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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

DECEMBER 8, 2014



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VOLUME 110, NUMBER 45

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Community Parade winners

Here are judging results from Saturday's Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade:

BEST IN SHOW

1. Marcy Elementary Student Council
2. (tie) Parkplace Retirement Living and Freda's Trucking
3. ALON USA

BEST USE OF LIGHTING

1. Freda's Trucking
2. ALON USA
3. Marcy Elementary Student Council

BEST INTERPRETATION OF PARADE THEME

1. (tie) Mary Elementary Student Council and ALON USA
2. Braelyn's Treasures
3. Parkplace Retirement Living

BEST COSTUMING

1. Parkplace Retirement Living
2. (tie) Howard College and Marcy Elementary Student Council
3. Freda's Trucking

Holiday Wonderland — Scenes from the Big Spring Herald Lighted Christmas Parade and the First United Methodist Living Christmas Tree.

Photos by Bruce Schooler, Andreia Medlin and Lyndel Moody.

TRAGEDY

4 Big Spring residents die in auto wrecks

By **ANDREIA MEDLIN**
 Staff Writer

Four Big Spring residents were killed in a pair of tragic vehicle accidents that occurred Thursday and Saturday.

According to DPS, 31-year-old Ruben Anthony Gonzalez and 34-year-old Estevan Valencia of Big Spring were pronounced dead after Gonzalez failed to negotiate a curve on U.S. Highway 87 south of

Lamesa and the Ford F-150 he was driving overturned. The accident occurred about 11 p.m. Thursday. Neither men were wearing their seat-belts at the time of the accident, according to a Department of Public Safety trooper.

Myers and Smith are handling arrangements.

On Saturday, a crash that happened about 6 miles east

See **FATAL**, Page 3



To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7331 before 6 p.m. weekdays.

1 54414 79720 9

THIS CHRISTMAS PARTY HAS SOME AWKWARD SILENCES.

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Obituaries

Stevan Valencia Jr.



Stevan Valencia Jr. 34, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, in an automobile accident in Dawson County. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. tonight in the Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Stevan was born Nov. 26, 1980, in Big Spring, Texas, to Delma (Hinojos) and Estevan Valencia Sr. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. He was a driller for Robinson Drilling.

He is survived by his wife Rosie Valencia of Big Spring; three daughters, Valerie Valencia, Crystal Cuellar and husband Jaime and Monica Deleon and husband Pete, all of Big Spring; his parents, Delma and Stevie Valencia of Big Spring; three sisters, Leticia Meir and husband Jesse, Sabrina Madrid and husband Oscar and Raquel Valencia, all of Big Spring; two brothers, Christopher Valencia and Timothy Valencia, both of Big Spring; six grandchildren, Joshua, Matthew, Nita, Rick, Charlie and Jacob; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

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

Paid Obituary

Ruben Anthony Gonzales Sr.



Ruben Anthony Gonzales Sr., 31, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, in an automobile accident in Dawson County. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. tonight in the Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Ruben was born June 13, 1983, in Big Spring, Texas, to Maria (Brito) and Jose R. Gonzales. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. He was a driller for Patterson Drilling Company.

He is survived by two daughters, Reina Gonzales and Destiniee Gonzales, both of Big Spring and two sons, Ruben Anthony Gonzales Jr. and Robbie Gonzales, both of Big Spring; his mother, Mary Rojas; one sister, Rosie Valencia; two brothers, Rudy Brito and wife Christina of Big Spring and Rey Gonzales and wife Catrina of Dallas; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

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

James E. Beard



James E. Beard, 84, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Rivers Francis officiating.

He was born April 15, 1930, in Caddo, Okla., and married Frances Joyce Bryant June 14, 1967, in Breckenridge, Texas.

James graduated from high school in Kenefice, Okla. He served in the United States Navy from August 1950 to June 1958. He worked in the oil field for a number of years and had worked in Civil Service at Webb Air Force Base and at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, retiring after 24 years of service.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Beard of Big Spring; three sons, Kenneth Imler and wife Cathy, Phillip Imler and wife Debbie and Billy Lee and wife Kathy, all of Odessa; one daughter, Ann Francis and husband Rivers of Odessa; two brothers, Wayne Beard of Kilgore and Zane Beard of Abilene; four sisters, Joyce Lockhart, Wanda Abraham, Stella Sanders and Shelia Flourner, all of Breckenridge; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to any organization that benefits veterans.

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

Take Note

• Hometown Christmas, a local organization that helps provide underprivileged children with Christmas gifts, is accepting donations immediately. The organization tries to supply eligible boys and girls with one to two toys and a set of clothes each. If you would like to donate bring them to Wells Fargo Bank located at Fourth and Main downtown. For more information, contact Beverly Johnson at 264-8373,

• A hungry child cannot learn. Food2Kids - Big Spring was created to provide nutrition for hundreds of children who do not get a substantial meal on the weekends. F2K fills a sack of food to send home each Friday during the school year. Volunteers are needed and donations can be sent to Food2Kids - Big Spring, P.O. Box 1641, Big Spring 79721.

Police blotter

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

• **DONNY JUAREZ**, 31, of 2606 Barksdale, was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal mischief \$1,500 but less than \$20,000, driving while intoxicated 3rd or more offense and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

• **FRANCIS DEXTRA**, 30, of 1403 E. 18th St., was arrested Sunday on charges of racing and exhibition of acceleration and no driver's license when unlicensed; and a charge of assault causes bodily injury family member.

• **ASHLEY RAE HODGE**, 31, of 1412 Tucson, was arrested Sunday on warrants for hindering secured creditors for greater than or equal to \$500, expired driver's license and fail to appear.

• **DAVID JUAREZ**, 38, of 1611 Harding, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported at the 2500 block of Gunter.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported at the 3000 block of W. Highway 80.

• **HIT AND RUN** was reported at the 1200 block of Nolan.

• **ABANDONED VEHICLE** was reported at mile marker 181 on Interstate Highway 20.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported at the 1400 block of Tucson.

• **THEFT** was reported at the 5300 block of Wasson.

• **ASSAULT** was reported at the 1400 block of E. 18th St.

Sheriff

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

Note: Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 61 at the time of this report.

• **GILBERT NARANJO** was booked by HCSO on a warrant for disobedience of order.

• **DONNY JACK RATLIFF** was booked by HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.

• **CASIMIRA VEGA** was booked by BSPD on a warrant for fail to maintain financial responsibility and fail to appear.

