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NOMINATIONS DUE SOON



HERALD file photo

Lt. Col. Mare R. Marchossoault and Sherry Hodnett were named Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Man and Woman of the Year for 2011 a year ago. Nominations for the 2012 recipients are being accepted now. Nomination forms can be picked up at the chamber office, 215 W. Third, and should be returned no later than Jan. 9. Forms can be mailed to 215 W. Third or P.O. Box 1391, Big Spring, Texas. For more information or to request a nomination form, call the chamber at 432-263-7641.

Supremacist propaganda shocks family

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

One Big Spring family woke up Monday morning to what they considered to be an alarming situation — a self-proclaimed “socialist” group touting neo-Nazis propaganda and symbols had left flyers at their home.

According to the local resident — who asked to not be identified to prevent retaliation from the group — discovery of the material was a shock.

“It was outside my home. I’m not sure when anyone dropped it off or where they may have been traveling to, but it was certainly there in the morning,” the man said. “The flyers identify the group and provides a phone number, e-mail and website for them. It was surprising, to say the least.”

According to the flyer, the group is identified as the National Socialist Movement headquartered out of Detroit, Mich. A quick look at the group’s website was nothing short of an unsettling experience, according to the man.

“The first thing you see when you go to the website is all of the swastikas,” he said. “And if you read their propaganda,

See **GROUP**, Page 3



Get those taxes paid by Jan. 31 ... or else

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area residents who haven’t paid their property taxes have until the end of the month to ante up their 2012 tabs or face penalties and interest, according to local officials.

Area property owners can avoid the annual last-minute dash to pay their taxes by getting them out of the way early in the month, said former

County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles.

“Once the taxes go delinquent the first of February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increases each month,” said Sayles. “As of July 1, penalty and interest grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees.”

Approximately 36,000 to 37,000 tax statements were

mailed out in October, according to Sayles, and area residents who aren’t sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

“Some individuals don’t get their statement for whatever reason,” said Sayles. “We can pull up their name on the system and tell them the amount that’s due. So if you

haven’t received a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don’t send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they have to do is call.

“They can reference their check with an account number that we can give them so they can get their payment in

the mail. Once that’s done, we mail them back a receipt for their payment.”

For taxpayers over the age of 65 or currently on disability, Sayles said there is a special plan that can help them avoid penalties and interest, which can quickly add up.

“There is a provision that allows taxpayers over the age

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Surplus won't lessen budget fight

By **PAUL J. WEBER**
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Shortfall and sacrifice: that’s how the Texas Legislature two years ago defended gutting \$5.4 billion from public education, laying off thousands of public workers with slashed spending and stripping Medicaid to the bone.

The new budget s-word this time around? Surplus.

But when lawmakers next week begin the 83rd legislative session with a potentially record amount of unspent revenue — more than \$8 billion, according to many observers — that money won’t last long or go far.

Nor has Texas’ far rosier

“I don’t want to be misleading and say ‘Oh we’re back to complete blue skies. But certainly our economy has recovered nicely. But you need to keep it in perspective that we were in a serious hole.’”

—Joe Straus, GOP House Speaker



economic picture put budget-writers in the mood to spend more or reverse historic cuts. The battle in 2013 will be over how much bigger — not smaller — the budget will get.

“The basic needs look like they can be taken care of,” said Dale Craymer, president of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association and former state official who

has worked in the budget offices of both the governor and comptroller. “It’s just going to be a fight for the icing.”

The Texas economy is humming. Unemployment is at a four-year low of 6.2 percent, sales tax receipts are skyrocketing and money is pouring in to state coffers behind a new energy boom, fueled by oil gushing in West Texas

and a fracking frenzy from North Texas to San Antonio. Even the Rainy Day Fund, the state’s emergency piggybank, has replenished most of the \$3.2 billion borrowed during the last session after much hand-wringing by reluctant conservatives.

Contrast that with 2011. As the country began lurching out of the Great Recession, lawmakers gathered at the Capitol facing a \$27 billion shortfall and unemployment at a decade-high peak of 8.2 percent. They left after passing a budget that was \$15 billion lighter than the previous one in a state that has

See **BUDGET**, Page 3



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Vernon Permenter



Vernon Permenter, 63, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 31, 2012, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, 2013, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Dr. Doug Shelley, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, officiating.

He was born June 14, 1949, in Snyder, Texas, to Oma Mildred (Foree) and Vernon William Permenter. He worked as a pulling unit operator in the oil field. He had served in the U.S.

N. Ruth Bates

N. Ruth Bates, 94, of Coahoma, died Monday, Dec. 31, 2012, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Obituaries

Army as a sergeant in the 1st Calvary Division. He was a radio operator in the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol and a Purple Heart recipient during the Vietnam Era. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by his wife, Beebe Permenter of Big Spring; one son, Daniel Permenter of Big Spring; three daughters, Donna Dugger and Ann Young, both of Big Spring, and Jean Noggler of Abilene; six grandchildren; one brother, Earl Permenter of Big Spring; one sister, Colleen Huttegger of Live Oak, Texas; and 12 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Jimmy Young.

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

Mary F. Burt

Mary F. Burt, 87, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Sheriff/EMS

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (officials reported 70 prisoners in the county jail):

- GUY DAVID SMITH, 54, was jailed on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- KELLI ANN MCADAMS, 31, was jailed on a sentence for driving while license invalid with previous suspension.
- DONALD MARVIN CREAGER JR., 53, was jailed on a charge of theft of service over \$20/less than \$500.
- JESSICA ELAINE CARMICHAEL, 31, was jailed on a charge of theft of service over \$20/less than \$500.
- ALFREDO VELAZQUEZ, 57, was jailed on a parole violation warrant.
- FIDEL M. MARTINEZ, 56, was jailed on a charge of expired driver's license and warrants for issuance of a bad check and violating promise to appear.
- MARCOS MENDEZ, 19, was jailed on a charge of minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage.
- RUBEN COLON, 21, was jailed on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- DANNY RAY VALDEZ, 20, was jailed on a charge of minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage.
- ASHLEY GARCIA, 20, was jailed on a charge of no driver's license.
- SARAH ANN BERNER, 17, was jailed on a charge of minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage.
- DUSTIN AARON GUTIERREZ, 18, was jailed on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- JEREMY FREITAG, 22, was jailed on a charge of

public intoxication.

- HERSCHEL LEE LEWIS, 64, was jailed on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ADRIAN LEE MUNOZ, 32, was jailed on a charge of driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid.
- RICHARD GLEN THURMAN, 52, was jailed on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- ROBIN LEON JORDAN, 45, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 2100 block of Carl.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1200 block of East 15th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of East 13th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 1100 block of Pennsylvania.
- FALSE REPORT was received in the 600 block of W. 18th.

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: BSEFCU 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 be sent to Myers and Smith Funeral Home at P.O. Box 2760 in Big Spring.

• Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432-268-7730.

- The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St.

The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432-268-7535.

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

Mesothelioma

may occur 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gastro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.

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J.B. Shewmake

J.B. Shewmake, 78, of McKinney, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, in a McKinney nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

| Fri 1/4 | Sat 1/5 | Sun 1/6 | Mon 1/7 | Tue 1/8 |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | |
| 46/28 | 56/26 | 55/30 | 60/30 | 63/38 |
| Rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 20s. | Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 20s. | Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s. | Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s. | Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s. |
| Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM | Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:56 PM | Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:56 PM | Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:57 PM | Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM |

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Texas At A Glance



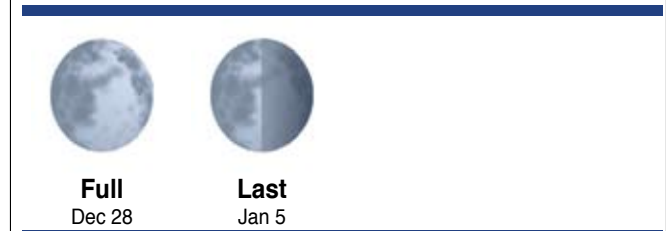
Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-----------------|----|----|----------|
| Abilene | 47 | 32 | mixed | Kingsville | 57 | 46 | rain |
| Amarillo | 45 | 24 | cloudy | Livingston | 51 | 37 | cloudy |
| Austin | 45 | 37 | rain | Longview | 49 | 38 | pt sunny |
| Beaumont | 52 | 41 | cloudy | Lubbock | 43 | 25 | cloudy |
| Brownsville | 57 | 49 | rain | Lufkin | 52 | 40 | pt sunny |
| Brownwood | 48 | 35 | mixed | Midland | 44 | 30 | mixed |
| Corpus Christi | 55 | 47 | rain | Raymondville | 53 | 47 | rain |
| Corsicana | 47 | 36 | cloudy | Rosenberg | 52 | 41 | cloudy |
| Dallas | 47 | 36 | cloudy | San Antonio | 47 | 40 | rain |
| Del Rio | 46 | 36 | mixed | San Marcos | 47 | 38 | rain |
| El Paso | 42 | 27 | pt sunny | Sulphur Springs | 47 | 36 | pt sunny |
| Fort Stockton | 38 | 29 | sn shower | Sweetwater | 46 | 30 | mixed |
| Gainesville | 45 | 30 | pt sunny | Tyler | 49 | 38 | pt sunny |
| Greenville | 45 | 33 | pt sunny | Weatherford | 46 | 32 | cloudy |
| Houston | 51 | 41 | cloudy | Wichita Falls | 48 | 31 | pt sunny |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|----------|----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Atlanta | 50 | 31 | sunny | Minneapolis | 27 | 15 | sunny |
| Boston | 35 | 24 | pt sunny | New York | 36 | 28 | mst sunny |
| Chicago | 30 | 24 | sunny | Phoenix | 59 | 36 | sunny |
| Dallas | 47 | 36 | cloudy | San Francisco | 61 | 45 | sunny |
| Denver | 43 | 19 | sunny | Seattle | 46 | 38 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 51 | 41 | cloudy | St. Louis | 35 | 28 | sunny |
| Los Angeles | 68 | 44 | sunny | Washington, DC | 41 | 31 | mst sunny |
| Miami | 81 | 68 | pt sunny | | | | |

Moon Phases



UV Index

| Fri 1/4 | Sat 1/5 | Sun 1/6 | Mon 1/7 | Tue 1/8 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 being the lowest and 11 the highest. A higher UV Index shows the need for greater skin protection.

