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TUESDAY

DECEMBER 8, 2015



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2nd Army exercise planned for West Texas

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer
Jade Helm, the sequel, is coming to an area near you.

When the Big Spring City Council meets today at 5:30 p.m., it will consider extending an invitation to U.S. Army Special Operations Command to conduct unconventional warfare exercises in this area early next year.

The exercise, bearing the acronym UWEX 16 (Unconventional Warfare Exercise 16), is scheduled for March 16-June 15, 2016, in Howard County and surrounding areas, officials said.

UWEX 16 comes on the heels of Jade Helm 15, another USASOC exercise that resulted in no small amount of controversy. Some right-wing groups mistook the exercise as a precursor to a military takeover of Texas and even prompted Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to have the Texas State Guard monitor the

exercise.

However, no such takeover occurred and UWEX 16 is expected to generate much less controversy than its 2015 predecessor. In fact, if the exercise follows the same general guidelines as Jade Helm, few area residents will even know military personnel are in the area.

Special operations exercises are typically low-key in nature — think small bands of soldiers conducting guerilla warfare, not massed armies replete with tanks rolling through fields. As a USASOC representative told

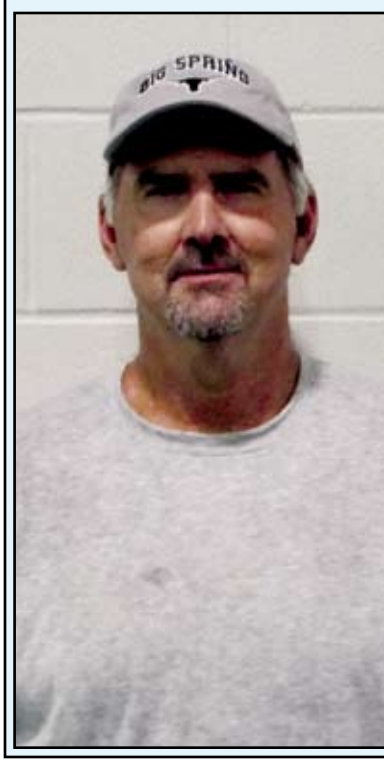
the council last year before Jade Helm, "If you see or hear us, we're doing something wrong."

Army officials have already coordinated plans for the exercise with are law enforcement agencies and any property owners who

See **ARMY**, Page 3

What: Big Spring City Council meeting.
Where: Council chambers, 307 E. Fourth.
When: 5:30 p.m. today.

Ritchey to step down



BSHS head football coach and athletic director announces retirement; See Page 6

A fire truck for Christmas

County volunteers secure new pumper vehicle for Sands Springs station



By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

Christmas came early for Tommy Sullivan, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department (HCVFD) Chief, and Santa Claus came dressed as a representative of Daco Fire Equipment.

Sullivan was all smiles as he received the keys to the HCVFD's newest fire truck, a 2016 Rosenbauer Pumper Tanker, which was driven in from Lubbock by Lance Barrett, a Daco Fire Equipment representative and also an officer in the Lubbock Fire Department.

Barrett ran the truck through some field testing to make sure the vehicle was still up to par after its long journey from the manufacturer in South Dakota before making the delivery to Big Spring.

"The truck will be placed at the Sands Springs station which is the first responder for Alon Refinery," Sullivan said. "It has the capacity to pump 3,000 gallons per minute. It will pump more water efficiently and it should help cutdown time at the scene."

Among some of the features the new truck will have to help fight oil or hydrocarbon fires are a 3,500 expandable drop tank which can be placed at a push of a button along with a water system that can be activated by remote control.

"If we are at the refinery and need to back off, we



Sullivan

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department recently received the keys to a new pumper truck which will be housed at the department's Sand Springs station.

See **TRUCK**, Page 3

Nazarene church preps for drive-through nativity

By **JULIE BASS**

Staff Writer

Oh, come, all ye faithful for the 29th annual Drive Through Nativity.

Every year, the First Church of the Nazarene puts on a bright

and colorful living Christmas Nativity that involves live animals and over 100 people playing parts in the scenes portraying the life of Jesus.

"See one of the most beautiful and meaningful Christmas presentations in Texas this season," says a press release from the First Church of the Nazarene. "In 1987, the church was encouraged to do something very different for the

community in presenting the story of Christmas. It began with only seven scenes and has grown over the years."

