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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 3, 2013



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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The Big Spring Fire Department was called to Bob's Custom Woodwork on Third Street for a reported roof fire. According to fire department officials, a worker was placing tar on the roof when it caught on fire in the bucket. The fire was extinguished before firefighters arrived on the scene.

Pertussis cases ID'd in county

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Special to the Herald

Avoiding the flu may be top concern this season, but it isn't the only health concern that needs attention.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is making a mark in Howard County. According to the Texas Health Department, there have already been six confirmed cases in Howard County. While pertussis usually affects those under age 6, it is something that can impact an entire community.

"Typically, it is adults who are transmitting this disease to infants and younger children. Even though most children receive the vaccine as early as six months, a child cannot be fully vac-

inated against pertussis, until at least six months," said Yvette Woody, Scenic Mountain Medical Center MSN/Ed, Infection Preventionist RN Risk Manager/Quality coordinator.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, pertussis is a contagious disease caused by a type of bacteria called Bordetella pertussis. The bacteria attaches in the upper respiratory system and causes inflammation. The disease can spread through a cough or sneeze in close surroundings.

"Often when an infant is found to have pertussis, it's usually found to be transmitted by an older sibling,

See **COUGH**, Page 3

Santa will be there...

VA lighting set Saturday

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

As it has for more than 25 years, the local VA Medical Center will "flip the switch" on the holiday season with its annual Christmas Lighting ceremony Friday.

The ceremony, the first of a weekend full of Christmas

events, is scheduled to begin around 6 p.m., organizers said.

"We feel this is our Christmas gift to the community," said Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations director for the VAMC. "We start planning for it three weeks to a month before the event each year. We change things around a little bit, but as far as the program itself goes, it's been relatively unchanged from year to year."

Assisted by area children, West Texas VA Healthcare System Interim Director Andrew Welch will flip a switch

lighting not only the Christmas tree located inside the medical center's lobby, but also much of the facility's outside, as well.

Refreshments will be served and VAMC veterans will lead attendees in the singing of Christmas carols, but the highlight of the evening, at least for the young (or young at heart), will be a visit from Santa Claus, who will be on hand to listen to children's gift request and pose for photos, Hanslik said.

For more information, contact Hanslik's office at 264-4824.



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 Please call 263-7331.
 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7331 before 6 p.m. weekdays.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

EMS was called to a vehicle/pedestrian accident that occurred in the Wal-Mart parking lot Monday. One person was taken by EMS for medical transport. Injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

Get tickets now for the Nutcracker

Herald Staff Report

It may be two weeks away, but if you haven't already purchased tickets for The Nutcracker Ballet, you'd be advised to do so very soon.

The highly acclaimed ballet will be presented in the

Big Spring Municipal Auditorium at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$13 for students. Students age 8 through 18 will be admitted free. An adult must accompany those under age 15.

Tickets are available at H-E-B, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum and Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The event is expected to be sold out, but any remaining tickets will be available at the door the evening of the show. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

Dancers from the Midland Festival Ballet will be accompanied by the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Keith Graumann.

This will mark the first performance of the Nutcracker in the municipal auditorium since it was remodeled and became handicapped accessible. The handicapped entrance is on the east side of the building.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Role Playing with Mercury and Mars

People have trouble separating the act from the actor as Mercury and Mars align to ask: Are you a lover or a fighter, a sweetheart or a scamp? With every choice you make, you are choosing a role. This is how people will see you: The one who made this choice instead of that one must be a ... (fill in the blank).



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have mixed feelings about ceremonies. Sometimes you feel they are boring, stiff and contrived. Then again, that is precisely what makes them so memorable. So plan a bit of ceremony into your next big gathering.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You think you know right from wrong, but when you get into some of the gray areas today, you'll discover that it's not as clear as you thought. Your intentions are pure, but is that enough?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In the morning, you're all pleasantries and loving words, but there may be something a bit heavier to impart in the evening. Think about what you want to say first. Practice it on paper if you have to, but don't let it go unsaid!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't let the afternoon lull hurt your overall productivity. A brisk walk is the best thing to clear the fog in your head. And if you go for longer than 20 minutes, you may even experience a

spiritual high.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be asked to do a job you are not yet qualified to do. This is a sign that you should consider getting new training. Investigate the need. How likely are you to get more requests like this one?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Most people will do something about the suffering of others when they know it exists. But most people won't seek that kind of knowledge. You have a sixth sense about where the problems are and how you can help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll feel better when things look better. The disorder in your living environment is largely the mess of other people. Even though your mess is small in comparison, clean it up, and the others will follow suit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Through the ages, average people have experienced works of sheer brilliance and laughed. But that doesn't mean that every misunderstood work is brilliant. Interpret today's presentation with caution.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Knowing is not enough. The person who knows the path but doesn't walk it is no better off than the person who doesn't know the path. Walk the path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't want to be the kind of person who avoids confrontation, so you actively seek it. For some interactions, electronic correspondence can seem cowardly. Important news is best delivered in person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Our memories may change and fail, but

