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H BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

DECEMBER 16, 2013



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VOLUME 109, NUMBER 51

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Christmas season in the Crossroads

Weekend slate celebrates Yuletide time in Howard County

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Better late than never. Thousands of people lined up for the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade to finally kick off the Christmas season in the Crossroads area, although a little later than normal.

This year's parade was delayed a week because of the recent ice storm which brought freezing weather to the area.

"This was one of the best parades we've had in the past several years," said Herald General Manger Rick Nunez. "By the quality of the entries, you can tell how much effort and time all our participants gave to make this such a success. We are very thankful to our judges who had very difficult task to perform, the city of Big Spring, Fire Department, Police Department, the Citizens Police Academy Alumni volunteers who helped with traffic control and of course everyone who participated to make this a huge success."

With the area finally getting a break from frigid temperatures, several holiday themed events were able to be held. Heritage Museum's Breakfast With Santa and Parade Watch and the Downtown Revitalization Association's Christmas on Main Street events, all postponed because of icy weather, went off without a hitch Saturday.

Adding to the festive atmosphere this past weekend was the Big Spring Symphony/Midland Festival Ballet performance of "The Nutcracker," which entertained a packed house at the Municipal Auditorium Saturday evening drawing concert goers from Midland and as far away as Missouri.

Winners of the 2013 Big Spring Herald Christmas



See **EVENTS**, Page 3



Photos/Andreia Medlin, Bruce Schooler and Ben Gann

Christmas season in the Crossroads area began with a bang with a variety of special events, including (clockwise from top) First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree, which occurred Dec. 7 and 8, and happening last Saturday Big Spring Symphony's Nutcracker Ballet and the Big Spring Herald's Community Christmas Parade. For more holiday photos, see the special section inside today's Herald.

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First-year teacher numbers drop sharply

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The number of new teachers in Texas has dropped sharply during the last four years and education observers have identified several reasons for that decline.

Texas schools hired fewer than 15,000 first-year teachers last year, down from 25,000 in 2008, the Houston Chronicle reported (http://bit.ly/1jb9d4u). According to the Texas Education Agency, the 2011-12 school year was the first in recent history in which Texas public schools lost more teachers than they gained.

The Great Recession and major cuts to education funding passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011 hit many districts hard and contributed to a hiring slowdown. But more experienced educators looking for work also made things harder for new teachers, educa-

tion officials said.

The slowdown caused by the recession led some teachers to put off retirement and districts to hire fewer teachers — and, when they did hire, target more experienced teachers.

"Two or three years ago, we saw a definite dip" in the hiring of new graduates, said Melissa Pierson, associate dean of the University of Houston's education college. Pierson said recruiters did not make hiring visits during those years.

JoAnn Phan, who graduated from the University of Houston three years ago, said it took her about 18 months to find a job teaching kindergarten at a Houston elementary school.

"It was a bit of a shock," Phan said. "I did not know just how hard it was to find a teaching position."

But Pierson and the director of another teacher training program said

she thought things were looking up now that the economy was recovering.

"I get phone calls every single day from principals asking for teachers to interview," said Lidia Zatopek, who directs Harris County's alternative certification program. Zatopek said all 17 of her graduates were hired.

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Dr. Sally Reyes, AuD., CCC-A, Audiologist

Obituaries

Donald Gene Koerber



Donald Gene Koerber, 71, of Big Spring, died Thursday in an Odessa hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Pastor Sam Segundo, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, 2013, at the funeral home.

He was born April 15, 1942 in Great Bend, Kan. Survivors include three daughters, Debbie Storie of McCamey, Shelley Burrow and husband, Mike of Big Spring and Brenda Tubb and husband, Brian of Big Spring; two sons, Don Koerber and Jim Koerber, both of Big Spring; one son-in-law, Mike Roever of McCamey; six grandchildren, Becky Roever and Cody Sparks and Jacob Roever and wife, LaSha, all of Odessa, Lane Storie and Jonathan Storie, both of McCamey, and Don Koerber III and Brellyn Tubb, both of Big Spring; and one great-grandchild, Cooper Sparks of Odessa,

He was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter, Amy Koerber; and a son-in-law, John Storie.

In 1953 in Phoenix, Ariz., a tough and determined 11-year-old boy would ride his bike along the side of a school bus screaming "Aloma...I love you," to a beautiful blonde-haired, blue-eyed girl. In return, she would yell back to him, "Get away I don't like you." This begins a true love story. After much commitment to the one he loved, on June 10, 1960, at 18 years old, Donald won her heart and married his beautiful bride, Aloma.

Donald was a boxer as a teen and worked construction all of his adult life. Right by his side was his best friend and wife supporting, working and raising five children with him. He was a hard worker and brilliant man that could fix anything. He was a legal advisor, financial consultant, teacher and doctor to all of his family.

In 1988, Donald and Aloma came to Texas to retire and be close to their children and grandchildren. Some of the greatest memories were spent

on camping trips, reunions at Lake Buchanan and Lake Amistad, hunting and fishing at the Storie Ranch and just the family being together. Donald loved and taught his children and son-in-laws how to work hard, build houses, fix things and have a good time. He loved his grandchildren very much.

In 2003, Aloma was diagnosed with cancer and for five years Donald never left her side. He gave her all the love, support, passion and strength to fight her battle. He cooked for her, brushed her hair, did her makeup and loved her unconditionally through it all. They re-lived their childhood youth by sharing milk shakes, dinner dates, watching movies and holding hands everywhere they went. It was a unique and true love.

In 2008, Aloma, lost her battle with cancer. Over the next five years Donald never missed a single day going to the cemetery where his bride was laid to rest. He cleaned her marker, mowed her area and decorated it like no other. Donald also became a strength to many of the other people visiting deceased family members as well. He would sit in lawn chairs and give a widow woman hope. Or hug a young girl and comfort her because she lost her dad. Or sit with a man that lost his daughter and passionately exchange memories. Their "Cemetery Club" was a comfort for him, and the others in their healing process.

Though he loved his children and grandchildren, there was nothing more than Donald wanted than to be with the love of his life. On Dec. 12, 2013 in the hospital where Donald laid unconscious, his children and grandchildren asked, "Dad we love you. Are you ready to go be with mom?" With a smile from ear to ear, and a simple nod yes, he took his last breath. At that moment he began dancing once again with the love of his life. A true love story! We love you, dad and mom.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P. O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2121 or to the American Lung Association, 8150 Brookriver Dr., Suite S-102, Dallas, Texas 75247.

