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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 17, 2013



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Herald photo/Andreia Medlin

With the help of Wal-Mart Manager Tim Walsh and associate Denise Jackson, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debbye Valverde begins handing bags of toys to Chamber President Jim Clements to load into his truck. With the \$650 donated by Al's Barbecue and the matching donation by Wal-Mart, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce was able to purchase \$1,300 worth of toys for its annual drive.

Chamber toy drive grows, thanks to business donors

By **ANDREIA MEDLIN**
 Staff Writer

Following a generous donation from the employees of Al's Barbecue, the manager of Wal-Mart decided to do the same and matched Al's donation with the proceeds going to the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Toy Drive, much to the delight of Executive Director Debbye

Valverde, "We didn't get as many donations this year, so this will really help," she said. Employees of Al's Barbecue pooled their resources and donated a check in the amount of \$600 to the Chamber's cause. Tim Walsh and Wal-Mart matched that amount and the officers of the Chamber happily

went shopping for those in need, at Wal-Mart, of course. "Anything to help," said Walsh. "We are happy to help provide a Merry Christmas for the less fortunate children in Big Spring," For more information, contact the Chamber at 263-7641. To contact Andreia Medlin call the Herald at 263-7331.

Construction at HC San Angelo site moving along

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Construction at the Howard College San Angelo site is heading skyward. "After weeks of watching all of this horizontal activity behind the (West Texas) Training Center - clearing of land, the building of pads - we have finally seen some vertical action," John Parsons, campus dean of facilities of the West Texas Training Center reported to Howard College trustees Monday. "On the pre-engineered medical building, the slab is poured, and it is complete. Actually, materials for the metal building are on site, and the

installation is in progress. That's the vertical progress I was referring to. We can actually see the shell of the metal building." Ground work continues for other aspects of the construction project. Parsons said they expect the slab for the academic building to be poured Thursday, which will lead to the next step, constructing the shell of the building. The student services building, north parking lot, truck parking lot, round about area and the new entrance from McGill Boulevard continue in the ground

See **HC**, Page 3

Grant says she wants to serve community

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

To Sally Grant, seeking public office is just another way of serving the community that has been her home for most of her life.



Grant

Grant is one of several candidates seeking the Howard County Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Republican nomination in the upcoming primary election. Although born and raised in the Knott area, she has called the Sand Springs-Coahoma area home for most of her life.

She is admissions coordinator and marketer for Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation and works at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and Martin County Hospital. In addition, Grant is an ambassador for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and is active in Relay for Life and the local Alzheimer's Association.

Serving her community is an important facet of her life, she said.

"First of all, my heart and soul have always been in this community," Grant said. "I am truly committed to improving our area. "I am always

wanting and willing to help and volunteer in our community for fundraisers and just to help someone in need," she said. "I have coordinated and organized several benefits for local people in our area. I would like to be the justice of the peace because I have always thought this position would be a very good way to help our community."

Grant said she will bring a strong work ethic to the JP job.

"I have always worked multiple jobs and I know this would help me in this position because of being able to juggle three jobs and volunteer and still have time to take care of a family," she said. "Hard work isn't something that is new to me. I enjoy it and don't shy away from it. If I become JP, those same qualities will be imbedded in me and I won't quit until my work is done."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

Historical book to be featured during wine, cheese reception

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

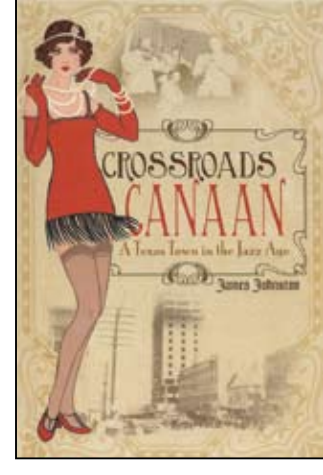
The Jazz Age of the 1920s was a little late coming to the Crossroads area, according to an author of a new historical book about Big Spring. But when it arrived, that period profoundly changed the community forever.



Johnson

In "Crossroads Canaan, A Texas Town in the Jazz Age," James Johnston tells the story of the area as Big Spring transformed from a small frontier town to a

city of great economic potential. "It didn't come to me overnight," Johnson said. "It's something ingrained in me since childhood. I refer to some of my childhood instances in the book about some of the things I saw of things of the 1920s that were still in existence in



the early 1950s when I was a child. I remember going to the Crawford (Hotel) or standing on the viaduct and watching the steam engines coming underneath me.

"I could remember as a child, my grandfather holding my hand while we stood on the viaduct and watching one of the last steam engines from T&P come through and the steam blowing right under

See **BOOK**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Jan Elliott



Jan Elliott, 65, of Big Spring, Texas died Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013, in a Midland hospital after a long battle with health issues. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 19, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. At Jan's request, there will be a private family service at a later date.

Jan was born in Sweetwater, Texas to Buddy and Jean Lee on Dec. 19, 1947. In 1952 she was adopted by C.E. Milam. She graduated in June 1966 from Big Spring High School and married Kenneth Elliott that same

year. Together, they owned and operated Big Spring Auto Electric from 1976 until 2011.

She is survived by two children, daughter, Melissa (Elliott) Carrillo and husband, Junior; and son, Mike Elliott and wife, Kristi; three granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; and one brother.

She was preceded in death by her mother and step-father, Jean and Bernard Wanderer; her father, C.E. Milam; and her sister, Pam Yanez.

The family suggest memorials be made to Home Hospice of Big Spring, 111 E. Seventh, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas Ave, Midland, TX 79701.

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

Alex Torres



Alex Torres, 57, of Big Spring, Texas died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

He was born Feb. 3, 1956, in Big Spring to Juana and Santos Torres. He grew up in Coahoma and graduated from Coahoma High School.

He worked for Union Pacific Railroad since 1974

as a conductor. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County and was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish.

He is survived by his mother, Juana "Jane" Torres of Coahoma, Texas; a sister, Beatrice Padron of Fort Worth, Texas; three brothers, Eddie Torres and his wife Micki of Mansfield, Texas, Henry Torres and his wife Nell of Watauga, Texas, and Albert Torres and his wife Leticia of Big Spring; and 13 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Santos Torres, in 1975.

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

Jimmy Hopper

Jimmy Hopper, 64, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2013. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

James W. Salvato

James W. Salvato, 71, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013. Arrangements are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Police/Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JAVIER MANZANA PINEDA, 33, of 821 West 6th Street, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- SAUL ALEJANDRA BALCAZAR, 27, of 1500 South Main, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for racing and exhibition of acceleration.
- JOHN JEWELL OVERTON, 24, of 1706.5 Johnson St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of no drivers license when unlicensed.
- BRITTANY DIANN CASTILLO, 21, 1905 Wasson Road no. 62, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of forgery - money/securities.
- NORMAN LEE MIZELL JR., 51, OF 106 Delaware, Colorado City, Texas, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported at the 600 block of West Interstate Highway 20, the 900 block of Lamesa Highway.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the 300 block of Birdwell.
- THEFT was reported at the 1300 block of East 4th St., the 3600 block of West Highway 80, and the 200 block of East Third St., and the 1300 block of Sycamore.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of FM 700 and Highway 87.
- HARASSMENT was reported at the 2200 block

of South Gregg.

• ASSAULT was reported at the 3600 block of West Highway 80, the 1900 block of Wasson and the 700 block of West Interstate Highway 20.

• SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported at the 200 block of West FM 700 and the 900 block of North Lamesa Highway.

• BURGLARY IN PROGRESS was reported at the 600 block of North Lamesa Highway.

• MINOR ACCIDENT reported at the intersection of FM 700 and Goliad.

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

• SAUL ALEJANDRO BALCAZAR was booked by BSPD on a warrant for racing and acceleration ion of speed.

• JAVIER M. PINEDA was booked by BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

• JOHN JEWELL OVERTON was booked by BSPD on a charge of no drivers license.

