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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

JANUARY 4, 2015



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Personnel scramble to restore power

Forsan residents left in dark after line comes down Friday

BY LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

The sun finally came out Saturday, but the immediate outlook was anything but bright for some Howard County residents. Sunshine was a welcome sight to West Texas this morning after cold, wintery weather left freezing precipitation and streets slick and icy. However, the cold front

didn't give up without a fight as freezing rain fell last night, adding more ice in the trees and on power lines. That caused a different kind of problem for area emergency personnel who had been busy responding to automobile wrecks the last few days. The city of Forsan has been without power since about 7:30 p.m. last night, See **POWER**, Page 3A



HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody

Ice lingers on the ground by Comanche Trail Park weighing down trees and power lines briefly Saturday morning before the sun quickly melted the last residue of wintery precipitation plaguing West Texas since Tuesday night. Cold temperatures are expected to stay around for the next several days but the forecast remains dry and clear. However, downed power lines were reported across the city causing power disruption to some residents. The community of Forsan was without power Friday night.



Libyan charged in embassy bombings dies

By MAGGIE MICHAEL
 Associated Press

CAIRO — Fifteen years after allegedly helping al-Qaida plot the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, Abu Anas al-Libi parked his car on a quiet street in Libya's capital.

Within moments, soldiers from the U.S. Army's elite Delta Force forced him at gunpoint into a van and sped away. They'd fly him to a naval ship in the Mediterranean Sea before finally bringing him to New York to stand trial on charges of helping kill 224 people, including a dozen Americans, and wound more than 4,500.

But al-Libi, who pleaded innocent to the charges against him, wouldn't live to see his trial start Jan. 12. He died Friday night at a New York hospital of complications stemming from a recent liver surgery, his wife and authorities said Saturday. He was 50.

Al-Libi, once wanted by the FBI with a \$5 million bounty

Al-Libi, which means "of Libya" in Arabic, was his nom de guerre. Also known as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, U.S. prosecutors in 2000 described al-Libi as sitting on a council that approved terrorist operations for al-Qaida, which would become infamous worldwide a year later after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

on his head, was chronically ill with hepatitis C when the soldiers seized him. His wife, who asked to be identified as Um Abdullah, told The Associated Press that his experience only worsened his ailments.

"I accuse the American government of kidnapping, mistreating, and killing an innocent man. He did nothing," Um Abdullah said.

In a federal court filing Saturday, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said al-Libi died after being taken from New York's Metropolitan Correctional

Center to a local hospital.

"Despite the care provided at the hospital, his condition deteriorated rapidly and (he) passed away," Bharara wrote.

Al-Libi, which means "of Libya" in Arabic, was his nom de guerre. Also known as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, U.S. prosecutors in 2000 described al-Libi as sitting on a council that approved terrorist operations for al-Qaida, which would become infamous worldwide a year later after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Before that, al-Qaida's Aug. 7, 1998, truck bombings at the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were its deadliest assault. The bombs tore through the embassies and nearby buildings, killing 213 people and wounding some 4,500 in Kenya alone. The Tanzania attack, conducted minutes later, killed 11 people and wounded 85.

Al-Libi, believed to be a computer specialist for al-Qaida, conducted visual and photographic surveillance of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi in late 1993, the federal court indictment against him and others alleges. In 1994, he and other al-Qaida members researched alternate potential sites in Nairobi including the local office of the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as "British, French and Israeli targets," according to the indictment.

His path to Kenya and al-Qaida remains unclear. Al-

See **LIBYAN**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Mary Elizabeth Skalicky

Mary Elizabeth Skalicky, 83, of Odessa, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014.

Mary was born on Dec. 6, 1931, to James Leslie Moore and Mary Elizabeth Webb in Greenville, Texas. Mary was a native of Dallas, Texas and attended Southern Methodist University, where she received degrees in both piano and organ. Mary went on to receive a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan. Further studies took her to The Amsterdam Conservatory of Music, The Netherlands Carillon School, Yale University, Univ. of Texas Austin, Texas Tech and The Academy of Art, Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Mary earned many accolades, including the Viola Cassidy Memorial Award for most outstanding organ student, first place recipient in the National Federation of Music Club's auditions, one of the few women members of the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America, a chosen performer in recital at historic St. Jacob's Church in Prague, invited performer at the Fifth International Organ Festival at St. Maurice's Church in Czechoslovakia, the Rockefeller Memorial Carillon at Riverside Church in New York, being the first woman to play the mammoth 74-bell carillon, and the Niagara Falls recital in Rainbow Bridge.

Mary married John R. Grenier in Ann Arbor, Mich. and they lived in Connecticut. Mary taught music at Miss Porter's School. They had one daughter, Celeste Moore Grenier. Mary accepted the po-

sition of Professor of Music, Howard College and relocated to Big Spring, Texas in 1968.

She was later married to Miloslav (Mike) Skalicky in 1970. She was organist at St. Mary's Episcopal Church for several years and also played the organ in other area churches. She was an avid researcher and historian. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Daughters of the XVII Century and Colonial Dames of the XVII Century.

Mary is preceded in death by both parents; her husband, Mike Skalicky; and one sister, Joy Ann Marsh. Mary is survived by her daughter, Celeste Grenier Dale and her husband, Robert Lee; one granddaughter, Tiffany Marie Wood and her husband Aaron Lee, all of Odessa, Texas; one great-granddaughter, Claire Elizabeth Wood and great-grandson, Christian Lee Wood; nieces, Melody Bohannon of Tampa, Fla., Muezetta Cromer of Longmont, Colo., Merrilee Libby of Encinitas, Calif., and one nephew, Mark Marsh of Estes Park, Colo.; step-daughter, Lisa Brackeen of Royse City, Texas and step-son Clifton Skalicky of Big Spring, Texas.

Visitation for Mary is scheduled from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, at Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. A celebration of Mary's life will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, at Sunset Memorial Chapel. The family will receive friends at their home following services.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home. To sign the guestbook, go to our website at www.sunsetodessa.com.

Paid obituary

Monika Miranda Kennemur

Monika Miranda Kennemur, 47, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 5, 2015, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Monika was born Nov. 14, 1967 in Big Spring and married Paul Kennemur in August 1990 in Big Spring.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and worked at MHMR. She later received her pharmacy technician degree and she and her husband

opened the Medicine Center. She was very active in her family's life and loved being involved with her children's school events.

Monika is survived by her husband, Paul Kennemur of Big Spring; three sons, Quinton Kennemur, Toby Kennemur and Kendrick Kennemur, all of Big Spring; her mother, Guadalupe Miranda of Maine; sister, Yvette Grimes of North Carolina; and two brothers, Michael Miranda of Dallas and Kurt Miranda of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert A. Miranda.

The family suggests memorials be made to charity of the donor's choice.

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

Paid obituary

Nancy Huntoon Gonzalez

Nancy Huntoon Gonzalez, 82, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, in a local nursing home. Memorial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born Aug. 7, 1932, in East Andover, N.H. and married William Gonzalez Aug. 31, 1952, in Seguin, Texas.

Nancy served in the United States Air Force. She moved to Big Spring in 1965 from New Hampshire and had worked as a clerk at the U. S. Postal service from 1967 until retiring in 1992. She was a member of the American Legion Post No. 22 in Lebanon, N.H.

Survivors include her husband, William Gonzalez; one son, Carlos Gonzalez; one daughter, Diana Gonzalez and husband, William Bohanon Jr.; two grandchildren; and three great-granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by a son, William Gonzalez, Jr.; and two granddaughters.

The family suggests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater West Texas Chapter, 4400 N. Big Spring Street, Suite C-32, Midland, Texas 79705.

The family would like to take this time to say thank you to Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home for the special care for Nancy during this time.

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

Carmen Morin

Carmen Morin, 63, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Vigil service and memorial service will be at 7 p.m. following visitation at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born Dec. 5, 1951, in McAllen, Texas to Juana (Hernandez) and Luis Fuentes. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1980, locating from New Mexico. She worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 10 years and was currently em-

ployed by GEO at Cedar Hill. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, Hipolito "Polo" Morin Sr., of Big Spring; two sons, Hector Morin and Hipolito "Polo" Morin Jr., and wife Monica, all of Big Spring; three daughters, Zenaida Luera and husband Frank, Irmalinda Yanez and husband Joseph and Alicia Morin, all of Big Spring; two brothers, Manuel Fuentes of Olivet, Mich. and Ismael Fuentes of Osowa, Mich.; two sisters, Juana Bonilla and husband Ramiro of San Antonio and Hortencia Zuniga and husband Ramiro of Jackson, Mich.; 15 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

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

Melton 'Dale' Mantooh

Melton "Dale" Mantooh was born Aug. 10, 1933, in Blue Springs, Texas to Melton and Beatrice Mantooh. He died Dec. 31, 2014, in Haskell, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth of Parkview Nursing Home Big Spring, Texas; two daughters Jeanne Coffman of Fayetteville, Ark. and Sherry Taylor of Oklahoma City, Okla., four grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Melton, and mother Beatrice.

Dale has been involved in road construction most of his life, formerly with Brown and Root in the Houston, Texas area and he was currently a construction superintendent for Reece Albert Inc. of Midland and San Angelo, Texas.

There will be a celebration of life memorial service for Melton at 10 a.m. Tuesday Jan. 6, 2015, at Life Church 1004 Johnson St., Big Spring, Texas.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Victory Church NWA, PO Box 6264, Springdale, Ark. for the "Dale Mantooh Memorial Fund" for the Eagle Crest Ministry Center.

Fred Hendrickson

Fred Hendrickson, 68, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, at Baylor Medical Center in McKinney. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Harry Middleton



Harry Middleton, 86, a lifelong Big Spring resident, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, in Lubbock, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, at the First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring with Tom Koger officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Harry was born Oct. 18, 1928, in Big Spring to Robert V. and Louise Middleton. He married Janet Hightower June 24, 1955, in Garden City, Texas. Together, they built a life that included a love of rodeos, ranching, and horse racing.

Harry graduated from Texas Tech University in 1954 with a bachelor's degree. He also served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. But it was on his land, farming and ranching for more than 60 years where Harry was always most at home.

Harry was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church and served as a deacon for many years. He was also a member of Staked Plains Lodge 598 and Suez Shrine Temple. He was a member and past president of the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo and served on the board of directors of the Big Spring Heritage Museum.

He is survived by his loving wife, Janet of Big Spring; daughter, Candy Brown and husband, Jacky of Midland; son, John Middleton and wife, Cindy of Big Spring; granddaughters, Kim Fishpaw and husband Jim of Fort Worth and Lauren Craig and husband, Cody of Lubbock; grandsons, Jake Brown of San Angelo and Clay Brown of Lubbock; four great-granddaughters, Victoria, Raegan, Kellan Fishpaw and Ellie Craig; sister, Vivien Buckner of Big Spring; two nephews, Robert Buckner and Barry Hobbs; and two nieces, Paula Jones and Marie Kauss.

The family suggests memorials be made to the First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 2222, Big Spring, Texas 79721 or the Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Milton 'Sonny' Anderson



Milton "Sonny" Anderson, 73, of Luther, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014 at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Tony Isaacs officiating.

Sonny was born Sept. 7, 1941, in Howard County, Texas to Hassie Belle (Clanton) and Melvin Anderson. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County. He was a rancher

and farmer most of his life in Howard County. He was the maker of Anderson Accurate Rifles and also the maker of the Medicine Man Feeder. He was a pumper for BTA and Parallel Petroleum for 15 years. He was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and the Amateur Trap Shooting Association. He enjoyed hunting, trap shooting and roping.

He is survived by one daughter, Amanda Blissard of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Myka Blissard and Aubree Blissard, also of Big Spring; and a friend and ex-wife and husband-in-law, Bill and Dolores Jenkins, also of Big Spring.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister Jean Powell.

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

Paid obituary

**Police Blotter can
be found on
Page 3A**

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Take note

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center will be hosting two public forums on re-enrollment to the Health Insurance Marketplace. Representatives will be on hand to answer any questions you might have and to set up appointments for enrollment.

The first event will take place at the YMCA at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 14 and the second event will be at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club on Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. Both events are free to attend and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, call Amanda Duforat at 268-4699.

LIBYAN

Continued from Page 1A

Libi is believed to have spent time in Sudan, where Osama bin Laden was based in the early 1990s.

After bin Laden was forced to leave Sudan, al-Libi turned up in Britain in 1995 where he was granted political asylum under unclear circumstances and lived in Manchester. He was arrested by Scotland Yard in 1999, but released because of lack of evidence and later fled Britain.

After his indictment in December 2000 over the embassy bombings, U.S. officials said they believed he was hiding in Afghanistan.

Al-Libi later said in court filings that he returned to Libya as dissent against dictator Moammar Gadhafi grew into an open revolt that led to the leader's downfall and killing in 2011. He said he "joined with

forces of NATO and the United States" to replace Gadhafi, hoping to establish a "stable Islamic secular state."

In October 2013, the U.S. Army's Delta Force swooped into Tripoli and seized al-Libi after dawn prayers, his brother Nabih al-Ruqai said. Al-Libi said the soldiers took him to the USS San Antonio, where CIA agents interrogating him warned the questioning would be the "easiest step" of three.

"I took this to mean that the physical and psychological torture would only increase if I failed to cooperate with my questioners," he said in a court affidavit. "These threats continued the entire time I was on board the ship."

Al-Libi's lawyer, Bernard Kleinman, argued his client didn't plan the bombing.

"This case involves issues much more tinged with emotion and trauma than other cases," Kleinman said in 2013. "The fact that Mr. al-Libi will be tried in New

York, barely a half mile from the World Trade Center site, and that Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida will be referenced numerous times in connection with his co-defendants cannot be ignored."

