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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 27, 2013



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VOLUME 109, NUMBER 61

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



A two-vehicle accident on FM 669 Thursday afternoon claimed the life of Antonio Zavala Martinez of Big Spring.

One killed in Gail Hwy. truck wreck

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Reporter

One person died in a two-vehicle accident in northern Howard County Thursday afternoon. Antonio Zavala Martinez, 51, of Big Spring was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident by Justice of the Peace Bennie Green, according to Department of Public Safety Trooper Marc Couch. The accident occurred on FM 669 (Gail Highway) near FM 700. "The 18-wheeler was traveling south on FM 669. The pickup truck, driven by Antonio Zavala Martinez, which was pulling a trailer, was traveling north on 669. The pickup was turning left onto Avenue X and it crossed into the path of the 18-wheeler," Couch said. Big Spring EMS were called to the scene. Funeral service arrangements are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Vintage display stolen from Festival of Lights

Herald Staff Report

Santa is missing. Festival of Lights volunteers are hoping someone has some information about the grinch who took St. Nick from Comanche Trail Park around Christmas Eve. Project Manager Howard Stewart first noticed that the display was

missing during a 6 p.m. check of the park on Tuesday. The missing piece was one of four scenes in a display set up by the Big Spring State Hospital. The scenes date to the 1950s and 1960s when they were displayed at Christmastime in downtown stores such as Hemphill-Wells and Swartz & Carter Furniture, said Pat Simmons, Festival founder. The stolen piece has been estimated to be worth \$3,000

to \$4,000, "but there is really not a value we can place on these items as they are irreplaceable," Simmons said. It's the latest in a series of acts of vandalism at the Festival, which is comprised of numerous displays and more than 1 million lights. "We've had vandalism in the park recently on the trail with wires being cut, rebar stakes kicked down, bulbs



This Santa Claus display has been stolen from the Festival of Lights. Anyone having any information is encouraged to call Crimestoppers at 432-263-TIPS (8477).

Big Brothers deadline nears; \$25,000 needed, officials say

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Time is running out for area residents hoping to open a Big Brothers Big Sisters office in this area. A committee of Big Spring and Stanton residents have been working for two years to open a Big Brothers Big Sisters office to serve Howard, Martin and Glasscock counties, but they are \$25,000 short of the funds needed for the operation and only days away from the deadline to qualify for grant money. The committee has been working to raise \$85,000 required by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to open an office in Big Spring. Under the terms of a matching grant from the Abell-Hanger Foundation, the committee must raise \$75,000 from Howard

County residents or companies by Tuesday in order to receive the final \$10,000 from the foundation. Currently, \$50,000, has been raised, said Kay Crites, executive director of the BBBS Midland office. Crites said BBBS provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally-supported, one-on-one mentoring relationships "that will change their lives for the better, forever." "Studies have shown that children who have mentors are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, less likely to end up in the criminal justice system and more likely to stay in school," Crites said. "This means they are more likely to become the future great neighbors that we'd all like to

have living next door." Consequently, the absence of such a program would leave a void in those children's lives, she added. "What it will mean (if the local office is not opened) is that those children will never have the chance to have a wonderful role model in their lives," Crite said. "They will never experience some of the great things in life that Big Brothers Big Sisters would expose them to." Persons wishing to donate are urged to contact Crites immediately, either by leaving a voice message at (432) 687-0195 or by e-mail at kcrites@bbbsmidland.org

SA finds ring's owner

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A West Texas widow who anonymously donated her late husband's ring at a Salvation Army red kettle has come forward and the ring has been returned to her. The Salvation Army began looking for her after she dropped the ring along with a note in the kettle Monday. A man who was moved by her action offered a replacement donation if the ring appraised at \$250 could be returned to her. Shelie Bravo Williams, who identified herself Thursday, said she gave the ring a kiss when she dropped it in the kettle, thinking she would never see it again. Williams' husband died of cancer in 2006. She finds a way each Christmas season to pay tribute to his memory.



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See Store For Details

Obituaries

Willie Ruth Barber



Willie Ruth Barber, 83, of Big Spring, Texas went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013. Her husband, Hubert Barber, passed away in November 2012. The two were reunited in a Christmas celebration.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Eddie Prince officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Nov. 29, 1930, in Lamesa, Texas, to Dollie and James Martin. She married Hubert Barber on Oct. 3, 1957, in Lamesa. He preceded her in death on Nov. 15, 2012. They moved from Lamesa to Big Spring in 1957. She was a homemaker. Willie was a member of Grace Fellowship Church of God, attending faithfully. She loved The Lord

with all of her heart. She loved worship music and also played the piano. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She will be missed by so many people.

She is survived by four sons, Junior Barber, Phil Barber and Daniel Barber, all of Big Spring, and Mark Barber of Plano, Texas; one daughter, Lana Munoz of Big Spring; one sister, Mary Sandel of Lamesa; seven grandchildren, Stacie Purcell and her husband John, Phylesha Tabor and her husband Jace, Chaeley Barber, Kody Barber, Tiffany Emerson, Cassie Emerson and Rachelle Ybarra and her husband Chris; and 10 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one daughter, Linda Sue Barber; one sister; and five brothers.

Pallbearers will be John Purcell, Kody Barber, Patrick Heckler, Chris Ybarra, Mark Bedwell and Mickey Barber.

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

Paid obituary

Margarette Hudson

Margarette Hudson, 90, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, at Parkview Nursing and Rehab. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa.

She was born Dec. 30, 1922, in Lauderdale County, Tenn. to Mary and Neil McNeill. She married Ray Edward Hudson on April 5, 1947, in Jacksonville, Fla. He preceded her in death June 2009. She moved to Big Spring five years ago from Odessa. She was a

homemaker and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

She is survived by three daughters, Paulette Stubbs and Colleen Hudson of San Antonio, and Terry Gray and her husband Steve of Big Spring; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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

San Juana 'Janie' Martinez Rogers

San Juana "Janie" Martinez Rogers, 63, of Fort Worth, formerly of Big Spring, Texas, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013, at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 23, 1950, in Sinton, Texas, to Guadalupe and Federico Martinez. She lived most of her life in Big Spring prior to moving to Fort

Worth. She was a homemaker and a Catholic.

She is survived by one son, Graciano Rogers of Big Spring; three daughters, JoAnn Rai, Sonya Arsiaga and Julie Juarez, all of Fort Worth; two brothers, Jody Martinez and Andy Martinez, both of Big Spring; three sisters, Lily Martinez of Fort Worth, Maria Douglas of New Mexico, and Yolanda Calvio of Fort Worth; 21 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

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

Antonio Zavala

Antonio Zavala, 51, of Big Spring, Texas, died Thursday, Dec. 26, 2013, in Howard County. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mary Spraberry

Mary Spraberry, 77, of Big Spring, Texas, died Friday, Dec. 27, 2013, in San Angelo. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- **RODOLFO HERNANDEZ OLIVAS**, 50, of 1206 S. Monticello, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

- **MARCO ANTONIO PADILLA**, 22, of 504 N. Amburgey, Odessa, Texas, was arrested Thursday on a charge of tampering/fabricating physical evidence and possession of marijuana greater than 2 ounces but less than or equal to 4 ounces.

- **ADRIAN PANDO**, 23, of 2917 S. Weller, Fresno, Calif., was arrested Friday on a charge of tampering/fabricating physical evidence and possession of marijuana

greater than 2 ounces but less than or equal to 4 ounces.

- **ROBERT CASTANEDA**, 23, of 909 S. Runnels was arrested Thursday on a warrant for theft greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500.

- **ERLINDA EVETTE RIOS**, 25, of 1906 Winston, was arrested Friday on a warrant for theft of a firearm and possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams.

- **WALTER MORRIS LOZANO**, 29, of 2501 Carleton, was arrested Friday on a warrant for theft of a firearm and possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams.

- **THEFT** was reported

at the intersection of North Highway 87 and County Rd. 2230.

- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of FM 669 and FM 700.

- **HARASSMENT** reported at the 600 block of State.

- **RUNAWAY** reported at the 700 block of E. 6th St.

