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JANUARY 1, 2014



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VOLUME 109, NUMBER 65

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*Bring on  
 the boom*

*The top 10  
 stories of 2013*



File photo

Oil drilling platforms once again became a common sight in Howard County, thanks to a major surge in exploration in 2013.

**Resurgence of area's oil industry top story of the year**

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

King Oil is back. The Crossroads is no stranger to oil booms, but the one enveloping this area in 2013 was something else, entirely. Almost every facet of our lives were touched, in some

way, by the bonanza brought on by the surge of exploration and production of oil out of the Cline Shale formation.

The effects of the boom were both good (lots of money poured into this area) and not-so-good ("affordable housing" almost became an oxymoron), and left city, county and school officials struggling through the year to keep up with its ripple effects.

There was other news, of course, in 2013 — a long search for a missing teen came to a sad conclusion, a local school superintendent resigned his position and crime and politics, as always, dominated headlines.

But the unquestioned top story of the year was what Black Gold meant to this area.

Here are the top 10 stories of 2013, as voted on by the Herald editorial staff:

• **The boom** — The term is "hydraulic fracturing," or "fracking" for short. In simple terms, it is an economical method used to extract oil from shale deposits. Because Howard County sits on top of one of the largest shale deposits around — the Cline Shale formation — this area has become very, very attractive to oil producers.

Oil booms — and their accompanying busts — are no strangers to West Texas. But this is no "ordinary" oil boom, experts predicted.

"A few years ago, there were a lot of people who were

fearful the Permian Basin oil fields would go dry," said Luke Legate of the Joint Association Oil & Natural Gas Education Initiative. "That is certainly not the case today. In fact, the production the oil field here is expected to bring is 10-fold of what previous booms brought."

Employment and construction — all fueled by the boom — ramped up in 2013, several new businesses expressed interest in setting up shop in Howard County and the economic forecast for the next several years is fairly bright for this area. But not all the boom-related news was good.

Housing valuations soared in 2013, leaving both property owners and prospective renters and home buyers feeling the pinch. County roads — not in the best shape to begin with — crumbled even further under the weight of increased traffic loads. And city planners raced to develop master plans to deal with all this growth.

Even schools had boom-related headaches, both obvious — the boom is expected to result in increased enrollment — and unexpected — districts had to compete with oilfield salaries when finding employees, then struggled to find those new hires affordable housing.

• **Trash** — For better or worse, trash (and what to do with it) was big news in 2013.

It is common knowledge that Big Spring's landfill is

close to capacity, meaning a new one must be found and developed within the next few years. Paying for the new trash dump, however, was a major point of contention.

The new landfill is expected to cost several million dollars to develop and construct. City and county officials squabbled over how to share the costs for the new landfill, an issue that was somewhat smoothed over but still undecided at year's end. Also, the city council nixed a trash collection fee increase — money that was earmarked for the new landfill. The new rate would have increased monthly trash collection fees for residents by \$3 and busi-

nesses by \$5.

• **Hailey Dunn** — Although she wasn't from Howard County, the Colorado City teenager's disappearance two years ago had a great effect on many area residents. Since Dunn disappeared in December 2010, many Howard County people had joined in searches for the missing girl.

On March 16, human remains were found near Lake J.B. Thomas, remains that were positively identified as Dunn's a month later.

"It's a sad day for those of us who have adopted Hailey

See 2013, page 3



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File photo

A late November storm blanketed area roads in a thick coat of ice.

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## Take Note

• Holy Trinity Youth Group is hosting its 3rd Annual "Warming up our Community" service project, Saturday Jan. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 5 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Fr. Beasley Hall, 1009 Hearn Street, Big Spring. Anyone in need of blankets, jackets, scarves and gloves is welcome to come by.

• 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 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 gently 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.

• Crossroads Hospice is in need of volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of the hospice team, by bringing light and love into people's lives. For more information on joining, contact Eva Robison at 432-263-5300 or come by 421 S. Main.

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it's visiting a patient or work-

ing in the office or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Kara Daniels at Compass Hospice, 432-263-5999, or apply in person at 602 S. Main St.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

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

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.






## Support Groups

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.

• 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.

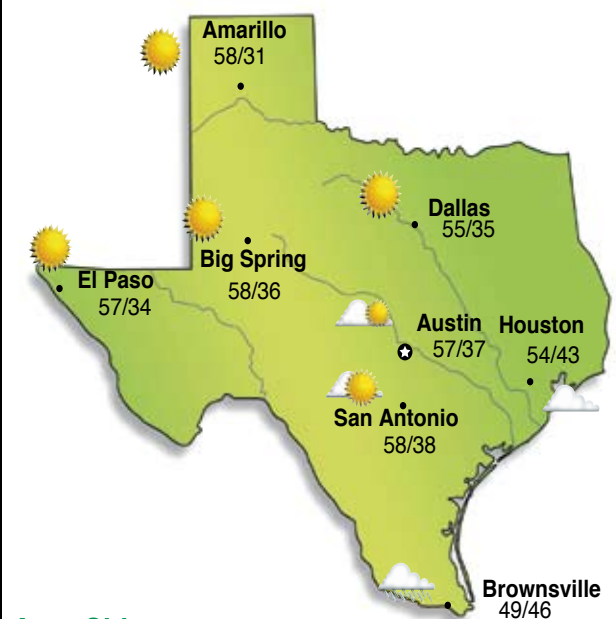
## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 1/1	Thu 1/2	Fri 1/3	Sat 1/4	Sun 1/5
 <b>58/36</b> A mainly sunny sky. High 58F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	 <b>66/31</b> Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.	 <b>51/30</b> Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 <b>58/37</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	 <b>64/30</b> More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:52 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:52 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:53 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:54 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:55 PM



## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	57	39	sunny	Kingsville	54	45	rain
Amarillo	58	31	sunny	Livingston	54	37	pt sunny
Austin	57	37	pt sunny	Longview	55	35	pt sunny
Beaumont	52	42	cloudy	Lubbock	57	31	sunny
Brownsville	49	46	rain	Lufkin	55	36	pt sunny
Brownwood	58	36	sunny	Midland	58	36	sunny
Corpus Christi	52	46	rain	Raymondville	48	45	rain
Corsicana	54	34	sunny	Rosenberg	54	43	cloudy
Dallas	55	35	sunny	San Antonio	58	38	mst sunny
Del Rio	59	37	sunny	San Marcos	58	38	pt sunny
El Paso	57	34	sunny	Sulphur Springs	54	36	sunny
Fort Stockton	62	41	sunny	Sweetwater	57	37	sunny
Gainesville	52	32	sunny	Tyler	55	35	sunny
Greenville	53	32	sunny	Weatherford	54	32	sunny
Houston	54	43	cloudy	Wichita Falls	56	34	sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	49	34	cloudy	Minneapolis	0	-7	pt sunny
Boston	28	16	pt sunny	New York	39	24	pt sunny
Chicago	15	13	sn shower	Phoenix	70	44	sunny
Dallas	55	35	sunny	San Francisco	63	44	pt sunny
Denver	52	31	pt sunny	Seattle	48	39	rain
Houston	54	43	cloudy	St. Louis	36	30	mst sunny
Los Angeles	70	48	mst sunny	Washington, DC	49	31	sunny
Miami	76	71	rain				

### Moon Phases



**Last**  
Dec 25

### UV Index

Wed 1/1	Thu 1/2	Fri 1/3	Sat 1/4	Sun 1/5
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

©2010 American Profile Hometown Content Service

• 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.

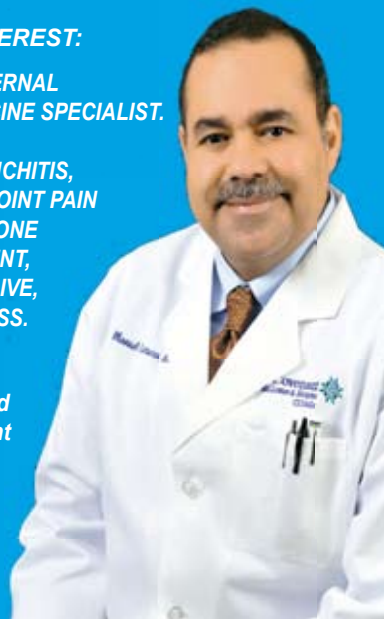
• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11th Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

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Larry McClellan was sworn in as Big Spring Mayor in May.

2013

Continued from Page 1

as our own," said Big Spring resident DeNeise Coates. "So many of us hoped that one day we would meet the precious angel we worked so hard to bring home. It's been a long 30 months and now we can lay her to rest and know she is not suffering in any way."

No arrests had been made in the Dunn case by year's end.

**• Crime** — Unfortunately, Howard County saw its share of violent crime in 2013, highlighted by a pair of murders.

In September, 17-year-old Abigail Valencia

suffered a fatal gunshot wound on the east side of Big Spring. Her boyfriend, Dakota Aguiano, was subsequently charged with her murder. Aguiano, who had initially claimed Valencia's death was the result of a drive-by shooting by unknown assailants, was later indicted on murder charges by a Howard County grand jury.

