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DECEMBER 19, 2014



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Local firefighters play Santa Claus to needy children

By **ANDREIA MEDLIN**
Staff Writer

Christmas came early for five lucky children Thursday.

With the generous donations from the Firefighters Association, one child from each Big Spring elementary school was chosen to be treated to a spending spree at Walmart.

"We did four last year, but one of them had a sibling so we decided to include her, too," said Jay Holt, local firefighter and BSPFA member.

The second annual "Christmas with the Firefighters" event took the children, who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and who might not have much under the tree this year, and let them fill a basket with as much as they wanted — well almost.

The Big Spring Professional Firefighters Association gave the children about \$500 line of credit at the Supercenter



and let them spend it as they wished. And at the end of their shopping jaunt, they received a free coat as well.

"We've been looking for ways to give back to the community," said Holt, who explained that the idea came from some other departments and decided to give it a try.

The children were selected by administrators at their respective campuses, then were escorted during their spree by BSPFA members.

The range of emotions varied with each child, but it's safe to say they all had a great time, the firefighters too.

"We wanted to do something to give back to the community," Holt explained. "If we can make this Christmas a little brighter for them than it would have been otherwise, well, that's what we're after," Holt said.

To contact Andreia Medlin call the Herald at 263-7331.



Above, Sometimes Christmas comes a little early. Such was the case for Jordan and Moriah Tisdale and three other area children who were treated to shopping sprees at Walmart, courtesy of the Big Spring Professional Firefighters Association. Helping the girls were firefighters Logan McCoy, left, and Josh Jennings. At left, 8-year-old Colton Galbraith shows a gift he picked out. Helping Colton were Logan McCoy, J. Pardee and Jake Sparks.

HERALD photos/Andreia Medlin

CASA promotes 'giving back' for kids

Special to the Herald

It's easy to get caught up in the commercialism of the holidays, shopping for gifts and fueling anticipation of

the new toys, clothes and other goodies that lie ahead, but one organization is offering tips on ways to help children learn that giving back can also bring joy.

"Kids and adults alike deserve to experience the fun of 'getting' during the holidays,

but giving can be just as fulfilling," said Executive Director Patty Pisklak of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of West Texas. "Helping others offers 'teachable moments' for children and a reminder for grown-ups that giving is what the holiday

season is really all about."

CASA of West Texas, which trains volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children as they navigate the child welfare system, offers these ideas for how to give back during the holidays.


— Encourage children to brighten the season for boys and girls who do not have loving families of their own. Take your kids shopping for a new item to donate to the Salvation Army or find a local

See **CASA**, Page 3

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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.



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Man, Woman of Year nominations accepted

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Cham-

ber of Commerce Man and Woman of the Year is about to honor those who make a lasting difference in the community and are chosen from nominations by Chamber members.

"If you know someone who should be recognized for their work in the community but you are not a Chamber member, please call me anyway," said

Debye ValVerde, Chamber executive director. "Don't let that deter you from letting us know about what this person does for our community. I can work with you to be able to find a Chamber member who knows of this person and would be willing to make the nomination."

Nomination are being accepted now.

The Chamber is seeking people to honor who, many times, work behind the scenes to make a positive impact on the community but don't normally receive the public recognition for their work, ValVerde said.

To make a nomination, the nominator must be a Chamber member. The nominee does not, ValVerde clarified.

Nominations must be in writing and should be based on a record of accomplishments rather than a single contribution or an achievement. Valverde added a nomination will not be ruled out if that person's one-time contribution is of sufficient importance

The committee will base its choice on information provided in the written nomination only.

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3



Dec. 19
 6 shopping days to Christmas

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Obituaries

Vernie Jueldeen Thompson McCormick



Vernie Jueldeen Thompson McCormick, 81, of Llano, Texas, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, surrounded by family. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral home. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. Dec. 20, 2014, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Nov. 10, 1933, in Trent, Texas and married Irland Faye McCormick Aug. 19, 1950, in Big Spring, Texas.

Jueldeen received her G.E.D. from Big Spring High School, where she met her best friend and love of her life in algebra class, Irland McCormick.

Jueldeen was a devoted mother and loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was an excellent cook who raised her three children in Big Spring. She loved her family and attended every Henson Reunion except for one in 61 years. Jueldeen was known as "Sis", "Moose", and "Nana".

Travel was a part of Jueldeen's "gypsy" spirit and

she often traveled to visit all of her family members. Many days she could be found quilting, sewing or crocheting. Jueldeen will be remembered by many waltzing across wooden dance floors in the halls of West Texas. She kept a large collection of family history documents and memorabilia dear to her heart.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Irland McCormick; three children, Mikical Irland McCormick and wife Karen, of Big Spring, Ricky Dean McCormick and wife Betty, of Brookshire, and Judy Pat Lemcke of Junction, Texas; eight grandchildren, Lisa Brown and husband, Tim of Clinton, Utah, Aaron Bellinghausen and wife, Katie of Cedar Park, Traci and husband, Duncan Hamlin of Azle, Wacey and wife, Trisha of Hawaii, Julee Holladay of Junction, Megan McCormick of Dallas, Candice and husband, Cody Leger of Brookshire, and Emma of Brookshire; 11 great-grandchildren; Mia and Allie Bellinghausen, Luke Hamlin, Tighe and Olivia Brown, Keilee Curl and Jolee Heinsohn, Matthew Eckhardt, Lydia Lufkin and Katee and El-lison Holladay.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Julian Murdock Thompson and Beulah Lois Henson; and her brother, J.W. Thompson.

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

Paid obituary

Lorene Minnick

Lorene Minnick, 87, of Midland passed away Thursday, Dec. 18, 2014. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014, at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

Survivors include a son, Edwin Minnick; and a daughter, Sheila McKinney. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland.

Juaquin Valdez Jr.

Juaquin Valdez Jr., 60, of Grand Prairie, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Aaron Douglas 'Doug' Tatum

Aaron Douglas "Doug" Tatum, 70, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police/Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- DIANA GONZALEZ, 57, of 4112 Parkway, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of assault.
- JESSICA DIANE ZARRAGA, 31, of 3205 W. Northgate 1195, Irving, Texas, was arrested Thursday on warrants for disregard

stop sign, no drivers license when unlicensed and fail to appear - two counts.

- OLIVIA TALIETHA BALLIN, 35, of 1208 Blackmon, was arrested Thursday on four warrants from another agency.
- MICHELLE KAY DANIEL, 39, of 569 ACR 1370, Palestine, Texas, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of marijuana less than or equal to 2 ounces and possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.
- MICHAEL RAY DANIEL, 51, of 569 ACR 1370, Palestine, Texas, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of controlled substance less than 1 gram.
- BILLY JOE WHITSON, 23, of P.O. Box 115, Soper, Okla., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROBERT LEE TAYLOR, 25, of 2305 Lake Sharon Dr., Lake Dallas, Texas, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- PEDRO HERNANDEZ JR., 40, of 1700 E. 15th St., was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.
- ASSAULT was re-

ported at the 900 block of Interstate Highway 20.

- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported at the 500 block of S. Birdwell Lane and the 1700 block of Goliad.
- LOUD PARTY/NOISE was reported at the 4100 block of Parkway.
- DISTURBANCE was reported at the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of W. Highway 80 and Rickabaugh.
- THEFT was reported at the 1600 block of S. Gregg, the 1900 block of E. 25th St. and the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported at the 1700 block of E. 15th St.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported at the 600 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
- IDENTITY THEFT was reported at the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

The Howard County Sheriffs Office reported the following activity Thursday:

Note: Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 at the time of this report.

- DIANA GONZALEZ

was booked by BSPD on a charge of assault by contact.

- JESSICA DIANE ZARRAGA was booked by BSPD on warrants for disregard stop sign, no drivers license, and two counts of failure to appear.
- OLIVIA TALIETHA THREATS was booked by BSPD on capias warrants for no drivers license, no liability insurance, violate promise to appear and issuance of bad check.
- PEDRO HERNANDEZ JR. was booked by HCSO to begin sentence on a warrant for silent or abusive calls to 911 service.
- MICHELLE KAY DANIEL was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces and possession of a controlled substance.
- MICHAEL RAY DANIEL was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- ROBERT LEE TAYLOR was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- RUBEN REYES JR. was booked by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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- 2012 F250 Ext Cab, 26K.....\$21,950
- 2011 GMC Terrain, Like New, 62K.....\$19,950

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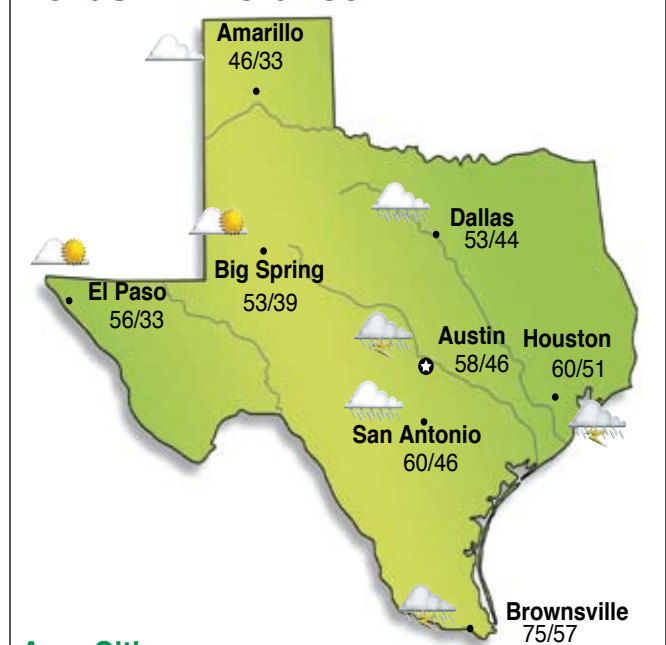
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Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 12/20	Sun 12/21	Mon 12/22	Tue 12/23	Wed 12/24
53/39 Considerable clouds early. Some decrease in clouds later in the day.	60/44 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	65/45 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	70/43 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	61/41 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 5:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 5:46 PM

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Texas At A Glance



National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	57	42	cloudy	Minneapolis	31	27	pt sunny
Boston	36	28	sunny	New York	39	29	pt sunny
Chicago	33	26	mst sunny	Phoenix	61	44	mst sunny
Dallas	53	44	rain	San Francisco	60	50	rain
Denver	47	26	sunny	Seattle	51	46	rain

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Odds & Ends

Dog injures Wyoming man in accidental shooting

SHERIDAN, Wyo. (AP) — Police in northern Wyoming say a rifle discharged after a dog apparently stepped on it, injuring a 46-year-old man.

