing the wealthy and cutting the budget to pay for Democratic spending proposals as Monday's midnight deadline for an accord avoiding the "fiscal cliff" drew to within hours.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., spoke repeatedly Sunday to Vice President Joe Biden, a former Senate colleague, in hopes of settling remaining differences and clinching a breakthrough that has evaded the two sides since President Barack Obama's November re-election. In one indication of the eleventh-hour activity, aides said the president, Biden and top administration bargainer Rob Nabors were all working late at the White House, and McConnell was making latenight phone calls as well.

Unless an agreement is reached and approved by Congress by the start of New Year's Day, more than \$500 billion in 2013 tax increases will begin to take effect and \$109 billion will be carved from defense



By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

Neither side vulnerable. NORTH **♦** K 10 8 7 **♥** 10 4 **♣**J 10 9 8 6 2 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♦ K 7 The bidding: Pass 2 🏚 Pass Pass Pass 4 🏚 Pass

East dealer.

Opening lead seven of spades. Bidding is a form of science, but,

as in many scientific endeavors, one cannot achieve perfection. The theoretical must often give way to the practical, and some bids are merely general-direction shots where the marksman can only hope he winds up hitting the target Consider this deal played in a

match between France and Italy in the European championship many years ago. At the first table, North-South were Roger Trezel and Pierre Jais for France, and East-West were

Giorgio Belladonna and Walter Avarelli for Italy.

Trezel was in a difficult position after East bid two spades and South showed a minimum opening bid by passing. Trezel thought his side might lose two or even three spade tricks, so he gave up on the possibility of making a slam and jumped to four hearts.

But when Avarelli, after two passes, elected to sacrifice at four spades, Trezel revised his previous assessment. He decided that Jais was now very likely to have a singleton spade, so he leaped to six hearts. Jais handled the diamonds correctly and scored 980 points, losing only a

At the second table, Pictro Forquet (North for Italy) also wound up in six hearts. But disaster struck in an unusual way. The French East led the ace of spades and shifted to a club.

At this point, Forquet injudiciously claimed the slam, not realizing that he might lose a diamond trick if either defender had four to the jack. His opponents naturally contested the claim.

The tournament director was called and gave the only ruling he could under the Laws. Forquet was not allowed to take a finesse against the diamond jack, so he went down one to give the French a 1,030-point gain on the deal. C'est la guerre!

Tomorrow: Nip and tuck.

and domestic programs. Though the tax hikes and budget cuts would be felt gradually, economists warn that if allowed to fully take hold, their combined impact — the so-called fiscal cliff — would rekindle a recession.

"There is still significant distance between the two sides, but negotiations continue," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said shortly before the Senate ended an unusual Sunday session. "There is still time to reach an agreement, and we intend to continue negotiations."

The House and Senate planned to meet Monday, a rarity for New Year's Eve, in hopes of having a tentative agreement to consider. Yet despite the flurry of activity, there was still no final pact.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton admitted to hospital with blood clot following concussion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is under observation at a New York hospital after being treated for a blood clot stemming from the concussion she sustained earlier this month.

Clinton's doctors discovered the clot Sunday while performing a follow-up exam, her spokesman, Philippe Reines, said. He would not elaborate on the location of the clot but said Clinton was being treated with anti-coagulants and would remain at New York-Presbyterian Hospital for at least the next 48 hours so doctors can monitor the medication.

Clinton

"Her doctors will continue to assess her condition, including other issues associated with her concussion," Reines said in a statement. "They will determine if any further action is required."

Clinton, 65, fell and suffered a concussion while at home alone in mid-December as she recovered from a stomach virus that left her severely dehydrated. The concussion was diagnosed Dec. 13 and Clinton was forced to cancel a trip to North Africa and the Middle East that had been planned for the next week.

The seriousness of a blood clot "depends on where it is," said Dr. Gholam Motamedi, a neurologist at Georgetown University Medical Center who was not involved in Clinton's care.

Al-Qaida carves out own country in Mali, prepares to defend it

MOPTI, Mali (AP) — Deep inside caves, in remote desert bases, in the escarpments and cliff faces of northern Mali, Islamic fighters are burrowing into the earth, erecting a formidable set of defenses to protect what has essentially become al-Qaida's new

They have used the bulldozers, earth movers and Caterpillar machines left behind by fleeing construction crews to dig what residents and local officials describe as an elaborate network of tunnels, trenches, shafts and ramparts. In just one case, inside a cave large enough to drive trucks into, they have stored up to 100 drums of gasoline, guaranteeing their fuel supply in the face of a foreign intervention, according to experts.