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 62 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ROBERT CASTANEDA** was booked by HCSO to begin sentence for theft of property greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500.

- **ERLINDA EVETTE**

RIOS was booked by HCSO on charges of theft of firearm and possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams.

- **WALTER MORRIS LOZANO** was booked by HCSO on charges of theft of firearm and possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams.

- **ADRIAN PANDO** was booked by BSPD on charges of tampering/fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair and possession of marijuana less than or equal to 4 ounces but greater than 2 ounces.

- **MARCO ANTONIO PADILLA** was booked by BSPD on charges of tampering/fabricating physical evidence with

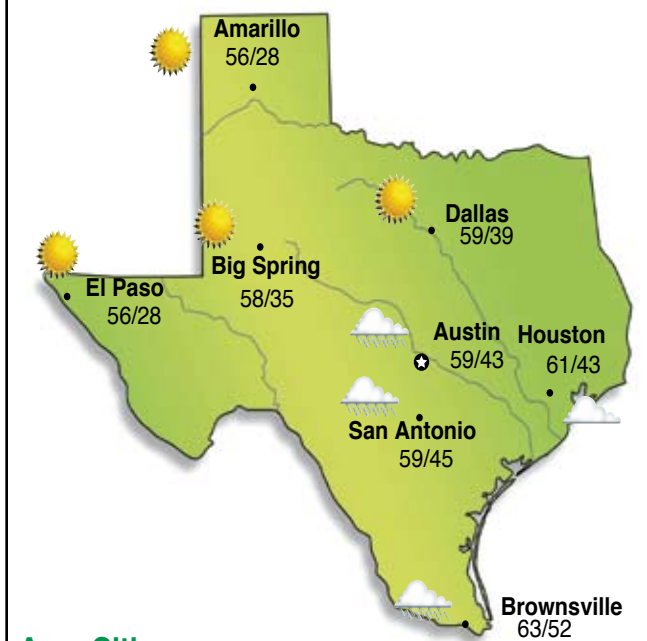
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 12/28	Sun 12/29	Mon 12/30	Tue 12/31	Wed 1/1
58/35	62/35	42/24	53/30	64/37
A mainly sunny sky. High 58F. Winds light and variable.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:49 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:51 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:52 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	59	38	sunny	Kingsville	62	49	rain
Amarillo	56	28	sunny	Livingston	60	38	cloudy
Austin	59	43	rain	Longview	60	39	pt sunny
Beaumont	60	42	cloudy	Lubbock	59	27	sunny
Brownsville	63	52	rain	Lufkin	62	39	cloudy
Brownwood	60	39	sunny	Midland	56	35	sunny
Corpus Christi	61	50	rain	Raymondville	62	49	rain
Corsicana	59	39	mst sunny	Rosenberg	61	43	cloudy
Dallas	59	39	sunny	San Antonio	59	45	rain
Del Rio	55	42	rain	San Marcos	60	43	rain
El Paso	56	28	sunny	Sulphur Springs	59	39	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	55	35	sunny	Sweetwater	58	36	sunny
Gainesville	57	34	sunny	Tyler	61	40	pt sunny
Greenville	58	36	sunny	Weatherford	57	34	sunny
Houston	61	43	cloudy	Wichita Falls	59	32	sunny

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 15th-31st
Comanche Trail Festival of Lights:
Comanche Trail Park.
6PM-10PM Nightly

January 7th
Kay Smith Show:
Heritage Museum.
Contact:
(432) 267-8255

January 11th
Hangar 25 Air Museum
presents the **Silver Wings Ball:**
Hotel Settles.
Contact:
432-264-1999
or
hangar25@crcom.net

January 25th
12 Annual Children-in-Need Chili Cook Off.
Contact:
Amy Vidal at 432-263-0007

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HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

The following Financial Institutions will observe the following holiday hours:

Citizens FCU

January 1st - CLOSED

State National Bank

January 1st - CLOSED

Support Groups

MONDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

• PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) TX 0021 meets at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m. and meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. We have a different program each week. For more information, please call 517-4922 or 935-6306.

• 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. Celebrate Recovery

is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the back of the church.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11th Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA

office at 806-785-0942.

• Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerrirosenbaum9488@msn.com

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

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

• 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 Col-

lege Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

• Overcomer's: Recovery & Restoration (R&R), a Christ-centered recovery program is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the "Green Room" of the East Wing. For more convenient access to the meeting room, park in the back of the church and enter through the metal door across from the fellowship hall. If you need more information, contact the church secretary at 432-264-0015.

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church

Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11th Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Margarette Hudson, 90, of died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa.

Norma Jean Woodruff, 48, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sharon Mathews, 55, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Roy Rodriguez, 47, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Willie Ruth Barber, 83, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Aida I. Sanford, 92, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

San Juana "Janie" Martinez Rogers, 63, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Antonio Zavala, 51, died Thursday. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mary Spraberry, 77, died Friday. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• Big Spring Second Chance Rescue (BSSCR) is in need of donations to help spay and neuter rescued dogs, so they can go to a home. The canine rescue organization has incurred a lot of expenses in obtaining its 501c3 status along with trying to obtain a Tax ID and subsequent Texas filling fees. Just to file the 501c3 cost the rescue more than \$500. Any amount is appreciated. Make checks payable to BSSCR, P.O. Box 2775, Big Spring, Texas, 79720; by credit card at 432-816-2555; or at Highland Animal Clinic, 3600 S. Hwy. 87, Big Spring, Texas 79720; or <http://www.youcaring.com/pet-expenses/bsscr/74800>

• Big Spring RSVP is celebrating the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service through Jan. 20 by coordinating a local book drive benefitting the children of West, Texas. RSVP volunteers will collect new or gen-

tly used children's books at the Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler Avenue from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

• The Big Spring Pow Wow Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.

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

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to violent crimes of assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an

interview process background check and attend training. We need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

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

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

removed and about 20 bulbs from one poinsettia leaf near the Dora Roberts Community

Center," said Simmons. Anyone who has any information about the missing Santa display or the vandalism at the park is encouraged to call the Big Spring/Howard County Crimestoppers at 432-263-TIPS

(8477). Festival of Lights goers may walk or drive through the displays nightly until 10 o'clock through Tuesday. There is no charge; donations are accepted.

Dragon China Buffet
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EXP. 12/31/13

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Opinion

“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.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **TED CRUZ**
U.S. Senator
B40B Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-228-0462

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: 512-463-2000

• **DREW DARBY**
State Representative
Texas 72nd District
P.O. Box 2910

Austin, 78768
Phone: 512-463-0331

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: 432-268-9909

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

• **LARRY MCLELLAN**,
MAYOR — Office: 267-2711.

• **MARVIN BOYD** —
263-8800

• **CARMEN HARBOUR**
— Work: 264-2401.

• **MARCUS FERNANDEZ** — Mobile:
816-3923

• **GLEN CARRIGAN** —
Home: 263-3207.

• **BOBBY MCDONALD**
— Home: 263-4835.
Work: 263-1234.

• **RAUL BENAVIDES** —
Work: 267-2501.

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

• **MARK BARR**, COUNTY
JUDGE — Home and
Office: 264-2202.

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HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- 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

We know that tolerance, dear Lord, is a two-way street.

Amen

Duck, duck? Robertson laid an egg

“Don’t be deceived,” Duck Commander and A&E reality television star Phil Robertson insisted, when asked to define what he considered to be sinful behavior. “Neither the adulterers, the idolaters, the male prostitutes, the homosexual offenders, the greedy, the drunkards, the slanderers, the swindlers — they won’t inherit the kingdom of God. Don’t deceive yourself. It’s not right.”



SUSAN
ESTRICH

It’s a free country. The First Amendment protects both the tolerant and the intolerant, those who understand the value of inclusiveness and those who spread hate. I’d put Robertson in the latter category. That’s my right.

And A&E has the right to fire him, as I hope they do.