Johnson County Sheriff Steve Kozisek (KAHS-eh-sec) says the bullet struck Richard L. Fipps, of Sheridan, in the arm on Monday.

The injury is not life-threatening but Fipps is being treated in a hospital in Billings, Montana.

Kozisek told The Sheridan Press that Fipps and two others were in a remote area trying to move a vehicle that had become stuck. Fipps was standing beside his truck when he told his dog to move from the front seat to the back seat.

The sheriff says a rifle was on the back seat and it discharged toward Fipps.

Gold tooth dropped into Missouri donation kettle

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Salvation Army spokesman says someone has dropped a gold tooth into a holiday collection kettle.

Spokesman Rick Carroll said Thursday that he's found diamond rings, silver bars and four-leaf clovers but has never heard of a tooth donation. He says the item could be worth \$100 depending on the amount of gold it contains.

Kansas City's Red Kettle Campaign began Nov. 7 and is currently running about \$50,000 behind where it was a year ago.

Carroll says he at first considered the donation to be gross, but now thinks it's a nice gesture. He worries that the donation might have been unintentional and he is temporarily hanging onto the tooth in case someone claims it.

Worker spends 90 minutes stuck in mud up to waist

GREENLAND, N.H. (AP) — Fire officials say a fuel delivery worker in New Hampshire sank in soggy ground up to his waist and it took nearly 90 minutes to pull him back out.

Greenland Deputy Fire Chief Myrick Bunker tells the Portsmouth Herald that John Hanscom was filling a propane tank Wednesday when he dropped into the heavily saturated ground. He was able to call his boss who got rescuers to the scene.

Up to 10 firefighters, using shovels and perched on plywood slabs, worked for nearly 90 minutes



The Wednesday Ladies Bible Study hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church held a bake sale to benefit the United Way Campaign for Victim Services. The group made a \$320 donation. Pictured from left are Linda Calvio of Victim Services; Dene Sheppard, representing the Ladies Bible Study; Shann Parchman of Victim Services; and Chad Averette, United Way campaign chair and first vice president.

trying to free Hanscom from the muck that was 3 feet deep. Bunker says every time a shovel load came out, another one slithered back in.

Eventually an excavator helped speed the rescue.

Yakima official suspended for too many texts

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — The head of Yakima's Utilities and Engineering Department has been

suspended for two weeks without pay for using her work phone to send too many personal messages.

Debbie Cook sent about 1,300 texts over a year.

City Manager Tony O'Rourke tells KIMA it's not necessarily the number of personal texts but the time Cook was taking from her job. He says he hopes it's a lesson to others.

O'Rourke says Cook is a good employee otherwise.

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John Cramer, 85, died Saturday. Graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. today at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen.

Juaquin Valdez, Jr., 60, died Tuesday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Aaron Douglas "Doug" Tatum, 70, died Wednesday. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

2015 Norman Rockwell Calendars are in!

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

To make a nomination, the nominators name, address and phone number must be included for contact purposes of the committee. Nominees cannot

currently hold a political office.

The deadline to turn in the nomination form is Dec. 22. Forms can be sent to Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce; 215 W. Third St. or P.O. Box 1391; Big Spring, Texas 79721, or dropped off at the Chamber offices at 215 W. Third St.

The 2014 Man and Woman of the year will be announced at the annual Chamber banquet set for Jan. 27. Individual tickets are on sale at the chamber for \$30. Chamber members can once again reserve a table which they can personally decorate for \$150. Four tickets are included in that price. Ra-

dio personality Tumbleweed Smith will be the guest speaker for the event.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 432-263-7641.

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

CASA

Continued from Page 1

nonprofit that provides warm coats, backpacks or other items to foster children.

Many non-profits sponsor "adopt-a-family" opportunities during the holidays, offering the chance to provide gifts and groceries to low-income families. "This is a great way to build camaraderie among office

co-workers," suggested Pisklak

— Volunteer as an individual or a family to serve meals to homeless families.

— Extend the warm feelings of the holiday season by embracing a long-term volunteer commitment for the New Year.

"Like other non-profits that rely on volunteers to deliver on our mission, CASA of West Texas appreciates

community members' year-round dedication to our cause," said Pisklak. "CASA volunteers change lives. What could be more fulfilling than that?"

To learn more about how volunteering or supporting CASA can make a difference at

the holidays or anytime throughout the year, visit the website at www.casawtx.org or call 432.683.1114.

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Opinion

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	Austin, 78768 Phone: 512-463-0331
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• TED CRUZ U.S. Senator B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4305 Phone: 202-228-0462	BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL
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	• RAUL BENAVIDES — Work: 267-2501.
STATE GOVERNMENT	HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
• RICK PERRY Governor State Capitol, Room 2S.1 P.O. Box 12428 Austin, 78711 Phone: 512-463-2000	• MARK BARR, COUNTY JUDGE — Home and Office: 264-2202.
• DREW DARBY State Representative Texas 72nd District P.O. Box 2910	• OSCAR GARCIA — Home: 264-0026.
	• DONNIE BAKER — Home: 267-5325.
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HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

DAILY PRAYER

May our joys overflow, dear Lord, as we reach such a special time of the year.

Amen

Mortgage binges and painful hangovers

Plenty of people who go on wild drinking binges end up with sound reasons to avoid repeating the experience: painful hangovers, lasting embarrassment, ruined relationships, encounters with police. But that doesn't stop some of them from doing it again. Maybe these are the same people running the federally backed mortgage companies.



STEVE CHAPMAN

The possibility comes to mind because these two entities, known as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, have decided to lower the down payment they require on some mortgages from 5 percent to 3 percent. The horrific lesson of what results from encouraging marginal borrowers to buy homes has somehow vanished from their memories.

“Our goal is to help additional qualified borrowers gain access to mortgages,” said Andrew Bon Salle, an executive vice president for Fannie Mae. The goal is one that a few years ago would have sounded uncontroversial: making it possible for more people to buy houses. Homeownership has long been taken to be a civic virtue, an economic boon and a central feature of the American dream.

But homeownership, as we have discovered, has a huge downside. It can be far more dangerous financially than renting. As long as real estate prices are rising, a mortgage serves as a vehicle for accumulating wealth. When they fall, it can destroy it just as quickly — and upend lives in the process.

Between 2005, near the peak of

the housing boom, and 2010, the default rate on home mortgages rose eightfold, according to the St. Louis Federal Reserve. Even today, it's five times higher than it was in 2005. The crash caused \$6 trillion of household wealth to go up in smoke. It also set off the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

All that is ample reason not to return to the bottle. But Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are doing just that, all while proclaiming their intention to remain sober.

They insist that they will limit the mortgages to creditworthy borrowers who can be expected to make their payments. But the new rules ensure the proliferation of loans that will not be repaid.

Arnold Kling, a former Freddie Mac economist now at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, says that under this new policy, the mortgage giants “are setting people up to fail.”

One reason, he told me, is that “people who can come up with a bigger down payment have shown prudence, the ability to save and the willingness to save, which are all key ingredients in being able to repay a loan.” On average, he noted, the lower the allowable down payment, the higher the delinquency rate.

Many borrowers who can afford only a smaller down payment will make good on their loans. But a disproportionate number of them won't.

One reason is that a borrower with only 3 percent equity in a house is far more vulnerable to a drop in prices than a borrower with 10 or 20 percent. A small decline could put her underwater. In that case, she would have a financial incentive to default.

A renter who loses his job or suffers an expensive medical

calamity can easily move into a cheaper place. But a homeowner with no equity may not have a good option. She may not be able to afford the mortgage payment or the cost of selling the house for less than her mortgage. She may not be able to move to take a better job. She may find herself stuck, with foreclosure the likely outcome.

The danger here is not just to unlucky homebuyers. When things went south the last time, the taxpayers got dunned for \$187 billion to rescue Fannie and Freddie. The two eventually paid it back — but there was no guarantee they would. And there's no guarantee they will if they are someday bailed out again.

What we should have learned from the vast trauma we endured is that the federal government should stop trying so hard to enable Americans to buy homes. People in France and Germany lead productive and satisfying lives despite much lower rates of homeownership. More Americans have learned to do so since the bust.

By luring many of them back to betting their savings on the housing market, the mortgage firms are selling them an obsolete version of the American dream that puts us all at risk of another debacle. After the last mortgage binge, we woke up in the gutter. Isn't once enough?

Steve Chapman blogs daily at newsblogs.chicagotribune.com/steve_chapman. To find out more about Steve Chapman, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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(Burp) Here comes Mitt again!

Mitt Romney has become the acid reflux candidate. He just keeps coming back up.

There has been poll after poll, story after story, and now, over the weekend, a “Ready for Romney” website has emerged, which may or may not be serious. (I am guessing “Masochists for Mitt” was already taken.)

The Mitt boomlet is driven by three major forces:

First, the belief that the potential Republican field for 2016 is so weak — even though you can find more than a dozen reasonably serious candidates in it — that Mitt will rise head and shoulders above it. It's the Simon and Garfunkel scenario: “A nation turns its lonely eyes to you. (Woo, woo, woo.)”

The second driving force is that there are big-business men eager to give big money to a fellow big-business man such as Mitt in the hopes that he will fight tooth and nail to protect the 1 percent from the greed and laziness of the 99 percent.

Third, there are ex-Romney staffers who need jobs. And who else is going to hire them in 2016 except Romney? Having Romney 2012 on your resume is like having Hoover 1932 on your resume. Don't call us; we'll call you.

History is not on Romney's side.

The most recent time the Republicans nominated a previous losing candidate the next time around was in 1948. It was Thomas Dewey. He lost.

The most recent time the Democrats nominated a previous losing candidate the next time around was in 1956. It was Adlai Stevenson. He lost.