Northern Mali is now the biggest territory held by al-Qaida and its allies. And as the world hesitates, delaying a military intervention, the extremists who seized control of the area earlier this year are preparing for a war they boast will be worse than the decade-old struggle in Afghanistan.

"Al-Qaida never owned Afghanistan," said former United Nations diplomat Robert Fowler, a Canadian kidnapped and held for 130 days by al-Qaida's local chapter, whose fighters now control the main cities in the north. "They do own northern Mali."

Al-Qaida's affiliate in Africa has been a shadowy presence for years in the forests and deserts of Mali, a country hobbled by poverty and a relentless cycle of hunger. In recent months, the terror syndicate and its allies have taken advantage of political instability within the country to push out of their hiding place and into the towns, taking over an

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

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

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enormous territory which they are using to stock arms, train forces and prepare for global jihad.

Venezuelan vice president says Chavez suffers new complications, in 'delicate' condition CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan Presi-

dent Hugo Chavez is confronting "new complica-

tions" due to a respiratory infection nearly three weeks after undergoing cancer surgery, his vice president said in Cuba as he visited the ailing leader for the first time since his operation. Vice President Nicolas Maduro looked weary

and spoke with a solemn expression in a televised address from Havana on Sunday. He described Chavez's condition as delicate.

"Several minutes ago we were with President Chavez. We greeted each other and he himself referred to these complications," Maduro said, reading from a prepared statement. The vice president's comments suggest an in-

creasingly difficult fight for Chavez. The Venezu-

elan leader has not been seen or heard from since undergoing his fourth cancer-related surgery Dec. 11, and government officials have said he might not return in time for his scheduled Jan. 10 inauguration for a new six-year term.

"The president gave us precise instructions so that, after finishing the visit, we would tell the (Venezuelan) people about his current health condition," Maduro said. "President Chavez's state of health continues to be delicate, with complications that are being attended to, in a process not without risks."

Asia-Pacific nations greeting 2013 eagerly; Myanmar celebrating with 1st public countdown

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Fiscal cliff? Recession? Not in Asia, where the first countries to see 2013 dawn will enthusiastically welcome the

Increasingly democratic Myanmar will have a public countdown for the first time. Jakarta plans a huge street party befitting Indonesia's powering

In Sydney, eager revelers camped over Sunday night on the shores of the harbor to get the best vantage points as 1.5 million are expected to see the fireworks show centered on the Sydney Harbor Bridge.

In Hong Kong, this year's 12.5 million Hong Kong dollar (\$1.6 million) fireworks display was being billed by organizers as the biggest ever in the southern Chinese city. Police expect as many as 100,000 people to watch, local news reports said.

The buoyant economies of the Asia-Pacific are prepared to party with renewed optimism despite the so-called fiscal cliff threatening to reverberate globally from the United States and the tattered economy of Europe.

Remains of, Newtown elementary school gunman, claimed for burial

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The body of the man who killed 26 people at a Connecticut elementary school has been claimed for burial.

Connecticut Medical Examiner Wayne H. Carver II tells the Hartford Courant (http://cour.at/TrQ-FyH) that the remains of Adam Lanza were claimed several days ago by someone who wanted to remain

anonymous. A spokeswoman at Carver's office told The Associated Press she could not release details about the

status of Lanza's remains. The 20-year-old Lanza killed 20 first-graders and six educators at the Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14. He also killed his mother in their Newtown home before going on the rampage and then

committing suicide. A private funeral was held earlier this month in New Hampshire for his mother, Nancy Lanza.

Kanye West announces at Atlantic City concert that girlfriend Kim Kardashian is pregnant

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — A kid for Kimye: Kanye West and Kim Kardashian are expecting

The rapper announced at a concert Sunday night that his girlfriend is pregnant. He told the crowd of more than 5,000 at Revel Resort's Ovation Hall in

song form: "Now you having my baby." The crowd roared. And so did people on the In-

The news instantly went viral on Twitter and Facebook, with thousands posting and commenting on the expecting couple.

Most of the Kardashian clan also tweeted about the news, including Kim's sisters and mother. Kourtney Kardashian wrote: "Another angel to welcome to our family. Overwhelmed with excite-

NC man accused of stealing meteorites

BREVARD, N.C. (AP) — Authorities in southern North Carolina have made one arrest following the theft of 100 meteorites from a science education center and are searching for a second suspect.