The drive through nativity is free of charge for the community.

"Every scene is beautifully painted and decorated to authentically represent the ancient buildings and places of years gone by," con-

See **NATIVITY**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Don Stevens



Don Edward Stevens, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and "Coach" to so many, was born on Oct. 4, 1933, the second of three sons of Houston and Ora Stevens of Weatherford, Texas. Don passed away on Dec. 6, 2015 to be into the loving arms of his Lord, and welcomed into heaven by a host of family and friends.

Don was a 1952 graduate of Lamesa High School, in Lamesa, Texas, where he was an award winning basketball player, under legendary coach O.W. Folis. Don went on to play basketball two years at Howard College in Big Spring, Texas. This 1953 team advanced to the NJCAA National Tournament Semi-Finals, compiling a sparkling 34-6 record. Don went on to play one year at the University of Corpus Christi (now Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi) before transferring to Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, where he earned his bachelors and masters degrees.

During his high school and college careers, Don earned numerous honors for his exemplary play. Coach Stevens spent two years in the United States Army where he was Player-Coach for First Infantry Division Basketball team in Fort Riley, Kan.

He knew his calling was coaching. Don began his coaching career at the junior high level in Big Spring, Texas, coaching all sports. This was followed by ten years at Forsan High School, in Forsan, Texas. At Forsan, Don led the Forsan Boys' Basketball team to two district championships and tying for a third; and led the Girls' Basketball team to seven district championships in ten years, advancing once to the state tournament. During this time, the Forsan Girls' team won 71 consecutive district games. He served on the board of directors of the Texas High School Girls Coaches Association.

In the summer of 1973, Coach Stevens was one of seven American coaches selected to spend the summer in Mexico conducting coaching clinics in Mexico City and Vera Cruz.

In 1976, Coach Stevens was named Head Women's Basketball Coach at Howard College in Big Spring, Texas. Up until this time, the HC Women's Team had had won very few games. In his first year, Coach Stevens led his team to an 18-11 record. In

his second year, his team, then known as the Hawk Queens, won the Western Junior College Athletic Conference Championship and were Region V finalists. During his 13 years as Coach of the Howard College Hawk Queens, Coach Stevens led his team to three WJCAC Women's Conference Championships, including being Regional Finalists in 1978 and 1980, and winning the Region V Championship in 1982. He was WJCAC Coach of the Year three times, and Region V Coach of the Year in 1982. The Hawk Queens were ranked number one in the nation on several occasions.

While at Howard College, Coach Stevens developed and coached three First Team NJCAA All-Americans. Many of his players went on to receive scholarships to continue their education and athletic career at major universities including Baylor, Texas Tech, Arizona State, UNLV, University of Houston, University of Hawaii, and San Diego State. Hawk Queens who played for Coach Stevens still hold many of the Howard College records for Individual Games, including Most Points Scored, Most Field Goals, Most Rebounds, Most Assists, and Most Blocked Shots; and Individual Season Records including Most Points Scored, Most Rebounds, Highest Rebound Average, and Most Blocked Shots.

Coach Stevens retired from Howard College and coaching in 1989 with a lifetime coaching record of 508 wins and 236 losses. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Howard College in 1990.

In 2015, Coach Stevens was inducted into the NJCAA Western Conference Hall of Fame. This Hall of Fame honor was truly one of the greatest honors of his life and his gratitude was magnified by the support of the Howard College leadership, led by Dr. Cheryl Sparks, and the NJCAA Region Five Commissioner, Lyndon Hardin, for making this dream a reality. The ceremony, held in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum in Big Spring was attended by many of Don and Cheryl's Dallas friends, which made it so special for him in so many ways. A job well done, Coach.

Don was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Large B-Cell Lymphoma in 2003. During his 12-year battle with the horror named cancer, Don set an example for all who knew him with his strength, positive attitude, optimistic spirit, and will to get better. That, along with the prayers of many friends, his faith in God, and his always incredible positive outlook, kept him going for so many years. The family thanks Dr. Lalen Wilfong and the team at

Texas Oncology at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas for their unwavering commitment to getting Don well and cancer-free.

