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H BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2013



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Festival prep hits high gear

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Comanche Trail Park is being transformed into a construction zone — with a holiday theme, of course.

Preparations for the 17th annual Festival of Lights will reach the final stages this week as volunteers begin constructing the event's displays at the park prior to its grand opening Dec. 15.

The annual Christmas season attraction, which attracts thousands of visitors to Comanche Trail Park, will run from Dec. 15-31 at Comanche Trail Park, longtime director Pat Simmons said.

"We started moving things over to the park this morning," Simmons said today. "It's going to take every bit of strength they have between now and the 15th to have everything ready."

The festival will feature more than 1 million lights and hundreds of displays, turning a large section of the park into a West Texas style Christmas wonderland.

More than 20,000 visitors are expected during the event, which last year attracted people from 38 states and 17 foreign countries.

"I'm hoping for 25,000 people this year," Simmons said. "We've come close a couple of times, but we've never quite reached that number, and I'd like to see that happen."

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3



Lauren Grace gives Santa her wish list. Santa made a brief visit to the Spring Town Plaza Saturday to visit area children to determine who gets the good stuff and who gets a lump of coal in their stockings. Santa will make another appearance at the Heritage Museum to have breakfast before appearing in the Herald's annual Christmas parade Dec. 7. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m.

HERALD photo/Andrea Medlin

Chaplain Corps seeks emergency kit donations

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

In an emergency, needs like basic hygiene are furthest from anyone's thoughts. Fortunately, a local organization

has already met those needs but is sending out a plea to help continue that effort.

The Howard County Chaplain's Corps provides emergency kits to people who have gone through a traumatic

event. The kits includes toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair combs and more, but the number of those kits is running pretty low.

"Last year in June I had 25 and right now I have three,"

said Joel Miller, senior chaplain. "Just recently, a family lost everything in a house fire. At that particular time right there, it was night. The family is devastated. They are not thinking straight."

They don't think about toothbrushes or toothpaste. They are not thinking about the necessities at that time.

"That is one of the things

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Gay rights fight comes to Texas, despite ban

By **CHRIS TOMLINSON**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — One couple wants to get married, while the other just wants theirs recognized. A third couple wants a divorce, while the fourth wants theirs finalized. If all win their lawsuits, they could overturn the Texas ban on same-sex marriage.

A federal court in San Antonio will hear arguments next month from the attorneys representing the couples who want to live lawfully wedded. The Texas Supreme Court is considering the cases of the couples who want their out-of-state marriages legally dissolved.

They are challenging a constitutional ban on gay and lesbian marriages approved by 1.7 million Texas voters in 2005. At the time, only Massachusetts allowed gay marriage and conservatives hoped to pass a federal

constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Eight years later, 16 states and the District of Columbia have legalized same-sex marriages, and New Mexico is allowing marriages pending a decision by that state's Supreme Court later this year. The U.S. Supreme Court has also struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, saying federal authorities cannot deny the rights of couples legally married under state law.

That led to the first encroachment on Texas law, when the Texas National Guard agreed last week to begin processing applications for military benefits filed by same-sex couples. Initially, the guard told service members to apply for benefits at federal facilities because Texas law banned them from recognizing same-sex marriages.

The guard's reversal came after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said he would not tolerate state-employed officials refusing to treat all members of the military equally. Meanwhile, Attorney General Greg Abbott must still

See **FIGHT**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Julius "Jim" Ryals

Julius "Jim" Ryals, 77, of Big Spring, Texas, died Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013, in a Midland, Texas, hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, at Big Spring Full Gospel Fellowship, 309 Benton, with Billy Guy officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



He was born July 13, 1936, in Wilmer, Ala., and married Shirley Ann Clawson Aug. 13, 1966, in Big Spring. Jim started working for the city of Big Spring in 1960. Soon after he joined the Big Spring Fire Department where he worked for 27 years, the last five as Fire Chief. After retiring he began working at the Big Spring State Hospital and retired again.

He attended Texas A&M University and taught fire science at Howard College and Arson Investigation School at UTPB.

Jim was a member and served as deacon at Big Spring Full Gospel Fellowship.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Ann Ryals of Big Spring; granddaughter, Brookelynn Jensen; grandson, Zacary Barber; sister-in-law, Wanda Phipps of Big Spring and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Amanda Barber; his parents, Fred and Emma Maples Ryals; two brothers, Prentice Ryals and Roger Ryals and two sisters, Eloise Coggins and Juanita Blackmon.

The family suggests memorials be made to Big Spring Full Gospel Fellowship, c/o 1709 Kentucky Way, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or the donor's favorite charity.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid Obituary

Charles Kent
(Kenny) Copeland

Charles Kent (Kenny) Copeland died on Nov. 28, 2013. Memorial services will be held on Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, at 2 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home Chapel with Chaplain Robert Kirk officiating.

Kenny is survived by his wife, Debra Copeland of Midland, Texas; son, Chance Copeland and wife Claire of Midland; son, Jordan Copeland of Midland; two sisters, Faith McKinney of Arizona and Elizabeth Uzman of Oklahoma; brother David Copeland of Tyler, Texas; mother-in-law, Janet Wiggins of Big Spring; brother-in-law, Cary Wiggins and wife Mindy of Big Spring; uncle Don Gooch of Big Spring; a granddaughter and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents, Billy and Marcia Copeland.

Arrangements are under the direction on Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Walter L. "Wally" Slate

Walter L. "Wally" Slate, 90, of Big Spring, Texas, died Nov. 30, 2013, in a local nursing home. Grave-side services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013, at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Survivors include a daughter, Kay McDaniel and husband, Terry; a son, Mark Slate and wife, Deborah of Big Spring; four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Police blotter

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

- **DISTURBANCE** call was reported in the 1300 block of Nolan St. in the 600 block of East 13th and the 1400 block of East Sixth St.
- **ROY GUERRERO CERVANTES JR.**, 34, of 1304 ½ S. Nolan St., was arrested on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest, search or transport, Class A misdemeanor.
- **AUSTIN JAMES SANCHEZ**, 20, of 611 Circle Dr., was arrested on charges of minor driving under the influence of alcohol and duty on striking fixture or landscaping, more than than \$200.
- **MARTY WAYNE HUCKABEE**, 33, of 1425 E. Sixth St., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 300 block of Washington Boulevard, in the 2600 block of Highway 87.
- **BUILDING OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 500 block of Donley St.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 2600 block of S. Gregg St.
- **BURLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1400 block of Runnels St.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ANDY JOALLEN KELLEY**, 33, was arrested by the BSPD on a Terry County warrant for motion to revoke parole (MTRP) – driving while intoxicated.
 - **KYLE SHALOR SEBER**, 24, was arrested by the BSPD on warrants for theft of service, more than \$20 but less than \$500.
 - **WILLIAM THOMAS WHERRY III**, 24, was arrested by the BSPD on a Collin County warrant for interfere with an emergency call.
 - **ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA**, 28, was arrested by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.
 - **MICHAEL LEE MARBEITER**, 38, was arrested by the HCSO on a warrant for manufacturing/ delivering a controlled substance, more than 1 gram but less than 4 grams.
 - **MICHAEL JOSEPH COFFMAN**, 50, was arrested by the BSPD on warrants for criminal mischief, more than \$500 but less than \$1,500 and theft of property, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
 - **PEDRO HERNANDEZ JR.**, 39, was arrested by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - **JOSHUA CARROL MATHEWS**, 28, was arrested by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and conv/susp/w/o fin res.
 - **VICTORIA ROCHELLE WINTERS**, 18, was arrested by the BSPD on a warrant for assault-physical contract.
 - **HEATHER ELIZABETH LOONEY**, 29, was arrested by the BSPD on charges for fraud possession of a controlled substance/prescription.
 - **JOHNNY RICHARD REYES**, 26, was arrested by the BSPD on a warrant for MRTP-theft of property, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
 - **KEVIN MICHAEL ZUBIATE**, 25, was arrested by the BSPD on warrants of failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to report change of address/name.
 - **JULIA KAY MURPHY**, 34, was arrested by the DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces and on a Midland County warrant for fugitive arrest-assault with bodily injury.
 - **JOSEPH CLIFFORD CLARK IV**, 31, was arrested by the DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
 - **LANCE WAYNE BIDDLE LAND**, 24, was arrested by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces; possession of a dangerous drug; possession of drug paraphernalia.
 - **JASON HARVEY BEDFORD**, 29, was arrested by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram; possession of drug paraphernalia and on a warranted for stealing/receiving stolen check.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Tue 12/3	Wed 12/4	Thu 12/5
76/45 Sunny and windy. High 76F. Winds W at 20 to 30 mph.	79/51 Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the up- per 70s and lows in the low 50s.	69/46 More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise: 7:30 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	75	49	sunny
Amarillo	68	41	sunny
Austin	79	54	pt sunny
Kingsville	82	61	pt sunny
Livingston	74	56	pt sunny
Longview	65	53	mst sunny