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

Paid obituary

Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- DAVID WAYNE GRANT, 43, of 8305 N. Service Road, was arrested on charges of possession of controlled substance, more than 1 gram but less than 4 grams.
• WILLIAM ANDREW HOLLOBAUGH, 22, of 1802 Donley St., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
• THOMAS ALLEN YOUNG, 18, of 3403 Airport St., was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
• MICAH JO NICKLE, 19, of 812 S. San Antonio St., was arrested on a warrant from another agency and on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
• JANA LYNN PORTER, 54, of 8705 Gillem road, was arrested two warrants from another agency.
• FIRE DEPARTMENT CALL was reported in the 2900 block of N. Birdwell Lane. The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department responded.
• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1300 block of Ridgeroad Drive.
• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2500 block of March Circle.
• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 600 block of South Lancaster St.
• DISTURBANCE was reported in the 200 block of East Third Street, 400 block of NE 11th Street and the 1500 block of West Third St.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 58 inmates at the time of this report.
• DANIELLE AMBER FREITAG, 24, was booked by the DPS on warrants for display expired registration and driving while license invalid.
• ALEXANDER QUINTANA, 33, was booked by

the DPS on a warrant for assault-family violence.

- KAYDRA NICOLE FRANCO, 24, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for diving while license invalid and no seat belt-driver.
• GREGORIO SILGUERO III, 34, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
• MICHAEL DANIEL GARCIA, 41, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated, open alcohol container.
• MICHEAL RENE ROBLES, 41, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for assault-family violence.
• JOSE ANTHONY CHAVEZ, 17, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and on warrants for no driver's license-when unlicensed, failure to appear, speeding 47 mph in a 30 mph and violate promise to appear.
• JOSEPH ANGELO ORTEGA, 18, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for running a red light.
• GERALD DEAN MIRELES, 44, was booked by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated/open alcohol.
• DAVID WAYNE GRANT, 43, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, more than 1 gram but less than 4 grams and on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
• ANTHONY CADE NIX, 47, was booked by the DPSM, on a charge of driving while intoxicated, second offense.
• WILLIAM ANDREW HOLLOBAUGH, 22, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
• THOMAS ALLEN YOUNG, 18, was booked by the BSPD on warrant for motion to revoke probation/possession of marijuana, less than or equal to 2 ounces in a drug-free zone.
• JEREMY RAY CRUIT, 33, was booked on a charge of driving while license involved with previous conviction/suspension.
• MICAH NICKLE, 19, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a habitation and on a warrant for theft of property, more than or equal to

See POLICE, Page 3

Jan Elliott

Jan Elliott, 65, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

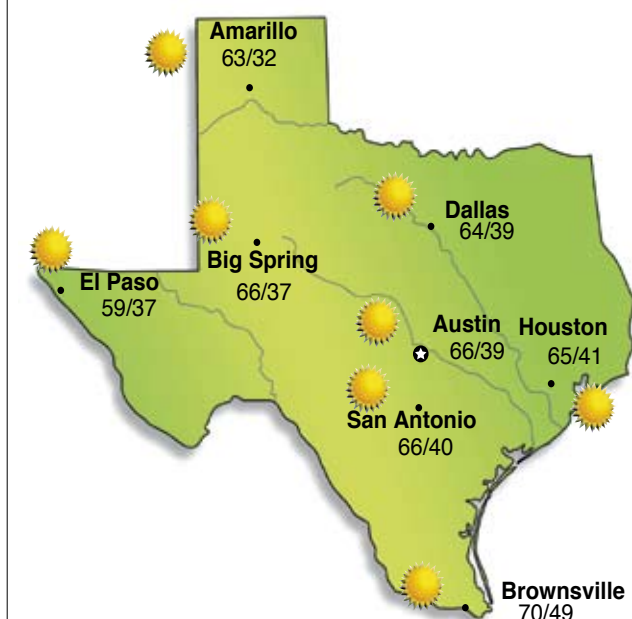
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Table with 3 columns: Tue 12/17, Wed 12/18, Thu 12/19. Includes temperature ranges (e.g., 66/37, 67/38, 68/46), weather icons, and sunrise/sunset times.



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

Table with 4 columns: City, Hi, Lo, Cond. Lists weather for cities like Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Brownwood, Corpus Christi, Corsicana, Dallas, Del Rio, El Paso, Fort Stockton, Gainesville, Greenville, Houston, Kingsville, Livingston, Longview, Lubbock, Lufkin, Midland, Raymondville, Rosenberg, San Antonio, San Marcos, Sulphur Springs, Sweetwater, Tyler, Weatherford, Wichita Falls.

National Cities

Table with 4 columns: City, Hi, Lo, Cond. Lists weather for cities like Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Phoenix, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, Washington, DC.

Moon Phases



UV Index

Table with 3 columns: Tue 12/17, Wed 12/18, Thu 12/19. UV Index values are 3, 3, 3. Moderate.

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

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BIG SPRING HERALD www.BigSpringHerald.com Rich History, Big Possibilities - Big Spring, Texas Missed Your Paper: 432-263-7331 (Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-6p.m.) Rick Nunez General Manager... Ext. 250 Bill McClellan Managing Editor... Ext. 230 Robert Smith Circulation Manager... Ext. 252 Tony Hernandez Production Manager... Ext. 256 Rachel Martinez Business Manager... Ext. 255 The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

Take note

• Big Spring RSVP will celebrate the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service starting Dec. 5 through Jan. 20 by coordinating a local book drive benefitting the children of West, Texas. RSVP volunteers will collect new or gently used children's books at the Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler Avenue from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• 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.

• Big Spring Professional Firefighters Honor Guard is giving away a Yeti Tundra 45-quart cooler, valued at \$330. For more information, call Lt. Jay Holt at 432-264-2315 or FF. Albert Cavazos at 806-559-6722. The cooler will be given away at 1 p.m. Dec. 21 at Fire Station 1, located at 1401 Apron Drive.

• 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. 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.

• 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.

• You don't have to be a senior citizen to enjoy country-western dancing. The Big Spring Senior Center hosts a dance every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. A different band will be featured every night. Dancing is a fun way to exercise, so come enjoy the fun and meet new friends. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 267-1628.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer, call 264-7599.

• Mitchell County Senior Citizen Dance, Colorado City Civic Center, 157 East 2nd Street, Colorado City, Texas, the fourth Thursday of each month from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., \$5 per person. Bring snacks to share.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. If you're interested in volunteering, please call 1-877-316-8346. or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center.

HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Pat Simmons, front row center, and the rest of the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights committee are shown at Comanche Trail Park. The 18th annual holiday event runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily at the park through Dec. 31. Admission is free, but donations — which helps finance future festivals — are welcome.



EVENTS

Continued from Page 3

Parade were:
Best interpretation of theme: Northside Movement.
Best use of lighting: Federal Correctional Institute (FCI) Big Spring.
Best costuming: St. Mary's Episcopal Church.
Special Awards:
Individual or Family:
Tommy Chavarria
Civic Groups, School or Church: Boy Scouts of America
Commercial: Western Container
Industrial: ALON USA
Mounted Entry: Circuit Riders Church

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Margarita Ross, 86, died Friday. Funeral mass will be this morning at 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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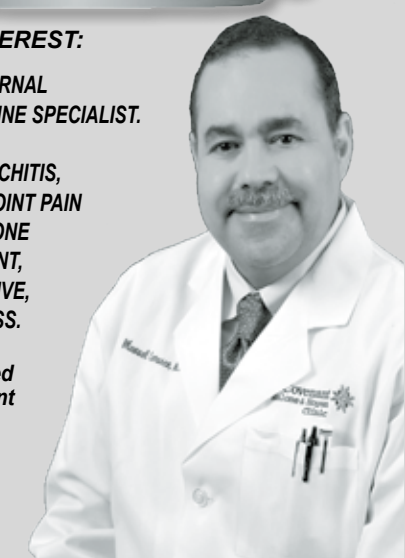
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POLICE

Continued from Page 2

\$500 but less than \$1,500.

