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Shootings, sexual assaults mar city

Crime occurs all too often here in 2012

By THOMAS JENKINS

Vicki Slaton

Staff Writer

Looking back, 2012 was a turbulent year for the Crossroads area as numerous high profile incidents and court cases found their way into the headlines.

The Big Spring Police Department had its hands full early, as the investigation into the shooting death of a 27-year-old Crossroads man began New Year Day. Christopher Castanuela, 27, of Big Spring was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room shortly after 6 a.m. Jan. 1 by Howard County Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs, who later ordered an autopsy.

According to police reports, officers were dispatched to the 200 block of N.E. Third Street in reference to a shooting. At the scene, officers discovered Castanuela had been shot and was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center by a private vehicle. The Big Spring man was pronounced dead-on-arrival at the emergency

Police officials said Castanuela had been shot multiple times. The investigation was later handed over to the Howard County District Attorney's Office, according to police. However, no indictment or arrest was made in the incident, which may have been a case of self defense, according to law enforcement records.

Just days later, 62-year-old Eleu-



Law enforcement personnel investigate an apparent shooting reported in the 500 block of Abrams. Officers were dispatched to the scene after a gunshot wound was reported. It was one of numerous shootings in the city during 2012.

tario Torres Padron was pronounced dead following a vehicle-pedestrian collision near the intersection of Sgt. Paredez and Trades Avenue. The Big Spring man was discovered in the roadway by a passerby following what investigators deemed a hit-andrun incident.

Following an autopsy ordered by Howard County Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman, Padron's death vestigators to encourage witnesses

determined not to have been a simple accident.

"He suffered two collapsed lungs as a result," Wiseman said. "He died shortly after arriving at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The autopsy leaves no doubt that he was hit by a vehicle. His death has been ruled a homicide.

Despite numerous attempts by in-

to come forward, no description of the vehicle or driver has been determined, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD. A reward for information is still being offered by Big Spring Area Crimestoppers, however. Call 263-TIPS for more information. No caller ID is ever used and tipsters

may remain anonymous. A Big Spring man was indicted Feb.

> 2 by a Howard County grand jury on numerous charges stemming from the Aug. 22, 2012, chase and attempted shooting of local man that led to the invasion of a family's home in

the 500 block of State Street.

Brian Christopher Lewis, 27, was indicted on charges of deadly conduct (two counts, both enhanced first-degree felonies), unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon (two counts, both enhanced first-degree felonies) and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (first-degree felony, enhanced).

Lewis

Lewis stood trial in 118th District Court in mid-August, with the trial ending in a mistrial when the jury announced it was hopelessly deadlocked. District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson,

See CRIME, Page 3



Enforcement Center. The facility, which houses the Big Spring Police Department and the Howard County Sheriff's Office, was completed before the end of the year.

Members of former local law enforcement officer Troy M. Hogue's family break ground for theTroy M. Hogue Law

Thank you for a Fantastic 2012! Happy New Year!



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Obituaries

Roland 'Ro' Gore



Roland "Ro" Gore, 60, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Family visitation will begin directly following the vigil until 9 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He was born July 24, 1952, in Paris, Texas, to Peggy (Hood) and Ruben Gore. He served in the United States Marines. He was a Mason and a Shriner, as well as a member of Cossack Motorcycle Club and, later, Exile. He married Sally Carrillo in 2003 in Mingus, Texas. He owned Ro's Fleet Maintenance. His ashes will be spread at Sturgis, S.D., Four Corners and Terlingua.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Gore of Big Spring; three daughters, Marsha Gore, Christi Gore and husband Jeremy, all of Lampasas, and Ashley Burt of Big Spring; nine grandchildren; one brother, Rodney Gore and wife Rhonda of Buffalo, Texas: three sisters. Tina Lee and husband Elmer. Lisa Schultz and husband Reevis, all of Buffalo, Texas, and Ginger Pate and husband Nathan of Arkansas.

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

Take Note

- A medical fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employee's Federal Credit Union for Alicia 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 Snoppe, 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-
- Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or

come by 602 S. Main. Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

• Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The

Happy New Year!

Sonic #2

Sonic #1

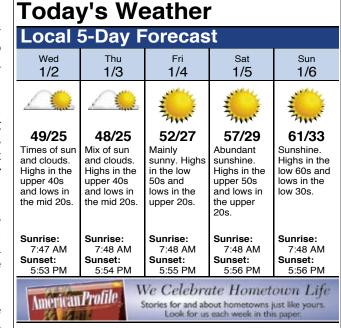
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cost is \$8 per person.

- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.
- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
- The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.
- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www. BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.
- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.
- Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-
- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.
- New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- 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).









City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	46	26	pt sunny	Kingsville	53	42	rain
Amarillo	43	14	sunny	Livingston	46	34	cloudy
Austin	47	36	cloudy	Longview	44	33	cloudy
Beaumont	49	39	cloudy	Lubbock	46	18	pt sunny
Brownsville	54	45	rain	Lufkin	47	36	cloudy
Brownwood	47	32	cloudy	Midland	50	27	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	51	43	rain	Raymondville	51	42	rain
Corsicana	43	32	cloudy	Rosenberg	47	39	cloudy
Dallas	44	32	cloudy	San Antonio	47	40	cloudy
Del Rio	52	41	cloudy	San Marcos	47	37	cloudy
I Paso	51	28	sunny	Sulphur Springs	42	32	cloudy
ort Stockton	48	30	pt sunny	Sweetwater	47	27	pt sunny
ainesville	42	25	cloudy	Tyler	44	34	cloudy
Greenville	41	28	cloudy	Weatherford	43	27	cloudy
louston	48	39	cloudy	Wichita Falls	44	26	pt sunny

National Cities											
City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.				
Atlanta	51	41	cloudy	Minneapolis	24	14	cloudy				
Boston	27	7	pt sunny	New York	33	26	pt sunny				
Chicago	26	20	sunny	Phoenix	59	35	sunny				
Dallas	44	32	cloudy	San Francisco	59	43	mst sunr				
Denver	31	10	pt sunny	Seattle	43	34	sunny				
Houston	48	39	cloudy	St. Louis	33	23	pt sunny				
Los Angeles	66	44	sunny	Washington, DC	38	30	pt sunny				
Miami	80	67	pt sunny	=			-				

Moon Phases



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

Correction

Information provided to the Big Spring Herald stated the Hotel Settles restaurant would be open to the public for breakfast on Jan. 7 and for lunch and dinner Jan. 9. A spokesperson has informed the Herald, however, that the grill will not open until Jan. 14, at which time it will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.



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Odds and Ends

Vultures pick at visitors' cars in Fla. Everglades

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP) — Visitors to parts of Everglades National Park are getting tarps and bungee cords to make their vehicles less delectable to

Migrating vultures have developed a habit of ripping off windshield wipers, sunroof seals, and other rubber and vinyl vehicle parts. Visitors to the park's Homestead and Flamingo entrances are loaned "anti-vulture kits" to protect their vehicles.

Park wildlife biologist Skip Snow tells The Miami Herald that the vultures are migrating as normal. It's just not clear why the birds are picking at parked cars and trucks. Park employees have tried to scare away the vultures, but nothing has worked.

Park Superintendent Dan Kimball says complaints about the vultures have declined since employees began distributing the tarps and bungee cords last year.

Inmate plucked from garden gets 2 more years

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan inmate who tried to escape by burying himself in a prison garden has been sentenced to an additional two years behind bars. Authorities say Edwin Cota was

found buried in August at the Brooks prison in Muskegon. He had a sheet tied in knots that he had hoped to use to get over the fence. The Muskegon Chronicle says Cota

was sentenced to at least two years in prison Thursday after earlier pleading no contest to the attempted escape. The punishment will be added to the sentence he's serving for home invasion in the Detroit area. His earliest release date for that crime is in

In August, officials said Cota's scheme fell apart when guards interviewed his cellmate, who had appeared nervous.

Couple says pet chicken alerted them to blaze

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Wisconsin couple says clucks, not fire trucks, helped them escape a blaze at their

Dennis Murawska, 59, said a pet chicken named Cluck Cluck woke his wife Susan Cotey, 52, with loud clucking from its cage in the basement two floors below about 6:15 a.m. Thursday. The couple's two cats also were running around the main floor.

Murawska said he had been half awake but didn't know about the fire because the smoke alarms hadn't gone off. He realized something was wrong when his wife got up.

"The chicken gets quite vocal when she gets excited," he said.

Cluck Cluck came from a nearby farm in Alma Center, about 135 miles east of Minneapolis, Murawska said. When the chicken began wandering over to his house, his neighbor said he could kill it because it wasn't producing any eggs.

But Murawska felt sorry for Cluck Cluck because she had a mutated foot and decided to keep her. He fed the bird and built a coop, and then his wife let Cluck Cluck into the base-

CRIME

Continued from Page 1

who presented the prosecution's case, said he expects to retry the case at a later date.

In February, former KBST Radio news director 27-year-old Kyle Guthrie was

arrested on a charge of online solicitation of a minor after law enforcement officials discovered Guthrie number illicit

messages on a 16-yearold girl's smart phone. He was indicted by a Howard County grand jury in early June and went to trial in early Oc-

Guthrie pleaded guilty to the charge of online solicitation of a minor, presenting testimony solely during the punishment phase of the trial, which was presided over by 118th District Court Judge Timothy Yeats.