Don passed away due to heart failure on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015. During his final weeks, he was professionally and lovingly cared for in the Critical Care Unit of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano. The family is grateful for the care Don received during the most difficult time.

In 1984, Don married the true love of his life, Cheryl. Together, they built a wonderful life, moving from Big Spring to Dallas in 1990. This move proved to be so important in their lives as it enabled Don to have the very best medical care during his illness. In 2015, they celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary...each year more treasured than the last.

In addition to Cheryl, Don is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Vance and Donna Stevens of Deer Park, Texas; his grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Jared and Randi Stevens of Baird, Texas; great-grand-daughters, Stokley Stone and Landry Stevens of Baird, Texas; and great-grandson, Charlie Stevens, of Seabrook, Texas; and two nieces, Shannon and Erin.

In addition to his parents, Don was preceded in death by his son, Don Bradley Stevens; his daughter, Valerie Beth White; his grandson, Jason Stevens; two brothers, Elgin Stevens and Burnell Stevens. His constant companion, Jackpot Stevens, has now welcomed him at the Rainbow Bridge.

Don's quick wit and playful sense of humor could always bring a smile and chuckle to all who knew him. Don loved to play golf, he loved to gamble, he loved to sing, he loved watching all sports and he loved his news and his newspaper. He loved his family. And we so loved him.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015 at Sparkman Hillcrest at 2 p.m. followed by a Celebration of Don's life and spirit at Maggiano's at Northpark Mall.

The family welcomes your floral remembrances, a gift to your special charity, or gifts to the Women's Basketball Program at Howard College, c/o Dr. Cheryl Sparks, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

My darling, Don, peace and freedom from pain be with you at last. May your energy and strength be abundant. Your death leaves a heartache no one can heal. But your love leaves a memory no one can steal. Hit 'em long and straight, Honey, and I will see you soon.

Paid obituary

James Underwood



James "Jim" Lee Underwood, age 79, of McKinney, Texas, passed away Nov. 30, 2015. Jim was born Oct. 16, 1936, in Big Spring, Texas, to Alton Eugene and Alta Lee (McDaniel) Underwood. He married Carolyn Sue Younger on Nov. 4,

1961, in Austin, Texas. Jim graduated from Big Spring High School and Howard County Junior College. After graduation, he continued his education at The University of Texas in Austin, where he was member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. After college, Jim was affiliated with the savings and loan industry in Dallas, where he was vice president for Oak Cliff Savings and Loan. He left Oak Cliff Savings and moved to McKinney in 1974, where he opened Town and Country Savings. He was President of Town and Country Savings in McKinney until 1983. Then, Jim joined the Texas Savings and Loan Department as a supervisory agent for the state. He also was employed by the Resolution Trust Corporation.

Jim served on numerous boards, including former president of

McKinney Rotary Club, former treasurer of McKinney Chamber of Commerce and former Vice President of Eldorado Country Club. Additionally, he participated in many civic organizations such as Planning and Zoning Commission. Jim was a member of First United Methodist Church in McKinney.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Underwood of McKinney, Texas; daughters, Michelle Lee Underwood Thompson and Carin Sue Underwood Morton, both of McKinney; grandchildren, Brittany Michelle Clayton, Stanton Lee Rogers, Emily Sue Thompson, Strother Douglass Thompson, Julia Faith Blackwell, and Abigail Hope Blackwell; great-grandson, Landon Carter Clayton; sister, Betty Jean Newsom of Dallas, Texas; and nieces, Julie Jean Kennedy of Dallas and Jamie Snow of Austin.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, at First United Methodist Church in McKinney, Texas. The family will receive friends during a visitation from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday evening at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home in Allen, Texas.

To convey condolences or to sign an online registry, please visit www.tjm-funeral.com.

Paid obituary

Pharrah Rios



Pharrah Maelynn Rios, 11 months, passed away Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Rosary service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015, at Myers & Smith Chapel. A

prayer service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Dec. 24, 2014, in Odessa, Texas to Victoria Lynn Castillo and Patrick Rios Jr.