In October, 26-year-old Carlos Guerrero was shot and killed during an altercation in the 1000 block of Stadium. Sean Smith, 22, of Stanton, was subsequently arrested and charged with Guerrero's murder.

Another fatal shooting, this one in Sand

Springs, claimed the life Bobby Reed following a Sept. 21 domestic disturbance, but a county grand jury declined to indict the shooter, L.C. Gibbs, on Reed's death.

**• Change at the top** — Larry McClellan was sworn in as Big Spring's newest mayor on May 14. McClellan had won election to the post by almost a 3-to-1 margin over Roger Rodman earlier in the month. Incumbent Tommy Duncan did not seek reelection.

"I feel like we can accomplish a lot by working together and that's something we owe the people of Big Spring and Howard County," McClellan said shortly

after his election.

Another new face joined the city council in June, as Raul Benavides was seated as District 5 representative after winning a runoff election over Clint Collins.



**• Forsan ISD bond** — By an overwhelming margin, Forsan Independent School District voters in May approved a \$23.8 million construction bond to build a new elementary campus and finance major renovations at the secondary campus.

More than 80 percent of voters approved the bond.

"We're very excited," FISD Superintendent Randy Johnson said. "We feel like this is definitely in the best interests of the school district and community."

**• BSISD superintendent resigns** — After five years on the job, Big Spring ISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar tendered his resignation in 2013.

Saldivar, who accepted a similar position at Anthony ISD, was credited with successfully shepherding a \$60 million construction bond and with leaving the school district in good financial shape, but was criticized for the district's continued failure to meet Texas Education Agency accountability standards.



Chris Wigington was named interim superintendent following Saldivar's departure. A permanent replacement had not been named at year's end.

**• County roads** — One unfortunate by-product of the oil boom was the damage heavy traffic did to county roads. At year's end, officials estimate it would cost \$17 million to adequately repair the roads.

To help pay that repair bill, county commissioners initially approved a road-access fee of \$4,000 for new commercial and agriculture concerns, but dropped that idea after heavy op-



Big Spring High School's volleyball team qualified for the state tournament.

position. Another possible source of repair revenue — more than \$3 million in state grant money — was being pursued at year's end.

**• Here's to the Steers** — Two Big Spring High School athletic teams had stellar campaigns in 2013.

The Lady Steers' volleyball squad led the way, earning a spot in the state tournament for the first time since the late 1970s.

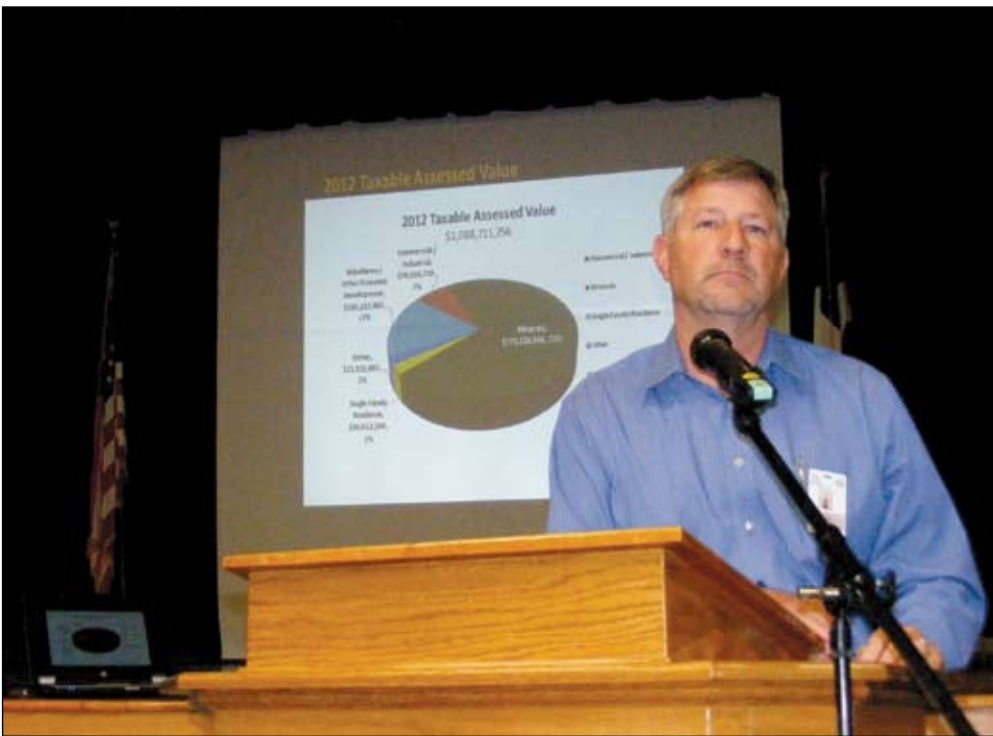
In football, Big Spring finished third in district, then reeled off two blowout wins in the Class 3A playoffs before falling to defending state champion Stephenville.

**• It's c-c-c-c-old** — Before winter even officially arrived, Howard County was subjected to

two bouts of extremely cold weather.

The first storm, which hit right before Thanksgiving, blanketed roads with ice and plunged temperatures into the low teens. The second storm, in early December, forced the postponement of several Christmas activities until later in the month.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com



Forsan ISD Superintendent Randy Johnson listens to a question during a public hearing on the district's \$23.8 million construction bond election.

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Lois D. Crawford, 80, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 4, 2014 at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at 2:30 at Gail Cemetery.

Eliseo M. Gamboa, 81, died Sunday. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 4, 2014 at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Clarence Henkell, 69, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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

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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.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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

# It's time to set some new lofty goals

Unbelievably, it's the beginning of yet another year. We all know what that

means. Yes, it's time once again to set those lofty and admirable goals we label “resolutions” and turn our lives around for the better. Wait, didn't we do that last year? And the year before? Yes, friends, we did, but we are about to embark on yet another magical journey into the unknown and the truth is there is a legitimate need to make some definitive choices that will help guide us through the uncharted waters of 2014.

All of us are blessed people and one of the main reasons our culture has prospered is because of our understanding and application of biblical truths. Bible-believing Christians believe in sowing and reaping—what the world calls “cause and effect”. For over 200 years, that belief system has led to life-changing industry, inventions and a standard of living never known before on this planet. The success of any harvest, or in this case our resolutions, is based on never-changing principles such as “you reap what you sow” and “you reap in the same measure you sow”. Those two concepts are so easily understood I feel no need to expand on them.

So, as we head into 2014, I want to do something a little out of character for me; I want to use some statistics. If you have read this column for any length of time you know I don't easily hide my aggravation with the whole idea of polls and statistics. I consider most of the reports I read that involve stats as flawed at best and outright ridiculously errant and absurd in other cases. CNN or NBC will poll 50 people in New York City or Los Angeles about something and then, based on that sampling, tell me that 82 percent of the country feels a certain way. That's nonsense. But, I am just

as quick to give credit where credit is due, and if enough numbers in a cross-section of the population and in different geographical locations express an opinion about a polling matter, I usually give it credibility.

Concerning resolutions for the New Year, I want to borrow some fascinating data from a best-selling book by Tom Corley, who did an extensive five year study of hundreds of rich and poor people. During his research he identified over 200 daily activities that separated the “haves” from the “have-nots”. The culmination of his research can be found in his #1 bestselling book, *Rich Habits – The Daily Success Habits of Wealthy Individuals*.

Whether your goals for 2014 involve getting rich or not, here is a partial list of the things he discovered that may help us reap a better personal harvest this coming year in whatever endeavor you undertake.

1. 70% of wealthy eat less than 300 junk food calories per day. 97% of poor people eat more than 300 junk food calories per day. 23% of wealthy gamble. 52% of poor people gamble.

2. 80% of wealthy are focused on accomplishing some single goal. Only 12% of the poor do this.

3. 76% of wealthy exercise aerobically four days a week. 23% of poor do this.

4. 63% of wealthy listen to audio books during commute to work vs. 5% of poor people.

5. 81% of wealthy maintain a to-do list vs. 19% of poor.

6. 63% of wealthy parents make their children read two or more non-fiction books a month vs. 3% of poor.

7. 70% of wealthy parents make their children volunteer 10 hours or more a month vs. 3% of poor.

8. 80% of wealthy make Happy Birthday calls vs. 11% of poor.

9. 67% of wealthy write down their goals vs. 17% of poor.

10. 88% of wealthy read 30 minutes or more each day for education or career reasons vs. 2% of poor.

11. 6% of wealthy say what's on their mind vs. 69% of poor.

12. 79% of wealthy network

five hours or more each month vs. 16% of poor.

13. 67% of wealthy watch one hour or less of TV every day vs. 23% of poor.

14. 6% of wealthy watch reality TV vs. 78% of poor.

15. 44% of wealthy wake up three hours before work starts vs. 3% of poor.

16. 74% of wealthy teach good daily success habits to their children vs. 1% of poor.

17. 84% of wealthy believe good habits create opportunity luck vs. 4% of poor.

18. 76% of wealthy believe bad habits create detrimental luck vs. 9% of poor.

19. 86% of wealthy believe in lifelong educational self-improvement vs. 5% of poor.