True, Richard Nixon was nominated and lost in 1960 and then won both the nomination and presidency in 1968, but Nixon had a fire in his belly that could have blotted out the sun.

Is Mitt that driven? I don't think so. So why doesn't he end the Chinese water torture of speculation?

Why should he? He likes being speculated about. He likes being talked about. As one Republican leader told Politico's Ben White on Dec. 5, “he still views himself as the leader of the establishment wing of the Republican Party.”

Actually, I wasn't aware the Republican Party still had an establishment wing. A wishbone, maybe, but a whole wing?

The Washington Post on Oct. 13 identified Romney as “the tacit head of the Republican Party.” Well, maybe. Or maybe that's just another way of saying the party is headless.

So why shouldn't Romney bask in the limelight? What else is he going to do, roll back and forth on his money like Scrooge McDuck?

At a St. Patrick's Day breakfast in 2005, Romney said: “When I was a boy, I used to think that becoming rich and becoming famous would make me happy. Boy, was I right!”

But not really. Rich and famous is not enough for some people. They want power, too. This is not always bad. Sometimes they want the power to do good.

But to get the power, Romney, 67, first would have to win the Republican nomination again. It wouldn't be all that easy.

Republican voters might examine how Romney did when he ran in 2012. And he didn't do all that well.

Against a president with low approval ratings and at a time of high unemployment, Romney lost by nearly 5 million popular votes and 126 electoral votes.

Romney's reputation, aided by a sympathetic documentary, has grown since 2012. But as I remember, he was not that deft a candidate. Americans are not opposed to electing a rich person to the presidency, as long as they are convinced that rich person understands them, their needs, their hopes, their dreams.

Romney never showed that

understanding. Instead, he famously stated that 47 percent of voters “are dependent upon government ... believe that they are victims ... believe that government has a responsibility to care for them ... (and) believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it — that that's an entitlement.”

It's not just that he said it; he believed it. And then there was the car elevator and the dog on the station wagon roof and “self-deportation” and the millions he had kept in Swiss bank accounts and had stashed in the Cayman Islands.

Does he really need all that again?

I know, I know. Do not judge Mitt Romney until you have walked a mile in his living room.

Sorry. Couldn't resist. But does Romney really want to jump back into the meat grinder? On Nov. 30, his wife, Ann, tweeted a family picture, with this caption: “Here's what (Mitt Romney) looks like after a long Thanksgiving weekend with our grandkids in San Diego.”

The picture is of Mitt and Ann on a couch with two dogs, a grandchild and a bird sitting somewhat oddly on Mitt's mused hair. Mitt is grinning. He looks happy. Very happy.

Romney had a standard joke he used on the stump and adapted to many occasions. In it, he recalls saying: “Ann, did you, in your wildest dreams, ever think I'd be a leading presidential candidate?” Then he says, “And she turned to me and said, ‘Mitt, you're not in my wildest dreams.’”

Yes, he is. And he can stay there. By staying home.

Roger Simon is Politico's chief political columnist. His new e-book, “Reckoning: Campaign 2012, the Fight for the Soul of America,” can be found on Amazon.com, BN.com and iTunes. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Web page at www.creators.com.



ROGER SIMON

DID YOU EVER WONDER?

The birthright

The Bible says that Jacob was a wholesome man, abiding in tents. Abiding in tents was the term for spending his time inside, studying the Torah. It says he was a wholesome man, meaning that he tried to live his life loving and serving God. Esau spent his time in the outdoors, and he learned hunting and trapping. Do you remember that Nimrod was also called a mighty hunter? The sages also



EUNICE FILLER

recorded that Nimrod was a hunter of men, taking captives and making slaves. The sages say that besides hunting game, Esau also practiced entrapping people with words. By asking Isaac questions about such things as tithing, he gave Isaac the impression that he was actually studying how to serve God. We call this guile... saying just enough to give people the impression that we believe something or that we did something, but we actually did not do it. Isaac loved the taste of the wild game that Esau brought in, and he was happy that Esau asked how to serve God. This built a bond between them. The blessing God gave

to Abraham specified that the blessed lineage of Israel would continue through only one of Isaac's children. But God did not specify which one. Isaac was very old and his eyesight was bad. He depended on what he heard, but Rebecca could see by his actions that Esau was not sincere. She also observed that Jacob truly cared for God's word. The sages say that when Abraham was on his deathbed, great men from many nations had gathered to mourn him. They probably stood outside talking and praying. And they watched as Jacob simmered a soup made of red lintels. This was their traditional mourner's meal. Esau showed no reverence for his grandfather, Abraham. Even with his grandfather so ill, Esau had gone hunting. When he came in from hunting, he was very tired and hungry. He said to Jacob, "Give me some of

that very red stuff for I am exhausted." Jacob answered, "Sell me, this day, your birthright." Esau replied, "Look, I am going to die, so of what use to me is a birthright?" To assure Isaac would not later say that he didn't understand, Jacob said, "Swear to me this day." And Esau swore and sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup. And after he had eaten and drank, he got up and left the area; he did not join the mourning for Abraham. The great men who witnessed this felt contempt for Esau and called him Edom, meaning red, because he wanted the red soup. Gen 25:34 says, "Thus Esau spurned the birthright." Let's think about this a minute. It might be easy to think that Jacob took advantage of Esau when he was so faint with hunger. It seems to me that Esau cared little about the birthright or he could have gone a little far-

ther and got food at the tent of his father, Isaac. Part of the duties of the firstborn son was to teach the rest of the family the ways of God. Esau had not studied as Jacob had; he did not know God's word. Had he become the head of Isaac's family, Esau would not have led them in God's ways. I like to think God knew Esau's heart did not belong to Him and that the plan He had for Israel would have gone astray. I like to think this is the way the hand of God moves in our lives... taking and giving according to the conditions of our hearts. Eunice Filler, author of "Rachael: Porch Swings and Spearmint Tea," is a former school teacher with ties to the Big Spring community. She has returned to enjoy her retirement as a Big Spring resident. Questions? fillereunice@yahoo.com.

Church News

Spring Creek Fellowship

We will be celebrating Christmas with our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. at the church. Join us! A news session of "Grief Share," a grief support group, will begin Sunday, Jan. 11 from 4-6 p.m. Anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one is invited and encouraged to attend. The number of classes will depend on the number of people who sign up. We hope to have groups for men and youth as well as for women. For more info on "Grief Share," visit www.griefshare.org or contact the office. "Sowing Seeds of Hope" fiber crafts and prayer shawl ministry meets at the church Saturdays at 10 a.m. If you are interested in learning a fiber craft (crochet, knitting, weaving, felting, etc.) or have projects you would like to share or just to have some fellowship while crafting. Big Spring Classical Academy classes include Junior K through Junior High this coming year. Visit our website at bigspringclassical.org for more information or contact Donna Sue Looney. The Big Spring Christian Academy is a two day per week preschool and will eventually move into a full-time preschool for ages 3 months through 4 years old. Times are 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more, go to www.bscapreschool.org. You can now listen to the sermon from the previous Sunday at 9 every Sunday morning on KBYG 106.3 FM and 1400 AM. Sunday Happenings: 9:15-10:15 a.m.-Sunday School/Connection Groups 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. - "Holy Grounds Café" is open with snacks and fellowship. 10:45 a.m.-noon-Worship Service For further information regarding any of our ministries or events, contact the church office or visit our website. Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane in Big Spring Contact us at 432714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

Mike Mitchell, organist and Chancel Choir director. We also thank Linda Miracle, who accompanies the children and youth choirs, and to Linda Lindell, who rehearses the Chancel Choir, as well as the parents who faithfully brought their children to practice week after week. Susan McDaniel is in charge of Take Ten for this Sunday. The lectionary for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The choir will present as the offertory anthem "Who Is He in Yonder Stall" by Robert Young. Following the worship service, we will have a Congregational Meeting. The Christmas Eve Service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, with the Rev. Holstedt preaching and officiating at communion. Communion servers are Claudie and Rip Patterson, Jenn Patterson and Susan Holstedt. The choir will present the Polish carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and "Shout the Glad Tidings" by Paul Thomas. First Presbyterian Church wishes everyone a blessed Christmas and a wonder-filled New Year! Our worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before our radio broadcast starts at 11. If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, please call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org. There, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Holstedt. We would be pleased for you to Like us on Facebook.



birth. Pastor Mark Lindsey continues the sermon series "And His Name Shall Be Called" drawn from Isaiah 9:6. Sunday's message is titled "Everlasting Father" and emphasizes Christ's oneness with The Father, and His eternal loving fatherly care for those made new through faith in Him and His atoning sacrifice on the cross. Bring your iPad, smart phone, or kindle fire and interact with the sermon live through You Version. If you are unable to at-

tend, enjoy the service through the stream on our website at fcbigspring.org. Sunday school classes meet at 9:30, with children gathering on the first floor in the Good News Garage, and youth and adults meeting throughout the second floor. Greeters are happy to help you find your class. There will be no Sunday evening service or activities. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service starts at 6 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 24. Join us as we worship. See CHURCH NEWS, Page 7

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Last Sunday was our Advent/Christmas music service. Thanks to all the children, youth and adults who sang and rang handbells to make this such an inspiring and memorable worship experience. Special appreciation goes to Susan Dawes, director of our Children's Choir, the Men's Chorus, the Women's Chorus and the Youth Handbell Choir; and to

First Baptist Church, Big Spring

Are you knee deep in decorations, Christmas to-do lists, or struggling to get the tree up? You're invited to "press pause" with us in worship Sunday morning at 10:45 as we gather together in honor of Jesus'

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**Sunday, December 21
10 am**

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Galatians 2:20

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Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us.

1 John 4:18

The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. I will satisfy them with a long life and give them my salvation."

Psalm 91: 14-16

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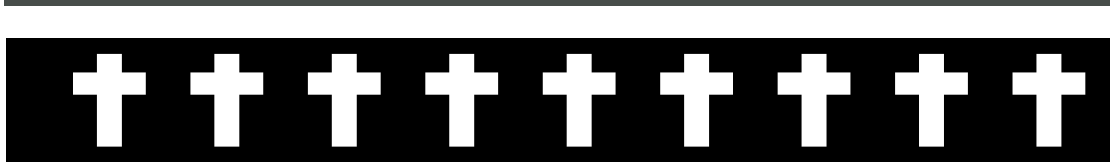
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(Joel 2:23)

God's love supply is never empty. "For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth."

