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H BIG SPRING HERALD

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DECEMBER 15, 2014



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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Gas prices continue to plunge

Nationwide average drops below \$2.60 a gallon, survey says

Special to the Herald

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen 7.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.35 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas.

This compares with the national average that has fallen 8.3 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.57 a gallon, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices yesterday were 72.6 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 36.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago.

The national average has decreased 33.2 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 67.0 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

"By (Tuesday), more stations in the U.S. will be charging under \$2.50 per gallon than ever, a remarkable milestone," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst with GasBuddy.

"In fact, as of Sunday evening, the number of states that saw at least one station at \$1.99 or less had jumped to 13 from just three a week ago, and included Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia."



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Members of Boy Scout pack 305 helped assist elderly shoppers of Wal-Mart Saturday afternoon by carrying and loading groceries to their car. From left, Steven Oyler and David Tidwell guide a cart full of groceries for Peggy Smith of Stanton before helping to load the bags into her car. Also pictured is parent Gary Tidwell. After loading the groceries into her vehicle, Smith attempted to give the boys a tip which was promptly refused by the two. However, they did accept a hug.

How to avoid vehicle theft this holiday

AUSTIN – Burglaries and thefts of vehicle are a concern during the entire holiday season.

"DPS is urging Texans to make sure their vehicles and belongings are secure in order to ward off possible thefts and burglaries during the holidays," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "December is one of the busiest months for auto thefts, and during this holiday shopping season, it is important that any valuables in a vehicle are out of sight."

In December 2013, 5,395 automobiles, pickups and motorcycles were recorded stolen, making it the third-highest month for vehicle thefts that year behind July

and August. In addition, more than 13,100 vehicle burglaries were reported last December.

The following are tips to help guard against vehicle theft:

- Never leave your car running unattended, even for a quick visit to a business or store.
- Never leave keys in the car or ignition, inside a locked garage, or in hide-a-key boxes.
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is parked at your home.
- When possible, always park in high-traffic, well-lighted areas.
- Install an anti-theft device that locks the steering wheel, column or brakes, especially if your vehi-

cle is considered to be at increased risk for theft.

- Never leave personal documents, vehicle ownership title or credit cards in your vehicle.
- Always keep valuables or property hidden out of sight or locked in the trunk.

If your vehicle is stolen, report it to the police immediately. Keep a copy of you license plate and vehicle identification number on hand in case of theft, since police will need this information.

For more information about auto thefts and burglary, see <http://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/consumer-protection/auto-theft-prevention>.

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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.



Merriam-Webster names 'culture' word of the year

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A nation, a workplace, an ethnicity, a passion, an outsized personality. The people who comprise these things, who fawn or rail against them, are behind Merriam-Webster's 2014 word of the year: culture.



Dec. 15
10 shopping days to Christmas



2311 Gregg St.

263-6663

261294

The word joins Oxford Dictionaries' "vape," a darling of the e-cigarette movement, and "exposure," declared the year's winner at Dictionary.com during a time of tragedy and fear due to Ebola.

Merriam-Webster based its pick and nine runners-up on significant increases in lookups this year over last on Merriam-Webster.com, along with interesting, often culture-driven — if you will — spikes of concentrated interest.

In the No. 2 spot is "nostalgia," during a year of big 50th anniversaries pegged to 1964: the start of the free speech movement, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the birth of the Ford Mustang and the British Invasion heralded by the landing of the Beatles on U.S. soil for the first time.

Nostalgia was followed by insidious, legacy, feminism and a rare multiword phrase that can be

looked up in total, in a foreign language at that: the French "je ne sais quoi."

The Springfield, Massachusetts-based dictionary giant filters out perennial favorites when picking word of the year, but does that formula leave them chasing language fads?

"We're simply using the word culture more frequently," said Peter Sokolowski, editor at large for Merriam-Webster. "It may be a fad. It may not. It may simply be evolution."

Sokolowski noted that the reasons words are looked up aren't just about not knowing what they mean. Sometimes, he said, we seek inspiration or a way to check in on ourselves. Of an estimated 100 million lookups on the website each year and a similar number on the company's app, culture enjoyed a 15 percent year-over-year increase.

Percentage-wise, it doesn't sound

See WORD, Page 3

Are You Feeling Left Out During the Holidays?

Are you missing out on family conversations and laughter?

Call By Dec. 22nd and Hear Better for the New Year.

All About Hearing, Inc.

Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center
306 W. 3rd St. • 432-267-3806

Dr. Sally Rand sees patients every Wednesday: 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Visit us online at: AllAboutHearing4U.com

Police blotter

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

- VANESSA ELANE MCKINNEY, 28, of 800.5 S. Nolan, was arrested Sunday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- ARMANDO JUAN SALCIDO, 34, of 1415 Tucson, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- VICTORIA ROCHELLE WINTERS, 20, of 706 E. 13 St. was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to 2 ounces.
- BEN GARZA, 60, of 1109 Mulberry, was arrested Sunday on a warrant from another agency.
- SARA ESTELA SHEEHAN, 19, of 1609 E. 17th St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor.
- BRAD WAYNE DUGAN JR., 31, of 4614 Aspen, was arrested Sunday on a charge of interference with an emergency telephone call.
- DISTURBANCE was reported at the 800 block of Nolan.
- TRAFFIC PARKING VIOLATION was reported at the 1300 block of 4th St.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported at the intersection of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Lancaster.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of 4th St. and Gregg, the intersection of Gregg and 17th St., the 1700 block of E. 15th St.
- THEFT was reported at the 2600 block of S. Gregg, the 1100 N. Lamesa Highway, the 200 block of W. FM 700 and the 800 block of Johnson.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported at the 4600 block of Aspen.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriffs Office reported the following activity:

- Note: Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 at the time of this report.
- ANDY PIPER was booked by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence and warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear.
 - GENARO LOPEZ CASTILLO III was booked by BSPD on warrants for bail off bond/possession of marijuana less than or equal to 5 pounds but greater than 4 ounces, bail off bond/no drivers license, capias warrant/no drivers license, failure to appear and theft.
 - BRANDON SHANE COX was booked by HCSO to begin sentence for driving while intoxicated 3rd or more offense.
 - EDWARD JAMES AUSBIE was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.
 - MICHAEL SCOTT WATTS was booked by BSPD on warrants for bail jumping and fail to appear, unregistered motor vehicle and and charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final resolution.
 - DENNY RAY WANNER was booked by BSPD on a charge of fail to display drivers license.
 - ANGELIC MARIE MORENO was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
 - SETH DAVID MITCHELL was booked by HCSO on warrant for evading arrest detention with a vehicle.
 - UBALDO BAUTISTA JR. was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - ARMANDO JUAN SALCIDO was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - VICTORIA ROCHELLE WINTERS was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.
 - VANESSA ELANE MCKINNEY was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.
 - BEN GARZA SR. was booked by BSPD on a warrant to yield right of way.
 - BRAD WAYNE DUGAN JR. was booked by HCSO on a charge of interference with emergency call.
 - SARA ESTELLA SHEEHAN was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol.
 - GARY DON GOODMAN was booked by BSPD on a warrant for possession drug paraphernalia.

Take Note

• Santa Claus will be making a visit to the Spring Creek Mall to spend time exclusively with area children with special needs. On Dec. 16, at 9 p.m., the mall will close and the children and their families who have registered for the free event will enjoy a visit with Santa. Parents must register their child by 3 p.m. Dec. 16. For more information call the church office at 714-4584 or Jim Billings at 270-3049 or register at any mall merchant. Refreshments will be served and there is no age limit.