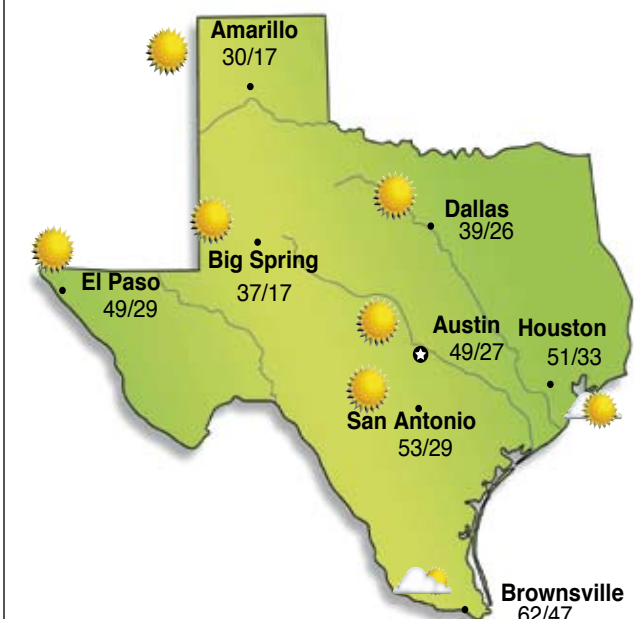
Al-Libi isn't the only terror suspect to be snatched by U.S. special forces in Libya. American troops last year grabbed Ahmed Abu Khattala, a suspect in the 2012 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The ability for U.S. troops to move freely in Libya reflects the chaos gripping the country beset by rival militias and political factions in the years since Gadhafi's downfall.

Battles openly rage in its east and west as Islamic militant groups have turned coastline cities and border areas into safe havens.

Libya's rival governments had no immediate reaction to al-Libi's death.

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Abilene | 31 | 18 | sunny | Kingsville | 59 | 36 | pt sunny |
| Amarillo | 30 | 17 | sunny | Livingston | 49 | 30 | mst sunny |
| Austin | 49 | 27 | sunny | Longview | 40 | 27 | sunny |
| Beaumont | 54 | 32 | pt sunny | Lubbock | 31 | 14 | sunny |
| Brownsville | 62 | 47 | cloudy | Lufkin | 49 | 30 | sunny |
| Brownwood | 39 | 21 | sunny | Midland | 36 | 18 | sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 57 | 36 | mst sunny | Raymondville | 60 | 42 | pt sunny |
| Corsicana | 39 | 27 | sunny | Rosenberg | 51 | 31 | mst sunny |
| Dallas | 39 | 26 | sunny | San Antonio | 53 | 29 | sunny |
| Del Rio | 51 | 30 | sunny | San Marcos | 50 | 28 | sunny |
| El Paso | 49 | 29 | sunny | Sulphur Springs | 37 | 26 | sunny |
| Fort Stockton | 40 | 25 | sunny | Sweetwater | 32 | 16 | sunny |
| Gainesville | 36 | 24 | sunny | Tyler | 40 | 28 | sunny |
| Greenville | 37 | 25 | sunny | Weatherford | 39 | 24 | sunny |
| Houston | 51 | 33 | mst sunny | Wichita Falls | 28 | 19 | sunny |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|---------|----|----|-----------|-------------|----|-----|-------|
| Atlanta | 62 | 33 | t-storm | Minneapolis | 0 | -11 | windy |
| Boston | 59 | 35 | rain | New York | 65 | 36 | rain |
| Chicago | 29 | -4 | sn shower | Phoenix | 62 | 42 | sunny |

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• ANTHONY CRAIG HUNZIKER, 21, of 615 Ridgela Drive was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• LEE MICHAEL MONDINE, 19, of 1200 Bagby Ave., Waco, was arrested Thursday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• KHRISTINA FAYE HOLIHAN, 21, of 4201 W. Highway 80 No. 2, was arrested Thursday on a charge of purchase/furnish alcohol for a minor.

• JESSE LEE MODINE, 26, of 4201 W. Highway 80 No. 2, was arrested Thursday on a charge of purchase/furnish alcohol for a minor.

• SALVADOR GUTIERREZ PEREZ, 43, of 1314 State Park Drive was arrested Friday on a charge of assault, causing bodily injury.

• ROSLYN DENISE YOUNG, 44, of 2519 Fairchild Drive was arrested Friday on a warrant from another agency.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 100 block of NW Third St. and in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

• DISTURBANCE was reported in the 4200 block of W. Highway 80, the 800 block of west on Interstate 20 and in the 1300 block of Mesa Avenue.

• MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the area of Cornando and Craigmont streets, near Mile Marker 165 east bound on Interstate 20 and one block from Gunter St.

• FORGERY was reported in the 800 block east on Interstate 20.

• THEFT was reported in the 200 block of Johnson St. and in the 2800 block west on Highway 80

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of East 18th St.

• STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue Avenue.

POWER

Continued from Page 1A

according to Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan.

The main power line to the community fell across Farm Road 461 — also known as Three Mile Road — preventing anyone from entering or exiting the town. According to Sullivan, TxDOT closed the road for safety.

Last night about 9:20 p.m. Big Spring firefighters responded to a fire endangering a structure in the 500 block of Highland. No more information was available on this incident by press time.

Also, police and firefighters in Big Spring were busy last night responding to multiple reports of downed power lines and transformers sparking.

In a press release sent Friday afternoon, Sharyland Utilities estimated around 4,700

customers were without power throughout Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, and Upton counties.

For those who come across downed power lines, customers are asked to never touch or attempt to move a downed power line. Instead please report the downed lines immediately by calling 800-545-4513.

Although icy streets seem to be receding, Sullivan still cautions drivers to stay alert.

"There is about an 1 1/4-inch of ice on those wires," Sullivan said. "Make sure to look ahead because when the ice begins to fall off those wires, they can fall in big chunks and take out a window, cause accidents. Once the ice starts to fall off its going to make those power lines start bounce

ing and they can come down across the street."

Cold but dry weather is forecast for the next week in the Permian Basin.

Wintery weather came into the Permian Basin on Tuesday created hazardous driving conditions.

On New Year's Day volunteer firefighters were able to save a house on Old Colorado City Highway from total destruction. According to Sullivan, the residents were using a wood burning stove when the heat caught the outer wall on fire. The home owner's quick reaction and volunteer firefighters response were able to extinguished the threat

and save the structure, Sullivan said.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Carroll C. Turlington, 88, died Sunday. Funeral service was at 1:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Milton "Sonny" Anderson, 73, died Saturday. Memorial service is at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Carmen Morin, 63, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Vigil Service and Memorial Service will be at 7 p.m. following visitation at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Fred Hendrickson, 68, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Opinion

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Walking the Red Road

The republic, the Mexicans and the Indians

I recently read a column by Miguel Perez regarding the history and the current situation of Mexican Americans. This got me thinking.

Most Texans know that in 1836 the citizens of Texas declared their independence from Mexico. A revolution was fought and won and the Republic of Texas came into existence.



RANDY
MCKINNEY

Many Texans may not know that most of the existing Mexican population in Texas agreed with this move. The Mexicans of Texas were tired of being ruled by a tyrannical government in Mexico City.

The Mexican population furnished the Anglos with information and supplies. Many also fought along side the Anglos in the Texas revolutionary army. One of the best known was Juan Seguin.

Seguin served as a colonel in the army leading the Mexican members. After the war was won, the Texas Mexican population expected to be treated as any other free Texan. This, however, did not happen. They immediately became second class citizens.

Many established Mexican families lost their lands and their social status. A way of life that dated back for generations was gone.

Jim Bowie had married a woman from a well established and wealthy Mexican family. He commented on how great the Mexican culture was and how the traditions dated back for generations. He had great respect for these people.

The early Texas Rangers were known to shoot or hang any Mexican as bandits with only an assumption to go on.

Native Americans (Indians) were considered to be even lower than the Mexicans. The early Texans did all they could to exterminate them. Even resorting to biological warfare.

In the early settlement of Texas along the coast and into the hill country the small tribes of the area had

been removed by whatever means necessary. These tribes were either killed, died from disease or forced to move north. This was primarily due to the Spanish invasion of Texas.

After the Republic was formed this left mainly the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache to deal with. After Texas joined the union the defeat of the hostile tribes was accomplished.

You may be wondering why I am writing about Mexicans and Native Americans. Well, it is really pretty simple. Mexicans and Native Americans have a lot in common.

Most Mexican Americans today are not descended from the Spanish. They are descendants of the Aztec, the Yaqui and other Indian tribes in Mexico. They are as much Native Americans as the Comanche and Apache are.

There are also those known as mestizos — from the Spanish word meaning mixed blood. These are people with Spanish and Mexican Indian blood lines.

There are similarities and differences between the Native Americans of North America and the Mexican American population. There are cultural differences in today's world, however at one time the cultures were fairly similar.

In today's world, there is a major difference. While the Native Americans of North America lost their lands they were able to retain most of their culture. In Mexico most of the culture was lost, or at least extremely altered. However, the Mexican Indians' descendants were able to eventually regain control of their lands, something the North American Indians have not accomplished as of yet.

In Canada, the Native People are referred to as the First People. I feel it is a fitting description; after all they were there first.

In Texas, the Native Americans were the first people, the Spanish and Mexicans the second people and the Anglos the third people.

So who are the true Texans, or the true Americans for that matter? Who does this land and this country truly belong to? I guess, actu-

See RED, Page 5A

Pearl is a small out-of-the-way place near Gatesville. It has an old school and a couple of other buildings. About 50 people live there. It used to be called Wayback, apparently due to a spelling mistake. The correct name sent to the post office department in 1884 should have been Swayback, named for a nearby mountain. In 1890, Ephraim Davenport became postmaster and changed the name to Pearl to honor his son.

I first heard about Pearl from Danny Brown, a banjo player who lives in Blanket. He asked me if I had ever gone to the bluegrass festival in Pearl. I told him no. He said it is really something. The next time I was in Coryell County I followed a small winding road and ended up in Pearl to find out about bluegrass.

One of the first people I met there was Bill Cruise, who looks to be in his 40s. He sold his

successful computer business in Houston in 2001, retired and moved to Pearl. He and his wife built a fine home there. “We looked all over the Hill Country and found this to be exactly what we were looking for,” he said.

The first weekend of every month (except September) Pearl is crowded with travel trailers and RVs, all transporting people who love and play bluegrass music. “The festivities usually start on Thursday,” says Bill. “We start having jams around noon and go ‘til 2 or 3 in the morning. I usually give up around midnight.”

He says there is some incredible talent that shows up for the festival.

“Pickers come from throughout the state and beyond. We have people from Montana, Prince Edward Island, all over the U.S. and Canada. We have beginning players, young and old, as well as super advanced, high-end musicians who have appeared on radio, TV, Nashville, just all over the place.”

The event takes place in the old school building, which has become known as the community center. Classrooms are used for teaching how to play fiddle, gui-

tar, banjo or bass. Stage shows take place in the auditorium on Saturday. There's a new group every 45 minutes. Every seat is taken and people are standing along the walls. “There's usually about 10 or 12 different bands that do their picking and singing and grinning, having a good time, then folks that want to have an opportunity to play on stage. A picker will sit in with one group, then move to another one. It's all acoustic, no amplification except for the mike.”

Bill was part of the audience for years, then got involved with it. “I came in and wanted to learn how to play guitar. I got accepted into the group just immediately and learned guitar. I love playing and have become part of the bluegrass family. One of my greatest pleasures is teaching others. I'm sort of an intermediate player now.”

The festival at Pearl has a website, www.pearlbluegrass.com. There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome.

Tumbleweed Smith is a folklorist, humorist and oral historian who lives in Big Spring with his wife Susan. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com



TUMBLEWEED
SMITH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Santa came to town on a Harley

To The Editor:

I would like to thank the Cossacks Motorcycle Club for helping provide Christmas for my six grandchildren. Without them, there would not be any gifts for my precious grandchildren. This year, four of the granddaughters received a new bike! The gift they gave me was the joy I got to see in their faces. “Thank you” are small words to express my gratitude for helping our family, but thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May God richly bless you all, just as He has blessed us. Merry Christmas!

Nora Hernandez
Big Spring

Remembering Troy Hogue

To the editor:

Twenty years ago this past December 30, 1994, Big Spring lost a hero, partner/co-worker, friend and even a role model. However, as great as our loss was, nothing could compare to the loss suffered by

an amazing wife, an awesome son and daughter, beautiful sisters and loving parents. All this when Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Troy M. Hogue was fatally shot and paid the ultimate sacrifice while working an accident on Interstate 20 east of Big Spring.

I recall that tragic night all too well — tears began to fall and prayers began. Troy was my friend and I had just spoken with him the night before in front of my home. Troy Hogue was truly an awesome young man who dearly loved his family and career.

I first met Troy and his family when I worked at Mountain View Nursing Home and Troy's grandfather (PaPa) was a resident there. Not a meal went by that Troy or someone in his family was there to assist PaPa with his meal. Troy loved his PaPa and that is when I learned of the love and devotion he had for his family.

Troy strived to be the very best at whatever he undertook and accomplished such. His passion was service to and for others as was evident as a Police Officer for the City of Big Spring and later

See LETTERS, Page 5A

Mother Hubbard flies again

The calendar — unwrapped to allow rays of sunlight to warm the prospects of a brand new year — has replaced last year's model. Alas, it included potential column “tidbits” that never saw the light of day.

For most folks, 2014 calendars now are in the trash heap of “finished business.” Writers can, however, turn back the clock — like legislators do — to squeeze a few more items from the old year.

Some of the topics were treated “once over lightly” — or perhaps not at all. We are permitted “re-visitation rights” by what we call “Mother Hubbard” columns. (Oh, I know she's much maligned; one wonders why she is central to a rhyme at all, what with her inability to scrounge from her cupboard a bone for her poor dog.) Columns bearing her name are closely akin to ministers' Mother Hubbard sermons which, like Mother Hubbard dresses, cover almost everything but touch almost nothing.

First off, a seasonal observation: Christmas decorations are coming down, only to go into the attic for 11 months of hibernation. Two-dozen candy canes — deliberately placed on lowest limbs within easy reach of grandchildren — have gone 100 percent “unreached.”