(Psalm 103:11)

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Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

1512 Birdwell Lane 267-7157

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5

our Lord with the observance of the Lord's Supper, and acknowledge the coming of the Messiah who takes away the sins of the world.

Due to the Christmas holiday, our church offices will be closed Dec. 24-26.

Did you know it is possible to know God, and have a personal relationship with Him?

If you have questions about how that relationship is possible, or just need an encouraging word during this sometimes overwhelming time of year, call 267-8223 or stop by the church at 705 W. FM 700, and someone will be happy to listen, pray with you, and share how you can give all your stress and cares over to Jesus, as you begin or renew your relationship with Him.

Merry Christmas from everyone at First Baptist Church.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is located just off Greg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry. Services are held each Sunday morning at 8:30 and 10:50. The 10:50 service is broadcast live each week on radio station KXCS-105.5 FM.

This Sunday, Pastor Bill Ivins is continuing a message series entitled "The Sounds of Christmas." Sunday's message will explore the meaning behind an old English Christmas carol entitled "The Holly and the Ivy." The message will focus on the announcement of the Lord's birth in Matthew 1:18-25.

Because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, we will not have our regular Wednesday activities over the next two weeks. Wednesday noon and Wednesday night activities will begin again Jan. 7.

As many people are making New Year's resolutions to become healthier, our church will be offering something called the Daniel Plan beginning Wednesday, Jan. 7.

It's a six-week course that's not only about better physical fitness and healthier eating choices, but the Daniel Plan also deals with mental wellness and spiritual wellness. It's an all around course on living a healthier lifestyle that honors God.

There is a small fee to cover resources to help you along the journey.

The resources will help you continue your journey after the course is completed. We will also be offering a bible study and prayer group at that time.

Make plans to attend the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service at 5 p.m. Dec. 24. One of the highlights of the Christmas season, the service will include lots of beautiful music and a message by Pastor Ivins.

Our Senior Adult Ministry (SAM)

will also be hosting a New Year's Celebration Jan. 1 at noon in Garrett Hall. Come and join them as they celebrate the New Year with black-eyed peas, cornbread, and the all the trimmings.

For more information on any activity, visit our website at www.fumcbs.com or phone the church office at 267-6394.

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

We invite you to worship with us Sunday morning at 10:50 as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Worship services are currently held inside First Baptist Church at 705 W. FM 700.

Contact Pastor Jim Walterhouse at jwalterhouse@gmail.com for additional information about BHDC. There will be no afternoon service held until after the new year. Pastor Jim and wife Debbie, along with this dynamic congregation, extend a heartfelt Merry Christmas to Big Spring and the surrounding communities.

Forsan Baptist Church

Our children's Christmas program is this Sunday morning during normal worship at 10:50. We will also have a Sunday brunch at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall, where Brian Colbath from Circle Six Camp will be our special guest speaker. Our message will be "Trust: The Woman's Perspective."

On Sunday evenings we are still doing an inquiry study based on open questions addressed through scripture.

This Sunday evening, we will be examining what role feelings have in faith. On Wednesdays we are in the midst of a new study called "How On Earth Did We Get Here?" Currently, our study is in the Book of Exodus.

Youth activities will be suspended through the school break. As we resume in January on Wednesday evenings, youth activities include a meal at 5:30 and classes for all ages beginning at 6. We have Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Mission Friends, CHAOS (Christ Has All Our Answers) Youth, and even an adult Bible study.

Our church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday school begins at 9:50, with worship services at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m.

Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

Birdwell Lane Church of Christ

Southwest corner of 11th Place and Birdwell Lane

Sunday:
Bible Study - 9 a.m.
Worship - 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Wednesday:
Ladies Class - 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study - 7 p.m.

Why wait until January 1?

We are fast approaching the end of the year.

Most families are busy with final holiday preparations, work Christmas parties, school Christmas parties and presentations, etc. We don't want anything else added to our schedule right now. Then, once the holidays are finished, we try to take inventory of the past year. We think about what we have accomplished and we also may think about what we haven't accomplished. We try to see where we are now and where we would like to go.

I imagine January is the favorite month of the year for owners of fitness centers and weight loss companies. If you are or have been a member at a gym, you know what I mean. Come January, you can hardly move around because of the number of people. You will probably have to wait for a treadmill or elliptical or weight machine. But sometime around the beginning to middle of February, maybe March, things start going back to normal. Ah, those pesky New Year resolutions!

Think about those words, resolve and resolution. Usually, the things about which we make our resolutions are things that have already been solved. We are just trying to get back to them. Personally, I know the more weight I gain, the less energetic I feel. I cannot do as much without quickly becoming tired. So I resolve to eat

better, to be healthier, and to be more active physically. But why wait until Jan. 1? If I know the solution and I realize that I haven't been using it, then why not start immediately? If I mess up today, why not look at the situation and try to understand what went wrong and why it went wrong and determine that tomorrow I am going to try again? Every day is a new start! Why wait until Jan. 1?

One more thing to think about (Oh, great! This guy is a preacher, right?). What we have discussed up to this point is good for getting the most benefit out of our lives. I mean the physical life that I (and you) live in my (your) physical body. But is that all that there is? The intellectual elites of our society will tell you that. The science textbook that your children use in the public schools will tell you that. But what if there is more? If you have questions about where everything came from and if there is a God, then I encourage you to read the book that He claims to have written, the Bible. Don't just go by what you have heard from others, read it for yourself. Maybe you have resolved to gain a better understanding of your life and your pur-

pose. God's word will help you do that, but why wait until Jan. 1?

To those of us who claim to believe in God and in the Bible, I want us to ask ourselves some questions. How much do I know God? How do I know what I think I know about God? How often do I read His word? Have I read all of His word? Am I doing my best to know God and His will or am I simply relying on other people to tell me what to do and what to think? I resolve to know God better myself, to understand His will that He has given us through His word, and to live this life in such a way that will benefit me in the life to come after this one. I hope that you will resolve to know God better by reading His word (all of His word, not just the few verses in your daily devotional calendar) for yourself. It is truly more important than losing weight, getting in shape, quitting smoking, spending less, saving more or whatever else. It will determine whether you spend an eternity with God or without Him. With such great consequences involved, why wait until Jan. 1?

Greg Surles is pastor at Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.



GREG SURLES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Join Us

Wednesday, December 24th @ 5:00pm

for our

Christmas Eve Service



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Merry Christmas

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, Dec. 24th @ 7:00pm

Regular Services
Sunday @ 10:00am

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Nichols Rd. (near Elbow School)
bigspringcrcc@gmail.com

Come Join Us!

December 21st

Children's Service
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service
10 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service
6:30 p.m.

Alive in Christ
Lutheran Church - LCMS

2805 Lynn
264-7818

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

1701 E. FM 700

267-6344



Randy Cotton
Pastor

Sunday School
9:45am

Worship Services
11:00am • 6:00pm

264976

News in brief

Convicted spy's parents searching for son after Cuba-US relations breakthrough

HAVANA (AP) — The parents of convicted spy Rolando Sarraff Trujillo feared the worst when their son failed to call home from prison and they were told he had been taken away at dawn. But officials assured the couple that their son was now better off.

Sarraff was publicly identified by a former intelligence official in the United States on Thursday as the unnamed spy traded for three Cuban intelligence agents jailed in the United States, one who U.S. President Barack Obama hailed as one of Washington's most valuable assets.

But neither Cuban nor American officials have confirmed that Sarraff was spirited off the island and his parents have not heard from their son since he supposedly was freed.

"They are saying his name out there," his mother, Odesa Trujillo, told The Associated Press at her home in Havana. "I don't care where he is, just that he's in good health."

Chris Simmons, the former chief of a Cuban counterintelligence unit for the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, identified Sarraff as a cryptologist in Cuba's Directorate of Intelligence working on "agent communications," the codes used by Cuban spies abroad to communicate with their handlers in Havana.

Thaw in US relations brings hope for greater changes in Cuba, anxiety about future

HAVANA (AP) — The restoration of diplomatic ties between Cuba and the United States has unleashed expectations of even more momentous changes on an island that often seems frozen in a past of classic cars and crumbling Art Deco buildings.

On the first full day after the surprise announcement Thursday, many Cubans expressed hope that it will mean greater access to jobs and the creature comforts taken for granted elsewhere, and lift a struggling socialist economy where staples like meat, cooking oil and toilet paper are often hard to come by.

That yearning, however, was tempered with anxiety. Some fear a cultural onslaught, or that crime and drugs, both rare in Cuba, will become common along with visitors from the United States. There is also concern that the country will become just another Caribbean destination.

"There are things that shouldn't get lost, that have gone very well here even though Cubans complain," said Nayda Martinez, a 52-year-old chemical engineer in Havana.

"I don't want the system, the country or the regime, whatever you want to call it, to change," Martinez said. "What the people want is to live better."

Hack attack on Sony intensifying calls in US for stiffer sanctions on North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — Suspicious that North Korea was behind a destructive hacking attack against Sony Pictures and a threat against movie theaters are intensifying calls for tougher U.S. steps to cut that country's access to hard currency and declare it once more as a state sponsor of terrorism.

At first glance, U.S. options for responding to the hacking attack are limited. Bringing the shadowy hackers to justice appears a distant prospect. A U.S. cyber-retaliation against North Korea would risk a dangerous escalation. And North Korea is already targeted by a raft of sanctions over its nu-

clear weapons program.

"We don't sell them anything, we don't buy anything from them and we don't have diplomatic relations," said William Reinsch, a former senior Commerce Department official who was responsible for enforcing international sanctions against North Korea and other countries.

But the U.S. isn't powerless if it concludes Pyongyang was behind the hack that has prompted Sony to cancel its Christmas Day release of the movie "The Interview."

