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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 18, 2013



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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Gladys Thompson, left, and Willia Ledford wrap presents Tuesday as part of the Hometown Christmas effort headquartered at Wells Fargo Bank. Volunteers will deliver Christmas gifts to about 70 needy families Monday, organizers said. For more information, contact Jeanie Knocke at 213-0698.

Area schools are plotting make-up days

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Crossroads residents may be dreaming of a white Christmas, but they've had all the snow they need for the next five months — at least public school students have.

The recent ice storms in November and earlier this month have prompted Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts to use their two make-up snow days with five more months of school still remaining.

"We've closed school twice and so officially we have to make that up somehow," said Randy Johnson, superintendent for the Forsan Independent School District. "When you adopt a school calendar, you set two days in that calendar that are make-up days. Our first one is coming in Feb. 17 which was supposed to be a day off from school."

"The second make-up comes at the end of school, Memorial Day," Johnson continued. "We've got some time to see but at least one of those will be made up soon. We'll drag our feet on making that decisions to see if we have more days we have to close. If that is the case, we will have to go to TEA (Texas Education Agency) and talk to them about the possibility of a waiver."

Big Spring ISD students will head to classes on April 18 and May 26, instead of having

See **MAKE-UP**, Page 3

Hometown Christmas ready to reach out to local families

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

About 70 needy families in this area will receive Christmas gifts, thanks to some Big Spring-based elves.

For the fourth straight year, volunteers with Hometown Christmas will fan out across Big Spring, bringing Christmas cheer to families and children who otherwise might miss out this season.

Group member Jeanie Knocke said Hometown Christmas was formed four years ago and helped around 400 area families in 2012.

"Well Fargo (Bank) started it," Knocke said. "We work on it all year. We start collecting gifts in January and we keep them in the (bank) storeroom until now."

The group obtains names of needy families through Big Spring Independent School District and other sources, determines what the children want for Christmas, then gets busy filling that wish list, Knocke said.

It's not just children who benefit from the group's efforts. Along with toys and clothes for the little ones, Hometown Christmas will also deliver turkeys and hams to their families, along with toiletry, household and clothing items for needy adults.

Interested people can donate either items or money to the drive — a special account has been established at Wells Fargo to accept monetary gifts, and items can be dropped off at the bank, as well.

Knocke said community response to the program has been heart-warming.

See **HOMETOWN**, Page 3

Baker's Chapel reaches out to needy Saturday

Herald Staff Report

Baker's Chapel AME Church, with the help of the Community Food Bank in Fort Worth, will be giving away food for the Christmas holiday.

Food will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the church, located at 911 N. Lancaster.

Volunteers are welcome. "Together, let's make a dent in our community's needs," said Pastor Lester W. Brown Jr.

"The holidays should be a joyous time and not a stressful time. Unfortunately, not everyone will be able to afford presents and food for their families," said Brown. "The purpose of this event is to help those in need of support during the holiday season."

For more information, contact the church office at 432-267-7158.

CISD trustees set for closed session

Herald Staff Report

Trustees with the Coahoma Independent School District are expected to go into closed session Thursday during their monthly meeting to discuss personnel matters.

The closed session is listed at the end of the meeting's publicly posted agenda, which is set for 7:30 p.m. in the elementary's faculty dining room, 400

Ramsey Street, Coahoma.

Also on the agenda, trustees will:

- Hear a presentation by elementary school principal Charlotte Stovall about the campus.
- Approve the district's outside audit report from Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP.
- Hear an update on the district's drug testing policy and procedure by CISD Superintendent Amy Jacobs.

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Community Health Center sets open house

Herald Staff Report

The Howard County Community Health Center will be hosting an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, at 1300 Gregg. Tours of the clinic will be available. Snacks will be, too.

The clinic offers X-ray and lab services on site or through referral arrangements at a local facility. Pharmaceutical services are available to those who qualify, allowing patients to obtain prescriptions for a nominal fee. The clinic's social services assists clients of all ages to connect with resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, WIC, CHIP and other community programs.

Dental services are available and assists clients of all ages with dental cleaning, fillings, extractions and dentures or partials.

See **OPEN HOUSE**, Page 3

Dec. 18
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Chamber board handles routine activities

By **ANDREIA MEDLIN**
Staff Writer



The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has declared November a "great success" at the meeting held at Howard College today. Following the approval of minutes from last month's meeting, Jim Clements, Chamber President, read a statement from the Salvation Army expressing their appreciation of help with their annual toy drive. With donations from Al's Barbecue, anonymous donations and a matching donation from Wal-Mart, the Chamber was able to purchase \$1,300 worth of toys for the area's needy children. Treasurer Mark Morgan reported that as "Jim's Christmas pres-

ent," that there is \$19,000 in cash, \$6,700 membership revenue, \$8,500 revenue due and that the Chamber is \$16,000 in the black.

In business development, Chamber member Manny Negron reported that a local business, the Crown Bird, will have its ribbon cutting Jan. 9. Negron also declared that 12 Days to Black Friday and the toy drive, "Was a great success."

Debbie Valverde, executive director, reminded the group that the date for the annual Chamber banquet will be Feb. 3, with the theme "Progress in Motion."

Big Spring Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Debbie Wegman reported that the Big Spring Symphony performance was successful, that the Festival of Lights continues throughout the month and that there are events

in the works at the Heritage Museum.

In governmental affairs, Lisa Brooks reported that the "Good news is that for the first time in many years, the U.S. government is operating on a budget which means that there won't be a government shut down for the next two years."

Brooks also reported that Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has proposed \$60 billion to increase border security. Also, "Elections are coming up and there are contested races on the local, state and national levels."

Chamber member Bruce Schooler welcomed two new members, Drew Darby and Dazzling Décor, to the Chamber.

Schooler also noted that there has been a 60 percent increase in the Chamber's Facebook page and deemed it a

"valuable resource."

Forsan ISD Superintendent Randy Johnson reported that the planning stage for the new elementary is wrapping up.

"The fun part of the construction design for the elementary school is almost done. The not-so-fun part, called the value engineering, means we're trying to get the budget back in line. It's amazing the cost of dirt work. We thought we had padded the budget well enough, but the oil field is sucking up all those guys up and they're charging whatever they want to charge. Things are moving along and we hope to breaking ground and we pushed the bidding to the end of January or early February. Lots of good things there," he said.

Academically, Forsan elementary won its University Interscholastic

League competition and the Junior High placed second, according to Johnson.

Johnson said that he is proud of their successes and also for all the Forsan sports that have made the playoffs.

Big Spring ISD interim superintendent Chris Wigington spoke about the football team making the playoffs and that, "My sons keep telling me it's OK, Dad," referencing the Steers' loss to Stephenville. But that it was, "probably one of the best football games I've ever seen."

Wigington also said "The girls did go to the state volleyball tournament and some of the boys are taking off their helmets and pads and are playing a little basketball. Cross country went to district and did well. Just getting ready to start up for the next year. Things are going well."

Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks reminded everyone of ongoing registration.

"We, too, are having a lot of success with our athletic students. Two of our former rodeo students won world in Vegas and made big money. Two softball students, one that is still with us, won a national award for softball last year and if you watch NBA, Jay Crowder is often mentioned as being from Howard College."

Sparks also mentioned that following the West Texas Energy Consortium, "I was shocked at how impressed everyone was with our campus."

Clements wrapped up the meeting by wishing everyone Merry Christmas and said, "There's been a lot of activity in the building this past month and we look forward to the coming year."

Texas Medical Board Physician disciplinary actions

Teveni, Pablo Cortez Jr., M.D., Lic. No. H2972, Stanton
On Dec. 6, 2013, the Board and Pablo Cortez Teveni Jr., M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring Dr. Teveni to within one year complete at least eight hours of CME in treatment of chronic renal failure, evaluation and related complications. The Board found Dr. Teveni failed to meet the standard of care in the treatment of a patient. Specifically, Dr. Teveni failed to appropriately follow up, manage the patient's lab results, and treat the patient for acute renal failure.

MAKE-UP

Continued from Page 1
A day planned day off to make up the two canceled days of classes. For Coahoma students, those days are Feb. 17 and May 26.
"We still have the rest of the school year to go," said Amy Jacobs, CISD superintendent. "If we have to cancel any more classes for bad weather we will have to apply for a waiver from TEA to waive that instruction day due to hazardous weather conditions."
Area school districts will let out for Christmas break Friday.