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In the news

Twin mothers in Ohio give birth the same day

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Aiden and Donavyn didn't wait until New Year's Day to come screaming into the world, but the circumstances of their births are still pretty special: The babies were born about two hours apart to Ohio mothers who are identical twins.

The Akron Beacon Journal reports the 19-year-old mothers — Aimee and Ashlee Nelson weren't raised to do things alike and did not plan the births to come at the same time. In fact, their due dates were about a week apart.

But Donavyn Scott Bratten was born just after noon on the last day of 2012. Aiden Lee Alan Dilts made his appearance at about 2 p.m.

They were delivered by the same doctor at Summa Akron City Hospital.

Calendar delivered 63 years late

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — A northeastern Pennsylvania newspaper has just received a calendar to help ring in the new year — except the year is 1950.

Scranton's The Times-Tribune report a mail carrier delivered it 63 years late without explanation on Friday.

The large tube contained a 1950 Pennsylvania Railroad calendar addressed to James Flanagan, former general manager of The Scranton Times.

The calendar includes a holiday greeting from a railroad executive dated December 1949. Flanagan died that month.

A U.S. Postal Service spokesman says lost mail is sometimes found when a machine is dismantled or

office space is renovated.

Times-Tribune publisher Bobby Lynett says he'll see if the Steamtown National Historic Site railroad museum is interested in the calendar. If not, he'll display it in the newspaper's offices.

Deadly plane crash may have been teen joyride

JASPER, Ala. (AP) — Investigators believe a small plane that crashed in the Alabama woods was taken without permission for a joyride by three teenagers who died in the wreck Tuesday night.

Walker County sheriff's Chief Deputy James Painter said Wednesday authorities are still investigating but believe the teenagers took off in the plane before it went down in a wooded area near Jasper, northwest of Birmingham.

"We don't know for sure but we think it was some teenagers who stole the plane and were sort of joyriding it," Painter told The Associated Press. "They got it in and took off and didn't go very far."

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said the Piper PA 30 crashed less than a mile from the Walker County Airport.

The names of the three occupants of the plane haven't been released.

"I think they were just looking for a thrill and they had their last one," Painter said.

The Piper PA 30 is also called a Piper Twin Comanche. It is a low-wing plane with two propellers and can seat four to six, depending on the model.

The planes were built from 1963 until 1972, and were popular with flight schools because of their fuel efficiency and relatively inexpensive price tags, according to the International Comanche So-

ciety, an enthusiasts' group.

Man swept to sea trying to save dog

POINT REYES, Calif. (AP) — A man has been swept to sea and drowned while trying to save his dog hit by a rogue wave on a Northern California beach.

The Coast Guard says the man and his wife were walking on the beach near Point Reyes on New Year's Day when a wave overtook the dog. Point Reyes is a popular tourist destination about 30 miles northwest of San Francisco.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports the couple went into the water to rescue the dog but the man was swept away.

His body was found about three hours later.

The wife and dog made it safely to shore. Names haven't been released.

Police: Wrong-way driver went 18 miles on Pa. road

DUNMORE, Pa. (AP) — Police say a wrong-way driver ended up going 18 miles on an interstate in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Times-Leader of Wilkes-Barre reports police say traffic was light when it happened around 5:30 a.m. on New Year's Day, and no one was hurt. Police responded after getting calls about a vehicle going at high speeds the wrong direction on Interstate 81 north.

Police identified the driver as 22-year-old Albrightsville resident Paige Cicardo. She's been arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence and reckless endangerment. A telephone listing for her could not immediately be found.

GROUP

Continued from Page 1

they are pretty straightforward regarding what they are after. It was sickening, to tell you the truth."

Flyers have been reported in the Odessa area, according to reports by television news group CBS 7. Similar flyers also announce the NSM has a group in West Texas.

The NSM recently addressed local concerns the group's "hate speech" could have a negative impact on the Permian Basin area.

"To all West Texas, we are not a hate group," the release reads. "We are a political party for the best interest of white/European people. We are using our First Amendment right of free speech. You will never hear us use any type of foul language or hate speech. We just

want to get our message out to other like-minded, white Americans."

According to the NSM website, the group was started in 1974 by Robert Brannen and Cliff Herrington, former members of the American Nazi Party and limits its membership strictly to non-Semitic heterosexuals of European descent. The group also touts a "Party Viking Youth Movement" for members less than 18 years of age.

In 2009 the NSM had 61 chapters in 35 states, making it the largest neo-Nazi group in the United States, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, the NSM is one of the "most explicitly 'Nazi-like' neo-Nazi groups, which emulates the Third Reich. It has a vaguely paramilitary structure, with military ranks for its members."

While the flyers may

be incendiary to most West Texas residents, Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker said there is little that can be done to stave-off flyer distribution.

"For the most part, distributing flyers like this isn't illegal," Parker said. "In most cities it's governed by city ordinances. If you see someone trying to leave a flyer on your property it is your right to tell them to leave. If they refuse to leave, contact law en-

forcement and you may be able to file criminal trespass charges against them. Unfortunately, if you wake up with this type of thing on your porch in the morning, there isn't a lot you can do."

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

TAXES

Continued from Page 1

of 65 to pay their taxes in four installments without any penalties or interest," said Sayles. "You make your first payment in January, then you just make the remaining three payments in April, June and Aug. 1. This is for

people 65 and older or are receiving disability."

Taxpayers will notice one change when they pay their bill this year, as the elected official the check is made out to has changed.

Effective Tuesday, Diane Carter took over as tax assessor for Howard County. Payments should be made out in

her name."

Carter was elected to the office in November after Sayles, who has served as county tax assessor for many years, decided not to run for re-election.

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penal-

ty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6 percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

"Just remember, we

go by the postmark on the envelope," said Sayles. "As long as it's post-marked by the deadline, you're OK."

For more information, contact the Howard County Tax Collector's Office at 264-2232.

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

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

thousands of new residents to serve by the day and is among the nation's fastest-growing.

"We're in a very different place than we were two years ago," said John Heleman, the chief revenue estimator for the state comptroller's office.

That may be true, but still in place from two years ago are expensive IOUs the state needs to settle.

Medicaid is the biggest one. Lawmakers must pay a \$4.7 billion tab on the state's health program for its poorest residents and the disabled before writing a new budget for 2014-15. They'll write that check in a supplement-

tal spending bill that will also need to pay for the \$600-million cost of fighting devastating wildfires of 2011.

Once those bills are paid up, lawmakers can begin writing the budget for the next two years.

But no one is betting on a spending spree.

Exactly how much money lawmakers will have at their disposal won't be known until Monday, when Comptroller Susan Combs releases a two-year revenue estimate. Republicans — who don't have the House supermajority they enjoyed in 2011, but will still be calling the shots — already want new restraints on how much lawmakers can spend.

Gov. Rick Perry and other top GOP leaders want to limit spending increases to a formula

of population growth plus inflation. That would be less than the \$77.9 billion cap set by the Legislative Budget Board, which is a 10 percent increase over current levels.

Democrats and others view such self-imposed restrictions as unnecessary. The Center for Public Policy Priorities, a progressive-leaning think tank in Austin, said the state has enough money on the table now to undo the steep cuts in 2011 and retain current services if the lawmakers were willing to exhaust the Rainy Day Fund that now has a balance of about \$8.1 billion.

But there is little appetite to do so.

"That's a tough, tough challenge for the makeup of the new legislature," said Eva DeLuna

Castro, a senior budget analyst for the CPPP. "And it's also not letting us undo all the other smoke and mirrors the legislative leadership has said is a priority."

Republican House Speaker Joe Straus, who has pledged to pump money back into schools this session, is signaling more optimism than two years ago.

"I don't want to be misleading and say 'Oh we're back to complete blue skies,'" Straus

said. "But certainly our economy has recovered nicely. But you need to keep it in perspective that we were in a serious hole."

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Guide us dear Lord, as we enter a new year. Be with us and keep us.

Amen

Life-changing resolutions

One thing many of us have in common this time of the year is evaluating our lives, spotlighting some areas that need improvement, and resolving to make changes. We call them New Year Resolutions, and, regrettably, most of them fall by the wayside somewhere around late January.

One young boy asked his father what his New Year's resolution was, and he replied he was going to do everything possible in the New Year to make his mother very happy. The boy asked his mother what hers was, and she said, "To do everything possible to make sure your father keeps his resolution!"

Why do we make those things anyway? By March or April, most people can't even remember what they resolved to change. Yet we continue to make them because, as previously mentioned, there are areas in our lives we are either unhappy with, or aspects of our lives we want to be better. There is absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to improve ourselves and I know, speaking solely for yours truly, there is always plenty of room for said improvement.