The Asheville Citizen-Times reports that 29-yearold Brian Koontz of Balsam Grove is charged with breaking and entering, larceny and injury to personal property. He's being held at the Transylvania County jail.

BIG HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 5 Monday, December 31, 2012

Grady takes down No. 8 Garden City to win Cotton Classic

Courtesy photo/Valerie Avery The Lady Wildcats (right) fittingly capped the Grady Black & White Cotton Classic tournament — which took place in Lenorah over the weekend a 37-32 win over No. 8 ranked Garden City to capture the tourney championship. Grady which was ranked No. 22 last week — will likely gain a few spots when the new rankings come out. Ellyn Avery scored a gamehigh 20 points for the Lady Wildcats, while Holly Halfmann led the Ladykats with 16. Grady will face Wellman-Union Friday at home. Garden City will welcome Bronte.



Saturday's **Hoops Scores**

Boys

- Big Spring defeated Paradise, 55-28.
- Stanton defeated Coahoma, 57-38.
- Perryton defeated Sands, 47-37.

Girls

- Spearman defeated Big Spring, 53-28.
- Grady defeated Garden City, 37-32.

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

Cowboys skinned by Washington, 28-18

JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

LANDOVER, Md. — On a night when rookies Robert Griffin III and Alfred Morris led the Washington Redskins to the top of the NFC East, team owner Dan Snyder sought out a long-suffering veteran during the postgame celebration.

"He said you've known how it's felt around here the last seven years," defensive lineman Kedric Golston said. "So this is a sweet time."

The Redskins are division champions for the first time since 1999, beating the Dallas Cowboys 28-18 Sunday in a winner-take-all end to the NFL's regular season. Washington (10-6) has won seven straight games and will host the Seattle Seahawks next Sunday.

How long ago was 1999? It was six Redskins head coaches

"I've been here for the 4-12, the bad times, almost being the joke of the NFL," said Golston, who came along in 2006. "But to do this with this group of guys — the old and the new — it's good to be here."

Sunday Certainly, night was mostly about the new. Morris, the out-of-nowhere sixthround pick from Florida Atlantic, ran for 200

yards and had touch-

down runs of 17, 32 and 1 yards. He was so dominant that the Cowboys — missing their five best run defenders due to injuries — fell hook, line and sinker nearly every time the Redskins faked the ball to him.

Morris finished with 1,613 yards for the year, breaking Clinton Portis' franchise singleseason record of 1,516 in 2005. By the end of the game, the fans who usually chant "R-G-3!" for Griffin were trying out a new chorus: "Alfred Mor-ris!"

"I'll tell you what: Alfred Morris became a star tonight," Redskins tight end Chris Cooley said. "He deserved it. He's a phenomenal football player."

To which Morris answered: "I'm never a star. I'll never be a star. Other people might think I'm a star, but I'm just Alfred."

Griffin, seeking to regain his explosiveness after spraining his right knee four weeks ago, ran for 63 yards and a touchdown. With the running game working so well, he didn't have to throw much, completing just 9 of 18 passes for 100 yards.

"Move the chains," Griffin said. "That's all they asked me to do."

Washington is the first NFL team to rally

See **SKINNED**, Page 10

Ryan Tannehill tops 2012 Year in Review

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

It was a year full of surprises. The biggest sports headline in the Crossroads may have been the 2012 NFL draft. Big Spring native and Texas A&M alum Ryan Tannehill was chosen as the eighth overall pick by the Miami Dolphins to add some stability to the vaunted quarterback position.

While the locals may have had faith in Tannehill, many sports world talking heads remained skeptical. Boy, were they wrong.

Tannehill may not have sizzled in the rookie record realm, but he showed he had the leadership qualities to direct a pro squad and the determination to win.

In his his first year, Tannehill racked up more than 3,000 yards for Miami and completed nearly 60 percent of his passes. He helped guide the Dolphins to a 7-9 record, a one-game improvement from 2011. Two of the losses came in overtime. Not bad for a first-timer many had written off as a pipe dream selection at the QB position.

During his time in Big Spring. Tannehill helped guide the Steers to playoff contention. In his senior year (Class of '06), BSHS went three rounds deep into the Class 4-A playoffs, with Tannehill racking up 1,258 passing yards and 617 rushing yards.

Tannehill's parents, Tim and Cheryl, are both Texas Technical University alumni. Growing up a TTU fan, that's where Tannehill had hoped toplay college ball, but the Red Raiders didn't recruit him. He was looked at by several schools, including TCU, Houston and UTEP, but decided Texas A&M was a good fit.