20. 86% of wealthy love to read vs. 26% of poor.

While I am reasonably sure some will find fault with the list, I am also reasonably sure that there is a world of good information and inspiration to be gleaned from it. One of the problems I have found in working with people all over this country for so many years is that too many want to take the easy way out of everything. There is a tendency to want everything without any effort. More than 30 years ago I had a minister friend in California who liked to say “good habits are just as easy to develop as bad ones”. I didn't buy that theory then and I still don't. Doing the right things, making good choices, standing up and fighting for what is right, as well as a myriad of other difficult decisions, require a commitment that far too many don't seem to be willing to make. Good habits, like good choices, require character, commitment, determination, and resolve. Maybe being honest with ourselves about that would be a great place to start as we make our resolutions this year.

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](mailto:pastorprince@msn.com).*

# A funny thing happened...

A funny thing happened during Australian climate change professor Chris Turney's venture to retrace a 1912 research expedition in Antarctica and gauge how climate change has affected the continent: Two weeks into a five-week excursion, Turney's good ship MV Akademik Shokalskiy got trapped in ice. It turns out, global warming notwithstanding, that there's so much ice down under that two ice-breaking vessels sent to rescue the research team cannot reach the Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

Years ago, global warming believers renamed the phenomenon “climate change” — probably because of pesky details such as unusually cold weather undercutting the warming argument. Now, just as advocates argue that earth is approaching a tipping point, there's so much ice floating in Antarctica during the Southern Hemisphere's summer that the Australasian Antarctic Expedition posted in a statement: “We're stuck in our own experiment.”

Does this incident mean that climate change is an illusion or a hoax? Of course not. Even during its summer, Antarctica is subject to extreme weather. “Bad weather is the norm in Antarctica,” climatologist Roy Spencer observed.

But it does show that like the rest of us chickens, scientists have feet of clay. Turney had told journalists that his expedi-

**Years ago, global warming believers renamed the phenomenon “climate change” — probably because of pesky details such as unusually cold weather undercutting the warming argument. Now, just as advocates argue that earth is approaching a tipping point, there's so much ice floating in Antarctica during the Southern Hemisphere's summer that the Australasian Antarctic Expedition posted in a statement: “We're stuck in our own experiment.”**

tion wanted to collect data that could be used to improve climate models. Too bad the folks who are supposed to predict climate decades into the future are guided by scientists who could not manage to avoid ice floes during a five-week trip.

“We were just in the wrong place at the wrong time,” Turney told Fox News.

He believes that the ship was stuck in old ice from a 75-mile-long iceberg that broke apart three years ago.

Fair enough. But there's still the issue of ice volume. Climate changers usually warn about Arctic ice, which has been

receding over the past few decades, but rarely address the overall growth of ice in Antarctica.

“I'm sure some researchers can find a possible explanation where humans are causing both Arctic ice melting and Antarctic ice growth, but I'm skeptical of scientists who blame every change in nature on human activities. Nature routinely causes its own changes, without any help from us,” quoth Spencer, himself a climate change contrarian.

“Sea ice is disappearing due to climate change, but here ice is building up,” the Australasian Antarctic Expedition acknowledges. It's a conundrum. If warming is melting ice in the Northern Hemisphere, why isn't it melting ice in the Southern Hemisphere?

Believers seize on all manner of weather — less Arctic ice, more Antarctic ice — as proof of climate change, but as Spencer notes, there is no climate change without man-caused global warming.

Turney told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that his goal is to excite the public about science. As for climate change, “in the scientific community, it's remarkably solid.”

He pushes a framework of science being data-driven and free from politics. Yet it's hard to escape the suspicion that whatever the icebound researchers experience, they will frame it as proof that climate change is unassailable.

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EDDY PRINCE



DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

# 13-plus years since day with no traffic deaths

HOUSTON (AP) — Lanny Haschel remembers delivering the news to a man that his family had been wiped out in a traffic wreck.

"The most difficult job is to go knock on someone's door and say a loved one is not coming back anymore," the Texas Department of Public Safety sergeant said.

Like people throughout the world, many Texans will gather Tuesday to ring in the New Year with booze-fueled parties. Despite increased warnings about drinking and driving during the holiday season, though, the state is nearly certain to add another notch to Texas' ignominious streak of having at least one

road death per day for more than 13 years.

The last day without a traffic death in Texas was Nov. 7, 2000, state Department of Transportation figures show. Since then, more than 45,000 motor vehicle fatalities have occurred.

It's believed to be the longest streak ever for Texas, where state records on traffic fatalities go back to 1940.

California, the only state more populous than Texas, most recently had a traffic fatality-free day in September 2009, said Chris Cochran, spokesman for the California Office of Traffic Safety.

Reasons for the Texas streak are varied, but a "big three"

stand out, according to Fort Worth-based Haschel.

"What we see are speed, failure to use seat belts and impaired driving," he said.

Nearly one-third of all the fatalities since November 2000 are attributed to alcohol, officials say.

"We're No. 1 in the entire country, and people don't think there's a problem," says Carol Levin, whose 26-year-old son and his girlfriend were killed in 2006 by a drunken driver who ran a red light at a Houston intersection.

The 22-year-old driver of the other car is serving 10 years in prison for two counts of intoxicated manslaughter but

is parole eligible. The driver could have been sentenced to up to 20 years behind bars, but Texas judges have wide discretion in deciding sentences. A 16-year-old earlier this month in Tarrant County received probation for a four-fatality wreck.

"The drunks are the ones who get off," Levin said. "And we're the victims and we're victimized and victimized and victimized. Holidays, birthdays are impossible. You have to grieve all over again."

On Tuesday, safety efforts included 15 agencies on patrol across Central Texas looking for drunken drivers as part of an initiative called

Arrive Alive. In Houston, the city's public transit agency, METRO, offered free service from evening into early Wednesday.

California says more than 2,000 sobriety checkpoints a year help reduce its death toll, but Texas hasn't used such roadblocks since 1994 when a state appeals court ruled that they violated the Texas Constitution because there were no statewide guidelines.

Daniel Hottman, an assistant pastor at a Montgomery church, was killed when Amanda Doyle slammed head-on into his family's car in February 2008. Hottman's wife and three children were seriously hurt.

## News in brief

### 2 suffer minor injuries in Houston pipeline fire

LA PORTE, Texas (AP) — At least two workers have been hurt in a fire on a petrochemical pipeline along the Houston Ship Channel.

Enterprise Products Partners spokesman Rick Rainey says the workers were treated and released after fire erupted late Tuesday morning in a metering area of its Morgan's Point marine terminal where barges are loaded mainly with natural gas liquids.

The nature of the injuries wasn't immediately known but Rainey says the two are contract employees working in the area.

The operation east of Houston normally has about two dozen employees plus contract workers.

Rainey says the plant has been shut, crews have been working to isolate the area and firefighters have been pouring water on flames.

The terminal primarily handles products from an Enterprise plant in Mont Belvieu, about 15 miles away.

### Authorities: Man had pot as Christmas gifts in car

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Sheriff's deputies in West Texas say they've arrested a man who was carrying 145 pounds of marijuana wrapped as Christmas presents.

Gabriel Mendiola was arrested Thursday in Socorro, southeast of El Paso, on charges of possession of marijuana and evading detention.

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office says that two

weeks ago, the 24-year-old Mendiola was flagged at a traffic stop in El Paso and fled when deputies went to check for any outstanding warrants. Deputies would search his car and find several boxes wrapped like Christmas gifts. The boxes had several bundles of marijuana inside.

Mendiola was released on bond on Saturday. Records do not show contact information for Mendiola or his attorney, and a phone number for Mendiola was not listed.

### Fort Worth real estate agent found dead in office

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A North Texas real estate agent has been found stabbed to death in her Fort Worth office.

The Tarrant County medical examiner on Tuesday identified the 49-year-old woman found dead Monday afternoon as Suzanne Parsons, listed as a real estate agent for RE/MAX.

Fort Worth police spokeswoman Tracey Knight told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that a 911 caller reported an incident at a RE/MAX Heritage office in the city.

The medical examiner has not yet listed a cause of death.

No arrests have been made in Parsons' death.

### Dallas officer fired for shooting suspect

DALLAS (AP) — A veteran Dallas police officer has been fired for shooting an unarmed man, becoming the second officer dismissed since October in shootings superiors have deemed unjustified.

Police Chief David Brown on Monday fired Senior Cpl. Amy Wilburn. The 48-year-old came under scrutiny for wounding a 19-year-old carjacking suspect Dec. 9. A witness told investigators the suspect had his hands raised at the time.

Wilburn's attorney,

Robert Rogers, told The Dallas Morning News the corporal has more than 200 commendations in her 12-year career. He says Wilburn feared for her life.

Another Dallas officer was fired in October for wounding a mentally ill man.

Brown has enacted a series of policy changes, including revising how the department trains officers and testing body cameras that officers will wear in the field.

### Girlfriend: 2 men safe aboard sailboat in Gulf

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — The girlfriend of one of two men who didn't return on time from a sailing trip says she's heard from them and that they're safe.

Tara Bajkowski tells KHOU-TV that Patrick Holden called her around 4 a.m. to say that they were returning to the Port Aransas marina, where they left Saturday night for what was to be a two-day trip.