Every year it seems the number one resolution in America is to lose weight. A wife came into the bathroom to see her husband standing on the scales with his stomach sucked in. She told him that sucking in his stomach wouldn't make it any better. He said it would, because if he didn't suck it in, he couldn't read the numbers.

According to www.usa.gov, the most popular resolutions year after year usually involve improving fitness and losing weight, increasing volunteering efforts, getting a better education and/or job, managing debt, saving money, and reducing stress. Summarily, what it boils down to is improving one's quality of life.

In the spirit of making New Year Resolutions feasible and profitable, I am going to join a million other columnists around the world and offer to you, dear reader, my opinion and ideas about this annual trek into self-

improvement.

Of primary importance is making resolutions that are actually possible and will ultimately bring the desired result of improvement. In other words, don't have to shoot for the moon. Evaluate your possibilities realistically and your chances of success will be greatly improved. For example, resolve to work so hard in your career that you will be promoted rather than boldly declaring you will be a millionaire by year's end. If becoming a millionaire is a realistic possibility, by all means, go for it. But remember, disappointment and failure are difficult crosses to bear and pursuing impossible dreams are sure fire ways to end up on the rocks of failure.

Another key resolution that could usher in major improvement for us is to better manage the stress in our lives. It's hard to escape stress, and stress management often takes a back seat to diet and exercise in the pursuit of health. Unfortunately, chronic stress is everywhere in modern society, and being stressed is often even considered a sign of success in life. But I believe that without some form of regular stress management, you will sabotage all of your best efforts concerning healthy eating and physical activity.

Chronic stress can be debilitating to your health if left unmanaged. Some of the symptoms of chronic stress include fatigue, headaches, decreased immunity, sleep issues, sugar cravings, mood swings, and digestive distress. Long term effects include higher risk for modern degenerative conditions like heart disease, diabetes, hypothyroidism, and autoimmunity. For these reasons, I think one of the best New Year's Resolutions you could make is to figure out a way to purposefully manage your stress on a regular basis.

That's one of those things that, as you're reading this, you're saying to yourself, "Yeah, good idea, but that's easier said than done." I agree, but we will never accomplish anything until we decide to commit ourselves to a plan of action and then stay the course. If you are interested in my personal take on this matter of stress management, here are a few suggestions.

First and foremost is to establish a genuine relationship

with God. There is no substitute for having a faith that guides, encourages, strengthens, and brings peace and rest to our world-weary souls. If you don't regularly attend and worship in a good, Bible-based church where truth and personal spiritual growth is paramount, I would encourage you to make changing that situation your first New Year Resolution. I don't apologize for my belief that a personal relationship with God, not just religious ritual, is the greatest stress reliever available to any heart and soul.

Secondly, get good sleep. Much like stress management, getting enough high-quality sleep may be as important to health and well-being as nutrition and exercise. Sleep is absolutely essential for basic maintenance and repair of the neurological, endocrine, immune, musculoskeletal and digestive systems. When sleep is inadequate, the health repercussions are both immediate and long-lasting.

Another life-changing resolution that is vitally important is to forget the past and embrace the present. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come. Use your time wisely and don't wallow in the misery and self-pity of past mistakes and failures. Learn from them and move on. Forgiving yourself and others will lead you to a place of peace and serenity that will wrap itself around you like a warm blanket on a winter's night.

Lastly, I would recommend finding a place to serve. People who have a servant's heart are the happiest and most fulfilled people I know. Big Spring has many wonderful organizations that need volunteers and getting involved in worthwhile projects and activities will make your life much richer, not to mention the good you will do for our community and its citizens.

Happy New Year, Big Spring and all of West Texas! Let's work together to make 2013 the greatest year in our history.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.

Mighty Romney at the bat

With humble apologies to Ernest Lawrence Thayer, who wrote "Casey at the Bat," which was published in The San Francisco Examiner in 1888.

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the GOP this year:

The economy had tanked; hope and change had morphed to fear.

The strong and swift refused to join the presidential race.

So the weak and doubtful rose — and tried to take their place.

Our Herman Cain, for instance, flogged his taxing 9-9-9.

To 10 parts cuts but 1 part tax, all said that they'd decline.

Newt brought his wife, who wore her hair as if it were a hat. Forget the freak show, sages said; bring Romney to the bat.

Pawlenty bailed 'fore Huntsman, after Bachmann grabbed the straw,

Though Huntsman was a RINO and she a foster ma.

Ron Paul cleaned up the college vote; Rick Perry had his back.

Santorum won in Iowa, but vote counts didn't track.

So Romney thanked Des Moines and felt himself a great debater, While Newt the bellicose still argued with the moderator.

The deal, all vowed, would be

no deal, but Romney said it best.

Santoum barked it, doglike, ripping up his sweater vest.

Then Romney tapped Paul Ryan, and Ryan filled the tent.

In Romney math, they'd win it, with their 53 percent.

Barack Obama blamed George Bush for economic woes.

And Mitt gleamed like a bonus for the Wall Street CEOs.

Super PACs charged that Bain had killed a worker's wife; it worked.

Who said "Mitt's a murderer"? a campaign spokesperson smirked.

Dirty Harry told a chair to seat itself, puh-lease.

Bill Clinton talked so fine that folks forgot he was a sleaze.

Still, Romney won the first debate — so easy, with no trips.

Obama seemed both proud and bored — few words upon his lips.

When pundits said the Chosen One, he must be off his feed,

That signaled to Team Romney they could sit upon their lead.

Benghazi boiled; would Romney raise the bogus White House spin?

He stumbled on his sound bite, and poor Candy waded in.

"Not optimal," those corpses, later quoth the prez. But then,

The rabid press had spotted Ann, a known equestrian.

Once, Romney placed poor Seamus on the station wagon roof — a more defining moment than Obama's debt deal goof.

"Thanks a lot for Romneycare,"

Obama smugly said.

"That wasn't me, or wasn't I," Mitt Romney meekly pled.

From the pollsters, hooked to landlines, a question mark appeared:

About those undecideds — are they clueless or just weird?

"Kill them. Kill the pollsters!" bloggers fumed and quite sincerely.

And though murder seemed a tad extreme, sometimes it didn't really.

"It's voter fraud!" the base cried out. "This early voting's crap."

They found some hope when Rove intoned, "Enthusiasm gap."

Let Axe and Plouffe remind the base to telephone their friends;

May binders full of women turn out wearing their Depends.

Then Sandy hit the Jersey shore; Obama hit the beach.

In Boston, busy handlers penned a quick concession speech.

O Florida, O Keystone State, beloved Ohio,

You are so very blue today, though red two years ago.

Oh, somewhere in this welfare state, large crowds are having fun.

John Boehner isn't crying as Obama crows, "I won."

He's racing toward the fiscal cliff — while voters scream and shout.

What D.C. pol can break the fall? Mitt Romney has struck out.

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EDDY PRINCE



DEBRA SAUNDERS

News in brief

Program gets \$1.4B more to build Ospreys in Texas

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — The Navy has added \$1.4 billion to a Bell-Boeing contract to build 22 V-22 Ospreys in Texas.

The Amarillo Globe-News reported Tuesday that the contact modification includes fiscal 2013 funding for 17 MV-22s, the Marine Corps Osprey version, and four CV-22s for Air Force Special Operations.

Bell-Boeing is a joint venture between Textron Inc.'s Bell helicopter business and Boeing Co. The U.S. military plans to use the tilt-rotor aircraft to replace older CH-46 helicopters.

More than 10 percent of the work will be performed in Amarillo, where Bell Helicopter also assembles utility and attack choppers for the military. Navy officials say about 25 percent of the work will be done in Fort Worth.

The deal also provides funding to help build 19 MV-22s and 18 CV-22s in fiscal 2014.

Memorial service Wednesday for San Antonio officer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A memorial service will be held for a San Antonio police officer who died nearly three weeks after being hurt in a traffic accident while on duty.

A service was scheduled Wednesday morning at a San Antonio funeral home for Officer Edrees Mukhtar. He died Saturday.

Police say Mukhtar was injured Dec. 10 when his patrol car hit a wet spot on a street and went out of control while responding to a non-emergency call. The law enforcement vehicle collided with a pickup truck.

The accident report cited a failure to control speed and failure to drive in a single lane as factors in the wreck.

Father, son killed in Austin motorcycle wreck

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Police say a man and his juvenile son have died after their motorcycle hit a parked car in a Central Texas neighborhood.

Austin police Lt. Doug Dukes says the victims were not wearing helmets in the crash late Tuesday afternoon.

Police say the father was dead at the scene. Authorities say the boy was transported to an Austin hospital, where he died.

Expansion of Interstate 35E to begin this year

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Beginning this year, Interstate 35E will be expanded between Dallas and Denton.

Work should begin by mid-year. Officials say motorists can expect about 3½ years of construction on I-35E between LBJ Freeway in the Dallas area and the I-35E/35W split in Denton. The work is scheduled to be complete in 2016.

The project is centered in Dallas and Denton counties.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports that AGL Constructors was selected for the roughly \$1 billion project, which includes adding a free lane in each direction, reversible toll lanes and improved frontage roads.

1 dead in shooting outside Houston nightclub

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police are looking for witnesses to come forward after a man was shot

and killed in a nightclub parking lot.

Sgt. Warren Meeler says a 34-year-old man was killed following an argument with four other patrons inside Cube's Sports Bar early in the morning of New Year's Day.