• JANA (GIBBS) PORTER, 54, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

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

Friday

• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center (SMMC).

• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 4000 block of Vicky. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 200 block of Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA CALL was reported in the 100 block

of Whipkey. One person was transported to SMMC.

• PUBLIC SERVICE was reported in the 800 block of E. 15th St.

Saturday
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 3600 block of Connaly. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 3200

block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• FIRE CALL was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Boulevard. False Call.

SUNDAY
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 600 block of W. I-20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• PUBLIC SERVICE CALL was reported in the 1800 block of Lancaster.

• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1000

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News in brief

FBI works to disrupt mass shootings by helping people get access to mental health treatments

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has helped to disrupt or prevent nearly 150 shootings and violent attacks this year, in part by steering potential gunmen toward mental health professionals.

There have been hundreds of these disruptions since 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder told an audience of police chiefs in October, touting the behind-the-scenes work of a small FBI unit based out of Quantico, Va. In most cases, the FBI has helped potential offenders get access to mental health care.

Preventing mass shootings through threat assessments and treatment is an unusual tactic for an agency known for its crime fighting and not for interventions. The achievement stands out during a time when President Barack Obama made curbing gun violence a priority for his administration, yet has had very little success. One year after the deadly mass shooting at a Connecticut elementary school, the White House's biggest efforts to curb gun violence — attempts to reinstate the assault weapons ban and expand background checks for all gun purchases — failed without congressional support.

Mass shootings like the rampages in Newtown, Conn., the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard and the Aurora, Colo., movie theater do not represent the majority of gun violence. Yet when they do occur, the impact is high. And many times there's the question of whether the shooter had adequate mental health treatment to prevent it from happening. Yet, in the national discourse about reducing gun violence, mental health treatment has received much less attention than banning assault weapons.

The FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit, for years, has been working with state and local authorities to profile potential offenders with the goal of preventing violent crimes like mass shootings. The "prevented" shootings and violent attacks from January through November of this year represent 148 cases that a division of that unit, the Behavioral Threat Assessment Center, has conferred on during 2013. And that number is up 33 percent from 2012, Andre Simmons, unit chief of the center, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

North Korean execution of No. 2 explodes myth of all-powerful, unchallenged ruling Kim dynasty

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's propaganda machine has long kept alive the myth of a serene, all-powerful ruling dynasty that enjoyed universal love and support at home. In a single stroke last week, that came crashing down.

In attempting to justify the execution of his uncle, who was also considered North Korea's No. 2 official, young leader Kim Jong Un has given the world a rare look behind the scenes of a notoriously hard-to-read government.

It is not a pretty sight, and many analysts believe Pyongyang's eagerness to pillory Jang Song Thaek not only destroys the image of unity projected by state-run media but also acknowledges dissension and a dangerous instability. That's an alarming prospect as Kim Jong Un tries to revive a moribund economy even as he pushes development of nuclear-armed missiles.

The subtext to the over-the-top demonizing of Jang — he was accused of drug use, gambling, a planned military coup and massive corruption — was a shocking admission: the Kim family wasn't in total control. Contradicting past assertions of unity and strength, North Korea has acknowledged that the leadership had indeed been roiled because of the challenge by Kim's mentor and uncle after the 2011 death of Kim's father, the late dictator Kim Jong Il.

As nervous officials and apparatchiks gather Tuesday in Pyongyang for the second anniversary of the death of Kim Jong Il, the as-yet unanswerable question now is, what comes next?

Tornado-proof rooms in Oklahoma schools runs afoul of tax cut

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — After a huge tornado ripped through the Oklahoma City suburbs this spring and demolished two elementary schools, killing seven children, a longtime legislator thought the time was ripe for the state to act on a well-known problem.

Although Oklahoma averages more than 50 tornadoes a year, and sometimes gets more than 100, about 60 percent of public schools have no shelters. Cash-

strapped districts can't afford to build them.

Rep. Joe Dorman, who represents the small farming town of Rush Springs, proposed a bond issue, taking advantage of the state's rebounding economy and revenue from a business tax that was already on the books.

But the response to his proposal has made clear that there's something more ominous than tornadoes these days in one of the nation's most conservative states: taxes and borrowing.

The idea has been snubbed by Oklahoma's political leadership, including Gov. Mary Fallin, triggering a debate over the current push by some GOP-controlled states to cut taxes.

Israel reaches out to U.S.

Jews in bid to halt assimilation

JERUSALEM (AP) — More than 100 Israeli leaders gathered with Jewish-American counterparts in Jerusalem last month with a daunting mission: to save Jewish life in North America.

Jewish American leaders have known for years that assimilation and intermarriage were slowly shrinking their communities, but the early November gathering took on an extra sense of urgency. Just weeks earlier, a landmark study had found that young American Jews are growing increasingly estranged from Judaism.

As these efforts press ahead, they are being complicated by a new issue: What role can Israel play in Jewish American life at a time when many American Jews, who tend to be socially liberal, have misgivings about some of Israel's policies.

There is a broad consensus that Israel will be an important player in solving the problems of American Jewry. Yet experts say that it cannot ignore the alienation that many Americans feel over perceived religious intolerance, Israel's construction of West Bank settlements and the continued control over millions of Palestinians.

Kerry criticizes China, announces new U.S. maritime security aid to Southeast Asia amid tensions

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Taking clear aim at China's growing aggressiveness in territorial disputes with its smaller neighbors, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced Monday that the United States will boost maritime security assistance to the countries of Southeast Asia amid rising tensions with Beijing.

On his first visit to Vietnam as America's top diplomat, Kerry pledged an additional \$32.5 million for members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to protect their territorial waters and navigational freedom in the South China Sea, where four states have competing claims with China. Included in the new aid is up to \$18 million for Vietnam alone that will include five fast patrol-boats for its Coast Guard. With the new contribution, U.S. maritime security assistance to the region will exceed \$156 million over the next two years, he said.

Kerry said the new assistance was not a "quickly conceived reaction to any events in the region" but rather a "gradual and deliberate expansion" of U.S. support as part of the Obama administration's broader decision to refocus attention on the Asia-Pacific region. However, his comments came as Washington and Beijing trade barbs over a near collision between U.S. and Chinese naval vessels in the South China Sea just 11 days ago.

In addition, Kerry made clear that the aid is designed to help Southeast Asian nations defend their waters from encroachment and his announcement was accompanied by blunt criticism of China for its creation of a new air defense zone over parts of the East China Sea and suggestions that it might do the same in the South China Sea. As such, it is almost certain to anger Beijing, which bristles at what it sees as U.S. interference in areas China considers to be in its "core interest."