Yeats sentenced Guthrie to six years in prison. However, later in the day Guthrie tried to hang himself and was rushed to the emer gency room at SMMC, where he was treated and released back into law enforcement custody. Guthrie must serve a minimum of 25 percent of the sentence before he will be eligible for parole

The Big Spring Police Department investigated an altercation at the Big Spring Mall on May 13 that claimed the life of a 22-year-old local man. Noe Sanchez, 22, was pronounced dead at the scene after being struck by a vehicle. Everett said officers were dispatched to the Big Spring Mall parking lot in response to a "shots

"Officers arrived (on the scene) within one minute and discovered one man down and a

fired" report.

large crowd of people gathered around," Everett said. "At that point, officers learned there had been a disturbance involving several subjects. A fight had started, at which time one of the subjects produced a handgun and shots were fired."

Everett said at some point in the melee Sanchez was hit and killed by a car. The altercation was the result of a longstanding feud between two families, Everett added. Law enforcement officials say the case has been filed with the district attorney's office, however, no homicide indictment has been delivered.

In June, a Martin County man was sentenced to 180 days in prison — with the possibly of another seven-and-a-half-years serve after that — after pleading guilty to thirddegree felony charges of injury to a child in 118th District Court.

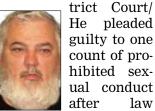
Robert Dominick Peña, 24, of Stanton was indicted on a single charge of injury to a child stemming from the 2011 incident that sent a 1-year-old child to the Martin County Hospital with second-degree burns over much of his body. The plea agreement required Peña to serve 180 days of "shock probation" in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility before appearing before a judge again, at which time it was to be determined whether he would serve an additional seven-anda-half-years. However, in October, Pena was released from TDCJ and placed on eight years

probation. A local woman was arrested in July in connection with a 2009 traffic fatality that claimed the life of a former Big Spring resident. Crystal Lee Calderon, 30, of Big Spring, was arrested on a charge of intoxication manslaughter, a charge that carries a potential sentence of between two and 10 years in state prison.

Calderon is alleged to have been intoxicated on July 12, 2009, when the vehicle she was driving was involved in an accident on Interstate 20 in Martin County. Rosie Hernandez, a passenger in the vehicle Calderon was driving, was killed as a result of injuries received in the accident. Hernandez was a native and long-time resident of Big Spring who was living in Midland at the time of her death.

Calderon was arrested by a Department of Public Safety trooper in Big Spring and booked into the Howard County Detention Center, where she was later freed on \$75,000 bond.

In September, 54-year-old man was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 118th District Court/



hibited sexual conduct after enforcement

law

discovered he

had fathered

a child with his daughter. Edgar Dale Whitt was indicted in June on two counts of prohibited sexual conduct and four counts of indecency with a child, all second degree felonies.

Whitt — along with his daughter, 26-yearold Tamara Ruth Whitt was arrested March 18 after police officials responded to a report of a 7-year-old boy traveling down S. Highway 87 on a bicycle, attempting to run away from home. According to law enforcement officials, there were also two other children living in the home at the time, a 5-year-old and a 2-yearold. Edgar Whitt pleaded guilty to the charges in exchange for charges against his daughter being dropped.

In October, a Big Spring man was arrested on charges of sexually abusing a child. Sam-

uel Lee Lyte, 70, of 1811 S. Lancaster, locked up Oct. 22 and charged indewith cency with a child - sexual contact

and tampering with or fabricating

physical evidence with intent to impair. Lyte was later charged with continual sexual

abuse of a child and was indicted by a grand jury in early November. Police confirmed the victim was a female under the age of 14, but declined to comment further. Gunfire erupted Oct.

22 in what appeared to be two unrelated altercations that sent a couple of people to the hospital. The two were among three injured in a drive by shooting about 2 a.m. in the 1400 block of Mesa.

One man received a bullet wound to his right forearm and a second was shot in his left lower leg and buttocks. Both — in their mid-20s — were airlifted to a Lubbock hospital. A third victim refused treatment.

A separate incident just prior to 12:30 a.m. that day, placed a Plainview man under arrest for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, deadly conduct and possession of a firearm by a felon. Juston Louis Martinez was arrested after allegedly pointing a gun at a group of individuals in the 1300 block of Madison and firing a

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round into a vehicle before fleeing the scene.

Law enforcement officials with the sheriff's office investigated a shooting Oct. 27 that claimed the life of a Big Spring man and injured another. Luis Adolfo Pena, 33, was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center shortly after 2:30 a.m. from a gunshot wound.

The altercation took place at 2:33 a.m. at the VFW hall located at 500 Driver Rd. A second man was transported to the emergency room and released following treatment. On Oct. 31, 19-year-old Chris Daniel Marquez was arrested and charged with the crime, however, he has not yet been indicted.

A Big Spring man received three 30-year prison sentences after being convicted Dec. 5 of child sexual abuse. Hector Manuel Gonzales Jr., 33, was assessed the sentences — along with a \$10,000 fine — at the end of a two-day trial in 118th District Court.

He will serve the senconcurrently. Under state law, he will not become eligible for parole until he has been in prison at least 15 years.

Gonzales had been indicted on four counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child — a first degree felony — by a Howard County grand

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District Attorney Robin D. Orr, who prosecuted the case, expressed sat-

isfaction with the sen-"The jury had a very difficult task — the evidence centered mainly

jury in April. Assistant

on the testimony of the victim vs. that of the accused," Orr said. "But I am well-satisfied with the sentence." The jury determined

Gonzales had sexually assaulted the victim, a minor under the age of 14 who was a member of his extended family, on at least three occasions during a period of time between March and November 2010.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

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,

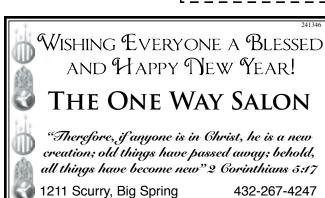
Texas. Roland Gore, 60, died Thursday. Vigil services will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Family visitation will begin directly following the vigil until 9 p.m.. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

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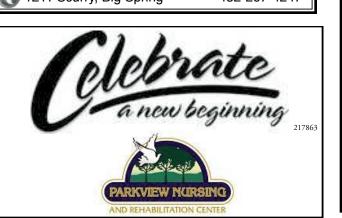
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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Steve Reagan Staff Writer

Brian McCormack Sports Editor

Thomas Jenkins

Staff Writer

Our View

Looking ahead to what a new year can bring

s we enter a new year, it is time to take a few minutes to take stock of where we want to go, both individually and col-Lectively during the next 12 months. It's a point we've made before in this space and it remains as true as ever.

now is the time to ask ourselves what we want to change in our lives and what needs to be done to effect those changes. For sure, many of us seek better health and will

make resolutions to change our diets and exercise routines. The important thing is to follow through — to make lifestyle changes.

Others of us will seek to improve our spiritual lives. Some will make a pledge to be more loving or caring with regard to family members and friends. Of course, there are those who want to quit drinking or give up cigarettes. We wish them success.

As a community, we believe the outlook for Big Spring remains positive. What a way to end 2012, huh? With the reopening of the Hotel Settles! If you haven't seen it yet, make a point to do so as soon as possible. We feel you'll be amazed at what Big Spring native and entrepreneur Brit Ryan has accomplished. We also especially like what he said during Friday's hotel lighting:

"My hope... is that it's a catalyst. If we can do what we've done here, if we can create this valuable asset, this renaissance of a trophy property that everyone said could not be done, making it successful from both a development point and a financial perspective, then tell me what project in Big Spring cannot be done?... I hope it's a catalyst for people to say, 'Wow, if they can do the Settles, then why can't we do the State National Bank into conversation with one of building? Why can't we bring the Palmer Hotel the plane's navigators. We were back or bring any of these other terrific proper- standing in the ties back online. I hope this project contains that narrow pathway element, as well."

Big Spring has a lot to be proud of, and some of it, like the refurbished Hotel Settles, has taken place fairly recently. How impressive have the renovations been to the home of the Big Spring Symphony, the Municipal Auditorium? How many tourists can our city attract through venues like the Heritage Museum, Hangar 25 Air Museum and the recently constructed Russ McEwen water park? What better example of a community working toward the future with the opening of the Troy Hogue Law Enforcement Center and four new elementaries?

There are encouraging signs in many areas. As we dive head first into 2013, we admit feeling a bit tentative about some things less under our overall control. Shoot, that's simply human

One thing we can say with certainty though. a deep personal interest in each We continue to be blessed by the "can-do" spirit of our fellow citizens — men and women who work together to get things done. Once again, it's time to look ahead again and look ahead with op-

Happy New Year, Big Spring.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

Sign your letter.

- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for style and clari-
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- · Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be consid-
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspring-
- herald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

Happy New Year 2013

t's "Auld Lang Syne" time again. Robert Burns is credited with "collecting" the lyrics for the old Scottish drinking and dancing ballad that's become a traditional part

of New Year's festivities. The most memorable verses - "should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind" and the chorus, "for auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup o' kindness yet for auld lang syne" -



OLIVER North

are often described as reminders of "the good old times" amid new beginnings. That's a tough task this year. Saying goodbye to 2012 won't be hard. But looking forward with hope for a better year in 2013 is a real challenge. Peering into a chasm from the

edge of the "fiscal cliff" isn't the way most of us wanted to end the first dozen years of the 21st century. We all know it's the nature of government to grow in size, power and expense. But how many of us really expected that the fools in Washington would drown our progeny in a sea of deficits, debt and ever-higher taxes? Nobody I know expected the Internal Revenue Service to If we haven't already taken personal stock, become the dominant fixture in our lives.