Originally, the Aggies played Tannehill at wide receiver for his first two years at A&M, but he was converted back to quarterback midway through his junior year, and finished with an overall record of 12-7 as starting quarterback. He also appeared in three bowl games, earning a win for A&M when they defeated Northwestern by a score of 33-22 at the Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas last season.

Tannehill is more than just a football player.

According to BSHS Princi-

pal and avid football fan Mike Ritchie, Tannehill is a class act on and off the field. "I have watched (Tannehill)

grow up," Ritchie said. "He epitomizes the student athlete. He was third in his class. He went about his business academically. He was a well-rounded kid."

Tannehill received a bachelor's

in biology from A&M and plans to attend medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon.

Given his impressive debut as a NFL QB, med school may be on hold for a while.

"He's got everything you would want in an NFL quarterback," Ritchie said. He belongs in the top three. The league is transitioning from a running power league to a passing league. The buzzword these days is the franchise label. And I think a lot of teams wouldn't want to miss an opportunity to draft someone like Tannehill."

Ritchie compares Tannehill to another great Texas quarterback - Troy Aikman — the former gunslingerfor the Dallas Cowboys.

"I liken him to Aikmen," Ritchie explained. "He has that type of physical look and a strong arm. And I have had the opportunity to see him play, and I've seen the intangibles he can bring."

The Tannehill family is a family of athletes. But Ritchie believes that in addition to raising stellar competitors, Tim and Cheryl Tanehill have raised great kids. Ryan's younger brother Tyler shined for the Steers during his time on the varsity squad. He may have had a chance to play college ball if it weren't for multiple knee injuries that hampered his prospects. Tobyn Tannehill, a sophomore, is the youngest of the three brothers and like his siblings, is involved with sports as well.

The youngest Tannehill also had a stellar debut as a quarterback — for the Big Spring Steers leading BSHS to its first win dating back to 2010 in the opening game of the 2012 season — a 49-0 shellacking of Fort Stockton.

The Steers won their first five games — an impressive feat from a team which went winless during the entire 2011 season.

Though stiff district adversity halted the Steers at 5-5 on the year, Head Coach Phillip Ritchey has plenty of faith in his budding gunslinger.

"(Tannehill) is very mature," Ritchey said. "He always does what is asked of him and he became a leader out there for us."

Other athletes not named Tannehill collected accolades throughout the year also.

The Lady Steer volleyball team made it three rounds deep in the postseason before being elimi-Lubbock Copper.

nated in a close match againt Carson Reibe was named Defensive Specialist of the Year

when District 4-3A honors were

handed out and also garnered an

All-State award for her role on defense.

The Steer baseball squad earned a postseason berth also. BSHS made it to the second round of the playoffs after their best season in several and will be returning a slew of starters including sophomore hurler Adam Franco.

Some milestones were also set for BSHS, most notably, the Lady Steer track & field team, who unseated Abilene Wylie for the first time in over 20 years to win district, then went on to dominate at regionals and pull a runner-up designation from the state championship in Austin.

The BSHS golf squad also did well, earning a trip to state after winning district and turning in a strong regional showing.

Head Golf Coach Chris Joslin expects another strong year in 2013, as he will be returning all of his golfers.

Howard College also fared well on the diamond. The baseball team made it to the regional championship before falling to rival Cisco and the softball athletes — led offensively by the nations' home run leader — sophomore Olive Naotala — made it as far as the JUCO national championship tournry in St. George, Utah before being eliminated.

The lone state title in the Crossroads area went to Forsan High School, who placed first in the state cross country meet in Round Rock.

Jeremy Cervantes finished third and Tyler Evans fourth to seal the Buff's banner year and bring home a nice addition to the trophy case.

Forsan's Sydney Holdampf settled for state runner-up at her second straight state tennis meet appearance. Holdampf went on to sign a letter of intent to swing the raquet for the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Former Howard College alum Jae Crowder was drafted by the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. Crowder — the No. 34 pick overall in the draft — has already seen playing time in a back-up role for

The 79th Annual Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo drew enthusiastic crowds, as well as some of the top rodeo names in the nation in

And finally, Memorial Stadium got a much-needed facelift, as artificial turf was laid over the

There is never a dull moment in the world of Crossroads sports. 2012 proved that.