• A couple wants to make sure veterans living at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans home receiving a little Christmas cheer. Trisha and Robert Hildreth are requesting donations for the 100-plus veterans who reside at the home. Some of the items requested are baseball caps, belts size 32-40, pretty scarves for the female veterans, small stocking suffer type items, stretch knit gloves, bingo card games and play money. Unwrapped donations can be brought the the Big Spring Herald offices at 710 Scurry St. The deadline to drop off a donation is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. For more information, contact Trisha Hildreth at 432-459-

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 friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us.

Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

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

- 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.

- A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.






Obituaries

Jayne Kelso

Jayne Kelso, 81, of Garden City, died Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Today's Weather

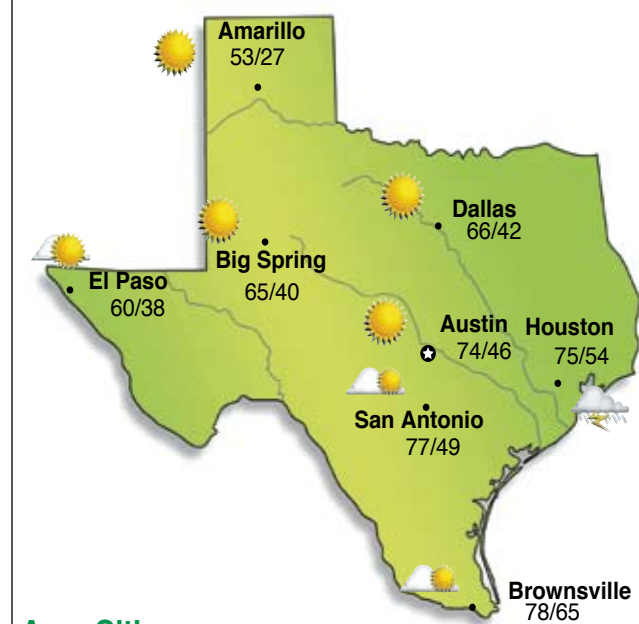
Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 12/16	Wed 12/17	Thu 12/18	Fri 12/19	Sat 12/20
				
65/40 Mainly sunny. High near 65F. Winds NW at 10 to 15 mph.	58/47 Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 40s.	63/45 Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun.	64/43 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	55/34 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM

AmericanProfile

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Texas At A Glance



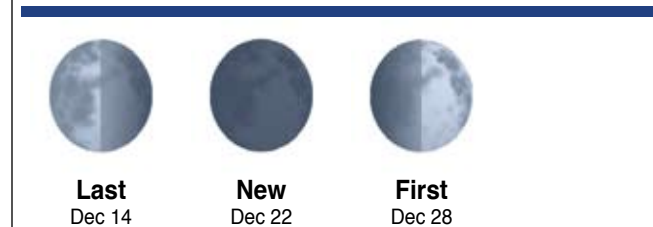
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	64	39	sunny	Kingsville	80	61	pt sunny
Amarillo	53	27	sunny	Livingston	73	46	t-storm
Austin	74	46	sunny	Longview	66	41	sunny
Beaumont	75	48	t-storm	Lubbock	59	32	sunny
Brownsville	78	65	pt sunny	Lufkin	74	46	t-storm
Brownwood	66	39	sunny	Midland	65	39	sunny
Corpus Christi	77	59	pt sunny	Raymondville	81	65	mst sunny
Corsicana	67	41	sunny	Rosenberg	76	49	pt sunny
Dallas	66	42	sunny	San Antonio	77	49	pt sunny
Del Rio	74	49	sunny	San Marcos	74	47	pt sunny
El Paso	60	38	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	65	40	sunny
Fort Stockton	66	41	sunny	Sweetwater	63	38	sunny
Gainesville	62	37	sunny	Tyler	67	42	sunny
Greenville	64	39	sunny	Weatherford	65	40	sunny
Houston	75	54	t-storm	Wichita Falls	61	35	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	62	48	pt sunny	Minneapolis	45	23	rain
Boston	42	32	sunny	New York	45	36	sunny
Chicago	47	43	rain	Phoenix	65	48	pt sunny
Dallas	66	42	sunny	San Francisco	56	51	rain
Denver	44	22	sunny	Seattle	50	42	pt sunny
Houston	75	54	t-storm	St. Louis	57	41	rain
Los Angeles	63	52	pt sunny	Washington, DC	53	39	pt sunny
Miami	76	61	sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Tue 12/16	Wed 12/17	Thu 12/18	Fri 12/19	Sat 12/20
3	3	3	3	3
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.

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2309.

• Reservations are now being taken for shirts and transportation for Howard County Day in Austin. The one-day event is meant to highlight the economic importance of Howard County to Texas law makers. Howard County Day in Austin is set for Feb. 10, 2015. Reservations are now being taken for a seat on a bus leaving from the Dorothy Garret Coliseum to attend the event. The charge is \$40 per person. Shirt order deadline for a Howard County shirt is Jan. 7. The cost is \$29. For more information, contact Teresa Darden at the Big Spring Economic Development at 264-6032.

• 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 funds, toys or clothes, bring them to Wells Fargo Bank during regular business hours. The bank is located at Fourth and Main downtown. For more information, contact Beverly Johnson at 264-8373.

News in brief

5 people escape from Sydney cafe at center of hours-long hostage drama

SYDNEY (AP) — Five people escaped from a Sydney cafe where a gunman took an unknown number of hostages during Monday morning rush hour. Two people inside the cafe earlier held up a flag with an Islamic declaration of faith that has often been used by extremists, raising fears that a terrorist incident was playing out in the heart of Australia's biggest city.

The first three people ran out of the Lindt Chocolate Cafe in downtown Sydney six hours into the hostage crisis, and two women sprinted from a fire exit into the arms of waiting police shortly afterward. Both women were wearing aprons with the Lindt chocolate logo, indicating they were cafe employees.

As the siege entered its 12th hour Monday night, basic questions remained unanswered. Police refused to say how many hostages were inside the cafe, what they believed the gunman's motives might be, whether he had made any demands or whether the hostages who fled the cafe escaped or were released.

"I would like to give you as much as I can but right now that is as much as I can," New South Wales state police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said. "First and foremost, we have to make sure we do nothing that could in any way jeopardize those still in the building."

Police were negotiating with the gunman and said they had no information to suggest anyone had been hurt. Scipione said they had not confirmed whether the siege was related to terrorism.

Israeli settlement construction in West Bank surges under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (AP) — The population of Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank has surged during Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's years in office, growing at more than twice the pace of Israel's overall population, according to newly obtained official figures.

Settlement growth also was strong beyond Israel's separation barrier, seen by many as the basis for a border between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

The figures reflect Netanyahu's continued support for settlement construction, even while repeatedly stating his commitment to the eventual establishment of an independent Palestinian state as part of a future peace agreement. They also could be a topic of discussion as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Netanyahu and European officials this week over a promised U.N. Security Council proposal dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

While Israeli leaders of all political persuasions have built settlements for decades, the U.S. and western allies have dwindling patience for their construction.

From the beginning of 2009 until the beginning of 2014 — Netanyahu returned to office in March 2009 — the Jewish settler population in the West Bank

grew 23 percent, to 355,993 people. In comparison, the overall population has grown 9.6 percent to just over 8 million in that time. Figures for 2014 are not expected before late next year.