My take: Unlike conditions a few generations ago — when Christmas gifts consisted mainly of fruit and nuts—candy canes were reminders of the special day to come. For hur-

ried and harried children these days, there are more desirable treats that taste better and can be gobbled more quickly. Back when, we eagerly competed to see who could lick canes longest. Sucking them hastily brought quick delight, but also guaranteed a last-place finish in the “who-can-make-candy-canesthe-longest” contest. Given to multi-tasking, today's children are reluctant to mess with candy canes. Licking or sucking sugary treats while they're immersed in technology seems hardly worth the effort.

Prediction: Two-dozen candy canes will be hung again next year, with the same results anticipated. Eventually, the pennies will go the way of gum balls. We used to drop pennies in gum ball machines, eagerly awaiting the treat—maybe even the color we'd hoped for—to drop out. Such machines have gone the way of the wild geese. Alas, such coins have limited use now, except perhaps to adorn penny loafers....

Old duffers — a term often used to describe golfers — also “fits” folks who've spent much of their lives wallowing in words, spoken or written. I find it applicable to retired preachers, some more than others. (I heard of a preacher's wife who said her hubby's sermons were morphing from “rumbling” to “rambling.”)

Anyway, two retired ministers who have been friends across the decades are Larry Heard of Pampa and Roy Kornegay of Amarillo. They began long tenures as area directors of missions on the same date—January 1, 1987.

In banter begun early on—and exchanged as recently as a few weeks ago—Heard maintained his claim of “seniority.” His

reasoning: “Sunrise in Pampa occurs six seconds earlier than in Amarillo.”

As the Super Bowl draws nigh, let us recall the chagrin of a church youth minister who feared there might not be enough food for youth expected to crowd fellowship hall to watch the game following church services.

You recall, perhaps, that the churchman scrawled a message atop the sign on the sandwich table.

It read “Please take just two sandwiches. Remember, God is watching you.”

A junior high guy, noticing the warning, scrawled a more hopeful message for placement on the cookie table. “Take all you want; God is watching the sandwiches.”

To face the New Year's challenges head-on, let's shoot for reality, hopeful that little of it will be regrettable and/or call for apologies. More desirable, it seems, is to claim personal memories, whether fashioned by high drama or perhaps no drama at all.

Maybe everything doesn't have to be “awesome” or “surreal.” Won't “real” suffice?

Reality should trump pretense, which continues to run amuck in our culture, where so much seems to be so “virtual.” The other day, someone cited a grand example of pretense: the plastic smile plastered on the face of the runner-up in a beauty contest.

Happy New Year!

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Send inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



In the photo at left, from left, County Treasurer Teresa Thomas, District Clerk Colleen Barton and Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Connie Shaw take their oaths of office at the Howard County Courthouse Friday. In the photo at right, District Judge Timothy Yeats, left, administers the oath to County Clerk Donna Wright.

HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody

Governors' inaugurals fueled by political donors

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — When it comes to parties, ringing in the new year has nothing on the swearing-in soirees for governors across the country.

In Texas, organizers are hoping to raise \$4 million to celebrate the incoming governor and are planning a concert headlined by Lady Antebellum, a parade through the state capital and a barbecue with four tons of brisket.

Supporters of re-elected Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker are scheduling a series of events that include a "black tie optional" gala funded in part through sponsorship packages costing up to \$30,000 each.

Inaugural activities celebrating the newly elected Democratic governor in Pennsylvania will cost donors up to \$50,000 apiece and include an evening "Let's Get Started" bash, with

"celebratory attire" recommended.

Eleven new governors are taking office this month, and nearly two dozen others are renewing their oaths for second, third or — in the case of Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad — sixth terms. Many will celebrate with chart-topping bands and blowout balls, with much of the bill footed by the same supporters who bankrolled their victorious campaigns.

In many states, corporate money that was banned before Election Day is allowed to cover the tab for inaugural parties.

Critics see the events as another means for corporations and wealthy individuals to curry political favor with the state's highest office, and in many cas-

es without the transparency required by usual campaign finance laws.

"It's all part of the system of cronyism," said Craig McDonald, executive director of the left-leaning watchdog group Texans for Public Justice. "It's more unsettling than campaigns because the rules are much looser. It allows corporations and others to spend more money."

Not all governors are tossing fancy parties.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, began his second term with a simple swearing-in and speech at One World Trade Center. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, a Republican who will take office with his state facing a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall, also is going low-key, with a modest reception

at the Capitol.

Other governors are making the most of the occasion and, in the process, soliciting donations from the types of people and business entities that typically seek to influence legislation and state regulations.

Organizers behind the celebrations for Texas Gov.-elect Greg Abbott, a Republican, are trying to raise \$4 million, a record amount for a gubernatorial inauguration in the state. Leading up to the finale by country superstar group Lady Antebellum is a downtown parade and the same barbecue specialists that catered both of George W. Bush's presidential inaugurations.

Owners of the San Antonio Spurs and Houston Texans, as well as Walmart heiress Al-

ice Walton, are among those steering Abbott's inaugural committee. They also gave to his campaign.

Like most states, Texas does not require public disclosure of the contributors to inaugural festivities. Financial limits that keep big money in check during campaigns typically do not apply.

In states where donors are disclosed, either because of state reporting requirements or voluntary releases by the governor, corporations are shown to play a major role.

Blue Cross Blue Shield and shoe maker New Balance each have given \$25,000 toward the inaugural celebration of Massachusetts Gov.-elect Charlie Baker, a Republican.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

as a Trooper for the DPS. Just ask any of his fellow officers or troopers who worked with Troy.

Not many days go by that I don't think of my friend nor the precious family left behind. I count it a blessing to still be in touch with Troy's parents and sisters. Such loving and Godly parents and sisters whose hurt and loss I cannot even imagine.

Troy Hogue left a lasting impression and

legacy on my life. If you knew Troy, I'm sure that same legacy was left upon your life as well.

Troy my friend, and brother in Christ, as you are now reaping the rewards of Heaven, please know you will never be forgotten. I'm quite sure upon your arrival in Heaven, you heard these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). May our gracious God continue to bless the Hogue Family and all our brave men and women in law enforcement.

Dale Pittman
Big Spring

RED

Continued from page 6A

ally we are all Americans, we just need to learn to live together. Learn to accept each other for who we are. America is a land of many peoples.

Today we need to do our best to understand each other. We need to realize that we are all brothers and sisters. Are we not children of the same Creator?

Whether we consider ourselves Americans, Texans, Native Americans or Mexican Americans we all have to live along side each other. Let us all do our best to make this a better country with a good life for all of us.

Randy A McKinney is a member of the Sunrise Wind Clan of Two Bear Claws and Vice president of The Powwow Committee of Big Spring.

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December 2014

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News in brief

2 large objects found on sea floor in hunt for AirAsia wreckage

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian officials were hopeful Saturday they were honing in on the wreckage of AirAsia Flight 8501 after sonar equipment detected two large objects on the ocean floor, a full week after the plane went down in stormy weather.

Teams equipped with a remote-operated vehicle were battling high waves and strong currents as they tried to capture images of the suspected chunks of the plane for confirmation, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, chief of the National Search and Rescue Agency.

An Indonesian navy ship detected the objects early Friday, and by midnight, searchers had zoomed in with a Geological Survey vessel to take dimensions

One of the objects was measured at 9.4 meters by 4.8 meters (31 feet by 15 feet) and a half-meter (20 inches) high. The other, found nearby, was 7.2 meters (24 feet) by a half meter (20 inches).

"I'm confident this is part of the AirAsia plane," said Soelistyo.

Loss of AirAsia flight parallels 2009 Air France ocean crash that changed pilot training

PARIS (AP) — The jet dropped from the sky swiftly, without a mayday call. It was quickly swallowed up by the waves.

It took nearly two years to find the black boxes from Air France Flight 447, but the Rio de Janeiro to Paris flight that fell into the Atlantic Ocean in the early hours of June 1, 2009, could offer insight into what may have gone wrong on AirAsia's Flight 8501. Both flights killed everyone on board, both were flying into storms when they disappeared, and — in both cases — it seemed to the pilots of the Airbus that a climb was the way out of their predicament.

In the Air France flight, several factors converged to bring the plane down: The three pilots of the Airbus A330 were confused by faulty air-speed data after key sensors iced over. Then, about 25 minutes into turbulence, the autopilot and autothrust cut out, and the pilot at the controls began a steep climb, despite requests from the co-pilot in the cockpit to descend.

The captain, who had been away from the cockpit, returned about 90 seconds after the first stall warnings sounded. Four minutes and 23 seconds after the first alarms sowed

panic and confusion over how to regain control of the aircraft, the plane slammed into the ocean, plummeting belly first at nearly 11,000 feet (3,350 meters) per minute. The wreckage was found 12,800 feet (3,900 meters) beneath the surface, its black boxes intact.

Above the Java Sea, the pilot of the AirAsia Airbus A320 told air traffic control he was approaching threatening clouds, but he was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude. The plane lost contact minutes later. Search teams have not yet found the black boxes containing the same crucial information that pinpointed the causes of the Air France flight.

US says new sanctions on North Korea just the first step in US response to Sony hack attack

HONOLULU (AP) — The United States says its new round of sanctions against North Korea is just the opening salvo in its response to an unprecedented cyberattack on Sony. Yet there may be little else the U.S. can do to further isolate a country that already has few friends in the world.

Even the latest sanctions, handed down by President Barack Obama in an executive order, may not sting quite as badly as U.S. would have hoped. After all, North Korea is already under a strict sanctions regime imposed by the U.S. over the North's nuclear program.

The new round of sanctions unveiled Friday hit three organizations closely tied to the North's defense apparatus, plus 10 individuals who work for those groups or for North Korea's government directly. Any assets they have in the U.S. will be frozen, and they'll be barred from using the U.S. financial system.

But all three groups were already on the U.S. sanctions list, and officials couldn't say whether any of the 10 individuals even have assets in the U.S. to freeze.

Still, American officials portrayed the move as a swift and decisive response to North Korean behavior they said had gone far over the line. Never before has the U.S. imposed sanctions on another nation in direct retaliation for a cyberattack on an American company.

Libyan on trial on charges of being al-Qaida member involved in 1998 US embassy bombings dies

CAIRO (AP) — Abu Anas al-Libi, a man accused by federal prosecutors of being an al-Qaida member involved

in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, died of complications from liver surgery, his wife said Saturday. He was 50.

U.S. forces raided Libya in 2013 and seized him in the streets of the capital, Tripoli, bringing him back to America to stand trial, where the FBI had placed a \$5 million bounty out for his capture. He had pleaded not guilty to the charges and was awaiting trial.

On Saturday, his wife, Um Abdullah, told The Associated Press that the experience only worsened his ailments, including hepatitis C, leading to his death.

"I accuse the American government of kidnapping, mistreating, and killing an innocent man. He did nothing," Abullah said.

In a court filing Saturday, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said al-Libi died Friday night.

NYC police commissioner urges officers to be respectful at wake, funeral for slain colleague

NEW YORK (AP) — As thousands of mourners prepare to attend the wake and funeral of a second New York City police officer killed in an ambush shooting, police Commissioner William Bratton is urging the rank-and-file to refrain from making political statements.

"A hero's funeral is about grieving, not grievance," Bratton says in a memo to be read to all commands at roll calls on Saturday, the day Officer Wenjian Liu will be remembered during a wake. "I issue no mandates, and I make no threats of discipline, but I remind you that when you don the uniform of this department, you are bound by the tradition, honor and decency that go with it."

Bratton's comments referred to hundreds of officers who turned their backs to giant TV monitors displaying the remarks of Mayor Bill de Blasio a week ago at the funeral for the other slain officer, Rafael Ramos. That gesture mimicked one made by police union officials outside a hospital two weeks ago when the officers were killed.

Union officials, who are negotiating a contract with the city, have said the gestures were made out of frustration with the mayor. They say de Blasio helped foster an anti-police atmosphere by supporting demonstrations following the chokehold death of an unarmed black man on Staten Island by a white officer.

APNewsBreak: Iran, 6 powers move closer to nuclear deal, write up elements for the first time

VIENNA (AP) — Iran and the United States have tentatively agreed on a formula that Washington hopes will reduce Tehran's ability to make nu-

clear arms by committing it to ship to Russia much of the material needed for such weapons, diplomats say.

In another sign of progress, the two diplomats told The Associated Press that negotiators at the December round of nuclear talks drew up for the first time a catalog outlining areas of potential accord and differing approaches to remaining disputes.

The diplomats said differences still dominate ahead of the next round of Iran-six power talks on Jan. 15 in Geneva. But they suggested that even agreement to create a to-do list would have been difficult previously because of wide gaps between the sides.

Iran denies it wants nuclear arms, but it is negotiating with the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany on cuts to its atomic program in hope of ending crippling sanctions. The talks have been extended twice due to stubborn disagreements.

The main conflict is over uranium enrichment, which can create both reactor fuel and the fissile core of nuclear arms. In seeking to reduce Iran's bomb-making ability, the U.S. has proposed that Tehran export much of its stockpile of enriched uranium — something the Islamic Republic has long said it would not do.

Immigrants in the country illegally start applying for California driver licenses

STANTON, Calif. (AP) — Mexican immigrant Jesus Moreno emerged smiling from a California Department of Motor Vehicles office on Friday with official permission to do something he's been doing here for more than a decade: driving.

The 30-year-old vending-machine installer, who has forked over hundreds of dollars in traffic tickets and car-impound fees as an unlicensed driver, became one of the first to get a permit under a new program to give driver's licenses to the nation's largest population of immigrants in the country illegally.

"It's not that I want to drive," said Moreno, after leaving a packed DMV office in Orange County. "It's a necessity."

Thousands of people crammed into DMV offices and waited in hours-long lines to apply for a license as California became one of 10 states to authorize immigrants in the country illegally to drive.

The DMV expects to field 1.4 million applications in the first three years of a program aimed at boosting road safety and making immigrants' lives easier. By 3 p.m. Friday, more than 11,000 immigrants had applied, said Jessica Gonzalez, a DMV spokeswoman.