Budget deal boosts fed workers' pension costs, as some call their plans fat targets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Distinctly unpopular among voters and a scant presence in most congressional districts, federal workers have become an easy target in the hunt for budget savings.

Their retirement programs are notably generous compared to the norm in private industry. But for federal workers hired after 2012, the pension program is turning less generous.

Most federal civilian employees hired beginning in January will contribute 4.4 percent of their pay to their pension plans under the House-passed budget bill the Senate is expected to approve this week. Government workers hired in 2013 will continue paying 3.1 percent of their gross pay to help cover their pensions; those on the federal payroll before then, 0.8 percent.

"It's insane they should be expected to fund government," said Jackie Simon, policy director for the American Federation for Government Employees. "It's a big country. The burden should be spread more broadly."

Sudoku Answer on Page 8

sudoku

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

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| 5 | 9 | 6 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | |

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♠ 3
♥ 10 9 5
♦ A Q 9 8 7 5
♣ J 6 5

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8 7 5 4 2
♥ —
♦ 3 2
♣ K 7 4

EAST
♠ K Q 6
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ J 10 6 4
♣ 9 2

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ K J 8 7 6 2
♦ K
♣ A Q 10 8 3

The bidding:
West North East South
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ 4 NT
Pass 5 ♦ Dble 5 ♥
Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead — jack of spades.

This deal occurred in the semifinal of the 1992 United States Bridge Championship to determine the U.S. representative to the World Team Olympiad in Italy later that year.

The bidding shown took place when Mike Passell and Brian Glubok held the North-South cards against Peter Boyd and Steve Robinson. Boyd's decision to open an offbeat vulnerable pre-empt on a jack-high suit backfired when it propelled Passell and Glubok into a makable five-heart contract.

Glubok's four notrump was ostensibly a takeout in three suits, but he knew he could retreat to hearts if his partner bid diamonds, thereby implying a heart-club two-suiter. When Passell did bid diamonds, Glubok followed his game plan, and Robinson doubled.

Glubok won the opening spade lead, overtook the king of diamonds with the ace, led the ten of hearts and let it ride after East followed low. Robinson won the next heart with the ace and shifted to a club, on which declarer played low.

West took the club king and returned a club, but Glubok won with dummy's jack, picked up East's queen of trumps via a finesse and claimed the remainder for a score of plus 650.

At the other table, Boyd and Robinson's teammates, holding the North-South cards, also had a pre-empt backfire. Here the bidding went:

West North East South
Pass 3 ♦ Pass Pass
3 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

After West, Norman Kay, passed in first seat, North, Ed Manfield, opened three diamonds. South elected to remain silent for the rest of the auction, and Kay wound up in three spades, making four, to give his team a total pickup of 820 points (13 IMPs) on the deal.

Tomorrow: A play fit for a king.
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Weekend Hoops Tourney Results

GIRLS

- Big Spring def. Stanton 50-31; lost to Midland Classical 49-40; def. Wink 60-25.
- Coahoma def. Odessa High JV 68-36; def. Andrews 45-35.
- Forsan def. Floydada, 66-41; lost to New Deal, 70-52; lost to Bushland 66-42.

BOYS

- Big Spring def. Caprock 62-45; def. Seminole 59-48; lost Kermit, 53-50.
- Coahoma lost to Midland Classical 61-41; lost to Wink 50-46.
- Forsan def. Roosevelt 56-27; lost to Abernathy, 60-35; lost to Lubbock Titans 59-50.

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

Romo, Cowboys blow big lead in 37-36 loss to Green Bay

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Tony Romo had no interest in ranking just how bad this loss was for the Dallas Cowboys after throwing two interceptions in the final 3 minutes.

Owner Jerry Jones was a bit more forthright after the 37-36 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Sunday, when the Cowboys blew a 23-point lead in the second half in a defeat that kept them from getting back in the NFC East lead with two games to play.

"This is one of the hardest losses that I've experienced. That's a shame that we've lost that ballgame," Jones said. "When you have that kind of lead and you are playing well, and we were playing well, then it's a shame to lose a ballgame like that."

With their second loss in the row, after Philadelphia lost earlier in the day, the Cowboys (7-7) remained a game behind the Eagles.

A week after Chicago scored on eight consecutive possessions against them, the Cowboys watched Green Bay get touchdowns on their first five drives after halftime. The Packers' last possession was Matt Flynn kneel-downs after Tramon Williams' diving pick that was initially called an incompletion before being overturned on a video review.

"We've got two weeks to get this thing right," cornerback Brandon Carr said. "Right now, words really have no effect. Complete debacle in the

second half." This is arguably the worst loss in the Jones era, even though it wasn't their biggest

blown lead. The Cowboys led by 24 points in the third quarter at home two years ago against Detroit, which rallied for a 34-30 victory in a game when Romo had two interceptions returned for touchdowns.

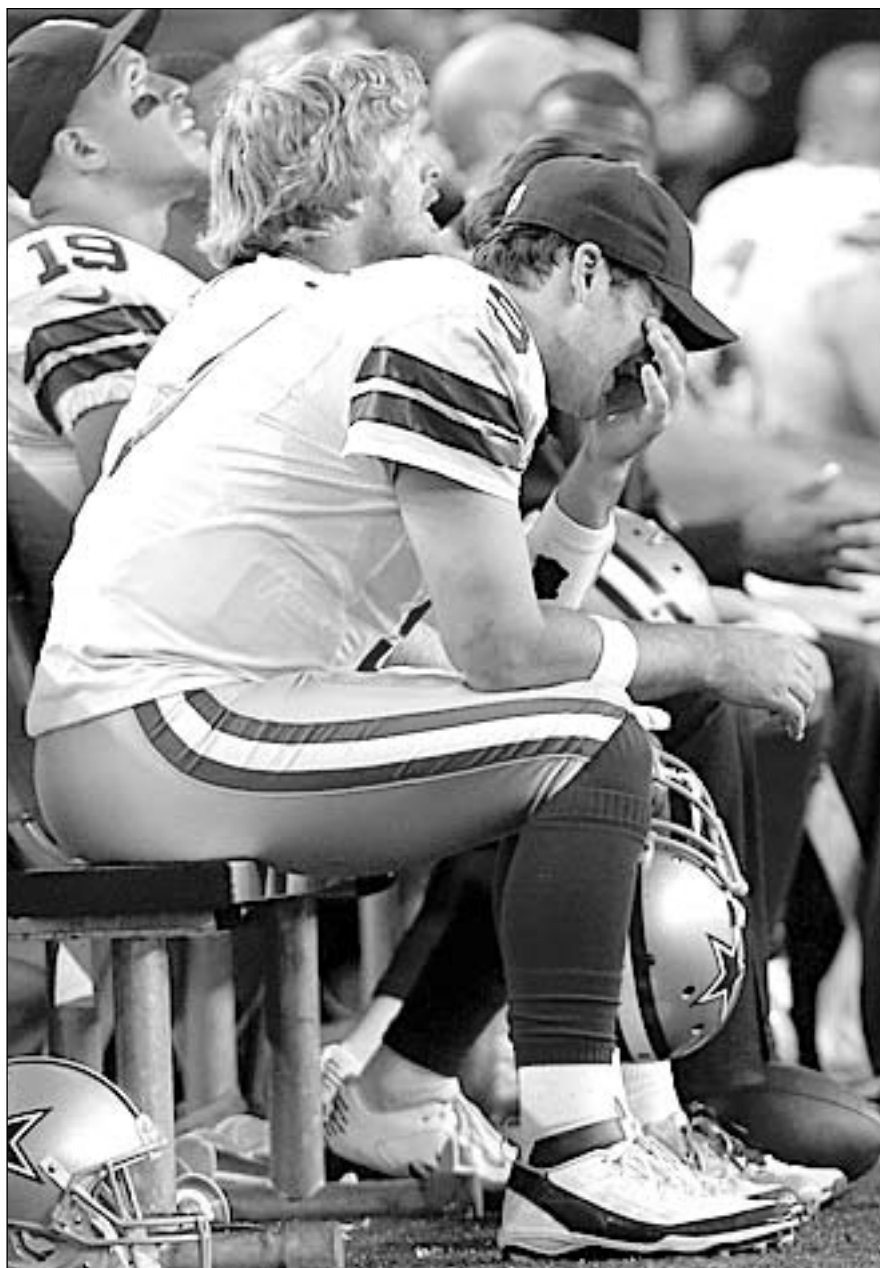
"We've had some big wins, a couple of tough losses this year. This obviously falls into that tough loss category," Romo said. "We still control what we feel like we can get done. It just doesn't feel like it right now because we let slip away."