And with so many talented athletes returning to fill local sports rosters, 2013 may shape up to be

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Goodbye, 2012

The Leo moon is the perfect lighting scheme for an unforgettable New Year's Eve. She highlights creativity and fun. She brings focus to the most entertaining aspects of the night and unites the crowd in cheer and song. This is, after all, the year that many

believed would never come. Be safe, well and happy as you wave goodbye and hello.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you feel restricted and can pin it on a certain reason or person, consider yourself lucky. Most people don't

realize how they are being limited. There is no way to break out of a prison you don't even know you're in.

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Beware of the armchair advisers. The truth is, they don't know the truth. If they did, they'd be in the field, not telling you what to do from a comfortable sitting position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be a master negotiator, mediator and general peacekeeper. You'll make a commitment to working things through and working them out. It's not over until everyone is happy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you were an outlet, and the people around you were lamps, you'd only let the ones that work plug into your energy. Otherwise, what's the point?

Save your energy for the people who are sure to light up your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Like George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life," you sometimes undervalue your contribution to others. You have a baseline of generosity, kindness and good character that doesn't go unnoticed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You could win a game in spite of your carefree and noncompetitive attitude. There's something to be said about not being overly invested in the outcome.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're the only one who can steer the ship today, because staying on course has everything to do with what feels right and what feels wrong. As long as you go with your feelings, you'll stay on course.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you got what you wanted, would it rob someone else of what they wanted? Probably not. In fact, it would free up the thing you're holding onto but "don't" want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's nothing like the cusp of a new year to remind you that there's hope. There's always hope. In the midst of the celebration, friends remind you what you're all about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Mercury's recent arrival in your part of the sky will inspire you to strike up a conversation with people you normally wouldn't think you'd have much in common with.

You'll be delighted by the results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll play a game that has nothing to do with money or material reward. You'll find yourself invested on some basic level to do all that's in your power to win.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your life force is strong, and people can feel the vitality, excitement and joy radiating from you. They don't even have to be in the same room to know that you're a powerhouse today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31). You need a clear headspace to pursue your dreams. This year, you'll rearrange your life, responsibilities and schedule to make that happen. January brings a fortuitous meeting and the start of a beautiful relationship. February is your chance to shine in a competitive environment. Your finances improve in June. Pisces and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 10, 29, 44 and 14.

SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE **FORGOT?** Yes, some should. Also, there are habits, sayings, tendencies and more that would best be heaped on the rubbish pile of 2012. What would you do well to leave behind? ARIES and TAURUS: Arguing politics with family. The election year is past, and there's no sense in ruining relationships by sharing too many opinions. GEMINI and AQUARIUS: The word "should" does have its place, but often

it's used to negate reality and judge yourself and others by random standards that may not really apply. Life is just better without a lot of "shoulds." CANCER SCORPIO PISCES: Water signs thrive when they favor their gut feelings. Inner guidance can be illogical, but for these highly intuitive signs, it would be foolish to ignore it. Use your psychic ability to help yourself. LEO, VIRGO and CAPRICORN: You're not doing anyone a favor by neglecting your true talents while you tend to business that a highly responsible monkey could do. Make 2013 your year to delegate! LIBRA SAGITTARIUS: Your taste is amazing, but sometimes you choose the generic route to satisfy the expectations of others. In the new year, instead meeting expectations, challenge them. You'll have more fun, and others will love

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Controversial Korean pop artist PSY created the international hit "Gangnam Style" and the accompanying dance sensation. Mercury (communication) in worldly Sagittarius bodes well for border-crossing appeal. How deeply does it disturb Psy that his rap lyrics have come back to haunt him? His natal Mars, the warrior planet, in Leo suggests that he'll fight for his right to entertain.

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.

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"Classic" Ann Landers®

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: I agree with your correspondent who was upset that a male technician was going to do her breast exam without a female attendant being present. I was also shocked that the hospital was bold enough to state in a letter that male technicians routinely did unchaperoned breast exams. I am reasonably certain the hospital will change this practice after receiving its first lawsuit for sexual harassment improper touching.

I am a busy male gynecologist and would never do a breast exam on any patient, regardless of age, without a female attendant present to protect her dignity and my integrity. Thank you, Ann, for your understanding.

— Brian L. Finkel, D.O., FACOG, Phoenix

Dear Dr. Finkel: I cannot imagine a male technician who handles women's breasts all day getting his jollies from the process. If there is such a person, he should find other work before someone throws a net over him. You were good to write, Dr. Finkel, and I thank you.