Bajkowski is the girlfriend of Holden's cousin, Joe Squibb.

The Coast Guard was conducting a search Monday and early Tuesday for the 27-year-old Holden and 26-year-old Squibb, who had gone sailing on a 25-foot sailboat.

Holden's wife called the Coast Guard early Monday morning after she did not hear from him at their expected arrival time in Galveston on Sunday night.

### Judge accused of assault says was trying to help

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas County state district judge charged with family violence assault has filed a motion challenging his girlfriend's claims that he choked her, leaned her over the edge of the balcony at his apartment and threatened to kill her.

In a motion filed Monday, Carlos Cortez said his girlfriend was trying to kill herself and he tried to pull her away from the balcony. Ted Steinke, an attorney for Cortez' girlfriend, called Cortez' contention that he was saving her life "laughable," adding, "it's my experience that the police don't usually arrest heroes."

Cortez is asking a judge to throw out an emergency protective order granted by a judge after the Saturday incident.

Cortez is charged with assault family violence, a third-degree felony.

*Have a Safe and Happy New Year!*



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**sudoku**

ANSWERS

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

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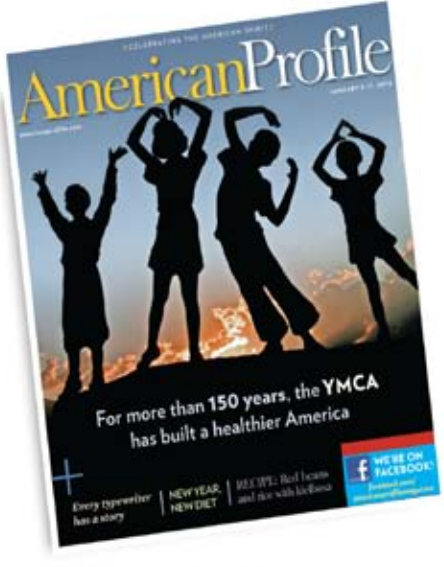
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**In Sunday's Big Spring Herald**



**YMCA**

Since established in 1851 in Boston, Mass., the now nationwide nonprofit continues working to make America healthier in "spirit, mind and body."

**AmericanProfile**

# Caregiver 101: Information you should know before you hire



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

(Family Features) When looking for the perfect caregiver, many families don't know where to begin. Though the Internet offers a quick solution for finding caregiver information, it can also be a misleading source.

Whether looking for a babysitter for a few weeknights or a full-time nanny, knowing the history of your caregivers is vital.

In fact, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, babysitters are responsible for 4.2 percent of criminal acts against children under six years of age. Though this is a small percentage, some believe these types of crimes could have been prevented with the appropriate information up front.

When conducting a background check, there are two main types to choose from: live court research and online database searches.

Online databases: With an affordable price tag and a quick turnaround with information, many people turn to online sites when looking for the appropriate caregiver for their family.

Though many of these sites tout that their applicants are 'mom recommended,' many are simply electronic databases with little investigative reporting on applicant history.

Though they do report major offenses, such as felonies, these sites often miss the mark on reporting minor crimes and misdemeanors. These are the types of crimes that speak volumes about an applicant's character and past.

Live court research: In addition to a traditional online search, you should also conduct the more thorough option of live court research.

Though a more costly choice, live court research extensively searches current and past court

records, both state and federal. Look for a screening company with the most up-to-date information, such as Validity Screening Solutions, who has more than 1,600 record researchers that cover all jurisdictions in the United States, to offer the most current and accurate information. For more information, visit [www.validityscreening.com](http://www.validityscreening.com).

## Create a caregiver checklist

"A thorough screening includes live court research in addition to an online web search," said Darren Dupriest, president and CEO of Validity Screening Solutions. "Make sure your search includes an all-encompassing look at an applicant's verifications, records with federal and state agencies and other personal assessment screenings, which are all important determinants when choosing the best caregiver for your family."

Before choosing the appropriate background check, make sure it hits all the important marks listed below:

**Criminal Records:** A thorough search will identify any felony or misdemeanor criminal convictions. This search should be current enough to include any pending cases involving the candidate.

**Sex offender registries:** A criminal record search alone does not include significant sex offender information because each state has its own stand-alone registry. Be sure to look for a screening company that offers a multi-state check.

**Driving records:** For caregivers required to drive on the job, a thorough check of their driving history is essential. This includes the possession of a valid driver's license, and ensuring it has not been suspended, revoked and the applicant has no objectionable moving violations.

**Verification:** A proper check will ensure that past employment, certifications and references are verified through the original source.

A complete review of a potential caregiver ensures you are entrusting your family to the safest, best care possible. It also provides peace of mind while you are away from them, which, in itself, is priceless.

# Fresh tips for game day dips

(Family Features) When family and friends gather together to watch the game, loading up the table with a variety of easy-to-grab, flavorful appetizers is a winning plan. After all, casual food and good times are what game day is all about.

In the world of appetizers, dip is king. From savory to sweet, this simple tailgating party addition can take on flavors that span the globe, or that are as American and as beloved as the gridiron game itself.

• **Keep it light** — A tailgating scene can seem overwhelming for those who don't want to splurge all their day's calories, so be sure to have lots of fresh, crunchy vegetables on hand. Start with your standard dippers — like sliced carrots, broccoli and cucumbers — or score big with unique vegetable dipper options — like snap peas, asparagus spears and radishes. This recipe for Cucumber Cups creates simple and crunchy bite-sized noshes with a delicious dip of Sabra Hummus in the center. For more great game day recipes, visit [www.sabra.com](http://www.sabra.com).

• **Serve Delightful Dippers** — Potato and tortilla chips go hand-in-hand with tailgating festivities, but beyond these standards is a whole world of other dipping options. For a Mediterranean touch,

go with flatbread, pita bread or pita chips. Instead of plain old butter rounds, opt for more texture with multi-grain crackers that include raw flax, chia or sesame seeds. Or, serve up a warm batch of buffalo wings with this smoky and spicy recipe for Hummus Buffalo Wing Dip.

• **Offer Variety** — A large spread of dippers calls for a wide assortment of scrumptious dips. As an alternative to sour cream or cheese-based dips — which are loaded with fat, preservatives and sodium — serve up an assortment of delicious Sabra Hummus. Hummus offers up the protein, iron and fiber that other dips lack.

Incorporate a few of these dip tips into your game day strategy and watch as fans huddle up to fill their plates.



## Sudoku Answer on Page 5

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

## Hummus Buffalo Wing Dip

- 1 teaspoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 cup Sabra hummus

Whisk first seven ingredients together (vinegar through paprika). Add Sabra hummus and combine thoroughly.

## Cucumber Cups

Yield: 16 servings

- 2 English cucumbers
- 1 container Sabra hummus
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 bunch parsley, finely chopped

Peel cucumbers and slice lengthwise into 1 1/4-inch pieces.

Using melon baller, carve out seeds to create a vessel, making sure to leave bottom intact.

Using piping bag or small spoon, fill each with hummus, about 1 teaspoon each.

Sprinkle with paprika and finely chopped parsley.



## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Sylvia Strikes Again

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 9 4  
♥ K 8 7 2  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A Q J 10

**WEST**  
♠ 6 5  
♥ J 3  
♦ K 7 5 4 2  
♣ K 9 8 3

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K J 10 8 7 2  
♥ A 5  
♦ J 8 3  
♣ 7

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♠ Pass 3♣ Pass  
4♣ Pass 6♣

Opening lead — six of spades.  
Sylvia was never shy in the bidding. When she had a good hand, she would always bid it to the hilt — and then some. Sylvia had very little use for part-score hands, her idea being that you had to bid games to win rubbers. It was next to impossible to dissuade her from this view.

This philosophy naturally got her into a lot of hot water, though it did occasionally produce a spectacular result. For example, early in her career, back when most players were still playing strong two-bids, she held the South hand and opened the bidding with two spades. This was a far cry from a genuine forcing two-bid, but Sylvia wanted to be sure to get to game.

North couldn't really stop short of six, having an opening bid facing a strong two-bid, and he naturally contracted for a slam. If West had led a diamond, Sylvia would have gone down very quickly, but West led a trump instead.

It did not take Sylvia long to play the hand. She realized that it would not do much good to play West for the king of clubs, because even if the finesse through West worked, she would in all likelihood still have to lose two diamond tricks.

So she took the trump lead in her hand, played a club to the ace at trick two and returned the queen of clubs. When East followed low, Sylvia discarded on the club, but, being Sylvia, instead of discarding a diamond, she discarded a heart!

West took the king and returned the jack of hearts, making the natural assumption that this was the weak spot in her hand.

Sylvia won the heart return with the ace, crossed to dummy with a trump and discarded all three of her losing diamonds on the J-10 of clubs and king of hearts to make the slam.

Tomorrow: The first step tells the tale.

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# 'Selfie,' 'twerk' top school's annoying word list

By ED WHITE

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A Michigan university has issued its annual list of annoying words, and those flexible enough to take selfies of themselves twerking should take note.