While U.S. officials are saying privately that they believe North Korea was connected to the attack, the White House has not said so publicly. On Thursday, presidential spokesman Josh Earnest declined to blame North Korea, which has denied responsibility. He said he did not want to get ahead of investigations by the Justice Department and the FBI. Evidence shows the hacking was carried out by a "sophisticated actor" with "malicious intent," he said.

Companies on high alert as Sony hacking puts focus on corporate cybersecurity flaws

ATLANTA (AP) — Companies across the globe are on high alert to tighten up network security to avoid being the next company brought to its knees by hackers like those that executed the dramatic cyberattack against Sony Pictures Entertainment.

The hack, which a U.S. official has said investigators believe is linked to North Korea, culminated in the cancellation of a Sony film and ultimately could cost the movie studio hundreds of millions of dollars. That the hack included terrorist threats and was focused on causing major corporate damage, rather than on stealing customer information for fraud like in the breaches at Home Depot and Target, indicates a whole new frontier has emerged in cybersecurity. Suddenly every major company could be the target of cyberextortion.

"The Sony breach is a real wake-up call even after the year of mega-breaches we've seen," says Lee Weiner, Boston security firm Rapid7's senior vice president of products and engineering. "This is a completely different type of data stolen with the aim to harm the company."

This should signal to all U.S. businesses that they need to "take cybersecurity as serious as physical security of their employees or security of their physical facilities," says Cynthia Larose, chair of the privacy and security practice at the law firm Mintz Levin in Boston.

The breach is particularly troubling in Hollywood, where secrecy is supposed to be paramount to insure that movie secrets worth millions don't get leaked.

Pakistani military strikes targets in northwest following school massacre, 67 militants dead

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani jets and ground forces killed 67 militants in a northwestern tribal region near the Afghan border, officials said Friday, days after Taliban fighters killed 148 people — most of them children — in a school massacre.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani prosecutor said the government will try to cancel the bail granted to the main suspect in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks — a decision that outraged neighboring India and called into question Pakistan's commitment to fighting militancy.

The violence at a school in Pakistan's northwest earlier this week stunned the country and brought cries for retribution. In the wake of the mass killing the military has struck targets in the Khyber tribal region and approved the death penalty for six convicted terrorists.

The military said its ground forces late Thursday killed 10 militants while jets killed another 17, including an Uzbek commander. Another 32 alleged terrorists were killed by security forces in an am-

bush in Tirah valley in Khyber on Friday as they headed toward the Afghan border, the military said.

Khyber agency is one of two main areas in the northwest where the military has been trying to root out militants in recent months. Khyber borders Peshawar, where the school massacre happened, and militants have traditionally attacked the city before fleeing into the tribal region where police can't chase them.

8 children found dead and mother wounded in a home in northern Australia

SYDNEY (AP) — Eight dead children and a woman suffering from stab wounds were found inside a home in a northern Australian city on Friday, police said.

Police believe the 34-year-old woman with chest wounds is the mother of seven of the children, and the eighth child is believed to be one of her relatives, Detective Inspector Bruno Asnicar said. She was receiving treatment for her injuries and was in stable condition at a hospital.

Queensland state police said they were called to the home in the Cairns suburb of Manoora on Friday morning after receiving a report of a woman with serious injuries. When police got to the house, they found the bodies of the children inside, ranging in age from 18 months to 15 years.

Asnicar declined to say how the children died.

He said he didn't believe there was a multiple murderer still at large and that police were talking to the woman. Asked if she was a suspect, he said officials have not yet identified any suspects and were questioning everyone who had contact with the family in the past 2-3 days.

Poll: Americans skeptical benefits of commercial drones will outweigh privacy, safety risks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are skeptical that the benefits of the heralded drone revolution will outweigh the risks to privacy and safety, although a majority approve of using small, unmanned aircraft for dangerous jobs or in remote areas, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll.

By a 2-1 margin, those who had an opinion opposed using drones for commercial purposes. Only 21 percent favored commercial use of drones, compared with 43 percent opposed. Another 35 percent were in the middle.

With a few narrow exceptions, the Federal Aviation Administration prohibits commercial use of drones but is about to propose regulations that will broaden the use of small ones. It may be two or three years before the rules take effect, but once they do thousands are expected to buzz U.S. skies.

Congress may also step in next year to try to nudge the FAA to move faster. Drones are forecast to create 100,000 jobs and \$82 billion in economic impact in the first 10 years they're allowed, according to the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, a trade group.

Only 3 percent of people say they've operated small drones, which are essentially the same as remote-controlled model aircraft.

Nearly 30,000 Syrian children born in Lebanon as refugees at risk of statelessness

BEIRUT (AP) — Nearly 30,000 Syrian children born as refugees in Lebanon are in a legal limbo, not registered with any government, exposing them to the risk of a life of statelessness deprived of basic rights.

It is a problem that is replicated, to varying degrees, in nations across the Middle East where more than 3.3 million Syrians have found safe haven from the intractable civil war in their homeland.

The life of a stateless person is a life without a nationality, without citizenship, without the basic documents that establish an individual's identity and give him the rights accorded everyone else. Without a birth certificate, identity papers or other documents, even basic things like getting married, going to school or finding a job can be next to impossible.

"If you can't prove your nationality, it means you can't get legal documentation, can't cross borders legally, can't enjoy any other basic rights that citizens of a country are entitled too," said Isabella Castrogiovanni, a senior child protection specialist with UNICEF. "So the consequences are obviously huge."

The United Nations launched a major campaign last month to try to end statelessness for an estimated 10 million people around the world within 10 years.


Deputies: Woman, 72, slapped over Facebook snub

SEMINOLE, Fla. (AP) — A 27-year-old woman is accused of slapping a 72-year-old woman who denied her friend request on Facebook.

The Tampa Bay Times reports Rachel Anne Hayes became angry on Wednesday when the woman said the Facebook name she uses is inappropriate.

Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies say the woman told Hayes she would accept the friend request if she changed the name, which was not revealed by authorities. Hayes left the home in Seminole but returned a short time later. They fought again at the front door.

Deputies say Hayes slapped the woman several times before the woman was able to go back inside and lock the door.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the jack of diamonds. Assuming trumps are divided no worse than 3-1, how would you play the hand?

West ♠ J 5 3 ♥ A J 9 6 2 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ A Q	East ♠ Q 7 4 2 ♥ K Q 10 4 ♦ K 4 ♣ 10 8 3
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2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the five of hearts, on which South plays the jack. How would you play the hand?

West ♠ A 9 4 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ K 10 8 3 ♣ J 10 5	East ♠ K J ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ A K 9 6 3
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* * *

1. Win the jack of diamonds with the king and draw the defenders' trumps. Next cash the A-Q of diamonds, discarding a club from dummy. Then, to assure the contract, play the A-Q of clubs!

The defender who wins the queen of clubs with the king must either return a spade — in which case you lose only two spade tricks — or concede a ruff-and-discard by returning a diamond or a club.

The tempting club finesse should

Tomorrow: Fancy trump manipulation.

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Sudoku Answer on Page 13

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Crowder traded to Celtics as part of Rondo deal

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

Former Howard College standout Jae Crowder's time with the Dallas Mavericks came to an abrupt end on Thursday when he was part of a five-player deal that sent all-star guard Rajon Rondo to Dallas.

In the deal, the Celtics sent Rondo and forward Dwight Powell to Dallas in exchange for Crowder, Jameer Nelson, Brandon Wright and two draft picks.

Crowder had spent the much

of the past two seasons with Dallas.

The son of former NBA player Corey Crowder, Jae Crowder blossomed into one of the nation's top basketball players during his time at Howard College. The 6-foot-6 forward led the Hawks to the men's Division I national junior college basketball championship in 2010. In the championship game against Hree Rivers Community College, Crowder posted a double-double, with 27 points and 12 rebounds en route to and

pushing the Hawks to an 85-80 overtime victory.

Following the season, he was named the State Farmer National Junior College Player of the Year.

After leaving the Hawks, he attended Marquette University, where he earned the Big East Player of the Year honors as a senior.

Crowder made the leap to the NBA in 2012 when he was drafted in the second round by the Cleveland Cavaliers. He was traded to Dallas on draft night.

Crowder had seen his minutes decline with the Mavericks this season. The Thursday's game, he averaged just 3.6 points, 1.2 rebounds while shooting just 43.4 percent from the field during the Mavericks' hot start.

In Rondo, the Mavericks will receive one of the NBA's top players. A four-time all-star, he was the first pick out of the University of Kentucky in 2006.

Rondo has averaged 11 points, 8.5 assists and 4.7 rebounds over his career. He

missed the second half of the 2012-13 season and the first half of last season to have reconstructive knee surgery

In 22 games this season for Boston, Rondo had an NBA-best 10.8 assists per game and also averaged 8.3 points and 7.5 rebounds.

Nelson, who signed a two-year, \$5.5 million deal last summer after 10 seasons in Orlando, was starting at point guard for Dallas, averaging 7.3 points and 4.1 assists while shooting 37 percent from the field.



Tony Claxton photos (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Ready to go ...

The Big Spring High School boys' and girls' basketball teams will make their final appearance before the Christmas holidays this evening. The BSHS Boys will face off against Seminole, while the Lady Steers will play Grape Creek. Games will start at 4:30 p.m. in the Steer Gym.

Yoe wins third straight state championship

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Cameron Yoe senior receiver Aaron Sims caught six passes, three of them for touchdowns, as the Yoemen won the 3A Division I state championship Thursday with a 70-40 victory over Mineola at AT&T Stadium.

Yoe's 70 points tied the record for points scored in an 11-man Texas state title game, set by Stephenville in 2012 with a 70-35 win over El Campo in the 3A Division I championship. The combined score of 110 points fell 8 points shy of the record set by Sulphur Springs and Dayton in the 2008 4A Division II state title game.

The win Thursday in front of 13,561 marks the third straight state title for Yoe (12-4) and fourth overall in school history.

Sims, the offensive MVP of the game with 153 receiving yards, was set up by senior quarterback Reid Nickerson, who threw for 311 yards and five touchdowns. Cameron Yoe junior running back Traion Smith rushed for 123 yards and five touchdowns in the game, three of which came in the first quarter.

Mineola's special teams dug an early hole, starting three of their five first-half drives inside their own 14-yard line.