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GOP focus for Congress: Cut deficit, don't stumble

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the first Republican-dominated Congress to confront President Barack Obama, GOP leaders will focus on bolstering the economy and cutting the budget — and oh yes, avoiding self-inflicted calamities that make voters wonder if the party can govern competently.

When the new Congress raises the curtain Tuesday, Republicans will run both the House and Senate for the first time in eight years. GOP leaders want to showcase their legislative priorities, mixing accomplishments with showdowns with Obama but shunning government shutdowns and other chaotic standoffs.

Another priority is minimizing distractions like the recent admission by No. 3 House leader Steve Scalise, R-La., that he addressed a white supremacist group in 2002.

"Serious adults are in charge here and we intend to make progress," incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said.

McConnell says the

Senate's first bill would force construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which Republicans call a job creator but Obama and many Democrats say threatens the environment.

The House leads off with legislation letting small companies sidestep some requirements of Obama's prized health care overhaul by hiring veterans, followed by other measures weakening that law and pushing the Keystone pipeline.

Other bills likely early would block Obama's executive actions on immigration and ease environmental and business regulations that the GOP contends stifles job growth. Additional bills would cut spending, squeeze Medicare and other benefit programs, revamp tax laws, finance highway construction and speed congressional approval of trade treaties.

"We're focused on job creation," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and running "a more efficient, effective, accountable government."

Democrats say the

GOP's goal is cutting taxes on the rich while crippling Obama's accomplishments, including expanded health coverage and restrictions on financial institutions.

"In the minority, your role is to play defense and stop the worst from happening," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Senate Democrat.

Republicans captured Senate control in November's midterm elections, adding nine seats for a 54-46 advantage that includes two Democratic-leaning independents. A 13-seat gain swelled their House majority to a commanding 246-188 with one vacancy, the result of New York Republican Michael Grimm's planned resignation following his guilty plea on a tax evasion charge.

With McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, jointly mapping an agenda and scheduling long congressional work periods, goals and potential pitfalls include:

DISTRACTIONS AND THE CALENDAR

GOP leaders still face tea party lawmakers. Their recalcitrance helped produce stalemates with Obama that

excited conservative Republican voters but appalled others, causing GOP approval to plummet. Top Republicans want to ensure that Scalise's 2002 speech, for which he has apologized, doesn't hurt their efforts to appeal to more diverse voters.

Another complication: By autumn 2015, the developing presidential race could distract voters from congressional Republicans' messaging.

"We want things arriving at the president's desk, and a lot of those things happening sooner rather than later," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "It's not helpful to us if we drag into spring or summer and the stories are, 'It's a do-nothing Congress.'"

ENOUGH REPUBLICANS?

McConnell will often need at least six Democrats for the 60 Senate votes required to overcome filibusters, procedural delays aimed at scuttling bills. Republicans will need two-thirds majorities in each chamber, impossible without Democratic support, to override Obama vetoes that await bills threatening his health care law and his actions easing im-

migration rules.

McConnell says at an upcoming House-Senate Republican retreat, he will warn, "Don't get your expectations so high that you're inevitably going to be disappointed."

IMMIGRATION

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which enforces immigration laws, runs through late February.

House Republicans plan to quickly vote to finance that agency through September but are still discussing how to use that bill to block Obama's executive actions deferring deportation for millions of immigrants in the United States illegally. That measure's Senate fate and GOP strategy for an Obama veto remain unclear.

Republicans rule out a sweeping immigration overhaul like the Senate-passed, bipartisan 2013 measure. They plan narrower bills that could attract Democrats, bolstering border security and easing immigration restrictions on highly skilled and farm workers.

HEALTH CARE

Republicans are itching to vote to repeal Obama's 2010 health care law, knowing that would never get his signature.

They're preparing measures repealing the medical device tax and ending the requirement that people buy medical coverage.

They would also exempt companies from providing coverage to

employees who work under 40 hours weekly, up from the current 30 hours.

BUDGET AND TAXES

The new House Budget Committee chairman, Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., expects his chamber to approve a budget similar to blueprints written by former chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., ending deficits in a decade, trimming spending and overhauling benefits like Medicare. Senate Republicans want belt-tightening, but McConnell didn't promise a balanced budget in 10 years.

Republicans want to rewrite tax laws but progress is uncertain. They want to lower rates for corporations and for businesses whose owners pay individual taxes, with lost revenue recovered by eliminating unspecified tax breaks. Democrats want the exercise to raise fresh revenue, partly to boost dwindling highway funds.

ALSO PLANNED

Price wants to use legislation preventing a federal default, around summer, to pressure Obama to cut spending, calling such bills "pinch points to get good policy."

McConnell said with GOP congressional control, a default showdown is unneeded because of other opportunities that the GOP can use to constrain agencies.

Republicans want to send Obama measures that the GOP-led House passed the past two years but died in the Democratic-run Senate.

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Steers expected to make run at 3-4A title

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

A year ago, the Big Spring High School Steers were a young team learning the ropes under a new head coach. Even that couldn't stop the Steers from advancing to the Class 3A state playoffs.

The Steers' success – along with the fact the team returns a ton of talented veterans – hasn't been lost on anyone this season. Especially those mak-

ing preseason predictions. According to Tex Prep basketball magazine, the Steers are expected to battle Lubbock Estacado for the top spot in the District 3-4A race this season. District competition begins for all boys' teams on Jan. 16.

According to the magazine, which was published prior to the start of the season, Big Spring is expected to finish second, behind Estacado, in the district race.

The Steers, who advanced

to the finals of the recent Sandhills tournament, return a star-laden lineup for this year's district run. Back to lead the show for the Steers are Tyler Bryan and Ty Sealy. A pair of first-team all-district selections a year ago, the two joined on the Steers' roster by fellow seniors Matt Yanez, Tobyn Tannehill, Will Green, Dee Parker, Ivan Castillo, Joey Valle and Kalief Washington.

The BSHS attack also features the efforts Kei-Shawn

Broussard. The junior guard is rapidly becoming one of the top players in the area.

Estacado is the early favorite to capture the district crown. The Matadors return four all-district performers from last year's team that went 21-12 and advanced to the regional quarterfinals.

Back to lead the Estacado efforts is Jalen McQueen, a 6-foot-5 senior, and Jevon Bascus, a 6-foot-2 senior guard. Also returning are Robert McKinney

and sophomore D'Anta Thomas.

Lamesa and Levelland are predicted to finish third and fourth, respectively, in the upcoming district race. Lamesa, a playoff qualifier a year ago, has two veterans returning, including K.J. Hunter, who earned Defensive MVP honors last season in the Golden Tornadoes old district, and Jaleel Edwards.

Levelland, which was scheduled to play on Jan. 10, will see RACE on Page 3B

Iden, Walton named to Class 3A all-state team

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Coahoma High School Bulldogs enjoyed a return to prominence this season on the football field. Backed by a dominating defense, the Bulldogs ended a lengthy postseason drought by placing fourth in the District 3-3A standings.

Coahoma added even more prestige to their efforts a few days ago when two members of the Bulldogs' defense, including defensive back Braxton Iden and lineman Zac Walton, were named to the Texas Sports Writers Association's Class 3A all-state football team.

Iden and Walton helped power a CHS defensive unit that was among the best in West Texas. As a group, the Bulldogs held their regular season opponents to 17.6 points per game – a key factor in Coahoma's ability to grind out a 6-4 record in the regular season.

A senior, Iden anchored a talented CHS secondary. Ranked among the team's leaders in tackles and defended passes, he was named to the honorable mention roster. Walton was an honorable mention selection on the defensive line.

The two Coahoma standouts were among more than 100 Class 3A players honored on the first-, second-, and honorable mention teams.

Joining Iden and Walton on the team was Sonora senior Ethan Patlan, who was named to the first-team all-state squad as a lineman, and Andres Acevedo, who was a second-team pick at punter.

Also making the honorable mention all-state were Sonora's



Braxton Iden



Zac Walton

Lionel DeLeon and Sid Anderson, and Coleman's Kyle Boyet and Royce Harris, and Post's Jaybren Rodriguez.

Whitney's Brent Gilchrist was named the Class 3A Offensive Player of the Year, while Kountze's Austin Marshall was the Defensive Player of the Year.

Romo would trade MVP-like numbers for Super win

IRVING (AP) — The NFL named Tony Romo the NFC's offensive player of the month for December. It was just another accolade in a long list of them for the Cowboys quarterback this season.

But Romo's best season will ring hollow if it ends before Feb. 1.

"That's the only reason you play the game," Romo said of winning the Super Bowl. "As players, we all want to be playing in that game and holding that trophy at the end of the year, just hoist it up and know that you accomplished your goal that you set out. I

know that's my goal. I mean, everything else is just peanuts compared to it. Nothing else is comparable to that goal. I'm going to do everything I can to help us get there, and that's my job."

Romo and the Cowboys, who finished the regular season at 12-4, will try and notch their second playoff win on Sunday when they host Detroit in a Wild Card game at AT&T Stadium. The game is scheduled to begin at 3:40 p.m.

Detroit is 11-5.

Romo, 34, entered the month with a 12-17 career record in December.



Photo courtesy Cindy Smith/Howard College

The Howard College Lady Hawks returned from the holiday break by posting a 1-2 mark in a three-game stretch against teams in Arizona on Dec. 29-31. The team returns to WJAC play on Jan. 8 against South Plains.

HC women return from break with Arizona trip

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Howard College Lady Hawks knew they had their work cut out for them as they headed out for a three-game road trip to Arizona on Dec. 29. Winning at the Division I level is never easy – especially when you are trying to shake off weeks of rust.

With that in mind, HC head coach Earl Diddle had to be pleased with his team's outings. The Lady Hawks prepped for the upcoming showdown with South Plains by turning in a 1-2 record in the road trip.

Howard College, which is scheduled to host Western Junior College Athletic Conference rival South Plains on Thursday, kicked off their trip to the desert on Dec. 29 with a tough 81-37 setback against Central Arizona Community College.

Central Arizona dominated the game throughout. After pounding out a 39-16 lead in the first 20 minutes of play, Central Arizona finished off the romp with a commanding 42-21 run in the second half.

Howard College's fortunes were much better the following day. The HC women picked up double-digit performances from Bria McCullough, Rosemary Rits and Abigail Flores on Dec. 30 and rolled to a thrilling 58-51 victory over Chandler-Gilbert

HC men, women to host South Plains

The Howard College men's and women's basketball teams will return to action on Thursday when they host WJAC rival South Plains in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Games will begin at 5:45 p.m.

The Hawks enter the game tied for the WJAC lead with a 1-0 record. The HC men defeated Midland College in their conference opener on Dec. 3.

Community College.

Rits finished the game as the Lady Hawks' top scorer with 13 points. Flores and McCullough added 11 and 10, respectively.

The HC defense played havoc with the Chandler-Gilbert offense. The Lady Hawks held G-CCC to just 28.4 percent shooting from the field.

Howard College closed out the trip – and the 2014 portion of its schedule – on Dec. 31 with a 60-42 loss to Mesa Community College.

Mesa CC sealed the victory by holding the Lady Hawks to just 20 second-half points.

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Resolve to Get Healthier



Photos courtesy of Getty Images

FAMILY FEATURES

Diets don't work.

According to the Journal of Clinical Psychology, 45 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions each year, and weight-related resolutions top the list. Unfortunately, only about 8 percent achieve any type of resolution, weight-related or not.

If you've made (and then broken) the old weight- or focus-oriented resolutions each January, you're not alone. It might be time to focus on research-proven approaches to get healthier that actually work — without gimmicks, diets that eliminate foods, or buying strange foods and equipment.

Start Well: Eat Breakfast

Start the day right, and it really can make things go better all day. Research has repeatedly shown that people who eat breakfast tend to take in more nutrients (calcium, iron, protein and fiber), are more alert and can concentrate better, and may even have better success with weight management.

To get yourself off to a strong start, think about combining protein, carbohydrates and low-fat dairy. Some possibilities: whole grain cereal and a high protein yogurt, an English muffin with peanut butter, or an egg sandwich with fruit and yogurt.

Eat Rough(age): Make Fiber a Priority

Fiber, found in whole grain wheat, barley, corn and oats, as well as in fruits, vegetables and beans, helps keep things moving easily through the digestive tract. Remember that grain fiber has different nutritional benefits than fruits and vegetables, so you need both.

Fiber is also filling, providing volume with few calories because our bodies don't have the enzymes to break it down. But fiber can be digested and used for fuel by the 10 trillion bacteria that live in the colon and prevent numerous health conditions.

Get Your Facts Straight: If It Sounds Too Good to be True...

Losing 10 pounds in two weeks only to regain it in eight makes no sense. Whether you've tried to go gluten-free, low carb or avoid all white foods, chances are quite high that your efforts didn't result in long lasting effects. What does work? A balanced eating pattern and an active lifestyle.

There is no one perfect diet, and anyone who says otherwise is typically selling a book or products promising weight loss. Registered dietitian nutritionists can be trusted to provide credible, evidence-based information that can be tailored to your lifestyle and taste preferences. In addition, eating patterns such as those recommended by the Mediterranean Diet, the DASH Diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) and MyPlate can provide guidance on the types of foods to include in your meals.

Move It: Walk, Dance or Ride Your Way to Health

Unless you use it often (2-3 times per week or more), skip the gym membership. Walk outside, walk the dog, dance in your kitchen, work in the garden or ride your bike to run errands. And, if possible, do it every day with friends for fun, and make it part of your regular lifestyle.

Make It Stick: Schedule and Track Your Progress

Make a schedule of your health goals, and keep track of progress by writing in a food and activity journal or calendar. Write things down; it makes them more likely to happen. Note things like how you feel before and after meals and exercise. You may be surprised by what you learn.

How to Spot a Fad Diet in 30 Seconds or Less

Fad diets come and go and return again. Here are some obvious clues that a diet is a fad rather than a realistic approach for becoming healthy.