As 2012 began, did anyone anticipate it would become "The Year of the Cover-up"? Who believed the year would end with more emphasis on banning personally owned firearms than deterring our adversaries from acquiring nuclear weapons? Did anyone anticipate that our constitutionally protected freedoms would fall under the purview of the United Nations? A year ago, who among us expected we still would face the prospect of prolonged global recession, radical Islamic chaos in the Middle East, and endless genocide in

But as we ring out 2012 and welcome 2013, that's where we are. So as we "take a cup o'

kindness yet for auld lang syne," what should we expect in the new year ahead — apprehension or anticipation? Frequent readers of this column know I suffer from a severe case of chronic optimism. Clip and save this column until next year so you can rate my powers of prognosti--Fiscal cliff. The potentates

of pork on the Potomac will kick the can down the road without breaking their toes. Taxes will go up for all of us, and Warren Buffett will pronounce it to be a good thing. The incredibly selfish baby boomers will demand that their "entitlements" and "benefits" not be cut — but they will be anyway. Small businesses, the engine of our economy, will sputter — and find new ways to survive but not prosper. Washington's political class will be glad 2013 is not an election

Many will regret not following Sen. Jim DeMint into more productive endeavors.

—The cover-ups. Hillary Clinton will recover from her concussion, but she won't recall what she did or didn't know about abysmal security at the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. John Kerry, the most anti-U.S. military secretary of state in history will try to sweep the mess under the rug while promising reforms — and dreaming up new ways to punish Israel. Attorney General Eric Holder will continue to cover up White House complicity in his "Fast and Furious" gunrunning operation.

-U.S. military. Personnel reductions, cuts in benefits and delays in replacing worn-out weapons and equipment will degrade the finest fighting force in the history of the world. Many combat-experienced troops who defended us and offered others the hope of freedom will join private companies to "backfill" current commitments in Afghanistan and Africa. Thanks to organizations such as Freedom Alliance, the American people will be reminded to keep our commitments to the men and

women of our armed forces and their families and honor their service and sacrifice.

—The ayatollahs. A failing Iranian economy and the collapse of Bashar Assad's sanguinary regime in Syria will put increasing pressure on the hagiocracy ruling in Tehran. Though the Obama administration lacks the will to support a second "Green Revolution" in Iran, others will do so. It will be the last chance to prevent the ayatollahs from acquiring — and using — nuclear

—The Second Amendment. Vice President Joe Biden's "task force" will ignore the National Rifle Association's advice to protect our children with armed security guards in our schools. Instead, the B-Team will recommend banning certain firearms based on cosmetics. America's parents will respond with a dramatic increase in families opting to home-school.

As we sing "Auld Lang Syne" this year, I will recall 2012 as the year the good Lord blessed Betsy and me with our 13th and 14th grandchildren. I'll remember being welcomed home from difficult and dangerous places by loving family members who prayed for my safe return. I will be reminded of friends from Vietnam to Somalia to Iraq and Afghanistan — some departed, others still here — and be grateful for knowing them.

For me, "Auld Lang Syne" isn't about the "good old times"; it's about good people. The lyrics are a reminiscence about not past events but relationships. It's people who help us weather the tough times of life — and enjoy pleasant events. As we face an uncertain tomorrow, "Auld Lang Syne" is a reminder to stay close to those we love and who love us in return.

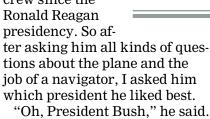
Oliver North is the host of "War Stories" on Fox News Channel and the author of the New York Times best-seller "Heroes Proved." To find out more about Oliver North, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.

lappy New Year to the father figure

ack during the Bill Clinton years, I was on a long plane ride over the Pacific on Air Force One, when I was lucky enough to fall

on the left side of the plane just outside the conference room, looking out the windows at the ocean, killing

He had been a member of the Air Force One flight crew since the Ronald Reagan presidency. So af-



Том

Rosshirt

"He was phenomenal. He took of us and our families. When we flew the presidents to Israel for Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin's funeral, he came up to see us in the flight deck and asked about our children by name."

That trip came in November 1995, nearly three years after President George H.W. Bush left

According to Bush's chief of staff, "most of the civilized world" contacted her this week inquiring about the president's health after he'd been admitted to the intensive care unit for a persistent fever.

The widespread concern for the former president is understandable; he never has rationed the kind of personal attention and affection he showed to the flight crew of Air Force One. In fact, he has embraced the

very people you'd think politics would have forced him to dis-

He made a point of inviting President Barack Obama to give the keynote address at a forum Bush hosted in 2009 at Texas A&M University — one of the most conservative college campuses in the country and a place where Obama might have been hard-pressed to find a warm welcome if not hosted by President Bush, whose school of government and presidential library are housed there.

When President Bush was invited back to the White House less than a year after his loss to President Clinton to help the new president campaign for the North American Free Trade Agreement, Bush brought warmth and laughter to the East Room by saying: "That was a very eloquent statement by President Clinton, and now I understand why he's inside looking out and I'm outside looking in."

Eleven years later, at the Clinton Presidential Library dedication in November 2004, the 41st president said: "It always has to be said that Bill Clinton was one of the most gifted American political figures in modern times.

Trust me. I learned this the hard way. ... But one of the great blessings is the way one-time political adversaries have the tendency to become friends, and I feel such is certainly the case between President Clinton and

Bush showed the same respect to staff, friends and acquaintances as he did to heads of state.

Early in their married life, George and Barbara Bush lost their 3-year-old daughter, Robin, to leukemia.

Robin's father later remembered her in a letter: "She'd fight and cry and play and make her

way just like the rest. But there was about her a certain softness. She was patient — her hugs were just a little less wiggly."

After the memorial service. the Bushes traveled home from New York to Midland, Texas, with the heartbreaking burden of telling the news to Robin's big brother, George. Mr. Bush also suggested, "We should go see our friends; they will find it hard to come see us."

Decades later, after Bush had become president, an intelligence officer on the vice president's national security team learned that his 14-year-old son had a rare and aggressive form of leukemia.

The night his son died, a White House driver came to his house with a three-page handwritten letter of condolence from the president.

After the intelligence aide returned to work, several times the president saw him in the West Wing and invited him into the Oval Office just to talk.

So of course the Houston office is besieged with inquiries about the health of the president. Along with all the calls coming from current and former leaders around the world and all the embassies in Washington, there appears at last to be a rising appreciation for him in his own country.

He is the closest person our fractious country has to a father figure.

Happy new year to him.

Tom Rosshirt was a national security speechwriter for President Bill Clinton and a foreign affairs spokesman for Vice President Al Gore. Email him at tomrosshirt@gmail.com. To find out more about Tom Rosshirt, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Eat green and powerful with broccoli!

A bite of broccoli is a bite of power! Broccoli makes your body stronger with all of its vitamins and minerals. It also has a cancerfighting nutrient!

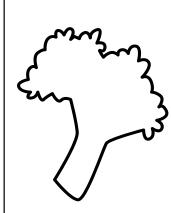
Rich in minerals and vitamins, broccoli is known as "The Crown Jewel of Nutrition."

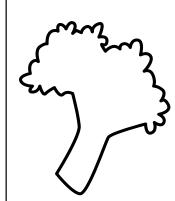


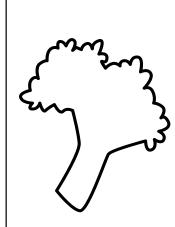
Kid Scoop Together:

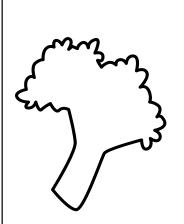
creativity to turn the stalks of broccoli below into something new. You can cut them out and paste them together, too.











Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how different media and processes communicate ideas.



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



BROCCOLI TREES & DIP

= CABBAGE

code!

=50%

□= BUDS

Crunch your way through a forest of little broccoli trees!

Spanish

French

Italian

German



= POTATO

■= FLORET

<u>_____</u>= 90%

cut a head of broccoli into little "trees."

in other languages.



grows here!

• Broccoli is a member of the family.

• Broccoli heads are actually groups of \textstyle that

are almost ready to flower; each group of buds

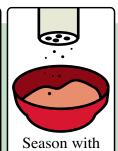
• California is broccoli country-more

than of the nation's broccoli crop

salsa, 1 tbsp chopped green onions into sour cream.

Broccoli Around the Globe

Follow each path to discover what broccoli is called



garlic salt.

Dip a little broccoli tree into the dip and then munch!

broccoli

brokkoli

brecol

broccolis



How much is one serving of broccoli?

A serving of broccoli is one cup chopped broccoli. This is about two cupped handfuls. Broccoli tastes great when it's eaten as a crunchy snack, lightly steamed or as an ingredient in soup, stews and casseroles.

How many broccoli can you find on this page?