Detectives say people who argued with the victim inside the bar were ejected but waited in the parking lot. Meeler says the victim was shot several times as he left.

He says officers were called within minutes, but found the club closed and no witnesses waiting.

Meeler tells the Houston Chronicle, "We know that parking lot was full of people. We know that club was full of people. We're in serious need of some witnesses to come forward on this."

Driver wanted in hit-and-run of Houston patrol car

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities are searching for a driver accused of taking off after colliding with a Houston police patrol car in a wreck that caused minor injuries to the officer.

A police spokesman says the officer was responding to an "assault in progress" early Tuesday morning with her lights and sirens on when a driver failed to yield as she approached an intersection.

The spokesman tells the Houston Chronicle that the driver kept on driving for about three blocks before stopping and running away.

Investigators are still investigating and searching for the driver.

Tyler officer shoots man who points gun at him

TYLER, Texas (AP) — Tyler police say an officer shot to death a man who pointed a handgun at him as police responded to a call about numerous gunshots at a home.

When police responded around midnight on New Year's Eve, they heard gunshots coming from behind the home. Seeing a man with a weapon, officers identified themselves and told him to drop the weapon. The man did not do as instructed and went into the home.

Police say officer Matt Riggle then moved to the back door, continuing to tell 22-year-old Victor Fuentes to drop the weapon. When Fuentes pointed a handgun at him, Riggle fired his rifle several times, striking Fuentes, who was pronounced dead at the scene. A revolver was located on the floor next to Fuentes.

Third teen charged in sneaker killing

HOUSTON (AP) — A third teen has been charged with capital murder in the death of a man in Harris County over a pair of Nike Air Jordan sneakers.

The Houston Chronicle reports that 19-year-old Anthony Quinn Wade was charged Monday with capital murder. He remained in Harris County jail Tuesday. Online jail records did not list an attorney for him.

Twenty-two-year-old Joshua Wood was shot Dec. 21 while in a car after being approached by armed robbers who wanted the newly released Air Jordan XI "Bred" sneakers he'd purchased earlier in the day.

The car's driver ran and was uninjured. Wood later drove off after he was shot and crashed between two houses. He died at a hospital.

Dallas firefighter injured when ladder truck hit

DALLAS (AP) — Police say a Dallas firefighter

and a pickup driver were injured when the driver hit a ladder truck as officials worked the scene of an earlier accident on Central Expressway.

Police say the ladder truck was blocking an accident scene early New Year's Day when a pickup rear ended it.

The firefighter and pickup driver were taken to the hospital.

The accident the firefighters were blocking involved an accused drunk driver striking a police car from behind on the shoulder of the road. An officer and female passenger in the police car weren't injured.

The female passenger was in the police car after being abandoned on the road following a disturbance. The accused drunk driver was arrested.

Dallas Fire-Rescue did not release details of the firefighter's injuries.

Texas trooper hit by vehicle while working wreck

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas Department of Public Safety trooper was hospitalized after being struck by a sport utility vehicle while on the site of an earlier wreck in Colorado County, west of Houston.

Officials say Trooper Troy Clark was injured Monday afternoon when the driver of an SUV apparently lost control on a rain-soaked road and struck the rear of Clark's patrol car.

The Houston Chronicle reports that Clark was standing on the road but leaning inside the car at the time.

The driver of the SUV was taken to an area hospital with minor injuries.

Clark was taken to a local hospital before being transferred to Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston. He is expected to recover.

Officials say Clark has been with the Department of Public Safety since 2003.

Dallas students brainstorm best use of building

DALLAS (AP) — Some students from an all-girls school in Dallas recently got a lesson in commercial real estate by competing to come up with the best use for a vacant building.

Twenty-eight girls from the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School toured a vacant building recently near the city's new Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge as part of the CREW Careers Building Opportunities program, which aims to educate girls about careers and opportunities in commercial real estate.

CREW in the Community, the philanthropic arm of Commercial Real Estate Women Dallas, hosted the event at the 31-year-old structure, the Dallas Morning News reported.

It was the fifth year that students at the grades 6-12 school participated in the program. Past projects including looking at an old Dr Pepper plant and a Goodyear tire retread factory in Dallas.

"We want to be a resource for college and career planning," said Regina Weaver, director of community projects for CREW Careers. "We have a great partnership with Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School and hopefully inspire future businesswomen of tomorrow through our program."

The one-story building near the bridge is located in a changing landscape of new apartments, restaurants and revitalized businesses. Building owners Jim and Rebecca Tudor of Twinrose Investments first led the girls on a tour of the 32,000-square-foot structure. They were told about the building's layout and also learned about accessibility standards, firewalls and building codes.

Therapy dog program marks 25 years

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — When Woody first trotted into the pediatric ward at an Austin hospital, the staff came running in panic. It was 1986 and no one had seen someone bring a dog to the hospital before to comfort sick children, said Debbie Cobalis, the sheltie's owner.

Cobalis had just started the Woody Pet Therapy Program, which is now celebrating its 25th year with a mosaic wall in honor of Woody and all the dogs that have followed him in the program.

About 50 artists have been working for several months with glass tiles to create panels for the 26-foot-long wall in the healing garden at the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, said Susan Ribnick, one of the chairs of the Woody Pet Therapy Program.

The wall will include individual panels of the dogs involved in the therapy program as well as a large panel of chil-

dren's hands reaching out to touch a chocolate-colored Labrador retriever standing in the grass.

Dianne Sonnenberg, who designed the wall, said being part of the project "makes me feel warm and fuzzy."

On a December afternoon, volunteers at the Artisan Stained Glass store were laying down bright green pieces of mosaic tile for the Labrador panel.

"I've never done such a huge project before but this is such a good thing to do," said volunteer Cindy Sailor. There were several finished panels surrounding her, including a panel of a dog with a nurse's cap on, one with a dog standing by an IV stand and another with a dog with a halo.

The pet therapy program has had 52 dogs in it since it started with Woody at University Medical Center at Brackenridge, Ribnick said. Volunteers in the program now bring

their dogs to visit with sick children.

Jennifer Phillips, who has been a volunteer in the program since 1993, said her first dog was a corgi named Thistle who was good at snuggling with sick children in their beds.

Woody "seemed to have a sense of duty" about visiting sick children, said Cobalis. "One boy was recovering from a head injury and was real shaky on his feet, but he wanted to walk the dog so badly I handed the leash to him," she said. "Woody had a sixth sense and

walked really slowly."

Phillips said the mosaic wall will be a good way to illustrate what dogs can do for sick children.

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

The Silver Wings Ball will be Saturday January 12, 2013 at the newly restored Hotel Settles Ballroom

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

Cash Bar

Tickets will go quickly, so get yours today!

Live Auction

Tickets for the event will cost \$50 Reserve a Table for \$400

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: JANUARY 5TH

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

sudoku
 ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

News in brief

Congress' OK of fiscal cliff deal gives Obama a win, prevents GOP blame for tax boosts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress' excruciating, extraordinary New Year's Day approval of a compromise averting a prolonged tumble off the fiscal cliff hands President Barack Obama most of the tax boosts on the rich that he campaigned on. It also prevents House Republicans from facing blame for blocking tax cuts for most American households, though most GOP lawmakers parted ways with Speaker John Boehner and opposed the measure.

Passage also lays the groundwork for future battles between the two sides over federal spending and debt.

Capping a holiday season political spectacle that featured enough high and low notes for a Broadway musical, the GOP-run House voted final approval for the measure by 257-167 late Tuesday. That came after the Democratic-led Senate used a wee-hours 89-8 roll call to assent to the bill, belying the partisan brinkmanship that colored much of the path to the final deal.

"A central promise of my campaign for president was to change the tax code that was too skewed towards the wealthy at the expense of working middle-class Americans," Obama said at the White House before flying to Hawaii to resume his holiday break. "Tonight we've done that."

Despite deal avoiding fiscal cliff, taxes to increase for vast majority of American households

WASHINGTON (AP) — While the tax package that Congress passed New Year's Day will protect 99 percent of Americans from an income tax increase, most of them will still end up paying more federal taxes in 2013.

That's because the legislation did nothing to prevent a temporary reduction in the Social Security payroll tax from expiring. In 2012, that 2-percent-age-point cut in the payroll tax was worth about \$1,000 to a worker making \$50,000 a year.

The Tax Policy Center, a nonpartisan Washington research group, estimates that 77 percent of American households will face higher federal taxes in 2013 under the agreement negotiated between President Barack Obama and Senate Republicans. High-income families will feel the biggest tax increases, but many middle- and low-income families will pay higher taxes too.

Households making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 will face an average tax increase of \$579 in 2013, according to the Tax Policy Center's analysis. Households making between \$50,000 and \$75,000 will face an average tax increase of \$822.

N.Y.-area lawmakers: House GOP plans to adjourn Congress without permitting vote on Sandy aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York-area lawmakers in both parties erupted in anger after learning the House Republican leadership decided to allow the current term of Congress to end without holding a vote on aid for victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said late Tuesday he was told by the office of Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia that Speaker John Boehner of Ohio had decided to abandon a vote this session.

Cantor, who sets the House schedule, did not immediately comment. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland told reporters that just before Tuesday evening's vote on "fiscal cliff" legislation, Cantor told him that he was "99.9 percent confident that this bill would be on the floor, and that's what he wanted."

A spokesman for Boehner, Michael Steel, said, "The speaker is committed to getting this bill passed this month."

Stampede after New Year's fireworks show kills 61, injures more than 200 in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — A crowd stampeded after leaving a New Year's fireworks show early Tuesday in Ivory Coast's main city, killing 61 people — many of them children and teenagers — and injuring more than 200, rescue workers said.