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

OPEN HOUSE

Continued from Page 1
Glasses or contacts are available through their optometry services. HC-CHC also offers behavioral health services with therapeutic intervention or counseling in a wide array of areas including depression, anxiety, anger management, substance abuse, stress, sexual problems, self harming, bipolar disorder, relational issues, grief and loss and trauma.
Family and community-oriented primary health care services are available to anyone requiring health care. The clinic, by meeting

federal and state statutes, can offer patients who qualify a discount on charges based on income and family size.

The healthcare team serves all clients of all ages. Infants get well baby checks, immunizations, anemia checks, physicals, acute care services and monitoring of growth and development. Information is provided to the parents regarding safety and other parenting concerns. As they grow, children receive continued monitoring of growth and development, rudimentary exams of the mouth and teeth, acute care services and information on the topics of health maintenance. For teens, ongoing monitoring of growth and development, acute

TAKE NOTE

- A book signing for James Johnston's "Crossroads Canaan, A Texas Town in the Jazz Age," will be held Thursday, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry St.
- Big Spring Independent School District will release students early Friday, Dec. 20. Classes will end at 12:30 p.m. for the Fall semester. The district will resume classes on Jan 7 for all students. Teachers will have an in-service day on Jan. 6.
- Big Spring RSVP is celebrating 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.

- 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, at the Hotel Settles. Evening events begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour. 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.

HOMETOWN

Continued from Page 1
"We've received many, many anonymous donations," she said. "People have come through with money and toys and all kinds of items. We're very grateful for that."
Gifts will be distributed beginning Monday, she added.
Wells Fargo accepts Hometown Christmas donations year-round, Knocke said.



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care services, immunizations, services related to emerging sexuality and pregnancy prevention and information on health issues are available.
Further monitoring of growth and development and screening for at-risk conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure are continued into adulthood. The clinic specializes in treatment of chronic conditions and provides education to avoid complications. Access to prenatal care is also made possible.
For those with diabetes, providers can help patients learn about management through counseling and diet, exercise and medication. Special programs for seniors are also available to help with health and financial needs.
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call the clinic at 517-4557 or visit the website at www.sprhs.org
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Alex Torres, 57, died Sunday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. this evening at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

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Opinion

I'm not amused any longer

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

—FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

Let us learn to be more tolerant of others and their ways, dear Lord.

Amen

Like most of the world, I was initially amused by the fake interpreter fiasco that happened during the internationally televised memorial service for Nelson Mandela. After realizing the gravity of the matter, however, my amusement soon turned to anxiety and serious concern about what could have happened. If by some remote chance you don't know about it, I'll give you a brief synopsis of perhaps one of the most bizarre and potentially disastrous things that has happened in a long time, especially as it relates to the United States. Our President was speaking and an arm's length away from him was a supposed interpreter. That man was making signs but they were nothing more than silly meaningless gestures. How his shenanigans continued for so long without him being slammed to the ground, cuffed, and escorted from the stage is beyond my comprehension, especially in light of information that has been released since the incident.

Many of us clearly and affectionately remember the United States we grew up in. Ours was a world of security, confidence, prosperity and peace. Even though we periodically huddled under our desks at school in preparation for protection from falling bombs which we believed the Russians might drop on us, down in our heart of hearts we didn't really believe it was anything to seriously worry about. The US was invincible. Nothing was an actual threat to the security of our precious homeland soil.

But as we learned so vividly on September 11, 2001, our invincibility was an illusion. It has been referred to as "the day that changed the world," and how true that is. We learned in shocking fashion how dramatically our world could change in a matter of minutes. But if you think things changed on 9/11, think for a moment what might have been just a few days ago.

In the hours before President Barack Obama arrived at a Johannesburg soccer stadium to honor Nelson Mandela, the White House staff was in the

dark on critical details. Where would the president and first lady sit? When was Obama supposed to speak? Who else would be on stage during the speech? The result was an array of confusion and security risks that typically would not be tolerated by the Secret Service in the United States. The situation showed just how the Secret Service often is at the mercy of foreign governments to make arrangements when the president is overseas. There were metal detectors and X-ray machines at the stadium, but they were not used on the initial crowds streaming in for the ceremony, according to Associated Press reporters on scene.

Many people walked through with little or no screening. Inside the stadium there were few signs of the heavy security that routinely would accompany an event with Obama and other world leaders.

The VIP section was where Obama and dozens of other dignitaries sat, including former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. This area was protected by a short pane of protective glass that covered only those in the first row of seats. Obama and his wife were several rows back. Large crowds were allowed to gather in front of where Obama sat, with no visible security nearby.

When President Obama made his way to the stage to deliver his speech, the aforementioned South African sign-language interpreter stood an arm's length away. This man later described himself as schizophrenic with violent tendencies, and he reportedly was accused of murder 10 years ago, according to eNCA, the national TV news station in South Africa. That is an unimaginable scenario and one that lends itself to the mind-boggling possibilities that could have become life-changing and devastating reality for all of us. I don't need to be more descriptive, I'm sure.

The Secret Service is charged with keeping the president, vice president and their families safe. Presidential trips, whether across the country or around the world, are meticulously planned with every imaginable detail within the agency's control managed and scheduled. But once the president leaves the United States, the Secret Service isn't always entirely in control.

Joe Hagin, a former deputy White House chief of staff for Bush, said that to some degree the Secret Service is at the mercy of a host government. "There's a lot of diplomacy involved in one of these trips," said Hagin, now a partner at Command Consulting Group in Washington. "The White House is very demanding. But there's a fine line in what you can demand and what you can't." Hagin said some security issues are simply nonnegotiable, including allowing the president to ride in any vehicle that hasn't been flown in by the Secret Service.

"You manage the risks. You can never fully mitigate them," Hagin said.

President Ronald Reagan wanted to travel to Egypt for the funeral of Anwar Sadat, who was assassinated in Cairo in 1981.

"Reagan wanted to go and the Secret Service said no," said Hagin, who also worked in the White House under Reagan.

I readily acknowledge the legacy of Mr. Mandela and he certainly deserved world-wide honor but I believe the United States government made a mistake in allowing President Obama to be placed in such a potentially dangerous situation. My reason is simple; if something had happened to him there is no way to comprehend the chaos in America that would have ensued. Our government is so divided and dysfunctional right now that it would have been one of the greatest disasters in American history. At a time when our nation is already stumbling on uncertain legs through a minefield of financial instability and Congress is stubbornly divided along party lines on a vast array of critical social and legal issues, our Commander-in-Chief simply cannot be allowed to be three feet away from a possible lunatic. When I realize what might have been the result of this monumental lack of security by the South African government the initial amusement of it all evaporates in a hurry.

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

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

We are children of corn subsidies

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Tom Coburn, R-Okla., are about as opposite politically as two people can be. Nonetheless, last week they joined forces to introduce a bill to repeal the federal requirement to blend corn ethanol into gasoline.

There's something in the ethanol mandate for almost everyone — but corn farmers — not to like. Supporters of the mandate meant well, but the law of unintended consequences has created an odd assortment of anti-ethanol bedfellows.

Environmentalists have turned on corn ethanol. It doesn't reduce greenhouse gases, they now say, and increased corn production has pumped more fertilizer into the water supply. Environmental Working Group Vice President Scott Faber told Congress that the corn ethanol Renewable Fuel Standard "is polluting America's air and water, contributing to climate change, hurting consumers and hindering the development of cleaner biofuels."

Big Oil doesn't like the ethanol standard. Federal automobile fuel-efficiency regulations have

put a dent in the demand for gasoline. Oil companies already buy enough ethanol to blend 10 percent of it into gasoline; they are up against a "blend wall" — they have to buy more ethanol than they can use.

Big Food doesn't like the ethanol mandate; diverting roughly 44 percent of the corn supply to gas tanks has driven up the cost of livestock feed and people food. Price-Waterhouse-Coopers predicts the current renewable fuel standards will increase costs to chain restaurants by up to \$3.1 billion per year.

Anti-poverty activists oppose the ethanol standard because of its effect on food prices and food supply.