Broccoli

DOI-IO-DOI On one page of the

newspaper, find and circle all of the

letters in the word

Starts with 'BRO' Broccoli starts with the letters BRO and so do these words in this puzzle. Use the definitions to figure out each word.

Biggest Broccoli

The world's heaviest broccoli

weighed in at an astounding

A small rectangle of dense chocolate cake: | **B** | The color of a tree trunk: The area above the eyes but below the hair:

Not narrow: A liquid used in soups:

Something shattered into pieces: A brush for sweeping:

A kind of metal often used for sculpture: A small stream: A wild horse: Standards Link: Vocabulary

 $R \parallel$ $R \parallel O$ R 0 В 0 0 0 0

"BROCCOLI." Now connect the dots your circles have made and create a new design. Can you do this with the words for broccoli in the other languages mentioned on this page?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Puzzler Draw the veggie that should come next to continue the pattern in each row.

Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.



Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Extend simple patterns.



Broccoli isn't always green, you can get violet broccoli. To learn more, go to www.kidscoop.com/kids/

Double

CASSEROLES CABBAGE

GARLIC FOREST

0

0

 $R \parallel$

B

FLORET FLOWER

STEWS CROWN

TREES GLOBE SNACK

POWER

CROP

MUNCH

LTNBWAUEBR S E L O R E S S A C ETLLRINTGR EFIGTIAOEO

RCNMUNCHAW TEROLFKLTN

Find the words in the puzzle. Then

look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

KCANSPOFCN

EREWOPROAP

RFEEUEGRBO

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

www.kidscoop.com

Healthy Actions Look through the newspaper for 10 verbs. Can you act out each one? Create a game that would use five of the ten verbs and teach a friend!

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify verbs





Come up with a creative way to get kids to eat more broccoli.

BIRD POOP

West Nile takes its toll

earing completion of our annual federal and state reports due in mid-January, I began to wonder how many years had it been since the Permian Basin first had an inkling of the arrival of a dreaded, and deadly mosquito-

borne virus. Not long after the fanfare of our new century, I found a summer that experienced

its effects McCasland throughout Big

Spring. Consulting with Austin, our Animal Control collected birds from the north, east, south and west parts of town. Confirmation of West Nile came with an admonition. "Don't send us any more samples. You have it, and will have it from now on."

Веве

Phone calls continued about dead birds. Blue jays, grackles and kestrels were the most prominent species found at that time.

Seen falling from the sky, or lying in the street or a driveway, the avian casualties reminded me of a quote by Albert Camus in "The Plague." "Everybody knows that pestilences have a way of recurring in the world; yet somehow we find it hard to believe in ones

that crash down on our heads from a blue sky."

With the approach of winter, the West Nile virus seemed to wane. The following August it reappeared. An assumption that it would remain a warm weather phenomenon was disputed when, in 2006 and 2007, its symptoms were evident in red-tailed hawks in December.

Found on a ranch near Midland, one of the raptors was seen on the ground by a ranch hand. Looking like its head was upside down caused the employee to pick it up and take it to their headquarters.

Suspecting everything from head trauma to an inner ear infection, we took the bird to Gayle Barnes at South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Lubbock. With antiinflammatory medication and antibiotics, the red-tail improved and could hold its head upright for short periods of time.

Three weeks later it was placed in a mew for exercise because it could hold its head up constantly. A day later, the bird alternated between head up/head

Even more puzzling was the Center having three other birds with similar symptoms. A northern harrier, blue iav and Canada goose suffered the same malady and disoriented heads. Unfortunately, death or euthanasia



Almost 23 inches in length, the red-tailed hawk is an awesome raptor. Seen year round, the bird of prey is a skilled hunter of rabbits, ground squirrels, rats, mice and snakes. During times of drought, the species has a difficult time when its environment can no longer sustain the food it seeks.

was the only outcome for the four different species as they failed to improve.

Another raptor came from San Angelo. Standing in a man's back yard out in the county, the mature hawk had the brown upper parts, creamy under parts, streaked belly, and rufous tail that made it typical of its specie. While it was magnificent in coloration and size on the outside, Diane Tracy, a sub-permittee, wondered about its inner struggles.

When she picked it up, the man told her he thought the hawk was one of a pair that had been around his property since 1997. Three days later, she met us in Sterling City to transfer the red-tail for its long trip to Lubbock.

Refusing to eat, and having to be hand-fed, the raptor either stood on clinched feet or sat back on its rump. After seven days with no improvement, it died.

Samples taken from it confirmed West Nile virus.

Through a recent conversation, Gayle shared some important factors. The virus may remain dormant for a while. A raptor's immune system may be compromised by our recent drought. What at first had occurred during the summer months is now seen throughout the year. December is no exception.

Hopefully, during 2013 or subsequent years,

veterinary medicine may develop a remedy for the avian population suffering from West Nile. Meanwhile, a favorite from Thomas Jefferson reminds us, and volunteers, to persevere: "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on."

Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop from Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

hy not try the 21 Day solution?

re you the person vou want to be? Recently, I was speaking to a group at the Chamber of Commerce and as I prepared for that presentation I thought this would be a good question to ask the

group. Now I'll ask you. Are you really the person you desire to be? Let's

Agency

Inc.

take a little time to think on this. After a bit of thought, I'd like to ask you to make a list of the things you feel are the most important to you. I'll warn you in advance that this type of questioning could be a bit humbling to you but it's worth a try. Actually sit down and make a list of the things that you have thought

of that are the most

important to you. You may have such things on your list as getting organized or reading a book or spending time with vour family or meditation or traveling or writing. Make your list then put it away. Yes, put it away for about two or three weeks. At the end of the two or three weeks look at

your list; you'll more than likely find that your actions have not been the things on the list; other things have sidetracked the things that mean the most to

you. There is an old saying: Don't let the things that matter the least take the place of the things that matter the most, and yet that's exactly what we do. For the most part we will have to say that there isn't anything wrong with what we are doing, they are just not the things that matter the most!

We've allowed ourselves to be distracted. To correct this 'distraction' we can call to mind the 21 Day solution. Psychologists tell us that if we want to change a way we are doing something, make the change for 21 days. Do the thing we desire for the 21 days, yes, the full 21 days, everyday! When we have completed the full time we will have started a new habit and we will have created the thing we really desire in our lives.

I would like to chal-

lenge you to be the person you really want to be; make your list and make your changes. You'll be glad you did, and

DARRELL RYAN

have to wait to make it a New Year's Resolution. It can start today and you can enjoy your new

you don't

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













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Safe

New Year!

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HEALTHTALK

Q: If I stand at work instead of sit, can that really help me lose weight?

A: Standing does burn more calories than sitting, but the effect of this change alone is small enough that it's more likely to help reduce weight gain than to actually promote weight loss on its own. It could play a role in overall health, as long as it's part of a lifestyle shift. Studies show that even when we get the recommended 30 to 60 minutes of moderate physical activity (like brisk walking), if we sit virtually all the rest of the day, our total physical activity can remain so low that it makes weight control difficult and does not promote overall good health. More research is underway looking at this question. It's possible that the impact of standing versus sitting may go beyond the difference in calories burned, to effects on hormones and overall metabolism. Some small, short-term studies so far

show that by standing instead of sitting to do desk work – for example, putting a computer keyboard on a filing cabinet or counter - people may burn more calories per hour. The weight impact of any of these changes depends on how many hours a day you do them. With a switch from sitting to standing for several hours a day, that alone could help avoid the gradual weight gain many adults experience, and is an example of one small change that could be coupled with other "small steps" to produce gradual weight loss. For weight loss, the key is changing the balance of how many calories you take in and how many you burn. Spending more time standing throughout the day seems to offer multiple metabolic and health benefits, even if it doesn't lead to significant weight loss. So try substituting more standing for sitting; and if you want to lose weight, add in a few other substitutions in

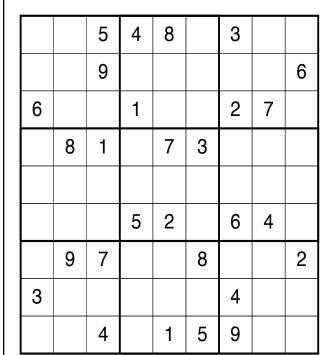
your eating habits that might make an even bigger shift in calorie balance.

Q: Is it true that alcohol is a good sleep aid?

A: Not really. Alcohol leads to lower quality, less renewing sleep. It keeps people in lighter stages of sleep from which they are more easily awakened, and it reduces the amount of deep, restorative sleep. Alcohol also lessens the amount of time spent in the REM stage, where dreams occur. This sleep stage is considered important for learning and overall mental health. Alcohol can reduce how much time it takes to fall asleep, but its effectiveness gradually wears off in people who drink alcohol frequently.



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



www.sudoku-puzzles.net



Making perfect winter fajitas

By Dana Jacobi

American Institute for Cancer Research

What do I call a perfect dish? For everyday cooking, I mean the dish is flavorful, colorful, easy to make, pocketbook friendly and familiar but with a little

Running down this checklist, Turkey Fajitas seasoned with a Southwestern dry rub and rolled up with red pepper strips and baby spinach hit all these marks. The spicy rub applied to the turkey as a dry marinade gives flavor. The vegetables bring color. Beef and chicken are common for fajitas, so using turkey is a little different, plus ground coffee in the dry rub is unexpected.