In addition to "selfie" and "twerking," there was a strong sense among those who nominated words to this year's list that the word "hashtag" and term "Mr. Mom" had both run their course.

"Selfie," a term that describes a self-taken photo, often from a smartphone, led the way among the more than 2,000 nominations submitted to Lake Superior State University's 39th annual batch of words to banish due to overuse, overreliance and overall fatigue. Even President Barack Obama got into the act this month when he took a well-publicized selfie with other world leaders in South Africa for Nelson Mandela's memorial service.

"It's a lame word. It's all about me, me, me," wrote David Kriege of Lake Mills, Wis. "Put the smartphone away. Nobody cares about you."

Since 1975, the list has grown to more than 800 words, many from the worlds of politics, sports and popular — maybe too popular — culture.

"The list is made up completely from nominations. We don't just sit around and think of words that bug us," said Tom Pink, a spokesman for the school in Sault Ste. Marie, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"Twerk" or "twerking," a sexually provocative way of dancing, found a dominant place in parlance due to Miley Cyrus' performance at the MTV Video Music Awards.

"Time to dance this one off the stage," said Jim

## US university's 39th list of 'banish these' words

Lake Superior State University's 39th annual list of banished words:

- Selfie
- Twerk/twerking
- Hashtag
- Twittersphere
- Mr. Mom
- T-Bone
- On steroids
- -ageddon
- -pocalypse
- Intellectually/morally bankrupt
- Obamacare
- Adversity (as a sports reference)
- Fan base

Connelly, of Flagstaff, Ariz.

"Hashtag" refers to a word or phrase with no spaces preceded by the pound sign on the micro-

logging website Twitter.

Others on the banned list include "Twittersphere," "t-bone," "Obamacare," "intellectually/morally bankrupt" and anything "on steroids." People also tired of the suffixes "-pocalypse" and "-ageddon" used to make words such as "snow-pocalypse" or "ice-ageddon."

And enough already with "Mr. Mom," a reference to fathers who take care of kids. It's also the name of a 1983 movie starring Michael Keaton, although many stay-at-home dads these days don't like the movie stereotype of a clueless male.

"There were almost as many nominations for 'Mr. Mom' as 'selfie' and 'twerk,'" Pink said.

He believes the title got traction again in 2013 due to news stories about the 30th anniversary of the movie.

"The phrase should refer only to the film, not to men in the real world," wrote Pat Byrnes of Chicago. "It is an insult to the millions of dads who are the primary caregivers for their children. Would we tolerate calling working women, 'Mrs. Dad?'"

"Adversity" and "fan base" — terms often used when discussing sports — got booed. Kyle Melton, of White Lake, Mich., said perspective is needed when referring to a millionaire athlete trying to get a first down in football.

"Facing adversity is working 50 hours a week and still struggling to feed your kids," Melton wrote.

Online:

[www.lssu.edu/banished/](http://www.lssu.edu/banished/)

Follow Ed White on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/edwhiteap>.

## DIGITS: By the numbers, 2013 a year to forget?

By JENNIFER AGIESTA

Associated Press

About half of Americans expect 2014 to be a better year than 2013, according to the recent AP-Times Square New Year's Eve poll. And judging by the typical questions pollsters use to measure the public mood, it doesn't seem like it could be much worse.

A look at how the public rated the nation's performance in 2013:

### RIGHT DIRECTION?

#### NOT QUITE YET

Whether people think the nation is heading the right way or the wrong way is a basic measure of optimism that pollsters have used for decades to gauge the public mood. In AP-GfK polling this year, few thought the United States had found the right path.

The December AP-GfK poll showed the share of Americans who feel the nation is heading in the right direction rebounded to 34 percent from its October low of 22 percent, but it's not clear yet whether that's a directional shift or just a temporary recovery — what Wall Street calls a dead-cat bounce.

On average in this year's AP-GfK polls, 33 percent said the country was heading the right way, down from 38 percent in 2012 but about on par with the 2011 average of 32 percent. That 2011 figure marked the low point of President Barack Obama's time in office.

This year, average "right direction" numbers among Republicans (10 percent) and independents (24 percent) are at new lows for Obama's term, but Democrats buoy this year's figure with 54 percent saying the nation is on the right path, a bit above 2011's average of 47 percent.

### OBAMA'S APPROVAL FALLS

Obama's approval ratings shifted notably this year, landing in negative territory on average for the first time in his presidency. In AP-GfK polling conducted this year that averaged the president's approval rating, 46 percent approved of the president's job performance, while 50 percent disapproved.

This year marks the first substantial dip in the president's approval since 2010. After a well-regarded first year (58 percent approval on average in 2009), Obama's approval rating dipped to 50 percent in 2010, then generally held steady — 51 percent on average approved in 2011, 52 percent in 2012.

### LITTLE LOVE FOR CONGRESS

About 82 percent of Americans disapproved of the way Congress handled its job this year, according to an average of AP-GfK polls. That's 20 points higher than

average disapproval rate in 2009 and the worst since the inception of the AP-GfK poll in 2008. In a rare show of party unity, disapproval of Congress topped 80 percent among both Democrats (83 percent) and Republicans (87 percent).

### THE ECONOMIC BRIGHT SPOT?

One positive note: More now say the economy is in good shape than have at any prior point in Obama's tenure, though the rating remains fairly anemic. Overall, 26 percent on average described the economy as "good" in this year's polling, up from an average of 23 percent in 2012, 17 percent in 2011, 19 percent in 2010 and an abysmal 11 percent in 2009.

Still, people don't hold much hope for the economy's prospects. Asked to look ahead a year, 37 percent of Americans in the December AP-GfK poll said they thought the general economic situation would worsen, while 33 percent thought it would improve. And while 32 percent thought the number of unemployed Americans would drop, 36 percent thought more people would lose jobs than get them in 2014.



Courtesy Photo

## Even Obama dogs jump through hoops to enter Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — It doesn't matter that they belong to President Barack Obama — first family dogs Bo and Sunny had to go through Hawaii's strict quarantine procedures to travel to the islands for their holiday vacation.

Hawaii is rabies free and all incoming dogs have to jump through several hoops, including an expensive rabies blood test. Dogs that don't meet regulations can be quarantined up to 120 days.

Program Manager Isaac Maeda of Hawaii's Rabies Quarantine Branch said Monday that the Obamas complied with all requirements asked of other pet owners.

The only difference: Maeda says a military veterinarian inspected the dogs and their paperwork on arrival at Hickam Air Force Base early Dec. 21. Other pet owners usually go through a quarantine office at Honolulu International Airport.

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# Jones: Garrett, Romo will stay

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Jerry Jones has another long off-season to ponder what the Dallas owner called “unthinkable” — three straight season-ending losses that left the Cowboys at 8-8 and out of the playoffs.

Here are his quick takes: Jason Garrett will return, Tony Romo’s back is going to be fine and another shuffling of the defensive coaching staff could be coming.

Jones has been saying emphatically for more than a month that Garrett will be back for a fourth full season. The latest declaration came after Sunday night’s 24-22 loss to Philadelphia that sewed up the coach’s third break-even record in three full seasons, and his 0-3 record in finales with the NFC East title on the line.

“We’ve put a lot of effort in training as a franchise into Jason Garrett, and I want to take advantage of that,” Jones told reporters after the game. “If we don’t have him, we don’t get payback for all the mistakes and losses and criticism of sideline management. We don’t get a chance to benefit from the one way you learn, and that is the mistakes you make.”

Romo, the loser in the first two win-or-go-home games, had back surgery Friday after getting hurt in a season-saving victory at Washington. He missed the loss to the Eagles, with Kyle Orton throwing the game-clinching interception this time.

After two back surgeries in eight months, Romo will be 34 when he takes another snap for the



Dallas backup QB Kyle Orton walks off the field with teammates Sunday after losing to the Philadelphia Eagles. The Cowboys (8-8) missed the playoffs for the third straight season.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 13

## 5 NFL coaches already fired

(AP) — It didn’t take long.

Barely 12 hours after the NFL’s regular season ended, five head coaches were unemployed. Fired on Monday were Washington’s Mike Shanahan, Detroit’s Jim Schwartz, Minnesota’s Leslie Frazier and Tampa Bay’s Greg Schiano.

The Cleveland Browns didn’t even wait that long, dismissing Rob Chudzinski on Sunday night after just one season on the job.

Shanahan, who won two Super Bowls in Denver in the 1990s, spent four seasons with the Redskins and was 24-40. Frazier had a little more than three seasons with the Vikings to compile an 18-33-1 mark, and Schwartz coached the Lions for five seasons, finishing 29-52.

Schiano only got two years with the Buccaneers, going 11-21. He had three years and \$9 million left on his contract.

Tampa Bay also fired general manager Mark Dominik.

“It’s tough for the players to see your coaches go. You never want to see anybody get fired,” Pro Bowl defensive tackle Gerald McCoy said. “Me personally, I haven’t had any, consistently,

in my career. Third head coach, going on my fifth year and three head coaches. Add up everybody, it’ll be six D-line coaches.”

The Buccaneers, who also have fired the likes of Tony Dungy and Jon Gruden, hired Schiano out of Rutgers in 2012 and went 6-4 before losing five of their last six games. They dropped their first eight games this season and finished 4-12.