• **AMANDA MUNIZ** was booked by BSPD on a warrant for duty on striking unattended vehicle and public intoxication.

• **RACHEL RENE YOUNG** was booked by BSPD on a warrant for display expired registration and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **ROBERT RIVERA JR.** was booked by HCSO on a charge of assault family violence threat or offensive touch.

• **BENITA "KAY" PADRON SALAZAR** was booked by HCSO on a warrant for assault family violence.

• **DAVID JUAREZ** was booked by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **MARCUS ANTHONY PINA** was booked by HCSO on a warrant for bail jumping and fail to appear.

• **VICTOR MANUEL DEHOYOS** was booked by HCSO on a warrant for bail jumping and fail to appear.

• **DONNY JUAREZ** was booked by HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated 3rd or more offense and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and criminal mischief greater than or equal to \$1,500 but less than \$20,000.

• **FRANCIS DEXTRA** was booked by BSPD on charges of assault causes bodily injury family member, racing and exhibition acceleration and no drivers license.

• **ASHLEY RAE HODGE** was booked by BSPD on a charge of hindering secured creditors greater than or equal to \$500 but less than \$1,500.

• **RANDY WAYNE JOHNSON** was booked by BSPD on a charge of drug paraphernalia.

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

• 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 main entrance of the church.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears). 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.

• 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

Today's Weather

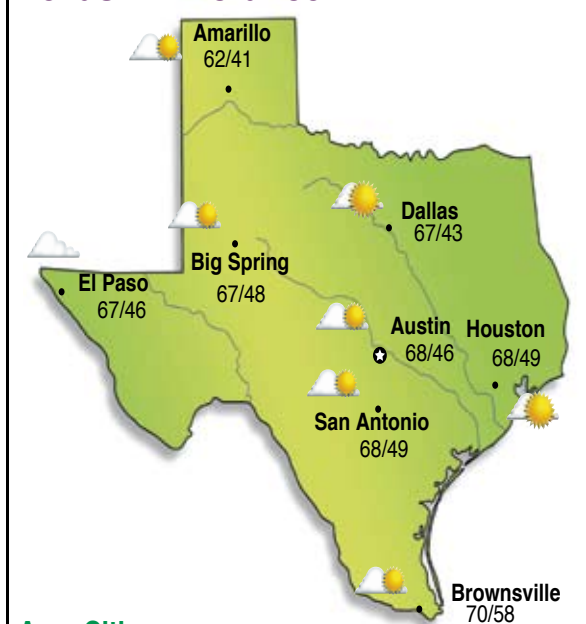
Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 12/9	Wed 12/10	Thu 12/11	Fri 12/12	Sat 12/13
67/48 Partly to mostly cloudy. High 67F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.	65/50 Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 50s.	67/49 Cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s.	72/51 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.	71/51 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM

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Texas At A Glance



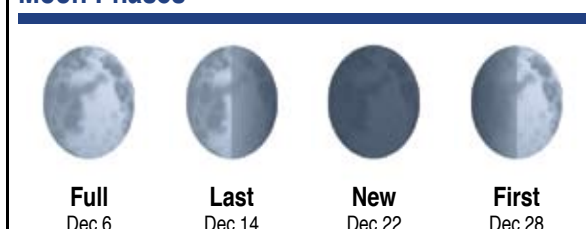
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	67	47	pt sunny	Kingsville	71	54	mst sunny
Amarillo	62	41	pt sunny	Livingston	66	44	sunny
Austin	68	46	pt sunny	Longview	67	39	sunny
Beaumont	67	42	sunny	Lubbock	65	44	pt sunny
Brownsville	70	58	pt sunny	Lufkin	68	43	sunny
Brownwood	68	45	pt sunny	Midland	66	46	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	69	55	mst sunny	Raymondville	72	57	pt sunny
Corsicana	67	42	mst sunny	Rosenberg	67	46	mst sunny
Dallas	67	43	mst sunny	San Antonio	68	49	pt sunny
Del Rio	67	52	pt sunny	San Marcos	68	48	mst sunny
El Paso	67	46	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	67	39	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	64	47	cloudy	Sweetwater	67	48	pt sunny
Gainesville	64	39	mst sunny	Tyler	67	41	pt sunny
Greenville	66	39	sunny	Weatherford	66	42	pt sunny
Houston	68	49	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	63	40	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	50	30	mst sunny	Minneapolis	29	18	pt sunny
Boston	51	45	rain	New York	46	39	rain
Chicago	36	28	cloudy	Phoenix	78	55	pt sunny
Dallas	67	43	mst sunny	San Francisco	66	56	pt sunny
Denver	58	33	sunny	Seattle	58	51	rain
Houston	68	49	mst sunny	St. Louis	39	29	sunny
Los Angeles	76	55	sunny	Washington, DC	44	40	rain
Miami	74	53	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Tue 12/9	Wed 12/10	Thu 12/11	Fri 12/12	Sat 12/13
3	3	1	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Low	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.

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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.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Photo by Bruce Schooler

First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree received accolades for its performances Saturday and Sunday evening.

Big Spring City Council rezoning issues in monthly meeting Tuesday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

For the second time in a month, rezoning issues will be at the forefront of a Big Spring City Council meeting.

The council will consider rezoning property adjacent to the Roy Anderson Sports Complex in north Big Spring when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

The property is currently zoned for light industrial use, but City Planner Roxanne Johnston said officials want to designate the area for single-family residences.

"The intent of the city of Big Spring is to create an area for future single-family residences north of the Roy Anderson Sports Complex," Johnston said in a letter to the council. The zone change request also includes the sports complex in order to eliminate current zoning, since staff

discovered that the properties, which previously belonged to the Big Spring State Hospital, contain a deed restriction prohibiting the property to be used for industrial purposes.

"Therefore, the zone change to (single family) would ensure that the correct zoning would be in place as all or portions of this acreage are later sold," she added.

Growth brought by the oil boom makes property in north Big Spring prime targets for developers, Johnston said.

"Staff projects that the area could develop quickly once a key element in this future development, the installation of the sewer bore to extend across 1-20, will occur," she stated.

The proposed rezoning has been unanimously recommended by the city's planning and zoning committee, Johnston said.

Also Tuesday, the council will

consider a proposal to annex slightly more than 12 acres of property south and west of Ann Drive in the Kentwood Subdivision and zone it for single family usage.

In other business, council will consider:

- Increasing the airpark fund budget to finance roofing repairs at the John Crane production building.

- An agreement with Howard College which would allow the college to use city equipment at the landfill while offering a heavy equipment operator's course.