1. Sounds too good or easy to be true
2. Promises rapid weight loss (5-10 pounds a week) or "miracle cures"
3. Allows only certain foods or food groups (cutting out others)
4. Promotes a product, special herb, vitamin or other compound
5. Can only be "followed" temporarily but is not supervised by a doctor

6. Hard to imagine or difficult to follow the diet forever
 7. Doesn't recommend a form of exercise or says that it's unnecessary
 8. Warns that one food or food group will make you seriously ill or worse
 9. Makes recommendations based on pseudo-science not endorsed by credible organizations or peer reviewed by other scientists
 10. Cites research that is preliminary, based on animals, has very few subjects, or uses poor methodology
- The bottom line: Eat when you are hungry, strive for moderation and move more to feel good.



Tips to Trim Mindless Calories

- **Eat mindfully**
Put all your attention on the food and nowhere else.
- **Eat for hunger**
Make sure you are eating because you are hungry and not for other reasons.
- **Eat slowly**
You'll stop eating sooner and register that you've had enough.
- **Eat without guilt**
"Everyday" food or "sometimes" food and eat accordingly, enjoying every bite

For more info, try these resources:

- US News and World Report Ranking of Best Overall Diets: health.usnews.com/best-diet/best-overall-diets.
- Mediterranean Diet: oldwayspt.org/programs/mediterranean-foods-alliance/what-mediterranean-diet.
- DASH Diet: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/dash/>.
- Find a Registered Dietitian: www.eatright.org/programs/rdfinder/.
- MyPlate: www.choosemyplate.gov.
- Information on diet, health, fiber, gluten and other topics: www.wheatfoods.org.



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Cougars stun Pittsburgh with wild finish

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Greg Ward threw three touchdown passes in the final 3:41 of the Armed Forces Bowl, two after Houston recovered outside kicks, and completed a winning 2-point conversion in the Cougars' 35-34 victory over Pittsburgh on Friday.

Pitt (6-7) took a 31-6 lead on James Conner's touchdown run with 14 minutes left, but Houston (8-5) had the biggest comeback in an FBS game this season and matched the third-largest ever in a bowl game.

Ward threw an 8-yard TD pass to Deontay Greenberry, the Cougars recovered their first outside kick and Ward teamed with Demarcus Ayers on a 29-yard scoring play on fourth-and-13 with 1:58 left.

Houston's outside kick didn't go 10 yards on the rain-slickened field, but the ball was touched by the same Pitt defender who couldn't handle the

first one and Houston running back Kenneth Farrow jumped on it at the Cougars 43. Greenberry started the drive with a 38-yard catch, then on third-and-16 had a 25-yard touchdown catch with 59 seconds left. Interim coach David Gibbs opted for a win-or-lose 2-point conversion try, and Greenberry made a leaping catch in the back corner of the end zone.

Ward was 15 of 24 for 274 yards, with 237 of those yards and all three TDs coming in the fourth quarter. He also ran for 92 yards. Farrow ran 22 times for 103 yards and two touchdowns.

ALAMO BOWL No. 14 UCLA 40, No. 11 Kansas State 35

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Quarterback Brett Hundley led UCLA to a 31-6 halftime lead and the Bruins held off Kansas State in the Alamo Bowl.

Kansas State (9-4) scored 22 of the first 25 points in the second half, cutting it to 34-28 on quarterback Jake Waters' 1-yard run with 4:54 left.

Paul Perkins countered for UCLA (10-3) with a 67-yard run with 2:20 to go. Waters threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Lockett with 1:21 left, but UCLA recovered the outside kick and ran out the clock.

Perkins ran for 194 yards on 20 carries.

Lockett had 13 catches for 164 yards for Kansas State.

Waters was 31 of 48 for 338 yards, but was sacked seven times — twice by Butkus Award winner Eric Kendricks — and threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.

Hurd, a freshman, finished with 122 yards on 16 carries, the most yards rushing for any Tennessee player in a bowl game since Travis Henry ran for 180 against Kansas State in

the 2001 Cotton Bowl. Dobbs completed 16 of 21 passes for 129 yards, with a touchdown and an interception.

Tennessee (7-6) scored on its first four possessions, leading 28-0 before Iowa (7-6) managed 70 yards.

Hurd broke tackles on nearly every run, capping Tennessee's first possession with a 3-yard score and adding a 29-yard touchdown scamper on the next drive. Tennessee made it 21-0 late in the first quarter when Dobbs threw a lateral to running back Marlin Lane in the right flat. Lane, a senior from nearby Daytona Beach, turned and hit Vic Wharton in stride down the sideline.

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TAXSLAYER BOWL Tennessee 45, Iowa 28

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Joshua Dobbs accounted for three touchdowns, Jalen Hurd

ran for two scores and Tennessee beat Iowa in the TaxSlayer Bowl for its first postseason victory since 2008.

Tennessee (7-6) scored on its first four possessions, leading 28-0 before Iowa (7-6) managed 70 yards.

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RACE

Continued from Page 1B
uled to face Big Spring in the finals of the Sandhills tournament before it was cancelled due to inclement weather, brings back three starters. Returning to the fold for the Lobos are junior Kenton Williams, senior Trenton Jones and junior Lukas Bontrager.

Williams averaged 10.9 points per game a year ago en route to earning first-team all-district praise. Jones was a second-team pick after averaging 6.1 points and 5.9 rebounds per contest.

Sweetwater, which put together a 14-8 run a year ago, is expected to battle Lamesa and Levelland for the fourth-place playoff berth.

Snyder is picked to finish last.

The news was just as good for Grady, Sands, Coahoma and Forsan. All four area boys' teams were predicted to nail down playoff positions this season.

Grady, which enters the week ranked No. 4 in the Texas Association of Basketball coaches' poll, is the odds-on favorite to claim the District 11-A crown. A regional semifinalist a year ago, the Wildcats will be led by Beau Lucas, Josh Ed-



File photo
Tyler Bytan (32) and Ty Sealy (33) lead the Big Spring Steers' attempts to earn a second straight trip to the state playoffs this season. District action starts for most area boys' teams on Jan. 16.

leman. Sands posted a 24-9 record a year ago and advanced to the regional semifinals.

Klondike and O'Donnell were predicted to finish third and fourth, respectively.

Coahoma, off to an 8-8 start to the 2014-15 season, was penciled in as the No. 4 team in the District 5-3A race.

The Bulldogs are being led into the season by returning all-district standouts Braxton Iden and

Stanton was the magazine's pick to win the district crown. The Buffaloes are expected to edge out Reagan County and Colorado City for the top spot.

Forsan was the magazine's preseason pick to finish third in the District 8-2A race.

The Buffaloes, who posted a 20-8 record a year ago, will be reloading on the run this fall. Forsan lost its top six starters to graduation.

Should Coahoma defeat Westbrook on Jan. 6, Nichols would take his first shot at No. 500 on Jan. 9 when the Bulldogs travel to Gail to face off with Borden County. From there, the CHS squad will tip off District 5-3A action on Jan. 16 at home against Sonora.

Nichols, who is in his 28th year as a head coach, would be the first of two area coaches to reach 500 wins this season. Stanton's Doug Gordon, whose team is 11-6 overall this season, is just 10 wins shy of 500, at 490-196.

CHS coach closing in on 500th victory

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Should Coahoma defeat Westbrook on Jan. 6, Nichols would take his first shot at No. 500 on Jan. 9 when the Bulldogs travel to Gail to face off with Borden County. From there, the CHS squad will tip off District 5-3A action on Jan. 16 at home against Sonora.

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Nichols enters the Bulldogs' Jan. 6 showdown with Westbrook needing just two wins to reach the 500-win plateau for his career. He currently owns a 498-383 record.

The Bulldogs, who struggled to a 6-8 record a year ago, are off to a .500 start this season, scratching out an 8-8 record.

Scoreboard

| FOOTBALL | | | | Central Division | | | | Metropolitan Division | | | | Pittsburgh 6, Tampa Bay 3 | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| COLLEGE FOOTBALL | | | | W L Pct GB | | | | W L OTPTS GF GA | | | | Carolina 2, Philadelphia 1 | | | |
| 2014-15 Conference Bowl Records | | | | Chicago 23 10 697 | | | | Pittsburgh 24 9 53 117 90 | | | | Minnesota 3, Toronto 1 | | | |
| Through Jan. 2 | | | | Cleveland 19 14 576 4 | | | | N.Y. Islanders 26 11 53 119 04 | | | | N.Y. Islanders 2, Calgary 1 | | | |
| Conference | | | | Milwaukee 17 17 500 6% | | | | Washington 19 11 7 45 108 96 | | | | Anaheim 4, St. Louis 3 | | | |
| Pac-12 | | | | Indiana 13 21 382 10% | | | | N.Y. Rangers 20 11 44 107 89 | | | | Saturday's Games | | | |
| Conference USA | | | | Detroit 9 23 281 13% | | | | Columbus 16 16 35 89 110 | | | | Ottawa at Boston, 1 p.m. | | | |
| Independents | | | | Western Conference | | | | Philadelphia 14 17 7 35 104 115 | | | | Nashville at Los Angeles, 4 p.m. | | | |
| Southeastern | | | | Southwest Division | | | | New Jersey 13 20 7 33 85 115 | | | | Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7 p.m. | | | |
| American Athletic | | | | W L Pct GB | | | | Carolina 11 23 4 26 75 101 | | | | Montreal at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. | | | |
| Sun Belt | | | | Miami 24 9 750 | | | | Western Conference | | | | Toronto at Winnipeg, 7 p.m. | | | |
| Atlantic Coast | | | | Dallas 24 10 706 1 | | | | Central Division | | | | Minnesota at Dallas, 8 p.m. | | | |
| Big Ten | | | | Houston 22 10 688 2 | | | | W L OTPTS GF GA | | | | Detroit at Vancouver, 10 p.m. | | | |
| Mountain West | | | | San Antonio 20 14 588 5 | | | | Chicago 25 11 2 52 119 81 | | | | St. Louis at San Jose, 10:30 p.m. | | | |
| Big 12 | | | | New Orleans 17 16 515 7% | | | | Nashville 24 9 3 51 106 78 | | | | Winnipeg 19 12 7 45 96 92 | | | |
| Mid-American | | | | Portland 26 7 788 | | | | St. Louis 22 13 3 47 111 97 | | | | Sunday's Games | | | |
| | | | | Oklahoma City 17 17 500 9% | | | | Winnipeg 19 12 7 45 96 92 | | | | Boston at Carolina, 1 p.m. | | | |
| | | | | Denver 13 20 394 13 | | | | Colorado 15 15 8 38 98 113 | | | | Florida at Washington, 3 p.m. | | | |
| | | | | Utah 11 22 333 15 | | | | Pacific Division | | | | Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 7 p.m. | | | |
| | | | | Minnesota 5 26 161 20 | | | | W L OTPTS GF GA | | | | Dallas at Chicago, 8 p.m. | | | |
| | | | | Pacific Division | | | | Anaheim 25 9 6 56 111 107 | | | | Columbus at Colorado, 8 p.m. | | | |
| | | | | W L Pct GB | | | | Los Angeles 19 12 8 46 106 96 | | | | Nashville at Anaheim, 8 p.m. | | | |
| | | | | Golden State 26 5 839 | | | | Vancouver 21 12 3 45 105 97 | | | | Edmonton 8 22 9 25 83 133 | | | |
| | | | | L.A. Clippers 22 11 667 5 | | | | San Jose 20 13 5 45 104 96 | | | | TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Named | | | |
| | | | | Sacramento 14 19 424 13 | | | | Calgary 21 16 3 45 115 105 | | | | Dane Johnson bullpen coach, Eric Owens | | | |
| | | | | L.A. Lakers 10 23 303 17 | | | | Arizona 14 19 4 32 86 121 | | | | assistant hitting coach, Sal Fasano | | | |
| | | | | Friday's Games | | | | Edmonton 8 22 9 25 83 133 | | | | minor league pitching coordinator, | | | |
| | | | | Brooklyn 100, Orlando 98 | | | | NOTE: Two points for a win, one | | | | Darold Knowles rehabilitation pitching | | | |
| | | | | Cleveland 91, Charlotte 87 | | | | point for overtime loss. | | | | coach and Rick Langford senior pitch- | | | |
| | | | | Dallas 119, Boston 101 | | | | Colorado 2, Edmonton 1, SO | | | | ing advisor. Promoted Heather Con- | | | |
| | | | | Boston 19 15 4 42 101 103 | | | | Florida 2, Buffalo 0 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Detroit 97, New York 81 | | | | Montreal 4, New Jersey 2 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | New Orleans 111, Houston 83 | | | | | | | | | | | |



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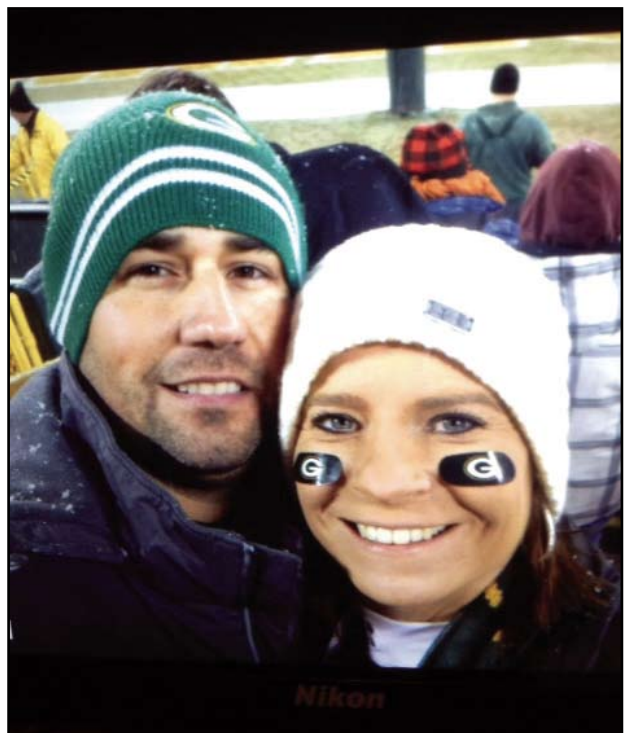


Engagements

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Harding-Stice engaged



Kevin Stice & Sheena K. Harding

Sheena K. Harding of Coahoma and Kevin Stice of Tulsa, Okla., announce their intention to marry on Jan. 24, 2014, at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Sheena is the daughter of Loy and Katy Hahn of Coahoma. She is a 2002 graduate of Westbrook High School and will graduate from Odessa College in 2015. She is the legal assistant to the city attorney.