- **VICTOR CLAUDE NOEL**, 50, was arrested by the DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, second ; speeding 74 in a 55 miles an hour zone, and driving with an expired driver's license.
- **KEITH JAMES KOCHMICK**, 26, was arrested by the DPS on a charge of public intoxication.
- **PATRICIA SARAH PARKER**, 27, was arrested by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license when unlicensed.
- **LAURA ELIZABETH MATULA**, 41, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substances, less than 1 gram.
- **ALLAN TRISTAN JACKSON**, 29, was arrested by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated and accident involving damage to a vehicle, more than \$200.
- **WENDY MICHELE SCHUMACHER**, 27, was arrested by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container.
- **ASHLEE MARI LOVE**, 18, was arrested by the DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.
- **SANDY MARTINEZ**, 28, was arrested by the DPS on seven warrants for failure to appear and for warrants for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- **AUSTIN JAMES SANCHEZ**, 20, was arrested by the BSPD on charges of minor driving under the influences of alcohol and duty on striking fixture/highway landscape, more than \$200.
- **ROY G. CERVANTES**, 34, was arrested by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest search or transport.
- **MARTY WAYNE HUCKABEE**, 33, was arrested by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity for Nov. 26:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of South Gregg. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center (SMMC).
- **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of Sycamore. One person was Air Evac.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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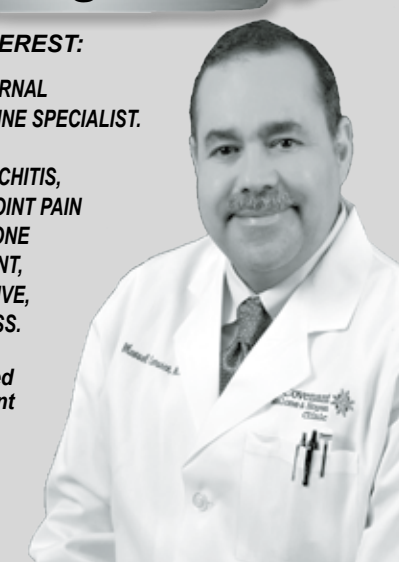
Celebrating 20 Years

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Texas news in brief

Austin attorney to be sentenced for racketeering

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — An Austin personal injury attorney is scheduled to be sentenced on federal racketeering charges in Brownsville, the latest for a string of convictions tied to a judicial bribery investigation.

Court records indicate Austin lawyer Marc Rosenthal was expected to be sentenced Monday afternoon. A jury in Corpus Christi convicted Rosenthal on 13 counts including racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud and tampering with a proceeding in February at the conclusion of a four-week trial.

Prosecutors alleged Rosenthal was one of the lawyers who bribed former state District Judge Abel Limas for favorable decisions. The judge also had an agreement to go work for Rosenthal's firm after leaving the bench. Prosecutors filed a motion Monday asking that Rosenthal be ordered to forfeit more than \$7.8 million.

Some Air Force recruits in Texas take abuse survey

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Recruits at a South Texas Air Force base where more than two dozen instructors were convicted of sexual and other abuse are being asked if they've been mistreated.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Monday so far no additional cases of alleged wrongdoing have been found at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Recruits in October began taking the voluntary survey with dozens of questions about issues that include sexual harassment, sexual assault and attempts by instructors to flirt or have sexual relationships.

Col. J.D. Willis says early results show some recruits have concerns about bullying by fellow trainees.

The Air Force has tightened training rules since 26 instructors were convicted of rape, sexual assault, mal-training or having consensual but prohibited relationships. Trainers were accused of mainly preying on female recruits.

Flight delayed because of tuberculosis scare

PHOENIX (AP) — About 70 passengers on a US Airways Express flight from Texas to Arizona were briefly

kept on the plane after it landed, and some say they were told to get tuberculosis tests and vaccinations.

Responders on Saturday boarded the plane in Phoenix and removed a man who was asked to put on a medical mask.

US Airways spokesman Bill McGlahsen says the airline was notified after the plane departed Austin that the passenger's status had been changed to "no-fly" because of an unspecified medical condition.

Federal and Maricopa County health officials said there was no immediate confirmation that the passenger has an infectious disease.

Tuberculosis is a respiratory disease that can be fatal. The Centers for Disease Control says it is spread through the air.

Homicide victim found in N.M. ID'd as Texas woman

CARLSBAD, N.M. (AP) — Authorities in southeastern New Mexico have identified a homicide victim whose body was found in the Pecos River as a 24-year-old Texas woman.

The Eddy County Sheriff's Department says family members reported Anna L. Villegas of Seminole, Texas, missing on Nov. 21.

According to the Carlsbad Current-Argus, medical investigators determined that she was asphyxiated.

A hunter found her bound and nude body Friday morning north of Lovington.

Marshall man charged in slaying of wife

MARSHALL, Texas (AP) — An East Texas man has been charged with killing his wife and fleeing with their 4-year-old daughter, who hours later was found unharmed with her father.

Marshall police say 35-year-old Brad Allen Dunn of Marshall was arrested late Sunday near Linden, 30 miles north of Marshall, on a murder charge.

Cass County jail records show Dunn was being held Monday. Sheriff's officials referred questions to Marshall police, who didn't immediately update the investigation.

Detective Sonya Johnson previously said police Sunday morning responded to a dispute at a Marshall motel. Investigators say 31-year-Kari Rene Dunn was dead at the scene. Her husband and their daughter, Kylie, were missing.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

The festival has always been a treat for the eyes, but Simmons hopes to make it a joy for the ears this year, as well — she is organizing a group of

carolers to entertain festival visitors.

"Donations are what help the wheels of the organization move," Simmons said. "That allows us to pay for the electricity and buy more lights for next year."

For more information

on this year's festival, contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 264-2516 or 263-8235.

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

FIGHT

Continued from Page 1

issue a legal opinion on whether the Texas National Guard is violating the state Constitution by following the Pentagon's orders.

Abbott, who is the leading Republican candidate for governor, intervened to stop a court from granting a divorce to a Dallas couple in 2009 and appealed an Austin judge's decision to grant a same-sex divorce in 2011. The Texas Supreme Court heard arguments in a combined case on Nov. 5 and a decision is pending. Courts are considering similar cases in Mississippi and Kentucky, while the Wyoming Supreme Court ruled same-sex divorces were allowed even though the state bans such marriages.

The two Texas couples suing to overturn the state constitutional amendment have filed their case in federal court in San Antonio. They claim Texas is de-

nying them their constitutional rights by either refusing to let them get married, or to recognize their marriage from another state.

Abbott has promised to defend the Texas law, as he would any other state law. But in a legal opinion declaring domestic partner benefits unconstitutional in April, he acknowledged that U.S. Supreme Court decisions on same-sex marriages could overturn Texas' constitutional provision.

The U.S. Supreme Court has taken tiny steps in their same-sex marriage decisions, recognizing that the majority of states still outlaw the practice, 29 through constitutional amendments and four through state law. That leaves lower courts without clear guidance on how to proceed, and raising the potential for different judges reach different conclusions.

Also, if one more state legalizes same-sex marriage, it becomes almost impossible to pass a federal constitutional

amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. At that point, the U.S. Supreme Court may feel freed to sort out whether one state can deny the legality of a marriage performed in another. Justices in the past have frowned on citizens having different civil rights in different states.

Meanwhile, gay rights advocates are mobilizing campaigns in Oregon, Ohio, Michigan, Colorado and Nevada to expand same-sex marriage. No such campaign is planned for Texas, a Republican-controlled state known for Christian conservatism.