• BRITTANY CASTILLO was booked by BSPD on a charge of forgery of government/national instrument/money/security.

• NORMAN LEE MIZELL JR., was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

WEDNESDAY

• "A Journey to a New Normal," a grief support network, meets from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 602 S. Main. For information, call 263-5999.

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

Support Groups

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center.

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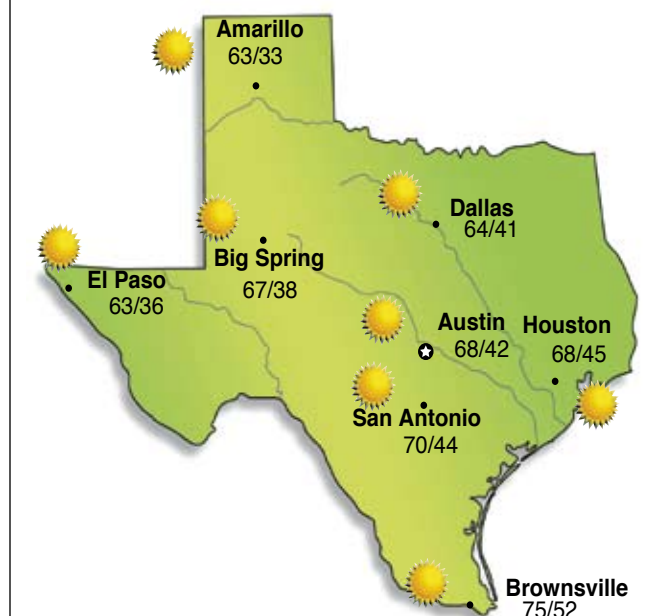
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 12/18	Thu 12/19	Fri 12/20
67/38	69/46	74/44
Mainly sunny. High 67F. Winds light and variable.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	More clouds than sun. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise: 7:41 AM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM
Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunset: 5:45 PM



Texas At A Glance



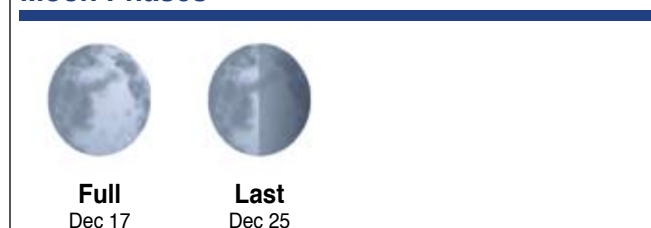
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	66	42	sunny	Kingsville	73	49	pt sunny
Amarillo	63	33	sunny	Livingston	66	39	sunny
Austin	68	42	sunny	Longview	65	41	sunny
Beaumont	67	42	sunny	Lubbock	66	33	sunny
Brownsville	75	52	sunny	Lufkin	67	39	sunny
Brownwood	69	41	sunny	Midland	66	40	sunny
Corpus Christi	70	51	pt sunny	Raymondville	73	49	sunny
Corsicana	64	40	sunny	Rosenberg	69	45	sunny
Dallas	64	41	sunny	San Antonio	70	44	sunny
Del Rio	69	41	pt sunny	San Marcos	69	42	sunny
El Paso	63	36	sunny	Sulphur Springs	65	41	sunny
Fort Stockton	66	41	sunny	Sweetwater	65	40	sunny
Gainesville	63	39	sunny	Tyler	65	42	sunny
Greenville	63	38	sunny	Weatherford	64	38	sunny
Houston	68	45	sunny	Wichita Falls	64	37	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	53	33	sunny	Minneapolis	24	10	sunny
Boston	31	20	pt sunny	New York	32	26	snow
Chicago	35	30	mst sunny	Phoenix	74	49	cloudy
Dallas	64	41	sunny	San Francisco	66	44	pt sunny
Denver	62	35	cloudy	Seattle	48	42	rain
Houston	68	45	sunny	St. Louis	43	29	sunny
Los Angeles	78	53	cloudy	Washington, DC	40	31	mst sunny
Miami	78	63	pt sunny				

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As NORAD tracks Santa, critics track NORAD

DENVER (AP) — The U.S. and Canadian military will entertain millions of kids again this Christmas Eve with second-by-second updates on Santa's global whereabouts. But there's something new this year: public criticism.

A children's advocacy group says an animated video on the NORAD Tracks Santa website injects militarism into Christmas by showing fighter jets escorting Santa's sleigh. It's a rare swipe at the popular program, which last year attracted a record 22.3 million unique visitors from around the world to its website.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command defends the video as nonthreatening and safe for kids.

The kerfuffle erupted two weeks ago over a 39-second video on noradsanta.org called "NORAD Tracks Santa Trailer Video 2013."

A 5-second segment of the video — which is also available on youtube.com — shows two fighter jets flanking Santa.

The Boston-based Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood said the video brings violence and militarism to a beloved tradition. Others had similar criticism. Blogs and Twitter lit up with volleys from both sides.

Josh Golin, the coalition's associate director, reiterated his criticism in an interview with The Associated Press — but he called the brouhaha "a media-manufactured controversy." The coalition hadn't known about the fighter jet video until reporters called, he said.

"Nobody in my organization was out there protesting," he said.

U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a NORAD spokesman, said he understands the critics' point of view but disagrees.

"We really do feel strongly that it's something that is safe and non-threatening, and not some-

thing that would negatively impact children," he said. "In fact, we think that it's a lot of fun."

Davis said the fighter escort is nothing new. NORAD began depicting jets accompanying Santa and his reindeer in the 1960s, he said.

And he insisted the fighters in the video are unarmed: They're Canadian Air Force CF-18s, with a large external fuel tank under the belly that might look like a bomb.

The wing racks that would carry bombs or missiles are empty, he explained.

The flap has driven lots of viewers to the video — nearly 265,000 on YouTube by midday Monday.

"That's way off the charts for any other videos we've done before," Davis said.

A second video on noradsanta.org and on YouTube, "NORAD Tracks Santa Command Video 2013," has drawn nearly 122,000 views. It's a longer, fast-paced mix of animation and real-life footage billed as a test flight for Santa, who gets the military tag "Big Red One."

"This is very much a fun and safe and nonviolent site that children of all ages can visit," Davis said. "Parents can be confident their children will walk away (and) have had fun and potentially have learned something, too."

NORAD is a U.S.-Canadian operation based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. It's charged with defending the skies over both nations and monitoring sea approaches.

The Santa program began in 1955 when a typo in a local newspaper advertisement had children calling the hotline of NORAD's predecessor, asking to talk to Santa.

It's now a Christmas tradition that thrills millions of kids, and parents. Last year, global monitoring of Santa's voyage logged 114,000 phone calls to NORAD, 1.2 million Facebook followers and 129,000 Twitter followers.

NY mock trial for 'The Night Before Christmas'

TROY, N.Y. (AP) — It's a controversy whose roots trace back nearly two centuries to a holiday poem first published in an upstate New York newspaper: Who really wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas"?

This week, a mock trial will be held in a courtroom in Troy, where the now-classic also known as "The Night Before Christmas" was first published anonymously in the Sentinel newspaper on Dec. 23, 1823.

The Daily Gazette of Schenectady reports that Wednesday's trial will have a prominent local lawyer representing Clement Clark Moore, a wealthy scholar from New York City who's credited with writing the poem.

Other attorneys will argue the side of Henry Livingston Jr., whose descendants claim the gentleman farmer from the Hudson Valley was the true author.

Actors portraying Moore and Livingston will take the stand during the courtroom showdown.

Hundreds of suited-up

Santas hit NYC streets, bars

NEW YORK (AP) — Several hundred red-suited Santas have braved the blustery snow for New York City's annual SantaCon pub crawl.

The New York Post reports police officers were out in full force Saturday to monitor the hordes of drunken revelers dressed as Santa Claus. New Yorkers have complained about public drunkenness and unruly behavior during the event in previous years.

Police officers handed out fliers at subway stations and parks warning the Santas to remove their fake beards before entering bars.