Speech is powerful, which is why it gets protection from the Constitution. Robertson didn’t go out and attack “homosexual offenders” (offenders, I assume, not because being gay violates the law — the Supreme Court got rid of that vestige of bigotry in *Lawrence v. Texas* — but because they offend Robertson) with a physical weapon, but words can cause just as much harm. Just check out the suicide rates for teens who are gay and lesbian. Telling a teenager that they are doomed because they aren’t heterosexual is ignorant and cruel.

Change is never easy. On the very day that New Mexico became the 17th state to allow gay marriage (and the sky hasn’t fallen in any of them), Robertson

was making headlines for his unabashed bigotry, and the United Methodist church on Thursday “defrocked” a Pennsylvania pastor because he officiated at his own son’s gay wedding (legal in Massachusetts) and refused to agree to follow church dogma that discriminates against gays and lesbians.

Rev. Frank Schaefer, who was suspended for 30 days for performing his son’s wedding six years earlier, had until Thursday to agree to abide by the United Methodist Book of Discipline, the church’s rules and doctrine. Earlier in the week, he made clear in a news conference that he would not denounce his son and others who share his sexual orientation. “I cannot uphold those discriminatory laws and the language in the United Methodist Church’s Book of Discipline that is hurtful and harmful to our homosexual brothers and sisters in the church.”

Notably, Bishop Peggy Johnson, who leads the church in Pennsylvania and announced Schaefer’s punishment, explicitly acknowledged that “(s)everal statements in our Book of Discipline are discriminatory (forbidding ordination of homosexual persons, forbidding the performing of same-gender marriages and considering the practice of homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching),” and that these prohibitions, considered in light of the church’s stated policy of inclusion, have “led to confusion by many from the outside of the church wondering how we can talk out of two sides of our mouth.”

Confusion is a nice way to put it.

Hypocrisy, insensitivity and cruelty also come to mind. But according to Johnson — if not

Robertson — “our LGBT sisters and brothers are of sacred worth regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.” It’s just that your father can lose his job if he marries you.

Change is never easy. My favorite section of the Sunday newspaper is “ladies’ sports” — the “weddings section,” where once I followed the lives of my friends and now keep an eye out for their children and for my gay and lesbian friends, who tend to be the older couples, marrying for the first time. Who would have thought? I smile when I read the stories of couples my age, together for decades, “tying the knot.”

So why are we still debating whether it is “sinful” to be gay? Who is Phil Robertson, reality show star, to tell young men and women who work hard and love God as much as he does that they are “sinful”?

How can the Methodist church openly acknowledge that it is talking out of both sides of its mouth and then keep talking?

Schaefer may be a “bad” minister in the eyes of his church, but he is a good father and a good man, and hopefully, this Christmas season, that will be enough.

As for Robertson, it took some doing for someone to find a family that makes the Kardashians look like a crowd of sensitive brainiacs, but the “Duck Dynasty” guy did it. No more jokes about Kris and Bruce.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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America’s first Christmas

Now that we have welcomed Santa, some of us are getting ready to receive the three wise men on Jan. 6. In our annual Latino struggle to preserve our own Hispanic holiday traditions, a little history is appropriate here. After all, it was our Spanish ancestors who celebrated North America’s first Christmas — 474 years ago!

Many historians still fail to recognize it, and many books and websites simply skip that part of our history. But now there is significant evidence to show that Hernando de Soto, a dozen Catholic priests and some 600 Spanish explorers celebrated North America’s first Christmas in 1539, in Anhaica, a Native American village currently known as Tallahassee, the capital of Florida.

They sailed from Cuba a few months earlier, disembarked in the Tampa Bay area and endured a 300-mile trek to northern Florida. But they were only at the beginning of what was to become the first — and most impressive — European overland exploration of North America. From Florida, de Soto and his men went on to explore the territory that later became Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana. Their four-year, 4,000-mile hike finally lost its drive when de Soto died of fever at the banks of the Mississippi River, where he was buried in 1542.

But not before celebrating this first American Christmas in Anhaica. It was one of the principal villages of the Apalachee natives, which the Spanish occupied in the fall of 1539 and where they set up their winter encampment until March 1540.

For many years, Florida historians had assumed that the Anhaica Spanish explorers described in their diaries was

in the vicinity of Tallahassee’s Lake Jackson, where they even erected a sign commemorating de Soto’s encampment and the first American Christmas. But the exact location had not been identified, no physical evidence had been found, and archeologists feared de Soto’s winter encampment had been lost beneath the concrete and steel of the capital city.

However, in 1987, as bulldozers cleared the earth for a Tallahassee office complex, Florida state archaeologist B. Calvin Jones discovered artifacts from the de Soto expedition. Amazingly, only 26 years ago, he found Anhaica in downtown Tallahassee — only a short distance from the Florida State Capitol!

Jones then led a team excavation that recovered more than 40,000 artifacts, including teeth and jawbone fragments from pigs (first brought to North America by de Soto’s expedition) and a Spanish coin minted in about 1517.

Although the four-acre site was slated for construction when the relics were found, the lot was purchased by the nonprofit Trust for Public Land, designated as a “Florida Heritage Landmark” and turned into a small state park. And while most of the artifacts that were found there now are in museums, the park still features a marker and interpretive panel describing these findings.

“The evidence includes links of chain mail armor, copper coins, the iron tip of a crossbow bolt, Spanish olive jar shards and glass trade beads,” the sign states. “These finds provided the physical evidence of the 1539-40 winter encampment, the first confirmed de Soto site in North America. From this location, the de Soto expedition traveled northward and westward, making the first European contact with many native societies.”

Although no hard evidence exists to prove that de Soto and his men celebrated this first Christmas in Tallahassee, historians say it’s hard to imagine

the priests who traveled with de Soto not saying mass on the 15th of December. Prior to the institution of the current Gregorian calendar in 1582, Christmas was celebrated on Dec. 15. It’s also hard to conceive that they had no special feast on the 12th day after Christmas, when Catholics commemorate the Epiphany: The manifestation of Christ to the gentiles on the day Jesus was visited by the three wise men (Matthew 2:1-12).

Considering the fact that the Spanish camp was under constant attack from Apalachee, who wanted their village back, prominent Florida historians and archaeologists believe that Christmas season celebrations might have been strained and brief.

But few doubt that they happened.

In fact, the doubts and negativity about America’s first Christmas usually comes from those who say the Spanish were simply too violent; yes, those who judge 16th century explorers by 21st century moral standards. No one denies de Soto and his army raided villages and killed many Native Americans. But they also were subject to constant ambush attacks, suffered hundreds of casualties and endured amazing hardships in their quest to explore North America.

Their critics tell us that Spanish explorers didn’t come to build, but only to seek gold and glory. Yet the settlements they established from Florida to California demonstrate the contrary. And surely they were not alone in seeking gold and killing Native Americans. Somehow, other European settlers don’t get their adequate share of the blame for the Native American holocaust.

But let’s face it: De Soto and his men were going where no European man had gone before — traveling through the wilderness, encountering hostile opposition along the way and fighting the same Apalachee who had nearly wiped out another

See PEREZ, Page 5

Imagine

If this New Year's Celebration at Times Square follows the pattern set since 2005, just before the ball drops and we turn or calendars forward, someone will sing John Lennon's classic song, "Imagine." It is a good thing to close out the past and look to the future by imagining the world as it could be.



BILL TINSLEY

his piano in Berkshire, England one morning in early 1971 and composed the song that became his most popular single. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation named it the greatest song of the last 100 years. Australians chose "Imagine" as the greatest song of all time. But for many of us, there is a greater vision of how the world could be.

Every time we quote the Lord's Prayer we are invited to imagine the world as it is meant to be. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ..." What would the world look like if that prayer were answered?

How would the world differ from the world we know?

If God's will were done on earth, there would be no more crime. Theft, violence and murder would end. Prisons would empty. Neighbor would no longer sue neighbor. Court dockets would be empty.

Employers would forego extravagant profits in order to pay higher wages to their workers. No child would go to bed hungry or unsheltered. Those who possess the food and resources of the world would share with those who have none.

Corruption, graft and greed would disappear. Wars would cease. Politicians would serve the best interest of others with honesty and

integrity. Fairness, kindness, forgiveness and generosity would prevail between neighbors.