For easy cooking, use a grill pan or skillet rather than an outdoor grill for the turkey. It cooks very quickly when cut into pieces. For easier preparation, skip grilling the vegetables. Making enough to serve one, two, or four is easy, too. And with no waste on lean turkey breast, a pound feeds four well, making this a financially friendly dish.

Nutritionally, this is also a perfect dish. Accompanying the lean turkey, there is enough spinach, pepper and onion in these fajitas to qualify as two servings of vegetables. A nice

dollop of salsa verde ramps up the flavor and adds more vegetables. The tortilla provides a serving of whole grain. Serve sliced fresh or canned jalapeños on the side, adding the health benefits of chile peppers, if you wish.

I call these Winter Fajitas because all of their ingredients are hearty and nurturing on a cold day. Also the bright red and green in their filling brightens the drab

Turkey Fajitas

Seasoning Marinade 1/2 tsp. chili powder 1/4 tsp. ground cinna-

1/4 tsp. ground cumin

1/4 tsp. garlic powder 1/8 tsp. finely ground

1/8 tsp. ground black pepper

Filling

1/2 Tbsp. canola oil

1 lb. turkey cutlets or boneless turkey breast. cut into 3/4-inch by 3-inch pieces

4 taco-size (9-in) wholewheat tortillas

1 1/3 cups lightly

packed baby spinach 1/2 cup salsa verde

2 (1/2-in) slices red onion, halved crosswise

12 (1/2-in.) strips red bell pepper

In small bowl, whisk together chili powder, cinnamon, cumin, garlic powder, coffee and black pepper. Place canola oil and

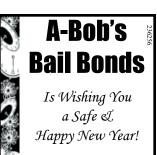
turkey in mixing bowl and add dry seasoning. Using fork or your hands, mix to coat turkey evenly with marinade. Set aside for 20-30 minutes.

Heat medium cast iron skillet over mediumhigh heat. Lay a large sheet of foil on your work surface. One at a time, heat tortillas in dry pan until they are flexible, about 1 minute. turning them after 30 seconds. Stack tortillas on foil, covering them with an inverted plate until all tortillas are warmed, then seal tortillas in foil, and set them

aside. Heat grill-pan stovetop grill over high heat until a drop of water flicked onto it

dances. Using tongs, arrange seasoned turkey pieces in rows on grill, placing them 1/2inch apart. This may require cooking turkey in two batches. Grill for 6 minutes, turning pieces every 1 minute so they cook evenly and to avoid burning. Transfer cooked turkey to serving plate.

To assemble fajitas, place warm tortilla on a dinner plate, preferably warm. Arrange one-fourth of spinach in center of tortilla. Add one-fourth of turkey. Spoon on one-fourth of salsa, top with half an onion slice and 4 pepper strips. Fold in top and bottom of tortilla, then sides. Serve immediately.



(432) 263-3333 110 E. 3rd



By Steve Becker Nip and Tuck

South dealer. SOUTH ♠KQJ92 The bidding North South 1 NT

Pass

Opening lead -

Partscore deals where each side has about half the high cards usually provide a give-and-take in the play that is not found at higher-level contracts. Consider this case from a national team event where South wound up in two diamonds and West led a club. East took the ace and shifted to a trump, the queen losing to West's king.

Pass

five of clubs.

West returned a trump to South's ace, the spade jack lost to West's ace, and another trump return by West eliminated dummy's last trump. South then cashed the queen of spades before exiting with a club to

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Declarer was hoping for a spade

or club return at this point, but West not unexpectedly shifted to a low heart, forcing South to guess the position of the missing honors. After much thought, declarer

played low from dummy, hoping to force the ace. This would establish the king as an entry to dummy's good clubs, and South would be home free, losing only a spade, a heart, a diamond and two clubs. But declarer was counting his chickens before they were hatched.

After South played low from dummy on the heart return, East smartly inserted the nine. Declarer won with the jack but now had no way to reach the dummy.

However, South was not yet out of ammunition. He cashed the king of spades, hoping the ten would fall; when it didn't, he led a heart to the ten, hoping East did not have the ten of spades. In that case, East would be forced to return a heart (or a club, if he had one) to dummy. But when East won the ace of hearts, he cashed the spade ten, and that was that.

Declarer should have made the contract despite the excellent defense he encountered. He was guilty of one small slip: Had he played the ten from dummy on West's heart return at trick eight instead of following low, he would have been assured of an entry to dummy regardless of how

Tomorrow: It can't hurt to try. ©2012 King Features Syndicate Inc



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Texas economy leaves many behind No love for 'fiscal

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — State leaders like to brag about Texas' fast growing economy and low unemployment, but rarely do they mention the high poverty rate and so far they don't appear inclined to pass any new laws to deal with it.

The unemployment rate and the creation of new jobs are the statistics most often cited by Gov. Rick Perry to brag on Texas, and unemployment is among the lowest in the country at 6.2 percent. That's well below the national average of 7.7 percent.

Perry also uses the Texas Enterprise Fund and the Emerging Technology Funds to encourage employers to relocate to Texas and create new jobs in the state, adding hundreds of jobs every

Employment, though, is not the only measure of economic prosperity. There is the question of quality of life.

The number of Texans living in poverty rose for a third consecutive year in 2011, adding more than 214,000 people to total 4.6 million. That's 18.5 percent of the population, 3 percent higher than the nation as a whole, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. By comparison, New Hampshire had the lowest proportion of people living in poverty, with 8.8 percent, and Mississippi the highest, 22.6 percent.

The metropolitan areas in the United States with the first and third highest proportions of poor people are in Texas, with McAllen-Edinburgh at 37.7 percent and El Paso at 24.7 percent. These are two of the fastest-growing parts of Texas, and places where Republicans need to do better to hold onto power in the future.

While the poverty rate did rise with the Great Recession, Texas weathered the downturn better than most states and ranked high in poverty even in the best economic times. In 2007, the poverty rate was 16.5 percent, the second highest in the nation that year. Since 2000, the rate has consistently been above 15 percent, and 4 percent higher than the national average.

The two biggest predictors of poverty are poor education and chronic health problems. Only about 80 percent of Texans have a high school diploma, the second lowest in the country, and Texas has the highest number of uninsured citizens.

Politicians of all stripes decry the high poverty rate in a Texas, but what differs is how to deal with it. Republicans hold every statewide elected office, control both houses of the Legislature and Perry's appointees direct every state agency.

Perry's oft-repeated formula for economic growth is low taxes, few regulations and limited lawsuits. Going into the legislative session that begins Jan. 8, he has promised to limit state spending to less than population growth plus inflation. To help the poor and unemployed, he has proposed requiring drug testing as a condition for some people to receive welfare benefits, to make sure they are employable.

"Being on drugs makes it much harder to begin the journey to independence, which only assures individuals remain stuck in the terrible cycle of drug abuse, desperation and poverty," Perry said last month. "Extending taxpayerfunded benefits while ignoring a behavior that could make it virtually impossible for someone to enter the workforce or finish school, sends them down the road to a much bleaker future."

Democrats are pushing for state government to provide services they believe will help people move out of poverty, including restoring \$5.4 billion cut from the public school budget and nearly \$1 billion cut from higher education. Democrats also want the state to expand Medicaid to provide 1.5 million Texans with health insurance at a minimal cost to the state through 2020.

cliff,' 'spoiler alert'

Spoiler alert: This story words phrases that some people want to ban from the English language. 'Spoiler alert" is among them. So are "kick the can down the road," 'trending" and "bucket

A dirty dozen have landed on the 38th annual List of Words to be Banished from the Queen's English Misuse, Overuse General Uselessness. The nonbinding, tonguein-cheek decree released By northern Michigan's Lake Superior State University is based on nominations submitted from the United States, Canada and beyond.

"Spoiler alert," seemingly thoughtful way to warn readers or viewers about looming references to a key plot point in a film or TV show, nevertheless passed its use-by date for many. At the risk of further offense, here's another spoiler alert: The phrase receiving

the most nominations this year is "fiscal cliff," banished because of its overuse by media outlets when describing acrossthe-board federal tax increases and spending cuts that economists say could harm the economy in the new year without congressional action.

Other terms coming in for a literary lashing are "superfood," "guru," "job creators" and "double down."

University spokesman Tom Pink said that in nearly four decades, the Sault Ste. Marie school has "banished" around 900 words or phrases, and somehow the whole idea has survived rapidly advancing technology and diminishing attention spans.

Nominations used to come by mail, then fax and via the school's website, he said. Now most come through the university's Facebook page. That's fitting, since social media has helped accelerate the life cycle of certain words and phrases.

Pentagon spending on drugs soars

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) Defense Department spending on prescription drugs in the past decade has soared, reflecting the aging military retirees its health care program covers, according to a newspaper analysis.

An analysis of Pentagon drug purchases since 2002 published Sunday by the Austin American-Statesman found, for example, that last year the Defense Department spent more on pills, injections and vaccines than it did on Black Hawk helicopters, Abrams tanks, Hercules C-130 cargo planes and Patriot missiles combined.