The opening kick of the game fell in front

of the Mineola kick returner and was recovered by Yoe junior Alexander on the Yellow Jacket 17-yard line.

The result of the turnover was a 4-yard touchdown run by Smith.

Mineola, making its first state final appearance, started its final drive of the first half on its 11-yard line. After Yoe took two time outs to leave time on the clock before halftime, Mineola turned the ball over on an interception pulled down by senior defensive back John Washington with 27 seconds left. Washington, the defensive MVP of the game, finished with two interceptions.

Yoe would cash in on the pick when Nickerson connected with Sims in triple-coverage for a 39-yard touchdown as time expired on the first half.

The Yellow Jacket special teams created one more score for the Yoemen on a fumbled kick return early in the third quarter that set up a 19-yard touchdown run by Smith, his longest run of the night.

Mineola sophomore quarterback Jeremiah Crawford carried the Yellow Jackets (12-4), rushing for 158 yards and two touchdowns. Yellow Jacket sophomore running back Chantz Perkins finished with 139 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

San Diego, Dodgers finalize Kemp trade

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Slugger Matt Kemp has joined the Padres after San Diego and the Los Angeles Dodgers finalized a five-player trade Thursday night.

The teams agreed to the trade last week during the winter meetings in San Diego. It was the first of three big deals by new Padres general manager A.J. Preller, who also has added outfielder Wil Myers, the 2013 AL Rookie of the Year, from Tampa Bay and All-Star catcher Derek Norris from Oakland.

The Padres, desperate to pump up the worst offense in the majors, also get \$32 million from the Dodgers to help offset the \$107 million remain-

ing on Kemp's contract. The Padres' obligation of \$75 million to Kemp over five years becomes the biggest deal in club history.

Kemp twice made the All-Star team during his time in L.A., as well as winning two Gold Glove and two Silver Slugger awards. His 182 homers rank fourth in Los Angeles Dodgers history.

San Diego also gets catcher Tim Federowicz. The Dodgers receive catcher Yasmani Grandal and right-handers Joe Wieland and Zach Eflin.

Padres President Mike Dee declined to comment on reports that the team was concerned with certain aspects of Kemp's physical.

St. Pete council nixes stadium deal

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The St. Petersburg City Council rejected a deal between the Rays and the city's mayor that would have allowed the team to search for new stadium sites on both sides of Tampa Bay.

The council voted 5-3 Thursday to reject a proposed agreement reached this month by Mayor Rick Kriseman.

"It is disappointing that the St. Petersburg City Council rejected the progress and certainty that this agreement provided," Kriseman said in a statement. "St. Petersburg — and the entire

Tampa Bay region — stands to lose our Major League Baseball team and receive nothing in return. This is an unfortunate outcome for St. Petersburg's taxpayers and every fan of the Rays."

The team has played since its inception in Pinellas County at what now is called Tropicana Field. The agreement would have allowed the Rays to evaluate sites on the east side of the bay in Hillsborough County, where Tampa is located. The Rays have been able to consider only alternative sites in St. Petersburg and surrounding Pinellas County.

Jaguars hold off Titans, win 21-13

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Blake Bortles revived a stagnant offense. Jordan Todman provided some cushion. And Sen'Derrick Marks sealed it with the most rewarding sack of his career.

The trio provided all the highlights in the Jacksonville Jaguars' 21-13 victory over the Tennessee Titans on Thursday.

In a matchup that was widely billed as unwatchable, Bortles, Todman and Marks offered some compelling moments in a relatively meaningless game.

"The neat thing about this was different guys stood up at different times," Jaguars coach Gus Bradley said. Bortles completed 13 of 26 passes for 115 yards

and a touchdown, a 4-yard pass to Marcedes Lewis that got Jacksonville going late in the second quarter. He also ran for 50 yards.

"I wasn't going out there if I couldn't move around and help the offense," Bortles said.

Todman's 62-yard run put the Jaguars ahead for good. He juiced one defender and stiff-armed another in his first carry of the night, ending his first score of the season with a leap into the stands.

Marks' play, though, got the most attention.

With the Titans driving, Marks sacked Charlie Whitehurst on the final play. It gave him 8 1/2 sacks on the season, triggering a \$600,000 bonus in his contract.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Split Moon

The day is split between the Scorpio and Sagittarius moon. The emphasis in the earlier hours is on introspection and what's going on beneath the surface. The later hours have to do with confrontation and being willing to express observations. These are the last days of the season, and there is much to be resolved in the hours to come.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may feel awkward in a situation, but it's training. The charming people haven't lived charmed lives; rather, the adversity they faced helped them mold their personalities in a way to warm up the harsh world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you have a weak connection with a person, it will be difficult to get your point across. Just as phones need to lock onto a common wire or satellite, you need to find common ground before you can proceed effectively.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Maintaining your friendships is important, but don't expect them to stay the same. You enjoy different things from what you did when you were younger, and your relationships accommodate these new interests.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Defending your point of view against those who will likely never share it is a waste of time. Instead, build your community of likeminded thinkers. Together you'll be powerful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The goal is to live peaceably, so it's a little strange that in order to do so you have to have a confrontation. Take a breath. Through clear communication, you will effectively handle this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Common decency perhaps isn't as common as it should be. That's why a certain person is now standing out to you -- someone who continually takes the high road in even the smallest matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll live some of life's dichotomies

firsthand. Without danger, there is no adventure. Without risk, there is no excitement. Without fear, there is no courage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you can't start by taking on the task (because you're unready, untrained or because you don't have the resources), you can start by looking the part, and eventually you'll get there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People think you're good at working the room, but really your magic starts before you ever enter the room. The key to social situations is in your attitude: warmth all the way. Why break the ice when you can melt it?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you find solid relationships, you cherish them. There is a limit to how many people you can fit in your inside circle and still have time to cherish each one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Caring about the details will give you an advantage. People notice that you're noticing. They feel tended to because you're handling the small matters that contribute to everyone's comfort.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not always easy for you to tune into what is going on in your own emotional landscape, but the time and effort it takes to figure it out will be worthwhile. When you can manage yourself, you can manage others.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 19). It's your year to be playful and laugh more. In January, a special interest colors your outlook on relationships and life. Love will thrive. In March, you'll change to become a better you, and they'll reap the benefits, too. Your teamwork will help to bring a victory in June. The children you know make summer great. Aries and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 22, 14, 30 and 19.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** Before you invest in those expensive new boots, consider that healthy and stress-free is the best look of all. **TAURUS:** Appearances and behavior do not always reflect what's really going on with a person, but conversing for five minutes will give you a feel for the whole story. **GEMINI:** Dancing is one of the best ways to get to know someone this

weekend. **CANCER:** When his protective instincts are triggered, he's hooked. When she feels protected, she's hooked. **LEO:** You feel better about what you can control than what you can't, and this weekend is about noticing the difference. **VIRGO:** Much gets accomplished with a soft voice. **LIBRA:** You accept yourself, but you also want to evolve -- you can do both at the same time. **SCORPIO:** A carefree attitude is not the same thing as a careless attitude. You'll gravitate to the former and avoid the latter. **SAGITTARIUS:** What people say in jest speaks to how they really feel, so listen up. **CAPRICORN:** Stay on top of your typical reactions. There's one you might want to change because it's no longer necessary and because you'll be more effective in a relationship if you do it differently. **AQUARIUS:** You'll spend time with someone who respects silliness as much as you do. **PISCES:** Keep track of the way a relationship is playing out day to day. Later this will be meaningful.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Sagittarius and Scorpio have much to share with each other this weekend once they connect. Getting to that common ground will be half the battle. Sagittarius feels like Scorpio is playing hard-to-get, but really Scorpio is just sensing the Sagittarian need to chase love and doing exactly what excites (and frustrates) Sagittarius the most. Keep the spirit of play alive, and it all works out.

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

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have tenants who are behind in their rent. I've let it slide because I've been preoccupied with some personal problems. But my problems have been resolved, and now I'd like the back rent. Under the terms of the lease, I could evict right away, and I am tempted. But I worry that if this family is evicted, they will be living in the cold.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

The biggest issue for me is that these tenants have been smoking, leaving cigarette butts all over the yard. They have been told that their child has a reduced lung capacity, and no one should be smoking anywhere near the boy. Presumably, they only smoke outside, but that includes the covered porch area by the front door, which means the child is exposed to second- and third-hand smoke all the time. (Indoor smoking would be a violation of the lease.)

I've already asked the tenants to clean up the cigarette butts and the clutter around the front of the apartment and garage. They've done a little, but not much. I am tempted to call Child Protective Services about the exposure to cigarette smoke.

I realize I can simply wait for the rent, I could evict them and probably never get what is owed, I could use the threat of calling CPS as a lever to get payment, or I could do all of the above. What do you think? -- Never Should Have Been a

Landlord

Dear Never: The child is a separate issue. If you believe he is at risk, you should make a report to the authorities and let them investigate. In most places, even though you have the right to evict, you need to have the police, local sheriff or other enforcement agency physically remove the family from the premises. This takes time. Notify the family in writing how much they owe in back rent, and that you

will begin eviction proceedings if they do not start making payments.

Dear Annie: My sweetheart and I just rekindled a long-ago attraction. It's a long-distance relationship, so our visits are fun, but they are increasingly intense as we ponder our future. I'm 63, he's 68, and we are both youthful despite the years.

"Bob" and I have been single and celibate for more than 12 years. He has not had a significant long-term relationship since his divorce 12 years ago. He remains friends with his ex, the mother of his children. They even play bridge together with another couple -- I don't know whether that's a factor in our situation. Bob has erectile dysfunction issues. I try not to pressure him, but our make-out sessions arouse me -- and then they don't go any further.

Bob feels we should let nature take its course, meaning sex will happen when it happens, but at our age, I know things can be more complicated. I love him, and I know he

loves me, but it makes me sad to envision a sexless future. Advice? -- Postmenopausal and Still Frisky

Dear Frisky: If Bob has ED issues, nature might never take the course you want. Please ask him to discuss this with his doctor. There are various treatments for ED, and Bob may be willing to try one. There are also other ways to satisfy one's partner. But ultimately, you must decide how important an active sex life is to your future happiness, because the situation may not improve.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Indy," the lonely retired teacher who was scraping together part-time jobs and had no social life. You recommended some places where she could volunteer: hospitals, libraries, veterans associations, etc.