Mideast peace push at UN puts Obama administration in difficult spot between allies

ROME (AP) — The Obama administration is in a diplomatic bind on the Mideast as Secretary of State John Kerry meets with top Israeli and Palestinian officials in Europe this week.

The U.S. is reluctant to do anything right now that can be perceived as interference in Israel's elections while being pressed by close allies to endorse an Israeli-Palestinian negotiating framework that largely adheres to U.S. policy.

France is drafting a U.N. resolution that proposes a two-year timetable for talks. The draft speaks of the 1967 Mideast borders as the basis for dividing the land, which President Barack Obama has publicly backed, but it doesn't include key Israeli — and U.S. — conditions such as Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state.

The United States has long opposed the idea of the Security Council imposing a framework for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. But for Washington, simply vetoing the plan could have pitfalls.

Weeks after scathing article, friends of alleged UVa rape victim try to set record straight

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Almost a month after a scathing magazine article portrayed three friends as uncaring in the face of a woman's sexual assault, Kathryn Hendley, Alex Stock, and Ryan Duffin are still trying to set the record straight.

The friends told The Associated Press that the Rolling Stone article about an alleged gang rape at a University of Virginia frat house was wrong on a number of key points, especially its assertion that they urged the victim to not report the attack.

Their alleged indifference was woven into a narrative that used the alleged attack to paint a picture of a culture of sexual violence on college campuses in the United States. The article set off an intense debate about sexual violence, alcohol, fraternities and journalism ethics.

Duffin, a 20-year-old, third-year student referred to as "Randall" in the Rolling Stone article, told the AP that not only did he encourage the alleged victim to go to police, but he started to dial 9-1-1 on his cellphone until she begged off saying she just wanted to go back to her dorm and go to sleep.

"I couldn't help but notice that everything that the article said about me was incorrect," Duffin said.

Sales of macadamia nuts soar in South Korea after Korean Air executive's nut rage

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Nut rage imploded the career of a Korean Air Lines executive and embarrassed her family and country. Now South Korean retailers are experiencing the unexpected

upside: a boom in sales of macadamias.

The flavorful macadamia nut was unfamiliar to many South Koreans until Cho Hyun-ah, the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, ordered a flight attendant off a Dec. 5 flight from New York City after she was served them in a bag, instead of on a plate.

She resigned from executive roles including head of cabin service last week amid a storm of criticism about the tantrum that forced the flight to return to the gate. But macadamias are now a household name in South Korea and with curiosity about their taste piqued, sales are booming.

Auction, a South Korean unit of eBay and South Korea's second-largest e-commerce website, said Monday that sales of macadamias surged nearly 12-fold during the previous five days without any promotions. It said macadamias previously made up 5 percent of its nut sales but were now accounting for almost half.

Senate report on CIA revives legal debate around interrogation and memos that permitted it

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the CIA sought permission to use harsh interrogation methods on a captured al-Qaida operative, the response from Bush administration lawyers was encouraging, even clinical.

In one of several memos forming the legal underpinnings for brutal interrogation techniques, the CIA was told Abu Zubaydah could lawfully be placed in a box with an insect, kept awake for days at a time and slapped multiple times in the face. Waterboarding, too, was acceptable because it didn't cause the lengthy mental anguish needed to meet the legal standard of torture, the 2002 Justice Department memo says.

The release last week of a Senate report cataloging years of such interrogation tactics has revived debate about legal opinions since discredited and withdrawn and about the decision to not prosecute the program's architects or officers who used the methods. Civil rights groups in the United States and abroad are renewing calls to prosecute those who relied on techniques that President Barack Obama has called torture.

"How can we seriously use the phrase 'rule of law' if crimes of this magnitude go uninvestigated and unprosecuted?" said Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Detained US Marine charged with murder of Filipino transgender

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine government prosecutors charged a detained U.S. Marine with murder Monday in the killing of a Filipino transgender that reignited an irritant between the military allies over custody of American military personnel suspected of committing crimes.

Prosecutor Emily de los Santos said there was "probable cause" that Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton killed Jennifer Laude, whose former name was Jeffrey, in a motel room, where the victim's body was found in October in Olongapo city, northwest of Manila. She had apparently been drowned in a toilet bowl.

WORD

Continued from Page 1

like much, but the raw number in that stratosphere is large, Sokolowski said. He wouldn't disclose actual numbers, though, citing the proprietary nature of that data for a company still privately held.

Sokolowski is a lexicographer, not a mind reader, so his observations about why any single word takes off in terms of lookups is well-informed but theoretical.

"The word culture's got a cultural story. We have noticed for years that culture has a cyclical spike every year at around Labor Day. That is to say back to school time during the month of September, so we've been watching this word spike at that time for years," he said by telephone from Springfield. "In recent years we've seen similar spikes at the end of semesters during finals."

But traffic throughout the year indicates that culture is a "chameleon," Sokolowski said. "When you put it next to another word it means something very different. For example, 'consumer culture' or 'rape culture,' which we've been reading about lately."

There's the "culture of transparency" in government and business, and "celebrity culture," and the "culture of winning" in sports, he noted. "It's a word that can be very specific, like 'test prep culture,' or it can be very, very broad, like 'coffee culture.'"

One standout reference that caught Sokolowski's eye in The New Yorker's December issue is from a new book, "How Google Works," which includes a description of a software fix by a few engineers that made ads more relevant on the search engine:

"It wasn't Google's culture that turned those five engineers into

problem-solving ninjas who changed the course of the company over the weekend," wrote the authors, former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and former head of product development Jonathan Rosenberg.

"Rather it was the culture that attracted the ninjas to the company in the first place."

Before the word culture exploded, Sokolowski said, "we used to talk about 'society' a lot. Certain groups are taking 'society' out of their names now. It seems to be receding. Part of that seems to be because it's elitist. We're using the word culture more frequently in that place."

Not all lookup spikes are quite that complex. The reason "je ne sais quoi" landed at No. 6, for instance, is "dead simple," he said.

The fast-food drive-in chain Sonic, known for TV spots featuring two goofy dudes eating in a car, had them munching on boneless chicken wings in September.

"I've finally found myself a wingman," goofy guy No. 1 says of the wings he hopes will make him a chick magnet.

"Oh right," sneers goofy guy No. 2, "gonna give you that certain je ne sais quoi."

Responds No. 1: "Jenna said what?"

They mine the word play a couple more times, but you get the picture.

"Since September when this ad came out this word has been close to the Top 10 or in the Top 10 of our lookups almost every single day," Sokolowski said. Fast-food aside, he

FOR SPECIALTY SPRAYING IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

* Diamond Applicator Certified
* Prickly Pear & Cholla Control starting in January
* Mesquite Control Starting in June

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called this year's list a relatively sober one.

Insidious, for example, received a bump early in the year when a new trailer was released for "Insidious: Chapter 3," a prequel in the horror film franchise "Insidious," out in June. The word surfaced in a big way again, on Oct. 8, when a Texas hospital released a statement on the death of Thomas Eric Duncan, the first confirmed Ebola patient in the United States.

The statement spoke of his courageous battle

and the hospital's profound sadness when he "succumbed to an insidious disease, Ebola."

Rounding out the Top 10 are innovation, surreptitious, autonomy and morbidity.

"This is a fairly sober list. It was a fairly sober year," he concluded.