for the most part, it's easier to recall what really happened than it is to recall a story about what happened. Because of this, someone who lied will be caught.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Lead with your integrity, and you'll receive hints as to the character of others. Pretty packages are not always filled with goodness. Being tasteful is not the same thing as being right or intelligent.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 3). You'll change your location by first changing where your mind is. Family additions help you with this before the start of 2014. You'll join forces in business and make great money in February when you cash in. You'll conquer a persistent problem by adhering to tradition. June brings worldly delights. Aries and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 5, 31, 19 and 23.

PUPPY PROFILE: If you know when your pet was born, check out his or her sun sign and the personality that goes with it.

CAPRICORN: Dogs generally are associated with unconditional love, unselfconscious living and reveling in the animal pleasures of the moment. Vanity is not usually a value associated with dogs, but the Capricorn dog is an exception. This pup is image-conscious and wants to be well thought of by peers and family. She's preoccupied with the social order. He cares about your opinion of him and hates to be laughed at. This is one dignified dog. The Capricorn dog is happiest when exhibiting excellent manners, grooming and breeding to the whole world. It's as though

this dog is always competing for "Best in Show."

Capricorn canines are often the alpha dogs and will challenge their humans for top position.

So good training is essential. Expert trainers can be expensive but are well worth the price, as their advice could make a big difference in overall quality of life.

Like their human counterparts, Capricorn dogs have a knack for accumulating wealth, which in puppy terms usually has to do with toys and bones.

Capricorn dogs love to hide treasures all around the house and yard. It's as though they are saving for a rainy day.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Amanda Seyfried will appear with Naomi Watts and Ben Stiller in the newest Noah Baumbach project, "While We're Young." This versatile Sagittarius is becoming a fixture in film-land, having worked professionally in show business since her pre-teen days as a model. With her natal moon in Leo, entertaining people is her first instinct, and five fiery Sagittarius luminaries indicate unremitting passion.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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News in brief

As NTSB says derailed NYC train was going 82 mph, queries rise about anti-crash technology

YONKERS, N.Y. (AP) — The revelation that a New York City commuter train derailed while barreling into a sharp curve at nearly three times the speed limit is fueling questions about whether automated crash-avoidance technology could have prevented the carnage.

Safety authorities have championed what's known as positive train control technology for decades, but the railroad industry has sought to postpone having to install it because of the high cost and technological issues.

Investigators haven't yet determined whether the wreck, which killed four people and injured more than 60 others, was the result of human error or mechanical trouble. But some safety experts said the tragedy might not have happened if Metro-North Railroad had the technology, and a senator said the wreck underscored the need for it.

"This incident, if anything, heightens the importance of additional safety measures, like that one," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut, which also is served by Metro-North. "I'd be very loath to be more flexible or grant more time."

The train was going 82 mph as it entered a 30 mph turn Sunday morning and ran off the track, National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener said Monday. He cited information extracted from the train's two data recorders; investigators also began interviewing the train's crew.

Navigators give updated healthcare, gov mixed reviews on opening day amid successes and stalls

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Counselors helping people use the federal government's online health exchange are giving mixed reviews to the updated site, with some zipping through the application process while others are facing the same old sputters and even crashes.

The Obama administration had promised a vastly improved shopping experience on healthcare.gov by the end of November, and Monday was the first business day since the date passed.

Brokers and online assistants in Utah say three of every four people successfully signed up for health coverage on the online within an hour of logging in. A state official overseeing North Dakota's navigators said he had noticed improvements in the site, as did organizations helping people sign up in parts of Alabama and Wisconsin.

But staffers at an organization in South Florida and a hospital group with locations in Iowa and Illinois said they have seen no major improvements from the federal website, which 36 states are relying on.

Amanda Crowell, director of revenue cycle for UnityPoint Health-Trinity, which has four hospitals in Iowa and Illinois, said the organization's 15 enrollment counselors did not see a marked improvement on the site.

Thai protests ease as police lift barricades from key spots in reversal of strategy

BANGKOK (AP) — Anti-government protesters swarmed into the Thai prime minister's office compound Tuesday as police stood by and watched, al-



AP photo

Emergency rescue personnel work the scene of a Metro-North passenger train derailment in the Bronx borough of New York Sunday.

lowing them to claim a symbolic victory after three days of bitter clashes. The unexpected reversal in the government's strategy brings at least a lull in the violence before the revered king's 86th birthday later this week.