Police told the newspaper that one Santa was treated for injuries at Bellevue Hospital and later released. They say at least 10 summonses were issued.

On its website, SantaCon describes itself as a "nonsensical Santa Claus convention" that donates cash to the Food Bank for NYC and other local charities.

HC

Continued from Page 1

work phase. Construction is on track to be completed by July 2014

The project is in response to the growing student population at the San Angelo site, which on average serves 2,600 students, said Howard

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks.

"We have simply outgrown the space that we have in San Angelo. This will give the students the space that they need and the resources," Sparks said. "It's something we've needed for a long time."

Also on the agenda, trustees:

- Heard an update on the revamp of the Dental Hygiene

program. A pilot off-site clinical rotation in San Angelo will be ready by the spring semester and planning for a second pilot off-site rotation set for Abilene is in the works.

- Approved a \$61,176 bid from Lincoln Welding for a welding simulator. The simulator is also mobile which will allow the equipment to be transported to any site in the district's 13-county

service area. Money used to purchase the simulator came from a grant awarded to the district.

- Heard the college received a positive response on its fifth-year report to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which is responsible for the college's accreditation.

- Approved catalog and handbook changes.

- Approved switching a part-time tutoring position at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf to full-time in response to the growing student population.

- Heard trustee Adrian Calvio has finished all his required trustee training.

Contact Lyndel Moody at ci-tydesk@bigspringherald.com or by 263-7331, ext. 234

BOOK

Continued from Page 1

us," he continued.

Johnson will be available to sign copies of his book from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday during a wine and cheese reception at the Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry.

History was always a passion for Johnson, a former long-time resident of the area. His love of local history was cemented during his childhood years working with his father — who owned a paint and later construction business — helping to repair and paint the old buildings constructed in the 1920s.

"Dad's painting company slapped lipstick and rouge on the 1920s buildings and most other buildings in Big Spring for over 40 years," Johnson writes in the book's preface. "Along the way in addition to learning a demanding work ethic, I was seeing the bowls and corners of the building outside of operating hours and from a different angle than the public."

Later, Johnston would join his father in the creating a construction business which he continues to oversee today.

"My dad and my uncles and grandfather always talked about the 1920s," he said. "The book does not just have a local interest flair to

it, but a lot of national. I like to define this book as a civic lesson, a Sunday school lesson, historical interpretation and just plain old fun facts. It's a combination of a lot of things and a lot of it is my historical interpretation."

According to Johnson, "Canaan" was an analogy used by W. Hamilton Wright, an employee and columnist for the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, to promote the area in the 1920s. Wright described the area as 'a new land of milk and honey,' a parallel Johnson sees in today's economic revival from the newest oil

boom and energy development in the area.

"The 'sensation' and growth (of the 1920s) would create the very basis of Big Spring's economic stratum and city center core that still exists," Johnson writes in his book.

The author explores various cultural and historical events from the stories of the Ku Klux Klan, flapper generation, sports, the development of transportation — rails and highway — and the development of many known buildings. He also tries to set straight the real story of why the city wasn't chosen as the site of Texas

Tech University.

"There were 37 towns that applied for it," Johnson said. "All my life all I've heard is that we didn't get Texas Tech because we chose the state hospital. That is just not true. There are two chapters in there that are dedicated blow by blow as to what hap-

pened, what when on."

Copies of the book are on sale at the museum for \$24.99.

"I hope people realize how important this book is and how good it is," said Tammy Schrengost, Heritage Museum curator and author of several local historical books.

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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Bird Poop: Returning to the wild

Our drive to Midland that December 23 was bittersweet. Faced with the impending closure of her wildlife sanctuary, Midge Erskine had called earlier that morning.

Trying to find proper sites for birds ready to release, she had asked if we would transport a gull to a pond north of Big Spring. Since her

24 years of involvement would soon be ending in the coming year, we were glad to assist in one of the more pleasant aspects of rehab work.

From the moment she came out the door with her hands tightly gripping the sides of the bird, we knew it was not the usual ring-billed variety. Across its white head, from eye to eye, was a narrow black cap with a dusky center. The gull's white forehead, throat, and neck lent to its prominence.



BEBE
MCCASLAND



Courtesy photo

The only gull to have two complete molts a year, the Franklin's Gull spends its summers, and breeds, in Canada and parts of North Dakota. Its winter range includes the Gulf of Mexico, and the western coasts of Mexico and South America.

In contrast to its white under parts and rump were its dark, slate-gray back, and wings. Extending one of them, Midge made us aware of the white band that separates the gray of the wing, and its black primaries tipped with white. As she closed the wing, the white tips took on a diamond shape against the black.

Wearing this coloration through winter,

the bird would not acquire its summer plumage until about May. At that time, it would sport a black head and claret-colored bill. On its white breast, a pale, rosy wash would lend to its breeding readiness.

During summer and on its journey south, the Franklin's gull had availed itself of insects. The prairies and plains of Canada and the United States had offered more than an ample

supply of grasshoppers, crickets and dragonflies. As plows turned debris from harvested crops into the earth, it had caught small, flying insects and savored exposed grubs and cutworms.

Stopping on inland ponds and lakes, the bird had enjoyed small fish and aquatic insects. Delayed by injury from joining its flock as they flew further south, the gull could no longer

depend upon insects in its diet.

Having access to the Hatfields' ponds north of town, we knew minnows could sustain the Franklin's gull until it decided to fly further south. After checking weather reports that warned of sleet and snow, we called Midge. Reassuring us with positive encouragement, she added, "It will be fine on those ponds until the weather clears and it decides to leave."

After we left our vehicle, the family's horse met us at the fence. As it snorted a friendly hello, its breath formed large, wispy, vaporous clouds. Our greeting caused a few puffs of our own.

With gentle nudges from behind, the horse followed us to the pond. A very friendly dog soon joined our entourage.

Placing the gull's enclosure at the edge of the water allowed it to see several ducks floating or standing near the opposite shore. Not wanting to appear as a tall, looming danger, we squatted on either side of the carrier.

With sleet starting to pelt us, Art opened the

gate. The bird readily chose to enter the pond.

When the gull seemed acclimated to its new surroundings, we slowly stood and backed away. Gracefully swimming, then floating on the surface, it seemed at home in its new environment.

Accustomed to large flocks and breeding colonies, the gull had survived an ordeal of injury and rehab. Its lonesome predicament was coming to a close.

A common bird of summer prairies, the Franklin's gull had been a unique experience for Midge and us. Named for an English explorer of the Arctic, it was, and is rarely seen during a Texas winter except for maybe on the coast.

Days later, the gull used its nearly three foot wingspan to carry it away from its temporary refuge. In spiraling curves, it ascended higher and higher until it reached the elevation needed to glide toward the south and a winter haven.

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

Great authors brought together by Texas painter

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — There they are, 11 famous American writers from the 19th and 20th centuries, all gathered in one room. Five are at a table and six are standing behind them. For 8½ months, classical realist artist Kirk Richards stood before the group.

He should. They are his creation, a commission from a Dallas real estate magnate to paint "great American authors." In his 33 years as a professional artist, in his more than 200 paintings and other commissioned murals, Richards, 61, has never accomplished any work

quite like this.

"No, this many figures, the complexity of having all the authors being deceased, and keeping them unified and to have them not look like 11 different people painted at 11 different times and places, that was the real challenge," he said. "And, of course, the size."

Oh, yes, the size. The painting of Poe, Hawthorne, Stowe, Fitzgerald, Sandberg, Steinbeck, Melville, Whitman, Twain, Alcott and Hemingway measures 66 inches by 90 inches, or 5½ feet by 7½ feet.

The mural is large

enough that it required stretcher bars for the back of the canvas, large enough to visually captivate someone who stands before the painting and takes all of it in.

"Kirk Richards is an amazing artist," said Dallas real estate magnate Harlan Crow, who commissioned the mural.

"Although I've seen some other amazing works he's done, what he's achieved with this sets a really high standard of accomplishment."