Yes, Dallas can still be the NFC East champion by winning next week at Washington and then in the Dec. 29 home game against the Eagles. The Cowboys are 4-0 vs. NFC East teams so far this season.

"Real tough loss for us out there. This is unbelievable," Jones said. "But as it turns out we win the next two ballgames then we are exactly in the same spot as we were at 3:30 this afternoon."

Flynn, in very possibly his last start for Green Bay (7-6-1) before Aaron Rodgers returns, threw four touchdowns in the second half. Eddie Lacy had the winning score on a 1-yard plunge with 1:31 left after the first pick by Romo.

Playing on the same field where they won the 2011 Super Bowl, the Packers matched the biggest comeback in team



Dalls quarterback Tony Romo sits on the bench during the final moments of the Cowboys' 37-36 loss to the Packers Sunday.

AP photo

See **COWBOYS**, Page 5

Mack Brown says he wasn't meeting his own standards at UT

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — For a decade, Mack Brown and the Texas Longhorns won more games than almost any other program in the country.

It was the inability to meet those lofty expectations over the last four years that pushed Brown to resign after 16 years, ending an era that included the national championship following the 2005 season.

"The standard is really high here," Brown said Sunday at a campus news conference to explain his decision. "We set a standard at this place. You'd better win all of them. I understand that. ... The standard is really high here and I'm proud of being part of setting that standard."

From 2000-09, Brown's teams averaged more than 10 wins a season, captured two Big 12 titles, won a national title and played for another. But the program dipped sharply to 5-7 in 2010, Brown's only losing season, and the Longhorns have lost at least four games for four consecutive years.

Brown said he knew that wasn't good enough. It was time to find a new coach to guide the Longhorns back among the national elite and heal a fractured fan base that had grown impatient. His final game will be the Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl against Oregon.

Brown was under contract until 2020 with a salary at more than \$5 million per year. He will stay on as a special consultant to President Bill Powers, a role that his current contract stipulates would pay him up to \$500,000. Details of any further compensation for Brown were not immediately available.

Texas had expected a return to championship form this season, but a 1-2 start ignited months of speculation that Brown would retire or be forced out. Texas rallied with six straight wins, then dropped two of its last three games. A chance to win the Big 12 title was lost to Baylor in the finale.

Brown met with Powers and athletic director Steve Patterson on Friday to discuss his future. Brown said both told him he could stay, but after sleeping on it Friday night and talking it over with his wife, he decided it was the right time to resign.

"I felt like I could stay," Brown said. "I really felt like it wasn't best for the university to stay."

Powers said he was not pressured by the school's board of regents to help push Brown out of the job.

"I was not given any direction at all from any regent," Powers said. "This is the transition of one of the great football coaches in the country."

Brown said he hoped he would be remembered for "bringing joy to Texas" and doing it with

See **STANDARDS**, Page 10

Tannehill, Dolphins foil Patriots' rally, win 24-20

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Desperate to stop Tom Brady's latest comeback bid, the Miami Dolphins sought help from a reserve safety making his NFL debut after being signed Tuesday off the San Francisco 49ers' practice squad.

Michael Thomas came through, intercepting Brady's fourth-down pass in the end zone with 2 seconds left Sunday to seal a see-saw 24-20 victory over the New England Patriots.

Thomas celebrated by flopping to his back and was swarmed by his new teammates.

"I didn't know what his first name was," defensive tackle Jared Odrick said. "That's being thrown in the fire and reacting. That's a pure athlete."

The Dolphins (8-6) won their third game in a row to help their AFC wild-card chances. They

also snapped a streak of seven consecutive losses to the Patriots (10-4), who missed a chance to clinch their fifth consecutive AFC East title.

Miami's breakthrough win left even stoic second-year coach Joe Philbin in a mood to celebrate.

"I might jump in my pool," he said. "I've been in it once since I've been here."

Brady threw for 364 yards, but was frustrated by a succession of squandered scoring chances. He answered only two questions at his postgame news conference before cutting the session short.

"We didn't do a good job in the red area, and didn't do a good job finishing drives," he said. "We came up on the short end of the stick. It wasn't a good day. Just couldn't make enough plays."

The Patriots had mounted second-half rallies to win their

past three games, and were on the verge of doing it again when Brady led them from their own 20 with 1:15 remaining to the Miami 14.

"The longest 75 seconds of my life," said Miami quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who squirmed on the sideline.

With New England out of timeouts, Brady threw for the end zone four times in a row. The first three passes went incomplete, including one intended for Danny Amendola that Thomas broke up on first down.

Then, Thomas stepped in front of Austin Collie to make his interception.

"I knew being the new guy that Tom Brady would come after me," Thomas said. "He's a great quarterback, and he's going

See **DOLPHINS**, Page 10

Texans' miscues lead to 12th loss

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Houston was hoping a coaching change would make a difference on the field.

Turns out, Sunday was just more of the same.

Andrew Luck threw two touchdown passes in the first half, Robert Mathis forced a safety on a record-breaking sack in the second half and AFC South champion Indianapolis rolled past the reeling Texans 25-3.

The Texans (2-12) lost a franchise-record 12 straight games.

"We looked like a team that lost 11 in a row playing a good football team," interim coach Wade Phillips said after his first game since replacing the fired Gary Kubiak. "I thought we could compete with them, but we didn't do a good job of that."

Case Keenum was picked off twice by the Colts and fumbled in the end zone, which led to the safety.

The Texans' defense gave up 20 first-half points to a team that had only scored 24 combined in the

first halves of its previous six games.