She is survived by her parents, Victoria Castillo and Patrick Rios Jr., both of Big Spring; her brother,

Patrick Mathew Rios III of Big Spring; her grandparents, Victor and Kim Castillo, William and Tricia Morris and Grace Guzman, all of Big Spring; great-grandmothers, Seynda Castillo and Virginia Diaz; great-grandparents, Erlinda and Luis Rios; aunts and uncles, Brittany Castillo, Brandee Castillo, Mercedes Castillo, Briana Castillo, Victor Manuel Castillo Jr. and Alexis Castillo, Brandon Castillo, Rene and Brittnee Rodriguez, Brandi Rios, Christopher Rios and Walter and Monica Dominguez; and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Pat Rios; great-grandfather, Fred Castillo Sr.; and great-grandmother Dora Perches.

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

Paid obituary

Bobby Blackshear

Bobby Blackshear, 80, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 7, 2015, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **JUAN SOSA RODRIGUEZ JR.**, 46, of 1607 Sunset Ave. was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• **PAUL MORENO**, 53, of 108 Lockhart St. was arrested on warrants for possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces and a warrant from another agency.

See, **POLICE**, Page 3

Leslie Zant
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See more obituaries on Page 3



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Obituaries

Dwayne Eukel



Dwayne "Duke" Eukel, 60, of Big Spring, died Friday, December 4, 2015 at his residence. Memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, at Spring Creek Fellowship.

He was born July 23, 1955, in San Francisco, Calif. to Patricia (Page) Eukel and Donald Eukel. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam era. He was a journalist/newspaper editor, having written for The Ridgecrest in California and for the Las Vegas Tribune.

He loved writing and enjoyed playing the guitar. He married Kerri Humble Sept. 20, 2007 in Big Spring. He was a member of Spring Creek

Fellowship Church.

He is survived by his wife, Kerri Eukel, of Big Spring; eight children, Isaiah Eukel, Jenesa Secor, Zachariah Eukel, Sashia Whitmire, all of Las Vegas, Nev., Jonathan Eukel of Houston, Lucas Ewing Eukel of Whatcheer, Iowa, and Melissa Swanson and Matthew Westland Wood, both of Durango, Colo.; 15 grandchildren; his mother, Patricia Fay Eukel of New Orleans; two brothers, Derf Eukel of Mt. Vernon, Mo. And Don Eukel of New Orleans; and two sisters, Deneesa Postlethwait of New Orleans and Donna Beth Eukel Nutter of Tulsa, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Eukel; and two brothers, David Eukel and Dwight Eukel.

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

Marvin Barnes



Marvin Alexander (M.A.) Barnes, longtime resident of Carlsbad, died Dec. 1, 2015, surrounded by family at Lubbock Heart Hospital.

Marvin was born in Big Spring and grew up in Carlsbad. He graduated from Carlsbad High School and served in the U.S. Navy for nine years. He worked at Duvall/Western Ag Potash for 29 years. He married Tamami Kajita in 1967; they were married for 48

years. He leaves behind two children, Deborah Barnes of Big Spring and David Jones of Carlsbad; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

No services are pending.

POLICE

Continued from Page 2

- **JIMELA RACHEL HAWKINS**, 38, of 1007 S. Lancaster St. was arrested on a charge of injury to a child – reckless bodily injury.
- **SYLVIA GARCIA TREVINO**, 47, of 2018 N. Birdwell Lane was arrested for two warrants from other agencies.
- **SAMANTHA MARIE PAYNE**, 32, of 709 W. 7th St. was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 59000 block of the N. Service Rd. and the 1300 block of E. Hwy 350.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of N. Service Rd. and FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Place.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Wood St.

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

- **JIMELA RACHEL HAWKINS**, 38, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of injury to a child/elderly/disabled – reckless injury.
- **PAUL MENDEZ MORENO**, 53, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana and a warrant for theft of property, more than \$20 but less than \$500, by check.
- **SAMANTHA MARIE PAYNE**, 32, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.
- **OTIS KERMIE PORTER**, 65, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for driving while intoxicated, 3rd or more offenses.
- **JUAN SOSA RODRIGUEZ**, 46, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for motion to revoke probation – theft of property, more than \$20 but less than \$500, by check.

NATIVITY

Continued from Page 1

tinues the press release.

There is also a professionally produced cassette tape or compact disc that will talk you through the drive and describe the meaning of each scene.

This year the drive through Nativity will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. each evening.

"Children and adults alike will thrill to the sights and sounds of the incredible event as the story of Christmas unfolds before your very eyes."