And the rapid rise is attributed less to wounded soldiers returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan than to retirees buying prescriptions for ailments such as arthritis, osteoporosis and diabetes. There are 15 active military bases in Texas and about 1.7 million veterans, the second highest veteran concentration in the country, according to the Texas Veterans Commission.

Officials with the military's health care program Tricare say Pentagon spending on drugs increased by more than

235902

123 percent since 2002 to \$6.8 billion in 2011. That was nearly double the growth rate of overall pharmaceutical sales in the United States during the same period.

Prescriptions for active-duty troops account for only about 10 percent of those filled under Tricare. Instead, experts say, it's military retirees who are driving the increase. Additionally, there's more use of retail pharmacies where drugs cost more than on military bases.

"If we don't address it soon, it may harm our national security in the long run," the centrist think tank Third Way wrote in a February report about ballooning defense health budgets. "It will also impact operational effectiveness threaten health care benefits for active duty troops and their families."

"It's a national se-

curity concern," said Mieke Eoyang, director of the national security program for Third Way. "It's something we have to come to grips with."

There is concern the rapidly growing drug costs could divert money from training and

The military is not immune to the skyrocketing health care costs plague average Americans. The overall military health budget has nearly doubled since 2002.

Jim Wilson, a University of Texas College of Pharmacy professor and former head of the Army's pharmacy programs, said expensive specialty drugs in particular will drive military drug spending.

"They will just eat your budget alive," he

The newspaper analyzed nearly 500,000 drug purchases through two agencies within the Defense Department that handle those purchases the Defense Logistics Agency, which buys from wholesalers, and Tricare Management Activity, which handles prescriptions bought through the mail and at retail pharmacies. The analysis did not include the mail-order drugs accounting for about 15 percent of total military prescription drug spending.

The analysis found, for example, that the Defense Department has spent more than \$5 billion since 2002 on well-known drugs Lipitor, Plavix, Advair, Nexium and Singulair, as well as \$380 million on erectile dysfunction



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2311 S. Gregg

Page 9 Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Sports Calendar

WEDNESDAY

Women's Basketball

 Howard College at Victoria College, Victoria, Texas, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY

Women's Basketball

 Howard College at Southwest Texas Junior College, Uvalde, Texas, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY

Women's Basketball

 Howard College at Temple College, Temple Texas, 5:30 p.m.

Boy's Basketball

- · Lubbock Cooper at Big Spring, J.V., 5 p.m.; Ninth, 6:15 p.m.; Varsity, 7:30 p.m.
- Stanton at Forsan, J.V. 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30
- Ira at Coahoma, Varsity & J.V., TBA.
- Wellman-Union at Grady, TBA.
- Bronte at Garden City, 8 p.m.

Girl's Basketball

- · Sweetwater at Big Spring, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:15 p.m.; Ninth, 7:30 p.m.
- Stanton at Denver City, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Smyer, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30
- Coahoma at Brownfield, TBA.
- Wellman-Union at Grady, TBA.
- Bronte at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.
- Loop at Sands, TBA.

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

HERALD file photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Yaneira Tuitt attempts a three-point shot during a game earlier in the season. The Lady Steers stayed will open District 3-4A play against Sweetwater on Friday. The Steers will host Lubbock Cooper.

NFL playoffs loaded with underdogs

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

RG3 and the Washington Redskins are heading to the playoffs as NFC East champions.

By winning their sev-

enth 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-season slump, Denver and New England will have byes when the AFC playoffs begin next

The Texans fell from first to third in the Francisco (11-4-1) at

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 night. On Sunday, Jan. 13, Atlanta (13-3) will host the early game, followed by New England (12-4).

Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns as Denver (13-3) routed the Chiefs. New England got the second seed despite having the same record as Houston because it beat the Texans, who lost three of their final four games.

Adrian Peterson had 199 yards against the Packers, finishing with 2,097 — Dickerson's single-season rushing mark in 2,105. But it was rookie kicker Blair Walsh who won it with a 29-yard field goal as time expired.

"Ultimately we got the 'W," Peterson said. "I told myself to come into this game focused on one thing, and that's winning."

Green Bay would have been seeded second in the NFC by beating Min-

"The road got a little tougher having to play on opening weekend, but we've got a home game and that's why

you win the division," Aaron Rodgers said. "We get to go back home, and the game will be different. They won't have home-crowd advantage, and hopefully that will make a difference."

Baltimore Pro Bowl

safety Ed Reed is looking forward to a reunion with Pagano. He wishes it would come a little later in the postseason. "Chuck's like a dad to me," Reed said "He

means a lot to me. I would have much rather seen them in the AFC championship than the first game."

But Reed will see him next week at Baltimore.

The Ravens had a chance to move up to the AFC's third seed with a win and a New England loss. But Baltimore lost at Cincinnati as both teams played backups for much of the game.

Pagano coached the Ravens' secondary for three seasons and was promoted to coordinator last year. Players and coaches in Baltimore have kept in touch,

See **PLAYOFFS**, Page 14

Andy Reid, Lovie Smith among NFL coaches to be fired

hours after the regular season ended, NFL firings began at a furious pace.

In a span of about 90 minutes before lunch Monday, coaches Andy Reid, Pat Shurmur, Romeo Crennel and Chan Gailey were let go by their teams after losing seasons. None of the moves were surprising, and more are expected.

The Jets decided to keep their coach, Rex Ryan, but fired general manager Mike Tannenbaum.

The Browns made it

(AP) — Less than 24 a clean sweep, dismissing GM Tom Heckert along with Shurmur.

> Reid was the longest tenured of the group, let go after 14 seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles.

> Gailey was dumped after three seasons with the Bills, Shurmur after two in Cleveland and Crennel was coach of the Chiefs for one full season.

> Lovie Smith, Chicago Bears coach was also let go late Monday morning.

Jacksonville fired GM Gene Smith.

Ind. College football hall busy over its final days to be open

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — The College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend was filled over the weekend with people making a last visit before its doors closed for good.

Hall officials estimate it had about 4,000 visitors as its admission price was cut to \$2 for the final days on Saturday and Sunday.

The closing comes three years after the National Football Foundation announced it

was moving the hall to

Atlanta following years of low attendance since opening in 1995.

Operations director Mark Maurer tells the South Bend Tribune that he was sad over the weekend wondering why such large crowds hadn't shown up before.

City officials are trying to sell the building. Visitor John Milliken tells WSBT-TV that it's a beautiful building and he hopes it isn't

2012-13 NCAA BCS bowl schedule

- Chick-fil-A Bowl, Clemson vs. LSU, Atlanta, GA, Monday, Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Heart of Dallas Bowl, Purdue vs. Oklahoma State, Dallas, TX, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 11 a.m., ESPNU.
- TaxSlayer.com Gator Bowl, Mississippi State vs. Northwestern, Jacksonville, FL, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 11 a.m., ESPN2.
- Capital One Bowl, Georgia vs. Nebraska, Orlando, FL, Tuesday, Jan. 1, noon, ABC.
- Outback Bowl, Michigan vs. South Carolina, Tampa, FL,
- Tuesday, Jan. 1, noon, ESPN.
- · Rose Bowl, Stanford vs. Wisconsin, Pasadena, CA, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 4 p.m., ESPN.
- Discover Orange Bowl, Florida State vs. Northern Illinois, Miami Gardens, FL, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 7:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Allstate Sugar Bowl, Florida vs. Louisville, New Orleans, LA, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, Kansas State vs. Oregon, Glendale, AZ, Thursday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.,
- AT&T Cotton Bowl, Oklahoma vs. Texas A&M, Arlington, TX, Friday, Ja. 4, 7 p.m., FOX.
- BBVA Compass Bowl, Ole Miss vs. Pittsburgh, Birmingham, AL, Saturday, Jan. 5, noon, ESPN.
- GoDaddy.com Bowl, Arkansas State vs. Kent State, Mobile, AL, Sunday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m., ESPN.
- BCS National Championship Bowl, Alabama vs. Notre Dame, Miami Gardens, FL, Monday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., ESPN.

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Slow Moon Climb

There's a hopeful feeing on this fresh first day of the year under the fiery Leo moon. "The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks: The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the deep Moans round with many voices. Come, my friends. 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world." — Alfred Tennyson, "Ulysses"

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've cut yourself

loose of the idea of normalcy, realizing that this is a ridiculous thing to strive for. For starters, there's not a single soul who fits the



MATHIS

description. Everyone is

different in some way. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The morning comes on with more power than seems necessary. You'll appreciate those who have the class to ease into the first few hours of the new year.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're ready to break bad habits by replacing them with better ones. Someone will help you out with this now by being a shining example of either what to do or what not to do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll create a wonderful meal. company will be more important than the cooking. This is true even if you eat alone. You'll be excellent company for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your serious mood seems to have left with the old Given options, year. you'll take the funniest one. Playfulness is so attractive on you that won't want for attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Before and after noon will feel like two separate days, the second one being much preferred to the earlier one. Even though the countdown last night, this evening will feel like the official start of your new year.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a bit of a wild goose chase going on. Small mix-ups are likely lead to inaccurate The best conclusions. avoid this way to

dynamic is not to assume anything. Wait for proof.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once you do the work, don't forget to ship it out. That's a crucial step that you can't miss if you're going to progress and improve. You need the feedback in order to grow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ideas that no one acts on are not worthless. They can be used to connect people in conversation and thought processes. For now, keep talking without worrying about the usefulness of your conversation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Be confident and go forward knowing that you matter. You'll get proof that the world will be different for your influence, and that's a very good thing to carry with you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your identity is not tied up in another person's life. And though you appreciate the many people who have helped make you who you are, you will also enjoy your status as a separate entity now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may put yourself in a competitive position simply because the thing you want to do is in line with what many others want. You may be asked to prove yourself, but you'll have no trouble doing so.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 1). You have amazing focus this year. You'll stick with one subject and become a well-paid expert. next 10 weeks lucrative because you solve a problem that plagues many. Someone wants your affection, intensity and talent in February and will be a more or less constant throughout companion the year. Cancer and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 4, 33 and 16.