Oxfam America charges that the 2007 regulation has resulted in a 15 percent reduction in global corn supplies.

The Competitive Enterprise Institute and Taxpayers for Common Sense support the Feinstein-Coburn Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act of 2013.

According to conventional political wisdom, the Iowa presidential caucus has given ethanol an outsized advantage inside Washington. But the Environmental Working Group's Faber believes that theory doesn't hold water anymore. Former GOP nominee John McCain and Mitt Romney both opposed the scheme.

While voters in the Hawkeye State may support the Renewable Fuel Standard, Faber added, "corn ethanol is unbelievably unpopular" in three key primary states. In New Hampshire, voters blame it for engine damage. In South Carolina, it drives up the cost of raising chickens. There's "not a lot of corn grown in Nevada," but there is livestock.

In response to the growing resentment of the program, the EPA has proposed reducing the Renewable Fuel Standard's bio-fuels requirement in 2014. That's too little, too late. Feinstein predicts that under the proposed EPA regulations, gasoline prices still would rise, and California dairy farms still would struggle to stay in business.

Maybe there was a time when Washington's ethanol policies seemed smart and green. Now they carry the stench of failed ranches, high food prices and unnecessary environmental damage. So Congress should clean up after its mistake — and quickly.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



EDDY PRINCE



DEBRA SAUNDERS

News in brief

Bipartisan budget pact aimed at ending budget showdowns nears Senate OK, Obama's signature

WASHINGTON (AP) — A modest, bipartisan budget pact designed to keep Washington from lurching from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis and ease the harshest effects of automatic budget cuts is on the brink of passing the Senate.

The Senate is on track to clear the bill Wednesday for President Barack Obama's signature after a 67-33 vote Tuesday in which it easily hurdled a filibuster threshold.

The measure would restore \$45 billion, half the amount scheduled to be automatically cut from the 2014 operating budgets of the Pentagon and some domestic agencies, lifting them above \$1 trillion. An additional \$18 billion for 2015 would provide enough relief to essentially freeze spending at those levels for the year.

The bill advanced Tuesday with the help of 12 Republicans, several of whom promised to oppose the measure in Wednesday's final vote because it fails to take on the nation's most pressing fiscal challenges. It would barely dent deficits that are predicted to lessen in the short term but grow larger by the end of the decade and into the next.

One provision, cutting the inflation increases of pensions for military retirees under the age of 62, was proving to be especially unpopular. Members of the military are eligible to retire after 20 years at half pay. The provision was included in the bill at the direction of House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Lottery officials: Winning tickets sold in California, Georgia for \$636M Mega Millions jackpot

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The two winning Mega Millions tickets were sold in California and Georgia, lottery officials said Wednesday.

The \$636 million jackpot was the second-largest lottery prize in U.S. history.

One ticket was sold in San Jose, Calif., California Lottery spokesman Alex Traverso said. The other was sold in Georgia, but Mega Millions' lead director Paula Otto said early Wednesday morning that

she didn't yet know in which city it had been sold.

Otto, who is also the Virginia Lottery's executive director, said \$336 million in tickets were sold for Tuesday's drawing — they had projected \$319 million.

"Sales were a little better than we'd anticipated," Otto said. "It was a fun run, it was our first holiday run for either of the big jackpot games."

Fed, after meeting, is expected to maintain its pace of bond purchases for now

WASHINGTON (AP) — Investors are waiting to see whether one of Ben Bernanke's final acts as chairman of the Federal Reserve will be to announce a pullback in the Fed's bond purchases. The purchases have been intended to keep long-term loan rates low to spur economic growth.

It's a close call.

But most economists think that when the Fed's latest policy meeting ends Wednesday, it will announce that it's maintaining its pace of \$85 billion a month in bond purchases despite a drop in unemployment to 7 percent and other improving economic data.

One factor in the Fed's hesitance to reduce its stimulus is that inflation remains historically low. The Fed's optimal rate is 2 percent. For the 12 months ending in October, consumer inflation as measured by the Fed's preferred index is just 0.7 percent, well below its target. The Fed is as concerned about under-shooting the inflation target as over-shooting it. Both are seen as threats to the economy.

On Wednesday, Bernanke will also give his final quarterly news conference. His second four-year term as chairman ends Jan. 31, when Vice Chair Janet Yellen will likely succeed him. The Senate is expected to approve Yellen's nomination this week.

Gunman opens fire at Reno hospital campus, kills himself, 1 other; 2 critical

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Some fled in panic as gunshots echoed through a sprawling Reno hospital

complex while others locked themselves in medical offices as dozens of police cars and SWAT teams sealed off a three-block area and heavily armed officers began a nervous room-to-room search.

A suicidal gunman killed one person and critically wounded two others — including a doctor — who were rushed across the campus to emergency surgery after the intruder turned the gun on himself Tuesday.

The male gunman and his victim were found on the third floor in the same general area of the medical office building, all four with gunshot wounds. The two survivors were in critical condition.

It doesn't appear to have been a random shooting, but investigators have more questions than answers about what led to the mid-afternoon attack on the grounds of the Renown Regional Medical Center, Reno Deputy Police Chief Tom Robinson said.

"I wouldn't say they were targeted, but I don't think it was just a random (incident where the shooter decided) 'I'm going to go up there and start shooting,'" Robinson told reporters outside the medical building. He appealed to the public to contact detectives if they saw anything suspicious outside the hospital before the shooting.

Mandela grandson declines comment on report relatives locked him out of family homestead

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Mandla Mandela, grandson of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, won't comment on a report that he was locked out of the family's homestead in the village of Qunu by relatives four days before his grandfather was buried there.

The Johannesburg tabloid The Times reported Tuesday that locks at Nelson Mandela's home in the Eastern Cape hamlet were changed shortly after his eldest daughter, Makaziwe Mandela, arrived on Thursday.

At the time, Mandla Mandela was keeping vigil next to his grandfather's coffin while the anti-apartheid hero's body lay in state at the Union Buildings in Pretoria for three days.

He escorted the coffin to Qunu on Saturday for Mandela's funeral the following day.

U.S. church that funds Haiti orphanage with high-end antiques store runs afoul of government

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — At the Olde Good Things antique store on Manhattan's Upper West Side, a French crystal chandelier can go for tens of thousands of dollars. A marble mantel sells for more than \$20,000 and hand-carved dinner tables are priced even higher.

The store's Christian missionary owners offer their well-heeled customers a heart-warming story: Part of the proceeds pay for the group's orphanage in Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world. What they don't say is that even though they claim in IRS filings to be spending around \$2.5 million annually, the home for boys and girls was so dirty and overcrowded during recent inspections that the government said it shouldn't remain open.

The Associated Press made an unannounced visit to the orphanage's two homes, currently holding a total of 120 kids, in November and found conditions a world away from the opulent Manhattan apartments decorated with the store's antiques. Bunk beds with faded and worn mattresses were crowded into dirty rooms. Sour air wafted through the bathrooms and stairwells. Rooms were dark and spartan, lacking comforts or decoration.

While many other orphanages also failed the Caribbean country's new national standards, and conditions are far worse in some, the group's three-story building on the hilly outskirts of Port-au-Prince stands out because it's run by an organization with such an unusual, and successful fundraising operation.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Defusing a Threat

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 4
♥ Q 10 4 3
♦ A 7 6 5 2
♣ Q 5

WEST
♠ A Q J 8 5 2
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 3
♣ J 10 3

EAST
♠ 10 9 3
♥ 6 5
♦ J 9 8
♣ K 9 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ K 7
♥ A K J 9 8
♦ K 10 4
♣ A 6 2

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

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

In many hands, declarer finds it more dangerous to have one opponent on lead than the other. This is usually because the dangerous opponent, by gaining the lead, can either run a long suit or return a suit that threatens a key card in the dummy or declarer's hand.

Consider the present deal, where South's overriding concern should be to keep East off lead in order to prevent a potentially killing lead through the king of spades.

Declarer's first step in this direction should be to play low from dummy on West's jack-of-clubs lead, and then also play low from his hand. He should not put up the queen. If he does, East might subsequently gain the lead with a club, while if he doesn't, East can never gain the lead with a club.