Hundreds of protesters poured onto the lawn of Government House, waving Thai flags and blowing whistles. After speeches and shouts of "victory belongs to the people!" they left the compound an hour later, and the gates were locked again. Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was not there at the time.

Declaring that the government would use "only gentleness and tenderness to solve problems," Deputy Prime Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul said the step was taken to reduce tensions so that people could celebrate King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday on Thursday. The king is seen as the sole uniting figure in the country.

The move was widely seen as offering the protesters a face-saving way to end the demonstrations — although it remains to be seen whether protests will resume in the future.

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban vowed to keep up the struggle to topple Yingluck and keep her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, from returning to power. Thaksin was ousted in a 2006 military coup, and Yingluck's rivals have repeatedly accused her of being Thaksin's puppet.

Judge set to decide whether Detroit is eligible to fix its debt crisis in bankruptcy court

DETROIT (AP) — A judge was expected to announce Tuesday whether Detroit can come up with a plan to get rid of \$18 billion in debt in the largest public bankruptcy in U.S. history, a case that ultimately could crack a shield protecting public pensions and also put the city's extraordinary art collection up for grabs.

Judge Steven Rhodes will declare whether Detroit is eligible to stay in court, more than four months after filing for Chapter 9 protection. It's the most critical decision so far because it could give local officials a green light to scrub the balance sheet and slowly improve the quality of life in a city that has lost more than 1 million residents since 1950.

Rhodes postponed his decision by an hour to give the public more time to get through courthouse security.

"Eligibility means working down a specific checklist and making sure the city has done what it needed to do to be in court. If the city gets its

ticket punched, it's game on," said Michael Sweet, a bankruptcy expert who has advised struggling local governments in California.

Rhodes' task at this stage is limited to deciding if Detroit has met certain conditions to be in bankruptcy. A local government must do more than claim it's broke. There must be evidence that Detroit tried to negotiate in "good faith" with creditors or that such talks were simply impossible because of the number of parties and other factors.

Egypt: Investigators looking into possible links between Morsi, jihadists

CAIRO (AP) — During his year as president, Egypt's Mohammed Morsi cultivated ties with Islamic radicals, making them a key support for his rule by pardoning dozens of jailed militants, restraining the military from an all-out offensive against jihadis in Sinai and giving their hard-line sheiks a platform to spread their rhetoric.

Now with Morsi ousted and imprisoned, investigators are looking into possibly putting him on trial for links to jihadis, accusing him and his Muslim Brotherhood of being behind a wave of violence by Sinai-based militants in retaliation for the July 3 military coup that removed the Islamists from power, military and security officials say.

Since Morsi's ouster, violence by jihadi groups has escalated into a full-fledged insurgency, with increasing shootings, bombings and al-Qaida-style suicide attacks against troops and police in Sinai. The attacks have spread outside the restive peninsula with bombings and assassinations in the capital, Cairo, and other parts of the country.

The investigation marks a new track of possible prosecution against Morsi, who is already on trial on charges of inciting murder over a December attack by Islamists on protesters and who also is under investigation on possible other charges.

It also represents a new turn in the crackdown that the military-backed government has waged against Morsi's Brotherhood. Security forces have been seeking to crush continuous protests by his Islamist supporters, arresting several thousand and killing hundreds since the coup.

Illinois lawmakers convene special session on pensions Tuesday

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois lawmakers were poised Tuesday to vote on a plan to solve the state's \$100 billion pension crisis — a proposal many are calling the most important vote of their careers and one that could deeply reduce the retirement benefits of hundreds of thousands of workers and retirees.

Gov. Pat Quinn and other supporters on Monday stressed the importance of the vote, saying approving the legislation is a crucial step toward improving Illinois' disastrous financial situation. Quinn, a Chicago Democrat, planned to travel to the state Capitol in Springfield and said he would meet with as many legislators as possible to try to get them to vote yes.

"I think (this is) the most important fiscal vote that will ever be taken by the General Assembly in my lifetime," he said Monday at an unrelated event. "We need to erase the liability and move Illinois forward. That's what I'm committed to and I think everyone who is interested in the future of Illinois, the common good, what's good for taxpayers should join us in urging a yes vote."