The future groom is the son of Raymond and Kay Stice of Tulsa, Okla. He is a 2001 graduate of Union High School and a 2008 graduate of Parker University in Dallas. He is employed as a chiropractor for Back in Motion.

More Monarchs return to Mexico, but now face cold

BY MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

PIEDRA HERRADA, Mexico — More Monarch butterflies appear to have made the long flight from the U.S. and Canada to their winter nesting ground in western Mexico, raising hopes after their number dropped to a record low last year. But experts still fear that unusual cold temperatures will threaten the orange and black insects.

While an official census won't be ready until mid-January, observers are seeing healthy populations of butterflies bunched together on fir and pine trees in protected sanctuaries, said Gloria Talavera, director of the official monarch butterfly reserve.

"We're encouraged, because we've seen more," Talavera said Monday.

But cold forecast for this winter, she said, "could put at risk the whole migratory phenomenon. ... We will be saying a prayer each day until mid-February."



(AP Photo/Christian Palma)

Mexico's National Meteorological Service predicts 55 cold fronts for the country through May, a 15 percent increase from the average, and with the possibility for repeated cold systems to extend into March and April.

The temperate climate of the mountains west of Mexico City normally creates an ideal setting for the Monarchs. Every fall, tens of millions of the delicate creatures fly thousands of miles to their ancestral breeding grounds, creating clouds of butterflies.

See, **MONARCHS**, Page 5C

Did You Ever Wonder: Wives for the sons

Esau thought only of his own pleasures. The sages recorded that Esau had been living immorally...he enticed married women from their husbands.

When he turned 40, he announced that he would marry, following the example of his father, Isaac, who married at age 40. By this statement he was implying a change of character.

However, this was for appearances only. Esau married two Hittite women, whose teaching and training from their childhood was pagan, with little or no respect for family traditions or sexual standards.

This terribly upset Rebecca. She was told, also, that Esau secretly hated Jacob and planned to kill him as soon as Isaac was dead.

Without telling Isaac that Jacob's life was in danger, Rebecca reminded him that Jacob, too, might take a wife from among the Hittites.

So Isaac sent Jacob to his family in Paddan-aram to choose a wife from the daughters of Laban, Rebecca's brother.

Isaac also blessed Jacob again, "May El-Shaddai bless you, make you fruitful and make you numerous, and may you be a congregation of peoples. May He grant you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your offspring with you, so that you may possess the land of your sojourns which God gave to Abraham."

The name used for God here means, "Who is sufficient," in granting mercies and has sufficient power to give whatever is necessary.

Let's think about these blessings.

Jacob is blessed with many offspring, possessions, and the land of Israel. Isaac is also passing to him the blessing which God gave to Abraham...to be a people. This is not speaking of a family or a tribe, but a nation which would carry God's Word to the other nations.

In giving this blessing, Isaac had specified, "Do not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan." Esau finally realized that his wives, the daughters of Canaan, were evil in the eyes of his father.

Trying to undo the damage he had done to his family relations, Esau took a third wife from the daughters of Ishmael, Isaac's half-brother.

Did Esau not realize that Ishmael, too, lived his life for self-gratification? Ishmael also took his pleasure wherever he found it. Ishmael married into and eventually became ruler of a people whose recorded history includes some children with two fathers.

We now can see the correctness of God's ultimate plan for Jacob to receive the Blessings. Even when we may mislead some people, God knows what is in 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.



FILLER

Area Menus

Big Spring ISD

Monday

Holiday

Tuesday

Breakfast: blueberry load, strawberry yogurt, apples, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch: turkey/cheese chalupe or chicken quesadilla, garden salad, refried beans, applesauce, milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast: pancake-on-a-stick, peach cup, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch, chicken spaghetti or cheese pizza or pepperoni pizza, breadsticks, garden salad, baby carrots, peaches, milk.

Thursday

Breakfast, sausage breakfast pizza, banana, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch, soft tacos or ham & cheese sub, charro beans, corn, orange smile, milk.

Friday

Breakfast: grape PBJ Uncrushable, mixed fruit cup, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch, popcorn chicken or hamburger or cheeseburger, peaches, cucumber dippers, sweet potato tots, milk.

New Hope Christian School

Monday

Breakfast: cereal, apple juice, milk, rice crispy treat & milk (snack); Lunch, barbecue weenies, green beans, corn, bread, milk.

Tuesday

Breakfast: pancakes, pears, milk, butter crackers & sliced cheese (snack); Lunch, chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, pears, bread, milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast: biscuits and gravy, orange smiles, milk, granola bar & pears (snack); Lunch, Salisbury steak with gravy, carrots, black-eyed peas, milk.

Thursday

Breakfast: Pop Tarts, apricots, milk, vanilla wafers & mixed fruit (snack); Lunch: nacho grande, refried beans, salad, milk.

Friday

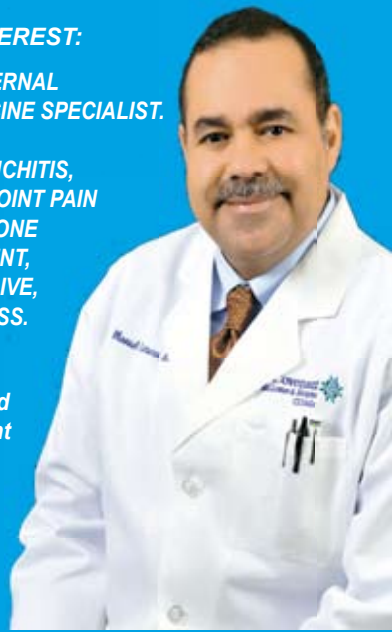
Breakfast: granola bars, pineapple, milk, graham crackers & apple juice (snack); Lunch, chicken patty, broccoli with cheese, pears, milk.

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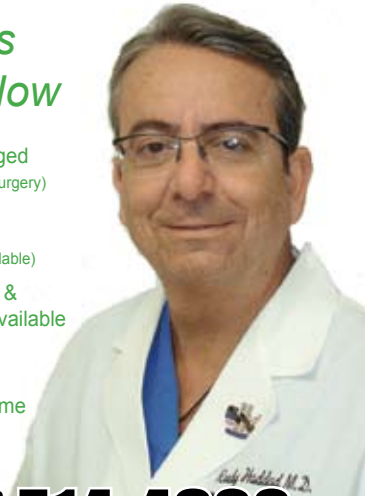
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With digital forces at the gate, a down year for Hollywood



Photo courtesy by Film Frame ©Marvel 2014

Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy from left, Gamora (Zoe Saldana), Peter Quill/Star-Lord (Chris Pratt), Rocket Raccoon (voiced by Bradley Cooper), Drax The Destroyer (Dave Bautista) and Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel)

BY JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood's 2014 may well go down as a mere box-office blip, or it could be Act One in a drama of coming digital disruption.

When the year's final receipts are tallied at the end of Wednesday, the final take is estimated by box-office firm Rentrak to be about \$10.4 billion, a 5.2 percent drop from the record \$10.9 billion of 2013. In and of itself, such a dip isn't much for Hollywood to fret about. The industry still cleared \$10 billion in revenue, the year was widely viewed as a cyclical in-between to bigger years, and a number of major releases that would have moved the needle were postponed (most notably "Furious 7," following Paul Walker's death, and Pixar's "The Good Dinosaur").

But there were also signs that pointed to long-term trouble for the movie business. A Nielsen study found movie attendance for Americans ages 12-24 dropped a worrisome 15 percent in the first nine months of the year, compared to the first nine months in 2013. The

overall number of tickets sold is a meaningful statistic since it's not impacted by rising ticket prices. It slid to about 1.26 billion. That means that fewer people went to the movies in 2014 than they have in the last two decades.

The crunch was felt most by exhibitors in North America, where profits dropped drastically for the country's top two chains, Regal Cinemas and AMC Theatres. To add salt to the wound, the chains were cast as the villains in the fallout of "The Interview" when Sony Pictures CEO Michael Lynton blamed them for the film's temporary cancellation.

However, amid the usual mix of hits ("Guardians of the Galaxy," "The Lego Movie," "Gone Girl") and misses ("Transcendence," "The Legend of Hercules," "A Million Ways to Die in the West"), business for the studios was steady, if less spectacular.

Universal Pictures, for example, finished fifth in total revenue out of the six major studios, but distribution head Nikki Rocco called it "the most profitable year in the history of Universal Pictures."

The studio found success with a slate of modestly budgeted films. All of its 2014 releases, including "Neighbors," "Lucy" and the holiday hit "Unbroken," were made for less than \$70 million.

Meanwhile, though, the forces of change seemed to be gathering. Netflix partnered with the Weinstein Co. to release a "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"

upsetting the exhibitors.

"I wouldn't say we're on the cusp of radical change but I think the industry as a whole needs to find ways of increasing revenue sources and changing windowing is a part of how to grow the business," said Rocco, who is retiring at year's end. "Everybody has to take a look at it because the world has changed."



(AP Photo/Marvel-Disney, Zade Rosenthal)

This image released by Marvel shows Chris Evans in a scene from "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

sequel and with Adam Sandler for a series of films. The digital release of Seth Rogen's North Korea farce "The Interview" (\$15 million in its first four days) proved that the studios are eager to test the traditional theatrical window, even if it means

Theaters have begun adapting new techniques to lure more avid movie-going. This fall, AMC and MoviePass began offering monthly subscription packages in a handful of cities — a kind of Spotify-for-movies.

Much of the movie

business is now about franchise making, and a number of potentially lucrative ones were spawned in 2014. There are already plans for a trio of subsequent "Lego" movies, and more is on tap for "Guardians" and "Big Hero 6." Of the top 10 films of 2014, only one was wholly original: Christopher Nolan's space adventure "Interstellar."

Disney continues to lead the way in the franchise department, thanks to its massive

Warner Bros. has been one of the studios pushing to open big movies outside of standard blockbuster dates, like springtime's "Lego." It has also dated its 2016 "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" for March.

But Warner Bros., often the market-share leader, fell behind both 20th Century Fox and Disney in 2014. Though Warner finished strong, thanks to "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," several of its releases sputtered,

The top 10 films at the box office in 2014

The top 10 films at the North American box office in 2014:

1. "Guardians of the Galaxy," \$332.9 million.
2. "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1," \$308.9 million.
3. "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," \$259.8 million.
4. "The Lego Movie," \$257.8 million.
5. "Transformers: Age of Extinction," \$245.4 million.
6. "Maleficent," \$241.4 million.
7. "X-Men: Days of Future Past," \$233.9 million.
8. "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," \$208.6 million.
9. "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," \$202.9 million.
10. "Big Hero 6," \$201.5 million.

By The Associated Press

partnerships with Marvel, Pixar and Lucasfilm. Next year, "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" are virtually assured to net billions. They join a heavy-hitting 2015 lineup that includes "Jurassic World," the final "Hunger Games" and new "Terminator" and "Mission Impossible" installments.

"The movies next year look particularly strong and should deliver the biggest box-office year ever," says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Rentrak. "We'll be happy when we close the books on 2014 and open them on 2015."

Dergarabedian is most cheered to see the studios "walking the walk of the 52-week-a-year business model."

including "Blended" and "Winter's Tale." CEO Kevin Tsujihara announced layoffs in September.

Jeff Goldstein, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., says the studio is still committed to deep roster of movies: "Kevin Tsujihara is willing to even increase that, so we're really committed to a broad slate of films," he says.

Part of what fuels optimism is overseas markets. The year's biggest global hit, "Transformers: Age of Extinction," was launched in China, where the import market (most of which were Hollywood releases) grew by nearly 50 percent from 2013. That alone offsets a 5 percent downturn in North America.

Sudoku Answer on Page 9C

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Mind Over Matter

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 9 6 2
♥ 8 7 3
♦ 5
♣ A K 8 6 2

WEST
♠ K Q 10 5
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ 7
♣ Q 10 7 4

EAST
♠ J 8 7 4
♥ Q 10 4
♦ J 9 4 3
♣ J 9

SOUTH
♠ 3
♥ A K 5
♦ A K Q 10 8 6 2
♣ 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
4NT Pass 5♠ Pass
5NT Pass 6♦

Opening lead — king of spades.

Bridge is not as tough a game as it may sometimes seem — if you put your mind to it. If you don't, well, you might occasionally have to pay the consequences.

Assume you get to six diamonds and West leads the king of spades. How would you play the hand?

At first glance, there seems to be nothing to the play. Without giving the matter much thought, you might win the king of spades with the ace

and start to draw trumps by playing the A-K.

Unfortunately, West shows up with a singleton trump, and eventually you go down one, losing a heart trick and a trump trick. You might easily conclude that the reason the slam failed was because you ran into a 4-1 trump division. In a sense this is true — the odds were about 3-to-1 against either opponent holding J-x-x-x of trumps — but, even so, you should have made the slam.

To make the contract, you must have the presence of mind to ruff a spade at trick two. The reason you do this is that it might help you overcome a 4-1 trump division if you happen to run into one. Now when you play the A-K of trumps and discover that East started with the J-9-4-3, you have an excellent chance to get home safely.

All you have to do is continue to shorten your trump holding. Accordingly, you cash the A-K of hearts, lead a club to the king, ruff a spade, then lead a club to the ace and ruff another spade.

You are now down to three cards — the five of hearts and Q-10 of trumps — and it's clear sailing from here on. You lead your heart, not caring a whoop or a holler which defender wins the trick, since you're sure to win the last two tricks with the Q-10 of trumps.

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 email: _____

Team Captain 1: _____ phone: _____

Team Member 2: _____ phone: _____

Team Member 3: _____ phone: _____

Team Member 4: _____ phone: _____

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The recent cold snap has delayed demolition of the Long John Silver's restaurant on South Gregg Street.