Let's say West continues with a club and South takes East's king with the ace. Pursuing his aim to keep East out of the lead, declarer cashes the A-Q of trumps and returns a diamond from dummy, covering East's eight with the ten.

South's avoidance policy now pays off because West, on lead with the queen of diamonds, can do declarer no harm. In fact, if West doesn't cash the ace of spades at this point, he loses it.

Playing in this fashion does not constitute an especially brilliant feat on declarer's part. It merely shows a healthy respect for the danger East poses to making the contract.

Tomorrow: Three vital elements.
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News in brief

DA tries again to put drunken teen behind bars

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — North Texas prosecutors are trying a second time to imprison a teen who was sentenced last week to 10 years' probation for drunkenly driving his truck into four pedestrians, killing them all.

Tarrant County District Attorney Joe Shannon has asked a juvenile judge to put 16-year-old Ethan Couch behind bars on two cases of intoxication assault that he says are still pending before the court, The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Tuesday.

"During his recent trial, the 16-year-old admitted his guilt in four cases of intoxication manslaughter and two cases of intoxication assault," Shannon said in an email to the newspaper.

"There has been no verdict formally entered in the two intoxication assault cases. Every case deserves a verdict."

Two teens riding in the back of Couch's Ford F-350 pickup in the June wreck suffered critical injuries. According to testimony, one of them, Sergio Molina, is paralyzed and can communicate only by blinking.

District Judge Jean Boyd gave Couch 10 years' probation last Tuesday after a sentencing hearing in which Couch's attorneys argued his wealthy parents coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility — an affliction one witness called "affluenza." Prosecutors had asked for a maximum prison sentence of 20 years.

A message could not be left with the judge after hours. A message left with a one of Couch's defense attorneys was not immediately returned.

Couch's blood-alcohol level was three times the legal limit and there were traces of Valium in his system when he lost control of his pickup, plowing into a group of people helping a woman whose car had stalled.

San Antonio man gets life term for deadly wreck

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A man facing federal drug charges in South Texas has been sentenced to life in prison over a 2012 wrong-way traffic accident that left two young brothers dead.

Prosecutors in San Antonio say 31-year-old David Rodriguez was fleeing with more than 400 pounds of marijuana in his vehicle when the accident happened.

Rodriguez on Friday was convicted of murder in the death of 1-year-old Wesley Maspero. Rodriguez on Tuesday was sentenced to the maximum penalty over the wreck that also killed 3-year-old Walter Maspero. Rodriguez still faces a murder charge in the death of the older boy.

Both children were in a station wagon with their parents when a pickup truck driven by Rodriguez was going the wrong way and struck the family's

car.

Austin man charged with killing wife at home

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Central Texas man has been charged with killing his wife whose body was found at their home after a call to police about someone dying.

Travis County jail records show 40-year-old Jesus Juan Tamez of Austin was being held Wednesday on a murder charge with bond set at \$1 million. Online jail records do not list an attorney for Tamez, who was booked Tuesday.

Investigators say 47-year-old Elizabeth Garcia Tamez was dead at the scene Saturday night and her husband was arrested at the Austin home. A coroner has ruled the woman died from blunt force trauma and was stabbed.

Austin police are seeking a motive for the slaying and investigating whether the husband was the person who called to report a woman was dying.

Imprisoned man pleads guilty to 1984 Texas slaying

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — An inmate serving 70 years in a North Texas drug case has pleaded guilty to the 1984 slaying of an elderly woman and was sentenced to 20 more years behind bars.

Prosecutors in Tarrant County say 59-year-old James L. Sanders pleaded guilty Tuesday to murder in a cold case finally solved with DNA evidence.

Fort Worth police on Jan. 6, 1984, responded to reports of a woman attacked at her home. Investigators say 82-year-old Elsie Deem Stuck was beaten but managed to call a friend, who summoned help. Stuck died several weeks later.

Detectives in 2008 requested DNA testing on Stuck's bedding and pajamas. A law enforcement database matched DNA evidence to Sanders, who was imprisoned for a Tarrant County drug conviction.

Man who killed 2 fleeing, sentenced to 20 years

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — An Alabama man who killed two people while fleeing Border Patrol near the Texas-Mexico border has been sentenced to 20 years in prison.

U.S. District Judge Alia Moses sentenced 39-year-old David Steiner on Tuesday for felony assault of a Border Patrol agent.

The U.S. Attorney's office said Steiner was driving a stolen vehicle in May 2012, when he drove at agents trying to avoid a traffic stop near Comstock. Agents later came upon an accident where Steiner had hit an oncoming vehicle killing two passengers and seriously injuring the driver.

The judge also ordered Steiner to pay \$4,390 in restitution for the vehicle he stole and wrecked.

County GOP sues Houston over same-sex benefits

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County Republicans have sued the city of Houston over its extension of health and life insurance benefits last month to legally married same-sex spouses of city employees.

Jared Woodfill, chairman of the Harris County Republican party, told the Houston Chronicle Tuesday the city acted unilaterally.

The lawsuit filed in state District court alleges the mechanism used by Mayor Annise Parker, who is openly gay, violated the city charter, the state Defense of Marriage Act and Texas Constitution.

City Attorney David Feldman said he expected the lawsuit would be thrown out because the filers did not appear to have legal standing.

An opinion issued in April by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said local governments offering such benefits are violating the state constitution.

Santa visits Bush presidential center in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Santa Claus has made himself at home in a replica of the Oval Office.

Officials with the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas say Santa Claus will be on hand through Thursday for photos and to greet visitors. The Bush Center, which opened earlier this year, advertises the visit as something for people "looking for a twist" for their annual photo with Santa.

The Bush Center stays open a few hours later than usual Wednesday and Thursday, closing at 9 p.m. CST, during the holiday event dubbed "Merry and Bright Nights."

Visitors can check out the exhibit, "Home for the Holidays: Christmas at the White House 2001." The display, open through Jan. 5, is meant to offer a recreated glimpse of the 2001 White House holiday celebration.

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

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Forsan, Big Spring teams come away with wins

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

GIRLS

FORSAN — The Bulldogettes (5-6) and Lady Buffaloes (6-4) were trading buckets in the early going, but Forsan pulled away in the second half, earning a 47-28 victory over its rivals Tuesday.

Raegan Haggard registered a game-high 16 points and Mary-Ashley McDaniel had 13 points, including three 3-pointers.

By the end of the third period, the Lady Buffs had built a 29-19 lead and went on to outscore Coahoma 18-9 in the final quarter.

“They definitely had height on us,” said FHS head Coach Lindsey Schmidt. “That was something we had to overcome. It was a high-intensity game and for the girls to come out and meet the challenge. It took us a little bit to settle down and play our game, but I thought the girls battled in the second half and the defense got a lot better.”

Lauren Simer and Kaeli Yager each put up seven to lead CHS. The Bulldogettes led 9-7 after the first frame, but were outscored in the next three.

“It was tough loss,” CHS Head Coach Paul Hartman said. “We need to work

on our transition defense, getting back on missed shots and things like that. Offensively, we shot a poor percentage.”

Hartman believes his squad is built for defense and has held most opponents thus far to under 40 points per game. With a little more fine tuning, he explained, the stingy defense could be the key to the season.

“We are going to be working on our defense a lot this week, we will work on our transitions,” he said. “Good teams play good defense every night.”

Coahoma will resume play at

Stamford on Friday at 5:30 p.m., while Forsan will head to Colorado City for a game slated for 6:30 p.m.

Stats

Coahoma: Kaeli Yager, 7; Lauren Simer, 7; McClayne Holgerson, 5; Julia Castilaw, 3; Kyla Clanton, 3; Savannah Neff, 3.

Forsan: Raegan Haggard, 16; Mary-Ashley McDaniel, 13; Brittney Hergert, 8; Maria Ortiz, 4; Rachel Haggard, 2; Kendall Phillips, 2; Jahnia Willard, 2.

STANTON — Big Spring (10-3) rolled past Stanton (7-5) Tuesday

See **HOOPS**, Page 15



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

Left: Forsan's J.T. Breyman shoots a layup as Coahoma's Tyler Franks defends during Tuesday's game in Forsan. The Buffaloes won 53-45. Right: Coahoma's Julia Castilaw takes a shot over the head of Forsan's Maria Ortiz. The Lady Buffaloes defeated the Bulldogettes 47-28.