The punt coverage broke down, allowing recently activated Griff Whalen to set up a field goal with a 51-yard return and, a week after committing 14 penalties in a loss to Jacksonville, the Texans committed 14 more against the Colts.

Phillips and the beleaguered Texans, who are 0-12 in Indy, struggled to find answers even though Phillips said Keenum would start the final two games.

"We didn't play well enough to win. That's all I can say," linebacker Daryl Sharpton said. "Penalties are going to kill you. Most penalties are discipline penalties. You can't win with those."

It was the perfect time for the Colts (9-5) to break out of their six-week funk.

After losing 42-28 at Cincinnati last week, the Colts learned on the bus trip home they had clinched the AFC South title when

See **MISCUES**, Page 10

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Cosmic Contrasts

An opposition of the moon and Mercury sets up a contrast — and we are creatures who learn through this. We need negative examples to understand the positive ones. That's why those who have known poverty appreciate wealth the most and why the sweetest happiness is born out of an increased capacity for emotional pain.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're all business today. People may accuse you of being overprotective of your time, but they don't realize that it's one of the few things worthy of your protection. Once the hour is up, you don't get it back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you need a good reason to make yourself happy, consider this: When your spirit is untroubled, you can see your circumstances for what they really are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're cautious some of the time, while being fully aware that anyone who is cautious all of the time isn't really living. The risk you take this afternoon will either shock or amuse people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Spanish proverb says that if there is no bread, cakes are very good. Having run out of average options, you will enjoy decadent ones and feel as though it was meant to be this way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You hate getting stuck in a boring meeting semi-listening to people who'd rather talk about their work than actually do it. However, your attendance at today's gatherings will be extremely important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A missed opportunity this morning is no fault of your own. Your luck seems to be sleeping on the job. There's only one thing to do in this case: Wake it up!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When standing still, you will have the time and space to think or, more likely, to overthink. Get into motion, and you'll have just the right kind and amount of mental energy to invest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To experience surprise, create an atmosphere of spontaneity around you. Everyone will have more fun in an environment that invites people to feel playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are times when you've been uncomfortable sharing your

opinion with others because you felt yours was not likely to be a popular stance. Now you'll share precisely for the same reason.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Life isn't always easy or fair, but mentally strong people like you don't waste time dwelling on the inequities. You'll be busy doing what it takes whether or not your deal happens to be fair.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You refuse to say that another person makes you sad or angry. For starters, you don't want to give anyone that much power. Regardless of another person's intent, you can always choose your response.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're adaptable, but not every change is worthy of the effort. Carefully assess the change that's being proposed, and determine whether it's in your best interest.

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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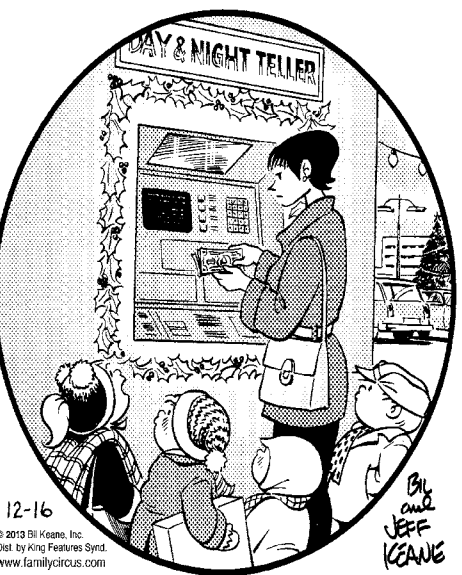
Table with TV channel logos (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and program listings for various time slots (5:30 PM to 1:30 AM).

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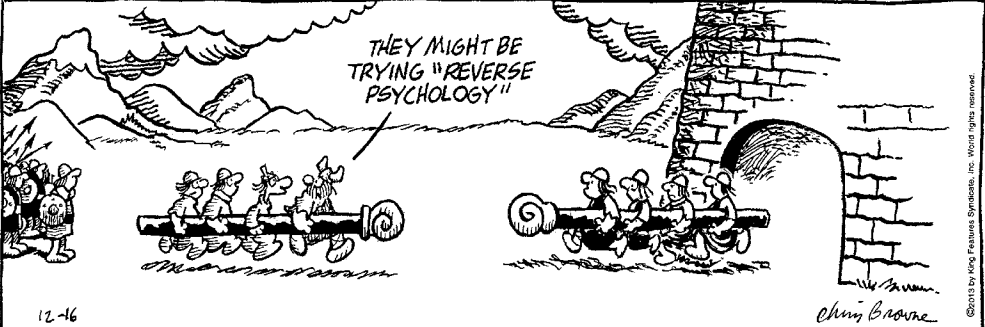
"TELL IT TO ME STRAIGHT... I'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME TO EXPLAIN MYSELF."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

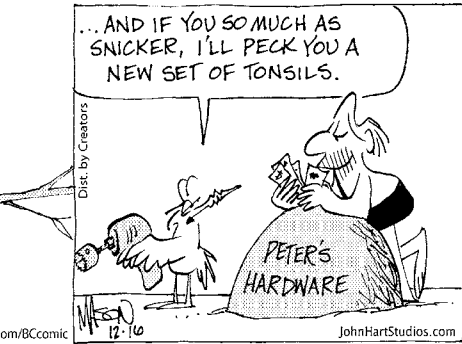
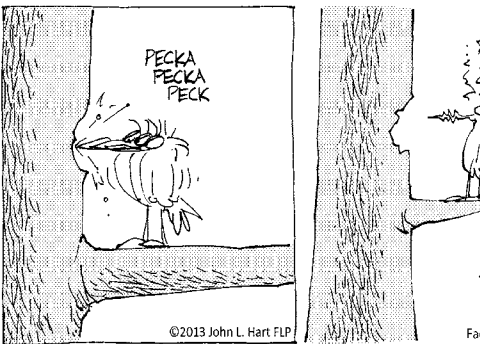


"We keep coming back here, Mommy. I think this is your favorite place to shop."