Husbands would love their wives seeking what is best for them and striving to please them. Wives would love and respect their husbands, building them up and encouraging them. Children would honor their parents and obey them, trusting them in the knowledge that they want what is best for them.

Racial, cultural and sexual prejudices would vanish. Discrimination would disappear.

Every human being would treat every other human being with respect. The strong would help the weak.

None of us are in the position to effect such a whole scale change for the world in which we live. But we are each able to change our little corner of the world. We can put into practice the answer to the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. His Kingdom can come and His will can be done in us and through us.

In 2014 we can be a part of the answer to the prayer that has been prayed for more than 2,000 years. His kingdom can come and His will can be done. Just imagine!

Bill Tinsley lives in Waco, Texas. For more information and to order Dr. Tinsley's books visit www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.

Church News

First Baptist Church

Join us for worship services Sunday morning at 10:50 as we give thanks to God for His faithfulness to us throughout the past year, and offer praise for His continued faithfulness, and the great things He has in store for us in 2014.

We will celebrate the Baptism of new believers during the service. Bringing the message will be Dr. Ladd Hoffman; the sermon will be drawn from the book of Matthew, chapters 8 and 13. There will be no Sunday school classes or evening activities.

Church offices will be open limited hours Dec. 30 and 31, and will be closed Jan. 1-3.

Have you made a New Year's resolution to get involved in a church, or to get back into church? The people of First Baptist Church extend a heartfelt invitation to unite with them as they move forward

into 2014. FBC is located at 705 W. FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church.

Spring Creek Fellowship

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a blessed New Year! Thanks to all who attended our Christmas Eve Service at Spring Town Plaza. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

New Connection Groups start in January. If you are interested in teaching a class, contact Lloyd Wells.

"Wired That Way" classes are scheduled for

Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. Understanding how we are wired can enrich our lives and our relationships, helping to overcome differences that can seem irreconcilable. Call the office at 714-4584 or email to allaboutstring@gmail.com to enroll.

"Free Indeed" is collecting sleeping bags, socks, toboggans, scarves and gloves for the homeless. You may bring them to the church or contact the church office to drop these off.

Our SCF Prayer Team meets every Tuesday

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 7

Sudoku Answer on Page 13

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades, North having opened the bidding with one diamond, which your partner doubled. North leads the queen of hearts. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided 2-2 or 3-1.)

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

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

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of clubs. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ 8
♥ K Q 9 8
♦ A K 4 2
♣ A 7 6 3

EAST
♠ A Q 6 5 3
♥ A J 10 4
♦ 7 5 3
♣ 4

The purpose is to prevent South from later gaining the lead with a heart for a killing diamond return through your king.

Let's say North continues with a heart to dummy's king. You draw trumps, lead a low club to the jack, cash the ace of hearts and then play the ace and another club. North presumably wins with the king but must then return a diamond or yield a ruff-and-discard, handing you the contract.

2. Your best chance for 12 tricks lies in a crossruff. However, after winning the first club, you should prepare the groundwork for the crossruff by first cashing the A-K of diamonds. Though there is a slight possibility that the first or second diamond will be ruffed, that presents far less of a risk than any other method of play.

You next play a spade to the ace and ruff a spade. It is important to ruff a spade in your hand before ruffing a club in dummy. (If you think it makes no difference, try ruffing a club first. You are then apt to finish with just 11 tricks instead of 12!)

Now ruff your clubs and spades in alternating order, scoring eight trump tricks, a spade, a club and two diamonds in all.

1. Your potential losers are a heart, two diamonds and a club, but one of them can almost certainly be averted by capitalizing on the knowledge gained from North's opening bid. Aside from the Q-J of hearts, he is almost certain to have the A-Q or A-J of diamonds and the king of clubs.

The first step in the right direction is to duck North's queen of hearts!

Tomorrow: Triumph of mind over matter.

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PEREZ

Continued from Page 4

Spanish expedition, which was led by Panfilo Narvaez 11 years earlier. Of the 300 Spanish soldiers in the 1528 Narvaez expedition, only four survived.

In those days, explorers had to do what the times dictated. Violence and cruelty was the norm, but not just for Spanish explorers.

Those who reject Spanish accomplishments based on the cruelty of the 16th century still are promoting the Black Legend — that centuries old campaign to demonize the Spanish conquistadors and minimize the accomplishments of Hispanics.

Nowadays, there are many websites pretending to tell the history of Christmas in America. Yet like all other historical research influenced by the bias of the Black Legend, many of these sites begin telling our Christmas story in 17th century British America and in complete denial of the Spanish presence in North America, which started in 1513.

They tell you Christmas wasn't always celebrated in this country and that it was actually banned in New England between 1659 and 1681 because the Puritan pilgrims considered it a heathen holiday. They tell you Christmas day again fell out of favor after the American Revolution because it was considered one of many "English customs" the American people wanted to repel.

As if all prior Christmases didn't really count, they tell you the first Christmas — under the Declaration of Independence — was in 1776; the

first one under America's new constitution was in 1789; and that Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until 1870. Yet the real first American Christmas rarely gets mentioned!

Some sites actually affirm, "Christmas was not a holiday in early America."

But after this first 1539 Christmas in Tallahassee, and before the anti-Christmas pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1620, there are records to show the birth of Christ was celebrated by Spanish explorers for decades in North America, starting in 1565 in St. Augustine, Fla., and in 1598 in New Mexico.

What could lead to such distortion of history? Could it be because some people find it difficult to recognize that the first American Christmas celebrations were all in Spanish?

Websites tell you all about the first Christmas tree, the first Christmas card, the first nativity scene and the first Christmas store, but the first American city where Christmas was celebrated, well, that's a little harder to find.

Unfortunately, the Black Legend is alive and well in the 21st century, and Americans' hidden Hispanic heritage still is well-hidden.

And so, to fill the void in cyberspace and set the record straight, when people Google "America's first Christmas" from now on, they'll be reading this column.

Besides, this is my way of wishing you a belated "Feliz Navidad," just the way it was expressed on that first American Christmas.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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When we throw out the Christmas tree, we should be especially careful not to throw out the Christmas spirit with it.

Randy Cotton
Pastor

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News in brief

Most official business of 2013 behind him, Obama sets sights on unfinished tasks for new year

HONOLULU (AP) — The last vestiges of 2013's political wrangling officially behind him, President Barack Obama is setting his sights on the coming year, when a number of unfinished tasks will increasingly compete for attention with the 2014 mid-term elections.

Vacationing in Hawaii, Obama on Thursday signed into law a bipartisan budget deal softening the blow from scheduled spending cuts and a military bill cracking down on sexual assault. The two bills, passed by Congress with broad bipartisan support, constituted a modest step away from gridlock, and both parties cautiously hoped that spirit of cooperation might linger after New Year's Day.

"This law is proof that both parties can work together. We can put aside our differences and find common ground," House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who negotiated the budget deal for Republicans, said in a statement.

Easier said than done.

Already, familiar fault lines are emerging as Republicans and Democrats retrench for the next fiscal fight over raising the debt ceiling, which the Treasury says must be resolved by late February or early March. Despite the White House's insistence that Obama won't negotiate over that issue, Ryan has vowed the GOP will seek concessions before acquiescing.

Bombing in Lebanese capital kills a prominent pro-Western politician

BEIRUT (AP) — A powerful car bomb tore through a business district in the center of the Lebanese capital Friday, setting cars ablaze and killing a prominent pro-Western politician and four other people.

The bomb targeted Mohammed Chatah, a former finance minister and a senior aide to former Prime Minister Saad Hariri, in his car as he drove through central Beirut, security officials said.

The National News Agency confirmed Chatah and his driver were killed, along with three other people. The Health Ministry said more than 70 oth-

ers were wounded.

Lebanon has seen a wave of bombings over the past months as tensions rise over Syria's civil war.

Furor over cancelled insurance policies quieter a month after Obama move, but coverage unclear

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — President Barack Obama's decision a month ago that allowed people to keep insurance policies once slated for cancellation under the federal health overhaul has received a mixed response from insurers, state regulators and consumers.