Conservative activists in Texas are fighting same-sex marriage by declaring it a violation of state's rights and religious freedom. All of the major Republican candidates oppose same-sex marriage.

As a result, any change will likely come from the courts, and the fight in that arena will intensify in the year to

Take note

• Encompass Cares, a charity arm of Encompass Home Health, is collecting medical supplies and blankets for victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. Drop off your donations at the Encompass Home Health Office at 1900 Gregg in Big Spring through Friday. For more information, contact Arminae Ward at 432-634-5488 or call the local Encompass Home Health at 432-264-0044.

• Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Canterbury (1700 Lancaster) will host its annual Christmas Bazaar. The Bazaar will feature, Christmas décor, many type of homemade items and crafts. Gifts of every sort and type and treats for every taste. Canterbury cookbooks will be available and there will be burritos for sale.

• A fund has been set up at Western Bank, 607 South Scurry, for the Ean Cook family who lost their house and belongings in a fire Sunday. The account is in name of Charlene Cook, Ean's mother. Donations of clothing, food and living supplies will be greatly appreciated. To donate supplies call 816-5013 or 816-7810.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum's annual fundraiser is coming up in January. The Silver Wings Ball will be Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, at the Hotel Settles. Evening events begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour. Join us for a night of fine dining and dancing. Contact Hangar 25 Air Museum to purchase tickets for underwriting and sponsor opportunities. Underwriting opportunities range from \$250 to \$5,000. All underwriters will receive two tickets to the event and advertisement opportunities. Tickets for the event are \$50. Tickets for a chance to win a nights stay at the Hotel Settles are \$10 or six for \$50.

• The Big Spring Pow Wow Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main. Whether you are a Native American or interested in Native American culture and would like to be a part of the 10th anniversary of the Big Spring Pow Wow, you are invited. For more information, call Richard Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Randy McKinney at 432-267-4843.

• A fund for funeral expenses has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Olga Godina who passed away Monday. Donations can be made at the funeral home.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to violent crimes of assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process background check and attend training. We need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations office is accepting donations of magazines. They should be brought to the Community Relations office on campus. For more information, call Jamey Stegall at 268-7535 or james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us

• 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 263-9669.

• Crossroads Hospice is in need of volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of the hospice team, by bringing light and love into people's lives. For more information on joining, contact Eva Robison at 432-263-5300 or come by 421 S. Main.

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it's visiting a patient or working in the office or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Kara Daniels at Compass Hospice, 432-263-5999, or apply in person at 602 S. Main St.

CORPS

Continued from Page 1

they don't have to worry about," Miller continued. "I don't give these out to just anybody or everyone. It is always someone who has no means. I occasionally give these to people who are traveling and do not have any other means. Mostly, I give them to victims of fire or victims of domestic abuse."

Items requested are children and adult toothpaste, shampoo,

body wash, soap — all in small sizes — toothbrushes and hair combs for children and adults, disposable razors, towels and wash cloths.

Donations can be taken to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, during the hours of 10 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday or by the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

"The Chaplain's Corps is always there to help people in need," Millers added. "Anyone who needs help, if they will come to me we will

evaluated and see if we could help them. If not, I usually have a reference that I can send them to. They can call the Sheriff's department and leave a message. I will get back to them."

Contact Lyndel Moody at citydesk@bigspringherald.com or 263-7331, ext. 234

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EXP. 12/31/13

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Alicia Angel Cruz, infant, died Wednesday. A prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.
Ludin A. DeHoyos, 66, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel.

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News in brief

Investigators seek reasons why NYC train crashed, killing 4 and injuring more than 60 others

NEW YORK (AP) — Metro-North officials say the locomotive of the commuter train that derailed in New York City, killing four people, has been righted.

Spokesman Aaron Donovan says cranes re-railed the engine at 4:20 a.m. Monday.

Two cranes are in place to lift the rest of the derailed cars pending approval from the National Transportation and Safety Board.

Donovan says about 150 people were on board when the train derailed Sunday morning while rounding a riverside curve in the Bronx. More than 60 were injured.

Donovan says all passengers have been accounted for.

HealthCare.gov on the mend, government says as self-imposed deadline passes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Computer crashes should be giving way to insurance coverage — if the government's diagnosis of its health care website is correct.

The Health and Human Services Department released a progress report Sunday on its effort get the troubled HealthCare.gov website on the mend. Administration officials said the worst of the online glitches, bugs and delays may be over.

"The bottom line — HealthCare.gov on Dec. 1 is night and day from where it was on Oct. 1," said Jeff Zients, the White House's troubleshooter tasked with making the website function properly.

Yet officials acknowledged more work remains on the website, which made its national debut two months ago with hundreds of software flaws, inadequate equipment and inefficient management. Federal workers and private contractors have undertaken an intense reworking of the system, but some users might still encounter trouble.

How many problems are left? That's the question consumers and lawmakers alike will be eyeing before the next crucial deadline: Dec. 23.

Thai leader says protesters' demands impossible to meet, clashes continue in Thai capital

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's prime minister said Monday she is willing to do anything it takes to end violent protests against her government and restore peace, but cannot accept the opposition's "unconstitutional" demand to hand power to an unelected council.

Yingluck Shinawatra's comments, broadcast in a televised news conference, were the clearest indication yet that negotiations are unlikely to solve the country's increasingly violent political standoff.

As Yingluck spoke from the country's heavily fortified national police headquarters, stone-throwing protesters battled through clouds of police tear gas in a renewed attempt to seize her office, the Government House, and other key government buildings. As the day progressed, the protesters got hold of a garbage truck and a police truck, using them to break through parts of concrete barricades.

The protests aimed at toppling Yingluck's government have renewed fears of prolonged instability in one of Southeast Asia's biggest economies and comes just ahead of the peak holiday tourist season.

"If there's anything I can do to bring peace back to the Thai people I am happy to do it," Yingluck said, striking a conciliatory but firm tone. "The government is more than willing to have talks, but

I myself cannot see a way out of this problem that is within the law and in the constitution."

Venezuela's oil diplomacy wanes as impact of its economic problems spread beyond borders

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The late President Hugo Chavez's dream of leveraging Venezuela's oil wealth to spread revolution across Latin America is crumbling under the weight of an economic crisis that is forcing his hand-picked successor to cut back on generous foreign aid.

Signs of the country's waning influence are becoming more apparent. In early November, Guatemala withdrew from the Petrocaribe oil alliance launched by Chavez, saying it didn't receive the ultra-low financing rates it had been promised by Venezuela when it first sought to join the 18-nation pact in 2008. Also in recent weeks, representatives of Brazil and Colombia have held meetings with their Venezuelan counterparts to collect overdue payment for food, manufactured goods and other imports.

While Venezuela has fallen behind on payments before, the latest cash crunch is more severe, and the economic outlook more uncertain, than any time in 15 years of socialist rule.

The reason is a dependence on oil, which accounts for 95 percent of exports. Although Venezuela sits atop the world's largest reserves, production has steadily declined in recent years. Global prices for crude are also lower as hydraulic fracturing technology boosts supplies in the U.S. at a time that Europe's economic woes and weaker growth in China limit global demand.

The result is a hemorrhaging of Venezuela's foreign currency reserves, which are down 27 percent this year, according to the country's central bank.

Investigators probe cause of fiery crash that killed 'Fast & Furious' star Paul Walker

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fans of "Fast & Furious" star Paul Walker erected a makeshift memorial near the site of his fatal automobile crash, as investigators worked to determine the cause of the fiery weekend wreck that also claimed the life of his friend.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said speed was a factor in Saturday's one-car crash, though it will take time to determine how fast the car was going.

Roger Rodas, Walker's friend and financial adviser, also died, according to Walker's publicist, Ame Van Iden. She said Walker was a passenger in the 2005 red Porsche Carrera GT when they drove away from a fundraiser in the community of Valencia, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Sheriff's deputies found the car engulfed in flames when they arrived at the site of the crash, near the fundraiser at Rodas' sport car dealership. Officials have not identified either person found in the car.