- A performance agreement with the Economic Development Corporation for addition railroad spur construction at the airpark.

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

FATAL

Continued from Page 1A

of Andrews, on State Highway 176 left two people dead, two from Big Spring and one injured.

According to DPS, a 2009 Jeep traveling south on FM 1788, disregarded a stop sign, causing a

collision with a 2010 Ford F-150. A third vehicle, a 2011 Peterbuilt truck, hit both the Jeep and the Ford F-150.

The driver of the Jeep, Steven Michael Bolton, 32, of El Paso, and the two passengers in the Ford F-150, 43-year-old Douglas Patrick Irwin and 15 year-old Marcus Irwin, both of Big Spring, were all

killed in the accident. They were pronounced dead at 8:57 a.m. by Neri Flores, justice of the peace from Andrews.

The driver of the Peterbuilt truck, 47-year-old Warren Allan Carlton of Andrews was transported to Permian Regional Medical Center in Andrews and was listed in stable condition.



Some floats from the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade are shown above. As usual, spectators lined the streets to view the annual event.

HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody

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Ruben Anthony Gonzales, Sr., 31, died Thursday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. tonight in the Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Stevan Valencia, Jr. 34, died Thursday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. tonight in the Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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Sudoku Answer on Page 10

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Famous Hand

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

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

SOUTH
♠ Q 8
♥ K Q 9 4
♦ A Q J 7
♣ A 9 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — four of spades.

One of the really great falsecards of all time occurred in a home game in New York many years ago. The hero of the hand was a man named Sidney Satenstein, an enthusiastic rubber-bridge player not nationally known.

The victim of the falsecard was John Rau (South), a well-known expert. Rau played low from dummy on the opening spade lead, losing to the king, and his A-Q fell together on East's spade return.

Rau had seven sure tricks — four hearts and three aces — so the outcome appeared to rest squarely on finding Satenstein (East) with the king of diamonds. If he had it, Rau could assure nine tricks by taking two finesses.

But Rau was not content to settle for just the 50 percent chance that the finesse would succeed. He saw that he could increase his chances slightly by testing the clubs first. So at trick three he led a low club from dummy, whereupon Satenstein played the king!

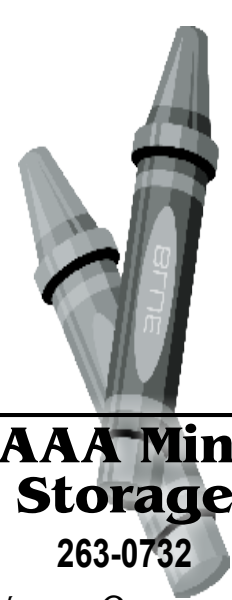
Rau took the ace and — after patting himself on the back for leading a club first — continued with the nine and finessed. He naturally thought West had started with the J-8-2 and East the singleton king.

Satenstein pounced on the trick like a bird of prey and returned a spade, and West cashed three spades to sink the contract. It was the kind of situation where the victim rejoices together with the victor, and for years afterward Rau took pleasure in recounting the clever hoax perpetrated against him.

Of course, had Satenstein made the normal play of the jack on the first club lead, Rau would have had no choice but to take two diamond finesses, and he would have made the contract with an overtrick.

Tomorrow: Detection through deduction.
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HOLIDAY COLORING CONTEST



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COLORING CONTEST RULES

1. Contest open to children ages 2-12
2. Limit one contest submission per person
3. Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
5. All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 15, 2014.
6. Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 21, 2014 edition.
7. Decision of judges is final.
8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Age: _____

Phone#: _____

Alt. Ph#: _____

Big 12 may reassess how to crown champ

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Now the Big 12 Conference has a real debate to settle after both of its co-champions were left out of the four-team playoff.

After weeks of talk about whether Baylor or TCU deserved to be in the playoff, neither made it Sunday, and the Big 12 may be reconsidering how to declare its champion.

“That will cause us to go back to the drawing board a little bit and talk about whether or not we need to think about a different model,” Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby told ESPN after the final playoff ranking.

The Big 12 is the only of the big-five leagues without a championship game, but it also the only one where every team plays each other in a round-robin schedule. Baylor and TCU (both 11-1, 8-1 Big 12) were declared co-champions, even though the Bears beat the Horned Frogs 61-58 on Oct. 11.

The Big 12 can't hold a championship game because it only has 10 teams; current NCAA rules require conferences with 12 teams split into two divisions to play a title game.

“We're in a room that feels like we just lost a football game. That to me is a trav-

esty,” Baylor coach Art Briles said Sunday. “That's what I hate. We won a big game (Saturday) night. We are Big 12 champions. We won a Big 12 championship for two years in a row.”

Baylor was fifth in the final playoff ranking, with TCU sixth. The Bears had been behind TCU in the first six weekly rankings, which began 2 1/2 weeks after they played each other.

The top four were Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Ohio State, all who won conference championship games.

Bowlsby said that is a clear

indication that the Big 12 got penalized for not having a championship game on the first weekend in December, when the league was instead wrapping up its regular season.

“I thought you had a championship game because you had so many teams, and that they split their divisions, and you played so that the best played from both sides,” TCU coach Gary Patterson said. “For me, if we have to have championship games so it gives us the better opportunity, then we'll have to go do that.”

Patterson pointed out that

Big 12 coaches voted on and approved co-champions and that he is OK with that declaration. But he added that he would have no problem in the future to “just play the game off” in such situations to determine “one true champion, if that's what people want.”

Both Baylor and TCU still made it into one of the New Year's six games.

The Frogs will play in the Peach Bowl on Dec. 31 against Mississippi (9-3) from the SEC. Baylor is going to the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day against Big Ten team Michigan State (10-2).

BSHS girls go 2-4 at Sandhills

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The Big Spring High School Lady Steers got in a lot of quality work over the weekend, playing five games in three days at the Sandhills Basketball Tournament in Monahans. Overall, the Lady Steers posted a 2-4 record in the event, which was held Thursday through Saturday in the Jerry Larned Sports Complex.

The Lady Steers, who are 6-6 heading into tomorrow's showdown with Grady, opened the tournament with a pair of tough losses on Thursday, falling to El Paso Austin, 48-39, and Midland Christian, 44-40.

Against El Paso Austin, Diamonique Mayes and Stefanie Diaz led the way for Big Spring. Mayes pumped in a team-high 13 points, while Diaz added 10.

Julianna Rodriguez also did well, chalking up nine in the loss.

