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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Traffic came to a standstill on Highway 87 Tuesday afternoon after a tanker hauling ethanol overturned at the intersection of north Highway 87 and FM 700. The accident prompted law enforcement to close down the northbound lanes and divert traffic to the southbound lanes. According to law enforcement on the scene, no injuries were reported.

WTC offering mental health first aid course

Special to the Herald

West Texas Centers and Howard College are offering a Mental Health First Aid training session to people who are interested in knowing how to respond to people in a mental health crisis.

This class will be offered January 20th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Howard College Warren Center, Big Spring campus. An hour will be set aside for lunch. Lunch will not be provided. To register, contact the lic and free to Texas educators teach-Howard College Registrar's Office at ing grades kindergarten through 12.

A Youth Mental Health First Aid Class will also be offered Feb. 25, 2015. This course will teach the risk factors and warning signs for a range of mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, psychosis, eating disorders, ADHD, disruptive behavior disorder and substance use disorders. This class will be available at Howard College. To register for this class contact the Howard College Registrar's Office.

Classes are \$50 for the general pub-The class includes a mental health See WTC, Page 3

first aid trainee manual.

Mental health first aid helps those experiencing mental health problems before they can obtain professional help and support, said West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith.

"It is similar to First Aid and CPR," Smith said. "It is designed to give members of the public key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. It is not geared toward professionals in the mental health field, but they can

Silver Wings Ball:

Gala set for Saturday

BY LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Tickets are rapidly disappearing for the first black-tie event in Big Spring this year.

By Tuesday morning, only 40 tickets were left for the Silver Wings Ball, a semi-formal affair held annually to benefit the Hangar 25 Air Museum, according to Amber Stokes, museum director.

"This is our only fund-raiser of the year, and we would love to sell out and have the public attend," Stokes

"This museum honors the former air base here in Big Spring and helps keep alive this tremendous part of the history of the town."

The evening begins Saturday at the Hotel Settles when Silver Wings Ball attendees are welcome a cocktail hour at 6 p.m.

"We have a professional photographer who will take photos of the couples in front of the grand staircase in the Historic Settles lobby," Stokes said. "A cocktail hour will be held upstairs and the champaign will be flowing. To add a little fun, we will have a photo booth available and sev-

eral different military-type hats." A formal dinner and dancing will begin at 7 p.m. and continue through to 11 p.m. Also on tap that night is a

See GALA, Page 3

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House rule sets up Social Security battle

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Buried in new rules that will govern the House for the next two years is a provision that could force an explosive battle over Social Security's finances on the eve of the 2016 presidential election.

Social Security's disability program has been swamped by aging baby boomers, and unless Congress acts, the trust fund that supports it is projected to run dry in late 2016. At that point, the program will collect only enough payroll taxes to pay 81 percent of benefits, according to the trustees who oversee Social Security.

To shore up the disability program, Congress could redirect payroll taxes from Social Security's much larger retirement fund — as it has done in the past. However, the House adopted a rule Tuesday blocking such a move, unless it is part of a larger plan to improve Social Security's finances, by either cutting ben-

"By putting this rule into effect, we are sending a clear indication that we're not just going to allow the raid of retirement Social Security to be used to bail out the disability trust fund. We need real reform. This makes that real reform that much more likely."

R-N.Y.

efits or raising taxes.

Long the third rail of American politics, tinkering with Social Security has never been easy. Throw in electionyear politics and finding votes in Congress to cut benefits or

raise taxes could be especialaverage monthly payment for a disabled worker is \$1,146,

or a little less than \$14,000 a

kitchen sink.

Rep. Tom Reed, R-N.Y., said he sponsored the provision in an effort to force Congress to find a long-term solution to the disability program's financial problems. "By putting this rule into

effect, we are sending a clear indication that we're not just going to allow the raid of retirement Social Security to be used to bail out the disability trust fund," Reed said. "We need real reform. This makes that real reform that much more likely."

rule could be used to help push through benefit cuts, especially since House Republicans have opposed raising

taxes. "It is difficult to believe that there is any purpose to this unprecedented change to House rules other than to cut benefits for Americans who have worked hard all their lives, paid into Social Security, and rely on their Social Security benefits, including disability, in order to survive," said Max Richtman, president of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

David Certner of AARP said it would be a mistake to eliminate the option of redirecting money from the retirement fund, which Congress has done in the past.

"Otherwise, we could be facing a deadline, and certainly over the last couple of years, we've seen Congress seemingly unable to pass bills, even with deadlines in front

See RULE, Page 3

ly difficult. But if Congress doesn't act, benefits for 11 million disabled workers, spouses and children would be automatically cut by 19 percent. The

> Advocates for older Americans are warning that the

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Danny Ferrell



Danny Ferrell, 58, of Big Spring died Sunday Jan. 4, 2015, at Martin County Hospital in Stanton. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, at Trinity Baptist Church with Steve "Watty" Watson officiating.

Danny was born July 12, 1956, in Denison, Texas to Mary and Roy Ferrell. He moved to Big Spring in 1973 when his father was stationed at Webb Air Force Base. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1975. He

received his bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He received his master's degree from Angelo State in San Angelo. He received his superintendent certification from West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

Danny married Donna Brown on December 18, 1981, in San Angelo.

Danny began his career in education as a coach in San Angelo, and then became principal at Paint Rock. He went to White Deer as an elementary prin-

Obituaries

cipal, then high school principal, and then superintendent. Danny returned to Big Spring in 2009 as assistant superintendent. He was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

His hobbies were 4-wheeling and hunting with

Danny is survived by his wife Donna of Big Spring; one son, Brian Ferrell of San Angelo; one brother, David Ferrell and his wife Maria of Mississippi; three sisters, Debbie McCain and her husband Jimmie of Sand Springs, Diane Fulton and her husband Tim of Lubbock, and Denise Ferrell of Big Spring; several nieces, nephews and cousins; mother -and father-in-law, Bill and Martha Brown of Christoval; and his school family.

Danny was preceded in death by his parents.

The family suggests memorials to Gideon International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060, P. O. Box 133, Big Spring, Texas 79720, Relay for Life, Attn: Sandy Griffin, 1217 E. 17th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, or other favorite charity.

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

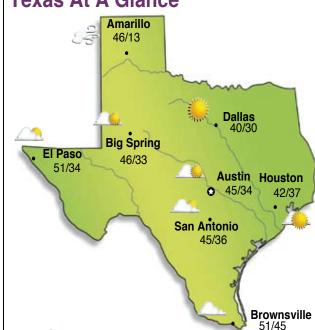
Leonard E. Burks

Leonard E. Burks, 82, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Today's Weather

Local	5-Day F	orecas	t	
Thu 1/8	Fri 1/9	Sat 1/10	Sun 1/11	Mon 1/12
	1/11/11/11/11/1			
46/33 Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 46F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.	32/24 A light wintry mix in the morning.	41/31 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.	53/35 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	51/31 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:00 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:01 PM

Texas At A Glance



Police/Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Tuesday:

- REBECCA PORRAS EN-RIQUEZ, 49. Midland, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication. ARMANDO JOSE CER-
- VANTES, 22, 911 N.W. Second. was arrested on charges of resisting arrest, search or transport, obstruction or retaliation and a warrant from another agency.
- ANGELA ANN MCGEE, 32, 105 W. Fifth, was arrested on warrants charging failure to signal before turning and driving while license invalid.
- PABLO MORENO, 36, 200 Algerita, was arrested on a warrant charging driving while license invalid and a warrant from another agency.
- DAVID M. PETERSON, 33, 1111 E. 14th, was arrested on warrants charging unlawfully carry-

ing a weapon and evading arrest or detention and a warrant from another agency.

- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 200 block of S. Lancaster.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITA-TION was reported in the 1800 block of E. 15th, the 800 block of W. FM 700 and the 1000 block of N.W. Second.
- THEFT was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Seventh and the 2600 block of W. Highway 80.
- HARASSMENT was reported in the 900 block of S. Birdwell and the 1500 block of Vines.

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Tuesday (Officials note 67 prisoners at the time of this re-

• REBECCA PORRAS EN-RIQUEZ, 49, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

- ANGELA ANN MCGEE, 32, was jailed on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **FRACISCO GABINO** DOMINGUEZ, 27, was jailed on charges of driving while license invalid.
- TOMMY THOMAS, 42, was jailed on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- DAVID MICHAEL PETER-SON, 33, was jailed on charges of theft under \$500, unlawfully carrying a weapon and evading arrest or detention.
- PABLO MORENO, 36, was jailed on a charge of driving while license invalid and a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated/third or more offense.
- ARMANDO CERVANTES, 22, was jailed on charges of bail jumping, failure to appear, resisting arrest, search or transport and obstruction or retaliation.

Support Groups at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The mous meets at Spring

THURSDAY Alcoholics Anony-

- mous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Nonsmoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faithbased support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m.

classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

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

Flexible payment op-

 Stepping Stone Group until noon and again of Narcotics Anony-

Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears). Open meeting at 7 p.m.

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

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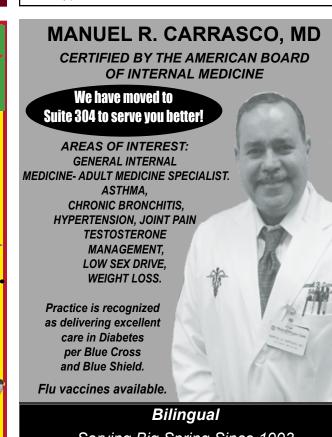
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RULE

Continued from Page 1

of them," Certner said. Tuesday started off as a day of pomp and ceremony on Capitol Hill, the first day of a new Congress. Republicans assumed control of the Senate for the first time in eight years, making Sen. Mitch Mc-Connell of Kentucky the majority leader.

Republican John Boehner of Ohio was re-elected speaker of the House. Relatives filled the public galleries and small children dotted the House chamber as their parents were sworn in as members of the 114th Congress.

But the partisan rancor that has dogged Congress for years returned when the House debated its new rules. The 36-page set of rules passed by a vote of 234-172, with all Democrats opposed and almost every Republican in fa-

On page 32 is a provision that allows any representative to raise a point of order if the House tries to pass a bill redirecting tax revenue from Social Security's retirement fund to the disability fund. The House could vote to overcome the objection, but that could be difficult, with almost every Republican supporting the rule that passed Tuesday.

Social Security's longterm financial problems are well-documented, as millions of baby boomers approach retirement, leaving relatively fewer workers to pay the payroll taxes that support it.

Social Security has more than \$2.7 trillion in reserves, but the retirement program has been paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes since 2010.

The disability program has been paying out more than it collects since 2005. Social Security is sup-

ported by a 12.4 percent tax on wages up to \$118,500. Half is paid by workers and half is paid by employers. Most of the payroll tax

- 10.6 percent of wages — goes to the retirement fund. The remaining 1.8 percent of wages goes to the disability fund. Social Security's retire-

ment trust fund is projected to run dry in 2034. At that point, it would only collect enough payroll taxes to pay about 75 percent of benefits. If the retirement fund and the disability fund

were combined, would have enough money to pay full benefits until 2033, giving lawmakers more time to address their long-term finances. Reed, the sponsor of the

new rule, said his goal is to address the disability program well before the trust fund runs dry.

"As we get through the initial concerns raised by the various groups," Reed said, "I hope the dust will settle and they'll see that this is a sincere effort to put a long-term solution together that works for everybody."

Take note

- Calling it "a child safety measure," Scenic Mountain Medical Center will no longer publicize the first baby of the New Year. "Like many hospitals around the country, we've based this decision on guidance provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which has cautioned against these kinds of announcements because of the potential risk of abduction or identity theft." said a SMMC spokesperson. "The birth of a baby is a joyous event and we know there is always interest in the first baby of the new year, but our first obligation is to the safety and privacy of our patients, which is why we have made this decision."
- · 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.
- · Reservations are being taken for shirts and transportation for Howard County Day in Austin. The one-day event is meant to highlight the economic importance of Howard County to Texas law makers. Howard County Day in Austin is set for Feb. 10, 2015. Reservations are now being taken for a seat on a bus leaving from the Dorothy Garret Coliseum to attend the event. The charge is \$40 per person and the deadline to register for a seat is Feb. 2. Shirt order deadline for a Howard County shirt is Jan. 7. The cost is For more information, contact Teresa Darden

at the Big Spring Economic Development at 264-• A hungry child cannot learn. Food2Kids - Big

Spring was created to provide nutrition for hundreds of children who do not get a substantial meal on the weekends. F2K began last November

and this volunteer program now serves more than 300 children weekly. Once the need has been identified, F2K fills a sack of food to send home each Friday during the school year. You can help. Volunteers are needed and donations can be sent to Food2Kids - Big Spring, P.O. Box 1641, Big Spring 79721. Find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids

- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Thursday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 270-7263.
- The Cross Roads Young Marines are taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.
- Crossroads Hospice is looking for volunteers. Come and be part of our team. Contact Eva at 432-263-5300.
- The Big Spring Senior Center dance is open to all ages. No alcohol or smoking. Our parking lot is now well lit, and we are handicapped-accessible. Cost is \$8 per person.
- Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you.

For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

· Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

WTC

GALA

Settles

Continued from Page 1

silent auction and a

chance to receive a two-

night stay at the Hotel

Continued from Page 1

learn from this training."

Mental health problems — such as depression, anxiety, impulse control and misuse of alcohol and other drugs are common in the United States, Smith said.

More than one in four American adults will have a mental health problem this year. The National Council

on Community Behavioral Healthcare works communities throughout the nation, including West Texas Centers, to implement Mental Health First Aid to arm the public with

who will be playing

a sort of jazzy, period

music to lightening the

dinner," Stokes added.

atmosphere during the

skills to help individuals who are developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis.

The clinical and qualitative evidence behind the program demonstrates that it helps the public better identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness, thus improving

it the museum at 1911

Hangar 25 Air Mu-

seum is a non-profit or-

ganization dedicated to

Apron Drive.

"We will have a D.J. Stokes at 264-1999 or vis-

To purchase tickets the historical preserva-

or for more information tion of the U.S. Air Force

about the ball, contact Bombardier School and

outcomes for individuals experiencing these illnesses. Participants of Mental

Health First Aid are introduced to risk factors and warning signs for mental health or substance use problems; engage in experiential activities that build understanding of the impact of illness on in-

Webb Air Force Base

which were both located

in Big Spring on what

is now the McMahon-

Wrinkle Airport and In-

Contact Lyndel Moody

at 263-7331, ext. 234.

dustrial Park.

dividuals and families; and get information about evidence-supported treatment and selfhelp strategies. They also receive a course manual and a certificate at the completion of the course. Continuing Education Units are available.

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For more information, contact Amy Johnson, West Texas Centers Mental Health Provider Development Coordinator (432) 466-5924.