Bird Poop: The hawk that was behind schedule

As December arrives, we can't help but look back at the previous month. As in most autumns, an array of migratory raptors arrives needing our help. One November in particular, however, remains as a prevalent reminder that birds don't look at calendars in planning their itineraries.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

In 1997, to make matters worse, we were without a center for any incoming hawks, owls, falcons, or eagles. Since Eos Wildlife Sanctuary in Midland had been forced to close, we had made the decision to continue our rescues.

A call from the state hospital had asked us to come to the maintenance facility on the north side of the complex. Having found a hawk, one of the employees realized the bird could only fly short distances, but not elevate. Fearful that a coyote or fox might find the raptor, the man caught it and brought it

inside for safekeeping. Upon entering the building, we couldn't help but see a Swainson's hawk perched atop the tallest object in the spacious building. "He seems to like watching us work," said the friendly employee who greeted us.

Knowing this was a summer hawk puzzled us. Usually it would be much further south in its fall migration.

While Art distracted the curious, but cautious raptor, I hoped my attempt at grabbing it was successful. Hurriedly having to rise on tiptoe, and quickly slip my index finger through its legs, while gripping them on the outside with my thumb and middle finger, allowed for no mistakes.

Feeling the startled Swainson's attempt to flee with wings flapping freely, I could finally take a breath. If the bird had been an inch higher, my effort would have failed.

Even though the precision of each wing lifting, then lowering in harmony seemed normal, experience and the Erskines had taught us that bruising or a hairline fracture were possibilities.

Previously, the closure



of the Midland facility had prompted Melanie Gambrell to offer a stable if we needed a place for a recovering raptor. Since we had already seen that area of her rescue structures, her offer was accepted.

Inside the ample stable was a manger, or trough in which hay for livestock had been placed. Varying in height, its vertical iron pipes would allow the Swainson's to perch on and master each.

Upon introducing the hawk to its temporary residence, the bird elevated about a foot

and a half off the dirt floor and crossed from one side to the other. Again, it practiced the beginning of its recovery.

Walking back to our vehicle, Melanie's husband, Randy, offered to provide the raptor with rabbits and other wild game it would have hunted on its journey south.

At first, progress seemed slow. As weeks passed, and December arrived, the hawk had only mastered the two, lowest pipes. Although it could stair-step its way to the top pipe by using those beneath, it needed to attain that height by starting on the ground and flying directly to the top. Meanwhile, it dined in style.

Upon first receiving the Swainson's hawk, our call to South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Lubbock had been promising. Introducing ourselves to Debbie Tennyson, manager, we had told her of our efforts in regard to the raptor. Feeling we had a good place for it to exercise and partially recover, she would await our bringing it when ready.

A few days before Christmas, Melanie's call was one of excitement. "It's on the top perch!" she exclaimed. Hav-

ing gone out to feed some of her critters, she had chanced upon seeing the hawk leave a partially eaten rabbit. Easily, it ascended in a graceful rise.

Now ready for its next portion of rehab, the Swainson's was delivered to South Plains on New Year's Eve. As we turned the hawk over to Debbie, we took one last look at the handsome raptor. Across its creamy upper chest was the chestnut-brown bib. Its brown upper parts and head were a sharp contrast to its pale belly.

Dark bands accented its grayish tail. With its light wing linings contrasting against its dark flight feathers, it was an outstanding specimen. Mastery of flight would insure its freedom.

The next morning, Debbie first wished us a "Happy New Year." Then she giggled. Having watched the hawk exercise, she was certain it would be released. But first, it needed to lose weight. After more laughter, she added, "It's too fat to fly!"

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

Marcy Elementary helps students 'fall' into reading

One of the pleasures humans get to enjoy in this life is the act of reading. Have you ever thought how empty life would be without being able to read? It is difficult to conceive what life would be like if reading was taken away from us.

There are times when it is so enjoyable just to sit back and let someone read to us where we can totally visualize what the story is describing. Remember as a kid having a story read to you, usually at bedtime, and the relaxing or exciting visualization that you experienced during the story? These kinds of moments were experienced recently when Marcy Elementary held their "Fall into Reading" night and students and parents alike were

mesmerized as stories were read from old time story books by individuals dressed in the character of the book making the stories come to life. This took place at Marcy Elementary on Nov. 16 as the campus, sponsored by the school PTO, held its special evening of entertainment for students and parents featuring reading as a main event but also having activities in the gym such as the duck pond, fishing, football throw and other events for students and parents to experience together.

Along with these ac-

tivities was the opportunity to eat together in the cafeteria, allowing parents to spend additional quality time with their kids. Prizes were given for those winning the events and all prizes were of an educational value to allow students to understand that learning is fun and learning together is a pleasurable experience.