May I suggest volunteering at the local community theater? It is social, and you get to see the shows for free. We always need folks who have stagecraft experience, but we also need ushers, audition monitors, kid wranglers and all types of helping hands. -- S.S. in Indianapolis

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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There's something for everyone in the Big Spring Herald's Classifieds!

- Grandpa sold his sailboat
- Mama found the missing piece for her china set...
- Papa bought a great used car ...
- Little Brother traded his baseball cards for a guitar...
- Big Brother found an awesome set of free weights...
- Cousin Bill found a great apartment ...
- Big Sister found a great new job...
- Aunt Sue found a dining room table...

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AT FIRST I WAS EMBARRASSED. ME, A CAT, LIVING WITH A SINGLE GUY. BUT WHEN I WATCH HIM PICK SOMETHING UP WITH HIS HANDS AND EAT IT, I CAN'T HELP BUT LOVE HIM.

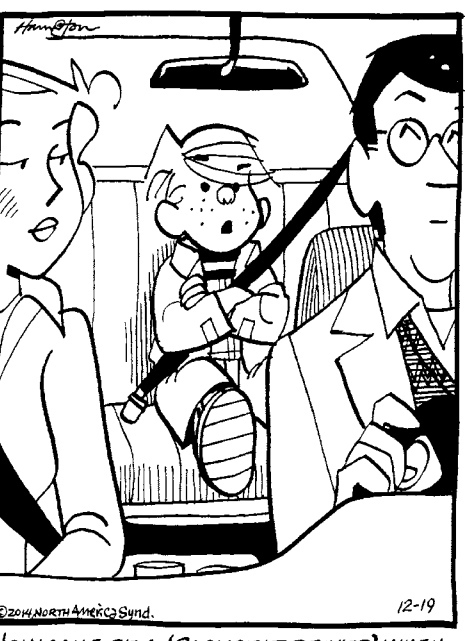
—MARU adopted 01-10-10

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET

adopt
theshefelterpetproject.org

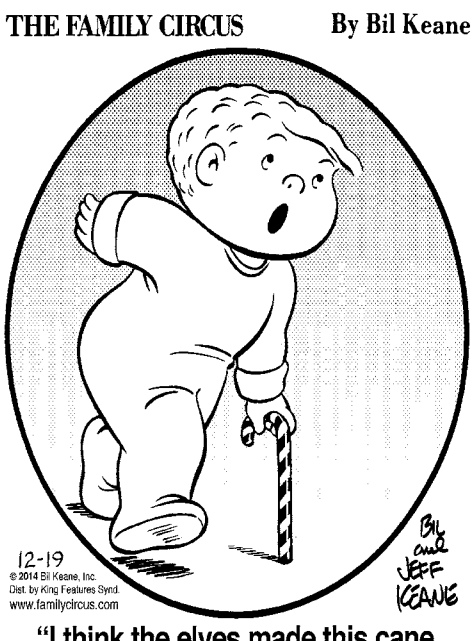
Table with 20 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 24 rows of TV listings for various channels and times.

DENNIS THE MENACE



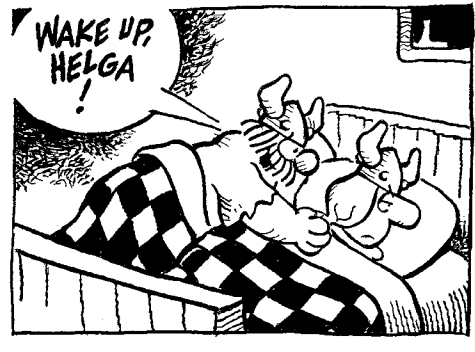
"HOW CAN I BE A 'BACKSEAT DRIVER' WHEN I CAN'T EVEN REACH THE STEERING WHEEL?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

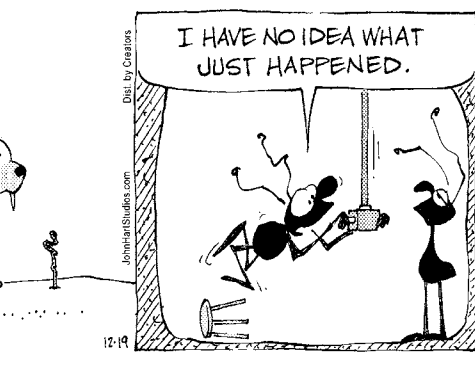
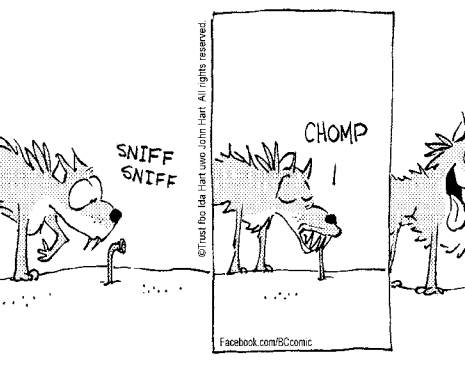


"I think the elves made this cane to fit them, not me."

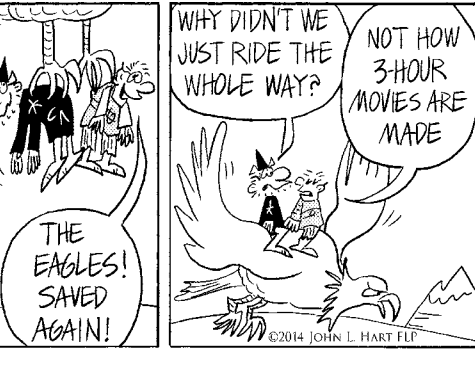
HAGAR



BC



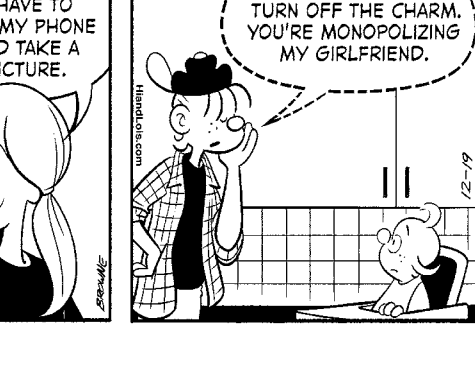
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



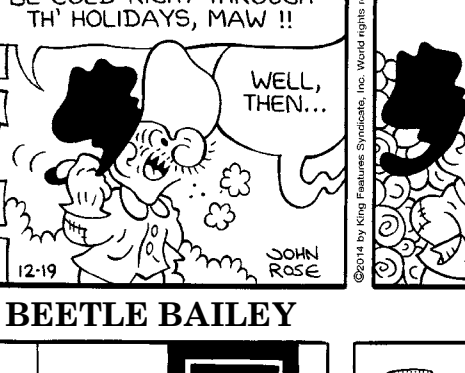
HI AND LOIS



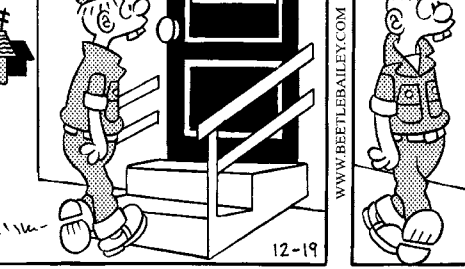
THE OTHER COAST



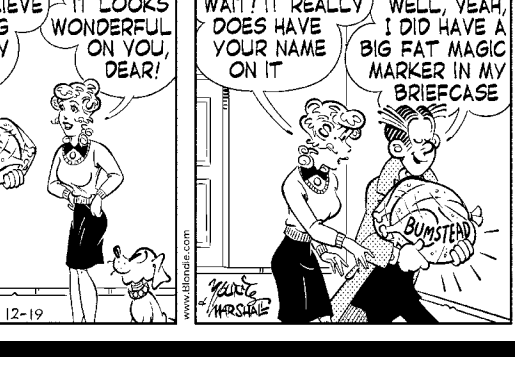
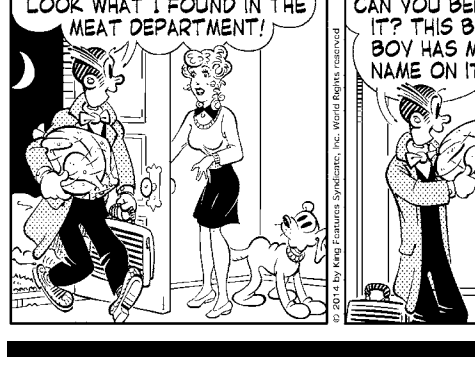
SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2014. There are 12 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 19, 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on...

ing the War of 1812. In 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England. In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania. In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia. In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French. In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In 1961, former U.S. Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., 73, suffered a

debilitating stroke while in Palm Beach, Florida. In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings. In 1984, a coal fire at the Wilberg Mine near Orangeville, Utah, killed 27 people. Britain and China signed an accord returning Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

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Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like RASTA, IRAS, GAP, ETHER, ARISE, OWE, BREAKS, LOOSE, BOA, AILS, ION, UPHILL, RALEIGH, AREA, CHAPPED LIPS, YAHOO'S, LED, TRUE, ACORN, FAX, YEARN, NACA, TON, GARNET, KITCHENSINK, LAST ROSTERS, ASSERT, CAM, AVIA, TAP, PIRATESHIPS, AGE, OFUSE, NOTES, DEW, NYET, LEERY.

Newsday Crossword

WHY NOT by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 It might be a clog 5 Zodiac animal 9 Spaceship Earth locale 14 Spanish tasty tidbit 15 Superior 16 Computer woe 17 Fivers 18 Latest thing 19 Request for a card 20 When the corn harvest will be completed 23 Pyramid builder of old 24 Word before party or ball 25 "Absolutamente" union 27 State-run ID issuer 30 Genome material 32 Spring-fed candy 33 Name on the Woodstock performer list 35 Little devil 37 Subject of Ken Burns' latest miniseries 39 Brewer's alma mater 44 NY engineering school 45 Rock-concert souvenir 46 Nitty-gritty 48 Network cofounded by Marconi 51 Thunder and Jazz are part of it 53 Country singer Greenwood 55 Portray 56 La Cage accessories

Crossword grid with numbered squares and some filled-in letters.