Crow, worth an estimated \$650 million, had purchased some of Richards' work of Palo Duro

Canyon.

When Richards delivered them to Crow last November, the two discussed a commissioned work on some of America's greatest writers. They continued to exchange ideas before it became official the last week of 2012.

"The joy, I guess, is in the process," Richards told the Amarillo Globe-News (<http://bit.ly/IZRo7K>), "in the doing, and not necessarily having it finished."

Richards and noted

framer Kim Poarch of Canyon drove the painting to Crow in Dallas on Wednesday.

The painting will hang in the Pecan Room, a conference room in Crow's four-building complex that was formerly the old Parkland hospital.

Richards signed the piece Oct. 30, more than 250 days after he began his work in mid-February.

"I told (wife) Linda that this was like putting together a jigsaw puzzle,

but I was painting the pieces," Richards said. "In my mind, it's like they are all gathered for a formal portrait and this is 10 seconds before the photographer has them pose."

For the first six weeks before putting brush to canvas, Richards researched and worked to pare down the list of 100 possible authors to 11. He searched for every old photo, every likeness. He went through four reams of photocopy paper in printing them.



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12 SILLY DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Can you find all the things in this silly scene listed at right? Read carefully and look closely – it's tricky!

This year for Christmas, Kid Scoop gave to me:

- 12 skating snowmen
- 11 penguin painters
- 10 running reindeer
- 9 shopping salmon
- 8 freezing frogs
- 7 bags of popcorn
- 6 rubber duckies
- 5 ice cream cones
- 4 polar bears
- 3 crayons
- 2 candy canes
- And Santa hiding somewhere on this page!



Extra! Extra!

Holiday Hunt

- Look through the newspaper to find:
- 5 holiday pictures
 - 5 holiday words
 - a Christmas tradition
 - something sweet
 - a nice gift

Standards Link: Classify objects according to common attributes.

Speedy Search

Race a friend and see who can find the most:
• apples • carrots • rabbits • sports equipment

Look Again!

Did you spot a cactus, a boat, a lollipop and a hot dog?

Funny Filler

Have a friend give you **NOUNS**, **ADJECTIVES** and **VERBS**. Then read the silly story aloud. Prepare for big laughs!

Santa Secrets

Everyone knows that Santa slides down chimneys to deliver presents to children on Christmas Eve. But what happens when a home has no _____?
NOUN

Santa has a magic _____ that can open any lock in the world. So he can quietly _____ through a door and to leave _____ in stockings or under the _____.
NOUN *PLURAL NOUN* *VERB* *NOUN*

Santa also has many helpers. This way, if he is running behind schedule, the helpers _____ to the rescue and deliver the _____.
VERB *ADJECTIVE* *PLURAL NOUN*

Some people like to leave fresh _____ for Santa's reindeer. This gives them energy and helps them _____ through the chilly winter air.
PLURAL NOUN *VERB*

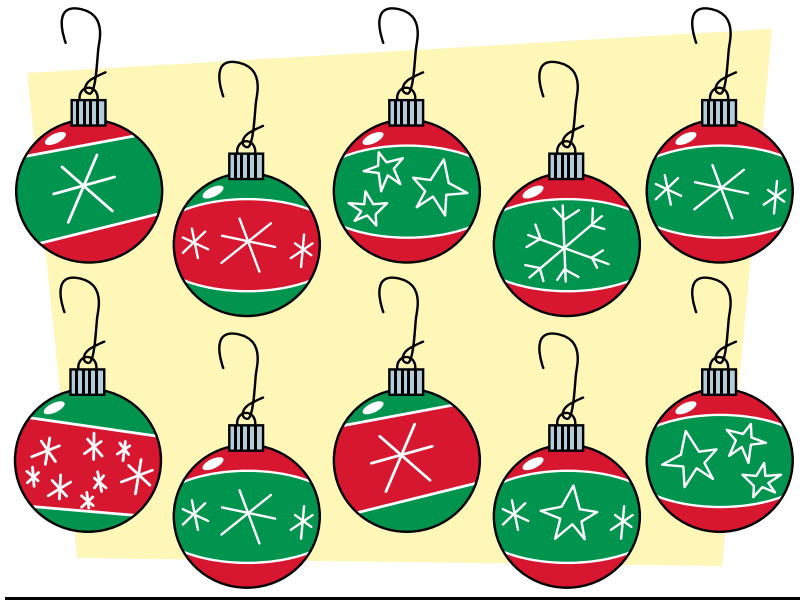
Back at the North Pole, Santa rests for several days after his _____ journey.
ADJECTIVE

But plans for the following Christmas begin right away, as the elves begin making _____ and _____ in the workshop. They _____ long hours throughout the year. In addition to bikes and dolls, they make a surprising amount of _____
PLURAL NOUN *PLURAL NOUN* *VERB* *ADJECTIVE* *PLURAL NOUN*

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you find the two identical ornaments?



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double Double Word Search

- CHRISTMAS
- EQUIPMENT
- REINDEER
- POPCORN
- PENGUIN
- CONES
- RABBITS
- SPOT
- WHO
- SWEET
- DOG
- ICE
- SEE
- BEAR
- BAGS

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



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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **EQUIPMENT**
The noun **equipment** means items needed for a particular job or activity.

The contractor carried his **equipment** in his truck.

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

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Christmas Mystery

Secretly find a picture related to Christmas in the newspaper. Then give the newspaper to a friend. Give your friend clues about the picture you selected. Can he or she find out which is the Christmas mystery picture?

Standards Link: Oral Language: Use clear and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas.

What's cold, white and falls up?
ANSWER: A confused snowflake.

Write On!

Alliterations

Write a sentence in which all (or nearly all) of the words start with the same letter.
Example: Wendy walks with wonder when the weather warms.

Local Sports Calendar

TODAY

Girls Basketball

- Big Spring at Stanton, JV, 5 p.m.; varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Big Spring, 9th, 5 p.m.
- Coahoma at Forsan, JV, 4 p.m.; varsity, 6:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball

- Big Spring at Stanton, JV, 5 p.m.; 9th, 6:15 p.m.; varsity, 7:30 p.m.
- Coahoma at Forsan, JV, 5 p.m.; varsity, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Girls Basketball

- Coahoma at Stamford, 9th, 3 p.m.; JV, 4 p.m.; varsity, 5:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Colorado City, JV, 4 p.m.; varsity, 6:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball

- Big Spring at Seminole, 9th, 5 p.m.; JV, 6:15 p.m.; varsity, 7:30 p.m.
- Coahoma at McCamey, JV, 5 p.m.; varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Colorado City, JV, 5 p.m.; varsity, 8 p.m.

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

December blues: Cowboys must find a way to bounce back again

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dez Bryant made the rounds Monday trying to explain why he left the field early in Dallas' crushing loss to Green Bay.

The emotional receiver just couldn't watch the Packers take a knee three times for a 37-36 victory after the Cowboys led 26-3 at halftime. He was afraid he was going to cry in front of the cameras, so he says he took the tears to the locker room.

Now it's time for a two-game test for the Cowboys' biggest playmaker and the resolve of Tony Romo after his latest failure in key moments.

Beat Washington and Philadelphia to finish the season, and Dallas (7-7) ends a three-game play-off drought. Lose to the freefalling Redskins on Sunday, and the Cowboys might be eliminated before they even play their final game.

All this after they had a near-certain victory in hand against the Packers that would have pulled them even with the Eagles atop the NFC East and given them a chance to wrap up a playoff berth at Washington.

"The trend's not going to continue because we're going to do what we need to do," Bryant said Monday in

a mostly empty locker room at the team's training facility. "This whole group in this locker room, we believe and we're going to keep working."

Bryant, who made similar headlines



Jason Garrett

earlier in the season with a sideline rant during another deflating defeat at Detroit, was waiting for reporters so he could tell them that leaving with time still on the clock "was absolutely not right."