One coach allegedly on the hot seat was retained: Rex Ryan, who has one more year on his contract, is staying with the New York Jets after a surprising 8-8 record in his fifth season at the helm.

While some of the fired coaches might have seen it coming, Chudzinski certainly didn’t despite going 4-12 and losing his final seven games and 10 of 11.

“I was shocked and disappointed to hear the news that I was fired,” said Chudzinski, who grew up a Browns fan. “I am a Cleveland Brown to the core, and always will be. It was an honor to lead our players and coaches, and I appreciate their dedication and sacrifice. I was more excited than ever for this

team, as I know we were building a great foundation for future success.”

As the coaching searches begin, agents will float the names of their clients — Penn State’s Bill O’Brien seems to be the hottest candidate and has interviewed for Houston’s vacancy. The Texans (2-14), who own the top choice in May’s draft after losing their final 14 games, released coach Gary Kubiak late in the season.

Whoever gets hired in each place will face mammoth rebuilding projects. Overall, the six teams seeking new coaches went 24-71-1.

Shanahan had one season remaining on a five-year contract worth about \$7 million a season. He blamed salary cap restraints for part of the Redskins’ collapse from NFC East champion in 2012 to 3-13 and eight consecutive losses.

Washington was hit with a \$36 million salary cap penalty over two seasons for dumping salaries into the 2010 uncapped season, and Shanahan said

See **FIRE**, Page 13

## AP: Cowboys’ season at a glance

(AP) — **Best Game:** The Cowboys only had one dominant win all season, 31-7 over St. Louis in Week 3. DeMarco Murray had a season-high 175 yards, and a mostly awful defense had its most sacks (six) and gave up its fewest yards (232).

**Worst Game:** Plenty to choose from, but the topper was a 49-17 loss at New Orleans. The Cowboys gave up an NFL-record 40 first downs and couldn’t move the ball against the defense of Rob Ryan, who was fired by Dallas after last season.

**Best Play:** Tony Romo’s fourth-down touchdown pass to Murray in the final 2 minutes at Washington kept Dallas’ playoff hopes alive, and came after Romo had sustained a back injury that required surgery five days later.

**Worst Play:** Romo threw an interception when he switched out of a running play with

Dallas in position to run out most of the clock with a 36-31 lead against the Packers. Green Bay went 50 yards for a touchdown.

**Biggest Surprise:** DT Jason Hatcher had journeyman-like numbers his first seven years in Dallas but led the team and more than doubled his career high with 11 sacks.

**Biggest Disappointment:** DE DeMarcus Ware had a career-low six sacks and missed games because of injury for the first time in his nine seasons.

**What’s Next:** Romo is expected to be ready for offseason workouts in May. But he had two back surgeries in eight months and will be 34 when he takes his next snap. While it looks like coach Jason Garrett will return, defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin could be out after Dallas allowed the most yards in franchise history.

## Russia bombings spark Olympic concerns

(AP) — The suicide bombings in Russia serve as a chilling reminder of what the Winter Olympics represent to terrorists: A high-profile target with more than 2,500 athletes, some of them world-famous, waving the flags of nearly 90 nations.

So, while many Olympic leaders offered reassurance on the day after two bombings 400 miles from Sochi killed at least 31 people, some of those getting ready to compete in the Games spoke of a different reality. They know their security is never a sure thing.

“I am concerned,” said U.S. speedskater Jilleanne Rookard. “I’m scared their security may be involved. I don’t know if I necessarily trust their security forces. But they don’t want a national embarrassment, either. I use that thought to relieve some of my worry. I’m

sure they want to save their image and their pride.”

Indeed, the Russians vow the athletes will be safe, even though they will be competing in a city 300 miles away from the roots of an Islamic insurgency that has triggered security concerns for the Games, which start Feb. 7.

The country has spent a record \$51 billion preparing for its first Winter Games and has promised to make the Games “the safest in Olympic history.”

Olympic chief Alexander Zhukov said the bombings didn’t spark a need for additional security measures because “everything necessary already has been done.”

Swedish hockey player Johan Franzen of the Red Wings sees things a little differently. “I’m sure after this, the security will be higher than they intended from the start,”

he said.

The threat of terrorism at the Olympics has been in the forefront since 1972, when members of a Palestinian terrorist group invaded the Olympic village and killed 11 members of the Israeli delegation.

Security rose to a new level at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, which came only five months after the Sept. 11 attacks. Improvements in technology, along with ever-present threats of terrorism, have turned security into a top priority for any country hoping to host the Olympics.

Among the security measures Russia has put in place for this year’s games is a requirement that all ticket holders obtain and wear “spectator passes” while attending events. To get a spectator pass, fans have to provide passport and contact information to authorities.

On Monday, IOC president Thomas Bach wrote a condolence letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin in which he expressed “our confidence in the Russian authorities to deliver safe and secure games in Sochi.”

Meanwhile, a number of Olympic leaders and federations signaled their confidence in the host country.

“When we come to Sochi, it will be impossible for the terrorists to do anything,” Norwegian IOC member Gerhard Heiberg said. “The village will be sealed off from the outside world. Security has been our priority No. 1 ever since Sochi got the games.”

The U.S. Olympic Committee works closely with the State Department on its security arrangements. A White House spokeswoman said the United States would

See **BOMBS**, Page 13

## Small improvement for racer Schumacher after 2nd surgery

GRENOBLE, France (AP) — Michael Schumacher underwent a second surgery after a brain scan showed small, “surprising” signs of improvement, but grim doctors said Tuesday they could offer no insight into the prognosis for the Formula 1 champion.

Schumacher, who turns 45 on Friday, suffered critical head injuries when he fell and struck a rock Sunday while skiing on a family vacation in the French Alps. His manager confirmed that the accident cracked his helmet, which doctors credited for giving him a chance at survival.

Schumacher’s condition stabilized somewhat after the second surgery, but he remains in a medically induced coma.

Schumacher and his 14-year-old son were skiing in the French Alpine resort of Meribel, where the family has a chalet, when he fell and hit the right side of his head on a rock. He was taken first to a local hospital, then to Grenoble University Hospital, which is recognized as having one of France’s best neurology teams.

Dr. Emmanuel Gay, the hospital’s chief neurosurgeon, said a brain scan performed late Monday showed “a little bit everywhere” in Schumacher’s brain — but also an unexpected easing of pressure.

“The brain scan was, I must say, surprising,” he said.

But he and other doctors cautioned that Schumacher’s condition was still grave.



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Location of estray when found: (Road, Highway #, Rural Route): 2402 WILLIAMS RD  
Location of Estray while impounded: 2402 WILLIAMS RD  
Description of estray: Kind of Animal: 1 POT BELLIED PIG  
Breed: UNKNOWN  
Color: BLACK/WHITE/PINK  
Age: UNKNOWN  
Size: LARGE  
Brand, Earmark, Identifying Characteristics, under skin chip information, A. HILARIO Deputy Sheriff of Howard County, Texas #8114 December 29, 2013 and January 1, 2014