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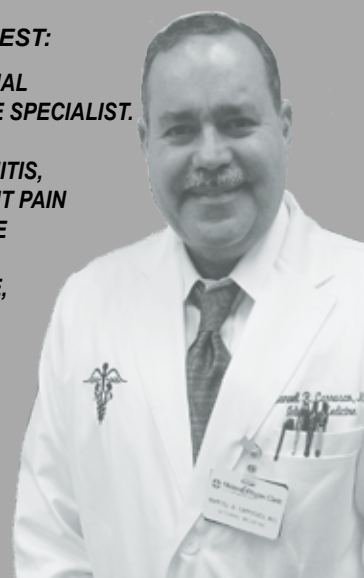
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Steers streak to Gym Bice tournament crown

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

ANDREWS – Not even a loss on Saturday morning could doom the Big Spring Steers at the Gym Bice Classic. The Steers pounded out a 60-48 decision over the Andrews Mustangs on Saturday evening and pushed Big Spring to first place in the annual tournament. The Steers finished the three-day tournament with a 4-1 record. BSHS struggled to get it offense going early. The Steers

managed just nine points in the first eight minutes of the game. Fortunately for the Steers, Andrews was even less successful in the first eight minutes and scored just four. Big Spring hit stride in the second. The Steers exploded for 19 points in the frame and raced to a 28-19 halftime cushion. The Steers, who were sparked by Kei'Shawn Broussard's four three-point shots, pieced together another 19-14 run in the third and stretched

its lead to 47-33 cushion into the fourth. Broussard finished the contest with a 16 points. Andrews enjoyed a solid effort from the free throw line against the Steers. The Mustangs made 16 of their 24 attempts. In contrast, Big Spring went to the charity stripe just three times, making two. Big Spring also picked up double-digit performances from Tyler Bryan and Ty Sealy. Bryan finished with 14 points, while Sealy added 10.

Tobyn Tannehill and Dee Parker added seven and six, respectively. Big Spring opened Saturday's action with a tough 62-38 setback to Grady. The Wildcats, the seventh-ranked team in the latest Class A poll, used a strong third-quarter barrage to break open the contest. Grady opened the game with a quick start. The Wildcats posted a 31-19 run in the first half. Grady all but iced the game in the third. Keyed by the

play of Beau Lucas, the Wildcats reeled off a 23-6 run in the frame and took a commanding 54-25 lead into the fourth. Lucas led all GHS scorers in the game with 17 points. Sealy and Will Green both turned in strong outings for Big Spring in the loss. Sealy finished with a team-high 13 points, while Green and Broussard added 10 and eight, respectively. Big Spring will return to action tomorrow as part of a doubleheader with the BSHS girls in Greenwood.

Bryant's 3TD powers 'Boys past Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dez Bryant backed up his bravado in a big way. Bryant had a career-best three touchdown receptions, and the Dallas Cowboys rallied to beat the Philadelphia Eagles 38-27 after wasting a 21-0 lead on Sunday evening. DeMarco Murray had a pair of TD runs to help the Cowboys (10-4) move ahead of the Eagles (9-5) into first place in the NFC East. The Eagles dominated the Cowboys in a 33-10 road win on Thanksgiving, but Dallas seized control of the division with two weeks left.

third quarter. But Tony Romo and the Cowboys answered quickly with two touchdowns in a 2:51 span. Murray scored on a 2-yard run to cap a 78-yard drive. After J.J. Wilcox intercepted Sanchez's pass, the Cowboys started the fourth quarter at the Eagles 42. Romo then hit Bryant in stride for a 25-yard scoring pass. "Having a guy like Dez makes it easy to throw to spots that he can go get it," Romo said. "Just lucky to have him." Bryant couldn't wait for this game after being held to 73 yards on four catches in the first meeting. After that game, he called Philadelphia's secondary "cheap," and he had a heated exchange with Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins before Sunday night's game. Bryant came back twice after Jenkins walked away and it wasn't known why they argued.

"We believed in one another, and I think that's the key to victory," Bryant said. "Believing in one another and just trying to come out and execute the plays the best way that we possibly can, and we did that." The NFC-leading Arizona Cardinals (11-3) clinched a playoff berth because the game didn't end in a tie. Arizona was idle this weekend. The Cowboys took a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter before Philadelphia rallied behind Mark Sanchez. Chris Polk had TD runs of 1 and 5 yards, and Darren Sproles ran in from the 1 to give the Eagles a 24-21 lead late in

"Just great competitors going at it, that's all," Bryant said. Bryant finished with six receptions for 114 yards. He beat cornerback Bradley Fletcher on each of the TDs. "I just had a terrible game," Fletcher said. Romo was pumped for 265 yards and Murray ran for 81 yards on 31 carries.

Marcus Mariota claims Heisman Trophy honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Marcus Mariota wrote it all down, every word of his Heisman Trophy acceptance speech. It was a good thing, too, because getting through it might have been tougher than sprinting away from a linebacker or tossing a touchdown pass for Oregon's understated star. The junior became the Ducks' first Heisman winner going away Saturday night, capping a three-year climb to college football's most prestigious individual award. "I'm humbled to be standing here today," Mariota said moments after he was announced as the winner. Mariota isn't a bigger talker, but he steadily worked through his speech, thanking his teammates, teachers, friends and his home state of Hawaii. He finally hit

a snag when it came time to thank his mother and father. He needed to take two deep breaths and still he got choked up. "I had to give thanks to so many people because where I am today, it's all do to all those people," Mariota said later. "It's hard not to get emotional. It's been a long journey." A pinpoint passer with wide-receiver speed, Mariota came into this season as the favorite to win the 80th Heisman and delivered a performance that turned the presentation ceremony at a theater in Times Square into a foregone conclusion. Mariota had twice as many points (2,534) as second-place finisher Melvin Gordon (1,250), the record-breaking running back from Wisconsin. The other finalist, Alabama receiver Amari Cooper, was third.

TOURNAMENT WRAP-UP



The Sands Mustangs used a 7-0 run in the final 1:36 of play in the fourth quarter to claim a 64-58 win over Coahoma in the third-place game of the Hooptown Classic in Stanton.

Sands rallies past Coahoma for 3rd

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

STANTON – Dyllan Tindol pushed back an offensive rebound and drew a foul with 23 seconds remaining in regulation on Saturday afternoon and all but ended the Coahoma Bulldogs' hopes of claiming third in the final team standings at the Stanton Hooptown Basketball Classic. Tindol's basket staked Sands to a 60-58 lead. More importantly, it forced Coahoma's leading scorer, Braxton Iden, to the bench with his fifth personal foul. Sands, earning its third straight top three finish at the tournament, outscored Coahoma by a 7-0 margin in the final 1:36 to claim the come-from-behind win. Coahoma, which also lost Kody

2014 Stanton Hooptown Classic	
Saturday's Results	
BOYS	
Guarantee Game	Sweetwater 59, Clyde 34
Consolation Final	Colorado 45, Grape Creek 37
Third-place Game	Sands 64, Coahoma 58
Championship	Wolfforth Frenship JV 55, Stanton 31

Barber to fouls late in the third, dominated the first eight minutes of the game. Iden got off to a torrid start, scoring 13 points in the first eight minutes – six of which came on two three-point shots – and powered the Bulldogs to a 20-13 cushion. Iden finished with a game-high 32 points, including five treys. Sands, which also enjoyed a sol-

id outing from Sergio Plata, came roaring back in the second. The Mustangs, backed by a defense that held the Bulldogs to just one shot from the field and two free throws, reeled off a 15-4 run in the period and raced to a 28-24 halftime lead. Coahoma answered back in the third. The Bulldogs posted a 17-11 run in the opening eight minutes of the second half and took a 41-39 advantage into the fourth. Sands fought its way to within 58-57 before Tindol managed to put back a short jumper, and the ensuing foul shot, that spelled the beginning of the end for Coahoma. Tindol and Plata were both named to the boys' Hooptown all-tournament squad, as was Iden.