The entrance to the Nativity Drive through is best approached from the west on Martin

ARMY

Continued from Page 1

will be affected by the exercise.

In other business, the council will consider:

- A closed session to consider pending litigation.
- An ordinance allowing the issuance of general obligation refunding bonds.
- An agreement with the Economic Development Council to provide additional funding for rail infrastructure improvements at the airpark.
- Amending the city budget to provide for street improvement.
- Bids for airpark, golf course and street department equipment.
- A temporary permit for the placement of a mobile home.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

Luther King Blvd. and then turn south onto Lancaster.

For more information, call 432-267-7015.

Contact Staff Writer Julie Bass at 432-263-7331, ext. 232, or email life@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Erma Jean Rutledge, 77, died Wednesday. Funeral service was at 11:00 AM today at Mount Bethel Baptist Church. Burial followed at Trinity Memorial Park.

Dwayne "Duke" Eukel, 60, died Friday. Memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM Wednesday at Spring Creek Fellowship.

Marvin Alexander (M.A.) Barnes, passed Tuesday. Cremation has taken place. No services are pending.

Pharrah Maelynn Rios, 11 months, passed away Saturday. Rosary service will be at 7:00 PM tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. A Prayer service will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Bobby Blackshear, 80, died Monday. Services are pending.

Take note

- Howard College will be hosting several "update meetings" throughout Howard County for interested citizens to gather more facts and information about Howard College as they prepare for the tax rate rollback election to be held in January 2016. Those dates are: Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m., Forsan High School Auditorium, Forsan; Monday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m., Hall Center for the Arts Auditorium, Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane; Tuesday, Jan. 5, 12:30 p.m. Hall Center for the Arts Auditorium, Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane, (sign language interpretation provided); and Tuesday, Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. Hall Center for the Arts Auditorium, Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- A pig showmanship camp sponsored by the Howard County Livestock Association will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dec. 12 at Howard College. The cost is \$10 and is open to the first 50 exhibitors. Lunch is included in the cost.

TRUCK

Continued from Page 1

can set up the truck, get back, and spray water by using the control," Sullivan said. "It has a range of about 500 feet. We can shoot out water for about 100 yards."

This new addition will bring the HCVFD fleet to 12 vehicles, Sullivan said. The current fire truck sta-

tioned at Sand Springs will be transferred to the Tubbs Addition. Funding for the purchases of the new truck was provided in part through a \$100,000 gift from the ConcoPhillips Bad Boy Blast fundraiser held last summer in Midland and \$25,000 from the county government. The county fire department will continue to pay about \$57,000 for the next 5 years using funds from donations

of future Bad Boy Blast events while the count will continue to add in \$25,000 a year.

The HCVFD is a 52-member force that covers 900 square miles of Howard County with the exception of the 35-square mile area that encompasses the city of Big Spring. So far in 2015, the HCVFD has responded to around 400 emergency calls, Sullivan estimated.

The new truck made

its first official appearances Saturday at the Forsan community parade and later at the Big Spring Herald Lighted Christmas Parade.

Staff Writer Lyndel Moody can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 234.

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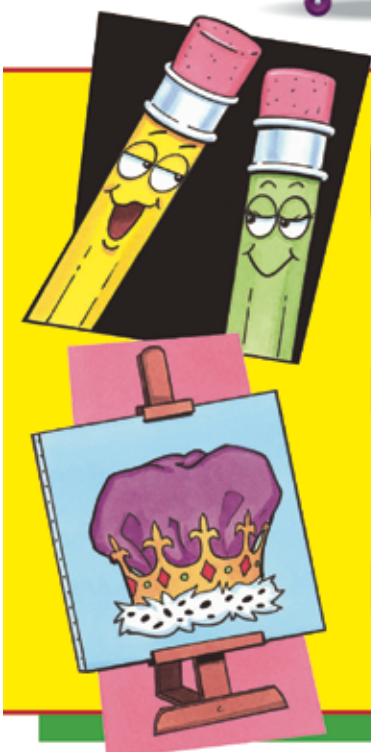
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JOKES

Q: What did one pencil say to the other?

You're looking sharp.

Q: What object is king in art class?

The ruler!

Ho, Ho, Ho!