In pitching the overhaul, Obama had long promised that people who liked their policies could keep them. But many consumers complained upon getting notification from their insurers in October and November that their individual policies would be canceled because they didn't cover basic benefits required by the Affordable Care Act, such as pre-existing conditions or hospitalization.

Then, Obama announced Nov. 14 that companies could continue existing policies that don't meet the minimum requirements if state regulators approved.

Reporting by The Associated Press shows that older policies are being allowed to continue in 36 states, either because officials allowed it after Obama's announcement, decided not to intervene in any way or had made a decision earlier in the year to extend non-compliant policies for a period of time.

Even so, insurers were given a choice of whether to continue the policies, and some declined to do so.

Police: 4 dead after southern Louisiana shootings; Lafourche Parish councilman 1 of 3 injured

RACELAND, La. (AP) — A southern Louisiana man attacked his former in-laws, his current wife, and the head of a hospital where he'd worked, killing three before killing himself, authorities said.

The shootings happened about 45 miles south-

west of New Orleans on Thursday, the first reported by Lafourche Parish Councilman Louis Phillip Gouaux about 6:40 p.m. at a home in Lockport, Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Brennan Matherne said in a news release.

The suspect, Ben Freeman, 38, was the ex-husband of Gouaux's daughter Jeanne.

Gouaux's wife, Susan "Pixie" Gouaux, was dead when deputies arrived, Matherne said. Louis Phillip Gouaux and his daughter, Andrea Gouaux, were injured and taken to University Hospital in New Orleans. Both were in critical but stable condition, Matherne said.

The second shooting happened at another home about 20 minutes later in Raceland, where Ochsner St. Anne General Hospital administrator Milton Bourgeois was shot and killed at close range, Matherne said. His wife, Ann Bourgeois, was shot and taken to the New Orleans hospital.

2 years into Cuba's free market experiment, small entrepreneurs struggle to stay afloat

HAVANA (AP) — The dented metal pizza trays are packed away, so too the old blender that never worked when it was needed. Gone is the sweet smell of rising dough that infused Julio Cesar Hidalgo's Havana apartment when he and his girlfriend were in business for themselves, churning out cheesy pies for hungry costumers.

Two years on the front lines of Cuba's experiment with limited free market capitalism has left Hidalgo broke, out of work and facing a possible crushing fine. But the 33-year-old known for his wide smile and sunny disposition says the biggest loss is harder to define.

"I feel frustrated and let down," Hidalgo said, slumped in a rocking chair one recent December afternoon, shrugging his shoulders as he described the pizzeria's collapse. "The business didn't turn out as I had hoped."

The Associated Press recently checked in with nine small business owners whose fortunes it first reported on in 2011 as they set up shop amid the excitement of President Raul Castro's surprising embrace of some free enterprise.

It's time to stop looking through the rearview mirror

How many times have we heard someone say, "If I had known then what I know now, I would have done things differently?"

American investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett once said, "In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield."

Actually the principle applies to most situations in life, not just those in the

business world. Hindsight is always 20/20, and foresight is often cloudy at best.

I am reminded of an incident that occurred when our older daughter, Brenda, was about 2 years old. The owner of our favorite burger place gave Brenda a small ice-cream cone to eat in the car on our way home. We had not gone very far when Brenda decided she wasn't hungry and handed me her ice-cream cone. Being a good mother, I did what most mothers would have done. I ate the ice cream so it wouldn't drip all over the car.

Just as I popped the last bite of the ice-cream cone into my mouth, Brenda

decided that she wanted it back.

Crying, she tried to pry my mouth open to get her ice cream. But it was too late. Her ice cream was gone.

In hindsight, Brenda learned a valuable lesson; never give something away unless you are sure you aren't going to want it back. She also learned not to trust a mother who has a weakness for ice cream.

Hindsight, that rearview-mirror perspective that we ponder over so often, is a great teacher, but it is never available to help us make perplexing, irreversible decisions.

We always have to press forward with whatever

amount of foggy-windshield vision we have available to us.

In the Bible, after the death of Moses, God appointed Joshua to be the leader of His people. He instructed Joshua: "Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel" (Joshua 1:2 NASB).

In this powerful verse, God confirms the death of a great leader, Moses, but He affirms the leadership of Joshua. In a previous passage we are told that God didn't tell anyone where He had buried Moses. Perhaps in His great wisdom, God knew that some

of the Israelites would linger around Moses, even though he had died. But God's desire was for them to move forward into the land that He had prepared for them. God removed the object of their rearview vision so that they would move forward toward an unseen promise.

As we move into a new year, perhaps it is time to stop looking into the rearview mirror hoping to change things that can't be changed. It is time to look forward to what God has planned for the future.

Bonnie Wheat is a minister's wife and an author. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.



BONNIE WHEAT

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5

from noon to 2 p.m. at Spring Town Plaza. Everyone is welcome and we invite you to bring your lunch and join us in praying for our community, each other and the businesses in the mall. You may come and go as you need to during this time.

Big Spring Classical Academy classes are working hard. Classes

include Pre-K thru 5th grade for this year! Visit our website at big-springclassical.org for more information or contact Donna Sue Looney.

Donate your old cell-phones to "Survivors Connect" Phones for Freedom Campaign. Learn more at [Survivors Connect.org](http://SurvivorsConnect.org) or pick up one of the information booklets by the collection box in our foyer.

You can now listen to the sermon from the previous Sunday at 9:00

am every Sunday morning on KBYG 106.3 FM and 1400 AM.

Weekly Happenings:

Sunday 9:15 a.m., Sunday school/Connection Groups 10:15 a.m., "Holy Grounds Café" is open with snacks and fellowship

10:45 a.m., Worship Service

Wednesday 6 p.m., Bible study and activities for all ages

Saturday 7:30 a.m., Weekly

Men's Prayer Breakfast 10 a.m., "Sewing Seeds of Hope" Crafting fellowship

If you would like any further information regarding any of our min-

istries or events, contact the church office or visit our website.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane in

Big Spring, Texas. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

"Every Member a Minister"-1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

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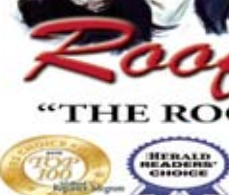
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Bulldogettes slap Presidio, Lady Steers fall to Titans

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

BIG LAKE — The Bulldogettes improved to 8-6 on the season with a 53-32 win over Presidio in the Mary Tatum Classic tournament opener Friday.

Already playing sound defense, CHS Head Coach Paul Hartman has been focused on boosting his team's offensive output. Julia Castilaw scored a game-high 21 points and Lauren Simer added 13, leaving Presidio in a hole they couldn't climb out of and proving that Coahoma can work its opponents on both sides of the ball.

"We played pretty well for coming back from Christmas break," Hartman said. "It was a good game for us. Our two posts scored very well and we played solid defense the whole game. We're getting better. Our offense is improving."

The Bulldogettes will return to action today at 6 p.m. against the winner of the Reagan County-Miles game.

The Bulldogs are also playing in the Reagan County tourney, but were outmatched Friday against Ballinger, losing 65-41. Coahoma will be back on the court today at 6 p.m. to face the winner between Ozona and San Angelo TLCA.

Game time is slated for 6 p.m.

LUBBOCK — The Lady Steers (7-7) were a little lackadaisical coming off of the break, losing in a 52-28 rout to the Lubbock Titans Friday on the Caprock tourney opener.

"We played the home school and they beat us pretty bad," said BSHS Head Coach Mike Warren. "Hopefully we'll get our heads back in the game today and get back on track."

Autumn Minter's seven points led the Lady Steers, who will likely face Odessa High today at noon.

The Steer boys will open their tournament today in Bridgeport.

Both the Forsan boys and girls begin their run at the Grady Black-Gold Cotton Classic tourney today in Lenorah.

The Buffaloes are scheduled to play Klondike, while the Lady Buffs will meet 3A Monahans.

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

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

Coahoma's Lauren Simer shoots a basket during a game against Forsan. Simer contributed 13 points in Friday's tourney-opening win over Presidio at the Mary Tatum Classic at Reagan County. The Bulldogettes will play again today against either Reagan County or Miles.