Because Walker is so closely associated with the underground culture of street racing portrayed in the popular film franchise, the accident had an eerie quality — a tragic end for a Hollywood hero of speed.

Retailers' Dilemma: A record number of shoppers turn out, but they spent less for the 1st time

NEW YORK (AP) — Retailers got Americans into stores during the start to the holiday shopping season. Now, they'll need to figure out how to get them

to actually shop.

Target, Macy's and other retailers offered holiday discounts in early November and opened stores on Thanksgiving Day. It was an effort to attract shoppers before Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving that traditionally kicks off the holiday shopping season.

Those tactics drew bigger crowds during the four-day Thanksgiving weekend, but failed to motivate Americans to spend.

"The economy spoke loud and clear over the past few days," said Brian Sozzi, CEO and chief equities strategist at Belus Capital Advisors. "We are going to see an increase in markdowns."

A record 141 million people were expected to shop in stores and online over the four-day period that ended on Sunday, up from last year's 137 million, according to the results of a survey of nearly 4,500 shoppers conducted for The National Retail Federation.

Airline pilots becoming so reliant on automation they can be unprepared to assume control

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pilots are becoming so reliant on the computer systems that do most of the flying in today's airliners that on the rare occasions when something goes wrong, they're sometimes unprepared to take control, according to aviation safety experts and government and industry studies.

Increasing automation has been a tremendous safety boon to aviation, contributing to historically low accident rates in the U.S. and many parts of the world.

But automation has changed the relationship between pilots and planes, presenting new challenges.

Pilots today typically use their "stick and rudder" flying skills only for brief minutes or even seconds during takeoffs and landings. Mostly, they manage computer systems that can fly planes more precisely and use less fuel than a human pilot can. But humans simply aren't wired to pay close and continual attention to systems that rarely fail or do something unexpected.

"Once you see you're not needed, you tune out," said Michael Barr, a former Air Force pilot and accident investigator who teaches aviation safety at the University of Southern California. "As long as everything goes OK, we're along for the ride. We're a piece of luggage."

Syrian opposition so splintered that many wonder who will represent who at planned peace talks

BEIRUT (AP) — Within minutes of opening a Twitter account this past week, the leader of Syria's main Western-backed opposition group received an onslaught of criticism.

"Welcome to Twitter Mr. Western Puppet," one comment to Ahmad al-Jarba read. Others called him a Saudi stooge and scorned the opposition's perceived ineffectiveness.

The comments reflect the deep disillusionment and distrust that many Syrians have come to feel toward the Syrian National Coalition, Syria's main opposition group in exile. They also underline the predicament of who will represent the Syrian opposition at an upcoming peace conference in Geneva marking the first face-to-face meeting between Syria's warring sides.

The Geneva talks have raised the possibility of a negotiated end to a conflict activists say has killed more than 120,000 people. But with a fractured opposition, many have little hope for strong negotiations with emissaries of President Bashar Assad.

Odds and ends

Bird steals camera in Australia, records journey

SYDNEY (AP) — A brazen bird snatched a video camera that was recording crocodiles in northwest Australia and captured fascinating footage of its 110-kilometer (70-mile) journey across the country's remote landscape.

Wildlife rangers in Western Australia's Kimberly region released video on Monday that reveals the sea eagle's caper. The bird's flapping wings can be seen as it grabs the device and takes off, and the eagle later poses for a selfie, poking its face into the camera lens.

Rangers set up the motion-sensor camera along the Margaret River in May, hoping to record images of crocodiles. The camera, which is about 10 to 15 centimeters (4 to 6 inches) long and 5 centimeters (2 inches) wide, disappeared soon after and the rangers figured it had fallen into the water.

The rangers plan to bolt down their cameras from now on, Skeen said.

Topless barber charged with unlicensed cosmetology

LONGMONT, Colo. (AP) — A woman who allegedly offered topless hairstyling services in northern Colorado faces criminal charges. But police say the problem isn't cutting hair without a top. It's cutting hair without a license.

The Longmont Times-Call reports 46-year old Suzette Hall was arrested Wednesday night on suspicion of practicing cosmetology without a license.

Hall's former partner says she advertised \$45 topless haircuts online.

According to the arrest warrant, the former partner called police about the topless styling because she "did not believe this was safe or proper."

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Sudoku Answer on Page 10

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Famous Hand

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q J 8 4
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ 7 3
♣ Q 8 6

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

SOUTH
♠ A 7 2
♥ A K Q 10 5
♦ 10 5
♣ A 5 3

The bidding:
East South West North
1♦ 2♥ Pass 1♠
2♦ 2♥ Pass 3♥
Pass 4♥

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

This deal features Edwin Kantar, Los Angeles star, who played it in a national team-of-four championship. West led a diamond against four hearts, and East cashed two diamonds before returning a trump. Looking at all four hands, you might think the contract would fail by either one or two tricks.

But Kantar analyzed his prospects thoroughly and came up

with an inspired line of play that brought home the game. He decided that his best chance was to play East for specifically the K-x of spades and the king of clubs, which East was likely to have on the bidding.

Accordingly, after playing three rounds of trumps, Kantar cashed the ace of spades and then led a spade to dummy's eight! This worked out just as he had hoped when East was forced to win the trick with the king, thus establishing an extra spade trick in dummy on which Kantar could later discard one of his club losers.

But that wasn't all Kantar accomplished with this play, for East now had to return a club or yield a ruff-and-discard, allowing South to escape his other club loser. So Kantar miraculously wound up making four hearts, finding a way to avoid losing any clubs at all.

Note that it would not have helped West to play the nine of spades on the second spade lead. Kantar, consistent with his play, had already assigned East the doubleton king of spades, and he would have proceeded on that assumption regardless of which spade West produced on the trick. It isn't easy to talk a fellow like Kantar out of a preconceived notion.

Tomorrow: It's not a guessing game.

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Steers recognized by district

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

Football season may have concluded for Big Spring (9-4), but many of its players received accolades in the form of District 4-3A recognition.

Junior quarterback Toby Tannehill received the superlative honor of being named District Co-offensive MVP along with Snyder running back D'Vincent Allison.

Freshmen running back Preston Alexander impressed All-District voters enough to be honored with the Newcomer of the Year title.

Both players made huge contributions to the 2013 Steer

football program, which snapped a four-year postseason drought and fell just short of defeating defending 3A state champion Stephenville Friday in the regional playoff round.

Seniors Devin Roberson and Tate Kennedy — two of Tannehill's favorite targets — were named to First Team Offense at the wide receiver position. Roberson was also named to First Team Defense as punter and defensive back for his work at strong safety. Brett Broman and Drake Worthan were also named First Team defensive backs, with Tyler Wigington pulling First Team linebacker honors and Chris Lindem and Ronnie Bell earning First Team

defensive end honors.

Hunter Hill, the explosive junior scatback, was named to the Second Team defense at linebacker and Second Team offense at running back. Junior Garrett Wigington was recognized at tight end, Roberson was listed at kicker and offensive linemen Aric Rutledge, Austin Cantu and Charlie Boling rounded out the Second Team offensive picks.

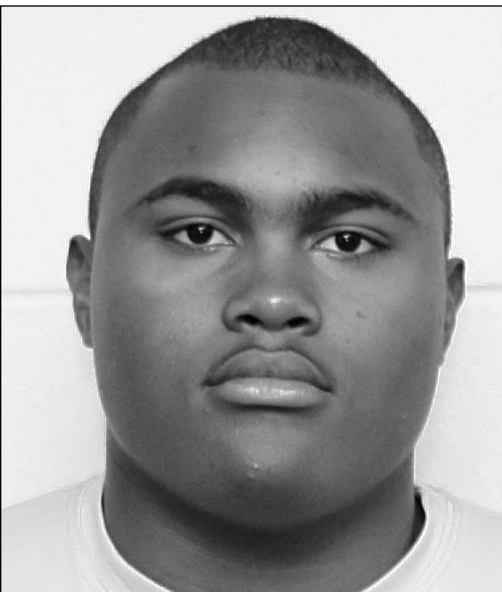
Brandon Larson was named Second Team linebacker, Jahari Vanover was picked as Second team defensive lineman and Shaiem Menefield was chosen to represent as a defensive back.