Mayes and Rodriguez both reached double figures in the loss to Midland Christian. Mayes finished with 12, while Rodriguez added 11. Jackie Castillo chipped in seven.

On Friday, Big Spring managed to put a mark in the win column by tallying a 44-32 victory over Pecos.

Mayes and Rodriguez led the BSHS scoring against Pecos. Mayes turned in a game-high 17 points. Rodriguez added 10.

Big Spring dropped a narrow 39-35 decision to El Paso Austin in their final game on Friday. In that game, Rodriguez and August Alexander both tallied nine points. Castillo contributed four.

The Lady Steers opened Saturday's action on a high note by claiming a 39-29 win over Fort Stockton.

Big Spring, after trailing at the half by a 15-13 margin, pounded out an 18-5 run in the first eight minutes of the second half and never looked back.

The Lady Steers took a 31-20 cushion into the fourth.

Rodriguez shouldered the bulk of the offensive load for Big Spring in the win by throwing in 20 points. Castillo added eight.

Big Spring closed out the tournament with a slim 48-45 loss to San Angelo Lake View on Saturday afternoon.

Rodriguez notched her second straight double-figure game with 20 points.

Big Spring posts 3-1 record in Lamesa

The Big Spring High School Steers enjoyed a successful run at the O.W. Follis Basketball Tournament in Lamesa over the weekend, going 3-1 overall.

Big Spring opened the tournament with a 71-63 setback to Andrews on Thursday. From there, the Steers rallied back to pound out three straight wins. In the second round on Friday, they claimed a 50-42 victory over Amarillo Caprock and a 66-57 decision over Fort Stockton.

Big Spring closed out the tournament on Saturday with a 51-40 decision over Pecos.

The Steers will return to play on Tuesday in Lubbock against Monterey.

Big 12 co-champ Baylor in Cotton vs Michigan State

Left out of the four-team playoff, Big 12 co-champion Baylor gets to stay close to home to play in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day against Michigan State.

Coaching in a game in which he once played, though in a much different venue, helps ease the sting of the playoff exclusion for Art Briles and the Bears. They are in their first Cotton Bowl since the 1980 season when Mike Singletary was a team captain.

“For me, being a Texas guy, growing up in the state of Texas and playing in the Southwest Conference, that's the only bowl that existed. I mean, you're going to the Cotton Bowl,” Briles said Sunday. “You're going to the best bowl around.”

The Cotton Bowl will be the first game played on New Year's Day, leading into the two national semifinals that Baylor (11-1) had hoped to be a part of after claiming a share of its second consecutive Big 12 title.

Briles played at the University of Houston, and was in a Cotton Bowl when the Cougars beat Maryland on New Year's Day 1977 at the namesake stadium at the State Fair of Texas. The game is now played in the Dallas Cowboys' showplace NFL stadium, where the Bears annually play a regular season game about 100 miles from their Waco campus.

Michigan State (10-2), only the second Big Ten team in the Cotton Bowl, had its only losses against Oregon and Ohio State — two of the teams in the College Football Playoff.

“When we looked at the bowl structure and saw that we weren't going to be playing for a championship this year ... the Cotton Bowl was the one bowl that I felt like should we have the opportunity to play in ... we were going to play somebody really, really excellent,” said Spartans coach Mark Dantonio, who was born in Texas.

This will be the Spartans' eighth

consecutive bowl under Dantonio, setting a school record for the most by a coach. They beat Stanford in the Rose Bowl last year after going undefeated in the Big Ten.

“We'll bring a team there that's been able to overcome adversity and really sort of move the rock,” Dantonio said.

Baylor is playing in its second consecutive January bowl. The Bears lost to UCF in the Fiesta Bowl last season.

Before the new playoff era, the Cotton Bowl matched Big 12 and SEC teams. Ohio State represented the Big Ten in the 1987 Cotton Bowl, when the Buckeyes beat Texas A&M 28-12.

Briles will be only the third head coach in the Cotton Bowl who also played in the game, joining Ken Hatfield (Arkansas) and David McWilliams (Texas).

When Singletary and the Bears played 34 years ago, they lost to a Bear Bryant-coached Alabama team.

TCU's consolation prize: Ole Miss in Peach Bowl

ATLANTA (AP) — After being passed over for a spot in college football's first playoff, TCU got its consolation prize Sunday: Mississippi in the Peach Bowl.

The Horned Frogs (11-) dropped from third to sixth in the final rankings issued by the selection committee, despite a 55-3 win over Iowa State to earn a share of the Big 12 championship.

Bitterly disappointed, it will be intriguing to see TCU's reaction when it faces the Rebels (9-3) in the Dec. 31 game at the Georgia Dome. A letdown is certainly possible, but the Horned Frogs could also be highly motivated to put on a performance that shows they were worthy of being in the playoff.

Ole Miss handed No. 1 Alabama its only loss and knocked off Orange Bowl-bound Mississippi State in the regular-season finale.

TCU coach Gary Patterson felt his team had gone enough to claim a spot in the playoff, though he acknowledged the committee had a tough decision with three worthy one-loss teams. Ohio State's 59-0 win over Wisconsin in the Big Ten title game proved to be the deciding factor, leaving the Horned Frogs to regret their only loss.

Baylor overcame a 21-point deficit in the fourth quarter, scoring 24 points in the final 11 minutes — including a tiebreaking field goal as time expired — to beat TCU 61-58 on Oct. 11.

“I don't worry about spilled milk,” Patterson said.

The coach insisted that his team is eager to face the Rebels, especially after going 4-8 a year ago. Sure, the Horned Frogs would have preferred a shot at the national title, but this is a young team that would appear to have a very bright future after only three years in the Big 12.

“We need to move on,” Patterson said. “The players want to finish this season like they started. They're excited about coming to Atlanta.”

Ole Miss started the season with seven straight wins, including an opening win over Boise State at the Georgia Dome and a 23-17 upset of Alabama in early October.

Baseball meetings to open with big stress on offense

SAN DIEGO (AP) — When baseball officials last gathered in San Diego for the winter meetings, the session took place at the Town and Country Resort in Mission Valley. No free agents reached agreements and players claimed collusion, which led to the first of three grievances against owners and eventually a \$280 million settlement.

The annual get-together is back, this time in downtown San Diego at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, and the average salary has soared from \$372,000 to about \$3.5 million. But one thing hasn't changed from 1985: The Kansas City Royals are defending AL champions.