Saban: There were no talks with Texas

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama coach Nick Saban and the football team are moving on. Saban has put to rest the speculation that he would replace Mack Brown at Texas by striking a new deal with Alabama.

For the third-ranked Crimson Tide, the focus is on getting over the loss to Auburn and trying to finish the season strong in the Jan. 2 Sugar Bowl against No. 11 Oklahoma.

Saban had said Friday night after agreeing to a new contract reportedly worth about \$7 million a year that he planned to retire at Alabama.

He said “there were no talks” between his representatives and Texas and pointed to comments on ESPN that he “never considered going to Texas.”

“I think I’ve already made a reaction to that,” Saban said. “Don’t you watch ESPN? Didn’t you see what they put down across the bottom line. That’s

my reaction to it.

“I don’t have any more reactions to it. I think it’s kind of over so why do we want to talk about that? We look forward. I’m looking forward. I made a commitment to our players that are here and I’m happy to be committed to them and I want them to make the same kind of commitment to the program and to their future success.”

Brown announced his resignation at Texas on Saturday.

Several Texas agents and a former regent were involved in a meeting with Saban’s agent last January to gauge the coach’s interest in coming to Texas. Saban found the best way to quash that talk: Re-upping with the Tide.

Receiver Kevin Norwood never doubted it.

“I went home for the break or whatever, and everybody was basically talking about it,” Norwood said. “And I was like, ‘Coach Saban is not going any-

where.’ And whatever social media was saying, whatever was happening after that, I pretty much ignored it.”

Alabama (11-1) returned to the practice field on Tuesday for the first time since the Iron Bowl.

The game was tied until Chris Davis returned a missed field goal 109 yards for a touchdown on the final play to effectively end Alabama’s bid for a third straight national championship.

Now, the team is gearing up for a bowl trip that would be a prize for most teams, but could be viewed as a disappointment for the Tide.

“We’re fired up playing Oklahoma,” defensive end Jeffrey Pagan said. “It’s not for a national championship or anything, but we’re going to go into it like it is.”

“We’re going to try to finish this season as strong

See **SABAN**, page 15

Obama selects gay athletes for Sochi Games delegation

(AP) — President Barack Obama sent Russia a clear message about its treatment of gays and lesbians with who he is — and isn’t — sending to represent the United States at the Sochi Olympics.

Billie Jean King will be one of two openly gay athletes in the U.S. delegation for the opening and closing ceremonies, Obama announced Tuesday. For the first time since 2000, however, the U.S. will not send a president, former president, first lady or vice president to the Games.

Russia has come un-

der fierce criticism for passing national laws banning “gay propaganda.” Though the White House did not specifically address the Russian laws in making its announcement, spokesman Shin Inouye said the delegation “represents the diversity that is the United States” and that Obama “knows they will showcase to the world the best of America — diversity, determination and teamwork.”

The White House said Obama’s schedule will not permit him to

See **GAMES**, Page 16

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Legals

Notice of Application for Fluid Injection Well Permit
P.O.&G. Operating, LLC, 5847 San Felipe, Suite 3200, Houston, TX 77057 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to amend a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.
The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Pennsylvanian Reef formation, Griffin Ranch Lease, Well #9. The proposed injection well is located 18.75 miles southeast of Gail, in the Hobo (Pennsylvanian) Field, in Borden County. Fluid will be injected into the strata in the amended subsurface depth interval from 4,033' to 7,500' feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).
#8102 December 18, 2013

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LEGAL NOTICE:
These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on February 19, 2014. You have until August 18, 2014 to redeem any ticket for these games: **#1532 Lady Bucks** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.18, **#1533 Cash 2 Go** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.72, **#1541 Find the 9's** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 3.76, **#1457 Kiss** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.18, **#1474 Veterans Cash** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.14, **#1494 Wild Card** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.21, **#1518 Cash Bam Boom** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.73, **#1506 Star Trek** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.77, **#1539 Bonus Ball Bingo** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.93, **#1456 Diamonds & Gold** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.33, **#1505 Mucho Cash Fiesta** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.82, **#1508 Money Mania** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.82, **#1519 Stacks of Cash** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.83. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$1,000,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at **1-800-37LOTTO** or visit the Lottery Web site at **txlottery.org** for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, plays, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2013 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved. #8097 December 18, 2013

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC, 200 N. LORAIN, SUITE 530, MIDLAND, TEXAS is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Grayburg/San Andres formation, in the Glasscock, Howard W. (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 1100W. The well is located 15 miles North from Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000' to 3000'. **LEGAL AUTHORITY:** Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (Telephone (512)463-6792). #8103 December 18, 2013

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Full Moon After Party

Yesterday brought the full moon in Gemini and a direction change for Uranus, two aspects that have some of us feeling all wound up and not ready to settle down despite the Cancer moon's urgings to go home and pipe down. Consider this day the after party, and make the most during these final days of the adventurous Sagittarius sun.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While waiting for sea monkeys to grow or for a parent to assemble a complicated toy, a child learns patience. If young children can learn not to expect immediate results, so can that childish person in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Of course people should take care of themselves. But you're willing to go the extra mile to take care of others — and not just when they are sick or weary, but any old time at all. It's part of how you show your love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll get plenty accomplished because you thrive in the very atmosphere others fear. You're fine with being alone, and you're not afraid of silence, either. In fact, you prefer it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you look for opportunities, you're not seeking a free handout or benefit. Instead, you're looking for a chance to match your skills with another

person's needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be dealing with people of all ages. It can be difficult to keep everyone's developmental stage in mind, but try to remember not to treat older people like children or children like older people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While a relationship is obviously uneven, the fact remains that you're there for a reason. Keeping score won't change that and will only make you feel worse about the arrangement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Avoid the passive-aggressive choice to remain silent as a means of making someone pay attention to you. It will be far more effective to say what you need to say and get feelings out in the open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes taking your grievances directly to the source is not the best idea. Give it some time. You'll feel differently tomorrow, and Friday will change your stance yet again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your creativity is flowing even stronger than usual. Consider using it to surprise the one you love. You'll thrill to the happy, excited response your efforts earn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Friends who don't take an interest when you speak of your hopes and dreams aren't really friends at all. Rather, they are people who conveniently fit into your current lifestyle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Go off script. If you make a scripted inquiry, you'll get an

insincere response. Say what you really want to express, and ask what you really want to know.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's no need to test a person's loyalty; just assume they are loyal and be loyal in return. Know that everyone is trying to do what's best. Stay focused on the things that will improve your corner of the scene.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 18). A relationship has taught you well, though the "watch and learn" mode ends in January. You'll love the feeling of being in charge in 2014. February brings a fun twist to your domestic arrangement. March sends you on a work-related quest. In May, you'll prove you're ready for more power and responsibility. Cancer and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 4, 33 and 28.

HOLIDAY STRESS RELIEVERS: So many feel spent and blue in December. What can you do to counteract holiday stress?

SCORPIO: For Scorpio, feeling close to people relieves stress. Scorpio likes to be around those who feel comfortable and familiar and feels most at home relaxing with intimate friends. It's likely that these people share Scorpio's sense of humor and even have a special language of inside jokes and knowledge. Operating inside these special relationships makes Scorpio feel safe, loved and at ease.

One might think that Scorpio's closest relationships are with family members, because family

typically has known Scorpio longer and better than others. However, for Scorpio and many others, relationships formed with friends of choice are often deeper and more intimate than the familial bonds chosen by fate. Similarly, it shouldn't be assumed that Scorpio is closest to the people in his or her inner circle of friends. It is not unusual for Scorpio to feel most intimately bonded with a person who isn't often around. Sometimes Scorpio will feel intrinsically tied to a favorite but distant person. Contact with this person brings a flood of good feelings and the release of negative tension.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Bridgit Mendler joins an all-star cast including Tina Fey, Lady Gaga and Ray Liotta in the upcoming "Muppets Most Wanted." This Sagittarius star of the Disney series "Good Luck Charlie" was born under a harmonious Libra moon, indicating artistic flair and high levels of social and emotional intelligence. Her Jupiter also in Libra suggests an eye for design and political savvy, too.