Bulldogettes earn consolation honors

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

STANTON – Julia Castilaw pumped in 17 points and Lauren Simer added 14 more and powered the Coahoma Bulldogettes to a 60-28 victory over a scrappy Stanton Lady Buffaloes junior varsity squad at the Hooptown Classic consolation finals on Saturday. With the victory, Coahoma finished the three-day tournament with a 2-1 record, and their best finish at the Hooptown Classic since 2009. Coahoma's pressure defense helped the Bulldogettes jump out to a quick lead against Stanton.

2014 Stanton Hooptown Classic	
Saturday's Results	
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Consolation Final	Coahoma 60, Stanton JV 28
Third-place Game	Clyde 59, Snyder 34
Championship Game	Stanton 39, Colorado City 29

The CHS squad forced 14 turnovers in the first quarter and led the way to a 13-4 lead heading into the second. The Bulldogettes continued to press their advantage in the second. Coahoma collected points from seven different players in the second and carried a 30-10

cushion into the half. Castilaw led the CHS attack in the second with six points. Simer added four. Taylee Miller added a three-point shot early on to key a 17-6 run in the frame. Maggie Rae Allred and the Lady Buffaloes turned in a gutsy effort in the third. Stanton matched Coahoma point-for-point in the frame and went into the fourth trailing 40-20. Coahoma put the game on ice with a 20-8 run in the final eight minutes. McClayne Holgorsen and Miller also played well in the Bulldogettes' win. Holgorsen finished with nine points, while Miller chipped in seven.

Lady Steers close out Corbin tourney with wins

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Lady Steers closed out the Kristen Corbin Classic on high note on Saturday by winning their final two games in Andrews. The Lady Steers, now 9-7 overall, kicked off the final day of action by routing Kermit, 66-39. Jackie Castillo and Julianna Rodriguez both turned in stellar outings against Kermit. Castillo led all

BSHS scorers with a season-high 20 points. Rodriguez added 19. Big Spring also collected a double-digit performance from Tiffani Ruiz, who finished with 12. The Lady Steers broke open a 28-17 halftime battle with a staggering 19-8 run in the third and took a 47-25 lead into the fourth. The Lady Steers needed a big second-half run to deal Odessa High a 40-23 setback in their final game. After opening the game with an

11-8 run, the Lady Steers went silent from the field in the second. OHS posted an 8-2 run in the second and took a 16-13 lead into the half. Big Spring righted the ship from there, however. They outscored Odessa by a 27-7 clip in the second half. Rodriguez and Mariah Walsh led BSHS offensively with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Lady Buffs take third at Borden County tournament

GAIL – Kendall Phillips scored 13 points and Kaylee Kemper added 12 more on led the Forsan Lady Buffaloes to a 43-32 victory over Ralls and

to third place in the Borden County Holiday Basketball Tournament. Forsan finished the tournament with a 2- record.

The Lady Buffaloes are scheduled to return to play on Tuesday evening with a home game against Iraan.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

EAST
♠ 7 5 3
♥ K J 8 7
♦ Q 9 6 5 2
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ K 10 4 2
♥ Q 6
♦ 7 4
♣ K Q 8 4 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♦
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

least 10 tricks. All he has to do is to draw three rounds of trumps and lead a club from dummy. Come what may, he makes the contract, losing at most three tricks.

But the French declarer went down two — and how this occurred is a wonderful example of how one can sometimes accomplish by chicanery what cannot be accomplished by normal play.

Declarer won the diamond with dummy's ace and played the ace of spades, on which Belladonna dropped the jack! This might not have been the most brilliant falsecard in the history of the game, but it had an electric effect upon declarer.

Convinced by the fall of the jack that the trumps were divided 4-1 and that the hand would become very awkward to play if he drew another round of trumps, declarer shifted his attention to clubs by leading a low one from dummy at trick three.

At this point, the roof collapsed. East (Walter Avarelli) won the club with the ace and returned a diamond, which Belladonna ruffed. Belladonna returned a club, which Avarelli ruffed, and a heart return by Avarelli to his partner's ace was followed by another club ruff. East-West thus took five tricks in succession to put the seemingly certain contract down two.

Tomorrow: Magic act.
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Moon of Moderation

The Libra moon helps to balance the workload of this high-intensity day, reminding us that it could all be a little better if we would stop, breathe, take the time for friendliness, notice the beauty and deliver it all with good manners. This is also the moon of moderation, helping us see the way to balance.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know the secret: No one can listen well with a moving mouth. Everything good that happens today will occur because you prove to be a great listener.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What you do is not who you are. If you don't like the way a scene played out, forgive yourself and resolve to do it differently the next time. You can always write a new scene.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You now take control of your financial destiny. You've done the research and reflection, and now you're all about action. A loving influence will help you feel stronger.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The differences between you and a loved one have at times been a cause of tension, but now you groove together like interlocking puzzle pieces. What you lack, the other person makes up for, and vice versa.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). No one else can teach you how to be happy, because your joy is a unique recipe. This is your chance to experiment. You're the only one who will know when it's right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Anyone can do something great for a few minutes. The extraordinary person is the one who performs greatness often and for longer periods of time. Through practice, you will become extraordinary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your dreams will tell you something important that you haven't quite put together in your waking life. Try to remember them. Part of living consciously is exploring your subconscious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It won't be enough just to know what you're doing. When you also project the image of knowing what you're doing, you'll win. Appearances will matter almost as much as realities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not easily impressed, so when someone does impress you today, it's a momentous occasion. Say what you're thinking. Give voice to your appreciation. Don't let this go uncelebrated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People believe they are right even when they are not. Talking about right and wrong will do nothing to change anyone's behavior for the better. The way to teach right from wrong is by

example.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't let emotions distort your experience. You're better off to take a logical, cool-headed approach to relationships. Don't think in terms of reward and punishment; instead, think of each action as having a consequence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may feel as though you are fighting your own shadow. What it lacks in physical stature it makes up for in persistence. You can't get away from it, but if you ignore it, it won't have any power over you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 15). As you build a network of followers, customers and friends, your relationship with yourself is still the most important one to nurture. Do what fascinates you and allows you to grow your talents. January heals an emotional rift. Family creates something together in March. April and July are lucky financially. Cancer and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 28, 1, 33 and 9.

HOLIDAY HACKS 2014: In recent days, we've looked at "life hacks" to make the holidays merrier for Aries through Sagittarius. Tomorrow, Mercury moves into CAPRICORN, and the sun follows on the solstice of the 21st. This magical day will be made even more special by the new moon in Capricorn and the end of what felt like a lengthy Uranus retrograde. Capricorn natives are coming into their own this time of year, with

cosmic radiance to fuel their ambitions.