GREEN RESOLUTION Revolution Green green making resolution. What can you do this year to save the planet? I challenge you to pick a green resolution and keep it all year. So what's the one your sign is most likely to stick with? Even doing just one will make a difference. Energetic fire signs like ARIES, LEO

Tomorrow's Horoscope

of the importance of conserving energy. Unlike other garbage, squandered energy something you don't see until the electric bill comes, but that doesn't make it any less of a waste. Maintaining a generally responsible exit policy for devices, televisions, lights and you're anything else finished using is one habit that will pay you

SAGITTARIUS are aware back in dollars every month. Water signs like CANCER, SCORPIO and PISCES can save the planet by limiting or eliminating their use of bottled water. Millions of barrels of oil are used each year in production of plastic bottles, not to mention the transportation costs and resulting emissions caused by moving bottled water from factory to store. Stop the madness.

Use your own water indicating that this is a bottle. Buy a super-cool one, and use it all year.

CELEBRITY

PROFILES: Verne (Mini-Troyer Me) is comedian, actor, stunt performer and reality star who has the typical Capricorn tendency to work toward maximum success and achievement in all things. Mercury has recently returned to the place it was when Troyer was born,

favorable and lucrative time to ink contracts, make commitments and express his considerable talents.

you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go www.creators.com and click "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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Annie's Mailbox ®



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

Dear Readers: Happy New Year. We hope 2013 will be the best year ever for each and every one of you. May you be blessed with good health, close family, kind friends, love and laughter. We hope you will make this the year you vow to be kinder and more compassionate so you can help the world become a better place in which to live.

In honor of the day, here is poem written by William Cullen Bryant in 1859:

"A Song for New Year's Eve" Stay yet, my friends, a moment stay— Stay till the good old year, So long companion of our way, Shakes hands, and leaves us here.

Oh stay, oh stay, One little hour, and then away. The year, whose hopes were high and strong,

Has now no hopes to wake; Yet one hour more of jest and song For his familiar sake.

Oh stay, oh stay, One mirthful hour, and then away. The kindly year, his liberal hands Have lavished all his store. And shall we turn from where he

stands, Because he gives no more? Oh stay, oh stay, One grateful hour, and then away. Days brightly came and calmly

went, While yet he was our guest: How cheerfully the week was

spent! How sweet the seventh day's rest! Oh stay, oh stay, One golden hour, and then away.

Dear friends were with us, some who sleep Beneath the coffin-lid:

What pleasant memories we keep Of all they said and did! Oh stay, oh stay,

One tender hour, and then away. Even while we sing, he smiles his last,

And leaves our sphere behind. The good old year is with the past; Oh be the new as kind!

Oh stay, oh stay, One parting strain, and then away.

Dear Annie: Several years ago, you printed a piece on New Year's Day that I thought was terrific. It was called "Golden Rules for Living." It was simple and made so much sense. If you can find it, would you consider reprinting it? - Your Fan in Madison, Wis.

Dear Fan: With pleasure. Thanks for giving us the time off.

"Golden Rules for Living" by Miriam Hamilton Keare

- 1. If you open it, close it.
- 2. If you turn it on, turn it off. 3. If you unlock it, lock it up,
- 4. If you break it, admit it.
- 5. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
- 6. If you borrow it, return it. 7. If you value it, take care of it.
- 8. If you make a mess, clean it up. 9. If you move it, put it back.
- 10. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
- 11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.

12. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

Annie: Please Dear "Nervous in Vermont," the young man who is longing to let his family know he is a transgender male, that Vermont is extremely fortunate to have an organization, Outright Vermont, that supports LGBTQ youth. He will be able to connect with a dedicated and skilled staff, as well as with other vouth who will understand what is experiencing. Outright Vermont (outrightvt.org) is located in Burlington.

This young man also could investigate whether his school has a Gay-Straight Alliance or similar organization. He also can speak with his school or SAP counselor (if he is comfortable doing so) for support and strategies to talk with his mother. -A Vermont GSTA

Adviser and SAP Counselor

Dear Annie: My husband and I lived with a very dysfunctional situation for several years. His children from a prior marriage were encouraged by their mother to tell falsehoods about our home life. She was planning to leave the state and needed full custody in order to take them, and she ultimately accomplished this.

We went to counseling considered legal action, realized that even if we won, we no longer agreed on how to parent these kids. The constant discord did some damage to our marriage. My husband put up with a lot of nastiness as long as the kids would see him. I tried to help, but couldn't tolerate their continuing dishonesty and disrespect. The eventually developed problems in their personal lives, school and jobs. Slowly, my husband rebuilt a relationship with them, but in doing so, he allowed me to be viewed as the enemy. I stopped being included in family plans.

Now his ex-wife and grown children treat my husband as if he is single. The holidays are fine, since the grown children spend them with their mother, and my husband spends his with our little family. However, he attends his children's graduations, weddings and birthdays without me.

I love my husband. He is happy with us and lets us know. Most of all, he thanks us for allowing him to be a normal parent. He has his adult children in his life and sees them once or twice a year, but the situation is becoming increasingly untenable to me. I no longer know what line to draw. Where do we go from here? — *The Second Wife*

Dear Second: Actually, the line was drawn some time ago: Your husband attends his children's functions without you. This is not ideal, but it also doesn't have to be cause for constant misery. It would show tremendous grace for you to tell your husband to go and spend time with his adult children, without any residual bitterness on your part. It's only once or twice a year, and we suspect Hubby would enormously grateful.

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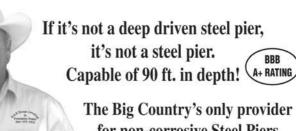
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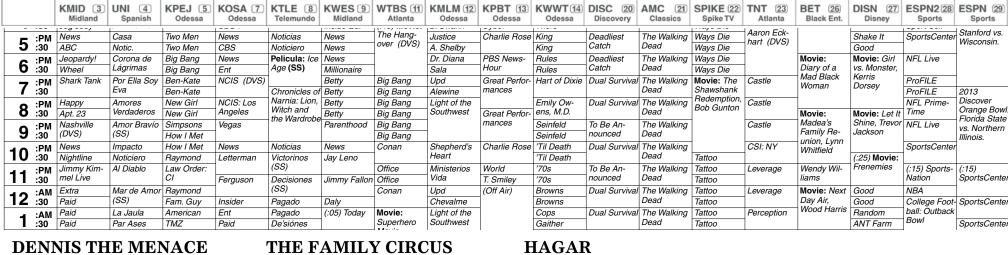
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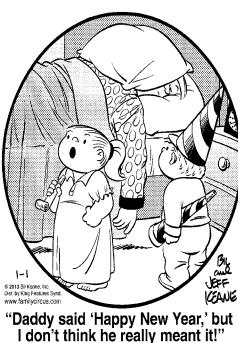
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IS IT

SUPPERTIME

HAGAR



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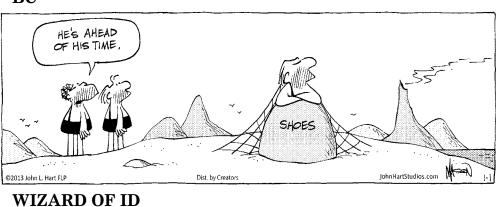


"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

THERE'S A FOOD RIOT

DOWN IN THE STREETS

PARKER



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2013. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed and issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free."

On this date:

In 1785, The Daily Universal Register — which later became the Times of London - published its first issue. In 1890, the first Tournament

of Roses was held in Pasadena, In 1892, the Ellis Island

Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

In 1913, the U.S. Parcel Post system went into operation.

In 1942, 26 countries, including the United States, signed the Declaration of the United Nations, pledging "not to make a separate armistice or peace" with members of the A

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, W.Va., while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio. In 1959, Fidel Castro and his

revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic. In 1962, The Beatles (with Pete Best) auditioned for Decca

Records, which opted to sign

Brian Poole and the Tremeloes

instead. In 1983, the current version of the Internet came into being as the Internet protocol suite, commonly known as TCP/IP, became the mandatory stan-

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement. Czechoslovakia In 1993,

peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In 1994, the North American

Free Trade Agreement went

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 91. Actor Ty Hardin is 83. Documentary maker Frederick Wiseman is 83. Actor Frank Langella is 75. Rock singermusician Country Joe McDonald is 71. Writercomedian Don Novello is 70. Actor Rick Hurst is 67. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 63. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., is 59. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 55. Actress Ren Woods is 55. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 49. Actress Embeth Davidtz is 47. Country singer Brian Flynn (Flynnville Train) is 47. Actor Morris Chestnut is 44. Actor Verne Troyer is 44. Actress

Eden Riegel is 32. 2012 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle

HI AND LOIS

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

ARE FOR PEOPLE WHO

THE OTHER COAST

SNUFFY SMITH

BEETLE BAILEY

BODACIOUS, PAW !!