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Fred Hendrickson, 68, died Friday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Richard Cantwell, 73, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Daniel A. "Danny

Ferrell, 58, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Trinity Baptist Church. Juan M. Martinez, 71, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers &

Smith Funeral Home.



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Non-morbid thoughts about death There is a thin line between morbidity and mortality. It's morbid to constantly think Non-morbid thoughts about death, when others were dying daily all around. Even without taking the plague into account, it was to avert it altogether," Waldman wrote, with few catastrophes the average American could not somehow avert

"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."

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

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about death and dying and quite another to be sensibly aware of the appointment

we all have with eternity. If you are wise you will never forget that every breath you enjoy is a gift from God and you will cherish them every one. As I have been vividly reminded several times within the last few days, none of us know



PRINCE

when we will draw our final inhalation of earthly air. The passing of several friends has occurred closely timed during the past week and while I do not intend to cross that aforementioned thin line, addressing the subject of man's mortality, which is defined as "the state of being subject to death," seems unavoidable.

We all know what it's like to say goodbye to someone dear to us. Sometimes that goodbye is momentary, such as when they leave to go home after visiting and the plan is to be together again. Sadly, we also all know what it's like to say goodbye to someone dear to us and never see them alive again in this

Things can happen to cause us to be conscious of the reality of death more than usual, such as the recent Ebola scare or the AIDS fear that swept the world a few years back. While both of these, as well as many others, are still very real threats to the human condition, we tend to lose our keen awareness of the possibility of dying when the panic stage fades. Then we retreat into that much more comfortable mindset that all is well and we forget about our mortality until something else revives the concern.

As paradoxical as it may seem, death has always been a part of living. Death came about as a result of sin and it continues to have ultimate dominion over all living creation. In every age, such as the Renaissance, mortality was an unavoidable concern due to the spread of the plague. One could not avoid

a harsher era than we, the products of the 21st century, can imagine, without the luxuries and medical miracles that we take for granted. In our day it's tempting to think we may somehow never have to die. But, alas, reality once again rises and we recall our unavoidable rendezvous with our mortality. Milton Waldman, writing

in The American Mercury in 1927, posited that our sense of death- one of the cornerstones of Western civilization, he felt- was not only on the decline in the United States but on the brink of disappearing completely. Now it's 2015 but, if anything, it has declined even more in today's culture, especially in our United States.

In Europe, Waldman concluded after a trip across the pond, death continued to be a prominent theme in religion, philosophy, the arts, and literature but here in America few people wanted to think or talk much about it. Americans were more interested in spinning the wheels of commerce and too busy making money in the booming stock market to have time for death, he felt. The only ones taking the subject seriously here were businesspeople incorporating their companies to avoid estate taxes should they die, people paying their life insurance premiums, and hypochondriacs. Once firmly embedded in the writings of Poe, Whitman, Melville, Lincoln, and Dickinson (over a third of her poems addressed the subject), the concept of death could now be hardly found in American literature, this a reflection of its downgraded cultural status.

Why and how had Americans, as he expressed it, "forgotten" death?

Life in America in the 20th century was a lot safer than it had been a half-century earlier, Waldman theorized, and significantly more comfortable than in contemporary Europe. It was true that the American horn of plenty had greatly lowered the odds of famine, the Machine Age creating abundance for many if not most citizens. "And so he has come to mitigate death in a sense

Given our dismissive attitude towards death, it was not surprising to Waldman that some scientists and physicians had begun to view death as a faulty cog in the apparatus of life that could possibly be repaired.

"It is amazing, this firmly-held tenet that the basic immutable law of nature is merely a careless flaw in the organization of things," he exclaimed, our social resistance to death bringing this on. Waldman believed all this to be unnatural and harmful, our "dying less" making us "live less." Whether we recognized it or not, death was, he eloquently stated, "A desirable corner from which to survey life, because it makes life itself more precious and significant; because it gives poignancy to its beauties and delicate shades to its surfaces; because in the end, by accepting the inevitable, it makes for a finer, clearer understanding of ourselves; because it makes us see ourselves against the one background of which we are certain-that of the inexorable law of our common mortality."

There's plenty to ponder in that commentary. It is certainly not healthy to live in torment of death or dying, but neither is it to our advantage to ignore the reality of its existence as it relates to each of us individually. Truthfully, it could happen to any of us at any time and we need to stay ready just in

What would it take for you to be ready? A personal visit with God, a call to apologize, a letter to tell someone you love them, or any one of a thousand other scenarios may be something you want to consider doing very soon. In fact, what's wrong with today? Better yet, what about right now? Proverbs 27:1 says, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring."

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.

How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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Daily Prayer

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

alifornia parents are refusing to vaccinate their kindergartners at twice the rate of seven years ago, so the Los Angeles Times reports. The result has been the return of measles and other serious diseases that can lead to paralysis, birth defects and death. The state is now suffering a whooping cough epidemic — it's amazing to say

in the year 2015.

But the real shocker in the story is this: The rise in "personal belief exemptions" — a loophole in the law requiring parents to have their children vaccinated - ishighest in rich coastal and mountain areas. For example,



HARROP

students at the Santa Cruz Montessori obtained belief exemptions and are not vaccinated. These prosperous communities are heavily influenced by the

an astounding 23 percent of

organic-natural foods culture about which there is much good to say. However, the alternativelifestyle package often includes a hostility to mainstream science based largely on myth and lies. As such, these generally

progressive "anti-vaxxers," for all their educated airs, bear a resemblance to religious conservatives who reject the theory of evolution. Both groups regard the scientific authorities as just another untrustworthy

source — and find charlatans with degrees to contradict them.

The suspicion of vaccination got its biggest boost from junk science spread by a British doctor, Andrew Wakefield. In 1998, he published a paper in the medical journal The Lancet holding that autism may be caused by the common vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella.

Wakefield's work was subsequently found to be scientific quackery. Lawyers suing vaccine-makers funded some of it. The Lancet retracted the paper, and Britain has stripped Wakefield of his right to practice medicine there.

The damage, however, has not been undone. Measles, which in 2000 had virtually disappeared in this country, is back. And it is highly infectious.

Public health officials went on high alert after a college student with measles proceeded to travel on Bay Area Rapid Transit trains, exposing thousands. The unvaccinated student, enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, had apparently picked up the disease while traveling through Asia.

Measles kills two out of every 1,000 children who get itn. In pregnant women, it causes premature and low-weight births.

Immunization need not reach 100 percent to keep a population safe from widespread outbreaks. But for such easily transmitted diseases as measles and whooping cough, it must be high, at least 92 percent.

The parents who refuse to have their children vaccinated are

The rich and their anti-vaccine quacks incomprehensible. A mother of three unvaccinated children attending public school in Orange County told an LA Times reporter that the family believes in staying healthy "from the inside out." That means taking vitamins and supplements and avoiding genetically modified foods. Thus, vaccination not

> needed. Good Lord. But perhaps more unfathomable are the threequarters of the parents at the fancy Santa Cruz Montessori school who did obtain shots for their little ones and kept them there. Why would they want their children in a school where poor-country illnesses may threaten pregnant women and infants who visit?

There's also the quaint notion of shared responsibility for the public health. Such arguments get drowned in the nasty propaganda of anti-vaccination groups with neutral names. We speak of the National Vaccine Information Center, which the American Academy of Pediatrics says abuses science and, through its message, puts others at risk.

These "personal belief exemptions" are largely baloney. If they can't be limited, they should be ended. Parents refusing to protect their own children are bad enough. Letting them expose others to serious and easily preventable disease is outrageous.