The one habit that will make the holidays brighter for this sign is so simple and yet so often overlooked. It's a practice that will clear the head, raise the "chi" energy, elevate any mood, regulate the body's rhythms, promote health, increase beauty, stave off depression and build strength. What is this magic practice with so many benefits? Exercise, of course. As for the busy Capricorns who suggest they simply don't have the time, given the numerous benefits, are you sure? Nothing pricey or extravagant is necessary. As the sign of the bones, joints and knees, the best exercise may be a simple walk or jog around the neighborhood.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Downton Abbey" star Michelle Dockery stars with Ryan Reynolds in next year's sci-fi thriller "Selfless." The British beauty turned international film star was born when the sun, Mercury, Uranus and Neptune were all in high-energy, sophisticated and worldly Sagittarius. Her moon in Leo, the sign of the entertainment industry, adds still more firepower to the cosmic mix.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a 14-year-old boy. I'm on the swim team, and I take tap dancing lessons. But when I told my mom that I'd like to continue with both, she told me tap was a waste of time and that I would never go anywhere with it.

Only when one of my dance friends offered to take me to class after school did she agree that I could go. She still does not believe in my talent, even after being told multiple times that my instructors think I have plenty. She even missed some of my most important solos.

It's like she has drifted away from me. She used to love seeing me tap dance, and now she rarely does. What should I do about her? -- Gotta Dance

Dear Dance: You can be patient and hope she comes around. There could be many reasons why your mother suddenly doesn't want to encourage you to dance, and it might help to ask

her directly. But as long as she is willing to let you continue, and you enjoy it, we hope you will keep it up. Not every activity turns into a career, nor should it. Dancing, whether you are talented or not, keeps you in good physical condition and is fun to do.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

with bronchitis as a baby, he started going outside. The problem is, when he comes in after having a cigarette, he still reeks of smoke. He stinks up the house, and when he pets the family cat, she smells like smoke, too. In addition, he smokes in his truck, so that often has a smoky odor, too.

My mother and I have told him that even though he actually lights up outside, bringing all that smoke back into the house is still dangerous to our health (and our cat's). He doesn't believe we are exposed to anything harmful, because the odor and smokiness aren't coming directly from a lit

cigarette.

Isn't this considered third-hand smoke? I don't expect your answer to make him stop smoking, but maybe for our sake he will at least stay outside a little longer. -- Miffed in the Midwest

Dear Miffed: According to the Mayo Clinic, studies show that third-hand smoke clings to hair, skin, clothes, furniture, drapes, walls, bedding, carpets, vehicles and other surfaces, and builds up over time. Infants, children and nonsmoking adults may be at risk of tobacco-related health problems when they inhale, ingest or touch substances containing third-hand smoke, although the effects are still being studied.

Your father is unlikely to stay outside very long in cold weather, and even if he did, it wouldn't solve the problem, because the smoke clings to his hair and clothes when he returns inside. Some people recommend electronic cigarettes, not because they reduce cancer risk, but because they appear to lessen the impact of third-hand smoke.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Traveling Man," whose retired husband has developed a phobia when it comes to

car travel.

I was widowed when I met my twice-married husband 14 years ago. I had fully intended to live independently, but we fell in love, tossed caution to the wind and got married. We are still crazy in love. And we enjoy our own company.

On our honeymoon, he went deep-sea fishing, and I chose to go kayaking. I am 58 and have never been happier. Everyone advised me not to rush into a relationship, especially since he had custody of two teenagers. It wasn't easy at times, but I am so grateful that the kids are a big part of my life.

So why am I writing this? Because you just never know. I did everything "wrong" and still ended up lucky in love. -- Good Instincts

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

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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	P. Luche	Two Men	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News CBS	Seinfeld	Uri Harel	America Business	CHiPs		Friday Night Lights, Jay Hernandez	Adams	Castle (DVS)	The Real	Jessie	SportsCenter	Monday Night Countdown
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	La Gata (SS)	Big Bang	News CBS	Caso Cerardo	News CBS	Seinfeld	McDonald	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H				Castle (DVS)	Movie: Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins	Austin	30 for 30	
7 :PM	The Great Christmas Light Fight	Mi Corazón Es Tuyo	American Country Countdown Awards	Broke Girl Mike	Los Miserables (SS)	The Voice	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith				Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York	Major Crimes			(:15) NFL Football: New Orleans Saints at Chicago Bears.
8 :PM		Hasta el Fin		Scorpion	Tierra de Reyes (SS)		Fam. Guy	American	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith				Major Crimes			30 for 30	
9 :PM	Castle	La Malquerida (SS)	Mod Fam	NCIS: Los Angeles	Señora Acero (SS)	Slate of Affairs	Big Bang	Journey to Earth	Newhart	Fast N' Loud: Demo				Major Crimes	Movie: Nutty Professor II: The Klumps	Austin		
10 :PM	News ABC	Impacto	Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News CBS	Conan	House	Mani	Cheers				The Librarians		Jessie	(:15) Bowl Mania	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Que No	How I Met	Letterman	Tierras de Reyes (SS)	Seth Meyers	Cougar	Rocks	T. Smiley	Dragnet				Law & Order	Wendy Williams	Good		(:20) SportsCenter
12 :AM	Nightline	Amorito Corazón	Friends	Insider	Señora Acero (SS)	News	Cougar	Upd	Yohanan	Gallery				Law & Order	The Real	Deck	SportsCenter	NFL Prime-Time
1 :AM	Paid	Alma	Law & Order: SVU	Paid	Pagado	(:07) Today	Movie: Armored	Light of the Southwest	Ironsides	Trapped in Paradise, Dana Carvey				Law & Order	Queen Latifah	Wizards	NBA	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



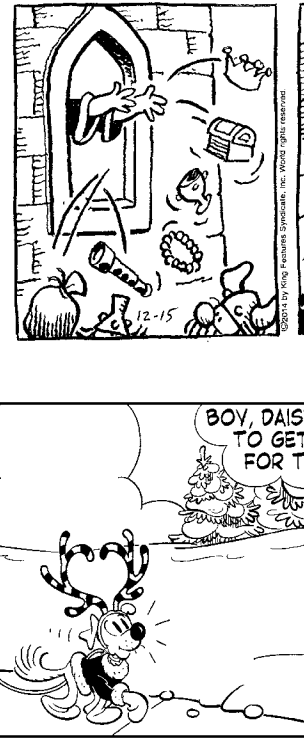
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HAGAR



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2014. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 15, 1944, the U.S. Senate approved the promotions of Henry H. Arnold, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and George C. Marshall to the five-star rank of General of the Army and the nominations of William D. Leahy, Ernest J. King and Chester W. Nimitz as Admirals of the Fleet. U.S. forces invaded Mindoro Island in the Philippines, encountering little resistance from the Japanese. A single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1814, the "Hartford Convention" began as New England Federalists opposed to the War of 1812 secretly gathered in the Connecticut capital. (America's victory in the Battle of New Orleans and the war's end effectively discredited the Convention.)