How to burn calories without getting burned

If you're like a lot of Americans, you probably regret some of the meals and treats you gobbled down over the holidays. If so, your New Year's resolutions probably included one about getting back in shape.

Even if you like the outdoors, sometimes the best place to get a good workout is a gym. It's a good idea to put some thought into it, however. If you've decided to shape up in 2014, Better Business Bureau advises you to do your research before you sign up with a gym. BBB has seen a steady increase in complaint activity with fitness centers over the past three years.

In 2013, BBB processed more than 3,200 complaints against fitness centers nationwide, more than a 20 percent increase compared to 2012, and nearly a 40 percent increase compared to 2011.

Many of the complaints involved contract and billing issues. Consumers turned to BBB after having difficulty cancelling memberships due to unforeseen personal circumstances. Other consumers allege they were never advised of certain fees after signing up for a membership, and that charges still occurred even after they cancelled their memberships.

BBB offers the following advice to help consumers select a fitness facility that will help meet their needs without putting a hole in their wallet:

- Visit bbb.org. Before signing a contract, research the gym at bbb.org to see its BBB Business Review, which will show any history of complaints, details about those complaints and any advertising issues.
- Consider your budget. Most facilities charge an upfront membership fee to join and a monthly fee thereafter. In addition, some fitness centers charge an additional fee for certain classes or amenities. It is important to decide beforehand what amount you can comfortably devote to physical fitness.
- Take a tour of the facility. Don't just sign up for a membership without doing an inspection yourself. Check the cleanliness of the equipment and the locker room area. See if the gym equipment is in good condition and maintained properly. Make sure the facility has the equipment and classes you are interested in using. Also, tour the gym at the time of day you will be using the facility to make sure the number of people there at that time will not limit your activities.
- Ask around. Ask friends and family to recommend facilities and pick a couple that appear to align with your fitness goals and budget. Having others you know at the gym could offer more motivation to go regularly and conquer your goals.
- Do not give in to sales pressure. Walk away from clubs that pressure you to sign a contract on the spot. BBB recommends taking a sample contract home to review before making a decision.
- Review the contract before signing. Make sure the contract lists all services and fees, and any promises made by the salesperson. Find out what is included in the monthly fee and what will cost extra.
- Get membership details. It is vital to understand how long the membership term is, whether it automatically renews and what steps you have to take in order to cancel. Some facilities give customers several days to reconsider after signing the contract.



TYLER PATTON

U.S. construction spending slips 0.3 percent in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sharp slowdown in government-built schools and infrastructure caused U.S. construction spending to fall slightly in November.

The Commerce Department said Friday that construction spending slipped 0.3 percent in November, after having climbed an upwardly revised 1.2 percent in October and 0.6 percent in September.

Much of the decline came from a 1.7 percent retreat in government expenditures. Publicly-built school spending fell 2.5 percent, while the transportation, health care and public safety sectors also fell.

Private construction spending rose a modest 0.3 percent in November. Home-building climbed 1 percent in November, offsetting the declines in the office, commercial and health care-related construction.

Total construction spending has improved a mere 2.4 percent from a year ago to \$974.9 billion. Construction activity has lagged broader economic growth for much of 2014, hampered by limited gains in homebuilding. Few potential buyers can afford new homes, a reflection of meager wage growth, tight credit standards and builders focused on pricier housing developments that are beyond the financial

Modest buying activity has dissuaded builders from breaking ground on more homes.

reach of most home-seekers.

Residential construction spending declined 0.5 percent over the past 12 months to \$352.7 billion, although solid gains in the past two months suggest that homebuilding activity likely helped economic growth in the final quarter of 2014. Analysts at the bank Barclays projects that annualized growth in the October-December quarter will be 2.8 percent, a solid increase but down from an annualized gain of 5 percent in the third quarter.

Modest buying activity has dissuaded builders from breaking ground on more homes. Sales of new homes dropped 1.6 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 438,000, the Commerce Department said in a recent report. That second straight monthly decline leaves home construction significantly below the annual rate of 700,000 that was common in the 1990s. Still, broader economic

growth should help to bolster construction. Employers have added 2.65 million jobs through the first 11 months of 2014, the most in 15 years. Each new paycheck helps to increase consumer spending, even though average wages have yet to meaningfully outpace inflation. The job gains have accompanied faster economic growth during the second and third quarters of 2014.

"As the labor market continues to show improvement and wages increase, especially for young adults, we expect the pace of single-family building to pick up this year," said Anika Kahn, a senior economist at Wells Fargo.

Architectural firms have reported increased demand for the past seven months, a sign that construction spending could accelerate in 2015.

The American Institute of Architects reported that its November billings index was 50.9 in November. While that's down from 53.7 in October, any score above 50 signals increased activity. Demand for apartment and condominium complexes has contributed to the increase, while more than five years after the Great Recession ended, local and state governments are restarting delayed building projects.

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 Raymond Carroll, 712 E. 17th St., Big Spring
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 Susan Cheyanne Cearley, 4104 Muir, Big Spring
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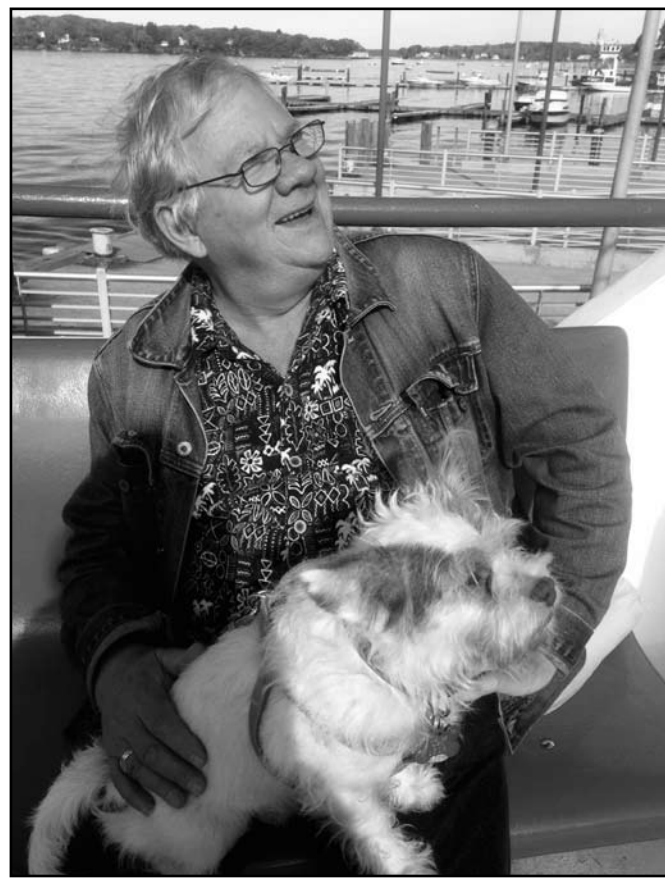
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 Shenna Leean Reeves, 615 Gene Lee Rd., Mineral Wells
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 Veronica Romero, 103 Becker Rd., Big Spring
 Lisa J. Rubio, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring
 Miguel Andres Sanchez, 64 McCaleb Rd., Montgomery
 Anastasia Clarice Sanders, 1401 Culpepper, Wilson
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 Kennedra Wynell Shelton, 400 N. 40th St. no. A, Corsicana
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 John Andrew Metcalf, 24, and Anna Tomayko, 23, both of Big Spring
 David Rodriguez Jr., 24, and Bridget Rivas, 25.

Hotel hopes guests head home with a rescue dog



Above, Will Trantham kneels by Jackson, left, a Shih Tzu, along with Darcy, center, and Sophie. Trantham and his wife adopted Jackson when they checked into Aloft Hotel in downtown Asheville, N.C., that is believed to be the only hotel in the United States where guests can adopt the front desk dog. (AP Photo/Jan Trantham)



Right, John Ferris rides with his adopted dog Ginger on a ferry to Peaks Island, Maine. Ferris, from Amherst, Mass., with his wife, adopted Ginger from the Aloft Hotel in downtown Asheville, N.C., where the couple were staying nearby when they met the 4-year-old terrier mix in the hotel bar sporting an "Adopt Me" vest. The Aloft is believed to be the only hotel in the U.S. where guests can adopt the front desk dog. (AP Photo/Caren Ferris)

BY SUE MANNING

Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — At this hotel, guests get welcomed with a wagging tail or a warm lick to the face.

A dog will bound out from behind the registration desk, clad in an "Adopt Me" vest, as visitors arrive at the Aloft

hotel in downtown Asheville, North Carolina, believed to be the only hotel in the U.S. where guests can adopt the dog that greets them when they check in.

But the hotel doesn't overwhelm road-weary travelers to this mountain tourist mecca, where people come to

tour the nation's largest home, the Biltmore estate; cast a fly-fishing rod; or hoist a beer in what has been dubbed "Beer City USA." There's only one adoptable dog at a time, and it's always on a leash.

The pooches at the Aloft Asheville Downtown hotel are

part of an adoption program run by the hotel and Charlie's Angels

Animal Rescue. The rescue saves the pets from possible euthanasia at area shelters.

"We feel like we are saving lives," said Christine Kavanagh, Aloft's director of sales.

Hotel and rescue workers hope the program not only becomes permanent but spreads to some of the chain's other locations, too. The Asheville hotel, which also allows guests' pets to stay for free, opened in 2012 and has not received one complaint about allergies, messes or dueling dogs, Kavanagh said.

The adoptable dogs have space set aside at the registration desk, on the roof, third floor and in certain employee areas. They can't stay in guest rooms at night but can go with visitors to the restaurant, bar and other spots if they're on a leash.

"The guests love it. It shows up on guest reviews and consumer surveys," Kavanagh said.

Caren Ferris of Amherst, Massachusetts, and her husband certainly did. The couple were staying nearby when they met a 4-year-old terrier mix named Ginger in the hotel bar and cozied up to the pooch sporting an "Adopt Me" vest.

After a visit, "I got up to leave and told her goodbye. She sat up, looked me in the eye and kissed me on the lips. So I called the shelter, thinking maybe we should adopt the dog," Ferris said.

She and her husband filled out the adoption papers, paid \$175 in fees

and waited to be approved before they were able to take Ginger home to meet their other dogs.

Charlie's Angels has tough adoption standards, including a home visit. If a potential owner is from another state, the rescue will ask a shelter there to do the check.

The restrictions haven't stopped 14 dogs from finding homes since the program started in July, said Kim Smith, president of Charlie's Angels. The rescue's placements have doubled since the hotel started stationing the dogs.

Jan Trantham and her husband, from Atlanta, adopted a 2-year-old Shih Tzu named Jackson. They fell in love with him when they checked in, she said.

"Every time we went somewhere, one of us would say, 'Let's go back to the hotel and see Jackson.' I couldn't stop thinking about this dog," Trantham said.

It's also a wonderful way for the dogs — and the guests — to socialize, Kavanagh said.

"We have a little playpen by the front desk. At times, there's a crowd around the pen because the dog is a conversation starter," Kavanagh said. "Our hotel draws people together so they can mix and mingle and maybe adopt a dog."

Online:
www.aloftasheville-downtown.com
www.wncanimalrescue.org

MONARCHS

Continued from Page 2C

They clump together on trees, forming chandelier shapes of orange and black.

The migration is an inherited trait: No butterfly lives to make the full round trip, and it is unclear how they find the route back to the same patch of forest each year. Some scientists suggest the butterflies may release chemicals marking the migratory path and fear that if their numbers fall too low, the chemical traces will not be strong enough for others to follow.

The Monarch populations are being hurt by various factors: in Mexico, the encroachment of logging into their habitat; and in the United States, the decline of milkweed, the butterflies' main source of food that has been crowded out by pesticide-resistant crops.

"The butterflies are at their most vulnerable moment because of pesticide use in the United States, climate change along their migratory route, and degradation of the forests where they winter," said Homero Aridjis, a noted writer and environmentalist.

Observers count the Monarchs not individually, but by estimating how many acres they cover. Last year, after three years of steep and steady declines, the butterflies covered only 1.65 acres (0.67 hectares), their lowest level since record-keeping began in 1993. At their peak in 1996, the Monarchs covered more than 44.5 acres (18 hectares).

While the Monarch is not in danger of extinction, there are fears they could stop migrating or migrate elsewhere.

Environmentalists say large-scale

illegal logging has declined drastically in the reserve, but small-scale logging by the mainly Indian farm communities that actually own the land remains a stubborn problem. Holes in the forest canopy make the butterflies more vulnerable to freezing weather.

Talavera said cold weather is the biggest threat to the Monarchs between now and March, when they take flight back north. Observers have noted unusual behavior in how they clump together, suggesting the insects are preparing for below-normal temperatures.

"They are seeking out canyons, seeking out more protected areas," Talavera said. "We are seeing unusual things, all of them related to the climate."

The butterflies also reached Mexico weeks later than normal, returning in mid-November rather than in time for the Day of the Dead holiday on Nov. 1, which locals long have associated with their arrival.

"They are like part of the souls that come back for the Day of the Dead," said Jorge Dominguez Reyes, a leader of the San Mateo Almomoloa farm community that runs the Piedra Herrada butterfly sanctuary.

The Monarchs have been a key attraction for tourists who visit reserves like Piedra Herrada. But such visits have been hurt by a crime wave in the nearby lake resort of Valle de Bravo and any sustained decline in butterfly numbers would be a cruel blow. The community, in fact, has formed a 10-member patrol to keep loggers out of the nesting grounds in order to protect their habitat, Dominguez Reyes said.

"The butterflies," he said, "give us more incentive to take care of the forest."

Cossacks MC Permian Basin Chapter wishes to thank all of those who have contributed to our 2014 23rd Annual Bykes for Tykes Christmas toy run. We greatly appreciate your help and assistance with our providing a Christmas to those who were a little unfortunate this past year. We cannot do the things we do for the local community without the assistance of people and businesses such as these great ones listed below.

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Legals

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after this citation was issued, a default judgement may be taken against you."