Thousands had gathered at the Felix Houphouët Boigny Stadium in Abidjan's Plateau district to see the fireworks.

It was only the second New Year's Eve fireworks display since peace returned to this West African nation after a bloody upheaval over presidential elections put the nation on the brink of civil war and turned this city into a battle zone.

With 2013 showing greater promise, people were in the mood to celebrate on New Year's Eve. Families brought children and they watched the rockets burst in the nighttime sky. But only an hour into the new year, as the crowds poured onto the Boulevard de la République after the show, something caused a stampede, said Col. Issa Sako of the fire department rescue team. How so many deaths occurred on the broad boulevard and how the tragedy started is likely to be the subject of an investigation.

Many of the younger ones in the crowd went down, trampled underfoot. Most of those killed were between 8 and 15 years old.

Storm impeding probe, salvage of Shell oil drilling ship that grounded off Alaskan island

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — High seas and strong winds prevented crews from boarding an oil drilling ship to check for any damage after the large vessel went aground off an uninhabited island in the Gulf of Alaska.

A Coast Guard plane and a helicopter flew over the Kulluk on Tuesday, but severe weather did not permit putting marine experts on board the drilling rig, which had grounded on a sand and gravel beach in stormy seas.

Federal on-scene response coordinator Capt. Paul Mehler said the Royal Dutch Shell drilling rig is carrying about 143,000 gallons of diesel and about 12,000 gallons of lube oil and hydraulic fluid, and appeared stable.

"There is no sign of a release of any product," Mehler said during a news conference.

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Denise Austin

The fitness instructor, author and TV personality offers her tips for kicking off a healthy new year with realistic, real-life solutions to weight control and nutrition.

AmericanProfile

Find us Follow us Visit us

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Nip and Tuck

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 6
♥ K 10 7 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ Q J 8 7 2

WEST EAST
♠ A 8 3 ♠ 10 7 5 4
♥ Q 8 2 ♥ A 9 6 5
♦ K 6 3 ♦ 8 7 2
♣ K 9 6 5 ♣ A 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 9 2
♥ J 4
♦ A Q J 10
♣ 10 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — five of clubs.

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.

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

West's king. 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 East defended.

Tomorrow: It can't hurt to try.
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sudoku

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

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 9 | | | 7 | 3 | | | | 4 |
| | 6 | | 2 | | 1 | | | 9 |
| | | 2 | | | | 5 | | |
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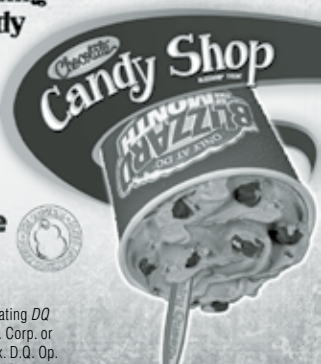
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Everything comes up Roses for Stanford

Cardinal outlast Wisconsin in New Year's Day defensive struggle

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Andrew Luck, Toby Gerhart and coach Jim Harbaugh started Stanford's improbable football renaissance, yet they never stood in the center of the Rose Bowl with the West Coast's most coveted trophy raised above their heads.

In fact, the last Stanford team to do what the Cardinal did Tuesday night had a defense known as the Thunderchickens.

Forty years after Stanford's last Rose Bowl victory, the favored Cardinal lived up to the legacy created by Luck, Harbaugh and every Thunderchicken that came before them by winning the bowl game that matters most to any Pac-12 team.

Stepfan Taylor rushed for an early touchdown, Kevin Hogan passed for 123 yards and No. 8 Stanford's defense shut out the Badgers in the second half of a 20-14 victory in the 99th Rose Bowl.

"I had heard that 1972 was our last win," said Hogan, the freshman quarterback who won Stanford's last five games. "It's been too long since we've had one at The Farm. It's a great feeling."

Instead of slipping back off the college football map when their biggest names graduate

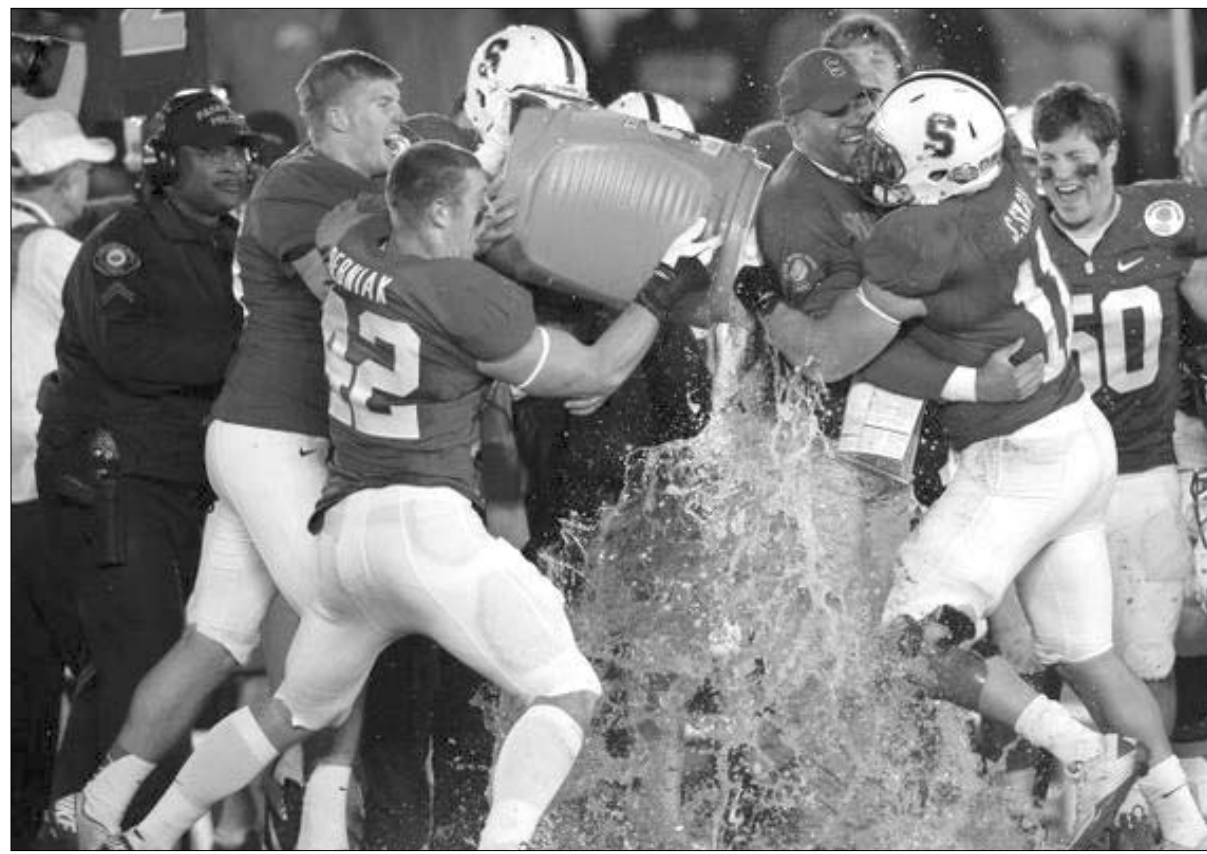
to NFL glory, the Cardinal (12-2) have just kept getting better under coach David Shaw. After winning the Orange Bowl two years ago and losing the Fiesta Bowl in overtime last season, Stanford followed up with its first conference title and its first trip to the Granddaddy of Them All in 13 years.

Stanford's unique combination of brains and brawn was too much for its opponents during eight straight wins to close the season.

"We've been in BCS games the past two years, but neither of those mean as much as this one did," said Zach Ertz, the tight end who had three catches for 61 yards. "This is the one we play for every year. It shows Stanford is here to stay."

Usua Amanam capped the defensive performance with an interception that stopped Wisconsin's final drive at midfield with 2:30 to play in a grind-it-out game that allowed the Badgers just 82 yards and four first downs after halftime.

"There's a sense of accomplishment, because we got somewhere we hadn't been yet," said linebacker Shayne Skov, who made eight tackles while leading Stanford's



AP photo
Stanford head coach David Shaw is doused by Alex Debniak (42) and hugged by Shayne Skov (11) as they celebrate their 20-14 win over Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl game Tuesday in Pasadena, Calif.

second-half shutout. "If you looked at our goals at the beginning of the season, this was on top of the list, and we got it done. We're extremely satisfied."

The Cardinal finished with

12 victories for just the second time in school history — and the second time in the last three years.

Stanford clamped down on the Big Ten champion Badgers (8-6), who lost the Rose

Bowl in heartbreaking fashion for the third consecutive season. Montee Ball rushed for 100 yards and his FBS-record 83rd touchdown, but

See ROSE, Page 12



AP photo
Florida State wide receivers Greg Dent (15) and Rashad Greene (80) celebrate after Greene scored a touchdown during the first half of the Orange Bowl game against Northern Illinois Tuesday in Miami.

Seminoles eyeing future after rolling to Orange Bowl victory

MIAMI (AP) — Laughing and mugging for the cameras, the Florida State Seminoles happily hoisted the Orange Bowl trophy as a consolation prize, their disappointment about failing to reach the national championship game all but forgotten.

They figure next season will be different.

Smothering defense and two breakaway runs by senior fullback Lonnie Pryor helped Florida State beat Northern Illinois 31-10 Tuesday night.