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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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I just finished watching a piece on the news about young people assaulting others and calling it a game. It seems they walk up to unsuspecting people and throw the hardest punch they can to the face in an effort to knock someone out.

In one instance, a man was hit so hard, he fell face first to the curb and fractured his skull. He died, and the person who hit him was charged with manslaughter. The kids being interviewed were all laughing about it, as if it were some sort of party. They said it was a macho thing, to prove how tough or strong you are.

The sad part is that they are raised as if their actions have no consequences. Parents, teach your children better before it's too late. — *Worried Adult*

Dear Adult: It's sad to see a world where children think assault is a sport, where the constant media barrage publicizes and glamorizes violence, and where these immature teens either don't understand the consequences of their actions or think prison is simply another badge of toughness. We doubt they would find this activity so much "fun" if the victim were someone they cared about.

We've forgotten how to be civilized to one another, nor do we value it. Parents not only need to teach compassion and responsibility to their children, but they have the added burden of combating the multiple pernicious influences around them. It's hard to raise kids these days, and we commend those parents who manage to do it well.

Dear Annie: I have a friend who often asks: "What's happening?" But when I attempt to tell her, she rudely interrupts and says, "I don't want to hear about it!" It doesn't matter what the subject is. She even interrupts for others, saying, "She doesn't want to hear about it!" She also cuts me off mid-sentence and mockingly finishes my thoughts for me. Attempting to carry on a conversation with her is hurtful and exasperating, and I find her to be extremely rude.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

However, if the conversation centers on her, it can go on forever. Also, if she is trying to impress people, no matter how boring the conversation, she hangs on their every word. I have to deal with this "conversation bully" often. How am I supposed to handle her? — *Sharp Stick in the Ear*

Dear Sharp: You are already aware that your friend is self-centered and only interested in conversation that is somehow beneficial to her. When she asks, "What's happening?" she doesn't really want to know. It's simply her way of saying hello. Here are your options: You can tell your friend how rude and upsetting this is and ask her to be more considerate; you can restrict your conversation to topics that stroke her ego; you can find other friends.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Furious and Concerned," whose physician cousin often treats and gives medication to family members.

The Medical Board of California does not prohibit physicians from treating family members, but does require that any prescribing of medications (and giving samples is indeed prescribing) be accompanied by an appropriate history and physical examination. It also requires that adequate medical records be kept of the treatment, the same as for any other patient. In California, the actions described would put that physician at risk of losing his license for unprofessional conduct.

I don't know what state this cousin lives in, but "Furious" should advise her relatives to stop asking him for free medical care. We all receive such requests, and they are often difficult to refuse. She also could send the physician a copy of this reply, as he may be unaware that his actions are putting his license at risk. — *Concerned MD in California*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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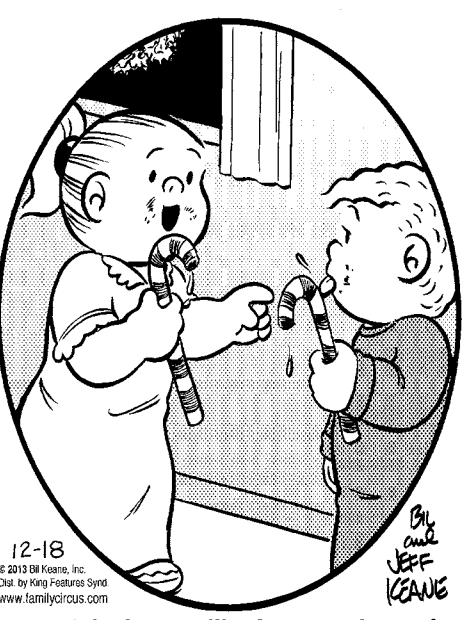
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DENNIS THE MENACE



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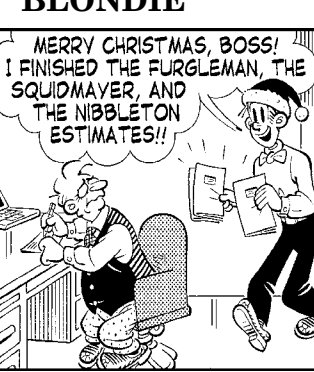


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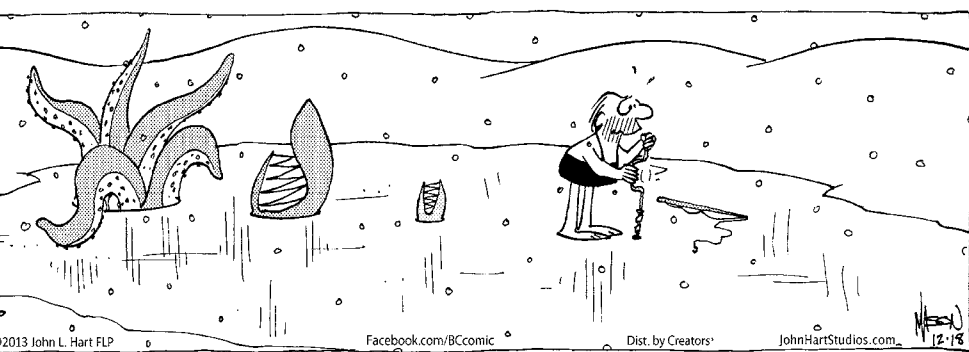
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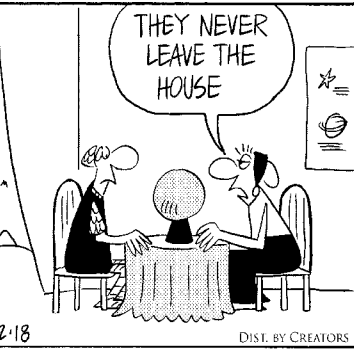
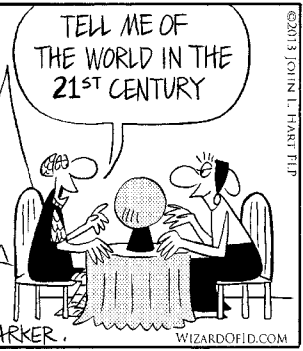


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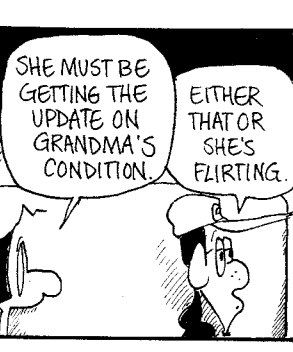


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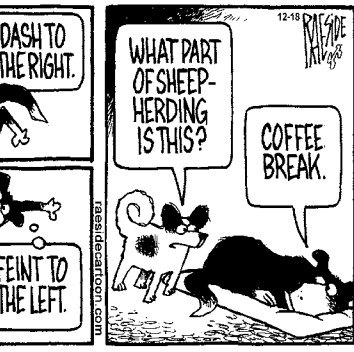
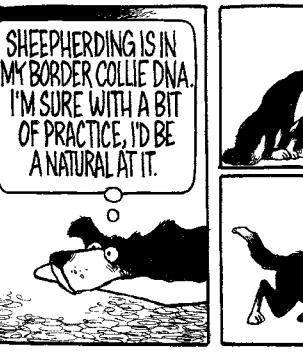
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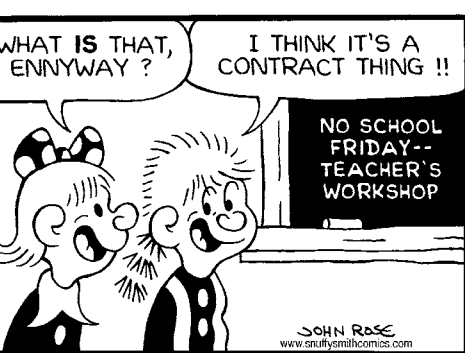
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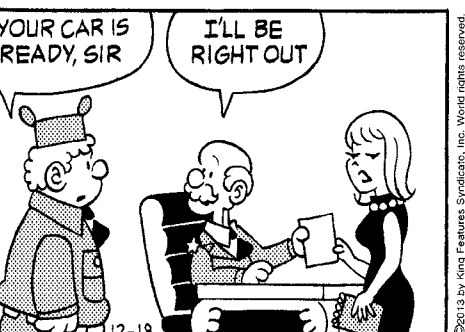
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2013. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1863, in a speech to the Prussian Parliament, Prime Minister Otto von Bismarck declared, "Politics is not an exact science."