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DENNIS THE MENACE



IT'S SANTA'S FAULT, MOM. HE'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT ALL THIS STUFF."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Yes! God decided to wrap up the year in snow!"







ightharpoonup I'D Heard something Like $lap{\perp}$

THAT ... WELL, IT'S ALL SET THEN ..



THE POST-CHRISTMAS THE CLEANUP CREW. DEPRESSION ELIXIR .. This Date HAPPY NEW MERRY CHRISTNAS SEPTEMBER



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BC



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THE BEST

PARTY EVER.

THE OTHER COAST

WELL, ANOTHER YEAR

COMES TO A CLOSE AND A NEW YEAR IS ABOUT TO

BEGIN.

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BEETLE, YOU

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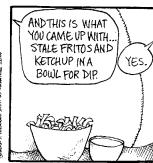
I COULDN'T EVEN BRIBE THAT

DADBURN JEDGE WIF A TEN-

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR!



SPARKLING

CIDER.

ICE

CREAM

0 WHEE

I'M HOPING MIDNIGHT

WILL BRING THE PROMISE

OF GOOD THINGS TO

COME IN THE NEW YEAR.

NO, THAT WOULD

BE RIP VAN WINKLE,

WHO SLEPT FOR

20 YEARS

.AND

NO HANG

OVER

COMORROW!

PERHAPS AN END TO

ARMED CONFLICT OR EVEN A CURE FOR ALL

KNOWN DISEASES.



IT'S

ONLY

EIGHT

O'CLOCK

WHAT WILL

MIDNIGHT

TONIGHT MEAN

TO YOU, KOKO?

EIGHT

HOURS UNTIL

BREAKFAST.

In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2012. Today's Highlight History:

On Dec. 31, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed an enabling act paving the way for Virginia' western counties to become the state of West Virginia, which took place in June 1863.

On this date:

In 1759, Arthur Guinness founded his famous brewery at St. James's Gate in Dublin.

In 1775, during Revolutionary War, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed. In 1879, Thomas Edison first

publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1909, the Manhattan Bridge, spanning the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn, was officially opened

the end of hostilities in World War II. In 1951, the Marshall Plan

expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in foreign aid.

In 1969, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was shot to death with his wife and daughter in their Clarksville, Pa., home by hitmen acting at the orders of UMWA president Tony Boyle. In 1972, Major League base-

ball player Roberto Clemente, 38, was killed when a plane he'd chartered and was traveling on to bring relief supplies earthquake-devastated Nicaragua crashed shortly after takeoff from Puerto Rico. In 1985, singer Rick Nelson,

45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In 1987, Robert Mugabe (moo-GAH'-bay), prime minister of Zimbabwe, was sworn in as the country's first executive president.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush visited Somalia, where he saw firsthand the famine racking the east African nation, and praised U.S. troops who were providing relief to the starving population.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer George Schlatter is 83. Actor Sir Anthony Hopkins is 75. Actor Tim Considine ("My Three Sons") is 72. Actress Sarah Miles is 71. Rock musician Andy Summers is 70. Actor Sir Ben Kingsley is 69. Producer-director Taylor Hackford is 68.

2012 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle

MANCAVE WEBINAR

- **ACROSS**
- 10 Typing speed stat.
- 14 Gung-ho
- 15 Verbal test
- 18 Birth-certificate
- entry
- at midnight
- 26 Sunbeams
- 28 Does a double-take
- 30 Swiss mountain
- quarters
- 33 Capital of Norway
- 34 Concert bonus
- midnight
- 43 Police IDs
- 44 Operatic song
- 48 Christmas gift
- for a kid
- servings
- **51** Impolite **53** Those people
- 55 Door opener
- midnight
- **61** Midterm or final 62 Nerds

- 67 Rotate
- 69 Mined rock
- 70 Heavy weights 71 Play ice hockey
- 1 Sheep's sound
- 2 Liquor from
- **3** Wedding phrase

- product
- beaches
- 7 Roundish

- garden
- Jamaica

- 5 "Cultured" dairy

- 9 Adam and Eve's

- 8 Peru's capital
- 10 Lowest-quality

- guidance from
 - 12 Refrigerator
 - decoration

11 Seek divine

- 16 Rude looks Vegas, NV
- status
- 23 Gator kin
- 24 Netlike fabric **25** Tra ___ (song
- syllables)
- **30** Top poker
- cards
- 31 Soft throw
- 34 Like an omelet
- 35 U-turn from SSW
- 38 Gullible one
- 39 Noisy
- commotion