There have been many great artists in America, including Thomas Nast. Nast was born in Germany in 1840 and came to America as a child. He loved to draw and spent most of his life illustrating for newspapers, magazines and other works. He created many well-known cartoons, including some of Santa Claus for Harper's Weekly magazine.

Nast illustrated Santa for the magazine for over 20 years. He started during the Civil War, showing Santa giving out presents to soldiers and preparing to slide down the chimney. He drew Santa at the North Pole and later at his workshop at the North Pole.

Nast gave Santa a face. He was one of the first to put Santa on paper, giving people a glimpse of jolly old man with the long, white beard.

COLORING PICTURE



Name That Art Form

There are many forms of art.

Fill in the blanks to name some.



- 1 P__NTING
- 2 SCU_P_URE
- 3 D_A_ING
- 4 WE_V_NG
- 5 PO__ERY
- 6 PH_T_GR_PHY
- 7 CA__IGRAP_Y

Answers
1) Painting
2) Sculpture
3) Drawing
4) Weaving
5) Poetry
6) Photography
7) Calligraphy

What Rhymes with Art?



List 10 words that rhyme with "art."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Some answers: cart, chart, dart, hart, heart, part, smart, start, tart

Fact or Fiction?

Artist Challenge



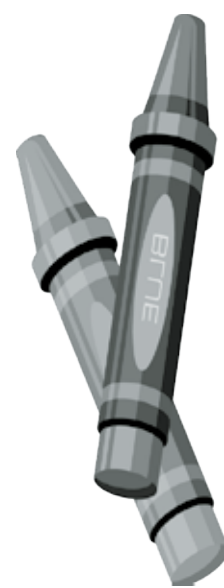
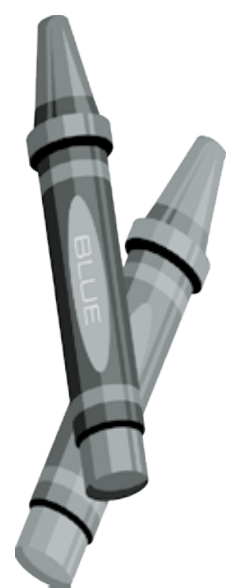
There have been many great artists throughout history.

Here are some questions about them. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) Michelangelo was left-handed. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) Leonardo da Vinci was also left-handed. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) Grandma Moses lived until age 101. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) Pablo Picasso loved animals. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) Rembrandt did not come from a family of artists. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) Andy Warhol was known for his pop art. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) Norman Rockwell often focused on small-town life in his work. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) Vincent van Gogh created 900 paintings in 10 years. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) Frida Kahlo was known for her self-portraits. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) America has had no great artists. **Fact or Fiction?**

Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fact, 3) Fact, 4) Fact, 5) Fact, 6) Fact, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fact, 10) Fiction. America has had many great artists, including Grandma Moses, Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol.

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COLORING CONTEST RULES

- Contest open to children ages 2-12
- Limit one contest submission per person
- Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
- Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
- All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 14, 2015.
- Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 20, 2015 edition.
- Decision of judges is final.
- Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
- All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Age: _____

Phone#: _____

Alt. Ph#: _____

Phillip Ritchey announces retirement, “I felt like the time was right”

By TAYLOR ELLIS
Sports Editor

On Friday, Big Spring Athletic Director and head football coach Phillip Ritchey held a coaches meeting where he told his staff that he would be retiring at the end of the school year.

After 30 years of coaching, Ritchey had decided to spend more quality time with his family and allow someone else to be a role model for all of Big Spring High School.

“We work a lot of hours in this business which I love doing, but 30 years is a long time to be doing it in this business. I felt like the time was right,” Ritchey said.