Green, Duncan lead Spurs past Mavs 116-109

DALLAS (AP) — Tim Duncan has come up big in crunch time hundreds of times having been with coach Gregg Popovich for 17 seasons. Danny Green, a relative newcomer, is fitting in just fine in just his fourth season with the San Antonio Spurs.

Green didn't miss a shot in a 22-point performance that helped the Spurs defeat the Dallas Mavericks 116-107 Thursday night.

Taking advantage of a weakened Dallas frontcourt, Duncan finished 21 points and 13 rebounds for his 10th double-double this season and 768th of his career.

"Danny Green was on fire from 3, and we were able to build up a little lead and hang on," Popovich said.

Green has started 26 of the Spurs' 30 games this

season, but he didn't even come off the bench until 3½ minutes remained in the first quarter Thursday.

Less than a minute later, he made three free throws to tie the game 18-18. San Antonio didn't trail again. Green finished the game 7 for 7 from the field, including five 3-pointers. He scored 11 points in the second quarter.

"I got into a little rhythm going to the free throw line," Green said. "They just kept finding me when I was open. It got easier when we got some stops and steals and in transition. That's how I get most of my open looks."

Green said coming off the bench sometimes helps him get better looks.

See **SPURS**, Page 13

Cowboys may find out what they can do without QB Romo

IRVING, Texas (AP) — For years, Tony Romo's defenders have answered his penchant for costly late-game mistakes with a rhetorical question:

What would the Dallas Cowboys do without him?

It appears they will find out in their fourth playoffs-or-bust season finale against an NFC East rival since 2008 — and their first elimination game without Romo in 10 years.

Dallas hasn't ruled out the star quarterback for Sunday night's game against Philadelphia, but all signs point to Romo's back injury pushing Kyle Orton into the starting role after two years of limited play as the backup.

Surely Orton's name isn't the first that comes to mind for fans wanting a change after years of damaging interceptions, fumbles or, most infamously, the field goal flub when Romo dropped the snap on a kick that could have won his first playoff game in 2006.

Danny White, the last longtime Dallas starter who failed to meet Super Bowl expectations, challenges anyone to come up with a current quarterback who could

do better in Romo's situation. And he's not kidding.

"Name whoever you want," said White, who lost three straight NFC championship games in the 1980s and lost his job to Gary Hogeboom. "I don't care if it's Tom Brady, if it's Peyton Manning, if it's Aaron Rodgers. I can make an argument for Tony getting better results than anybody else could get."

Romo has the same support from Cowboys owner Jerry Jones on down, which is why the question of whether he's going to play against the Eagles is the hottest topic of the week in the NFL now that the Packers have said Rodgers will return from an seven-game absence for a similar winner-take-all battle for the NFC North title against Chicago.

Maybe the Cowboys are trying to keep the Eagles guessing when it comes to Romo, who injured his back during a 24-23 win over Washington that included a fourth-down touchdown pass to DeMarco Murray in the final 2 minutes.

Or maybe the Cowboys just can't bring themselves to be-

lieve the franchise leader in touchdown passes — ahead of Troy Aikman, White and Roger Staubach — is going to miss the game that decides whether they get a playoff game at their \$1.2 billion stadium or go home early for the fourth straight season.

One thing's for sure. The confidence of his teammates wasn't shaken after Romo's latest crushing error — an interception that let the Packers finish a rally from a 23-point deficit in a 37-36 win two weeks ago.

Never mind that Romo is 1-6 in elimination games — three losses in the playoffs and three in season finales against NFC East rivals with the division title and a playoff spot on the line, including the past two years against the New York Giants and Washington.

Romo, whose only playoff win was against Philadelphia in the 2009 season, ruined the last chance for a rally against the Redskins last season with an interception late in the fourth quarter.

"Everything we are and

See **ROMO**, Page 13

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Scorpio Moon of Intensity

When the moon moves from lighthearted Libra into highly concentrated Scorpio, she is in the most intense part of the sky. Lunar passions run hot in both Scorpio and the neighboring fire sign of Sagittarius, and with Uranus battling Pluto, people are starting to lose their cool. Expect emotional eruptions and be prepared to minimize them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't help but wonder whether there's a better way to make money. Center your work on something that is endlessly interesting to you, and it won't feel like work at all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your heart will communicate with operatic force. Follow its powerful song. The action you take this afternoon will have an unusual but beneficial outcome.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may prefer to freely share what you've learned, but consider that practical knowledge costs time and money to acquire. Shouldn't you be compensated? People are more likely to listen to the advice they pay for.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Be careful not to get too wrapped up in defining people (or yourself) through belongings. What you own may suggest certain talents, but just because a person owns

a hammer doesn't mean he can build a house.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's nice when people approve of what you do, but you don't base your decisions on what's nice. It's better to let them think what they will than to change your behavior to please their fickle tastes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sacred things are made so by the beliefs of people. You are as qualified as anyone else to declare what is sacred to you, and as long as you treat that item or event in a sacred way, it will remain so.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Ask a small favor of a friend who seems to have the means and the time to accommodate you. You may not even need the help that much, but you do need to know on whom you can rely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As you look at the current cast of characters around you, it will seem that the most charming people tend to lead charmed lives. It's important that you don't mistake polish for substance, though.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Socializing leads to intellectual and political gains. Those who listen twice as much as they talk will be two times as knowledgeable at the end of the conversation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It may be convenient for you to accommodate a

loved one's wishes, but before you do, consider that this also may be setting up an unhealthy, codependent dynamic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you're not sure what to say, saying very little is a wise strategy. You'll be surprised by the way others fill in the silent spaces you leave, usually to your credit and benefit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sooner or later, the conversation will come around to that subject about which you care deeply. So why not cut out all of the boring, meandering chitchat and get right to it?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 27). This year features a new way of moving through life. In the next three months, you'll increasingly be active, first physically and then socially and intellectually. A romantic declaration will be featured in January. Take "before" pictures, because February brings an "after" to your domestic scene. A promotion comes in May. Aries and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 49, 20 and 1.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:
ARIES: You thought you were your best self before, but now you see how to become your new best self. **TAURUS:** You're alert and ready for anything — an attractive quality. **GEMINI:** You will be surrounded by friends who highlight

your talents. **CANCER:** You like to interact on your own schedule, but you may have to make compromises to be with someone who is just as busy. **LEO:** You'll teach a loved one who you are by talking about the belief system that makes up your strong identity. **VIRGO:** Maintaining your friendships is important, too. Don't neglect platonic love as you pursue romance. **LIBRA:** You enjoy different things now, and your relationships accommodate new interests. **SCORPIO:** You start by looking the part and wind up embodying it. **SAGITTARIUS:** You'll have fun with someone who is as health-conscious as you are. **CAPRICORN:** It's your turn to lavish in amorous attention, so soak it up. No deflecting! **AQUARIUS:** Lingering seconds of eye contact are the start of something serious. **PISCES:** You find critical people unattractive and will avoid anyone with too many opinions about what others should and shouldn't be doing.

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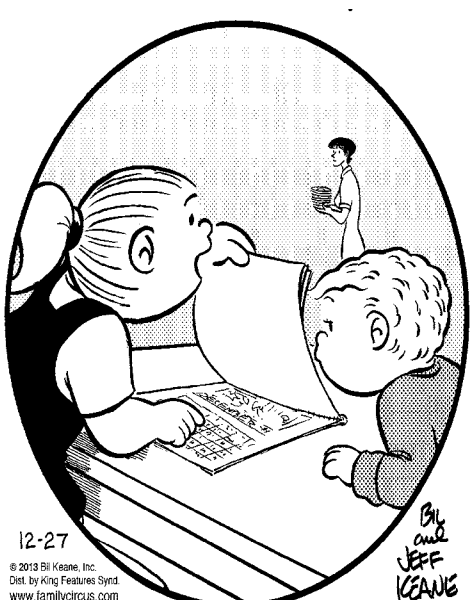
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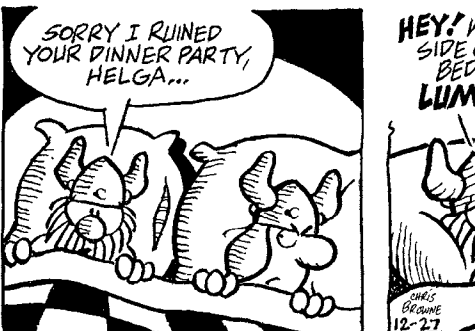
12-27 Dennis the Menace comic strip by Hank Ketchum.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



12-27 The Family Circus comic strip by Bil Keane.