I DON'T

KNOW

HOW MUCH DIDJA

WIN ?!

BOY, WUZ I HOT AT

TH' CARD GAME

TONIGHT,

WHY DO YOU

KEEP YAWNING?

NEED TO CHANGE

WHAT'S

ALL THE

RUCKUS

ABOUT?

AGNES



I'M HAPP)

THE WAY

I AM.



MAYBE YOU

SHOULD GIVE

UP KIDDING

OH, GREAT! I GO AWAY

FOR THE WEEKEND, AND YOU INVITE YOUR BUDDIES OVER TO EAT THE

HOUSE!

HUH ? OH !! NOT A PENNY !!

I WUZ TALKIN' 'BOUT LUKEY'S

DADBURN ROARIN' FIREPLACE !!

IT MUST BE CATCHING

1 End of Hamlet

- "Be Prepared,"
- 10 Begin to melt
- 14 Oral history
- brand
- 18 Warbling sound
- 20 Rise to make a
- 24 Talks hoarsely
- an iceberg
- borders
- 36 _ stick
- 41 Operatic solo
- 43 Contradict
- direction
- 47 English
- assignment
- thinking?"
- 57 Partner of 37 Across

into effect.

- **62** Run (go wild)
- 63 Filled to excess
- 64 Suffix for major
- harvest
- 66 Stadium

- in court)
- 4 Colombia
- neighbor 23 Menageries **5** System
 - 6 Fairy-tale
 - monsters
- ridiculous
- **34** Visible part of

- reprimand

- pesticide: Abbr.

- **49** "What
- 50 Fought fiercely

GREG-

MORT

UNDERFOOT by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

37 Watched ahead

of time

39 Hunters' org.

40 Disconcert

45 Hurricane

center

org. 52 Ski lift

46 High-grade

48 Up and about

49 Made on a loom

51 Cape Canaveral

- 9 Norway's capital 10 Small crown
- 11 Short jump
- 12 Devoured
- 13 Candle dripping
- alternative 26 Deliver, as
- elevator music
- 27 Sudden bursts
- 28 Video game
- 31 Like a pitcher's
- perfect game
- 32 Matured
- for short
- grps.
- 53 Carryall bag emporium 54 Chess game ending
 - stake 56 Prepared to start
 - a golf hole 57 Scratch up

55 Starting poker

- 58 French friend 59 Floor-cleaning
- tool

			1				1							
17					18						19			
20				21			T			22				
			23							24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	32	33			34	1	
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44				45					46				†	
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57	58	59			60		T				61		†	
62	1				63		T				64		1	1
65	 	+	1-		66	+	\vdash	+	╁┈		67	+	+	+

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

or Macbeth

- 5 Scouts'
- for one
- 15 Toaster waffle
- **16** Tiny amount 17 Unlock
- **19** Topmost point
- speech

- 35 Boxing ring
- (bouncing toy)
- 38 Summon for a
- 42 Sudden attack
- 44 Banned

- (for)
- 61 Taper off

65 Ready to 21 Human trunk

DOWN

7 "The weekend

8 Bridge-crossing

at last!"

- 1 Oodles
- 3 Long hike
- 28 Utterly
- 31 Identify
- 37 Daddy
- 45 Daybreak
- 46 Black birds

60 Higher than

22 Prospector's find 67 Monopoly card 25 Paper-clip

- 2 __ plea (bargain
 - 29 Gets on a plane **30** Cuts in two
 - 33 Comfy footwear,
 - **36** School support

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1/1/13

Chargers clean house, fire Coach Norv Turner, GM A.J. Smith

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego Chargers have fired coach Norv Turner and general manager A.J. Smith after missing the playoffs for the third straight

Coming after a season of stunning come-fromahead losses and increasing fan anger, the firings complete a startling fall for a team that won the AFC West from 2006-09.

The Chargers are the

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third team to fire Turner, who has an overall head coaching record of 114-122-1.

Despite having what was perceived as one of the NFL's most-talented rosters for several seasons, Smith and Turner never got the Chargers to the Super Bowl.

Smith's glaring roster deficiencies, especially on the offensive line in front of \$94 million man Philip Rivers, helped contribute to San Di-

tribute to 22 turnovers — giving him 47 in two seasons — and he was sacked 49 times. After a 3-1 start, the

ego's 7-9 record, its first

losing season since

Rivers was under siege

most of the season. Hav-

ing to scramble for his

well-being helped con-

Chargers had a series of collapses. They blew a 10-point

third-quarter lead to lose at New Orleans on Oct. 7. The Bolts' Monday

night face-plant against Denver on Oct. 15 was epic. They blew a 24-0 halftime lead as Peyton Manning calmly led the Broncos to a 35-24 vic-On Nov. 25, the Char-

gers allowed Baltimore's Ray Rice to convert on a dump-down pass on fourth-and-29. The Ravens forced overtime and won. Chargers President

Dean Spanos also had to consider business factors. Four blackouts, including three straight, meant the Chargers were losing millions of dollars in potential rev-

Another sign of the eroding roster was that no Chargers were voted to the Pro Bowl. Six seasons ago, 11 Chargers were voted to the NFL's all-star game, including five starters.

Turner was Smith's signature hire. He inherited a 14-2 team and reached the AFC championship game his first season, but the Chargers began a gradual decline. Their last playoff win came after the 2008 season. Their last playoff appearance was an embarrassing home loss to the New York Jets after the 2009 season. The next night, the Chargers announced a four-year contract extension for Turner.

Spanos had twice sided with GMs over coaches. In 1996, he forced out Bobby Ross and kept Bobby Beathard just two years after the Chargers reached their only Super Bowl. In February 2007, Spanos fired Marty Schottenheimer due to a "dysfunctional" relationship between the coach and Smith. The two reportedly didn't speak to each other for the previous two years.

This time, both coach and GM — who have always been linked at the hip — were dismissed.

Smith proclaimed Turner to be the "right coach at the right time" for the Chargers. When Turner was hired, he was 24 games under .500, having gone 49-59-1 with Washington from 1994 until being fired with three games left in the 2000 season, and 9-23 with Oakland from 2004-05.

Turner was 56-40 with the Chargers overall, but only 24-24 the last two seasons.

Turner has one season at \$3 million left on his contract. Smith has two years left at \$2 million annually. The Chargers were 3-5

in the playoffs in 10 seasons under Smith, who was promoted after his boss, John Butler, died of cancer in 2003.

They were 3-3 in the playoffs under Turner.

Turner was known as a brilliant offensive schemer, having served as offensive coordinator for two of Dallas' three Super Bowl teams in the 1990s.

But he struggled with game management and his first four Chargers teams were known for slow starts followed by mad scrambles to get into the playoffs. When Chargers were about to drop to 1-3 to start Turner's first season, fans began chanting "Mar-ty! Mar-ty!" in homage to Schottenheimer.

Favoring hardball negotiating tactics, Smith clashed with his own players and coaches, as well as agents and the media. He allowed a steady stream of stars to leave as free agents. including Drew Brees, LaDainian Tomlinson, Darren Sproles, Michael Turner and Vincent Jackson, while failing to adequately replace them.

He mocked Tomlinson, whose Hall of Famecaliber career included winning the NFL MVP award in 2006. Tomlinson's sin, in Smith's eyes, was being honest about a severe groin injury late in the 2008 season. Smith also mocked the Manning family in April before Peyton Manning signed with Denver.

Smith had his hits and misses with players. He's best known for taking Eli Manning with the No. 1 pick overall in the 2004 draft despite Archie Manning's request that he not do so, and then dealing Manning's rights to the New York Giants for Philip Rivers and draft picks.

PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 9

offering encouragement as he fought through the cancer treat-

"Going back to Baltimore, obviously there's some familiarity there," Pagano said.

"We had four great years there as a family. It's a top-notch organization, you know, really good football club. It's a great challenge and they have a great team and they have great players all over the place.'

The Colts were 2-14 last season and chose quarterback Andrew Luck with the top selection in the draft. Luck and offensive coordinator Bruce Arians, who stepped in as interim coach with Pagano sidelined, led the turnaround.

Next week, Pagano goes up against former boss John Har-

"I love his family, and he's one of my closest personal friends in coaching," Harbaugh said. "What he's been through is phenomenal, but we're all competitors so that gets set aside."

Houston beat Cincinnati in the opening round of last year's playoffs.

"I think it will be good," said Bengals QB Andy Dalton, who grew up in suburban Houston.

"We played there last year and know the atmosphere and what it's going to be like. The experience last year will definitely help

The defending Super Bowl champion Giants are out of contention. When Chicago beat Detroit 26-24, the Giants (9-7) were eliminated, even though they routed Philadelphia 42-7.

"It hurts," said Eli Manning. "Each year you want to make the playoffs to give yourself an opportunity to win a championship; 9-7 last year was good enough. It wasn't good enough this year and

we knew it wouldn't be." Minnesota's win eliminated Chicago.



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