Since then, offense has boomed with the Steroids Era

and then gone bust in a new Age of the Pitcher. With offense at a premium, teams have pursued hitters with greater urgency this offseason, leaving pitchers Max Scherzer, Jon Lester, James Shields and David Robertson still searching for deals.

“It's been interesting that the market's moved a lot quicker on the bats, both trades and free agents,” Texas Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. “Most of the major, bigger-name guys that have been moved so far, whether it's the free-agent market or the trade market, have been offensive players. I think that's a little reflective of the marketplace, there aren't as many offensive players out there.”

West Virginia to face A&M in Liberty Bowl

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — West Virginia will make its first Liberty Bowl appearance in half a century when it meets Texas A&M on Dec. 29.

The Mountaineers (7-5) lost 32-6 to Utah in the 1964 Liberty Bowl at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Texas A&M's only previous Liberty Bowl appearance came when it lost 20-0 to Southern California in 1975.

The Aggies (7-5) have

lost five of their last seven games. West Virginia ended a three-game skid Nov. 29 by beating Iowa State 37-24.

West Virginia's appearance marks the first year of the Liberty Bowl's partnership agreement with the Big 12. In previous seasons, the bowl typically matched a Southeastern Conference team with the Conference USA champion.

Coogs headed for Armed Forces

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Houston will make its fourth appearance in the Armed Forces Bowl when the Cougars take on Pittsburgh.

The Cougars (7-5) will

represent the American Athletic Conference when the game is played in January for the first time. The 12th Armed Forces Bowl is Jan. 2 on the TCU campus.

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Legals

An open hearing notifying the public of the insufficient performance, the improvements in performance expected by the TEA, and the intervention measures in place for the Big Spring Independent School District (BSISD) and three campuses in the district not meeting improvement required in the 2013-2014 school year will be held on Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room.

At the public hearing, the following Targeted Improvement Plans (TIP) will be shared. If you would like to preview these plans ahead of time, they are available on the BSISD website and on the subsequent campus webpages. Paper copies may be obtained at the district office at 708 East 11th Place. 2014-15 District Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) 2014-15 Goliad Elementary TIP. 2014-15 Maricopa Elementary TIP 2014-15 Washington Elementary TIP #8544 December 5, 7, 8, 9, & 10, 2014

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Jupiter Retrograde

In Leo, Jupiter has been The Great Gatsby of the zodiac, a big-spending showoff whose lavishness is a function of a deep need for love (and perhaps the love of one in particular). Now the mirthful mack daddy reverses his engine, suggesting that in the weeks to come, the difference between good luck and bad luck will be hard to distinguish.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel like you're being worked over by an infomercial. Suddenly you feel you absolutely have to have the thing you didn't even know existed until now. There's a trick to marketing. Factor that into your reasoning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you are interested in others, it is easy to be interesting to others. Let this be your guiding principle in business and on the social front, and you'll come out of the day with a new friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The philosophical question of the day: Is time ever really wasted? Just because you're not doing what you planned doesn't mean that what you're doing is worthless. How can you live the detours more fully?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's like the moon was whispering to you last night in your sleep, informing your dreams and widening your point of view to include new possibilities. This contributes to an afternoon change of mind or heart.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't mind making sacrifices for someone else's cause, but it's better if that cause is in line with your own. Also, be honest in your assessment of how large a sacrifice this actually is and how much time it will take.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes your friends motivate you with a pep talk or encouragement, but now they motivate you just by being who they are. It either inspires you or ignites the spirit of

competition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your work to clear surfaces around you will also be effective in clearing your mind. Physically and mentally, you are organizing yourself for the next adventure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As much as you would like to teleport from here to there, your travels will include a journey. Later you'll be grateful for the inconvenience of transportation because it's where all the fun happens.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Accepting how people are (instead of projecting onto them the expectations of who you want them to be) will help you deal most effectively today. In fact, it's why you'll be considered "cool."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It may feel as though you're being blocked from getting what you want. Instead of thinking of this blockage as a wall, think of it as a gate with a door. You just need to know the key code. Ask around.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When past mistakes are brought to the surface, the environment becomes a danger zone. Be the bigger person, step back, let go of blame and focus on how to fix the real problem at hand.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Self-development is favored, but only if you are developing in the ways that matter to you. No one gets happier by trying to measure up to someone else's rating system.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 8). You're comfortable in your skin, and your ease with your surroundings will attract social and professional opportunities over the next seven weeks. Continue to be confident in yourself even though you'll be in completely uncharted territory in February. Invest in your great love. A contract will be signed in May. Pisces and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 26, 10, 28 and 47.

HOLIDAY HACKS 2014: Last week we looked at "life hacks" to make the holidays

merrier for Aries, Taurus, Gemini and Cancer (see archives). The drive to surprise and delight is especially strong for LEO natives over the holidays. As the sign of creativity, children and entertainment, the holidays present a perfect merging of Leo's favorite things. Leo looks at this time of year as a chance to stage a truly magical experience for loved ones. The pressure to transcend the ordinary with original and inspired ideas is intense. Because Leo tends toward childlike expectations of what is possible and is not always so adept at planning out the practicalities, Leos often set themselves up for disappointment with their inability to create the desired holiday impact. Therefore, Leo's holiday hack is in starting as early as possible and planning backward. Only then will Leo understand what is possible and what is unreasonable.

It's quite simple really. Begin with the end in mind, and go backward,

figuring out all the steps that would have to happen to pull it off in a certain time frame. Inevitably, this backward planning process will help Leo simplify, prioritize and get to the essence of what really matters most about the holidays.