Big Spring Head Coach Phillip

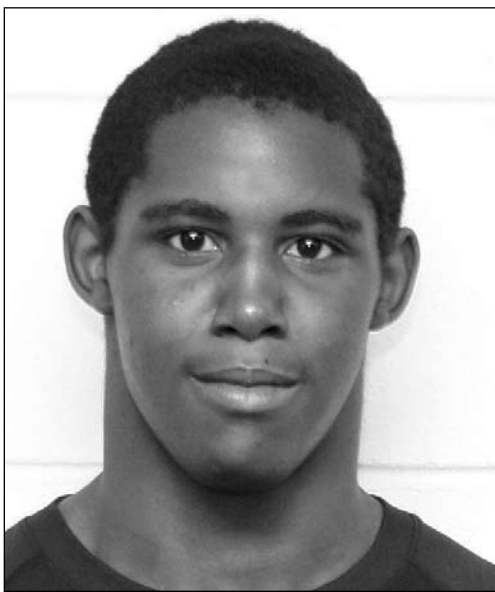
Ritchey's honorable mentions on offense were Nick Sotelo, Nick Conner and Matt Yanez. On defense, he named Matt Beal, Jahari Vanover, Garrett Wigington and Nathan Schnieder.

Five of the 17 total All-District picks — Tannehill, Alexander, Hill, Boling and Garrett Wigington — are expected to return next season to power what is expected to be another potent Steer offense.

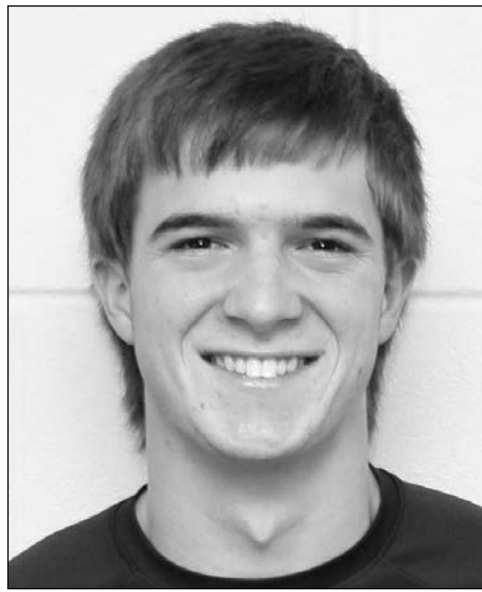
Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com



Preston Alexander



Ronnie Bell



Brett Broman



Hunter Hill



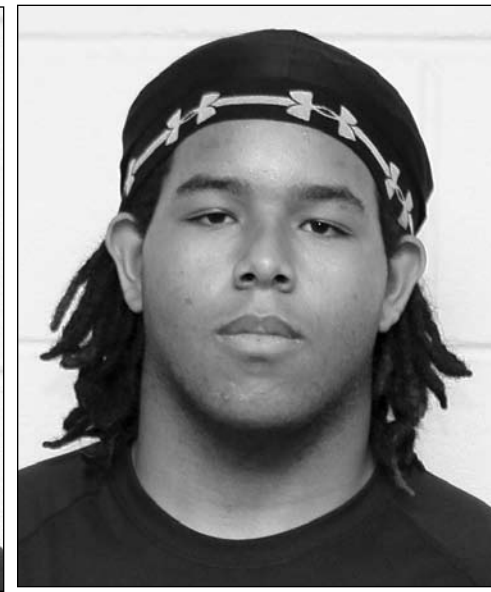
Tate Kennedy



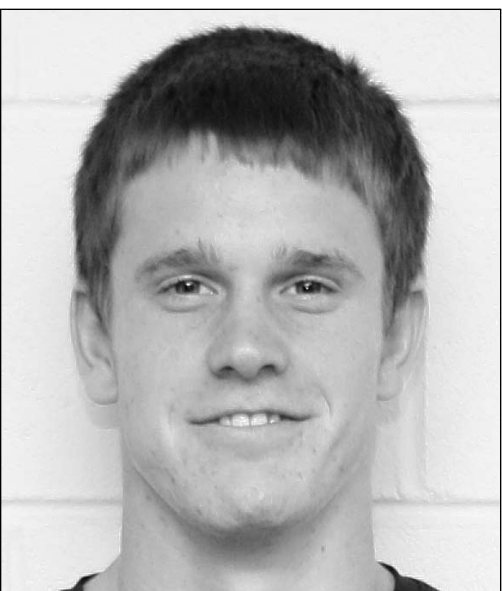
Chris Lindem



Devin Roberson



Aric Rutledge



Toby Tannehill



Garrett Wigington



Tyler Wigington



Drake Worthan

Tannehill, Dolphins top Jets to stay alive in playoff race

EASTRUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The Miami Dolphins entered the final month of the regular season knowing exactly what's at stake. Win, and their postseason hopes look a lot better. Lose, and they might have to start considering next year.

Ryan Tannehill threw for 331 yards and two touchdowns, leading Miami to a 23-3 victory over the listless New York Jets on Sunday that helped the Dolphins keep pace in the AFC post-season picture.

"We didn't talk about it a lot," Tannehill said. "We knew the situation. We're not stupid. Everyone was aware of it."

The Dolphins also drove struggling rookie Geno Smith out of the game, sending the Jets' shaky quarterback situation into a mess of uncertainty while severely damaging their playoff dreams.

"It was an awful performance by us," coach Rex Ryan said. "We got outplayed in all three phases of the game, and I know our fans deserved a hell of a lot better than that."

Brian Hartline and Mike Wallace caught touchdown passes for Miami (6-6), which converted two turnovers into 10 points. Tannehill finished 28 of 43 with an interception as the Dol-

phins took control in the second half after dominating the stats sheet in the first two quarters.

Miami is still the only team in the league to score fewer than 28 points in every game, but the Dolphins improved to 3-2 since the bullying scandal involving Richie Incognito and Jonathan Martin rocked the franchise.

"December is where you either step up or fall down," Tannehill said. "We knew that coming in. I think the guys are ready to buckle down and take it one game at a time."

See **RACE**, Page 10

Florida State, Ohio State sitting atop BCS standings

(AP) — Florida State and Ohio State are in position to play for the BCS national championship, though Auburn and Missouri are close enough behind in the BCS standings to put pressure on the Buckeyes.

The Seminoles grabbed the top spot in the BCS standings released Sunday after Alabama relinquished it for the first time this season.

The Crimson Tide's wild 34-28 loss at Auburn dropped Alabama to fourth. Ohio State is second and Auburn is third. Missouri is fifth. Auburn and Missouri play in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday in Atlanta. The winner should get a boost in the standings, but it might not be enough to catch

the unbeaten Buckeyes. Ohio State (12-0) faces Michigan State, 10th in the latest standings, in the Big Ten championship game Saturday in Indianapolis.

Florida State is first in both the USA Today coaches' poll and Harris poll, and rated No. 1 in the compilation of six computer rankings used in the BCS standings.

The Seminoles' .9948 BCS average makes them a lock to get to the title game in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 6 if they can beat Duke in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game Saturday.

The Buckeyes (.9503) are second in the polls and second in the computers.