That was essentially the message

in his conversation with coach Jason Garrett, who said his star receiver wasn't disciplined.

"It's difficult for everybody when things don't go well and he needs to understand how to handle that," Garrett said. "I think he'll handle that better in the future. He was very apologetic to me and was concerned about the situation."

Bryant's latest sideline moment didn't face as much scrutiny Monday as Romo's decision to check out of a running play before throwing an interception that gave Green Bay another chance down 36-31 with less than 3 minutes to go.

The Cowboys were in position to force the Packers to go most of the field in less than 2 minutes even if they didn't get a first down. Instead, Matt Flynn took over for Green Bay at midfield and led a scoring drive.

Another interception from Romo completed the collapse.

"I think in hindsight you would say that was the wrong decision, and Tony would be the first to tell you that," Garrett said of the first interception.

"Sometimes it's OK on second-and-6 to hand the ball off, take your yards, and deal with the third down, force them to use another timeout, and then just work that situation out."

Now Romo has to find a way to lead a team that has given away two games, been blown out of two others and has a personal history of late-game

See **COWBOYS**, Page 11

JV Lady Steers host, win weekend tourney

HERALD staff reports

The junior varsity Lady Steers weren't very gracious tournament hosts, as Big Spring won three straight to claim the tourney championship.

The first victim was Colorado City, which BSHS edged 38-35. Leading scorers were Myckala Edwards with nine and Tiffani Ruiz and Izailla Rob-

inson each contributing eight.

In the second game, the Lady Steers topped Forsan 36-29.

Edwards and Robinson both put up 10 points and Ruiz added eight.

An easy 36-23 win over Coahoma closed out the weekend for Big Spring.

Edwards again led the Lady Steers with 10 points. Mariah Walsh chipped in nine and Kasey Delafuente registered seven.

Now 6-1, the JV squad will be taking on Stanton this evening.

In Big Spring Junior High hoops action, the 8th grade "A" team lost to Sweetwater 54-38.

Cierra Martinez led BSJH with 12 points and six rebounds. Sidney Evans contributed nine points. Ashley Gonzales had four rebounds and Krystelle Mikels grabbed four boards.

The 8th grade "B" squad handily defeated Sweetwater 22-8 in a low-scor-

ing affair. Kali Hale led the offense with 11 points and the defense with eight points and rebounded seven balls. Loree Dello had six rebounds.

Both seventh grade teams lost to Sweetwater. The "A" squad fell 42-19, with Kayleigh Penny and Logan Terrazas each scoring six points.

The "B" team was upended 29-12, with Arysra Garcia putting up four points and nabbing two rebounds.

AP source: Miami G Incognito to sit out rest of season

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — The playoffs may pay off for Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito, even from the sideline.

Incognito will remain on the NFL's suspended list with pay for the rest of the season, including the playoffs, a person familiar with the situation said Monday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the bullying scandal that led to Incognito's suspension remains under investigation. The person said Incognito would be in line for a playoff share.

Coach Joe Philbin declined to comment, but the Dolphins released a one-sentence statement saying the team and Incognito had agreed to "maintain his suspension" during the investigation. Incognito's agent didn't respond to requests for comment.

The veteran guard is in the final year of a contract with a 2013 base salary of \$3.5 million, or \$220,588 per game.

Incognito was suspended Nov. 3 in the wake of the bullying scandal. He

filed a grievance Nov. 14 against the Dolphins seeking to rejoin the team, but later withdrew it.

Tackle Jonathan Martin left the Dolphins on Oct. 28 and alleged he was harassed daily by teammates, including Incognito. NFL special investigator Ted Wells has interviewed Incognito, Martin, other players and coaches and will file a report.

Miami put Martin on the reserve/non-football illness list Nov. 30, ending his season.

The Dolphins (8-6), who beat AFC East leader New England on Sunday, are 5-2 since Martin left the team and 4-2 without Incognito. They'll earn a wild-card playoff berth if they sweep their final two games.

Filing the latest win, quarterback Ryan Tannehill praised the team's resilience in the wake of the scandal.

"We are fighters," he said. "We've been through a lot. Guys are tough and are able to handle anything that happens on the field."

Spurs routed by Clippers 115-92

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Clippers told themselves they couldn't make any excuses. Didn't matter how physically tired or mentally drained they were from a seven-game trip.

They had to find a way to win, just like San Antonio — a team Doc Rivers calls "the gold standard" — typically does.

And the Clippers did, notching their largest margin of victory ever against the Spurs.

Blake Griffin scored 27 points, hitting 11 of 15 free throws, in the 115-92 win Monday night, 48 hours after returning to Los Angeles.

"The best part about this game was we knew what we had to do," Griffin said. "We executed

our game plan. Even when they made runs nobody got down. That positive attitude is big."

Chris Paul added 23 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Jamal Crawford had 17 points in his second straight start for the Clippers, who repelled several threats in the third quarter to maintain their lead.

"Another good win for us coming off the road trip," said Paul, who won't be dwelling on it. "We got to get past it."

Tim Duncan had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, whose four-game winning streak ended. Tony Parker limped off the court with a right shin contusion with 5:09 left in the third.

He finished with eight points and six assists in 26 minutes, and didn't speak with reporters afterward.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Parker was in pain and having trouble walking on it, so he had to be taken out of the game.

"He has the ball in his hands for a long time, especially when it counts the most," Manu Ginobili said about Parker. "So we couldn't adjust to it and it was hard, especially against a team that is aggressive."

DeAndre Jordan added 11 rebounds and Griffin had nine to help the Clippers control

See **SPURS**, Page 11

Terrible Texans to face powerful Broncos

HOUSTON (AP) — Wade Phillips talked about how certain young quarterbacks have to hit rock bottom before they can turn things around and succeed.

Case Keenum and the Houston Texans are certainly at that point.

Keenum had his worst outing in eight games as a starter and the Texans dropped their 12th straight Sunday in the first game with Phillips in charge after coach Gary Kubiak was fired Dec. 6.

Now Phillips is looking for ways to help

Keenum improve with Sunday's game against longtime Houston nemesis Peyton Manning and the Broncos looming.

"I've seen it happen," Phillips said Monday of quarterbacks bouncing back after struggling early in their careers. "Some of them don't bounce back up and aren't good enough and don't end up good quarterbacks. But this is a rough time he's going through and we'll see what he does."

Keenum is dealing with a sprained right thumb. The Texans

aren't sure how serious the injury is, but Phillips said he is concerned about it.

Keenum is in his first season playing in the NFL after spending all of last season on the practice squad. In Sunday's loss to the Colts, he threw for 168 yards with two interceptions and no touchdowns. He was sacked four times, one of which resulted in a fumble and safety, and was hurried and hit numerous other times.

"He saw the blitzes when they were coming," Phillips said.

"But seeing blitzes and getting rid of the football is different than just seeing them. That and reading coverages is not an easy process, and especially for a young quarterback to know exactly where to go with it."