In 1864, the two-day Battle of Nashville

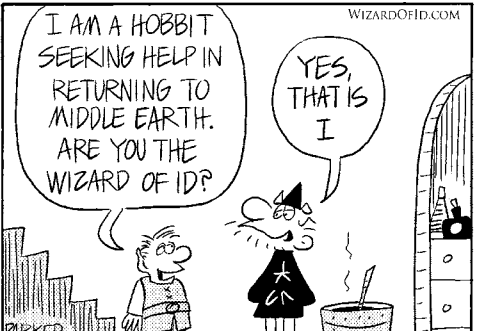
beginning during the Civil War as Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas attacked Confederate troops led by Gen. John Bell Hood; the result was a resounding Northern victory.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

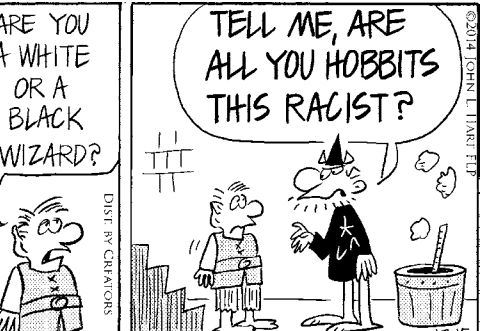
Answer to previous puzzle

S	M	O	O	T	H	A	L	K	A	S	I	A
W	E	B	C	R	A	W	L	E	R	M	A	S
A	M	I	T	T	V	I	L	L	E	O	B	A
B	E	T	A	M	A	X	A	M	P	L	O	A
L	I	E	N	O	N	L	I	N	E	A	D	
B	A	S	A	T	E	D	I	R	T			
O	I	L	B	A	S	E	D	N	A	D	I	N
O	D	I	U	M	D	I	F	T	U	D	O	R
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G	A	L	A	B	A	L	L	S	E	T		
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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY

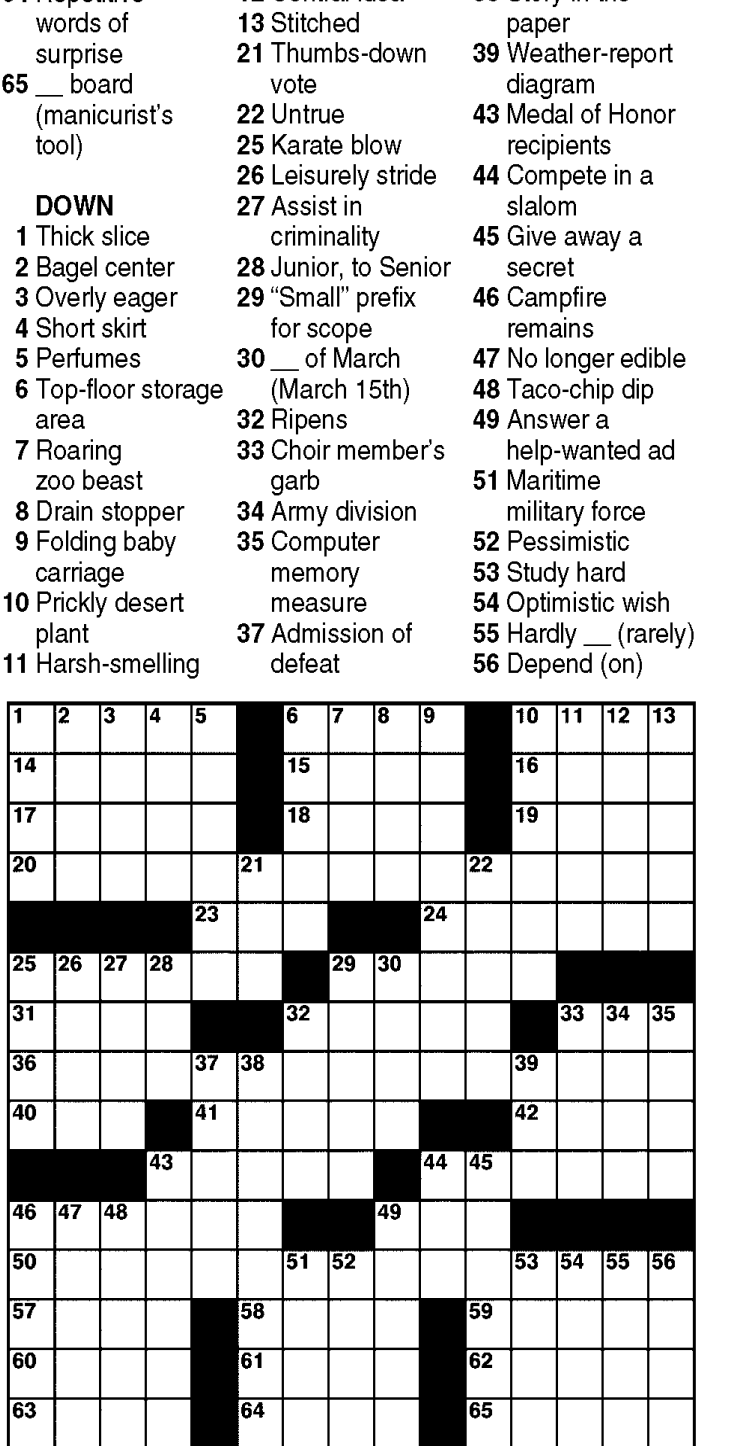


Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Deceptions
 - 6 Swiss peaks
 - 10 Tigers and panthers
 - 14 Good reasoning
 - 15 Lean to one side
 - 16 Feel sore
 - 17 By oneself
 - 18 See the sights
 - 19 Ship's staff
 - 20 Earliest historical point
 - 23 Tic-__-toe
 - 24 Praised
 - 25 Elegantly stylish
 - 29 Textile factories
 - 31 "King of the road" vagabond
 - 32 Office assistants
 - 33 Massage
 - 36 Kickoff to the Olympics
 - 40 Puppy or parrot
 - 41 Rude looks
 - 42 Slightly
 - 43 "In what way?"
 - 44 Tampa neighbor, for short
 - 46 Evaluate
 - 49 Abbr. before an alias
 - 50 One on the mound in the first inning
 - 57 Angelic ring
 - 58 Waterproof cover
 - 59 Casure of treasure
 - 60 "If all ___ fails..."
 - 61 Wicked
 - 62 Sportcoat flap
 - 63 Large bodies of water
- DOWN**
- 1 Thick slice
 - 2 Bagel center
 - 3 Overly eager
 - 4 Short skirt
 - 5 Perfumes
 - 6 Top-floor storage area
 - 7 Roaring zoo beast
 - 8 Drain stopper
 - 9 Folding baby carriage
 - 10 Prickly desert plant
 - 11 Harsh-smelling
 - 12 Central idea
 - 13 Stitched
 - 21 Thumbs-down vote
 - 22 Untrue
 - 25 Karate blow
 - 26 Leisurely stride
 - 27 Assist in criminality
 - 28 Junior, to Senior
 - 29 "Small" prefix for scope
 - 30 ___ of March (March 15th)
 - 32 Ripens
 - 33 Choir member's garb
 - 34 Army division
 - 35 Computer memory measure
 - 37 Admission of defeat
 - 38 Story in the paper
 - 39 Weather-report diagram
 - 43 Medal of Honor recipients
 - 44 Compete in a slalom
 - 45 Give away a secret
 - 46 Campfire remains
 - 47 No longer edible
 - 48 Taco-chip dip
 - 49 Answer a help-wanted ad
 - 51 Maritime military force
 - 52 Pessimistic
 - 53 Study hard
 - 54 Optimistic wish
 - 55 Hardly ___ (rarely)
 - 56 Depend (on)

FIRST OF ALL

by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com



Bryant passes Jordan for 3rd on scoring list

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kobe Bryant has reached rarefied air. The Los Angeles Lakers star passed Michael Jordan for third on the NBA's career scoring list Sunday night in a 100-94 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Bryant entered the game needing nine points to pass the icon with whom he is often compared. He got the mark with two free throws with 5:24 to play in the second quarter.

"I'm just honored to be here, man, to still be playing," Bryant said. "I appreciate being able to play this long. Careers normally don't last this long. I really appreciate the opportunity to still be out there playing and performing and doing what I do."