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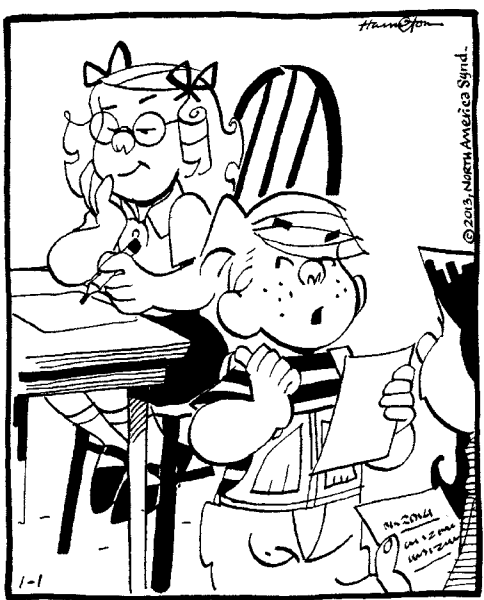
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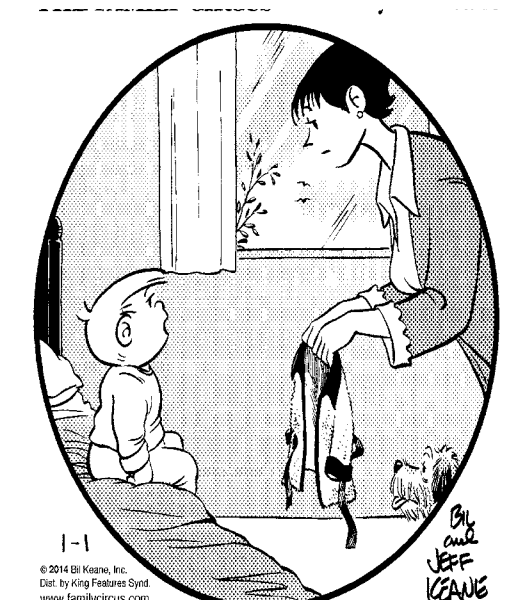
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	
<b>5</b> :PM :30 ABC	News	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	The Hangover, Zach Galifianakis (DVS)	With Scholars	Charlie Rose	King/Hill Cleveland	Naked and Afraid	The Walking Dead	Training Day, Scott Glenn				Good Jessie	SportsCenter	gan State vs. Stanford.
<b>6</b> :PM :30 Wheel	Jeopardy!	Mentir Para Vivir	Big Bang	News	Pelicula: Shrek Forever After	News	Mani Chevalme	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Rules	Naked and Afraid	The Walking Dead			Movie: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, Liv Tyler (DVS)	Movie: Precious, Paula Patton		Austin Good	SportsCenter	
<b>7</b> :PM :30 Gold	Middle	Por Siempre	Dads	Hawaii Five-0	Chronicles of Narnia: Dawn Treader	Revolution	Big Bang	Upd Dollars	Great Performances	Naked and Afraid	The Walking Dead		Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton			Movie: Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself	High School Football	2014 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl: Baylor vs. Central Florida.	
<b>8</b> :PM :30 Nashville	Mod Fam	Lo Que la Vida Me Robó (SS)	Brooklyn	Criminal Minds	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	NOVA	Tom People	Survivorman	The Walking Dead				Jessie	NFL Live		
<b>9</b> :PM :30	News	Impacto	Arsenio Hall	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Rik	Charlie Rose	Commun	Survivorman	The Walking Dead				Good Dog	SportsCenter		
<b>10</b> :PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	How I Met How I Met	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Decisiones (SS)	Jay Leno	HaYesod	World	70s	Lone Target	The Walking Dead	Movie: Man on Fire, Christopher Walken	(15) Movie: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider	Wendy Williams	Hannah Jonas	NFL Live	(15) SportsCenter	
<b>11</b> :PM :30	Nightline	Ni Contigo, Ni sin Ti	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Office	Upd Zola Lev.	(Off Air)	Til Death Browns	Naked and Afraid	The Walking Dead		(12:15) Movie: Speed Racer, Susan Poline Virlana	Movie: Alliance, Shad Moss	Shake It ANT Farm	After/Review	SportsCenter	
<b>12</b> :AM :30	Extra	Conducta	Law & Order: SVU	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Movie: Just Married,	Light of the Southwest		Browns	Naked and Afraid	The Walking Dead				Deck	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
<b>1</b> :AM :30	Pair	Casa	SVU	Pair	Panardn					Make									

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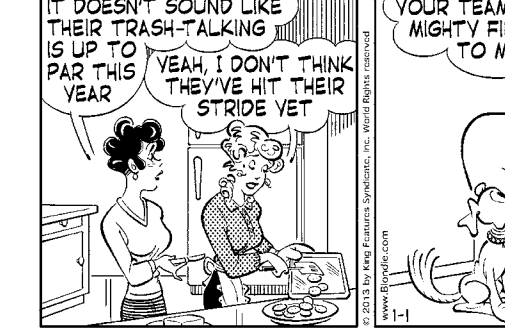


"My dreams must be boring. I keep sleeping right through them."

**HAGAR**



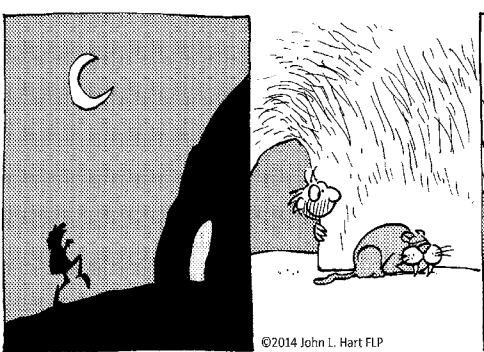
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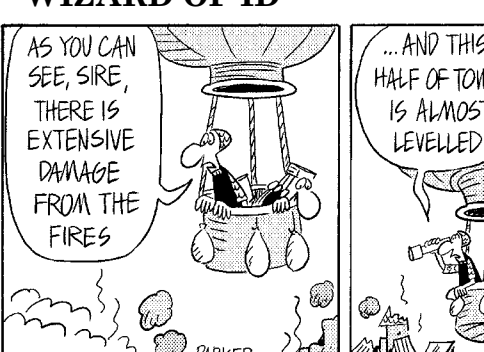
**AGNES**



**HI AND LOIS**



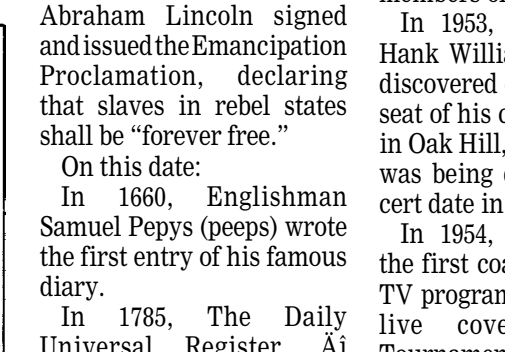
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by Bruce R. Sutphin Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

**This Date In History**

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2014. There are 364 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed and issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free." On this date: In 1660, Englishman Samuel Pepys (peeps) wrote the first entry of his famous diary. In 1785, The Daily Universal Register, which later became the Times of London, published its first issue. In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened. In 1913, the U.S. Parcel Post system went into operation.

In 1939, the technology company Hewlett-Packard was founded by Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard in a garage in Palo Alto, Calif. In 1942, 26 countries, including the United States, signed the Declaration of the United Nations, pledging "not to make a separate armistice or peace" with members of the Axis. In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, W.Va., while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio. In 1954, NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color TV program as it presented live coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic. In 1972, Kurt Waldheim became secretary-general of the United Nations.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement. In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect. Thought for Today: "The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes." — G.K. Chesterton, English poet-essayist (1874-1936). © 2014, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Answer to previous puzzle

DODO	HANOI	OPTS
ECON	ACORN	DRIP
LAIR	DATED	DOER
ILLUSTRIOUS	MOI	
SAYSNO	SLICING	
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VOW	RESCUE	TEAM
ERECT	HAS	HENCE
TELL	RARELY	TEN
LUBE	FRIES	
TAKEOFF	ENIGMA	
URN	WORLD	FAMOUS
BOOT	REOIL	MATH
BMW	MANNA	EPIE
YANK	SKEET	REDS

**Newsday Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bar game
  - 6 Peacekeeping org.
  - 10 Pie à la \_\_\_
  - 14 Maui greeting
  - 15 Brockovich played by Roberts
  - 16 Equally matched
  - 17 Part of a Santa costume
  - 18 Highest point
  - 19 Advance, as cash
  - 20 Something looked up by lenders
  - 23 Spider's creation
  - 24 Proof of ownership
  - 25 Mac alternatives
  - 28 The latest
  - 31 Gem measures
  - 35 Sudden invasion
  - 37 Sahara-like
  - 39 Pago Pago's locale
  - 40 Temper-curbing program
  - 43 Thickly packed
  - 44 Feline sound
  - 45 Prefix for body
  - 46 Help out
  - 48 Salty septet
  - 50 Put on, as clothes
  - 51 Control, with "in"
  - 53 Zest
- DOWN**
- 1 Small amount
  - 2 Actor Baldwin
  - 3 Hearty laugh
  - 4 Tossed
  - 5 Make glum
  - 6 Uncluttered
  - 7 Part of the foot
  - 8 Meek
  - 9 "Be right with you"
  - 10 Movie serial genre
  - 11 Completed
  - 12 Declare false
  - 13 Cut short
  - 21 Type of girder
  - 22 Poke fun at
  - 25 Gucci rival
  - 26 Christmas candy
  - 27 Omens
  - 29 Rolled-up sandwich
  - 30 Decongestant target
  - 32 Change, as text
  - 33 Western sidekick
  - 34 Gown fabric
  - 36 Worth having
  - 38 Be bold
  - 41 Put back to 000
  - 42 Boardroom illustration
  - 47 Haberdashery
  - 49 Playground staple
  - 52 Looped rope
  - 54 Bamboo eater
  - 55 Speak unclearly
  - 56 Wild story
  - 57 Wash out
  - 58 High-chair part
  - 59 Basis
  - 60 Ripped out
  - 61 PBJ alternative
  - 64 Each

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65						66				67			
68							69			70			

**BOMBS**

Continued from Page 8

welcome "closer cooperation" with Russia on security preparations for the Games.

U.S. figure skater Ross Miner, who won silver in Vancouver, is well aware of the vulnerability of major sporting events. The theme of the New England native's long program is "Boston Strong," about the city's resilience after the marathon bombings last spring.

Miner recalled the 2011 world championships in Moscow as "by far the most intense security I've ever had at a competition".

U.S. speedskaters, however, have different memories of Moscow. They arrived for a 2011 World Cup event the same day a suicide bomber killed 35 people in an attack on the city's Domodedovo Airport.

Since the widespread use of metal

detectors was introduced to the Olympics in 2002, every subsequent Olympics has brought its own set of challenges and responses.

At the Beijing Olympics in 2008, Chinese authorities introduced identity checks for opening and closing ceremonies.

In London last year, there were no identity checks, but combat jets patrolled the city, and surface-to-air missiles were set up on rooftops.

Russia's security effort is greater than those of either of those countries, said Matthew Clements, an analyst at Jane's.