This special night was preceded by a pumpkin decoration for the students in the school library where student classes selected and formed a pumpkin from a storybook character and had their creation judged for competition where winning classes, one class per grade level, were rewarded with an ice cream party.

These kinds of activities excite the students and make learning fun and enjoyable. Mrs. Faulkner was

also excited about the upcoming open house, inviting parents to come and review the newest technology used by the students and be introduced to the math and reading activities the students engage in daily.

Mrs. Falkner said, "If parents can see what we are doing and how we are doing it then they understand how they can help their kids

to master the objectives of the classroom."

But she went on to explain that other things are happening to keep the kids excited, such as the Student of the Month, the Principal of the Day and the student-selected Student Council, which allow kids special recognition for working hard, good citizenship and keeping the motto of Do unto others as you

would want others to do to you.

Mrs. Faulkner and the staff at Marcy work diligently at creating a family climate and extending that family circle to include all the students. Keep up the good work, Marcy Elementary!

Darrell Ryan is the director of school safety for the Big Spring Independent School District.



DARRELL
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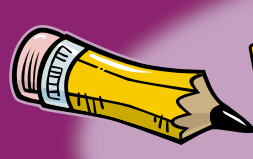
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Kid Scoop
FIT & FUN

Reindeer Fitness

K I D S C O O P S T E M S E R I E S

HOLIDAY SCIENCE

Christmas Crystals

Put on your lab coat and some Christmas music, work with an adult helper and make a crystal tree grow!

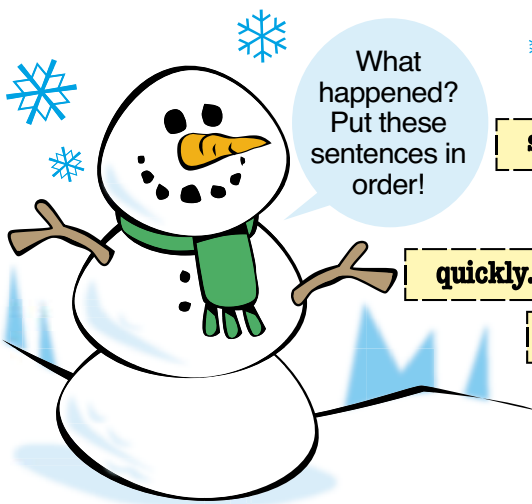
STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- a shallow dish
- 6 tbsp laundry bluing
- 6 tbsp salt
- sponge
- 6 tbsp water

INSTRUCTIONS

- In the shallow dish, mix together the water, salt, bluing liquid and ammonia. Stir until the salt dissolves.
- Cut a sponge into the shape of a Christmas tree and set in the shallow dish.
- Depending on the temperature and humidity, crystals should grow (crystallization) over the next 10 to 12 hours—the dryer the air the better. You can top up the solution to keep your tree growing.

Standards Link: Science Investigation: Conduct simple experiments.



- starts to evaporate—ammonia helps this happen
- combination of the salt and the bluing. Bluing
- quickly. The crystals that are left behind are a
- The sponge draws the solution up in just the same
- particles help the salt form crystals.
- way as a plant takes up water. The solution then

Glittering Snow Globe

A science project that also makes a great holiday gift!

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- a jar with a tight lid
- plastic figure or decoration small enough to fit in jar
- distilled water
- drop of glycerin
- clear epoxy glue
- glitter



- Glue your ornament or figure to the inside surface of your lid. Allow it to dry.
- Fill the jar to the top with distilled water. Add glitter and a drop of glycerin. The glycerin will keep the glitter from falling too quickly.
- Screw on the lid. Be careful not to dislodge your ornament.
- Turn it over and watch it snow!

How many snowflakes can you find on this page?

Extra! Extra! Holiday Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find something:

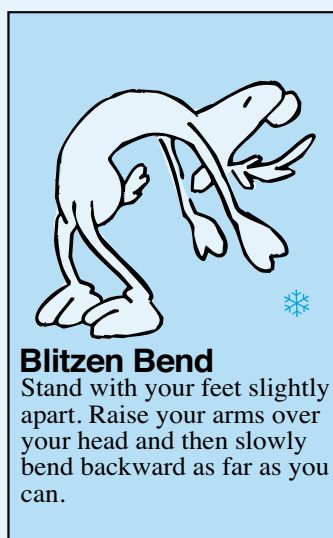
- sweet
- made from crystals
- about trees
- about Santa
- about winter weather

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



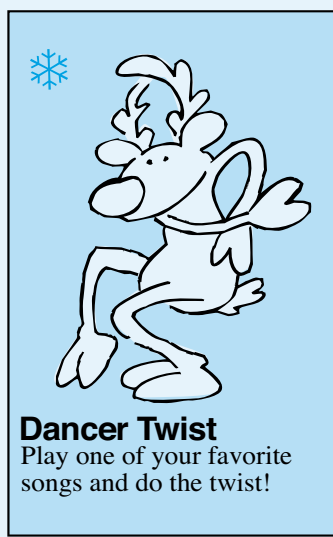
Comet Kicks

Kick your legs up as high as you can! (Make sure you have plenty of space!)