CELEBRITY PROFILE: Fiery Sagittarius Nicki Minaj rides the pop charts with collaborations and a new solo record while simultaneously pursuing a career as an actor and television personality. Minaj has the sign of a restless explorer who will constantly seek to expand her horizons with her natal sun, Mercury, Venus, Uranus and Neptune all in the passionate, fiery sign of Sagittarius.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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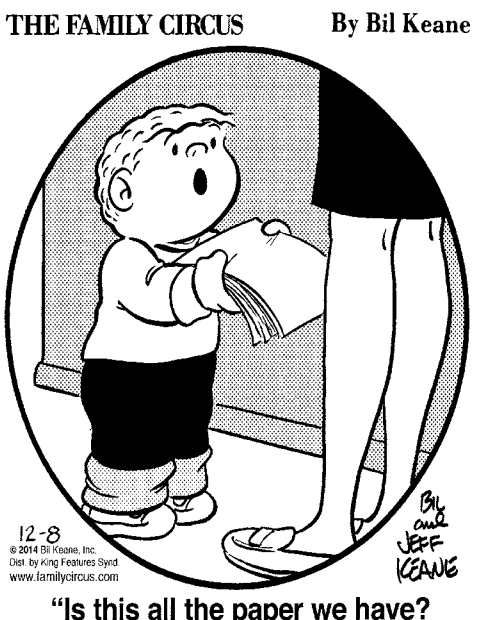
	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWWT (14)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News	P. Luche	Two Men	News	Tele	News	Seinfeld	Uri Harel	America	CHiPs	Fast N' Loud	Dalmatians, Joely Richardson	Q, James Woods	Castle	The Real	Jessie	SportsCenter	Monday Night Countdown
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	La Gata (SS)	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	McDonald	Business	M*A*S*H	Fast N' Loud			Castle (DVS)	Nellyville	Austin	High School Basketball	
7 :PM	The Great Christmas Light Fight	Mi Corazón Es Tuyo	Gotham (DVS)	Broke Girl Mike	Los Miserables (SS)	The Voice	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	Fast N' Loud	Movie: The Santa Clause 2, David Krumholtz	Movie: Training Day, Scott Glenn	Major Crimes	Movie: Christmas Wedding Baby, Maria Howell	Santa Clause 3: Escape Clause	NBA Coast to Coast	(15) NFL Football: Atlanta Falcons at Green Bay Packers.
8 :PM		Hasta el Fin	Sleepy Hollow	Scorpion	Tierra de Reyes (SS)		Fam. Guy	American	Antiques Roadshow	Heroes	Fast N' Loud			Major Crimes				
9 :PM	(01) Castle	La Malquerida (SS)	Mod Fam	NCIS: Los Angeles	Señora Acero (SS)	State of Affairs	Big Bang	Big Bang	Independent Lens	Mary	Fast N' Loud			Transporter	Husbands	Dog		
10 :PM	News	Impacto	Cleveland	News	Tele	News	Conan	House	Charlie Rose	Cheers	(15) Fast N' Loud	Movie: The Santa Clause 2, David Krumholtz	Movie: John Q, James Woods	Major Crimes	Husbands	Jessie	SportCtr	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Que No	How I Met	Ferguson	Titulares	Tonight Show	Cougar	Rocks	T. Smiley	Adam-12	(12:15) Fast N' Loud	(15) Fast N' Loud		Law & Order	Wendy Williams	Good	Baseball	(20) SportsCenter
12 :AM	Extra	Amorito Corazón	Friends	Insider	Señora Acero (SS)	News	Cougar	Yohanan	T. Smiley	Gallery	(12:15) Fast N' Loud	(12:01) Movie: Air Force One, Glenn Close	Movie: Ninja Assassin, Ben Miles	Law & Order	The Real	Deck	SportsCenter	NFL Prime-Time
1 :AM	Paid	Alma	Law & Order: SVU	Paid	Pagado	(07) Today	Cougar	Light of the Southwest	Blonde 2: Berl White	Ironside	Fast N' Loud: Demo			Law & Order	Queen Latifah	Wizards	NBA	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU SEEM TO KNOW EVERYONE. YOU GOT ANY PULL WITH SANTA CLAUS?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



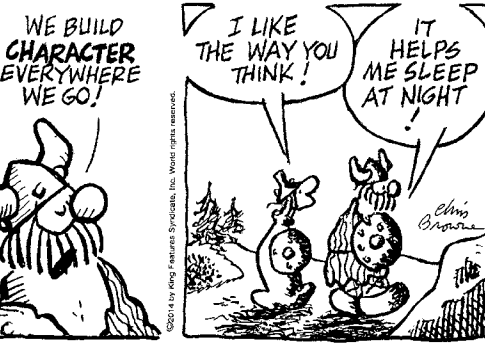
"Is this all the paper we have? I need to write my wish list for Santa."

HAGAR



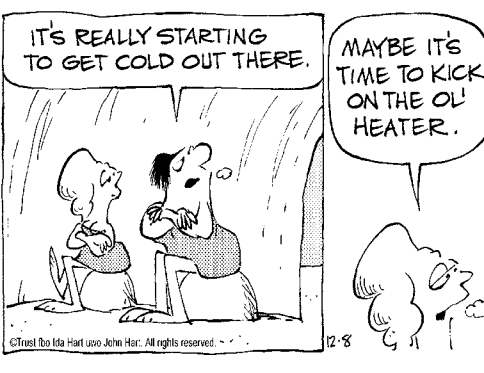
WE'RE VIKINGS! DOES THAT MAKE US TERRIBLE HUMAN BEINGS?

BLONDIE



WELL? HOW ABOUT THIS TREE? I'M NOT SURE... I'D LIKE TO SEE A FEW MORE...

BC



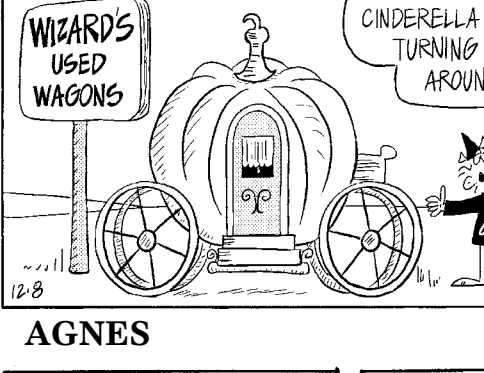
IT'S REALLY STARTING TO GET COLD OUT THERE.

WIZARD OF ID



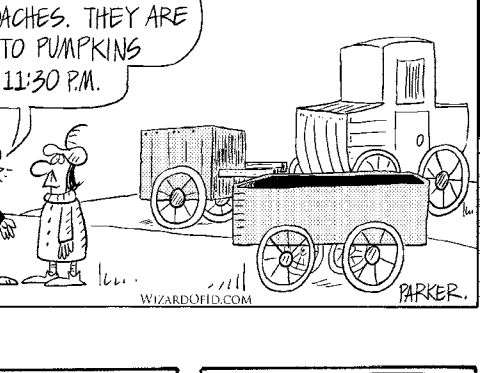
WE'RE HAVING A RECALL ON THE CINDERELLA COACHES. THEY ARE TURNING INTO PUMPKINS AROUND 11:30 P.M.