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.

News in brief

Divers spot tail of AirAsia plane in Java Sea; black boxes

located in that part of the jet

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP) — Divers and an unmanned underwater vehicle on Wednesday spotted the tail of the AirAsia plane that crashed into the Java Sea with 162 people on board, an important finding because the jet's black boxes are located in that part of the aircraft, an official said. Powerful currents and murky water continue to

hinder the operation, but searchers managed to get a photograph of the debris — about 9 kilometers (nearly 6 miles) from where Flight 8501 lost contact Dec. 28 — after it was detected by an Indonesian survey ship, National Search and Rescue chief Henry Bambang Soelistyo told reporters.

One released image appeared to show an upside down "A" painted on a piece of metal, while another grainy shot depicted some sort of mechanical

The find is particularly significant because the all-important cockpit voice and flight data recorders, or black boxes, are located in the aircraft's tail. Smaller pieces of the plane, such as seats and an emergency door, had previously been collected from the surface, and six other several large objects have been detected by sonar on the seabed in

"Today we successfully discovered the part of the plane that became the main aim since yesterday," Soelistyo said. "I can ensure that this is part of the tail with the AirAsia mark on it."

Drones invite a revolution in the skies, but tall obstacles could delay new industry's takeoff

BOULEVARD, Calif. (AP) — The drones are com-

Not as flying deliverymen that bring diapers, books or soup cans to your home, a vision put forth by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos to much fanfare a little more than a year ago.

Instead, drones will help spray crops, inspect high-voltage power lines and hover over movie sets to provide directors with new vantage points. They will also work for insurance companies, real estate agencies, ski resorts and dozens of other business-

Eventually.

For now, this all remains theoretical. Except for a few locations, U.S. airspace is closed to commercial drones. Regulators say the danger is too great, and they want to go slow easing unmanned aircraft into the already crowded skies.

Suicide bomber attacks police academy enrollment in Yemen's capital, killing at least 30

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A suicide bomber driving a minibus killed at least 30 people Wednesday as cadets gathered to enroll at a police academy in the heart of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, authorities said.

The blast wounded dozens of people, officials initially said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists.

At the scene of the blast, the dead and wounded lay on a sidewalk against a wall. Water sprayed by firefighters to extinguish the blaze mixed with their pooled blood. A charred taxi cab smoked near what remained of the minibus, meters (yards) from a gate for the police academy.

The bomber struck as lines of cadets waited outside of the academy, preparing to enroll, witnesses

"What happened is we were all gathering and ... (the bomber) exploded right next to all of the police college classmates," eyewitness Jamil al-Khaleedi told The Associated Press. "It went off among all of them, and they flew through the air."

New House rule sets up potential election-year battle over Social Security's finances in 2016

301 E. 24th

WASHINGTON (AP) — Buried in new rules that will govern the House for the next two years is a

provision that could force an explosive battle over Social Security's finances on the eve of the 2016 presidential election.

Social Security's disability program has been swamped by aging baby boomers, and unless Congress acts, the trust fund that supports it is projected to run dry in late 2016. At that point, the program will collect only enough payroll taxes to pay 81 percent of benefits, according to the trustees who oversee Social Security.

To shore up the disability program, Congress could redirect payroll taxes from Social Security's much larger retirement fund — as it has done in the past. However, the House adopted a rule Tuesday blocking such a move, unless it is part of a larger plan to improve Social Security's finances, by either cutting benefits or raising taxes. Long the third rail of American politics, tinkering

with Social Security has never been easy. Throw in election-year politics and finding votes in Congress to cut benefits or raise taxes could be especially dif-

But if Congress doesn't act, benefits for 11 million disabled workers, spouses and children would be automatically cut by 19 percent. The average monthly payment for a disabled worker is \$1,146, or a little less than \$14,000 a year.

Obama looks outside of Washington to keep burst of momentum from stalling out

WASHINGTON(AP)—President Barack Obama's approval rating is creeping upward. The economy is growing. And a flurry of aggressive executive actions on domestic and foreign policy have energized the West Wing.

Obama's challenge now is to figure out how to prevent this burst of momentum from being more than just a blip on the radar of his presidency's

To the White House, the immediate answer lies outside of Washington. On Wednesday, Obama starts three days of travel to Michigan, Arizona and Tennessee to preview manufacturing, housing and education proposals that will be part of his Jan. 20 State of the Union address.

Not on Obama's schedule during his first workweek of the new year: a meeting with the leaders of the Republican-led Congress, which officially began Tuesday. That won't happen until early next

"I'm confident there are going to be areas where we disagree and there will be some pitched battles," Obama said of the new GOP leadership, though he added that he was hopeful for a "productive 2015."

Protests planned in Canada as Bill Cosby returns to the stage for first time since November

TORONTO (AP) — A scandal-plagued Bill Cosby returns to the stage Wednesday night for the first time since November and his reception is certain to be mixed, with some planning protests, others vowing not to show up and still others saying they



will heckle the comedian.

The three performances in Canada follow sexual assault allegations by more than 15 women and come after Cosby saw at least 10 performances get canceled on his North American tour.

The 77-year-old comedian is scheduled to appear at the Centre in the Square in Kitchener, Ontario, on Wednesday; at the Budweiser Gardens in London, Ontario, on Thursday; and at the Hamilton Place Theatre in Hamilton, Ontario, on Friday. "I don't know how people in good conscience

can go and enjoy the show," said Maureen Dragas-Dragasevich, 59, said she and her family bought

tickets and were once huge fans, but they're not go-

Korean Air 'nut rage' executive charged with violating aviation security law, hindering probe

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean prosecutors on Wednesday charged the former Korean Air Lines executive who achieved worldwide notoriety by kicking a crew member off a flight with violating aviation security law and hindering a government investigation. Cho Hyun-ah, who is the daughter of the airline's

chairman, ordered a senior crewmember off a Dec. 5 flight after being offered macadamia nuts in a bag, instead of on a dish. The plane returned to the gate at John F. Kennedy airport to disembark the flight attendant. Cho's actions amounted to "threatening the safe-

ty of the flight and causing confusion in law and order," prosecutor Kim Chang-hee said during a briefing that was broadcast live by local television networks.

She could face up to 15 years in prison if found guilty of all four charges she faces, according to Attorney Park Jin Nyoung, spokesman for the Korean Bar Association. Prosecutors accused her of forcing a flight to change its normal route, which Park said was the most serious charge with a maximum prison sentence of 10 years. The three other charges she faces are the use of violence against flight crew, hindering a government probe and forcing the flight's purser off the plane.



By Steve Becker

Case of the Telltale Deuce

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH ♦ K Q 9 4 3 **♣**K 6 2 WEST ♥Q7632 ♥AK 1085 **♣**Q 10 9 3 SOUTH **♦** A K 10 6 4 3 The bidding: South West 2 ♥ East North Pass Opening lead king of hearts.

Ordinarily, more mistakes are made by the defenders than by declarer. The main reason for this is that the defenders cannot see their side's combined 26 cards, but only the 13 cards they were dealt plus the 13 cards in dummy.

Declarer does not suffer from this handicap. As soon as dummy appears, he knows exactly how many cards his side has in each suit, as well as their exact value. He also knows which 26 cards are missing, although he cannot of course know precisely

how they are divided.