The victory was the first for the Seminoles (12-2) in a BCS bowl since the glory days of 2000, when they beat Virginia Tech for the national title.

After the game, coach Jimbo Fisher's players wore T-shirts that read, "Florida State-ment."

"We're knocking on the door," Fisher said. "We feel very confident about where we're going and what we're doing. We've laid a great foundation here, and there's a

great team coming back."

While Fisher's roster is loaded with underclassmen, two seniors shone in the season finale. Pryor, voted the game's outstanding player, ran for a career-high 134 yards and two scores in only five carries, while classmate EJ Manuel threw for 291 yards.

"We wanted to leave a legacy and change the culture in what we do here," Manuel said. "You're reaping the benefits right now."

Junior defensive end Bjoern Werner — who has yet to announce whether he'll turn pro this year — led a swarming defense that stuffed Huskies QB and all-purpose threat Jordan Lynch for most of the night.

Florida State cornerback Xavier Rhodes recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter to help seal the win. He said he'll forgo his senior season and join the NFL this year.

The 13th-ranked Seminoles won a bowl game for the fifth

season in a row, but the stakes were higher this time. It was their first BCS bowl berth in seven years.

"It's not the national championship, but right below," Werner said. "Not a lot of teams can say that."

The 12-victory season was the first since 1999 for the Seminoles, the Atlantic Coast Conference champions.

"Florida State is almost back," safety Lamaricus Joyner said.

For 16th-ranked Northern Illinois (12-2), playing in a BCS bowl for the first time, the defeat snapped a 12-game winning streak. The Huskies came in as two-touchdown underdogs and fell to 5-28 against top 25 teams.

"We knew that they were going to play us tough," Fisher said. "But our kids, it's another step in which we handled the big platform, and I'm very proud of them."

See ORANGE, Page 12

J.J. Watt building off big moment in 2011 playoffs

HOUSTON (AP) — With one mighty swat, J.J. Watt knocked down Andy Dalton's pass, intercepted it and returned it for a touchdown in last year's playoff win over Cincinnati for one of the biggest plays in Texans history.

A year later, the second-year defensive end is one of the league's top defenders, and he'll need another big game to help Houston — which lost three of its last four regular season games — regain its form in a wild-card playoff rematch against Cincinnati.

Watt wasn't too keen on reliving that play

Tuesday, though.

"That was last year and this is this year," he said. "I have things to focus on this year. It was a great play, a huge moment in my life, but I'm looking forward to making bigger moments this year."

He's had plenty of them so far this season, leading the NFL with 20½ sacks. He also had 39 tackles for loss, 16 passes defended, 107 tackles and four forced fumbles.

"You are watching something special," coach Gary Kubiak said.

"If you probably went and broke down what happened over a period

of the first two years in this league for a player, I'm not sure many guys could put up the numbers he's put up."

Watt was having a solid rookie season for Houston in 2011 and had started each game for the Texans. But he was largely unknown outside of Houston before his interception return gave the Texans their first lead in a 31-10 win over the Bengals. It was the first playoff win in franchise history and a play Kubiak called a "game-changer."

"He's been really consistent," Kubiak said. "He was a (darn) good rookie. During the play-

offs last year, he raised his level of play. He found another gear as a player. It's continued through this season."

Bengals coach Marvin Lewis remembers the play from Watt well, and has watched him change the course of many other games with his playmaking ability.

"It's kind of a big dagger for us," Lewis said. "We never really overcame it. He's done that a lot. He's made the big sacks and sack fumbles ... you can't put on the tape where he's not doing that."

Watt finished 2½ sacks shy of breaking Michael Strahan's NFL single-

season record of 22½. He was named to his first Pro Bowl recently, and is a top candidate for Defensive Player of the Year. But Watt isn't concerned with individual accolades.

The Texans lost to the Ravens in the second round of the playoffs last season. Now they're looking to put the disappointment of the last month behind them when they host the Bengals on Saturday.

Houston intercepted Dalton three times and sacked him four times in last year's win. Watt believes making the Bengals quarterback uncomfortable will again

be the key to success.

"The only way I know how to stop a quarterback-receiver combination is to not let the quarterback get it out of his hands, and that's where I come in, and that's where the defensive line comes in," Watt said. "We need to put pressure on him. We need to get after him. We need to fluster him."

The Bengals are acutely aware of the problems Watt can create. Rookie rightguard Kevin Zeitler might know what to expect better than anyone. He, like Watt, went to school at Wisconsin and the two have trained at the same gym.

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Virgo Moon Gets Back To Work

With the number of hours we've spent in 2013 still in the double digits, the Virgo moon guides the fresh year in practical action that resonates well with the Capricorn sun. Mercury in Capricorn also offers a cosmic tip: Watch out for reserved types. People who seem emotionally low-key are often highly driven and passionately motivated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel driven and tenacious now, but can you keep this up in the days, weeks and months to come? Make a long-term plan that includes checkpoints. Accountability will be key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In a sense, you're on a never-ending journey, and therefore you cannot expect to arrive anytime soon — or anytime at all, really. This should help you relax and enjoy yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you want to know what a big-time success looks like, look in the mirror. You are capable of greatness. Whatever strides you make today are just the

beginning. Keep track of them. You'll want to remember them later.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While trying to stick to the moral high road, distracting thoughts could have you wondering what exactly is in it for you? You are, after all, a human being and not a saint.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your actions will reflect your basic belief that everyone is on the same level. You see those who try to separate people into classes as sadly misguided, and you're right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't be a good soldier in the army of life. If you're not headed where you want to go, stop marching and step out of line. Expect trial and error. Don't settle for taking orders from an invisible leader.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your efforts to create rapport may not seem to be working, but they really are. The connection will be made. Note that it's much easier to have an influence over people who like you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People always want what they can't have. You know this, and you intuitively feel compelled to create a sense of scarcity around what you have to offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Nothing attracts a crowd like a crowd. "Everyone is doing it" is an idea that many influencers

use to add numbers to their group. You'll use this principle in some way today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you find yourself thinking you don't have control over a situation, look for all the ways in which you do have control. There is always something to be done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Rejection is no fun, and most people will do anything to avoid it. Yet, the only way to make exciting things happen in your life is to risk rejection. So you'll gladly take the risk today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone has something to join and follow these days, but finding the truly worthy cause is still a challenge. Research will be necessary in order to see past the superficial to the actual work being done.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 2). You don't even have to think about all the kind words you say. They naturally flow from your compassionate heart, connecting and endearing you to the people who make your life wonderful this year. The opportunities you attract with your compassion will move you to new places. You'll earn big from a July sale. Aries and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 2, 9, 3 and 17.

GREEN RESOLUTION CHALLENGE PART TWO: Join the Green Revolution by making

a green resolution. What can you do this year to save the planet? I challenge you to pick a green resolution and keep it all year. What's the resolution earth signs TAURUS, VIRGO and CAPRICORN are most likely to keep all year? The kinship these signs feel with the other living things on this planet may compel earth signs to start bringing their own bags to the store. The one trillion disposable plastic bags used worldwide every year are over-filling landfills and killing animals, especially in the oceans. It's a truly needless waste considering how easy it is to bring your own reusable bags. Air signs GEMINI, LIBRA and AQUARIUS will feel motivated to do their part to keep emissions low by getting regular car tune-ups, making fewer trips and carpooling whenever possible. Some will go so far as to use more public transportation or purchase electric or hybrid cars. Since there are many ways to reduce carbon emissions, these air signs would benefit from one simple resolution: use less oil daily. Note that recycling also helps in this effort, as the oil used in creating plastic containers is considerable.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2013 CREATORS.COM



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I was diagnosed with depression more than 20 years ago. When I was in high school, I was hospitalized for close to a year. Because money and insurance have been sporadic, I have been on and off of medication. Plus, once I get on a good medication, I start feeling that I don't need it anymore. Last year, my husband lost his job, so I have no insurance and have been off of medication since.

Annie, my depression feels like it is crushing me. I am tired all the time and not interested in doing anything. I interpret everything my husband says as insulting or angry, although I know it isn't. Part of the problem is, we haven't had sex in three years. He says he just doesn't want to. So I feel pretty worthless.

I fantasize about dying. I feel this dark cloud hanging over me. I try to put on a happy face, but it doesn't help much. My husband knows about my depression, but there isn't much we can do without money. Please help me. — *Tired of It*

Dear Tired: There are resources for you. First contact the National Alliance on Mental Illness (nami.org) at 1-800-950-NAMI. You also can find a listing of free or low-cost health centers in your area through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (hhs.gov) and the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (pparx.org), which also can help with medication. And don't overlook

your local community centers and nearby medical schools for low-cost counseling services. Just writing us shows your commitment to getting well. Hang in there.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have a friend who was given an award a few years ago. Many of us attended the event, and friends from afar sent congratulations and accolades. Since then, however, "Ralph" brings up the award at every occasion, showering everyone with photos and bragging to the skies.

This is getting rather tiring to the rest of us. Some people have made a few comments to him, saying it's time to "let it go," but it doesn't help. Ralph thinks he's truly hot stuff now, and it's become unbearable to be around him. We all enjoy the company of his wife, who unfortunately doesn't try to curtail his boasting, but we certainly don't wish to be around Ralph anymore.