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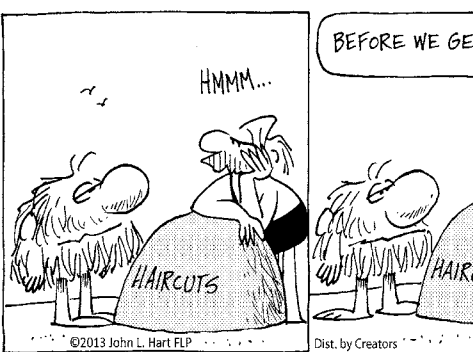
Hagar comic strip by Bud Bruesch.

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Blondie comic strip by Charley Chase.

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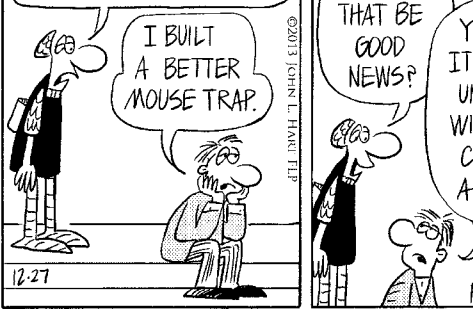
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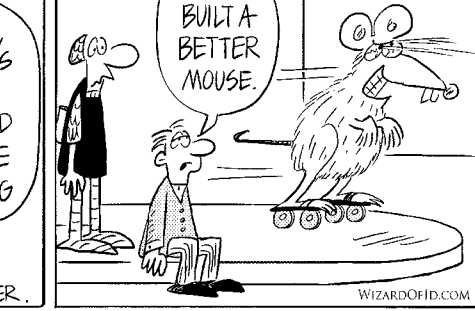
Wizard of ID comic strip by John L. Hart.

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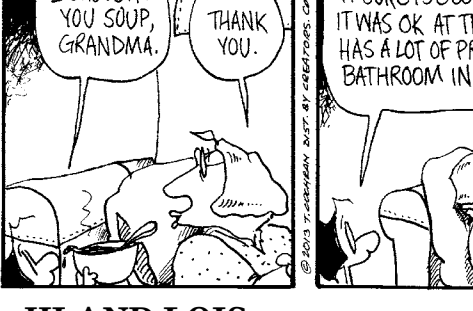
Agnes comic strip by Parker.

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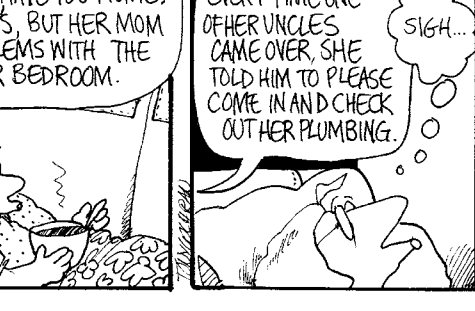
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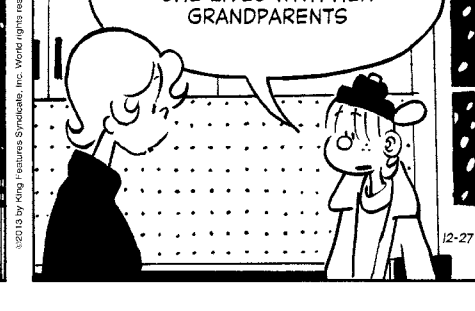
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AGNES



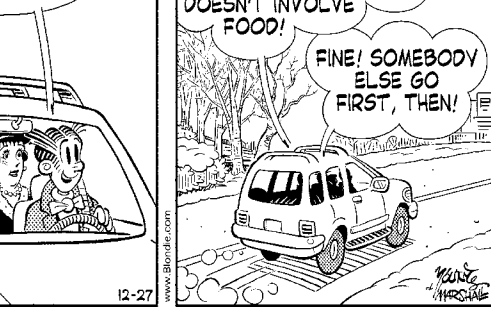
Agnes comic strip by Parker.

BLONDIE



Blondie comic strip by Charley Chase.

AGNES



Agnes comic strip by Parker.

This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2013. There are four days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 27, 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London. In 1932, New York City's Radio City Music Hall opened to the public in midtown Manhattan. In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank. In 1947, the original version of the puppet character Howdy Doody made its TV debut on NBC's "Puppet Playhouse."

was replaced by Babrak Karmal. In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 19 victims were killed, plus four attackers who were slain by police and security personnel. American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with letters W, V, A, E, T, A, S, A, S, Y, E, T, H, E, N, R, I, C, H, S, L, O, G, A, N, I, R, K, U, N, D, O, T, O, G, G, L, E, S, N, A, P, P, Y, C, O, M, E, B, A, C, K, S, K, A, R, A, T, O, R, S, R, O, T, S, L, A, Y, S, I, T, I, O, N, W, A, V, E, O, N, C, E, V, O, T, E, R, C, R, A, C, K, L, Y, S, P, E, A, K, E, R, S, H, E, L, P, S, L, A, W, N, I, S, L, A, I, R, A, T, E, S, S, O, S, O, P, T, S, T, N, T, J, A, P, A, N, P, O, P, P, Y, S, E, E, D, B, A, G, E, L, S, E, R, I, E, P, A, C, R, O, C, N, O, T, R, E, C, K, I, O, N, H, A, W, K, U, M, A, R, E, I, S, E, O, W, L, S, L, I, P, E, R

Newsday Crossword

ASSET MANAGEMENT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Without change 5 In-box annoyance 9 Attribute 14 Cot spot 15 Hidden mike 16 Overrun (with) 17 Far from here 18 Pony up 19 Dirty and unkempt 20 Railroader's investment? 23 Under control 24 Faster than allegro 28 Top of some scales 30 Messy digs 31 Chinese vessel 32 Baking staple 36 It starts Siegfried 38 Fictional Georgia estate 39 Pilot's investment? 42 Some tops 43 Salon sweepings 44 Low cards in pinochle 45 Star quality 46 Be off 47 DC pro athlete 49 Decorator's expertise 51 Toon mouse 56 Science teacher's investment? 60 News sources 63 Exhaustive 64 Proves beneficial 65 Homeland star 66 Casino offering

- 67 High-snowfall Eastern city 68 Word on a maze 69 Straw in the wind 70 Verifiable DOWN 1 Asteroids intruder 2 Attach, in a way 3 On the whole 4 Etching tools 5 Gershwin's first hit song 6 Pinball sound 7 NEA part 8 Face up to 9 Poor imitation 10 Vigilant 11 Scratching-post user 12 Is: Lat. 13 America the Beautiful pronoun 21 Keynote preceder 22 Telescope lens 25 Suitor 26 Rich dessert 27 Green-lights 29 South African region 30 Unyielding 32 Meant to be 33 Faithful subject 34 Lunchbox treats 35 Company called "Big Brown" 37 Vegas-based series 38 Pod preceder 40 It flows through Bonn 41 Pending 46 In shock 48 S&P 500 company 50 More slick, in a way 52 Hawk or Bull 53 Black, in Boulogne 54 Where Columbus wanted to go 55 Henry Ford's son 57 Fast-swimming shark 58 Commodity 59 Orange thing on the road 60 Script writers: Abbr. 61 Lunch on 62 Code carrier

Crossword grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting positions for words.

Players still hide, play with concussions

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — Detroit Lions tight end Dorin Dickerson is the latest NFL player to stay in a game with a concussion.

He joined a list that is likely long. Buffalo Bills safety Jim Leonhard and Tennessee Titans safety George Wilson both acknowledged this week they have played with concussions in the past.

San Diego Chargers safety Eric Weddle said, "of course it happens," because players don't want to come out of games for fear of losing their jobs or roles.