Close partnership cooperation can often overcome the natural disadvantage of the defenders. To achieve the optimal result, they must try to guide each other to the best line of defense, utilizing whatever information they have from the bidding, plus any additional information they gain as the play progresses

Consider this case where East wisely played the deuce, rather than the six or seven, on West's opening lead of the heart king. The deuce instructs West to stop playing the suit, and if West is a partnershiporiented individual, he obeys East's request and shifts to a club, the only suit that holds any promise for the defense.

It is not important whether West plays the ace or a low club at trick two; in either case, declarer goes down one, losing a heart, a spade and

But if West does not heed East's stop signal at trick one and continues with the ace of hearts, declarer can make the contract. He ruffs the ace of hearts, cashes the A-K of trumps and starts playing diamonds.

West can ruff the third diamond, but the defense can no longer score two club tricks unless West shifts to a low club and South misguesses by playing low from dummy.

Tomorrow: Detective work works well. ©2015 King Features Syndicate Inc

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White House says it will veto bill to approve oil pipeline

WASHINGTON (AP) - The White House on Tuesday threatened to veto the first piece of legislation introduced in the Republican-controlled Senate, a bill approving the muchdelayed Keystone XL oil pipeline, in what was expected to be the first of many confrontations over energy and environmental policy.

Hours after supporters of the bipartisan bill, which is sponsored by all 54 Senate Republicans and six Democrats, announced its introduction, the White House said for the first time that President Barack Obama would veto it.

"If this bill passes this Congress, the president wouldn't sign" it, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Tuesday, saying legislation shouldn't undermine the review process underway at the State Department or circumvent a pending lawsuit in Nebraska over its route.

It's "premature to try to evaluate the project before something as basic as the route of the pipeline has been established," he said.

The two main sponsors, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said Tuesday morning they had enough votes to overcome a filibuster of the bill but not a presidential veto. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, in one of his first acts, moved to put it directly on the Senate calendar. The House is expected to vote and pass a bill approving the \$5.4 billion project, which was first proposed in 2008, on Friday. "The President threat-

ening to veto the first bipartisan infrastructure bill of the new Congress must come as a shock to the American people who spoke loudly in November in favor of bipartisan accomplishments," McConnell said.

Hoeven said if the

president chooses to veto the bill, he would work to attach it to a broader energy package or must-pass spending bills.

Manchin, whose office reached out to the White House earlier in the day, told reporters the veto threat was a surprise that "slapped down" a bipartisan effort before it even got started.

"It's just wrong. It's just not the way you do business," said Manchin, the only Democrat remaining in the West Virginia delegation. "If this is the start of things, it is a sad beginning."

The bill is identical to one that failed to pass the Senate by a single vote in November, when Democrats were in control and Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana pushed for a vote to save her Senate seat. She lost to Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy, who sponsored the successful House bill approving the pipeline.

But now the odds of passage are much improved with the Republican takeover of the Senate. The bill will also test Republicans' commitment to more open debate. Hoeven and Manchin said they welcomed additions to the bill, which they hoped would increase support.

In a letter to Democrats from their leader-

ship obtained by the AP Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan said the Keystone bill was "the first opportunity to demonstrate that we will be united, energetic, and effective in offering amendments that create a clear contrast with the Republican majority."

Among the ideas suggested in the letter were measures to prohibit exporting the oil abroad, to ensure American iron, steel and other goods were used in the pipeline's construction and to match every job created by the pipeline with an investment in clean energy.

Sudoku Answer on Page 8

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

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

Big week begins for laws over abortion, gay marriage

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — While promises to cut taxes and fight President Barack Obama helped bring Texas Republicans sweeping election victories, two symbols of conservatism in the state are now on potentially shaky ground: tougher abortion restrictions and prohibitions on gay

A busy week for two signature Texas laws signed by outgoing Republican Gov. Rick Perry begins Wednesday when the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans considers whether the state can maintain its ban on same-sex marriage and impose rigid standards on abortion pro-

Texas is coming off losses in both cases.

A federal judge in San Antonio ruled last February that the state's ban on gay marriage was unconstitutional — but left the law in place pending appeal. In the other case, dozens of abortion clinics forced to shutter under a 2013 law won a temporary reprieve in October.

Both gay-rights groups and

abortion-rights organizations are embracing that momentum before facing what is widely considered to be among the most conservative appeals courts in the U.S.

First up before the court are oral arguments Wednesday over state abortion restrictions that require clinics to meet hospitallevel operating standards. On Friday, the panel will then tackle the gay marriage ban in Texas, which remains one of 14 states where same-sex couple cannot

Gov.-elect Greg Abbott, the former attorney general, and other Republicans want the court to allow the state to enforce the new abortion restrictions. A ruling supporting the laws would leave only eight abortion providers in the nation's second-most populous state.

Seventeen abortion clinics currently operate in Texas, but if the law is upheld, more than half would close because those facilities lack operating rooms or other costly additions. Texas had more than 40 abortion clinics in 2012,

but many closed under a separate new requirement that doctors who perform abortions have hospital admitting privileges. Although last year saw a wave

of federal judges strike down bans on same-sex marriage across the U.S., conservative states have been more successful preserving restrictions on abortion. "Just counting the number of laws passed by state legislatures,

it's been quite remarkable," said Joe Pojman, executive director of the anti-abortion group Texas Alliance for Life. On Monday, Florida became the latest state where same-sex marriages are now legal. Former Republican Gov. Jeb Bush, a potential 2016 presidential candi-

date whose son George P. Bush

is now the new Texas state land

commissioner, said the ruling by

a circuit court judge should be re-Texas leaders have so far been more defiant. But Mark Phariss, who is among the Texas couples suing the state over its ban, said he is encouraged by what he sees

as a change in the political tone.

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> Page 7 Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Second-half surge lifts Mustangs past Steers, 52-47

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

Basketball coaches spend hours every week preaching the importance of free throw shooting. Nowhere was that so evident that in the Andrews High School gymnasium on Tuesday night.

Andrews knocked down 17 free throws and raced to a 52-47 come-from-behind win over the Big Spring Steers in nondistrict basketball action.

Overall, Andrews made 17 of 27 free throw attempts in the contest. In contrast, Big Spring went to the charity stripe just 14 times in the contest, mak-

The Steers, backed a seasonbest performance from senior Dee Parker, controlled the game early on. Big Spring outscored Andrews by a slim 13-10 clip in the first eight minutes of the game.

Parker finished the game as the Steers' top scorer, shredding the AHS defense for 17

Andrews managed to cut the Steers' lead to two, at 24-22, at the half with a 12-11 spree in the second.

The Mustangs, 7-6 overall, took the upper hand in the third. Andrews pushed in 15 points in the first eight min-

utes of the second half and took a slim 37-36 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Mustangs, who were whistled for just 16 fouls in the contest, closed out the game with a 15-11 run in the fourth.

Despite the loss, Big Spring also picked up a strong outing from Ty Sealy. The BSHS senior was the second Steer reaching double figures offensively by tallying 14.

Will Green also played well in the loss, scoring five. Matt Yanez and Kei'Shawn Broussard added four apiece, while Tobyn Tannehill contributed

Andrews' Braden Grimsley and Corey Duran both paced the Mustangs with 12.

Big Spring, now 13-6 overall, will close out its non-district schedule on Friday in Fort

Lady Buffs improve to 3-1 in district play

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

It may have been a bit cool outside, but it certainly didn't affect the Forsan Lady Buffaloes.

Not in the least.

Forsan turned in stellar outings on Monday and Tuesday en route to capturing a pair of key District 8-2A victories over Ozona and Irion County. Forsan, which now

stands at 3-1 in district play, completed the second of a back-to-back outing on Tuesday with a 54-22 rout of Ozona.