Is there any polite statement we could make to get him to stop the ego talk? — *Had It*

Dear Had It: Poor Ralph. This is obviously the only thing he has to brag about, and he's not going to stop as long as he thinks he can still get mileage out of it. Try to be tolerant. When he mentions his award, plaster a fake smile onto your face, pat his arm and say, "Yes, Ralph, we know," and then change the subject or walk away.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Some Talk, Please," who reports that her husband is otherwise a good guy, but rarely talks to her and sulks for sex. She also said that one of her children has been diagnosed with Asperger syndrome. I would like to remind her that the apple does not fall far from the tree.

If they have a child with Asperger's, it is possible that her husband may have the same diagnosis. This was the case with my son and my husband. I strongly suspected my husband had some form of autism. He was gracious enough to see a psychiatrist, who diagnosed him with Asperger syndrome and schizoid disorder. My husband truly is clueless about intimacy.

There are resources available on the Internet for spouses of people with Asperger's and also for those who want to learn how to be intimate. I let my hubby know I am grateful for all he does. I also let him know that when my emotional needs are met, then I will engage in sex. — *Been There, Done That*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

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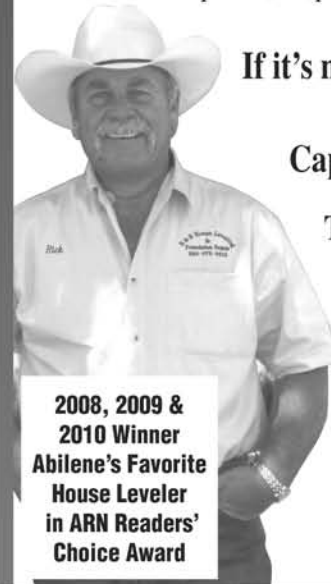
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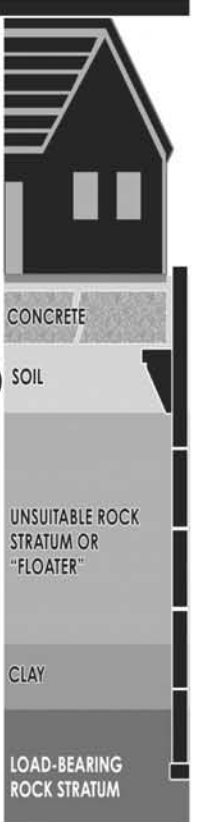
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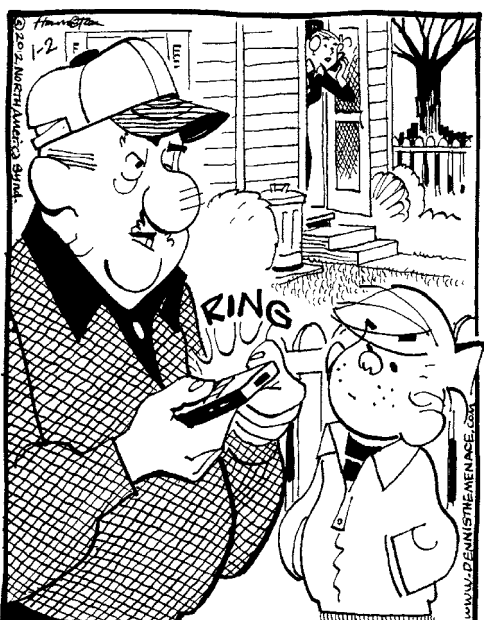
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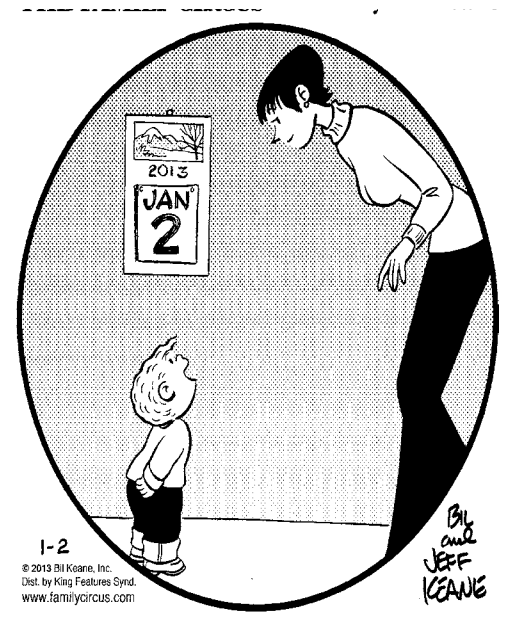
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| 4:PM | Jdg Judy | Primer Impacto (SS) | Ricki Lake | CBS7 | María Celeste | News Inside Ed. | Friends | Donkey Dr. | Wild Kratt | There | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome | Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton | Castle | Yard: Homecoming | Phineas Random | NFL32 | Around Pardon |
| 5:PM | News | Casa | Two Men | News | Noticias | News | King | Shepherd's Heart | Electric | King | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome | Castle | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Shake It Good | SportsNation | SportsCenter | |
| 6:PM | Jeopardy! | Corona de Lágrimas | Big Bang | News | Caso Cerado | News | Seinfeld | Mani | PBS News-Hour | Rules | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max, Hugh Keays-Byrne | Castle | ANT Farm Shake It | College Basketball: Davidson vs. Duke. | College GameDay | College GameDay | |
| 7:PM | Middle Neighbors | Por Ella Soy Eva | Mobbed | To Be Announced | Rosa Diamante (SS) | Whitney Guys | Fam. Guy | Upd | Nature (DVS) | Arrow | Moonshiners | Movie: Underworld, Michael Sheen | Castle | Movie: Independence Day, Jeff Goldblum | High School Football | NFL Live | 2013 Allstate Sugar Bowl: Florida vs. Louisville. | |
| 8:PM | Mod Fam | Amores Verdaderos | Mobbed | Criminal Minds | Corazón Valiente | Law & Order: SVU | Family Guy | Light of the Southwest | NOVA (DVS) | Supernatural | Amish Mafia | Movie: Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior | Castle | ANT Farm Shake It | NFL Live | Jessie | SportsCenter | |
| 9:PM | Nashville | Amor Bravo | Simpsons | CSI: Crime Scene | Escobar | Chicago Fire | Big Bang | Big Bang | Life on Fire | Seinfeld | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior | Castle | ANT Farm Shake It | NFL Live | Jessie | SportsCenter | |
| 10:PM | Nightline | Noticiero | Raymond | Letterman | Victorinos (SS) | Jay Leno | Office | Alewine | World | '70s | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome | Leverage | Wendy Williams | NFL Live | Wizards | SportsCenter | |
| 11:PM | Jimmy Kimmel Live | Al Diablo | Law Order: CI | Ferguson | Decisiones (SS) | Jimmy Fallon | Office | R. Shap | World | '70s | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome | Leverage | Wendy Williams | NFL Live | Wizards | SportsCenter | |
| 12:AM | Extra | Mar de Amor (SS) | Raymond | Ferguson | Decisiones (SS) | Jimmy Fallon | Office | Upd | World | '70s | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome | Leverage | Wendy Williams | NFL Live | Wizards | SportsCenter | |
| 12:AM | Paid | Mar de Amor (SS) | Fam. Guy | Insider | Pagado | News | Light | Light | World | '70s | Moonshiners | Movie: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome | Leverage | Wendy Williams | NFL Live | Wizards | SportsCenter | |

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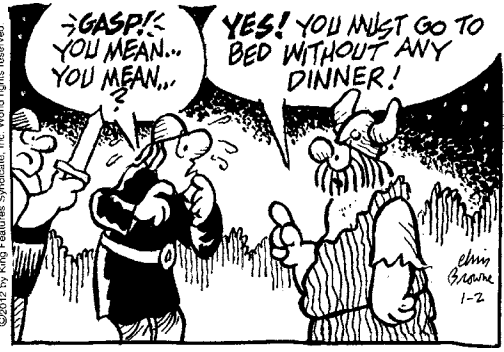


"Have I been a good boy so far this year?"

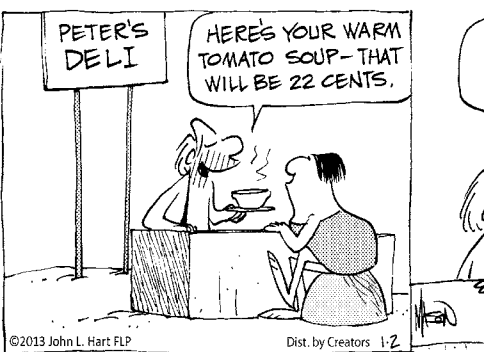
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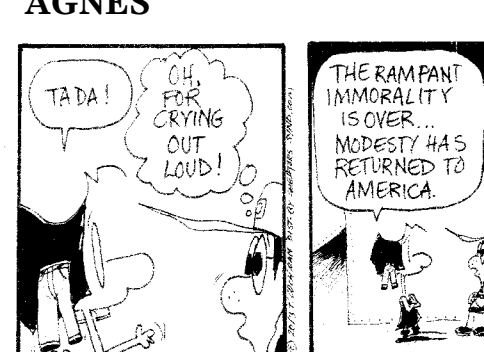
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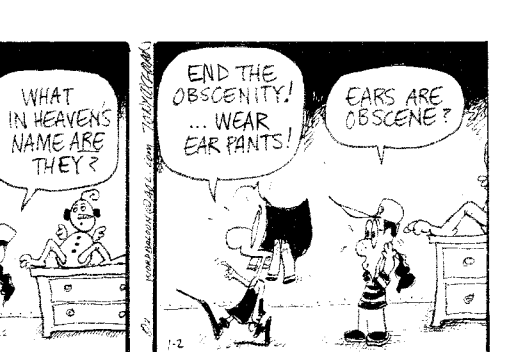
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THE OTHER COAST



CAT HOROSCOPES



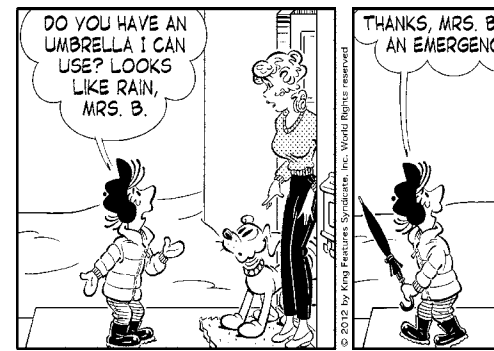
SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2013. There are 363 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 2, 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

On this date:

In 1893, the U.S. Postal Service issued its first commemorative stamp to honor the World's Columbian Expedition and the quadricentennial of Christopher Columbus' voyage.