Phillips said the Texans will work this week to identify what was happening early in the Keenum's tenure as starter when he was playing better. Phillips also said he spoke to the offense about doing more to help

See **TEXANS**, Page 11

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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Justice	Charlie Rose	King/Hill	Moonshiners	Movie: Bring It On, Jesse Bradford	on Fire, Christopher Walken	Castle (DVS)	106 & Park: Top 10	Good	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Notic. Corazón	Two Men	News	Noticiero	News	Seinfeld	Called	PBS News-Hour	Cleveland	Moonshiners	Movie: Why Did I Get Married?, Jill Scott	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Why Did I Get Married?, Jill Scott	Good	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	
7:PM	S.H.I.E.L.D.	Por Siempre	Big Bang	Ent	Ent	News	Seinfeld	Door-Wisdom	Red Metal: Copper	The Originals	Moonshiners: Outlaw	Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Santa Buddies	Good	College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	
8:PM	Gold	Lo Que la Vida	Big Bang	Ent	Ent	News	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	How Sherlock Changed the World	Supernatural	Moonshiners	Movie: The Longest Yard, Burt Reynolds	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Santa Buddies	Good	College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	
9:PM	What Would	Mentir Para Vivir	Big Bang	Ent	Ent	News	Seinfeld	Trust Me	Trust Me	Porter Ridge	Moonshiners	Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Santa Buddies	Good	College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	
10:PM	News	Impacto	Big Bang	Ent	Ent	News	Seinfeld	Trust Me	Trust Me	Porter Ridge	Moonshiners	Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Santa Buddies	Good	College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	
11:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Big Bang	Ent	Ent	News	Seinfeld	Trust Me	Trust Me	Porter Ridge	Moonshiners	Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Santa Buddies	Good	College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	
12:AM	Extra	Noticiero	Big Bang	Ent	Ent	News	Seinfeld	Trust Me	Trust Me	Porter Ridge	Moonshiners	Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Santa Buddies	Good	College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	
1:AM	Paid	Noticiero	Big Bang	Ent	Ent	News	Seinfeld	Trust Me	Trust Me	Porter Ridge	Moonshiners	Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Santa Buddies	Good	College Basketball	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	

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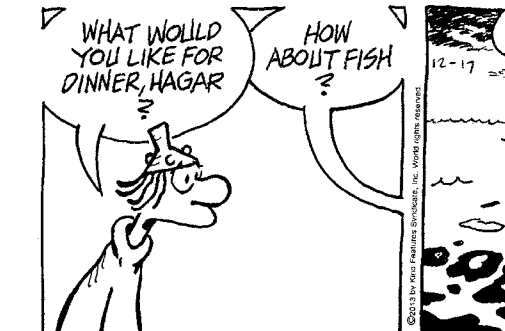
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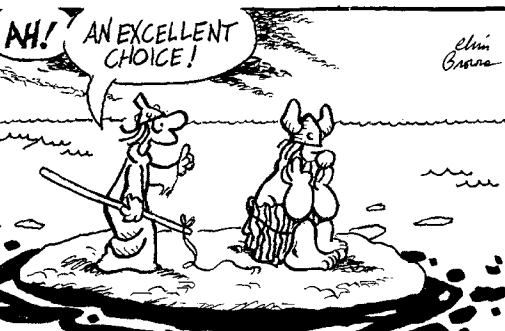


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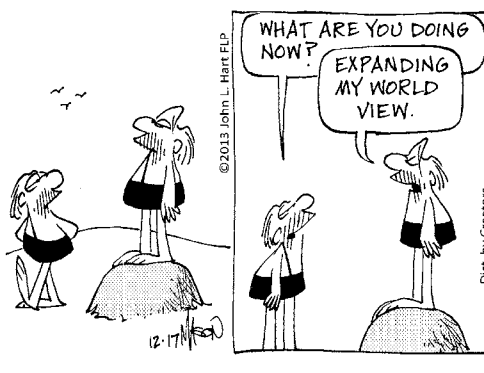
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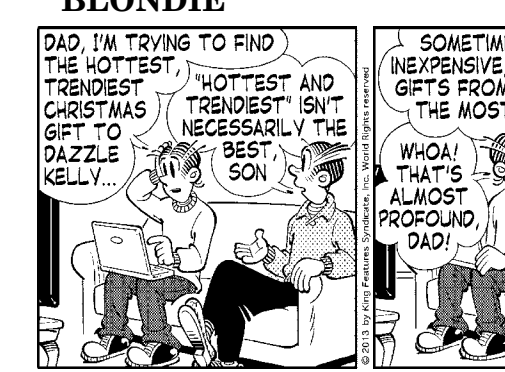
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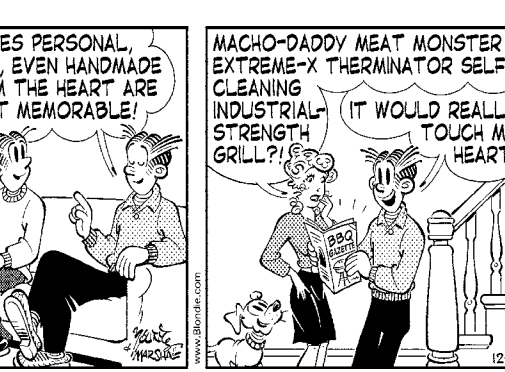
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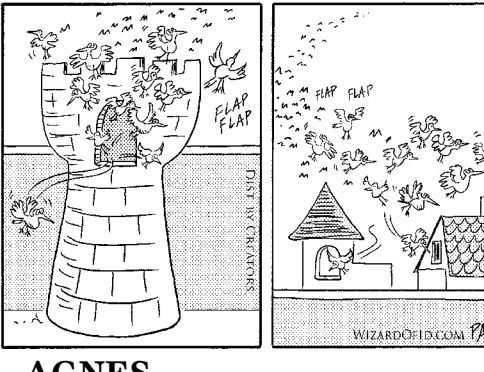
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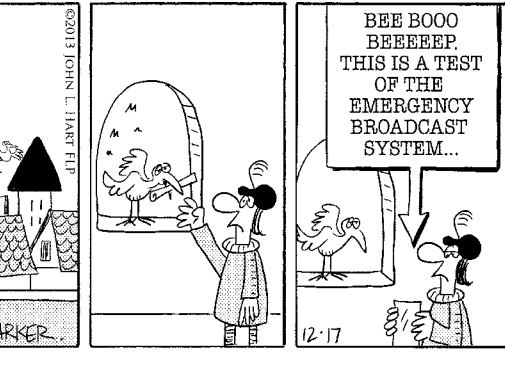
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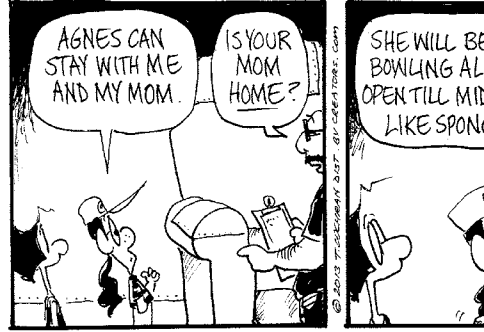
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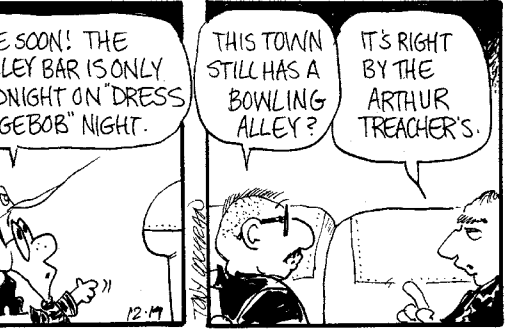
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AGNES



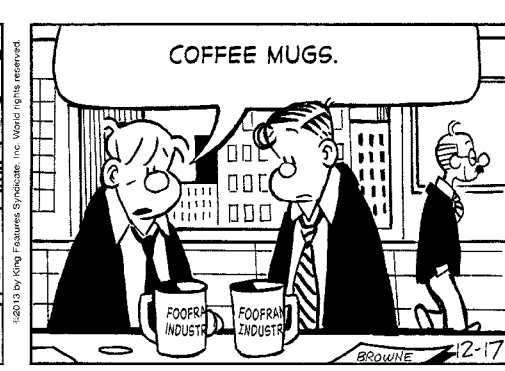
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