Blitzen Bend

Stand with your feet slightly apart. Raise your arms over your head and then slowly bend backward as far as you can.



Dancer Twist

Play one of your favorite songs and do the twist!



Dasher Dash

Run in place for one to two minutes.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Mrs. Claus is decorating her Christmas tree. She knows just where she wants each ornament to go. Do the math and then draw a line from each ornament to its place.

18 - 5

13 - 6

20 - 9

17 - 8

15 - 3

20 - 12

11

13

8

9

7

12

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate differences.

Double Double Word Search

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Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

C G L Y C E R I N H
G H H R T G I S T S
N C M A L N J S L I
I T G U B O R A O D
W A E X S P T W R I
O W D I S S O L V E
R O N M Y S W E E T
G N I R E T T I L G
G S C R E W T R E E

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
DISSOLVE

The verb **dissolve** means to become absorbed in a liquid.

The sugar **dissolved** in the hot cup of coffee.

Try to use the word **dissolve** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

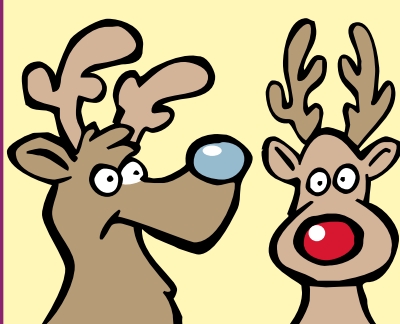
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News Talk

Look through the newspaper for different ways to start sentences. Find examples of startling statements, quotations, prepositional phrases, questions and more.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use reading skills and strategies to interpret informational text.



Which reindeer have trunks?

ANSWER: The ones going on vacation.

Write On!

Winter Poems

How does winter feel? Smell? Sound? Taste? Look? Use these thoughts to write a poem about winter.

Lady Steers receive All-District honors

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

Morgan Seaton and Stevi Ward earned superlatives and several Lady Steer volleyball players populated the 2013 All-District list after an historic run which ended in the state semifinal loss to eventual Class 3A champion Decatur.

The Lady Steers finished 32-14 and had several milestones along the way, including toppling district nemesis Wylie to earn a trip to the state championship.

It was the first Big Spring team to make a state appearance since 1977.

Seaton was named Outstanding hitter, while Ward, a junior, was recognized as Newcomer of the Year.

Junior Erin Pollard was named to First Team All-District, along with seniors Kelsie Guinn and Julianna Rodriguez.

A trio of players — seniors Tulsi Patel, Kinsey Wash and Ebony Zavala — were named to Second Team All-District.

Guinn, Patel, Ward, Wash and Zavala also qualified for academic

All-District by maintaining a 90 or above average during the volleyball season.

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



Big Spring's Morgan Seaton (left) and Stevi Ward (right), received superlative accolades in District 4-3A after a season capped with a state semifinal appearance. Seaton, a senior, was named Outstanding Hitter, while Ward, a junior was named Newcomer of the Year. Several Lady Steers were recognized.

HERALD file photos/Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Local briefs

Howard College to host Hawk Buddies hoops clinic

Boys and Girls in grades kindergarten through eighth are welcome to attend the 2013-14 Hawk Buddies, sponsored by Howard College Women's Basketball and long-time corporate sponsor Wells Fargo.

Under the instruction of Head Coach Earl Diddle, Assistant Coach Addie Lees and the Lady Hawk basketball squad, enrollees will enjoy a morning of learning basketball skills, followed by a pizza party.

Each participant will receive a Howard Hawk basketball and his or entire family will be allowed into all Hawk basketball home games during the duration of the season. A 'Buddies Night' will be held Feb. 13 at halftime during a home game against Frank Phillips College where attendees of the Hawk Buddies camp will be recognized.

Cost will be \$20 per camper and enrollment is limited. For more information, contact Diddle at 264-5043, or Lees at 264-5155. Registration begins the morning of the camp from 8:30-9 a.m., unless prior arrangements have been made.

Big Spring Little League to hold meeting

Big Spring Little League will be holding an organizational meeting for the 2014 season Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center (ATC).