To: G.W. Taylor, Lucretia Taylor, and their unknown heirs
Defendant, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday February 2, 2014, before the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, at 312 Scurry Street in said County in Big Spring, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 06/26/2013, cause number 49223 in the entitled cause QUAD A, INC. vs. G.W. TAYLOR AND LUCRETIA TAYLOR

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Adverse Possession as is more fully shown by the Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand seal of said court at office this 15th day of December, 2014.

COLLEEN BARTON
District Clerk of Howard County, Texas
#8565 December 21, 28, 2014 and January 4, 12, 2015

Legals

REVISION TO NOTICE ISSUED
DECEMBER 28, 2014

Requests for Qualifications Construction Manager-at-Risk Templeton Construction Co., as Construction Manager Agent for Glasscock County, Garden City, TX, will be accepting Qualifications for Construction Manager-at-Risk on three projects for the County. County Courthouse Annex Jail and Sheriff's Office Courthouse Renovation/Rehabilitation RFQ's are due on or before January 21, 2015, 3:00pm. Gary McClure, Project Executive c/o Judge Kim Halfmann 117 Currie Ave Garden City, TX 79739 Qualifications will be opened January 21 at 3PM in the courtroom located on the second floor of the courthouse. Please contact Gary McClure, Project Executive for more information and RFQ packet. 325-656-9890. #8572 December 31, 2014 & January 4, 2015

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids for LRA Paving to be used for maintenance of County Roads. 330-2002 LRA PAV TY-1 GR-A Specifications may be obtained at Howard Road & Bridge office, 1011 N. San Antonio St, Big Spring, Texas 79720. If you have any questions please call, 432-264-2208. Bids must be received by 10:00 A.M. on Friday, January 09, 2015 in the office of the County Auditor, Drew Lopez, 300 S Main, Room 202 and will be opened at that time. Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on January 12, 2015 for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Drew Lopez, County Auditor www.co.howard.tx.us #8563 December 24, 2014 & January 4, 2015

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No one likes the know-it-all -- that is until the time when no one else seems to know anything and the immediate world seems in peril. That's when the know-it-all suddenly becomes a hero.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whatever isn't bringing the desired result needs to stop. Then you evaluate and rework it. Repeat the process until you do get the desired result.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People think it's not easy to be relentlessly positive, but when you truly feel blessed, it's not hard at all. Someone in your environment will be irresistibly attracted to your positivity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though you might not be happy with the way a relationship is going, agree to keep working until a compromise is reached. You will make outstanding progress in physical exploits,

especially if competition is involved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may not always see things the way they really are -- that's the artist in you. Dare to be even more fanciful in your strong point of view. The world will respond to your extrapolation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In regard to those obnoxious posts on social media: Your envious reaction is the best response you could hope for. Jealousy teaches you what you really want out of life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Nature will call you to build your nest, DIY-style. The required components will be easy to come by. Just add love, and assemble. Your crew will fluctuate, as they normally do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your luck has changed for the better -- celebrate. That certain looming presence will not be an issue. You will not be worried about perceptions, so you'll do far more than you did last week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Many will witness the same event, each with different recollections. You will pay close attention to the nuances of human interaction, so your version will be the most accurate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your mysterious persona will attract romance. The domestic

situation will calm down. People who seem unfeeling actually have been hurt too many times to trust.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have ambitions, and you also have the power to meld them into a lifestyle. Your travel plans will change, and tonight you will meet someone impressive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't believe what you hear from a salesperson. Take creative, not financial, risks. You can't trust the signal from your cell, but your internal compass will tell you right from wrong.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 4). This is your power year. A healthy spirit of competition will motivate your decisions in February. Whatever reason you had to postpone your joy, it's no longer good enough. In March, you'll be irresistibly compelled to revel in hobbies, indulge in interests and take charge of your pleasure. April brings a major bonus. Pisces and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 45, 33, 19 and 11.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The full Cancer moon will be the opening starlet, an emotional sweetheart who can't help but lay it all on the line with the performance of a lifetime. If you are experiencing domestic unrest during

this time, don't worry too much. It will come to peace soon enough. The more people are doing outside of the house the better, as the interior domestic scene will be wrought with tension through the 6th.

Two lunar trines will happen before the moon enters mysterious Scorpio, a procession announcing the fun to follow and setting a tone of interest and anticipation for all that is to come. Also, Mercury will enter Aquarius, promising a generous and philanthropic mindset regarding the limits of affordability. It's a time to consider the many ways of giving. Sometimes it's a smile, sometimes it's help, and there are thousands of iterations that mean more than dollars.

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

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Venice of the North"
 - 10 Dow Jones Industrials financial stock
 - 14 Pluviometer
 - 15 Maker of the first interactive toothbrush
 - 17 Button often seen with a "+"
 - 18 Country Music Hall of Fame inductee the same year as Elvis
 - 19 Band leader
 - 20 Hinton's middle name
 - 22 Take away from
 - 23 '90s teen-girl mag
 - 26 Nine Cooperstown members
 - 27 Opposite of *adversaire*
 - 28 Big name in British pop art
 - 31 Fall off
 - 32 Backed up for an advance
 - 35 Stock product
 - 36 Reckoning
 - 37 Coat-of-arms depiction
 - 39 GPS display
 - 40 Peers of Countess Violet Crawley
 - 41 Chipotle competitor
 - 42 Coin succeeded by a cent
 - 44 Druyan who cowrote *Cosmos*
 - 45 Saga VIP
 - 46 Some mill staff
 - 50 Cargo holder of a sort
 - 51 "Smarter than you think" website

- 54 Constellation representing an Herculean adversary
 - 55 Type of transfer
 - 57 Environmental program since 1980
 - 60 Preach, perhaps
 - 61 Upturned-palms equivalent
 - 62 Recreational vehicle
 - 63 Riders in satellite trucks
- DOWN**
- 1 About 450 million people
 - 2 Perry persona in eight films
 - 3 Phases
 - 4 PGA Championship broadcaster
 - 5 It represents reason and sanity

- 6 Sack ____
- 7 Minimally multiple
- 8 Stranded, in a way
- 9 Stress-reduction period
- 10 House calls
- 11 IRS Publication 590 subject
- 12 Comedy lead-actor Emmy role for '90 and '93
- 13 Reunion rendition
- 16 In a perfect world
- 21 Keep watch
- 24 Really shows off
- 25 Certain school teachers
- 29 Something to watch at SFO and JFK
- 30 Bud holder
- 31 A little hoarse
- 32 Schwarzenegger blockbuster film of '85

- 33 Chronicle of the Bergsons in rural Nebraska
- 34 Presidential nickname
- 35 Rope feature favored by rock climbers
- 37 ____ game
- 38 Personal
- 40 '70s Chanel spokesperson
- 42 Fast
- 43 Assimilates
- 45 No longer noisy, perhaps
- 47 Dodge
- 48 Freshen up
- 49 Picnic supplies
- 52 Vituperate
- 53 Jackson fractions
- 56 Used up
- 58 Elephant predator, per Marco Polo
- 59 Oregon license-plate depiction

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | 15 | | | | 16 |
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| 19 | | | | | 20 | | | | | 21 | | | 22 | |
| 23 | | | 24 | 25 | | | 26 | | | | | | 27 | |
| | | | 28 | | 29 | 30 | | | | | 31 | | | |
| 32 | 33 | 34 | | | | | | | | 35 | | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | | | 37 | 38 | | | | | |
| 39 | | | | | | | 40 | | | | | | | |
| 41 | | | | | 42 | 43 | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | | | | 45 | | | | | | 46 | | 47 | 48 | 49 |
| 50 | | | | 51 | | | | 52 | 53 | | | 54 | | |
| 55 | | | 56 | | | 57 | | | | 58 | 59 | | | |
| 60 | | | | | | 61 | | | | | | | | |
| | 62 | | | | | 63 | | | | | | | | |

Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

pairs of rubber boots at our back entry. He honestly doesn't see that any of this is a problem, and if I approach him about it, he becomes violently angry. He constantly accumulates little piles of coins and receipts on his bedside table until I go through the mess and clean it up. He will wash and fold his laundry, but then leaves it stacked in the laundry room. I'm pretty sure he has some hoarding behavior, but leaving the cabinet and closet doors open only makes it worse for me. What can I do? -- Frustrated Wife

Dear Frustrated: People who leave projects unfinished and don't follow through with putting things away often have adult ADD (not OCD). Still, we wouldn't be too quick to label him. He may simply be lazy and thoughtless. Behavior

modification and reminders to close those cabinet doors could help with some of this. We are more concerned with his violently angry reaction when you bring up the subject. If he does this frequently and you are afraid of him, please call the Domestic Violence Hotline (theline.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE. If this only happens when you mention this specific behavior, he may actually fear that he has some terrible affliction that he cannot control. Please reassure him, and suggest he ask his doctor to test him for adult ADD.

Dear Annie: I could not believe your response to "Want It to Stop," whose brother separated from his wife, "Sherrrie," and she seems to be stalking him. Sherrrie has three children under the age of 5. Considering the

possibility of postpartum depression and the stress of raising all those little girls, I can only say we should pray for this poor woman and her children. "Want" said her brother isn't blameless. Maybe he is a major creep, irresponsible and a cheater. His family should not be excusing his behavior. He should be taking care of this woman, who, after all, is still his wife. If she needs medical care, he should help pay for it. I am sick of these so-called men who go around planting seeds and then think they can flit around like single men. He needs to grow up. Please revise your response. -- K.

Dear K.: No, but we will clarify. Right or wrong, you cannot force an irresponsible childish man to grow up. You can only make sure he pays child support and fulfills

his legal obligations. Sherrrie may have postpartum depression, or she may be overwhelmed by childrearing. We said she needs professional help, and we hope she gets it. But even if she is suffering, our concern is that she is punishing the children. The brother may be a total creep and a cheater (we don't know), but Sherrrie is tormenting her kids and making them emotional wrecks. Before anyone can help Sherrrie, those kids must be protected and removed from the dangerous environment she is creating.

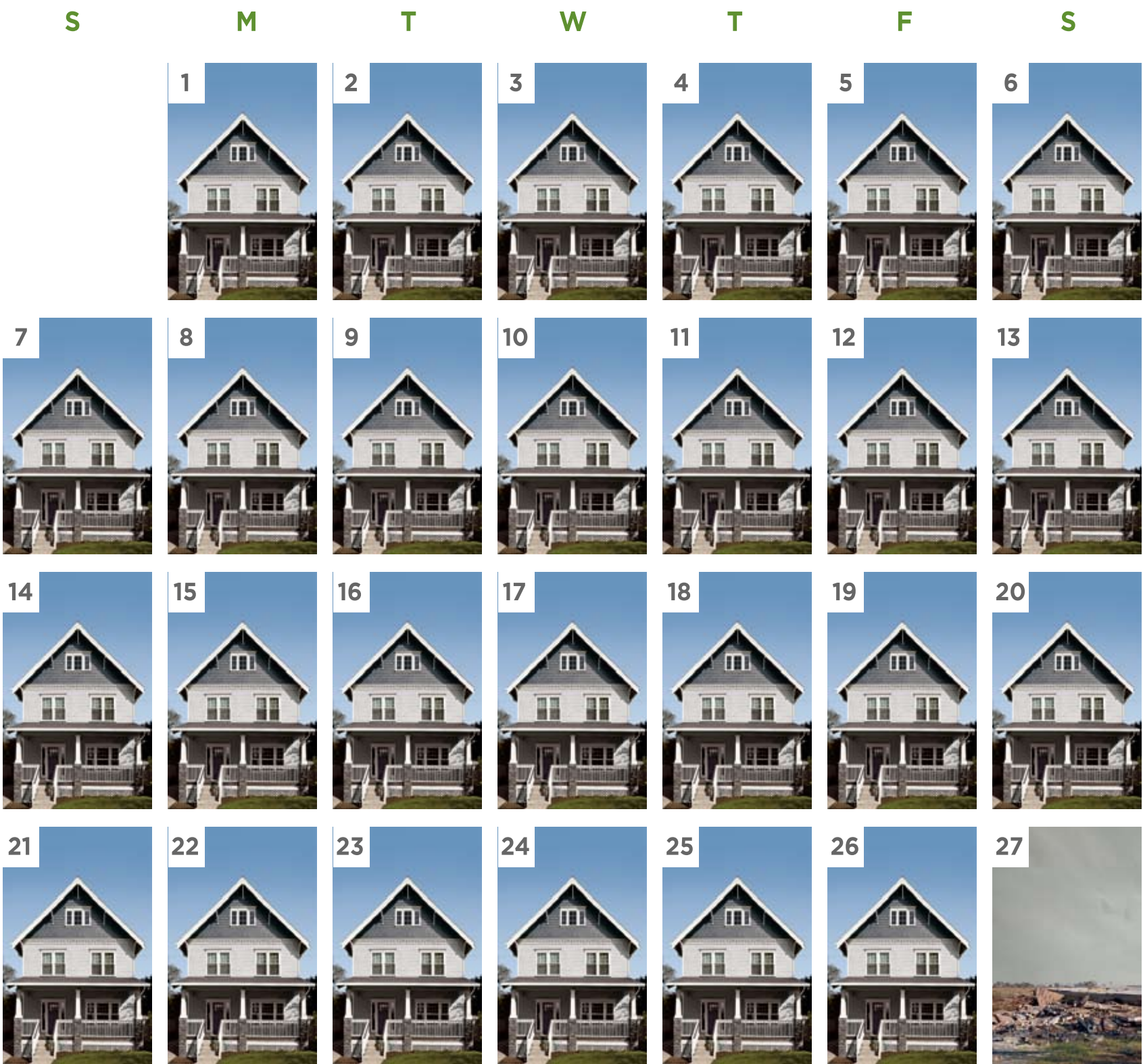
Dear Annie: "Getting It Off My Chest" complained that family never visits her. My parents moved across the country several years ago and now live in a beautiful location. While I love them, I do not want to (a) spend my precious

vacation time going there every year, or (b) spend my entire vacation feeling obligated to do things together. It's exhausting. Traveling to visit family members who have moved away is, quite frankly, a chore. -- Not a Vacation

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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