In the win, the Lady Buffs picked up solid outings from Lindsey Boeker, Mary-Ashley McDaniel, Kaylee Kemper and Jenna Evans. Boeker poured in a team-high 14 points against Ozona, including nine from three three-point shots.

McDaniel, who knocked down a pair of treys of her own, finished with 13, while Kemper and Evans added nine and eight, respectively.

Forsan opened the week's action on Monday with a 42-26 romp over Irion County.

The Andrews Mustangs nior varsity boys' basketball team a tough 62-35 loss on Tuesday in Andrews.

Kemper and McDaniel led the Lady Buffs offensively with 14 and 13 points, respectively. The Forsan boys split

their two games, downing Ozona on Tuesday and falling to Irion County on Monday.

Irion County used the free throw line to perfection en route to claiming a 49-41 come-from-behind victory. Irion County sank 10 of their 19 attempts from the line.

Forsan, on the other hand, attempted just four free throws in the contest, making two.

Forsan jumped out to a quick lead in the game, outscoring Irion County by a 13-12 clip in the first quarter.

Irion posted a 37-25 spree in the final three frames to close out the contest. Ian Park and Jesse Cervantes led the FHS attack with 15 and 13 points, respectively.

The Buffaloes bounced back on Tuesday with a 60-42 win over Ozona.

vantes both turned in Sports Editor solid outings for the Buffs. Ogle finished with 13 points. Cervantes add-

IV Steers fall to Andrews, 62-35

Chase Williams and dealt the Big Spring ju- Preston Alexander both scored into double digits, netting 11 and 10, respectively. Jeramiah Rushing added six.

Biggio elected to Hall of Fame in 3rd year on ballot

Craig Biggio played for the Houston Astros longer than any other player in franchise history, donning the uniform for 20 seasons.

On Tuesday, he was rewarded for an illustrious career by becoming the first Astros player to be elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

Biggio called it a huge day for Astros' fans.

"To be able to give this back to them now, I'm happy," he said. "They deserve it."

Biggio, who played catcher, second base and the outfield, received 82.7 percent of the votes and was elected along with pitchers Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz. Biggio got 68.2 percent his first year and was two votes shy last year.

The seven-time All-Star retired in 2007 with 3,060 hits, and his 668 doubles are the major league high for a right-handed batter. He holds the MLB record for times hit by pitches with 285 during a career that included 291 homers, 1,175 RBIs, 1,161 walks, 414 stolen bases and 1,844 runs.

He's the only player in MLB history have 600 doubles, 250 homers, 3,000 hits and 400 steals.

As one-third of Houston's famed 'Killer B's' with Jeff Bagwell and Lance Berkman, Biggio helped the Astros become the first team from Texas to reach the World Series in 2005. Despite being swept by the Chicago White Sox, Biggio said helping the team to the World Series was his greatest moment with the Astros.

"For Jeff and I we were just two East Coast kids that came to Texas and just loved to play baseball, and that's all we wanted to do," Biggio said. "And our big dream and goal from Day 1 was always to get to the World Series."

Bagwell was thrilled at Biggio's election.

"He played as hard as anyone in the world," Bagwell said. "He was an amazing player and an amazing teammate that I appreciated a great deal."

There was but a tinge of disappointment in Biggio's big day. Bagwell fell short of the 75 percent needed for election with 55.7 percent in his fifth year on the ballot, up from 54.3 percent a year ago.

Lucas scores 20 in Wildcats' 88-70 victory over Meadow

Dalton Ogle and Cer- By TOMMY WELLS

Beau Lucas and the Grady High School Wildcats continued their high-scoring ways on Tuesday night.

And it paid off.

Lucas was among four Grady players to reach double figures offensively and helped power fourth-ranked Grady to an 88-70 victory over the in the first quarter, the Meadow Broncos.

points. Kyle Garza and Dillon Polson added 18 and 7, respectively, and

The Wildcats, now 15-2 overall, put Meadow on its heels with a solid first-half effort. After pounding out a 25-19 run

test with a team-high 20 half with a staggering 30- took a commanding 25-11 19 run in the second.

The Wildcats, who in the game, all but salted stretched its lead to 43-13. away the win with a 19-15 run in the third.

Grady is scheduled to return to action on Friday when they host Sla- action on Friday against

Dogs give Nichols No. 499

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

WESTBROOK - The Coahoma High School Bulldogs scored 18 points in the second and third quarters of play on Tuesday and moved head coach Kim Nichols one step closer to a major coaching milestone with a 55-20 rout of the Westbrook Wildcats.

With the win, Coahoma snapped a three-game losing streak and moved two games over .500 for the season, at 9-7. More importantly for the players is the win moved Nichols to within one win of his 500th career victory.

Westbrook managed to stay close in the early minutes of the game. Coahoma pushed home a shot late in the first and took a 7-6 lead.

The Bulldogs blew the game open from there. Backed by double-digit efforts from Kyler Franks and Braxton Iden, Coa-Wildcats ballooned their homa reeled off an 18-5 Lucas finished the conlead to 17, at 55-38 at the spurt in the second and

> lead into the half. CHS tacked on an 18-2 sank 12 three-point shots run in the third and

> > Franks led all scorers with 22 points. Iden add-

Coahoma will return to Borden County.

TEXAS RANGERS — Designated

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Named Randy Johnson special assistant to the president and CEO.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

son \$5,000 for violating the league's

anti-flopping rules for the second time

BROOKLYN NETS — Released F

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National Football League BUFFALO BILLS - Signed G Alex

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed

LB L.J. Fort, OT Dan France, NT Kwame Geathers, DB Onterio Mc-

Calebb, TE Jake Murphy and WRs

Tevin Reese and Eric Ward to future

NBA — Fined Indiana G C.J. Wat-

INF Roberto Baldoquin.

Brandon Davies

Kupper to a future contract.

RHP Matt West for assignment.

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE **Divisional Playoffs** Saturday, Jan. 10

Baltimore at New England, 4:35 Carolina at Seattle, 8:15 p.m. (FOX) Sunday, Jan. 11

Dallas at Green Bay, 1:05 p.m. (FOX) Indianapolis at Denver, 4:40 p.m.

Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 18 NFC, 3:05 p.m. (FOX)

AFC, 6:40 p.m. (CBS) Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1 At Glendale, Ariz.

AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association Eastern Conference **Atlantic Division**

Toronto

Dallas

Portland

Oklahoma City

24 10 .706

Brooklyn	16	18	.471	8
Boston	11	21	.344	12
Philadelphia	5	28	.152	181/2
New York	5	32	.135	201/2
South	neast I	Divis	ion	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	26	8	.765	_
Washington	23	11	.676	3
Miami	15	20	.429	111/2
Orlando	13	24	.351	141/2
Charlotte	12	24	.333	15
Cen	tral Di	visio	n	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	25	10	.714	_
Cleveland	19	16	.543	6
Milwaukee	18	18	.500	71/2

Indiana 23 .324 Western Conference Southwest Division GB Memphis

Washington 20 N.Y. Rangers 21 11 4 46 113 90 Columbus 18 17 3 39 100121 Philadelphia .735 .722 New Jersey 26 10 .676 Houston San Antonio New Orleans 17 17 .500 **Northwest Division**

L

17 18

Pct

.486

GB

10

12 23 .343 Minnesota 28 .152 **Pacific Division** Golden State .657 L.A. Clippers 12 Phoenix Sacramento 14 20 .412

11 24 .314

Tuesday's Games Phoenix 102, Milwaukee 96 Detroit 105, San Antonio 104 Wednesday's Games Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers

New York at Washington, 7 p.m. New Orleans at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Houston at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Memphis at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Boston at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m Utah at Chicago, 8 p.m. Detroit at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Orlando at Denver, 9 p.m. Phoenix at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m. Okla. City at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Indiana at Golden State, 10:30 p.m L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30

HOCKEY **National Hockey League Atlantic Division** W L OTPts GF GA

	Tampa Bay	26	12	4	56	138110				
	Montreal	26	12	2	54	110 93				
	Detroit	21	10	9	51	113101				
	Toronto	21	16	3	45	130122				
	Boston	19	15	6	44	104108				
	Florida	17	11	9	43	87 97				
	Ottawa	16	15	8	40	103107				
	Buffalo	14	24	3	31	78 140				
Metropolitan Division										
		W	L	0	TPts	GF GA				
	Pittsburgh	24	10	5	53	118 94				
	N.Y. Islanders	26	13	1	53	123112				

12 24 4 28 79 105 Carolina

Central Division								
	W	L	0	TPts	GF	GΑ	y	
lashville	26	9	4	56	119	90	K	
hicago	26	12	2	54	124	87	(5	
t. Louis	24	13	3	51	124	99		
Vinnipeg	20	13	7	47	103	96	N	

11 7 47 112 99

15 18 7 37 108121 15 20 7 37 94 118

Dallas 18 15 5 41 107110 16 16 8 40 103117 Minnesota Colorado Pacific Division

L OTPts GF GA 9 6 58 115110 12 3 49 112100 Anaheim 26 9 Vancouver San Jose 14 5 49 Los Angeles 12 9 47 112103 21 16 3 45 115105 15 20 4 34 92 130 Calgary Arizona 23 9 27 90 139 Edmonton

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Tuesday's Games Philadelphia 2, Ottawa 1, SO New Jersey 4, Buffalo 1 Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 2 Nashville 3, Carolina 2 San Jose 4, Minnesota 3, OT Colorado 2, Chicago 0 Columbus 4, Dallas 2 St. Louis 6, Arizona 0 Detroit 4, Edmonton 2 Vancouver 3, N.Y. Islanders 2

Wednesday's Games Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m. Boston at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m. Detroit at Calgary, 9:30 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

BASEBALL Free Agent Signings BOSTON (4) - Re-signed Koji Ue-

hara, rhp, to an \$18 million, two-year contract; signed Pablo Sandoval, 3b, San Francisco, to a \$95 million, fiveyear contract; signed Hanley Ramirez, If, Los Angeles Dodgers, to an \$88 million, four-year contract; signed Justin Masterson, rhp, St. Louis, to a \$9.5 million, one-year contract. CHICAGO (4) — Signed Zach Duke, Ihp, Milwaukee, to a \$15 million, three-

year contract; signed Adam LaRoche, 1b, Washington, to a \$25 million, twoyear contract; signed David Robertson, rhp, New York Yankees, to a \$46 million, four-year contract; signed Melky Cabrera, of, Toronto, to a \$42 million, three-vear contract. CLÉVELAND (2) - Signed Gavin

loyd, rhp, Atlanta, to a \$4 million, onerear contract; signed Scott Downs, Ihp, Cansas City, to a minor league contract \$800,000).

DETROIT (2) — Re-signed Victor Martinez, dh, to a \$64 million, four-year

Braeden Jones chipped

contract; signed Tom Gorzelanny, Ihp,

Milwaukee, to a \$1 million, one-year

HOUSTON (2) - Signed Luke

Gregerson, rhp, Oakland, to an \$18.5

million, four-year contract; signed Pat

lion, two-year contract; signed Jed

Lowrie, ss, Oakland, to a \$23 million,

Jason Frasor, rhp, to a \$1.8 million,

one-year contract; re-signed Luke

Hochevar, rhp, to a \$10 million, two-year contract; signed Kendrys Mo-

rales, dh, Seattle, to a \$17 million,

two-year contract; signed Alex Rios,

of, Toronto, to an \$11 million, one-year

contract; signed Edinson Volquez, rhp,

Pittsburgh, to a \$20 million, two-year

MINNESOTA (3) — Signed Torii

Hunter, of, Detroit, to a \$10.5 million,

one-year contract; signed Ervin Santa-

na. rhp. Atlanta, to a \$55 million, four-

year contract; signed Tim Stauffer, rhp,

San Diego, to a \$2.2 million, one-year

NEW YORK (4) — Re-signed Chris

Young, of, to a \$2.5 million, one-year

contract; signed Andrew Miller, Ihp,

Baltimore, to a \$36 million, four-year

contract; re-signed Chase Headley,

3b, to a \$52 million, four-year contract;

re-signed Chris Capuano, Ihp, to a \$5

million, one-year contract.

OAKLAND (1) — Signed Billy Butler,

1b, Kansas City, to a \$30 million, three-

Cruz, dh, Baltimore, to a \$57 million,

Lewis, rhp, to a \$4 million, one-year contract; signed Kyuji Fujikawa, rhp,

Chicago Cubs, to a \$1.1 million, one-

Martin, c, Pittsburgh, to an \$82 million,

ATLANTA (3) — Signed Jim Johnson, rhp, Detroit, to a \$1.6 million, one-

year contract; signed Nick Markakis,

of, Baltimore, to a \$44 million, four-

year contract; signed Alberto Callaspo,

3b, Oakland, to a \$3 million, one-year

TORONTO (1) — Signed Russell

NATIONAL LEAGUE

four-year contract.

TEXAS (2)

year contract.

five-year contract.

SEATTLE (1) — Signed Nelson

Re-signed Colby

KANSAS CITY (5) — Re-signed

three-year contract.

Neshek, rhp. St. Louis, to a \$12.5 mil-

CHICAGO (4) — Signed Jasor Hammel, rhp, Oakland, to a \$20 million, two-year contract; signed Jon Lester, Ihp, Oakland, to a \$155 million, six-year contract; signed Jason Motte, rhp, St. Louis, to a \$4.5 million, oneyear contract; signed David Ross, c, Boston, to a \$5 million, two-year con-

COLORADO (1) — Signed Nick Hundley, c, Baltimore, to a \$6.25 million, two-year contract. LOS ANGELES (2) -

Signed Brandon McCarthy, rhp, New York Yankees, to a \$48 million, four-year contract; signed Brett Anderson, Ihp, Colorado, to a \$10 million, one-year contract. MIAMI (1) - Signed Michael Morse

of, San Francisco, to a \$16 million, two-NEW YORK (1) — Signed Michael Cuddyer, of, Colorado, to a \$21 million,

two-year contract. PHILADELPHIA (1) — Signed Aaron Harang, rhp, Atlanta, to a \$5 million, one-year contract. PITTSBURGH (2) - Signed A.J.

million, one-year contract; re-signed Francisco Liriano, Ihp, to a \$39 million. three-year contract. ST. LOUIS (1) — Signed Mark Reynolds, 1b, Milwaukee, to a \$2 mil-

Burnett, rhp, Philadelphia, to an \$8.5

lion, one-year contract. SAN DIEGO (2) - Signed Clint Barmes, ss, Pittsburgh, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Brandon Morrow, rhp, Toronto, to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO (2) - Re-signed Sergio Romo, rhp, to a \$15 million, two-year contract; re-signed Jake Peavy, rhp, to a \$24 million, two-year **TRANSACTIONS**

BASEBALL American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Named Jason Bere bullpen coach. Released RHP Tyler Cloyd. Agreed to terms with LHP Michael Roth on a minor league

DETROIT TIGERS — Designated RHP Luke Putkonen for assignment. Agreed to terms with LHP Tom Gorzelanny on a one-year contract.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed RB Michael Hill. Signed LB Victor Butler to a future contract. Placed G Hugh Thornton on injured reserve.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Named Mike of football operations.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed PK Derek Dimke and OT Tavon Rooks to future contracts.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed F Michael Palardy to a future contract. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES - Signed LB Brandon Hepburn, RB Matthew Tucker and WR Arrelious Benn to fu-

ST. LOUIS RAMS — Signed TE Brad Smelley to a future contract.