Forsan's Kolby Self set to be honored

Kolby Self, a senior at Forsan High School, was named 'Built Ford Tough Player of the Week' recently for his contributions on the football field.

Big Spring Ford will be hosting an event where Self is officially recognized for the award Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

A running back, Self not only scored touchdowns, but also served as a team leader and role model to underclassmen.

Texans' Smith sorry for saying Patriots spied during game

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston defensive end Antonio Smith apologized Monday for using the word "spying" about New England, but didn't exactly back down from the accusations he made after the Texans' loss to the Patriots.

On Sunday after Houston's 34-31 loss, Smith told reporters that the Texans had some new wrinkles in their defense and it was "miraculous" how the Patriots changed their offense to key on the defense.

He said then: "Either teams are spying on us or scouting us. I don't know what it is."

On Monday, he said that he thought reporters in Houston knew him well enough to know that he could be joking and still be curious about something like this at the

same time.

"I'm sorry I said the word spying because of a prior engagement of them being caught spying before," he said.

The NFL fined New England coach Bill Belichick \$500,000 and the team \$250,000 and took away a first-round pick in the 2008 draft for videotaping New York Jets signals during a game on Sept. 9, 2007.

Belichick said he thought that was allowed and apologized for what he said was a mistake in his interpretation of the rule prohibiting it.

Belichick was asked on a conference call Monday morning if he saw Smith's comments.

"Yeah, I saw them," he said.

See **SPY**, Page 12

Spurs edge Hawks 102-100

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Here comes Tim Duncan once again. It turns out San Antonio's steady star needed a couple weeks to find his rejuvenated form from a year ago.

Duncan made a jumper with 0.4 seconds left to lift the Spurs to a 102-100 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Monday night.

"(Duncan) did a great job," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "We were having a tough night in a lot of ways and he was superb."

Duncan finished with 23 points and 21 rebounds, becoming the oldest player with 20 points and 20 rebounds since the NBA began keeping track of re-

bounds during the 1985-86 season.

"We know the type of player he is," Atlanta center Al Horford said. "He's just a winner; he finds ways every time."

Boris Diaw had 16 points and Tiago Splitter finished with 11 as San Antonio outscored the younger and more athletic Atlanta front court 50-40.

The Hawks had all five starters score in double figures. Jeff Teague had 19 points, Horford added 18 and DeMarre Carroll finished with 17.

After struggling in the first month of the season, including a career-low two points on Nov. 13 against Washington, the 37-year-

old Duncan is starting to pick up his play. He is averaging 16.6 points and 10.2 rebounds in his last five games.

"I feel a lot healthier now," he said. "For a while there, I was dealing with some stuff, but now my body is feeling good and I'm starting to get my legs underneath me."

The Hawks trailed 98-94 when Paul Millsap made a 3-pointer over Diaw with 17.5 seconds remaining. Manu Ginobili then made a pair of free throws for the Spurs, but Teague drained a 3 over Kawhi Leonard to tie it at 100 with 4.7 seconds left.

See **SPURS**, Page 12

Sports Calendar

TODAY

- Boys Basketball**
- Big Spring at San Angelo Lake View, JV, 5 p.m.; 9th, 6:15 p.m.; Varsity, 7:30 p.m.
 - Grady at Coahoma, JV, 5 p.m.; Varsity, 8 p.m.
 - Post at Forsan, JV, 5 p.m.; Varsity, 8 p.m.

- Girls Basketball**
- Big Spring at Pecos, 9th, 4:30 p.m.; JV, 6 p.m.; Varsity, 7:30 p.m.
 - Grady at Coahoma, JV, 6 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
 - Post at Forsan, JV, 4 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- Mens Basketball**
- Howard College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m.
- Womens Basketball**
- Howard College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m.

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

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NFL officials admit to making mistake during Redskins-Giants game

NEW YORK (AP) — Redskins coach Mike Shanahan spoke Monday with the NFL's director of officiating after the league said Sunday night's crew made an error on Washington's final drive.

The league said officials should have stopped play and elimi-

nated confusion about the down and distance at the end of the Giants' 24-17 victory at Washington.

"I talked to Dean earlier today, he gave me a call and just went over the scenario," Shanahan said, referring to Dean Blandino, who oversees NFL officiat-

ing. "Obviously they made a mistake and you live with it."

With New York leading by seven points just after the two-minute warning, a catch by the Redskins' Pierre Garcon on second-and-5 was spotted short of a first down at the Washington 45. Referee Jeff Triplette signaled third down. But the head linesman, with the Redskins in

a hurry-up offense, incorrectly motioned for the crew to advance the chains, which caused the down boxes to read first down.