In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1912, fossil collector Charles Dawson reported to the Geological Society of

London his discovery of supposedly fragmented early human remains at a gravel pit in Piltdown. (More than four decades later, Piltdown Man was exposed as a hoax.)

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson, widowed the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt at her Washington home.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler ordered secret preparations for Nazi Germany to invade the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1958, the world's first communications satellite, SCORE (Signal Communication by Orbiting Relay Equipment), nicknamed "Chatterbox," was launched by the United States aboard an Atlas rocket.

In 1971, the Rev. Jesse Jackson announced in Chicago the founding of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of

North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

In 1980, former Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin died at age 76.

In 1998, the House debated articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton. South Carolina carried out the nation's 500th execution since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

In 2011, the last convoy of heavily armored U.S. troops left Iraq, crossing into Kuwait in darkness in the final moments of a nine-year war.

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Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like ALAS, SPOT, LIONS, RILE, TAPE, ENDUP, CMON, IRAS, STROKE, HOUSE, ALL, SHRED, DECK, ALOE, HYMN, INFERS, ANDGO, TIONS, OREO, TOUR, OCTET, LIAR, ONCE, BEER, ADEPT, POTATO, DOOR, TREE, RAFT, ABODE, PINE, BLUFF, LIKEN, SNAG, AXLE, TREAD, ORSO, REAR, ODDLY, MEAN, ESPN.

Newsday Crossword

NOT ABOUT YOU by Carolyn Stewart Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 "That's not ___ idea!" 5 Candle cord 9 Prefix meaning "large" 14 Statue's bottom 15 Shirt-wrinkle remover 16 Toon hunter Fudd 17 Responsibility-avoidance situation 19 Make amends 20 Carpenter's cutter 21 Long, tapering flags 23 Smidgen 25 Make public 26 "So glad you're back!" 32 Cambridge sch. 35 UFO passenger 36 Peel, as an apple 37 Fit together 38 Enamored (of) 39 Mystiques 40 Friend in war 41 Fencing sword 42 Proofreader's "leave it" 43 15 Across output 44 VIP's carpet color 45 AABBA, for a limerick 47 Pool player's stick 48 Crime lab evidence 49 Jazz instrument 54 Chalk remover 59 Oscar actress Hunt

- 60 Duration 62 Slack-jawed 63 Close by 64 Kitchen pests 65 Sat for an artist "large" 66 Cultural activities 67 As good as it gets DOWN 1 Shortened wd. 2 Indonesian island 3 Quickly, in a memo 4 Some DC reps 5 Native American dwelling 6 401(k) alternative 7 Free ticket, for short 8 Joint with a cap 9 Cruel person 10 End of a bridal path 11 "Let's get movin'!" 12 Landlord's income 13 Mine yields 18 Use as a dining table 22 Proper nouns 24 Sheriff's assistant 26 Thin cookie 27 Skip town to wed 28 Queued (up) 29 Yield legally 30 Sultan's wives 31 Spoke from a soapbox 32 Donnybrook 33 Imam's faith 34 Herb in the mint family 37 Trig or calc 39 Very pale 43 Neck warmer 45 Totally destroyed 46 Derisive looks 47 Crinkly fabric 49 Bloke 50 Mega Bloks competitor 51 "That's a shame!" 52 Volcano in Sicily 53 Stadium level 55 Typical Saudi 56 Rational 57 CPR experts 58 Part of R&R 61 Wrestling surface

Crossword grid with numbered squares for clues.

SABAN

Continued from Page 9

as possible.”
Left tackle Cyrus Kouandjio said Saban brought up the 2008 season when the Tide fell to Florida in the SEC championship game and to Utah

in the Sugar Bowl.
“He was like we shouldn’t let this loss bring us down to the point where we just keep hang-dogging and keep our heads down going into the game and lose that game, too,” Kouandjio said.
On the field, Saban said guard Anthony Steen will miss the bowl game after having shoulder surgery.

Off the field, the coach had more to celebrate than even his new contract. His son, Nicholas, and daughter-in-law had a baby on Sunday.
The sometimes gruff Saban lit up talking about the experience that got him to the hospital in the wee hours.
“To have a healthy baby and a healthy mother and someone that beautiful come into your family is re-

ally something that you have to count your blessings on,” he said.
“They actually had a rocking chair over there so I was kind of happy rocking that baby a little bit. Since then, I haven’t been able to go back.
“I kind of miss the little bugger if you want to know the truth about it.”

HOOPS

Continued from Page 9

with a 52-41 win.
The Lady Steers’ balanced offense spread the scoring out, with eight players contributing to

the final score and none reaching double digits.
Stanton dealt with single digits also — the Lady Buffaloes were unable to put together a strong quarter. After opening with an eight-point first period, Stanton put up only four points in the second and third periods thanks to smothering defensive play by the Lady Steers.
Julianna Rodriguez and Stefanie Diaz each had nine points to lead BSHS.
Big Spring — which is ranked at No. 16 in the

state — currently has an open date Friday.
Stats
Big Spring: Julianna Rodriguez, 9; Stefanie Diaz, 9; Diamonique Mayes, 8; Autumn Minter, 7; Jackie Castillo, 7; Dyrshae Vanderbilt, 6; Shawntee Lacy, 6; Alexis

Cansino, 3.
Other girls scores
• Garden City (No. 6) def. Water Valley, 75-15.
• Grady def. Knlondike, 64-22.
BOYS
FORSAN — The Buffaloes started off strong Tuesday, burying the Bulldogs 16-4 in the first period and holding a commanding, 29-13 lead at the half which proved insurmountable for Coahoma. Forsan won 53-45.

Coahoma will head to McCamey, with game time scheduled for 5:30 p.m.
Stats
Coahoma: Kylene Franks, 14; Braxton Iden, 13; Namen McCullough, 8; Hayden Adamson, 5; Caige Miller, 4; Shanen Warneke, 1;
Forsan: Kade Fannin, 18 pts., 13 rebs., 2 steals; Matthew Mims, 12 pts., 5 assists, 3 rebs, 3 steals; Tyler Evans, 11 pts., 2 rebs., 3 steals; J.T. Breyman, 6 pts., 6 steals; Clayton Galloway, 4 pts, 5 rebs.; Ryan Pearson, 2 pts.; Zane Sanders, 8 rebs.



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Coahoma, however, didn’t lie down and what appeared to be total rout early morphed into a competitive outing in the second half.

“We made a couple of defensive adjustments,” said CHS Head Coach Kim Nichols. “We played well in the second half and came back. We got out of our zone and picked them up man-to-man. They came back and played well against a good team. Forsan shoots well and they really crash the boards.”

The main board-crasher was Forsan’s Kade Fannin. The senior had 18 points, nabbed 13 rebounds and stole the ball twice. Matthew Mims had 12 points and Tyler Evans chipped in 11 to lead Forsan.

Coahoma’s top scorer was sophomore Kyler Franks with 14, followed by Braxton Iden with 13.

“The Bulldogs came back in the fourth and battled until the end,” FHS Head Coach Gary Huckabee said. “We have some work to do on our offensive consistency and defensive communication, but the guys are working hard and getting stronger. We just have to keep going and getting better every day.”

Forsan (5-3) will make the trek to Colorado City for a game Friday. Tipoff is set for 8 p.m.

STANTON — The Steers had a slight delay before the entire team could play together due to Big Spring’s football playoff run, but it appears the team is starting to mesh well. Stanton was on the receiving end of all that meshing Tuesday as the Steers handily defeated the Buffaloes 52-41.

Ty Sealy scored a game-high 18 points, Tyler Wigington had 11 and Tyler Bryan contributed nine in the non-district matchup.

Stanton picked up the pace in the second half, but couldn’t fully recover after trailing 25-14 at the halfway mark.

The Steers will be on the road against Seminole on Friday. Game time is set for 7:30 p.m.

Stats
Big Spring: Ty Sealy, 18; Tyler Wigington, 11; Tyler Bryan, 9; Dee Parker, 4; Tate Kennedy, 2; Anthony Slate, 2; Tavaris Walker, 2.