Arena Football League ORLANDO PREDATORS — Agreed to terms with OL Ryan Cave.

ture contracts

Canadian Football League WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS Signed OL Dominic Picard. Re-signed DB Demond Washington HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS - Recalled G

Igor Bobkov from Utah (ECHL) to Nor-

ARIZONA COYOTES — Assigned G Mike Lee from Portland (AHL) to LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Signed Gwinnett (ECHL).

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've built up plenty of goodwill, and now it's your turn to relax. They might not remember all the things you did, but they will definitely remember how you made them feel. TAURUS (April 20-May

20). You might be surprised at whom you'll influence. You can be sure that the impression you make will travel long distances and extend far into the future, too. **GEMINI** (May 21-June

21). You're generous now -- maybe too generous. Think twice before you share to prevent yourself from accidentally giving away what you should have kept for yourself. **CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Use reverse

psychology. People will want what they think they can't have. Create a sense of scarcity around what you're offering. When something is too abundant, it will be perceived as common and undesirable. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22).

Make big plans, because without them, you'll be reacting to life instead of creating it. Not all of your plans will work out, but you'll sure be better off for having made them. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). If you don't believe something should be

vours, then you won't be able to obtain it. Work on your own feelings of worthiness. You really do deserve this, and the only one keeping you from it is you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can't help it that you're drawn to highly competitive arenas. But with your high level of focus, you put the odds in your favor. You'll spend many tireless hours on the same activity until a breakthrough is inevitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When people are not understanding you, it's natural to want to repeat yourself, loudly. However, such a tactic won't work. You need new words instead. Change your language and approach.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't help but wonder whether life would have been different had you made another choice. Rest assured, you made the right choice then, and today brings a kind of proof you'll find quite satisfying. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). You have so much on your mind that socializing might not seem like a huge priority. But make a weekend plan anyway -- you'll be glad when Saturday comes around.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Where you spend your time will be crucial to the way relationships develop. A comfortable environment will allow you to shine. If you're not comfortable, it will be better to leave than to try to make things work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today brings a chase of some kind. Don't assume anything about the thing or person you're after. This situation will require you to be fully aware and on your game.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 7). Instead of

focusing on improving

yourself, put your energy into knowing and leaning on your strengths. This month is a high point in your personal life, and you'll grow in confidence in the early part of the year. February will throw you a professional curveball. April and July will bring magical travel experiences. Cancer and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are:

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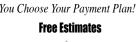
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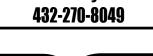
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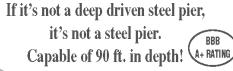
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KPBT (13)



"All this teacher's note says is 'hang in there!"

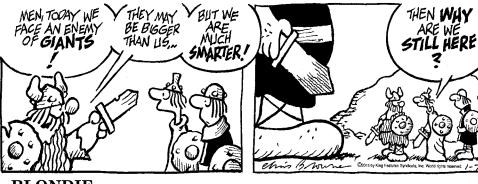


KWES 9

WTBS (11)

KMLM (12)

"It's a good thing we have Daddy around. Otherwise we'd never get our jars open. Right, Mommy?"



BLONDIE







BC





WIZARD OF ID













This Date In History

Today is Wednesday,

Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2015. There are 358 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 7, 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London. On this date:

In 1610, astronomer Galileo Galilei began observing three of Jupiter's moons (he spotted a fourth moon almost a week later). In 1789, America held its first presidential

election as voters chose

electors wno, a month

later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive. In 1800, the 13th

president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, was born in Summerhill, New York. In 1894, one of the earliest motion picture experiments took place at the Thomas Edison studio in West Orange, New Jersey, as Fred Ott was filmed taking a pinch of snuff and sneezing. In 1904, the Marconi International Ma-

rine Communication Company of London announced that the telegraphed letters "CQD" would serve as a maritime distress call (it was later replaced

with "SOS"). In 1942, the Japanese siege of Bataan began during World War II. (The fall of Bataan three months later was followed by the notorious Death March.) In 1949, George C. Marshall resigned as U.S. Secretary of State; President Harry S. Truman chose Dean Acheson to succeed him.

® 2014 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle AREA SNOB AMTOO NEST SSNS LEMON

IRISH TOUR by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

36 Brewpub

serving

38 Senseless

42 Teen idol's

sackful

44 Soccer cheer

45 Competed on

The Voice

46 Old enough

47 Core group

author

49 Steppenwolf

53 Graceful bird

41 "Bravo!"

39 Cupid's device

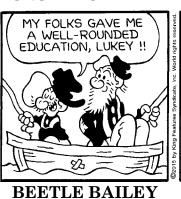
HI AND LOIS







SNUFFY SMITH











ACROSS

Newsday Crossword

- 1 Colorado resort 6 Wild guesses
- 11 Sweet bread spread
- 14 Matchless 15 Clock-display
- punctuation
- 16 Metallic rock
- 17 Sandwich-order phrase
- Holiness the Dalai Lama 20 Legislative
- period 21 Christmas-tree
- candies 23 Actress Catherine
- _-Jones 25 Runneradvancing out, for short
- 26 Heated in a microwave
- 30 "For shame!" **32** Decorate
- 33 People from
 - Bangkok
- 34 Slack off 37 Takes a siesta
- 38 Food plans 39 French
- cheese
- 40 CPR expert
- 41 Fund-raising
- banquets
- 42 Specialty
- 43 Tap dancer,
- slangily **45** See 7 Down
- **46** Spotted feline 48 As compared to
- 50 Looked right at 51 In one large

57 Knighted flutist

group 56 Hubbub 61 Sound of a

peeved poodle

- **62** Some pendant stones
- 63 Likeness
- 64 Comic-strip scream
- 65 Shattered
- 66 Places to bowl

DOWN 1 Sounds of

- contentment
- 2 Dark purple fruit 3 Officeholders.
- for short
- 4 Remnants 5 Web regular
- 6 Bloodhound's trail
- Twain title character

7 With 45 Across,

- 8 Very much like 9 Young fella
- 10 Vail vehicles 11 Cabinet
- appointee of 2013
- 12 Disney
- mermaid 13 Unkempt
- 18 Did garden work 22 Apt. coolers
- 24 Deep down
- inside
- 25 Roof-rack gear 26 Grey of Western 52 __ mater
- fiction
- **27** The first person 28 Open some wine 55 Needle holes
- 29 Letters on older phones
- 31 Pre-coll. exams
- 35 Sharp flavor

- 33 Mosaic piece
- 54 Pundit 58 Car ad fig.
 - **59** Onetime
 - Chinese chairman
 - 60 Moose relative

10	' '	12	1.
	16		
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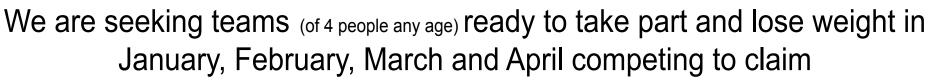
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