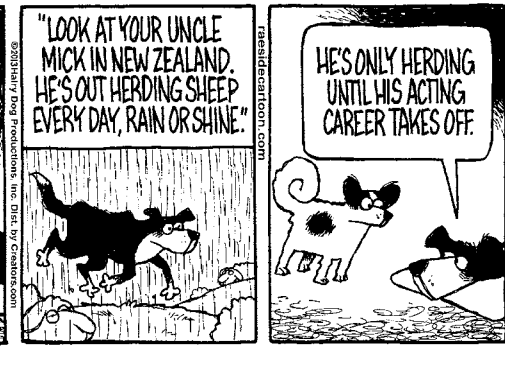
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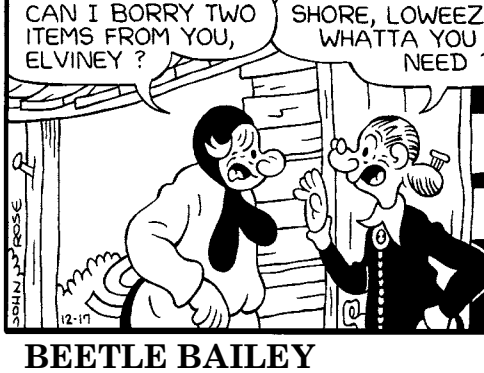
THE OTHER COAST



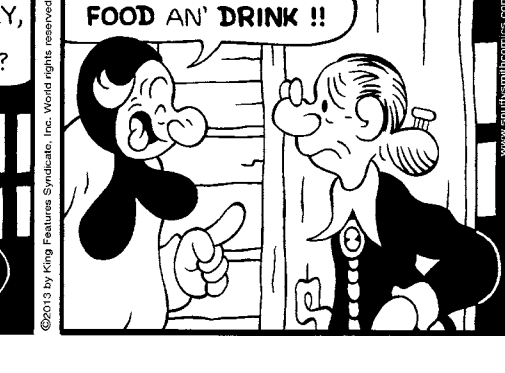
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2013. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 17, 1938, German chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann discovered nuclear fission by splitting the nuclei of uranium into lighter elements while performing experiments in Berlin.

On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1830, South American patriot Simon Bolivar (see-MOHN' boh-LEE'-vahr) died in Colombia.

In 1865, Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, known as the "Unfinished" (because only two movements had been completed) was performed publicly for the first time in Vienna, 37 years after the composer's death.

In 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful

manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, N.C., using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

In 1925, Col. William "Billy" Mitchell was convicted at his court-martial in Washington of insubordination for accusing senior military officials of incompetence and criminal negligence; he was suspended from active duty.

In 1933, in the inaugural NFL championship football game, the Chicago Bears defeated the New York Giants, 23-21, at Wrigley Field.

In 1944, the U.S. Army announced it was ending its policy of excluding Japanese-Americans from the West Coast.

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1959, Stanley Kramer's anti-nuclear war drama "On the Beach," starring Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner, premiered on all seven continents (including Antarctica).

In 1979, in a case that aggravated racial tensions, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally injured

after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

In 1981, members of the Red Brigades kidnapped Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier, the highest-ranking U.S. Army official in southern Europe, from his home in Verona, Italy. (Dozier was rescued 42 days later.)

In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.

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Answer to previous puzzle

MATE	SPIT	RABID
AURA	LANE	EVASD
STARPU	PIL	SALON
TOY ORATE	AILLS	
ERRS	CELLO	
ABATE	SAVE	FRO
PEEVED	USE	FAN
OILIER	PET	SEIZE
LOL	SOD	SPORES
SUP	LINE	PINES
EVERY	PANS	
SPAM	TIARA	MAP
HAPPY	ANGEL	HAIR
ATEIN	ITEM	UNDO
HERDS	LOSE	TEEM

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "That's a shame"
 - 5 Catch sight of
 - 9 Roaring cats
 - 14 Make angry
 - 15 Adhesive on a roll
 - 16 Turn out to be
 - 17 "Shake a leg!"
 - 18 Nest egg acct.
 - 19 Feed, as a fire
 - 20 Bygone doctor's service
 - 22 Reduce to tatters
 - 23 Pack of cards
 - 24 Sunburn soother
 - 26 Church song
 - 29 Reasons out
 - 33 Stop- traffic
 - 37 Charged atoms
 - 39 Sandwich cookie
 - 40 Sightseeing trip
 - 41 Eight-person band
 - 42 Truth twister
 - 43 Some time ago
 - 44 Keg contents
 - 45 Skillful
 - 46 Idaho product
 - 48 Entry point
 - 50 Squirrel's home
 - 52 Huck Finn's transport
 - 55 Home
 - 58 Arkansas city
 - 63 Compare (to)
 - 64 Glitch or hitch
 - 65 Wheel shaft
 - 66 Tire surface
 - 67 Approximately
 - 68 Tail end
 - 69 In a strange way

- DOWN**
- 1 Eyebrow shape
 - 2 Chauffeur-driven car
 - 3 Audibly
 - 4 Have an inkling
 - 5 Like glue
 - 6 Prefix for legal or chute
 - 7 Glittering white stone
 - 8 Electric car company
 - 9 Teacher's plan
 - 10 Back with a group
 - 11 Aroma
 - 12 Heat in a microwave
 - 13 Went fast
 - 21 Reverberate
 - 25 Shopper's reminder
 - 27 Rats' relatives
 - 28 Jotted down
 - 30 Cleveland's lake
 - 31 Harvest
 - 32 Separate into piles
 - 33 At the peak of
 - 34 Taboo
 - 35 Heating passageway
 - 36 Hagglers' objective
 - 38 Infamous Roman emperor
 - 41 Clarinet cousin
 - 45 Typical Kuwaiti
 - 47 In style
 - 49 West Coast state
 - 51 salts (bath additive)
 - 53 Vehicle's emergency light
 - 54 Prom rentals
 - 55 Choir member
 - 56 Feathered friend
 - 57 Gave the green light
 - 59 Concerning, on a memo
 - 60 Cape Canaveral org.
 - 61 Back of an envelope
 - 62 Plant with fronds

POKER-ESE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20				21				22				
				23				24	25			
				26	27	28		29		30	31	32
33	34	35	36		37	38		39				
40				41				42				
43				44				45				
46				47		48		49				
				50		51		52		53	54	
55	56	57				58	59	60				
63						64				65		
66						67				68		
69						70				71		

Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka wants to pursue career in MLB

TOKYO (AP) — Pitcher Masahiro Tanaka wants to move to Major League Baseball next season but his Japanese team doesn't want to let him go.

MLB and Nippon Professional Baseball's new posting system caps the fee for players at \$20 million, less than half what Japanese teams received for pitchers Yu Darvish and Daisuke Matsuzaka.

"I informed my team that I would like them to allow me to test my abilities in Major League Baseball next season," Tanaka said at a news conference on Tuesday after a meeting with Rakuten Eagles President Yozo Tachibana.

Tanaka, a 25-year-old right-hander, went 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA with the Rakuten Golden Eagles of the Pacific League during the regular season. He will not become eligible for free agency until after the 2015 season and can move

to MLB only if the Eagles agree to post him.

The Eagles, who won the Japan Series, voted against the new posting agreement in balloting by Japan's 12 teams on Monday and say they want Tanaka to remain with them for next season.

"We told him he is very important to us and we'd like him to stay," Tachibana said.

Under the rules of the three-year agreement announced Monday, a Japanese club may make players available between Nov. 1 and Feb. 1 and may set a price of up to \$20 million.

Starting with the day after a player is posted and continuing for 30 days, any big league team willing to pay the fee may attempt to sign the player. A major league team pays the posting fee only if it signs the player, and the fee is then payable in installments, with the timing dependent

on the amount.

A player who is not signed may not be posted again until the following Nov. 1.

Boston obtained Matsuzaka from the Seibu Lions before the 2007 season for \$51,111,111.11, and agreed to a \$52 million, six-year contract. Texas got Darvish from the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters before the 2012 season for \$51,703,411 and gave him a \$56 million, six-year deal. Darvish finished second in this year's AL Cy Young Award voting.

After the initial three years, the new agreement will continue on a one-year basis unless either side gives notice to terminate 180 days before it is scheduled to renew.

While Japanese teams were not happy with the cap on prices, some major league teams had objected that only the richest clubs could afford to bid on top players.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 6

Keenum while he develops.