Dickerson didn't tell the Lions' medical staff immediately about his concussion, which he recalled getting on a kickoff during the second half. He later dropped a pass and was called for holding in overtime of Sunday's 23-20 loss to the New York Giants.

"I just got knocked out," Dickerson told reporters after the game. "I just got a little concussion. I should have reported it. I thought I could get through it."

Four days later, the 25-year-old journeyman was put on injured reserve.

Dickerson, who has caught 11 passes in 23 games over three years with three NFL teams, may have simply been trying to make the most of his opportunity to play even if he was putting his health at risk.

For players and the league, there's a lot at stake.

Millions can be made by men who can thrive and survive in what Lions receiver Nate Burleson called "a gladiator sport," by shaking off hits that are so hard brains collide with skulls. And, hundreds of millions of dollars — perhaps billions in the future — can be lost by the league.

The NFL agreed a week before this season started to pay \$765 million to settle lawsuits from thousands of former players who developed dementia or other concussion-related health problems they claimed were caused by the same on-field violence that boosted the game's popularity and profit.

Former Lions and Washington Redskins athletic trainer Al Bellamy, who worked for NFL teams from 1988-2012, said there's only so much medical professionals can do to protect players from themselves.

"I don't think there's anything you can do if a player isn't being forthright about his health," said Bellamy, now the director of athletic training at Temple. "Athletic trainers and team doctors are trying to see what they can from the sideline and the NFL puts an athletic trainer in the press box to point out possible concerns."

"Ultimately, though, it's up to the players to be forthcoming about their health when there's any doubt."

Sometimes, that simply doesn't happen.

Dr. Stanley A. Herring, a Seattle Seahawks team physician for 20-plus years and chairman of the NFL head, neck and spine committee subcommittee, said a key component of diagnosing concussions is a good relationship with players.

"The clinical diagnosis is aided if you know what the player is like — how he thought, acted and talked — before he was injured," Herring said in a telephone interview Thursday night. "You can't understand if a player is acting differently if you don't know him very well."

Leonhard said he continued playing "an important" game for the New York Jets three or four years ago with a concussion. Looking back, he said it was a "terrible decision" because of what he has learned about head injuries.

"But sometimes it's hard — you're a competitor," he said.

In a series of interviews in 2011 about head injuries with The Associated Press, 23 of 44 NFL players said they would try to conceal a possible concussion rather than pull themselves out of a game.

Wilson said it's just the nature of the game to stay on the field even with a head injury.

"I think any football player who's played an extensive amount of time playing football has played at one time or another with a concussion," he said.

AP source: Choo passes physical with Rangers

(AP) — Shin-Soo Choo passed his physical with the Texas Rangers, clearing the way for the completion of the outfielder's \$130 million, seven-year deal.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Thursday night that Choo passed his physical and would be formally introduced in Texas on Friday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity

because there was no official announcement from the team.

The Rangers scheduled a press conference Friday afternoon. The said only that it was to "announce a major free agent signing" and provided no other details.

Choo's deal, worth about \$18.6 million per season, is the third-highest this offseason. The deal was agreed upon last weekend, but was pend-

ing the completion of the physical.

Second baseman Robinson Cano got \$240 million over 10 years from Seattle and outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury, like Choo, a client of agent Scott Boras, signed a \$153 million, seven-year contract with the New York Yankees.

Choo started 150 games in center field and had a .423 on-base percentage last season for Cincinnati in his only year with the Reds. He hit .285 with 21 homers and 20 stolen bases and scored 107 runs as their primary leadoff hitter.

The Rangers will likely use Choo in left field be-

cause they have Leonys Martin in center and Alex Rios in right. And Choo could be their lead-off hitter.

The deal comes a month after the Rangers acquired five-time All-Star first baseman Prince Fielder in a trade with Detroit for second baseman Ian Kinsler, their primary leadoff hitter last season.

Both Fielder and Choo will be under contract through the 2020 season.

The Rangers, who won their only AL pennants in 2010 and 2011, missed the playoffs for the first time in four years. Texas scored only 730 runs.

The Big Spring Herald



QUESTION OF THE WEEK!!

What is your New Year's Resolution?

- Jesse Loya To eat less Gill's Gold-N-Crisp Fried Chicken :-)
- Elocia Yiya Salazar improve my relationship with God for me and my son!!
- Jennifer Tabors Scott To be more of a leader than a follower.
- RaulandAshley Marquez Volunteer, give back, and support the community we dwell in.
- Carolina Garcia Visit my sister in Big Spring more often!
- Valerie Peters To volunteer more of my time to charities in need.
- Dondee Zamora-Vela To get a new bigger truck for all the sports gear!!
- Elissa Medina-Bancroft ...to keep at least one resolution this year...
- Melvin Berry Be a better husband.
- Guadalupe Ramirez Castellano To be better person!
- Marisela Arista To make a bigger difference than I did last year..
- Shandi Huitt To forgive and forget.
- Roman Carrasco Pay it forward
- Karol Luna To Love more !
- Jessie Payen Live love and laugh more and just be me
- Dand Tina Rawls Spend more time with family
- Peggy Dedrick Morales Get healthy and fit
- Adrienne Alcantar Salgado Start going to Go-Life Church with my kids and teaching them how much love the lord has for us and what he did for us.
- Brenda Weatherby Ervin To do more random acts of kindness for others
- Laura Ann Help others who are in need and become more creative in my future career.
- Lisa McWilliams-Harwood Love more, loath less. Lol
- Tiffany Villareal To keep being the good person I've been and always being there for my friends and family and most of being an awesome mommy
- Lester W Brown To find my limits and learn to trust God to exceed those limits! To get beyond my needs and share the love of Jesus Christ.
- Rose Guthrie More travel!
- Sylvia Jordan To go more to church more. And to volunteer more into church activities.
- Charlene Carrillo to explore the world
- Destiny Robles To be kind to EVERYONE
- Donna Rigdon To be a better parent and friend. There is always room for improvement.
- L.L. Carson To lose at least 10 lbs and
- Chris Lopez Spend time with my grandkids be a better grandpa
- Allesha Miller Pay more attention and be more involved
- Patricia Kay Elliott Be kind to others and make the most out of life
- Carissa Beserra To be able to help more not just myself but family/friends
- Ernest Rodriguez To weigh 175 pounds.
- Maria Lupe Juarez Durham To be a better person, follow Christ more and more!!!
- Tonya Warren Boadle In all I do show love and respect.
- Sandra Silva Show my Son about doing for others, volunteering, do Keep Big Spring Beautiful again, stay involved with North Side Movement.

Tiffany Villareal
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ROMO

Continued from page 8

we have accomplished over the last few years, that you believe in and you hold on to, is because of him," said

tight end Jason Witten, the franchise leader in catches who came into the league with Romo in 2003. "What he creates week in and week out, day in and day out, I don't think you look at a couple of plays and

determine. I think that would be foolish for anybody to do that."

Jones' unwavering support for Romo — backed by the offseason signing of a six-year, \$108 million contract extension with more guaranteed money than Super Bowl winner Joe Flacco — could get a little tricky if Orton leads an improbable win against the Eagles. Philadelphia jumped from a 2½-point favorite to a 6½-point pick after news of the Romo injury broke.

The Cowboys obviously aren't worried about those implications at the moment. They're simply trying to tell the world they can beat the high-scoring Eagles without the guy who carries the label of the quarterback who can't win the big one, or keeps finding ways to lose it.

"Tony is our guy but

we've got to move ahead and go from there," receiver Dez Bryant said. "For us, we believe in our quarterbacks. I don't think it's going to be much of a big issue for us."

Romo didn't practice Wednesday or Thursday, and coach Jason Garrett said he wasn't involved in many meetings either. He missed his regular weekly media session Thursday and hasn't been seen during the open portion of practice or in the locker room.

And yet, the Cowboys just can't seem to let go. "I think we've gotten used to him kind of limping around and finding a way and somehow, some way, Wednesday rolls around and he's back out there," Witten said. "I think we all believed that would be the case."

It wasn't, so maybe now the world will find out what the Cowboys can do without him.

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