Other boys scores
• Grady def. Klondike, 69-50.
• Water Valley def. Garden City, 60-41.

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

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GAMES

Continued from Page 9

attend the Games.

"It's a positive sign to see openly gay representatives in the delegation," said Michael Cole-Schwartz, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, which recently sent a letter urging Obama to include gays and lesbians in the delegation. "Hopefully it sends a message to the Russian people and the rest of the world that the United States values the civil and human rights of LGBT people."

King said she was "deeply honored" to be named to the delegation.

"I am equally proud to stand with the members of the LGBT community in support of all athletes who will be competing in Sochi and I hope

these Olympic Games will indeed be a watershed moment for the universal acceptance of all people," said King, who will attend the opening ceremony.

Hockey player Caitlin Cahow is the other openly gay representative to the delegation. She'll attend the closing ceremony.

The U.S. Olympic Committee made no comment about the sexual orientation of the delegation. In a nod to its disapproval of the law, however, the USOC recently revised its non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation.

France and Germany are among the other countries who will not send their presidents to Sochi for the Games.

Earlier this year, Obama rejected the idea of a U.S. boycott of the Olympics despite a number of differences with Russia, including the anti-

gay law.

This move, however, sends a strong signal: In 2010, Vice President Joe Biden led the delegation, and in 2012, first lady Michelle Obama held the honor.

This year's group is led by former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. Others in the delegation include U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul, figure skater Brian Boitano and presidential adviser Rob Nabors.

King, the iconic tennis player, might be the most recognizable face in the group.

She's a 39-time Grand Slam title winner (singles, doubles and mixed), a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and one of the most prominent advocates of equality for women in sports and society over the past several decades.

She'll attend the Olympics in a country that is creating tension for several key players because of the laws, including the International Olympic Committee, which awarded the Games to Russia.

Earlier this month, IOC President Thomas Bach said Russia would set up public protest zones in Sochi for "people who want to express their opinion or want to demonstrate for or against something."

Meanwhile, the IOC approved a letter going out to athletes reminding them to refrain from protests or political gestures during the Sochi Games — reiterating Rule 50 of the Olympic charter, which

forbids demonstrations on Olympic grounds.

Bach had previously said he'd received assurances from Russian President Vladimir Putin that gays will not be discriminated against in Sochi. But the Russian law has raised questions about what could happen to athletes who wear pins or badges or carry flags supporting gay rights.

Earlier this fall, skier Bode Miller was one of the few American athletes to speak out against the Russian law, calling it "absolutely embarrassing."

To submit a sports item, call 263-7331 ext. 237 or email sports@bigspringherald.com



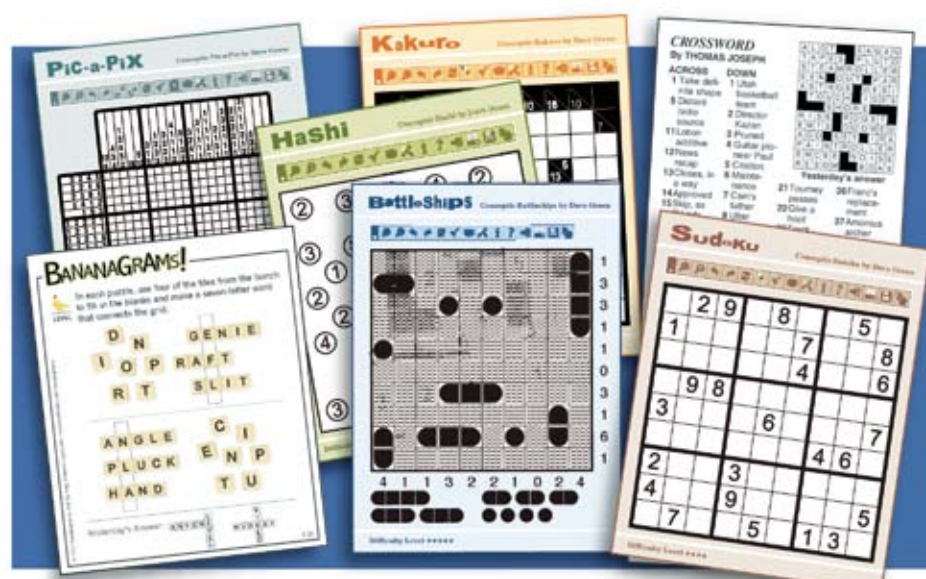
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Israel: Its Success for the Long Haul

What Are Israel's Great Strengths to Achieve Its Continued Success?

On its 65th birthday, Israel can be described as a great success. Now, looking forward, we need to project what Israel will be like for the next 60 to 100 years. From what we can foresee, it is going to be a continuation of its success. There are good reasons for this optimistic assessment.

What are the facts?

National Security. The balance of military power, as compared to its neighboring Arab enemies, is decisively in favor of Israel. Israel's military might is substantially greater than that of any combination of its potential adversaries. It is highly unlikely that any Arab state would venture to attack powerful Israel. Military threats are more likely to come from non-state adversaries such as Hamas or Hezbollah. Israel's non-state enemies are armed with thousands of rockets, virtually all of them supplied by Iran. But Israel's sophisticated missile defense systems would be fully competent to intercept and incapacitate virtually all such incoming rockets.

The only credible threat would be an implacably hostile Iran. It is, however, certain that Israel, with or without the help or approval of the United States, would not allow Iran to be in a position to attack. If worse came to worst, there is, as a last resort, Israel's own nuclear potential, which, though unconfirmed, is purported to be formidable.

A Strong Economy. Next to military power, a strong economy is a fundamental requirement for a successful future. Israel's economy is vastly ahead of its neighbors — unique in the Middle East and equal to most and superior to some European countries. Israel was admitted into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a union of the most developed countries of the world. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed its confidence in Israel's long-term vitality.

Israel is a fount of productivity. Most major American companies have subsidiaries and research/development affiliates in Israel. Israel is a world leader in microchip technology, in medical instrumentation, in missile defense, in robotics, in unmanned aerial vehicles and in many other categories. Although much effort has been expended by Israel's enemies to isolate it economically, that is a forlorn cause and will continue to be unsuccessful.

As a result of ceaseless exploration, huge oil and gas fields have been discovered in the Israeli sector of the Mediterranean, which, beginning almost immediately, will fulfill its domestic demands and will, in all likelihood, propel Israel to become an exporter of such products.

A Cohesive Society, a Flowering Democracy. Unique in the Middle East, Israel is a democracy on the US model. That means a state of laws and of the will of its citizens. Although a highly militarized nation, and in contrast to all of its neighbors, there has never been any hint of a putsch or of a coup in Israel. It has the same important institutions as our country, including the nation's Supreme Court playing an important and decisive role.

Despite having successfully integrated millions of people since the country's creation in 1948 — the population is essentially homogeneous, united by the Jewish faith. Even the large block of Soviet immigrants has been successfully absorbed. The large contingent of Ethiopians has had a somewhat more difficult adjustment. Many of the Arab citizens, even though all venues are available to them, have still not fully accepted their country. Much work remains to be done. The most difficult remaining division is between the secular majority and the ultra-religious *haredim*. But even they are beginning to adapt and to integrate, with many of the young *haredim* willing to serve in the IDF, the country's military. Israel is blessed with a disproportionate number of college graduates — probably the highest percentage of population in the world. It has the highest number of Nobel laureates to population and the highest percentage of patents issued.

International Relations. Even despite its problems with Arab and Muslim nations, Israel has full diplomatic relations with 156 out of 193 U.N. members. The only implacable enemy is Iran, which, under the Shah, was one of Israel's firmest allies. Turkey, also a former close friend, is, under its current Islamist government, in an ambiguous relationship with Israel. The two fastest growing and most populace countries — China and India — are in friendly relationships with Israel. They are not infected by the anti-Semitic virus that has poisoned much of Europe. They think of Israel as an ancient civilization, just like their own. But the most important international connection by far is that with our country, the United States, which has been a strong and generous supporter of Israel from the very day of its creation and considers it to be one of its most important and most reliable allies.

Yes, indeed, with its strong military, its flourishing economy, its cohesive population, and its firm international relations, the future of the Jewish state for the next 60 to 100 years seems to be assured.

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