Now only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Karl Malone have scored more

points than Bryant. "I congratulate Kobe on reaching this milestone," Jordan, the owner of the Charlotte Hornets, said in a statement released to The Associated Press. "He's obviously a great player, with a strong work ethic and has an equally strong passion for the game of basketball. I've enjoyed watching his game evolve over the years, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes next."

Bryant didn't break a record Sunday night. Abdul-Jabbar is still more than 6,000 points ahead of him and in no danger of being caught. But moving past Jordan was cause for celebration.

The two players have been linked for years and Bryant often mimicked Jordan from his earliest days in the league, from the way he pumped his fist after big shots to adopting the fade-away

jumper as his career has progressed and even sprinkling in a little tongue-wagging on his drives to the bucket as a youth.

"He knows how much I've learned from him," Bryant said. "From the other legends, but him in particular."

The Timberwolves stopped the game, and a Lakers-heavy crowd gave Bryant a standing ovation as Wolves owner Glen Taylor — the NBA's chairman of the board — presented him with the game ball.

With a big smile on his face, Bryant received hugs from teammates and the Timberwolves, and waved to the crowd during the brief stoppage.

Bryant's first career game came against the Timberwolves as an 18-year-old in 1996, when he went scoreless in six minutes.

Pats clinch East with win over Dolphins

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady was upset that his New England Patriots hardly looked like a division champion in the first half.

So upset that the slow-footed quarterback made a rare scramble for a first down that sparked them to a big third quarter and

their sixth consecutive AFC East title Sunday.

"I wasn't in the best mood at that time," Brady said after a 41-13 win over the Miami Dolphins.

He and his teammates were feeling better after the Patriots became the first team in NFL history with 11 division titles in 12 years. They missed

only in 2008, when Brady suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opener and Miami won the AFC East.

"Everything starts with winning your division," Patriots safety Devin McCourty said in a locker room of happy players who looked forward to more raucous celebrations. "We wanted to win big."

New England (11-3) scored on its four series of the third quarter and piled up 24 points, a team record for that period.

Miami (7-7) saw its slim postseason hopes dwindle.

Ryan Tannehill completed 29 of his 47 passing attempts for 346 yards.

Scoreboard

National Football League American Conference					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	442
Buffalo	8	6	0	.571	302
Miami	7	7	0	.500	327
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	230
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	10	4	0	.714	424
Houston	7	7	0	.500	324
Tennessee	2	12	0	.143	231
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	211
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	9	4	1	.679	311
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	389
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	376
Cleveland	7	7	0	.500	276
West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	3	0	.786	407
Kansas City	8	6	0	.571	322
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	303
Oakland	2	12	0	.143	213
National Conference					
East					
W	L	Pct	PF	PA	
Dallas	10	4	.714	381	
Philadelphia	9	5	.643	416	
N.Y. Giants	5	9	.357	317	
Washington	3	11	.214	257	
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	5	8	1	.393	288
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	333
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	348
Tampa Bay	2	12	.143	254	
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	10	4	.714	281	
Green Bay	10	4	.714	436	
Minnesota	6	8	0	.429	277
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	281
West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Arizona	11	3	.786	287	
Seattle	10	4	.714	339	
San Fran.	7	7	0	.500	251
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	291
x-clinched playoff spot					
y-clinched division					
Thursday's Game					
Arizona 12, St. Louis 6					
Sunday's Games					
Kansas City 31, Oakland 13					
Pittsburgh 27, Atlanta 20					
N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 13					
New England 41, Miami 13					
Indianapolis 17, Houston 10					
Baltimore 20, Jacksonville 12					
Buffalo 21, Green Bay 13					
Carolina 19, Tampa Bay 17					
Cincinnati 30, Cleveland 0					
Denver 22, San Diego 10					
N.Y. Jets 16, Tennessee 11					
Seattle 17, San Francisco 7					
Detroit 16, Minnesota 14					
Dallas 38, Philadelphia 27					
Monday's Game					
New Orleans at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.					
COLLEGE FOOTBALL					
FBS BOWL GLANCE					
Saturday, Dec. 20					
New Orleans Bowl					
Nevada (7-5) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)					
New Mexico Bowl					
At Albuquerque					
UTEP (7-5) vs. Utah State (9-4), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN)					
Las Vegas Bowl					
Colorado State (10-2) vs. Utah (8-4), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)					
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl					
At Boise					
Western Michigan (8-4) vs. Air Force (9-3), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)					
Camelia Bowl					
At Montgomery, Ala.					
Bowling Green (7-6) vs. South Alabama (6-6), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)					
Monday, Dec. 22					
Miami Beach Bowl					
BYU (8-4) vs. Memphis (9-3), 2 p.m. (ESPN)					
Tuesday, Dec. 23					
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl					
Marshall (12-1) vs. Northern Illinois (11-2), 6 p.m. (ESPN)					
Poinsettia Bowl					
At San Diego					
Navy (7-5) vs. San Diego State (7-5), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)					
Wednesday, Dec. 24					
Bahamas Bowl					
At Nassau					
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 Gardens, Fla.					
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.		

BASKETBALL				
National Basketball Association Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	18	6	.750	—
Brooklyn	10	12	.455	7
Boston	7	14	.333	9½
New York	5	21	.192	14
Philadelphia	2	21	.087	15½
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	17	6	.739	—
Atlanta	16	7	.696	1
Miami	11	13	.458	6½
Orlando	10	16	.385	8½
Charlotte	6	17	.261	11
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	15	8	.652	—
Cleveland	13	9	.591	1½
Milwaukee	12	12	.500	3½
Indiana	7	17	.292	8½
Detroit	5	19	.208	10½
Western Conference Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	19	4	.826	—
Houston	18	5	.783	1
San Antonio	17	7	.708	2½
Dallas	17	8	.680	3
New Orleans	11	12	.478	8
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Portland	18	6	.750	—
Oklahoma City	11	13	.458	7
Denver	10	14	.417	8
Utah	6	18	.250	12
Minnesota	5	18	.217	12½
Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	21	2	.913	—
L.A. Clippers	16	7	.696	5
Phoenix	12	13	.480	10
Sacramento	11	13	.458	10½
L.A. Lakers	8	16	.333	13½
Sunday's Games				
Golden State 128, New Orleans 122, OT				
Washington 93, Utah 84				
Chicago 93, Miami 75				
Oklahoma City 112, Phoenix 88				
L.A. Lakers 100, Minnesota 94				
Toronto 95, New York 90, OT				
San Antonio 99, Denver 91				
Monday's Games				
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 7 p.m.				
Charlotte at Cleveland, 7 p.m.				
Chicago at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.				
Orlando at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.				
Milwaukee at Phoenix, 9 p.m.				
San Antonio at Portland, 10 p.m.				
Detroit at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.				

TRANSACTIONS FOOTBALL				
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Placed OT Jah Reid on injured reserve. Signed RB Fitzgerald Toussaint from the practice squad.				
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Released LB Horace Miller. Signed LB Kevin Reddick from the practice squad.				
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed DE Kenneth Boatright from the practice squad.				
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Released OT Curtis Feigt from the practice squad. Signed G Jarrod Pughley to the practice squad.				
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Placed DT Anthony Johnson on injured reserve. Signed DB T.J. Heath from the practice squad.				
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed NT Glenn Dorsey and LB NaVorro Bowman on injured reserve. Signed DB Marcus Cromartie and G Andrew Tiller from the practice squad.				

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