"In this situation where there is obvious confusion as to the status of the down, that play should have been stopped prior to third down and the correct down communicated to both clubs," Blandino

said Monday in a statement.

Only the referee can rule and signal a first down. The official nearest to the down markers and chain crew, the head linesman, is required to wait for that first-down signal from the referee before moving the chains. That did not happen at FedEx Field.

After Washington's

incomplete pass on the next play — which many Redskins believed was on first down — the chains were moved back and the down boxes correctly reset to fourth down.

Blandino said instant replay review was not used on Garcon's catch because the replay official determined the ball was "correctly spotted short of the line.

Sudoku Answer on Page 3

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.

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

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SPURS

Continued from Page 7

Curling off a pick by Marco Belinelli, Duncan drained a jumper over the 6-foot-8 Carroll near the free-throw line to put San Antonio ahead to stay.

"Tonight was good for (Duncan)," Ginobili said, "but we never lost trust in him. We would be crazy if we did. It does feel good to see him coming back, especially over the past few games."

Millsap's desperation jumper hit the side of the backboard.

"They did a good job running that play," Horford said. "They had guys flying all over the place. Belinelli came into the paint, I called the switch. If I could have

gone back, I probably would have tried to chase Duncan off of there, but Belinelli got me pretty good, I've got to give him credit. That's how he was able to get free and get that shot up."

The Hawks knew the play was coming since they are coached by longtime Spurs assistant Mike Budenholzer.

There were 20 lead changes and 17 ties in a game with almost identical schemes.

"It was a heck of an NBA basketball game," Budenholzer said. "I'm proud of our guys. It was a very good effort. If we play that long and that hard in games, we're going to be OK. San Antonio tests you in a lot of different ways. They test you on both ends of the court. It's good for our guys to compete the way they compet-

ed."

Tony Parker added 15 points for the Spurs. Belinelli had 13 and Ginobili finished with 10.

The Spurs returned to their ball-sharing ways after they struggled on offense in a loss to Houston.

Nine of the 10 Spurs who played in the first half scored. Danny Green didn't score until there was 2:54 remaining in the game, but it proved to be a critical basket. He drained a jumper just before the shot clock expired to give San Antonio a 94-87 lead.

"It's a very, very (tough loss)," Millsap said. "The effort was there, the effort was definitely there. Guys were out there in sync. So to get out there and lay it all out there and not come out with the victory is kind of tough."

SPY

Continued from Page 7

"I don't have any comment on them. I think that's a league matter."

Houston coach Gary Kubiak also was questioned about what Smith said and refused to address them directly.

"I have the utmost respect for their organization, their players, their

coaches, their head coach and the standard that they've been setting for a long, long time in this league," he said. "So ... they did a great job yesterday and have been doing it a long time."

The loss extended Houston's franchise-record skid to 10 games. The Texans were up 17-7 at halftime before New England rallied for the win.

Smith said Monday that he was surprised his comments caused such a stir and wondered why no one had

a sense of humor about what he said.

"Though it may be something I was curious about that kind of didn't seem right," he said. "Like how all of a sudden the change here? It wasn't a serious matter to where I was thinking: 'Aw man, they're spying on us. They're cheating. Things like that to the point where it gets to a big story about me accusing them of cheating. It's me being me, being funny.'"

Houston will try to end its skid Thursday night at Jacksonville.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It's Not a Guessing Game

Fast dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 9 5
♥ K 9 5
♦ Q J 2
♣ K 10 3

WEST
♠ 8 4
♥ Q J 10 8 4
♦ A 9 5
♣ 8 6 2

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

SOUTH
♠ K Q 2
♥ A 7 3
♦ K 10 6 3
♣ A J 7

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead queen of hearts.

one.
As the cards lie, had South tackled diamonds instead of spades first, he would have made four notrump. In that case, West's only entry card would have been forced out before his hearts were established, and that would have meant success instead of failure for declarer.

It might therefore seem that making the contract depends on a straightforward guess, but actually, South can eliminate the need for any guesswork by allowing West's queen of hearts to hold at trick one. It then makes no difference whether declarer attacks spades or diamonds first after West continues with a heart at trick two.

Either East will win the trick and be unable to continue hearts, or West will win the trick and in the process lose the entry to his heart suit. Indeed, the only way declarer can fail to get home safely by adopting this line of play is if West started with five or six hearts and both missing aces.

The purpose of the holdup play at trick one is to try to interfere with enemy communications. It can't cost declarer the contract to concede the first heart to West, but by doing so, South eliminates the need for a crystal ball at trick two.

Tomorrow: A quest for information.
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