See **BCS**, Page 10

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Board of Education
Public Meeting To Discuss The 2013 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)
December 16, 2013
8:30 am
Boardroom of Administration Building (308 West Chambers, Garden City, Texas)

1. The Public Meeting will be combined with the regular December 2013 meeting of the board of trustees.
#8074 November 25, 2013 and December 2, 2013

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New Moon on Monday
The symbol for Sagittarius is a centaur (half man, half horse) drawing his bow and arrow to shoot at an unknown target. The new moon in Sagittarius urges you to fill in the blank as to what that target should be. Sagittarius lunar energy favors aims that will allow you to experience more of the world. This is truly the beginning of your next adventure.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Flawed creatures that we are, we sometimes fall into bad habits like laziness, procrastination and an attitude of entitlement. You combat human weakness by taking responsibility when others won't.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's important to see all of the different talents and purposes in the world as valuable, and none more valuable than the other. Everyone is equal, but that doesn't mean they are the same.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll choose your friendships carefully. Your choices aren't based on status or utility, but on who a person is. You have a better time with people who are in line with your standards for character.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've made it through the trial-and-error process and are now at the sweetest part of a project. Everything will come together easily because you've already done the work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may have to fight your natural inclinations in order to be an adult about today's offerings. Part of growing up (which you can do at any age) is not reacting immaturely to things that are unsettling or just plain icky.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People are nice to you for various reasons, some having to do with you and others having nothing at all to do with you. You prefer to earn niceties, but you should take them any way they come.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your successes and failures are not based solely on your own actions. There are many other variables at work. Be firm with yourself, but have compassion, too. It's not all in your control.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are still a part of the material world, but the majority of people who ever existed are not. You may feel the urge to call on them for

spiritual help, and they just may answer your call.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Wanting one thing, you become embroiled in the acquisition of the opposite thing. How does this happen? It's an opposition at work. You need this problem the way police need crimes and preachers need sinners.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have fear to thank for all of the foolish risks you didn't take. As you consider throwing yourself into a dicey situation, acknowledge the fear welling up in your belly. It has kept you safe all these years, so it can't be all bad.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have a gift for connecting with people regardless of interferences and complications. You have mixed feelings, but you'll express them in a way that helps others understand with crystal clarity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Actively combat negativity by preparing an armament against it. Fill your head with inspiring thoughts before noon, or worry will get too much real estate in your mind.

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	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWWT (14)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	Casa	Two Men Notic.	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	Seinfeld	Uri Harel D Stringer	Charlie Rose	King/Hill Cleveland	Fast N' Loud	Brother, Where Art Thou?	Strikes Back	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	Around Pardon	SportCtr Monday
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Corazon Indomable	Big Bang Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cerado	News Newswest	Seinfeld	McDonald McGee	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Rules	Fast N' Loud			Castle	Husbands	ANT Farm Austin	College Basketball: Florida at Connecticut.	Night Count-down
7 :PM	Charlie Brown	Por Siempre	Almost Human	How I Met Mike	Marido en Broke Girl	The Voice	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas	Fast N' Loud	Movie: Twister, Cary Elwes	Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi, Carrie Fisher	Major Crimes	Movie: Deliver Us From Eva, Duane Martin	Good Luck Charlie	College Basketball: Big-12/SEC Challenge	(25) NFL Football: New Orleans Saints at Seattle Seahawks.
8 :PM	CMA Country Christmas	Lo Que la Vida	Sleepy Hollow	Mom	La Reina del Sur		Fam. Guy	Discovery Light of the Southwest	Lincoln-Gottlys					Major Crimes		Good		
9 :PM		Mentir Para Vivir	Mod Fam Mod Fam	Hostages	Santa Diabla (SS)	(:01) The Blacklist	Big Bang		Independent Lens	Rules Seinfeld	Street Out-laws	Movie: Erin Brockovich, Aaron Eckhart	Academy	(:01) Rizzoli & Isles	Chocolate Sundaes: Live	ANT Farm		
10 :PM	News	Impacto	Arsenio Hall	News	Noticias	News	Conan	House	Charlie Rose	Commun	Fast N' Loud		Movie: Godzilla, Maria Pitillo	(:01) Major Crimes		Jessie	SportCtr	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Familia-Suerte	How I Met How I Met	Ferguson	La Reina del Sur	Jimmy Fallon	Pete	Cros	World	'70s	Street Out-laws			(:02) Cold Justice	Wendy Williams	Good	NBA	
12 :AM	Extra	Ni Contigo, Ni sin Ti	Raymond TMZ	Insider	Pagado	News	Pete	1st Fruits		'Til Death Browns	Fast N' Loud	Movie: The Thomas Crown Affair, Denis Leary	Ways Die	(12:02) Hawaii Five-0	(12:05) Movie: Woman Thou Art Loosed: On the 7th	Shake It	ANT Farm	NFL Prime-Time
1 :AM	Paid	Conducta	Law & Order: SVU	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Office	Light of the Southwest		Browns	Fast N' Loud			(:01) Law & Order		Deck	NFL Films	SportsCenter

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

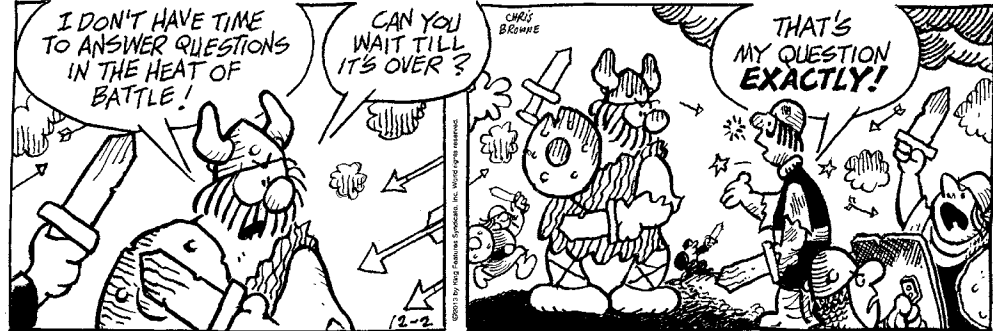
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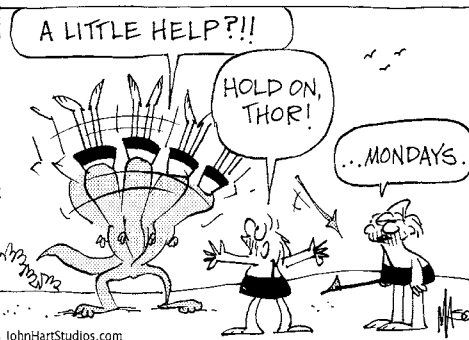
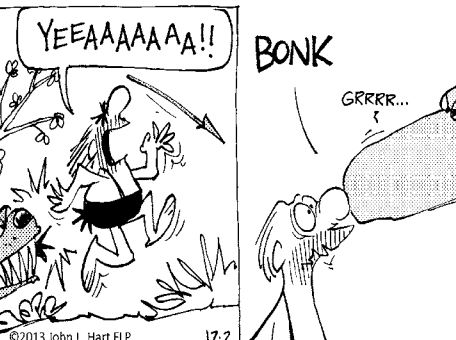
"WE WENT TO A FAMILY REUNION WHERE EVERYONE KNEW MORE ABOUT ME THAN I DID!"



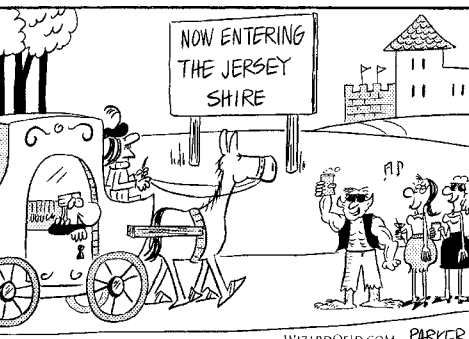
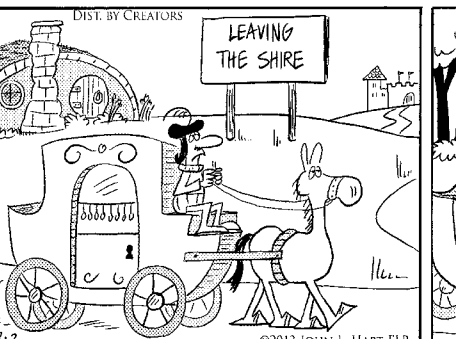
"Mommy! Guess who I would like you to have married 'stead of Daddy?"