"He's going through a process," Andre Johnson said of Keenum. "He can't take all the blame. We've all played a part in it. We all want to be perfect, but at the same time we're human and you're not going to go out and play perfect games all the time. But ... as a team we have to find a way to win."

Despite his struggles, the Texans remain committed to seeing what Keenum can do this season and Phillips said he will start the final two games. Houston must win one of its last two contests to avoid matching its franchise-worst record of 2-14 from 2005.

One thing that could help Keenum and the Texans fare better is eliminating penalties. Houston had 14 penalties Sunday, tying the franchise record it set a week ago. Phillips brought in officials to throw flags at practice last week, but it didn't help the Texans clean up their play.

"Unfortunately some of the penalties we had in practice carried over to the game," Phillips said. "If they had a penalty in practice, we took them out of

the practice and sat them on the side — kind of a time out. Something to embarrass them a little bit, and we're going to continue to do that. We've got to cut down on penalties."

Houston is also dealing with several other key injuries in addition to Keenum's thumb. Running back Ben Tate, who broke four ribs in late October, took another blow Sunday and is undergoing tests to see if there is further damage. Also injured were defensive end Antonio Smith, who has a sprained knee, and cornerback Johnathan Joseph, who has a groin injury. Phillips wasn't sure Monday if the injuries would keep the two out against Denver.

The Texans are second in the NFL in yards passing allowed a game, but the unit would take a major hit if top cornerback Joseph can't play Sunday. Houston is well acquainted with Manning after he dominated them for years while he was with the Colts.

"He's having a tremendous year, one of the greatest years ever," Phillips said of Manning. "It's going to be a big challenge for us. We're going to have to step up our defensive play, especially our pass defense."

SPURS

Continued from Page 6

the boards, 43-36. Jared Dudley had 14 points, including four 3-pointers.

Los Angeles went 4-3 on its road trip, closing it out Saturday with a 113-97 victory over the Washington Wizards.

The Clippers didn't practice Sunday before facing off against the Spurs, whose 19-5 record is third-best in the NBA.

"It tells you they're in it mentally," Rivers said of his team. "Very proud of them. I think they wanted to win very bad."

San Antonio made one last run to open

the fourth, getting consecutive 3-pointers from Patty Mills and Danny Green that drew the Spurs to 86-82.

The Clippers dominated the rest of the way, stretching their lead to 106-86 during a 20-4 run that ended with three 3-pointers in a row: one by Willie Green and two by Dudley.

Crawford put one last

dagger in the Spurs as he dribbled down the final seconds before casually popping a deep 3 for the final basket.

"We turned the ball over way too much (22 times) and went through bad stretches. We just can't put games together like that and expect to win," Duncan said. "But it's early in the season and we're go-

ing to learn every one of these losses and continue to grow as a team. Hopefully at the end of the year, we're a better ballclub because of it."

The Spurs got within three points on a layup by Ginobili before Griffin scored six of the Clippers' next eight points to extend their lead.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 6

and late-season failures.

The latest left tight end Jason Witten with nothing much to say beyond "words can't re-

ally describe it" after the game.

"If you have the right kind of guys on your team, you handle the inevitable adversities of the season better than if you don't," Garrett said.

"If you put emotion into something, passion into

something and it doesn't work out, sometimes that's hard to swallow. But again, you have to regroup."

The challenge for Bryant might be the biggest.

"I know for me it's very, very, very hard

to swallow," said Bryant, who had 153 yards and a touchdown that put Dallas up 12 midway through the fourth quarter.

"That kind of stuff leaves scars. It brings pain. I know that's what it brought to me."

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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Play Fit for a King

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 7 4
♥ A 9
♦ K Q
♣ Q J 9 8 6 2

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

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

SOUTH
♠ A J 5
♥ K 10 7 3
♦ A J 5
♣ 10 7 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ 1♠ 2NT Pass
3NT

Opening lead — queen of spades.
In many deals, the defenders must work together very closely to achieve their best possible result. They accomplish this mainly through an assortment of signals, supported in no small measure by simple common sense.

But in some deals, one defender finds himself entirely in charge of his side's destiny because his partner, to

all intents and purposes, is out of the picture. A diligent defender recognizes these occasions and plans his moves accordingly.

For example, take this deal where West led the queen of spades against three notrump and East signaled for a continuation by playing the ten. When South ducked the queen, West was unable to lead another spade and so shifted to a diamond.

Declarer won in dummy and played a club, forcing out East's king. East returned a spade, and after finessing the jack, South drove out the ace of clubs to finish with 10 tricks.

Had East been more alert, the contract would have failed. Instead of signaling with the ten of spades at trick one, which ran the risk of West's not having another spade to lead, East should have overtaken West's queen with the king in order to assure that the suit could be continued.

Had East done this, South's goose would have been cooked. East would have established his spades before South could establish his clubs, and the contract would have gone down two.

Tomorrow: Defusing a threat.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Full Twin Moon

The full moon in Gemini, the sign of the twins, opens our eyes to the dualities of our world. The yin and yang, the good and evil, and the creative and destructive forces may seem at odds with each other, but they actually work together and even depend on each other for their very existence. Today will bring a perfect example of it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Traffic, weather, the passage of time -- all things you can't change, but oh, how you would if you could today. A happy friend will help you enjoy the many things over which you do have control.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a test and/or major passage coming up, and the outcome will depend on how prepared you are. Spend time on it today, and plan on spending more time in the days to come. Make a daily habit out of it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Even the most graceful relationships are messy. To love another is to make a mess of something, be it feelings, thoughts, schedules or property. Something is bound to get broken and

that's just part of it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's like you're in a period-piece romance in which your attractive co-star is acting stoic and distant because he or she is in love with you. A handwritten note will drive the drama home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are able to put your own needs and wishes aside in order to understand what others want and need out of a situation. This allows you to project the image you feel will most influence others. Use your powers for good!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If there's one thing to be learned today, it's to have more patience waiting in lines. Impatient, tight, mad faces are ugly, and they make everyone else's experience ugly, too. The superior mind smiles while waiting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's one of those rare times when it's actually positive to dwell on the past. You'll learn something. There's a bit you missed, and when you look back, it will click into place for you. This changes how you think of yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't resent other people's success, though it does get on your nerves from time to time, especially if said

"other people" won't shut up about it. Ignore the boasters. It will drive them crazy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are able to present the truth in a way that others want to hear -- not necessarily a lie, but also not the complete story. Be careful. Someone may be using the same trick on you. Can you detect it?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Perhaps it would be better for everyone if people would do things in accordance with your timeline, but they won't. Nagging won't help matters. Your attractive attitude is the best tool you have for influencing others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't require your loved ones to be or believe as you do. Being whole on your own, you can disagree with someone and still hold that person's hand.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just because something is working doesn't mean you should leave it alone. You'll see an example of a superior product, system or relationship and be inspired to take your own scene up a level.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 17). You attract the people you most need this year. Loved ones harmonize with

you on multiple levels. Keep circulating through January -- one important contact will burst open economic opportunity for you. Follow a new professional plan in March. June and August are the luckiest months for lifestyle upgrades. Aquarius and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 22, 28 and 29.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Giovanni Ribisi joins an all-star cast including Charlize Theron, Seth MacFarlane, Neil Patrick Harris, Sarah Silverman and more in the upcoming comedy/western "A Million Ways To Die in the West." Typical of his adventurous Sagittarius nature, Ribisi has explored outer space in "Avatar" and visited many time periods on Earth, such as World War II in "Saving Private Ryan."

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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**The Big Spring Herald
would like to say Thank You to each and
everyone who came out and lined the streets to watch
the 28th Annual Big Spring Herald
Community Parade.**

**Special thanks to everyone who
participated and those who help make it happen,
the city workers, emergency and law
enforcement Personnel.**

**We appreciate the patience of all the residents and
business along Scurry who put up with the traffic.**

**We look forward to next year's parade and hope to
make it bigger and better.**

Happy Holidays!

**Rick Nunez/Parade Coordinator
General Manager
Big Spring Herald**