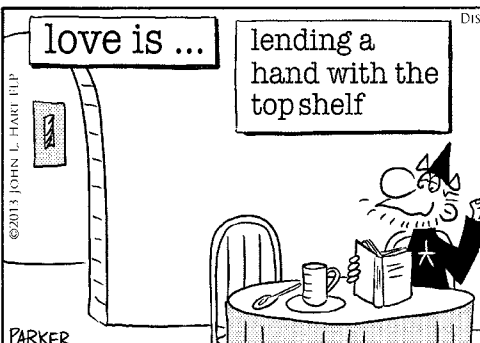
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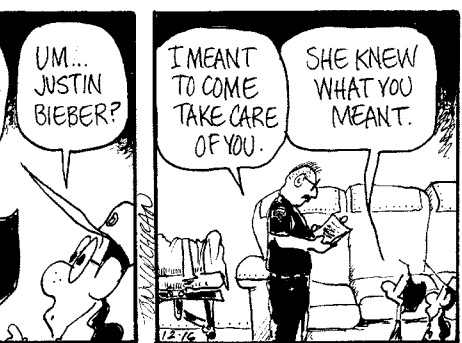
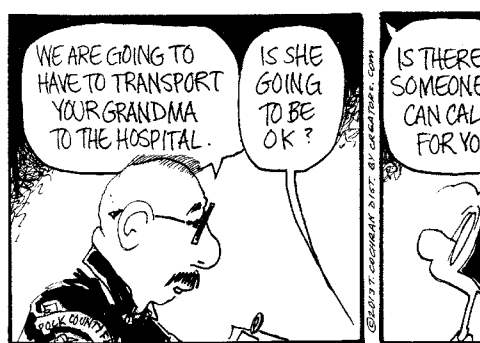
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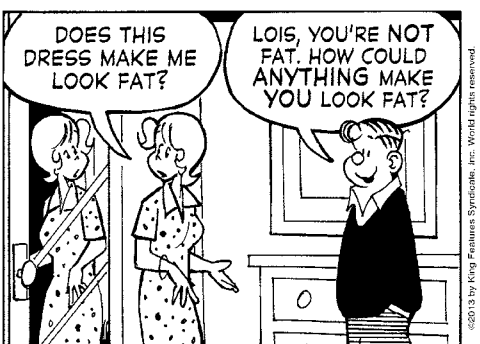
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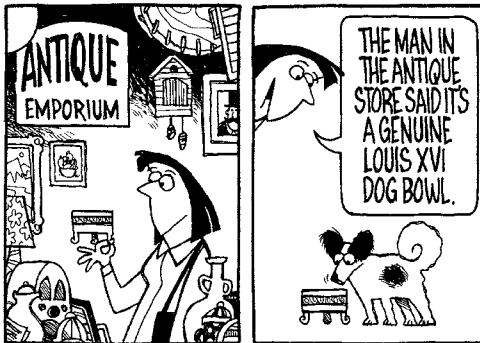
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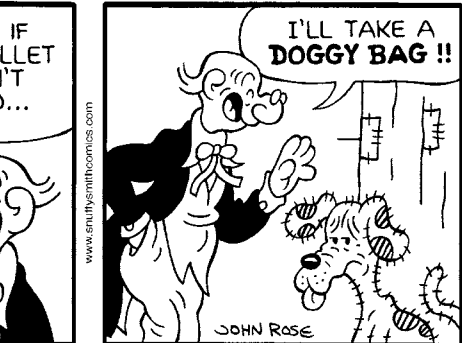
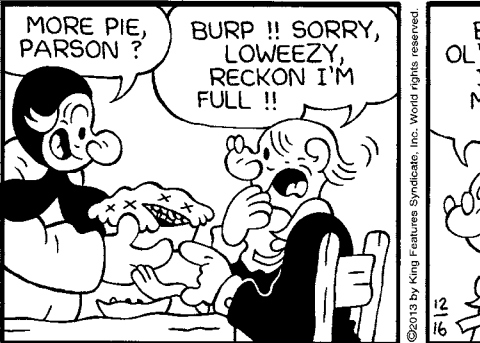
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



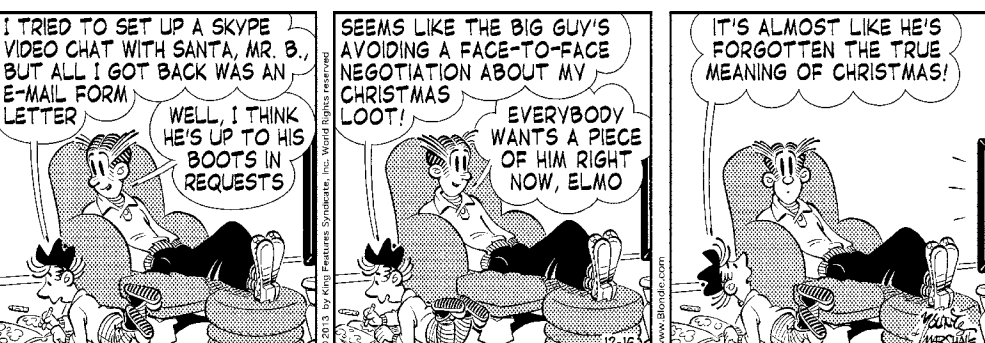
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This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2013. There are 15 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

estimated magnitude of 7.7. In 1863, philosopher and author George Santayana was born in Madrid, Spain. In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.

In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine. In 1982, Environmental Protection Agency head Anne M. Gorsuch became the first Cabinet-level officer to be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to submit documents requested by a congressional committee.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like CARAFES, CAPGUNS, ASARULE, IMEANIT, PICKSON, VILLAGE, INK, SPARET, WET, TIED, ETATS, CART, ONTAP, ETC, MARIE, LESMIZ, EASYREAD, STOP, TUBA, CAPEHORN, PAMPAS, ICILLY, OOF, DEERE, TATS, TONES, LUTE, ADA, BYFORCE, GIT, EXPLORER, VETACHE, EMAILER, INNAHOLE, LIETPASS, DELETED.

Newsday Crossword

TRIM THE TREE by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Husband or wife, 5 Rotisserie rod, 9 Extremely enthusiastic, 14 Mystical glow, 15 Country byway, 16 Escape from, 17 Classroom standout, 19 Hair stylist's shop, 20 Plaything, 21 Make a speech, 22 Feels unwell, 23 Makes a mistake, 24 Large stringed instrument, 26 Taper off, 28 Put money in the bank, 29 Move to and, 32 Irked, 33 Take advantage of, 34 Ceiling fixture with blades, 35 Petroleum-carrying vessel, 36 Cat or dog, for example, 37 Take by force, 39 Cyberspace chuckle, 40 Ready-made lawn material, 41 Fern seeds, 42 Have an evening meal, 43 Group waiting to pay, 44 Trees with cones, 45 All possible, 47 Skillets, 48 Computer junk-mail, 49 Beauty pageant crown, 51 Atlas page, 54 African beast, for short, 55 Type of thin pasta, 57 Dined at home, 58 Agenda listing, 59 Loosen, as laces, 60 Groups of cattle, 61 Misplace, 62 Abound (with), 6 Mamas' partners, 7 "What's ___ for me?", 8 TV airing, 9 Used-car deal, 10 To no ___ (useless), 11 Human dynamo, 12 Altar vows, 13 Family room, 18 Baggage carrier, 23 Roof overhang, 25 Day before a holiday, 26 Vowel quintet, 27 Salad veggie, 28 Soft jacket material, 30 Demolishes, 31 Change for a \$5 bill, 32 Officeholders, for short, 36 Braid relative, 37 Backbone-related, 38 Ages and ages, 40 Knight's title, 41 "I don't want to hear it!", 43 Yellow citrus fruits, 46 Uninteresting, 47 Sheets of a book, 48 Location, 50 Turn ___ (become), 51 Horse's hair, 52 Office assistant, 53 High-school dance, 54 "A likely story!", 56 Makeshift shelter.

Crossword grid with numbered squares for the Newsday Crossword puzzle.