AGNES



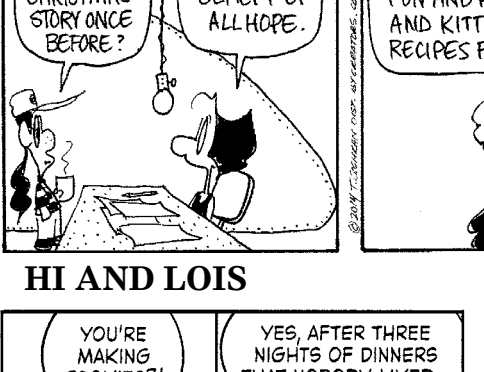
DIDN'T YOU WRITE A CHRISTMAS STORY ONCE BEFORE?

HI AND LOIS



I FELT THE NEED TO MAKE SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE A GUARANTEED "WOW."

THE OTHER COAST



YOU'RE MAKING COOKIES?!

DRIVING RAIN



JERK! YOU CUT ME OFF AT TWO THOUSAND FEET!

SNUFFY SMITH



GOOGLE!! WHAT'S ALL THIS?!

BEETLE BAILEY



GOOD LUCK, BEETLE

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2014. There are 23 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. On this date: In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington's retreating army crossed the Delaware River from New Jersey into Pennsylvania. In 1813, Beethoven's

Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92, was first performed in Vienna, with Beethoven himself conducting. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception. In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio. In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York. In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist govern-

ment moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks. In 1960, NBC broadcast a new, color videotape version of the TV special "Peter Pan" starring Mary Martin. (Two previous telecasts, also starring Martin, had been performed live in 1955 and 1956.)

Answer to previous puzzle

Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	S	A	D	J	S	T	E	R					
U	N	D	E	R	T	O	W		C	R	A	S	E						
A	M	E	S	I	O	W	A		T	A	K	E	I	N					
G	O	N	E	O	N		P	R	E	T	E	N	S	E					
M	O	O	T	S		F	O	O	D	B	E	E	T						
I	R	I	S		P	A	U	L	T		V	O	T	E	S				
R	E	D		S	I	X	T	S	I	X		S	I	X					
E	D	S		P	E	P		P	I	T		F	A	B					
L	A	B	O	R		P	U	L	E		W	E	D	S					
O	R	E	O		D	E	N	Y		B	A	S	I	E					
S	C	A	M	M	E	R	S		A	L	T	H	E	A					
E	A	T	S	A	T		H	A	B	I	T	A	T						
I	N	L	I	N	E		O	B	E	S	A	N	C	E					
T	E	E	N	E	R		T	A	T	T	E	R	E	D					

Newsday Crossword

THREE TO IGNORE

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Worker's supervisor
- "Fine by me!"
- Box-office failures
- Competent
- Campsite
- Within the law
- Cash advance
- "That's a shame"
- Ahead of time
- Ignore something
- Gorillas and chimps
- Metallic rock
- Not difficult
- Beauty pageant crown
- Football throw
- Coffball of corn
- Calculate a total
- Grocery vehicle
- Scheduled
- Ignore something
- West Texas city
- Property claim
- Top poker card
- Train stop: Abbr.
- Ivy League school in New Haven
- Pub missiles
- Inhale in astonishment
- Lawyer: Abbr.
- Campus club, for short
- Ignore something
- Gem from an oyster
- Frequently
- At no cost

DOWN

- Tennis racket's target
- Woodwind instrument
- Venetian-blind strip
- Student about to graduate
- Old enough
- Metric prefix for "1000"
- Typical Syrian
- Emphatic agreement
- Dog pests
- Period with a February 29th
- Folklore meanie
- Box friends
- Crafty
- Parcels of land
- "Steady __ goes"
- "Tall" story
- Much-admired celebrities
- Take in, as a new pet
- Opposite of post-
- Ring-shaped reef
- Engaged in battle
- Give feedback
- Sailors' greetings
- Provide with temporarily
- Changes the color of
- Australian hopper
- Office neckwear
- Fill with dismay
- Cost of some bank withdrawals
- Book of maps
- Started a poker pot
- Have the opinion
- __ and rave (make a scene)
- Hand-cream ingredient
- Exercise system from India
- Teheran's nation
- Geek
- Family rooms
- Org. for Tiger Woods

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20				21				22				
			23				24	25				
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33
34				35	36			37	38			39
40				41				42				
43							44				45	
	46					47	48			49	50	
						51	52			53		
						54	55			56	57	58
62								63			64	
65										66		67
68										69		70

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Scoreboard

National Football League American Conference East South North West National Conference East South West Sunday's Games

place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 6, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking: 1. Alabama (27) 12-1 1,452 1