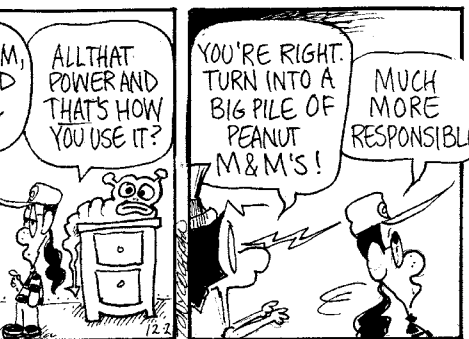
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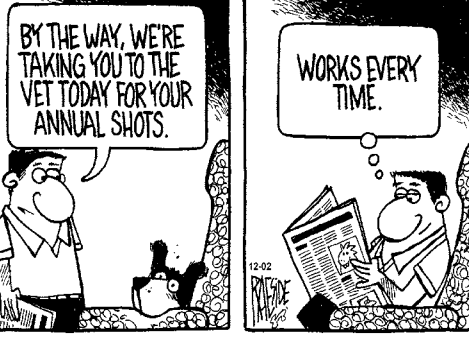
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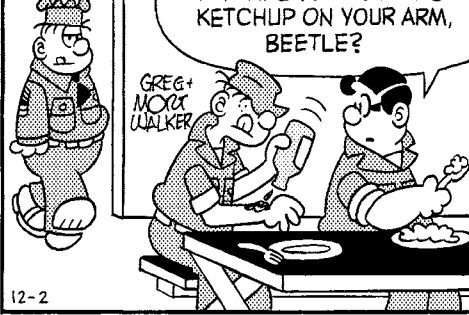
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This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2013. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October. Artist Georges-Pierre Seurat was born in Paris.

On this date:

In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French.

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1927, Ford Motor Co. formally unveiled its second Model A automobile, the successor to its Model T.

In 1939, New York Municipal Airport-

LaGuardia Field (later LaGuardia Airport) went into operation as an airliner from Chicago landed at one minute past midnight.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time, at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the Senate voted to condemn Wisconsin Republican Joseph R. McCarthy for conduct that "tends to bring the Senate into disrepute."

In 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro declared himself a Marxist-Leninist who would eventually lead Cuba to Communism.

In 1969, the Boeing 747 jumbo jet got its first public preview as 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, flew from Seattle to New York City.

In 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency began operating under director William Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped

and murdered outside San Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 2001, in one of the largest corporate bankruptcies in U.S. history, Enron filed for Chapter 11 protection.

Thought for Today: "Great minds have purposes; little minds have wishes. Little minds are subdued by misfortunes; great minds rise above them." - Washington Irving, American author (1783-1859).

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Answer to previous puzzle

THINKFAST	BLOKE
RESONANCE	LORAX
ENTRENEOUS	TINER
SHAME	IST
SEIZE	CONS
ONEBIT	DAN
HUB	CUTMAN
MAID	ISUZU
ENNUI	CELEB
SNARF	RAISE
HEIFER	TYPO
DUNCES	FDA
WAR	CORDAY
MIMI	AMIGO
EON	MIXED
NAMED	BRAZILIAN
GHANA	ESPERANTO
SALTS	TEENANGST

Newsday Crossword

DOOR SIGNS by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Garment labels
 - 5 Close forcefully
 - 9 Limerick, for one
 - 13 Didn't go out for dinner
 - 15 Sharpen, as a knife
 - 16 West Coast college: Abbr.
 - 17 Nation once known as Zaire
 - 18 Ins and ___
 - 19 Char, as a steak
 - 20 Home sellers' events
 - 22 Despise
 - 23 Without doing anything
 - 24 Sheets of glass
 - 25 Did a double-take
 - 29 Keg filler
 - 31 British noblemen
 - 32 Hare's fable opponent
 - 36 Regarding
 - 37 Lipsticking smudge
 - 39 "Do ___ others..."
 - 40 Not as much as
 - 42 Just for laughs
 - 43 At any time
 - 44 Muscle/bone connectors
 - 46 Large quantity
 - 49 "Nanny" animal
 - 50 BMW rival
 - 51 Exert one's authority over
 - 57 High-fiber cereal
 - 58 Face-to-face test
 - 59 Egypt's capital

- DOWN**
- 1 Tex-Mex snack
 - 2 At the summit of
 - 3 Unit of heredity
 - 4 Give an autograph
 - 5 Ought to
 - 6 Crummy
 - 7 Poker player's payment
 - 8 Cluttered condition
 - 9 Be bossy with
 - 10 Pacific or Atlantic
 - 11 Make happy
 - 12 Female horses
 - 14 Pitches very well against
 - 21 Verse of praise
 - 24 Cat or dog, for example
 - 25 Not imaginary
 - 26 Make simpler
 - 27 ___ and crafts
 - 28 Got near to
 - 29 Constrictor snake
 - 30 Be mistaken
 - 32 Two hours before noon
 - 33 Data, for short
 - 34 Surprise greatly
 - 35 Years and years
 - 37 That woman
 - 38 Scratch up
 - 41 What DVD players connect to
 - 42 Not damaged
 - 44 Rang, as bells
 - 45 Hearing organ
 - 46 Expensive fur
 - 47 Healed
 - 48 Old saying
 - 49 Look angrily
 - 51 Low-quality
 - 52 Strongly encourage
 - 53 Carpenter's fastener
 - 54 Metric prefix for "1000"
 - 55 Metals in rocks
 - 56 Rudolph's red feature

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Patriots rally past Texans for 34-31 win

HOUSTON (AP) — Tom Brady was glad to escape Houston with a win. He would have been much happier if his New England Patriots didn't have to overcome another first-half deficit to do it.

Brady threw for 371 yards and two scores, and Stephen Gostkowski made two long field goals in the fourth quarter Sunday as the Patriots rallied for a 34-31 win over Houston.

"I wish we could start fast and put the foot on the gas pedal the whole way," Brady said.

New England coach Bill Belichick echoed Brady's feelings.

"It's not the way we want to play," he said. "Hopefully, I can find a way to coach better than I've done, find a way to get ahead."

The Texans' franchise-record skid reached 10 games. Gary Kubiak coached from the sideline for the first time since suffering a mini-stroke Nov. 3. He missed one game before working the last two games from the booth.

"We're playing hard, we're not always playing good," Kubiak said. "We had a lot of opportunities to make plays ourselves, just didn't

make enough."

New England overcame a 24-point first-half deficit last week to beat the Broncos 34-31 in overtime.

The Patriots (9-3) trailed by 10 at halftime in this one and the lead changed five times in a wild second half. New England tied it with a 53-yard field goal and took a 34-31 lead with another one from 53 with about three minutes left.

"Whatever we're doing is not good enough, and we can't keep getting behind because you have to play too well in the second half to overcome," Brady said.

The Texans (2-10) had a chance late, but the offense stalled. On fourth-and-13, Case Keenum threw an incompletion as he was being hit.

Ben Tate ran for 102 yards and three touchdowns for the Texans, who haven't won since Sept. 15. It was the first 100-yard rushing game since 2011 for Tate, who has been slowed since Oct. 20 with four broken ribs.

The victory ended a three-game road skid for the Patriots, who have won their last eight December games and 16 of their last 17 in the month. The victory assured them their 13th

straight winning record.

"It's a big plus," Belichick said. "We have to find a way to win on the road. Fortunately this week we did it. The last three we were in similar situations to this and didn't do it."

Rob Gronkowski had six receptions for 127 yards and Julian Edelman added 101 yards receiving on nine catches. New England didn't miss starting running back Stevan Ridley, who was not active after having fumbling problems recently. Belichick evaded questions about why he was inactive.

Keenum threw for 272 yards with an interception and Andre Johnson had eight receptions for 121 yards.

Tate's third score came when he ran 10 yards to make it 31-28. The key play of that drive came on a 66-yard reception by rookie DeAndre Hopkins.

LeGarrette Blount's 7-yard touchdown run had given New England a 28-24 lead.

Before that, Keenum put Houston back on top when he took a keeper 5 yards late in the third quarter.

Brady had picked apart Houston's secondary on a drive he finished by finding Shane Vereen wide open for

a 9-yard touchdown to give New England its first lead, 21-17.

Brady used a 50-yard pass to Gronkowski to get New England to the Houston 13 early in the third quarter. James Develin was hit by four Texans but kept his feet moving and plunged into the end zone for a 1-yard score to cut the lead to 17-14.

A 20-yard touchdown run by Tate extended Houston's lead to 17-7 late in the second period.

Brady had at least five seconds to throw on a 23-yard TD pass to Gronkowski in the first quarter. Gronkowski scooped up the low throw and fell into the end zone for the score.

Keenum was intercepted by rookie Logan Ryan when he threw as he was being hit on Houston's ensuing possession.

Gostkowski's 55-yard field goal attempt that sailed wide right broke his streak of 21 straight made field goals, the second longest in team history.

Tate put Houston up early on an 8-yard run and Randy Bullock made a 43-yard field goal to push the lead to 10-0.