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL
National Football League
American Conference

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
11	3	0	.786	442	280
8	6	0	.571	302	254
7	7	0	.500	327	301
3	11	0	.214	230	360

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
10	4	0	.714	424	317
7	7	0	.500	324	277
3	12	0	.200	232	389
2	13	0	.133	244	411

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
9	4	1	.679	311	289
9	5	0	.643	389	339
9	5	0	.643	376	267
7	7	0	.500	276	300

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
11	3	0	.786	407	303
8	6	0	.571	322	254
8	6	0	.571	303	294
2	12	0	.143	213	381

National Conference

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
10	4	0	.714	381	328
9	5	0	.643	413	349
5	9	0	.357	317	339
3	11	0	.214	257	370

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
6	8	0	.429	364	374
5	8	1	.393	288	358
5	9	0	.357	348	369
2	12	0	.143	254	367

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
10	4	0	.714	281	238
10	4	0	.714	436	325
6	8	0	.429	277	297
5	9	0	.357	296	409

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
11	3	0	.786	287	244
10	4	0	.714	339	242
7	7	0	.500	251	285
6	8	0	.429	291	297

Thursday, Dec. 18
Jacksonville 21, Tennessee 13

Saturday, Dec. 20
Philadelphia at Washington, 4:30 p.m.
San Diego at San Francisco, 8:25 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21
Baltimore at Houston, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Miami, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
New England at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.

p.m.
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Indianapolis at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 22
Denver at Cincinnati, 8:30 p.m.

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS
CLASS 6A DIVISION I
State Championship
Allen (15-0) vs. Cypress Ranch (13-2), 8 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 6A DIVISION II
State Championship
Cedar Hill (13-2) vs. Katy (14-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION I
State Championship
Aledo (14-1) vs. Temple (13-1), noon Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION II
State Championship
Ennis (13-2) vs. Cedar Park (12-3), 8 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I
State Championship
Argyle (15-0) vs. Navasota (15-0), 4 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
State Championship
Gilmer (15-0) vs. West Orange-Stark (13-2), noon Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION I
State Championship
Cameron Yoe 70, Mineola 40

CLASS 3A DIVISION II
State Championship
Waskom 41, Newton 22

CLASS 2A DIVISION I
State Championship
Canadian 34, Mason 7

CLASS 2A DIVISION II
State Championship
Bremond 28, Albany 21.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
20	6	.769	—
10	14	.417	9
9	14	.391	9½
5	23	.179	16
2	22	.083	17

Southeast Division

W	L	Pct	GB
18	6	.750	—
18	7	.720	½
12	14	.462	7
10	18	.357	10

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
16	9	.640	—
14	10	.583	½
14	13	.519	3
8	18	.308	8½
5	21	.192	11½

Western Conference
Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB
21	4	.840	—
19	6	.760	2
19	8	.704	3
17	9	.654	4½
13	12	.520	8

Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB
20	6	.769	—
12	13	.480	7½
10	15	.400	9½
7	19	.269	13
5	19	.208	14

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB
21	3	.875	—
18	7	.720	3½
13	14	.481	9½
11	15	.423	11
8	17	.320	13½

Wednesday's Games
Thursday's Games
Chicago 103, New York 97
New Orleans 99, Houston 90
Milwaukee 108, Sacramento 107
Oklahoma City at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Utah at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Portland at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 9 p.m.
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

NBA Development League
East Conference
Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
5	4	.556	—
5	5	.500	½
6	7	.462	1
5	7	.417	1½

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
9	2	.818	—
8	5	.615	2
5	6	.455	4
5	7	.417	4½
4	7	.364	5

West Conference
Southwestern Division

W	L	Pct	GB
8	3	.727	—
7	4	.636	1
5	7	.417	3½

Oklahoma City 4 8 .333 4½
West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
9	5	.643	—
7	4	.636	½
5	5	.500	2
4	10	.286	5
3	8	.273	4½

Thursday's Games
Delaware 126, Rio Grande Valley 120
Los Angeles 122, Sioux Falls 120
Bakersfield 152, Reno 142

Friday's Games
Erie at Maine, 7 p.m.
Westchester at Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids at Iowa, 8 p.m.
Delaware at Texas, 8 p.m.
Canton at Austin, 8:30 p.m.
Santa Cruz at Idaho, 9 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS
BASEBALL
American League
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Kris Medlen on a two-year contract. Designated INF Johnny Giavotella for assignment.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Acquired LHP Eury De La Rosa from Arizona for cash considerations. Designated RHP Fernando Rodriguez for assignment. Released RHP Jorge De Leon.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Justin Germano, RHP Mark Lowe and INF Carlos

Rivero on minor-league contracts.
National League
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Acquired INF-OF Matt Long from the Los Angeles Angels to complete an earlier trade.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Acquired C Derek Norris and RHP Seth Streich and international bonus compensation from the Oakland Athletics for RHP Jesse Hahn and RHP R.J. Alvarez.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Suspended Milwaukee C Larry Sanders one game for pushing Portland F Nicolas Batum in the back as he elevated toward the basket during a Dec. 17 game.
BOSTON CELTICS — Traded G Rajon Rondo and F Dwight Powell to Dallas for G Jameer Nelson, F Jae Crowder, F-C Brandan Wright, a 2015 first-round draft pick, a 2016 second-round draft pick and a \$12.9 million trade exception.
DALLAS MAVERICKS — Re-assigned G Ricky Ledo to Texas (NBADL).
FOOTBALL
National Football League
DENVER BRONCOS — Signed TE Dominique Jones. Signed OT DeMarcus Love to the practice squad.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed OT LaAdrian Waddle on injured re-

serve. Claimed CB Josh Thomas off waivers from the New York Jets.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed LB K.J. Wright to a four-year contract extension.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Placed RB Dexter McCluster on injured reserve. Signed WR Rico Richardson from the practice squad.
Canadian Football League
HAMILTON TIGER-CATS — Signed DE Eric Norwood to a contract extension through the 2016 season.
WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed QB Josh Portis to a contract extension through the 2016 season.
COLLEGE
BIG SOUTH — Named Julie Kindinger assistant director of multimedia, Sherika Montgomery assistant commissioner for compliance, Stephanie Roe director of administration, Matt VanSandt director of championships and Fletcher Jones assistant director of marketing.
BOSTON COLLEGE — Signed football coach Steve Addazio to a contract extension.
LOUISVILLE — Announced men's sophomore basketball F Akoy Agau will transfer after this semester.
MEMPHIS — Agreed to terms with football coach Justin Fuente on a contract extension.

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AND THE WINNERS ARE...

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2ND PLACE: Roselia Ramirez

3RD PLACE: Stephanie Ramirez

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A's trade All-Star catcher to SD

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The revamping Oakland Athletics made yet another trade of a star player this offseason, sending catcher Derek Norris and minor league right-hander Seth Streich to the San Diego Padres on Thursday night for righties Jesse Hahn and R.J. Alvarez along with an international signing bonus slot.

San Diego's been busy, too. At about the same time they wrapped up the deal with the A's, the Padres finalized a trade to acquire outfielder Matt Kemp from the division rival Los Angeles Dodgers.

Norris, a 25-year-old All-Star, batted .270 with 10 home runs and 55 RBIs in 127 games for the A's, who lost 9-8 in the wild-card game at Kansas City. Oakland had depth at catcher, with capable backstops John Jaso and Stephen Vogt still on the roster despite both dealing with injuries last season. Jaso ended the year out with a concussion for the second straight season.

A's general manager Billy Beane made his second trade of the day, while San Diego has several pending swaps. On Wednesday, the Padres acquired outfielder Wil Myers from Tampa Bay. San Diego sends catcher Yasmani Grandal and two pitchers to the Dodgers in the deal for Kemp and catcher Tim Federowicz.

The New York Daily News first reported Norris was headed to the Padres.



Tony Claxton photos (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Home swing ...

Mykala Edwards and the Big Spring Lady Steers Steers will host Grape Creek in the Steer Gym this evening, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

BYU upsets Lady Horns, reaches volleyball finals

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Jennifer Hamson had 22 kills and Alexa Gray added 19 to help BYU beat Texas 25-23, 25-16, 17-25, 26-24 in the NCAA women's volleyball semifinals Thursday night.

The unseeded Cougars (30-4) hadn't been to the semifinals since 1993, and they advanced to the final for the first time. They will take a 12-match winning streak into the final against defending champion Penn State, a 25-16, 23-25, 25-22, 25-21 winner over top-seeded Stanford in the second semifinal.

Hamson, a 6-foot-7 senior right side hitter, also had 10 digs and seven block assists. Gray, a 6-foot-2 junior outside hitter, had a .409 hitting

percentage. BYU hit .209 as a team and had 17 team blocks.

Chiaka Ogbogu led the Longhorns (27-3) with 14 kills. Haley Eckerman, Texas' first-team All-America middle blocker, had just nine kills and a .033 hitting percentage.

BYU, the only non-power five conference team in the field, upset Nebraska in the regional final. BYU coach Shawn Olmstead said he knew his team was the underdog heading into the semifinals, but he felt confident his team had the talent and the proper approach to win in Oklahoma City.

Wisconsin upset Texas in last year's semifinals, and the Longhorns had said they were focused on avoiding another surprise result this year.

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SAVE OVER \$4
GTC® Electric Knife
black
regular price \$9.95 ea.

\$5 ea.



SAVE \$15
Chefstyle® 17 Quart Roaster Oven
regular price \$34.97

\$19.97 ea.

While Supplies Last!

with in-store coupon

Prices good Friday, December 19 thru Sunday, December 21, 2014 At Your Neighborhood H-E-B Stores including H-E-B Marketplace and H-E-B plus!® Stores. Offers not valid at Central Market and H-E-B Convenience Stores. Due to the popularity of our Low Prices Every Day, we reserve the right to limit quantities. Some items may not be available in all stores. ©2014 HEB, 15-1690