In 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.

In 1921, the play that coined the term "robot," "R.U.R." (Rossum's Universal Robots) by Karel Capek, was first performed in Czechoslovakia.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, N.J., on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne

Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.)

In 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its space probe Luna 1, the first manmade object to fly past the moon, its apparent intended target.

In 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts launched his successful bid for the presidency.

In 1971, 66 people were killed in a pileup of spectators leaving a soccer match at Ibrox (EYE'-brox) Stadium in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 miles an hour. (Federal speed limits were abolished in 1995).

In 1981, police in Sheffield, England, arrested Peter Sutcliffe, who confessed to being the "Yorkshire Ripper," the serial killer of 13 women.

In 2006, 12 miners died in a methane gas explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, W.Va., but one miner, Randal McCloy Jr., was eventually rescued.

Today's Birthdays

Country musician Harold Bradley is 87. Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert is 71. TV host Jack Hanna is 66. Actress Wendy Phillips is 61. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 52. Movie director Todd Haynes is 52. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher David Cone is 50. Actress Tia Carrere is 46. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 45. Model Christy Turlington is 44. Actor Taye Diggs is 42. Rock musician Scott Underwood (Train) is 42. Rock singer Doug Robb (Hoobastank) is 38. Actor Dax Shepard is 38. Actress Paz Vega is 37. Country musician Chris Hartman is 35. Rock musician Jerry DePizzo Jr. (O.A.R.) is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelton Kessee (IMX) is 32.

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Answer to previous puzzle

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| ACTV | MOTTO | THAW |
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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 S&L devices
 - 5 Tablet computer downloads
 - 9 Was brilliant
 - 14 Onetime Teheran ruler
 - 15 Chicken Cordon
 - 16 Currently
 - 17 Exceed normal limits
 - 20 Army driller's designation: Abbr.
 - 21 Waterfall sound
 - 22 Plaid fabric
 - 23 Paperless birthday greeting
 - 25 Scouting outing
 - 26 Evita surname
 - 28 Every other hurricane
 - 30 Flat-topped land
 - 34 Texas city
 - 36 Diamond Head's home
 - 39 Crosses (out)
 - 40 Exercise restraint
 - 43 High-tech organizer: Abbr.
 - 44 "A _ formality!"
 - 45 Angry outburst
 - 46 Cravings
 - 48 Long-eared farm animal
 - 50 Goethe play
 - 51 Falls back
 - 54 Puritans
 - 56 Exotic vacation
 - 59 Oxford, for one
 - 60 "Plasma" appliances
 - 63 Be successful at retail
- DOWN
- 1 Egyptian snakes
 - 2 Hoodlum
 - 3 Far-reaching strategy
 - 4 "Zip it!"
 - 5 Can't stomach
 - 6 States one's case
 - 7 Look closely
 - 8 Great ball of fire
 - 9 Rib-eye, for instance
 - 10 Poker variety
 - 11 Carbon monoxide's lack
 - 12 California wine region
 - 13 Looks closely at
 - 18 Window over a door
 - 19 Rival of The Citadel
 - 24 Old furnace fuel
 - 25 Multitude, so to speak
 - 26 Full of energy
 - 27 Artfully dodge
 - 29 Fire engine gear
 - 31 Ventilation aid
 - 32 Parakeet food
 - 33 Strong point
 - 35 Latish lunchtime
 - 37 Crude shelter
 - 38 Consolidator
 - 41 Chapters of history
 - 42 Rugged rock
 - 47 Mystical gathering
 - 49 3-D shape
 - 52 Unruly kids
 - 53 Recycling container
 - 55 Used a lariat on
 - 56 Arise (from)
 - 57 Subjective glow
 - 58 Worry
 - 59 Trash hauler
 - 61 Trattoria beverage
 - 62 Worry
 - 64 1945 battle site, briefly
 - 65 Covert (spy missions)

KNobby by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman

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ORANGE

Continued from Page 7

Pryor scored the first touchdown on a career-long 60-yard run, then ran 37 yards for a clinching touchdown with 10 minutes left. They were the two longest rushes allowed by Northern Illinois all season.

Manuel went 26 for 38, threw for one score and ran for another. Florida State totaled 534 yards and broke the school record for yards in a sea-

son with 6,591.

The Huskies were widely derided as unworthy of a BCS bowl berth, and didn't do enough to silence the doubters. Trick plays in the kicking game helped keep them close until the fourth quarter, but when it came to Lynch, not much fooled a Florida State defense ranked second in the nation.

Lynch came into the game leading the nation in rushing and total offense, and he threw or ran on nearly every play

for the Huskies. But he completed only 15 of 41 attempts for 176 yards, and carried 23 times for 44 yards.

After the Huskies' lone touchdown cut their deficit to 17-10 in the third quarter, they recovered an onside kick, and Lynch moved them to the Florida State 23. But he was flushed from the pocket and threw an ill-advised pass that was intercepted.

"It probably wasn't the smartest thing to force the ball there," Lynch said.

Mavs break 6-game losing skid

WASHINGTON (AP) — A strong second-half performance helped the Dallas Mavericks avoid their first seven-game skid in nearly 14 years.

Vince Carter scored 23 points, and O.J. Mayo and Darren Collison each added 15 to help the Mavericks break their six-game losing streak with a 103-94 win over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

The Wizards (4-25) took a 14-point lead early in the second quarter before Dallas rallied. The Mavs trailed by four at the half before outscoring the Wizards 35-19 in the third quarter to take an 83-71 lead.

"It's been a rough two weeks,"

coach Rick Carlisle said.

The Mavericks have tried to work Dirk Nowitzki back into the lineup, and in his fifth game back after right knee surgery the former league MVP scored 11 points.

"The locker room is miserable. The coaches are miserable when we lose, so it definitely is one we wanted to get," Nowitzki said.

The Mavericks were ahead 99-84 with 3:28 to play, but Washington scored eight straight to cut the lead to seven. Carter, making only his second start of the season, followed with an emphatic dunk with 1:11 to play to make it 101-93.

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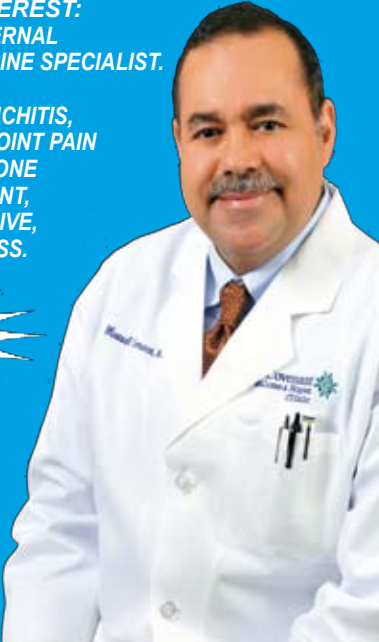
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Wisconsin couldn't score after the final seconds of the first half.

With an impressive defense of its own, Wisconsin stayed in position for an upset in the one-game return of Hall of Fame coach Barry Alvarez, who was back on the Badgers' sideline in his red sweater-vest seven years after hanging up his whistle.

Kelsey Young took his only carry 16 yards for a score on Stanford's opening possession, and Taylor scored on the second drive after a big catch by Ertz. Wisconsin kept the Cardinal out of the end zone for the final 51 minutes, holding them

to three points in the second half, but Stanford's defense didn't need any more help.

When Bielema abruptly left Wisconsin for Arkansas after winning the Big Ten title game, Alvarez agreed to coach his fourth Rose Bowl before handing off his program to Andersen, who met with Alvarez on the field before the game. But the Badgers' third consecutive January in Pasadena ended in much the same way as the last two: With the offense failing to get the late score the Badgers desperately needed.

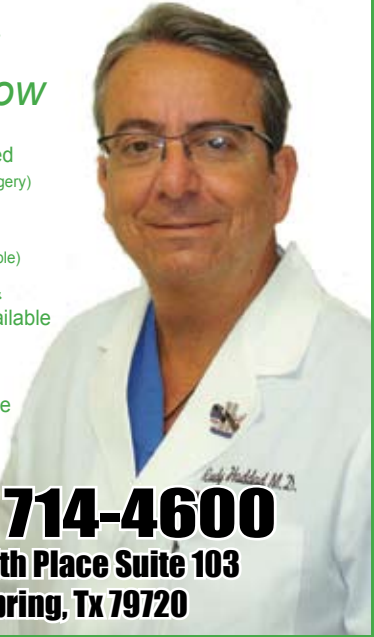
"This stings just as much, because we fell extremely short when we had the opportunity to win," Ball said. "We had numerous opportunities to capitalize."

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