Western Kentucky (7-5) vs. Central Michigan (7-5), Noon (ESPN) Hawaii Bowl At Honolulu Rice (7-5) vs. Fresno State (6-7), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 26 Heart of Dallas Bowl Illinois (6-6) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN) Quick Lane Bowl At Detroit Rutgers (7-5) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl UCF (9-3) vs. N.C. State (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Dec. 27 Military Bowl At Annapolis, Md. Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), 1 p.m. (ESPN) Sun Bowl At El Paso, Texas Duke (9-3) vs. Arizona State (9-3), 2 p.m. (CBS) Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La. Miami (6-6) vs. South Carolina (6-6), 4 p.m. (ESPN2) Pinstripe Bowl At Bronx, N.Y. Boston College (7-5) vs. Penn State (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) Holiday Bowl At San Diego Nebraska (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Dec. 29 Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn. West Virginia (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 2 p.m. (ESPN) Russell Athletic Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Clemson (9-3) vs. Oklahoma (8-4), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN) Texas Bowl At Houston Texas (6-6) vs. Arkansas (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Tuesday, Dec. 30 Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn. Notre Dame (7-5) vs. LSU (8-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN) Belk Bowl At Charlotte, N.C. Louisville (9-3) vs. Georgia (9-3), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN) Fosters Farm Bowl At Santa Clara, Calif. Stanford (7-5) vs. Maryland (7-5), 10 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Dec. 31 Peach Bowl At Atlanta Mississippi (9-3) vs. TCU (11-1), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Fiesta Bowl At Glendale, Ariz. Boise State (11-2) vs. Arizona (10-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN) Orange Bowl At Miami Mississippi State (10-2) vs. Georgia Tech (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Thursday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla. Wisconsin (10-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), Noon (ESPN2) Cotton Bowl Classic At Arlington, Texas Michigan State (10-2) vs. Baylor (11-1), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Citrus Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Minnesota (8-4) vs. Missouri (10-3), 1 p.m. (ABC) Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. Playoff semifinal: Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-0), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Sugar Bowl At New Orleans Playoff semifinal: Alabama (12-1) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Jan. 2 Armed Forces Bowl At Fort Worth, Texas Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Houston (7-5), Noon (ESPN) TaxSlayer Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla. Iowa (7-5) vs. Tennessee (6-6), 3:20 p.m. (ESPN) Alamo Bowl At San Antonio UCLA (9-3) vs. Kansas State (9-3), 6:45 p.m. (ESPN) Cactus Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. Oklahoma State (6-6) vs. Washington (8-5), 10:15 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Jan. 3 Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl Florida (6-5) vs. East Carolina (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN2) GoDaddy Bowl At Mobile, Ala. Toledo (8-4) vs. Arkansas State (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Jan. 10 Medal of Honor Bowl At Charleston, S.C. American vs. National, 2:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 College Football Championship At Arlington, Texas Sugar Bowl winner vs. Rose Bowl winner, 8:30 p.m. (ESPN) HIGH SCHOOL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS CLASS 6A DIVISION I State Semifinals Allen (14-0) vs. Dallas Skyline (14-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Dallas' Ford Stadium Cypress Ranch (12-2) vs. Converse Judson (10-4), 3 p.m. Saturday, SA's Alamodome CLASS 6A DIVISION II State Semifinals Cedar Hill (12-2) vs. Spring Westfield (13-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Georgetown ISD Stadium Katy (13-1) vs. Cibolo Steele (13-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Houston's NRG Stadium CLASS 5A DIVISION I State Semifinals Aledo (13-1) vs. Tyler (12-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Mesquite's Hanby Stadium Temple (12-1) vs. Austin Vandegriff (12-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, SA's Alamodome CLASS 5A DIVISION II State Semifinals Canutillo (13-1) vs. Ennis (12-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field Crosby (13-1) vs. Cedar Park (11-3), 8 p.m. Friday, Austin's Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium CLASS 4A DIVISION I State Semifinals Graham (12-2) vs. Argyle (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aledo Navasota (14-0) vs. Liberty Hill (12-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Waco's McLane Stadium CLASS 4A DIVISION II State Semifinals Celina (12-2) vs. Gilmer (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dallas' Ford Stadium West Orange-Stark (12-2) vs. Sinton (11-3), TBD CLASS 3A DIVISION I State Semifinals Shallowater (13-1) vs. Mineola (11-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Brownwood Cameron Yoe (10-4) vs. Edna (9-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Cypress'

Berry Center CLASS 3A DIVISION II State Semifinals Sonora (11-2) vs. Waskom (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Glen Rose Newton (11-3) vs. Blanco (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Waller CLASS 2A DIVISION I State Semifinals Canadian (13-0) vs. Mart (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Wichita Falls Memorial Stadium Centerville (10-3) vs. Mason (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Georgetown ISD Stadium CLASS 2A DIVISION II State Semifinals Seagraves (13-0) vs. Albany (13-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Snyder Tenaha (11-1) vs. Bremond (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nacogdoches' Bryce Stadium CLASS 1A DIVISION I State Semifinals Crowell 100, Turkey Valley 50 May 60, Blum 38 State Championship Crowell (13-0) vs. May (12-2), 3 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium CLASS 1A DIVISION II State Semifinals Groom 72, Loraine 54 Throckmorton 76, Calvert 72 State Championship Groom (13-1) vs. Throckmorton (13-0), noon Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium BASKETBALL National Basketball Association Eastern Conference Atlantic Division W L Pct GB Toronto 7 2 .778 — Brooklyn 4 4 .500 2½ Boston 3 5 .375 3½ New York 2 8 .200 5 Philadelphia 0 9 .000 7 Southeast Division W L Pct GB Washington 6 2 .750 — Atlanta 5 3 .625 1 Miami 5 4 .556 1½ Charlotte 4 5 .444 2½ Orlando 4 6 .400 3 Central Division W L Pct GB Chicago 7 2 .778 — Cleveland 4 3 .571 2 Milwaukee 4 5 .444 3 Detroit 3 6 .333 4 Indiana 3 7 .300 4½ Western Conference Southwest Division W L Pct GB Memphis 8 1 .889 — Houston 8 1 .889 — Dallas 6 3 .667 2 New Orleans 5 3 .625 2½ San Antonio 5 3 .625 2½ Northwest Division W L Pct GB Portland 6 3 .667 — Utah 4 6 .400 2½ Oklahoma City 3 7 .300 3½ Minnesota 2 6 .250 3½ Denver 2 6 .250 3½ Pacific Division W L Pct GB Golden State 6 2 .750 — L.A. Clippers 4 3 .571 1½ Sacramento 5 4 .556 1½ Phoenix 5 4 .556 1½ L.A. Lakers 1 8 .111 5½ Friday's Games Boston 101, Washington 93 Atlanta 96, Denver 84 Memphis 103, Miami 87 Oklahoma City 96, Detroit 94 Dallas 125, Milwaukee 102 Portland 103, New York 99 New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, late

Arkansas, Texas to meet in Texas Bowl

Charlie Strong knows as well as anyone about the long history between Arkansas and Texas, having grown up in Arkansas and played in college at Central Arkansas. The first-year Longhorns coach will have his first opportunity to take part in the long-standing rivalry when the former Southwest Conference opponents face each other in the Texas Bowl on Dec. 29 — a game featuring two rebuilding programs led by coaches early in their tenures. Strong, who was born in Batesville, Arkansas, took over at Texas (6-6) following last season. And after some early growing pains, including removing several players from the program, the Longhorns used a late-season three-game winning streak to finish 5-4 in the Big 12 and secure their bowl eligibility. Awaiting Texas are the Razorbacks, a school the Longhorns have faced 77 times — holding a 56-21 advantage in the series that includes 1969's Big Shootout matchup of the top-two ranked teams in the country. "Growing up there, you're a Razorback fan," Strong said. "... I saw a lot of matchups with Texas, and I'm really excited about playing." Arkansas is led by second-year coach Bret Bielema, who helped the Razorbacks rebound from back-to-back losing seasons this year. Arkansas finished 6-6 while playing in the difficult Southeastern Conference West division, ending a 17-game SEC losing streak along the way and reaching a bowl game for the first time in three seasons. The game will be the third game in the state of Texas this season for the Razorbacks, who won at Texas Tech and lost in overtime against Texas A&M at Cowboys Stadium.

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Cotton Bowl Classic At Arlington, Texas Michigan State (10-2) vs. Baylor (11-1), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Citrus Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Minnesota (8-4) vs. Missouri (10-3), 1 p.m. (ABC) Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. Playoff semifinal: Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-0), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

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