Michael Jordan's 56,000-square foot Chicago estate up for sale

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. (AP)—Michael Jordan's 56,000-square-foot home in suburban Chicago is up for auction. Concierge Auctions says the sale will take place Monday. The company runs the sales

of high-end real estate and features Jordan's Highland Park home north of Chicago on its website. The former Chicago Bulls star's home has nine bedrooms, 15 full bathrooms, a pool pa-

vilion and a regulation-size indoor basketball court. It also features what's been described as a "gentleman's retreat" complete with a library, full wet bar and the original doors from the Playboy Man-

sion in Chicago. It all sits on more than seven acres of land. Jordan's home was originally listed at \$29 million in early 2012. Jordan now owns the Charlotte Bobcats.

DOLPHINS

Continued from Page 5

to exploit any weaknesses. I knew if I got in there I would have a chance. I saw the ball in the air and I made a play."

Thomas was part of an injury-depleted secondary that also included backups at both cornerback spots on the final drive. A large supporting cast has played a significant role in the recent success of the Dolphins, who are 5-2 since tackle Jonathan Martin left the team in a bullying scandal that drew national notoriety.

"We've grown a lot," Tannehill said. "Each of us has gotten stronger through the adversity we've faced off the field and on the field."

Tannehill shook off four sacks to throw for 312 yards and three touchdowns, including a 14-yarder to Marcus Thigpen with 1:15 left that provided the winning margin. His other scoring passes covered 39 yards to Mike Wallace and 2 yards to Daniel Thomas.

Brady went 34 for 55 and threw two scores. Julian Edelman made 13 catches for 139 yards, and Amendola added 10 receptions for 131 yards.

New England took a 20-

17 lead when Edelman scored on a 24-yard reception with four minutes left, but the Dolphins caught a break when the ensuing kickoff by Stephen Gostkowski went out of bounds, allowing them to start at their 40.

Charles Clay kept the driving going when he turned a short pass into a 6-yard gain on fourth and 5 at midfield, and Thigpen scored five plays later.

New England, accustomed to slow starts, took a 10-0 lead on Michael Hoomanawanui's one-handed, 13-yard touchdown reception. But on other trips to the red zone they missed tight end Rob Gronkowski, who suffered a season-ending knee injury a week ago.

The Patriots mounted drives of 16 and 15 plays but settled for a field goal each time, and Gostkowski misfired on a field-goal try for only the third time this year when he sailed a 48-yard attempt wide left.

"Today just wasn't my day," Gostkowski said. "It stinks to play terrible and your team loses. It's like salt on the wound."

Special teams were only part of the Pats' problem, coach Bill Belichick said.

"We were short in every area," he said. "Nothing was really good enough."

MISCUES

Continued from Page 5

Denver beat Tennessee.

At the time, it looked as if the Colts would be locked into the No. 4 seed and would have little to play for.

But with Denver (11-3) losing Thursday night, New England (10-4) losing Sunday at Miami, Indy winning and Cincinnati playing Sunday night at Pittsburgh, the door has cracked just a bit — if the Colts win their final two games.

The problem, from November through Sunday, was that Indy had not played anywhere near well enough to string back-to-back wins together.

Over those previous six games, Indy lost three times by at least two touchdowns and was outscored 114-24 in the first halves.

Things suddenly changed dra-

matically.

Luck went up-tempo right from the start and used a heavy dose of bubble screens to open things up down the field. It worked well.

He finished 19 of 32 for 180 yards with the two first-half TD passes that gave the Colts a 20-3 halftime lead.

Indy played without two starting offensive linemen, lost replacement starter Joe Reitz with a concussion on the opening series and lost running back Donald Brown with a stinger later in the first half.

"We needed it," coach Chuck Pagano said. "We talked all week about coming back and even though we had clinched the division, we wanted to start building or gaining some momentum."

Most of Houston's problems were self-inflicted, again.

Andre Johnson, who needed five catches for another 100-re-

ception, caught four balls for 18 yards. Ben Tate rushed 16 times for 72 yards and was fortunate not to lose a fumble.

Luck opened the game by throwing a 14-yard TD pass to Whalen for Indy's first opening-drive touchdown since Week 3. After Houston's Randy Bullock made a 49-yard field goal, Darius Butler picked off Keenum to set up Adam Vinatieri's 37-yard kick.

Luck made it 17-3 when he faked another receiver screen, then flipped the ball on a shovel pass to Trent Richardson for a 9-yard score. And after Butler's second interception, Vinatieri made a 43-yard field goal and Indy led 20-3.

"We played good football today, kept the mistakes to a minimum and were just able to get after it," Mathis said. "A little bit of stuff here and there we can improve on, but for the most part, good football."

STANDARDS

Continued from Page 5

integrity. Asked if he had any regrets, Brown said the only ones were the death of player Cole Pittman in 2001

and the 1999 accident with the Texas A&M bonfire that killed 12.

The search to replace Brown begins almost immediately, but Powers and Patterson gave few hints as to who may be on a list of potential candidates. Patterson, barely a month on

the job after being hired from Arizona State, must find a coach who can handle the pressure of being the face of the wealthiest athletic program in the country.

"And you've got to win. You've got to win big," Patterson said. "We'll

find the best football coach we can."

Patterson gave no timeline for a hiring a coach and said he'd meet with Powers to establish the criteria for the job search. Powers insisted Patterson would be in charge of the search and "will hire the next coach."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 5

history. Green Bay rallied past the Los Angeles Rams after trailing by 23 in the 1982 season opener.

Dez Bryant, who had 153 yards receiving, had picked up a first down just before the 2-minute warning. But Romo threw behind Miles Austin after escaping a sack and Sam Shields got an interception at midfield.

The Packers steadily moved downfield before the plunge by Lacy, who had 141 yards rushing.

Bryant had a 5-yard TD midway through the fourth quarter for a 36-24 lead, on a drive that included another

near interception by Williams that was overturned on a review after being called a pick.

Dallas took only two more snaps after Lacy's go-ahead TD. Cole Beasley made a 9-yard catch before getting out of

bounds, and Romo was throwing his way again when Williams made the game-clinching play.

"We played very well in the first half and gave ourselves a great opportunity to win this ballgame by how well we played early, and then we didn't play well in the second half. It's just as simple as that," coach Jason Garrett said.

"We didn't get stops on defense. We didn't sustain enough drives. We had to kick too many field goals."

Bryant walked off the field before the game ended and refused to talk to reporters in the locker room. Instead, he simply shook his head at them.

Dan Bailey kicked five

field goals, including two 50-yarders.

As for Garrett, who led the Cowboys to 8-8 records in each of his two full seasons without getting to the playoffs, Jones emphatically repeated that there will be no coaching change, no matter what happens.

"We have to rebound. We've got a ball game coming up, and by the way, Garrett will coach that game against the Redskins. Book that. Write about that," Jones said. "He will coach the ballgame we have coming up and as far as I can see in the future he will be coaching the games for the Cowboys. It's a setback for everybody. It's not just on one guy."



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a supplement to the Big Spring Herald



With music, parade, pageantry — and, of course, Santa Claus — the Crossroads area ushered in the Christmas season in style. On the following pages are just a few of the sights from this past weekend.



Photos by Andreia Medlin, Steve Reagan and Tony Claxton

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