PARTY TIME by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 40 Difficult journey

GENXERS TUSSLED

CACTI BORIC

- 41 Low-cal, in ads
- 42 Not difficult 45 Sneezing sound
- 46 Marlon of The Godfather
- 22 Give up amateur 47 One taking
 - prisoners 49 Attorney's
 - charge
 - 50 Likenesses
 - 52 Fern seed 53 Tom Sawyer's
 - creator 54 Church songs
 - 57 Bird's dwelling
 - 58 Trade show, for short
- 59 Smell bad 36 List-ending abbr. 63 Historical period 64 Do-it-yourself
 - purchase 65 Get a look at

10 13 14 17 18 19 20 24 25 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 | 35 36 37 38 | 39 40 41 42 43 46 47 48 45 51 52 53 54 55 56 58 60 62 63 64 65 67

BUT I DID GIT TH' COURTROOM SKETCH ARTIST TO SETTLE FER A FIVE !! IF YOU WEREN'T ALWAYS WAKING ME UP, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BREAK THAT RECORD

Newsday Crossword

- **1** Like pickle juice
- 6 Boot bottom
- **13** Sound from a
- broadcast
- 17 Honor thieves
- 19 Intense anger **20** Song to be sung
- 23 950, in old Rome
- 27 Playful aquatic mammal
- 32 NFL fifth
- **37** Container to be uncorked at
- 45 Alphabet starter
- 49 Boneless beef
- 56 Words to be shouted at
- 60 "I'm ___ your tricks!"
- 66 Skunk's defense

69

- 68 Spine-tingling
- **DOWN**
- 4 One of Columbus' ships 29 Salon tool
- 6 Like sunbathing
- shapes

66 68

70

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71

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed

Houston run out of Luck, fall to Colts 28-16

Pagano just wanted to savor the moments Sunday.

He waved to the fans, hugged his family, his players, assistant coaches even the Houston Texans. And when the Colts completed their remarkable regular season with a 28-16 victory over the AFC South champion, there was no holding back the joy in the locker room.

"Everybody was dancing. Just not taking anything for granted," Pro Bowl linebacker Robert Mathis said. "The small things in life mean the

Only two teams — the 2008 Dolphins and the 1999 Colts produced 10-win turnarounds. On Sunday, the Colts (11-5) joined the nextbest group with a nine-win improvement.

Indy now heads to back to its old hometown, Baltimore, for a wild-card game next weekend. And although they

as delivering excellent

care in Diabetes

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available.

INDIANAPOLIS — Chuck were locked into the No. 5 playoff spot before Sunday's game, Pagano decided to play all of his healthy starters the entire game.

> Those guys, who won nine times under offensive coordinator and former interim coach Bruce Arians, just wanted one more to help Pagano celebrate his first sideline appearance since Sept. 23. Three days later, he took an indefinite leave from the team to begin the first of three rounds of chemotherapy. The cancer is now in complete remission and last week, Pagano's oncologist, Dr. Larry Cripe, gave him medical clearance to return to his old

> On Sunday, he was back celebrating.

"What a day. What a day," Pagano said full of the same kind of emotion that resonated throughout the stadium, the locker room and even on the Texans' sideline.

> In pregame

warm-ups, Pagano hugged Arians, shook hands with general manager Ryan Grigson and spoke for several minutes with Houston defensive coordinator Wade Phil-

During the game, Arian Foster celebrated his 13-yard TD run to make it 14-13 in the third quarter, tapping the (hash)Chuckstrong sign hanging on the wall in the back of the end zone.

After the game, Pagano shared a hug with Phillips and several Texans players, got an encouraging message from Texans coach Gary Kubiak and then jogged to the locker room where players and coaches danced and chanted, and Pagano did a do-si-do with team owner Jim

"It was like a rock star coming out of the tunnel with all of the cameras flashing when he walked out," Andrew Luck said. "I think that was sort of a lift that he gave us, it was energy. Just to have his physical presence and seeing him on sideline was great."

For the Texans (12-4), it was a debacle.

They blew a second chance to clinch home-field advantage. A few hours later, courtesy of Denver and New England wins, they also lost a first-round bye pushing the team that held the AFC's top playoff seed all season dow to No. 3.

The good news is that they'll have a home game against Cincinnati. The bad news: They must play next week and head into the playoffs with three losses in their last four games.

Kubiak has plenty to fix.