Three-time Olympic ski jumping champion Thomas Morgenstern of Austria said he remembers seeing sharp shooters roaming the woods in Sochi during a World Cup event last year.

"Of course you're having thoughts about it. But when we are at the Olympic Games, that will be one of the safest places for sure," he said.

**FIRED**

Continued from Page 8

it prevented the team from pursuing free agents it had targeted.

But his real undoing, along with the poor records in three of his four seasons, was a contentious relationship with star quarterback Robert Griffin III. RG3 did not speak with the media on Monday.

Frazier took over for Brad Childress in Minnesota for the final six games of 2010. He got the Vikings to the playoffs as a wild card last season, riding an MVP year from running back Adrian Peterson. But he never solved the

Vikings' quarterback situation — three QBs started in 2013 — and the defense, Frazier's specialty, ranked 31st overall and against the pass.

"It's a harsh business," safety Harrison Smith said. "As a player, we all love coach Frazier, as a coach, as a man. You can't meet a better guy. And also as a player, we didn't make enough plays on the field. So you just feel like you let him down a little bit."

The Lions were considered an underachieving team the last two years under Schwartz.

After a 6-3 start this year in a division

where the Packers and Bears lost their starting quarterbacks for lengthy periods, Detroit fell apart down the stretch. It lost six of its last seven.

He had two years and almost \$12 million remaining on his deal, signed after the Lions hired him to fix a team that went 0-16 in 2008.

"From where we were in 2008 to where we are now it's a big difference," quarterback Matthew Stafford said. "We owe a lot of that to him. He's a really smart guy and helped us get to where we are. Obviously, we didn't win as many games as we needed to or as we should have this year."



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**COWBOYS**

Continued from Page 8

Cowboys. Notice the "when" instead of the "if." That's Jones talking.

"The nature of his injury was not alarming," Jones said. "It was not complicated."

Jones figures Romo will be ready for off-season workouts this spring. Tight end Jason Witten doesn't have any doubt, and will welcome him back even though he had season highs of 12 catches for 135 yards with Orton throwing to

him on Sunday.

"Obviously it's been a tough eight months for him physically," Witten said of Romo, who walked gingerly while attending exit meetings at team headquarters Monday. "I know how he works. I know how he competes. I know how he trains, that he'll bounce back and be even better next year."

There might not be a next year for defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, whose first season in charge of the Dallas defense ended with the most yards allowed in franchise history — by almost 1,000.

The Cowboys were competitive defensively in the last games against the Redskins and Eagles. But there were many unsightly moments in the first year of a four-man defensive front after nearly a decade with three linemen and four linebackers.

Dallas gave up the first

two 600-yard games in franchise history, the first 40-first down game in league history and couldn't stop a pair of backup quarterbacks when it mattered most late in the season. The Cowboys were last in total defense in Kiffin's 27th NFL season, a career marked by a Super Bowl-winning defense in Tampa Bay that led the league in yards allowed and interceptions.

Dallas did finish the season without defensive leader Sean Lee, who missed five of the last six games with hamstring and neck injuries. The defensive line was a mad scramble all season because of injuries.

"I wouldn't evaluate Monte Kiffin without taking in consideration our circumstances this year with injuries, his ability to put in place guys coming in and out on a weekly basis," Jones said. "One thing

about having the career that he's had is you get to look at the whole career when you're looking at it."

The most troubling development with the new scheme was how much DeMarcus Ware struggled in it. The franchise sacks leader had a career-low six and missed games for the first time in his nine seasons because of a thigh injury. He's also been dealing with back and elbow issues.

The Cowboys might even end up releasing Ware to save salary cap space if he doesn't agree to a pay cut. He says he's willing to restructure his contract, but not reduce his salary.

"I've got to think about how I started training camp," Ware said. "I wasn't hurt then and I felt like I couldn't be stopped. I've got to figure now how to get through the whole season without being hurt."

**Charles Myers**

Attorney At Law

Family Law And

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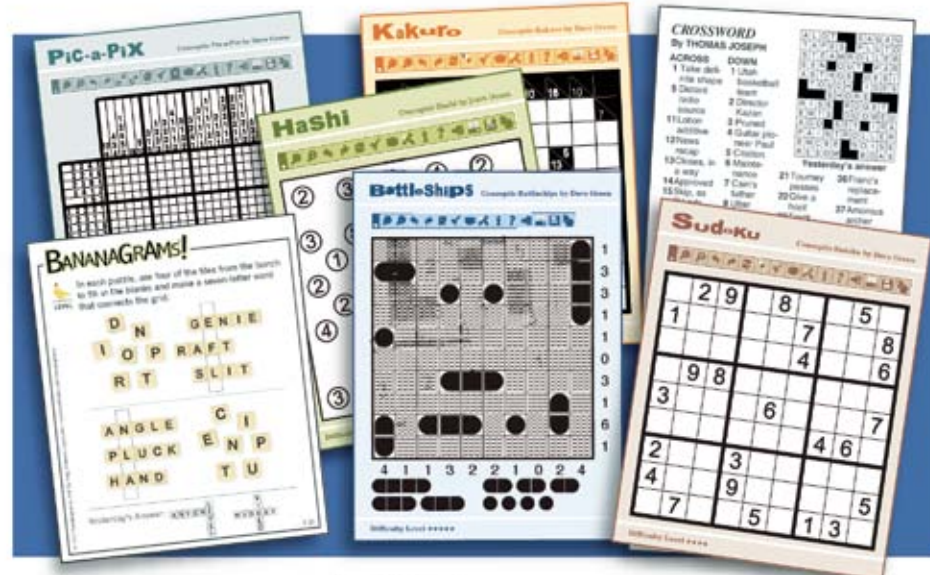
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### Tomorrow's Horoscope

#### New Year, New Moon

On the first day of 2014, the new moon in Capricorn hands out a fresh start to anyone who can use one. You could apply the energy to goals that didn't quite work out last year, but consider that in doing this, you might be limiting yourself. An even better idea is to come up with an entirely different emphasis or direction for the next chapter.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). When trying to persuade someone to do what serves your agenda, it is always helpful to consider what might serve their agenda, as well. A small shift in your approach will make all the difference.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You know what makes you happy, and the other person involved knows as well as you. This shared knowledge is beautiful, mostly because it means you don't have to talk too much about it.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). A tug-of-war situation will end. The person who gets the victory may be spared the experience of being dragged through the mud. Then again, if the fight is fair, everyone will wind up dirty in the end.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Have you found the perfect job for your style of relating to people? It's close to perfect. But just because you do something well doesn't mean you should resign yourself to continue forever in this fashion.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The people who were impressed by you may soon find your story rather commonplace. Change it up, add a new twist, or decide that you never really needed their attention in the first place.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get rid of hard-to-classify rubbish. It sits in drawers and boxes under the bed, and it collects in your emotional world, too. If you don't know what it is or how to use it, get rid of it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This is the time to view your financial world from a long-term perspective.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Set up savings and investment plans. People who share your vision of the future will help you stick to the plan.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You stopped expecting someone to be who you want him or her to be, and now whatever this person does, you take it as a sweet surprise. That's why love seems especially happy.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a position to make decisions that can't wait until later. Even if you don't have all of the information, you'll have to make a choice. Don't over-think. Act with certainty regardless of whether that's how you really feel.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may not understand how to please a loved one, but you know how to make this person angry. Avoiding that action will be the key to relationship success.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Be better to yourself than you have been in the past few weeks, and this will help you accept the good fortune coming your way. Act quickly to recognize and alleviate negative tension.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You may feel like no one is paying attention, and you're eager to make some noise. But before you do, enjoy the obscurity. You are free to experiment now! Later that won't be the case.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 1). The new moon on your New Year's birthday is a sign for you to fill the pages of this unwritten chapter with boldness, beauty and excitement. You understand your talents and align your wishes with them so you can truly be who you want to be. A windfall happens this month and again in September. April brings a family addition. Aquarius and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 1, 22, 38 and 47.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** "The Bachelorette" contestant and rising country music star Ty Brown recently became engaged to "The Bachelor" star Elizabeth Kitt. Brought together by reality television, the forecast is good for the actual reality of this relationship. Brown was born when the sun

and Mars were in ambitious but down-to-earth Capricorn. His moon in Aquarius shows a person who puts friendship and respect first in relationships.

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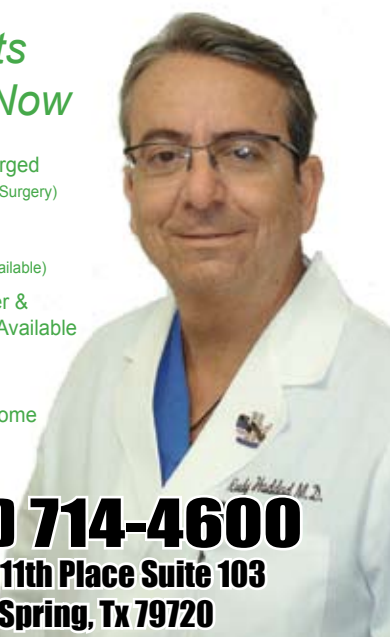
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