Jesse Owens' Olympic medal up for auction

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (AP) — Amid the jerseys and baseball bats held in a secure room at SCP Auctions, there's a piece of sports memorabilia that speaks to much more than athletic prowess: an Olympic medal won by track star Jesse Owens at the 1936 Games in Berlin.

The medal — being auctioned online — recalls both the Nazi propaganda myths that Owens busted with his world record-setting 100-yard

dash, and the American segregation that he came home to when he returned to the U.S. after the Games, which Adolf Hitler had orchestrated to showcase his ideas of Aryan supremacy.

"Almost singlehandedly, Owens obliterated Hitler's plans," SCP Auctions partner Dan Imler said. "You've got an African American, son of a sharecropper, grandson of slaves who overcame these incredible circumstances

and delivered a performance for the ages."

Owens won gold in the 100- and 200-meters, the 400 relay and the long jump. But when he returned from the Berlin Games, he struggled to provide for his family.

His job options were limited by segregation and because he decided to return home instead of going on tour with the U.S. Olympic Team, he was stripped of his amateur athletic status.

"When they came back, the U.S. was just as it was when he left — segregated. Even though he came back an Olympic hero, he wasn't offered opportunities that Olympic heroes of today are offered," said his daughter, Marlene Owens Rankin, 74, of Chicago.

Owens gave one of his four Olympic gold medals to dancer and movie star Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, another supremely talented African-

American whose career was hemmed in by limited roles for black men, Imler said. Robinson befriended Owens after the athlete return from the Olympics.

"They formed a friendship and also a professional relationship. Bojangles helped Owens get work in the entertainment field," Imler said. "Owens gave him this medal out of gratitude and as a token of their friendship."

BCS

Continued from Page 5

Auburn (.9233) is third in each. Missouri (.8428) is fifth in each. But each of those SEC Tigers is 11-1. Ohio State is riding a 24-game winning streak.

An unbeaten team from a BCS automatic-qualifying conference (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC and Big East, now American Athletic Conference) has never been shut out of national championship game in favor of a team with a loss.

The SEC, which has won the last seven BCS championships, would like that to change.

"Any one-loss team in the SEC (should be considered) just because of the strength of schedule," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. "Hopefully that will be taken into consideration."

Jerry Palm, who analyzes the BCS for CBS.com, said there is no reason to expect the unprecedented to happen.

"I think the voters would have to abandon Ohio State, and that's never happened in the history of the BCS," he said Sunday.

Alabama (.8539) is fourth but the Tide would need both Florida State and Ohio State to lose to get back in the title conversation.

The BCS is in its last season. It will be replaced

by a four-team playoff next year, which will use a selection committee to pick the teams.

Farther down the latest standings, the competition to become the last BCS buster is now a one-team race after Fresno State lost to San Jose State. It's all about Northern Illinois now.

The undefeated Huskies from the Mid-American Conference remained 14th in the standings this week. NIU, looking for its second straight BCS bid, plays Bowling Green in the MAC title game on Friday night.

The Huskies can earn an automatic BCS bid two ways:

- Finish in the top 12 of the final BCS standings.
- Finish in the top 16 of the final standings, ahead of an automatic qualifying conference champion.

The Huskies used the latter route to get to the BCS last season with one loss.

It could happen again this season. Central Florida, in line to win the American and earn its first automatic BCS bid, is ranked 16th in the latest standings and plays SMU on Saturday. It doesn't seem likely that the Knights (10-1) will pass the Huskies, so the only thing standing in the way of Northern Illinois and the BCS is Bowling Green. NIU would most likely play in the Fiesta Bowl.

No team will enter the final weekend of the regular season with a BCS bid locked up. Here are the possibilities:

— Oklahoma State, Baylor and Texas are all alive to earn the Big 12 title and the conference's automatic bid to the Fiesta Bowl. Oklahoma State gets the bid by beating Oklahoma. If the Cowboys lose, the winner of the Baylor-Texas game gets the bid.

— The winner of the SEC championship gets an automatic bid to the Sugar Bowl.

— If Duke wins the ACC championship it will play in the Orange Bowl.

— The winner of the Pac-12 title game between Stanford and Arizona State gets a Rose Bowl bid.

— Michigan State will earn a Rose Bowl bid by beating Ohio State in the Big Ten title game, but also stands a good chance to end up in the Rose Bowl with a loss. If Ohio State plays for the national championship, the Spartans (11-1) are likely to be picked by the Rose Bowl to replace the Buckeyes.

— If UCF loses, it could create a three-way tie for the AAC title with Cincinnati and Louisville that would be settled by the BCS standings. Louisville is 19th in the standings this week, while Cincinnati is unranked.

— Alabama is a virtual lock to get an at-large bid, most likely to the Orange Bowl.

RACE

Continued from Page 5

The Jets (5-7) lost their third straight, and now Ryan is forced to consider who will be under center next week against Oakland: Smith, Matt Simms, who replaced him to start the second half, or David Garrard, who hasn't played in a regular-season game since 2010.

"I can't answer that question right now," Ryan said. "We need to see it and get everybody's opinion and do what we think is in the best interest of our team."

Smith was booed loudly at times throughout by the MetLife Stadium crowd while going 4 for 10 for 29 yards with an interception and an 8.3 quarterback rating. He has one touchdown and 11 interceptions in his past seven games, and overthrew receivers a few times in this one

and couldn't get the offense moving.

"I have complete confidence in myself," a defiant Smith said. "It's been tough these last three weeks, but I think I am the best option for this team."

Simms, the son of former Giants star Phil Simms, came in to cheers to start the third quarter, but didn't fare much better while going 9 for 18 for 79 yards with an interception. He was sacked three times.

Philip Wheeler recovered a fumble by Simms on the Jets' second possession of the third quarter. The Dolphins took advantage, getting a 31-yard catch-and-run for a score by Hardline that made it 13-0.

Nick Folk finally got the Jets on the scoreboard with a 20-yard field goal in the third quarter.

New York's momentum was quickly squashed as Wallace caught a short pass from Tannehill and ran

through a poor tackle try by Dee Milliner for a 28-yard touchdown and a 20-3 lead with just over a minute left in the third quarter. That sent many Jets fans heading for the exits early.

"We haven't been finishing this whole season," said Dolphins defensive end Olivier Vernon, who had 2½ sacks. "That's one thing the coaches have stressed to us. I feel like we got that job done today."

Caleb Sturgis ended a scoreless snoozer with a 34-yard field goal with 44 seconds left in the opening half, making up for an earlier miss.

Smith gave the ball back to Miami moments later with his 19th interception on a pass he tried to force to Greg Salas. Dannel Ellerbe stepped in front of Salas with 22 seconds remaining, leading to a 43-yarder by Sturgis.

The Dolphins dominated during the first two quarters, outgain-

ing the Jets 265 yards to 39, with 16 first downs to New York's 2. Miami also held the ball for 24 minutes, 12 seconds, with New York having it for just 5:48.

The Dolphins ran more plays (50) in the first half than the Jets had total yards. Miami finished by outgaining New York 453-177.

"We had some opportunities and we were moving the ball well," Tannehill said. "We came with the mindset we are going to score touchdowns in the second half."

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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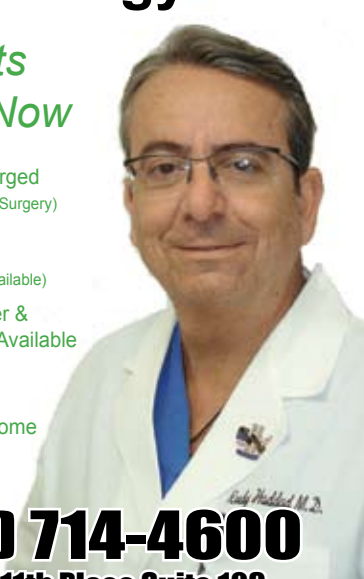
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Flu Shots Available Now

- Office Treatment of Enlarged Prostate Profile (instead of Surgery)
- Urinary Bladder Control Problem with Medication (Simple Outpatient Procedure Available)
- Kidney Stones with Laser & Shockwave Technology Available Locally 24/7
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Low Testosterone Syndrome
- Vasectomies



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