Vontae Davis picked off Matt Schaub twice. Schaub was 24 of 36 for 275 yards.

Foster wound up with 16 carries for 96 yards, far less than the 165 yards he burned Indy for two weeks ago.

Indy also ran out the final 9:46 on its last possession, and kept defensive menace J.J. Watt out of reach of the NFL's single-season sacks record. Watt finished with zero sacks Sunday, 20½ this sea-

son and two short of Michael Strahan's mark. But the only thing that really mattered to Houston was another loss. The Texans are

now 0-11 all-time at Indy. "It's just not a good feeling," Pro Bowl receiver Andre Johnson said after catching 12 passes for 141 yards. "You go out there and you play to win. We wanted to win and we didn't win. That's pretty much it."

Colts, The meanwhile, head into the playoffs with wins in four of their last five games and with a team that has continued to find ways to win even when Luck hasn't played his best ball.

Luck was just 14 of 28 for 191 yards, throwing for two scores. He broke Peyton Manning's franchise rookie record for completions on the game's first series, finishing with 339, 15 short of Sam Bradford's NFL mark.

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BEAN BAGS

Starting at

Skins claim NFC East, Denver takes top seed in AFC season slump, Denver and New

By winning their seventh straight game, the Redskins rolled to their first division title in 13 years with a 28-18 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday night. Next up for Robert Griffin III & Co.: a home playoff matchup next Sunday with the Seahawks — the third straight postseason game for Washington against Seattle.

"It's just a mindset change," the rookie quarterback said. "When you have all these guys coming to work every day, putting it on the line, we knew we couldn't afford to lose one game, we made sure we didn't"

Thanks to Houston's late-

3 PC COFFEE TABLE

QUEEN MEMORY

FOAM SET

England will have byes when the AFC playoffs begin next week.

The Texans fell from first to third in the conference Sunday when they lost 28-16 at Indianapolis, which welcomed back coach Chuck Pagano after nearly three months of treatments for leuke-

AFC West champion Denver won its 11th straight game, 38-3 over Kansas City to secure the top seed. New England blanked Miami 28-0 for the second spot.

Minnesota edged Green Bay 37-34 to grab the final NFC wild card, sinking the Packers to the third seed. Those teams will meet again next Saturday night at Lambeau Field.

The other NFC matchup will have Seattle (11-5), which beat St. Louis 20-13, at Washington on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. ET.

Cincinnati (10-6) will be at Houston on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. ET, and Indianapolis (11-5) goes to at Baltimore (10-6) on Sunday at 1 p.m. in the AFC wild-card rounds.

The divisional round games will be hosted by Denver on Saturday, Jan. 12, followed by San Francisco (11-4-1) at night. On Sunday, Jan. 13, Atlanta (13-3) will host the early game, followed by New England (12-4).

SKINNED

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RECLINERS

playoffs since the Jacksonville Jaguars in The Cowboys (8-8),

from 3-6 to make the

meanwhile, will miss the playoffs for the third straight season, having stumbled in a make-orend-of-regularseason game for the third time in five years.

"We have to look where we are within our division and see exactly how to approach a team with the good players like they've got and a good coach like they've got," Dallas owner Jerry Jones said. "And we have a big challenge

ahead of us. They are, of course, in the tournaat home and think about how to get in the tournament. This is very disappointing." Tony Romo threw

three interceptions matching his total from the last eight games combined. A poor throw was picked off by Rob Jackson when the Cowboys had a chance to drive for a winning score in the final minutes.

"I feel as though I let our team down," Romo said.

Romo completed 20 of 31 passes for 218 yards,

and his career is now further tainted by postment, and we have to sit Christmas disappointments, including Week 17 losses to the Philadelphia Eagles (44-6) in 2008 and the New York Giants (31-14) last year. He's also 1-3 in playoff

> "Your legacy will be written when you're done playing the game," Romo said. "And when it's over with, you'll look back. ... It's disappointing not being able to get over that hump."

The Cowboys also dealt with in-game injuries to receivers Miles Austin (left ankle), Dez Bryant (back) and Dwayne Harris (lower leg). Bryant, who had a torrid second half of the season despite breaking his left index finger, had four catches for 71 yards.

Washington's slow start this season prompted coach Mike Shanahan to dismiss playoff hopes and declare that the remaining seven games would determine which players would be on his team "for years to come."

Griffin and his teammates had other plans, and the coach quickly changed his tune. Now the Redskins will be playing in January.

"All odds were against us," Morris said. "But we believed in each other."