After sharing the information with his staff, Ritchey went to a

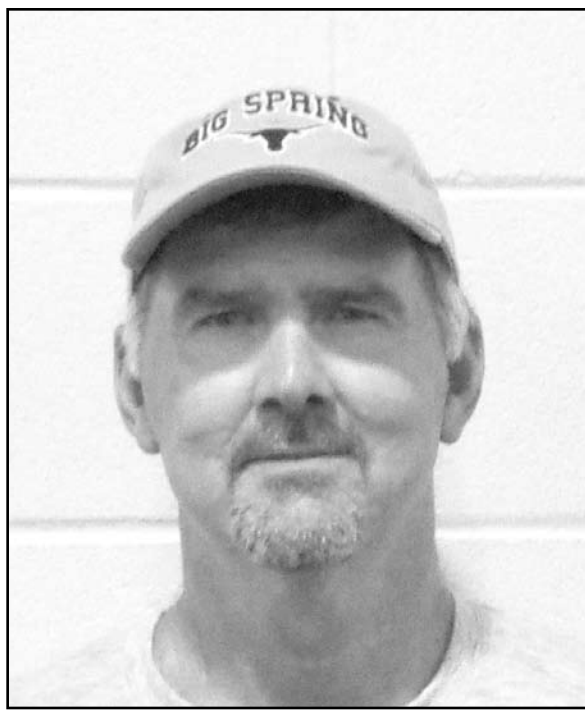
separate room and informed the football team.

Ritchey has elected to remove himself from day-to-day activities as head golf coach. Chris Joslin now takes on the role as interim Athletic Director.

“Chris has been here for 10 years and is running the ship until a decision is made,” Big Spring Superintendent Chris Wigington said.

Wigington found out on Thursday about Ritchey’s decision.

“It’s all still very fresh. I’m in the process of putting together a committee to hire our next athletic director. We are planning on hopefully having someone here in February. We want to get someone in here quickly, but still be thorough and make



sure to get the right fit for Big Spring,” Wigington said.

The committee will be looking for candidates

that will be a great role model for the kids and the coaches, someone who is going to be involved in the commu-

nity, and obviously someone who understands the X’s and O’s of football.

“We’ve had lots of success and I want to continue that. I want someone that when you cut them, they bleed black and gold,” Wigington said.

Ritchey will still be around to help the new athletic director transition into the job, and also adjust to the community.

“When I decided I was going to retire at the end of the year I asked to be pulled out, so I’m not a distraction to them moving forward,” Ritchey said.

When asked what he would do with all his free time, Ritchey chuckled and quickly responded, “I’m going to play with grand-

kids.”

Ritchey has three grandchildren; Kartyr Ritchey, 3, Knox Ritchey, four months, Hunter Ritchey, three months. Ritchey also has a daughter named Cerbi, who has one year left playing volleyball for San Angelo State.

“I don’t want to miss anything in her last year. I don’t want to look back when I’m really old and think that I worked too long. My granddaughter has shown me how much fun these preschool years are,” Ritchey said.

Contact sports editor Taylor Ellis at sports@bigspringherald.com or 432.263.7331, ext 237

Dez, Cowboys remain in NFC East race with 19-16 win at Skins

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — After the game’s 10th drive finally resulted in the evening’s first points, Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant stalked around the sideline, cursing and yelling and, oddly, even removing his shoes.

He was upset that the football wasn’t being thrown his way.

On the game’s final scoring drive, Matt Cassel’s only two completions both went to Bryant, helping set up Dan Bailey’s 54-yard field goal with 9 seconds left Monday night that gave Dallas a 19-16 victory over the Washington Redskins and allowed the Cowboys to somehow keep themselves in the thick of the playoff chase in the woeful NFC East.

“I was frustrated,” Bryant said of his first-half tantrum. “But then I had to calm down and understand that this is the game. Everybody wants to make plays and be there

for their team.” At halftime of a game that was dull until the last 90 seconds, Bryant had zero catches and had been targeted twice. He finished with three receptions for 62 yards, including a diving 42-yard grab that led to — what else? — a field goal.

“I have to do a better job of giving him more opportunities,” said Cassel, who is now 1-4 as a starter in place of injured quarterback Tony Romo.

The last-place Cowboys (4-8) won for the first time this season without Romo and now are only one game behind the Redskins, New York Giants and Philadelphia Eagles, who are all 5-7.

“We are still in this thing,” Bryant said.

Hard to believe, but it’s true.

“I would never have dreamed it,” Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. “You can say it speaks to parity — and

I guess it does. We are fortunate.”

Jones added: “We won one on will tonight.”

Here is what else to know about Monday’s game:

NO TABLETS: A power issue led to the teams not being able to use their sideline tablets during the game. “We didn’t have tablets, and we didn’t have pictures. Typically, if the headsets are off for one side, they immediately go off for the other side. But the NFL is working this through the ruling with tablets and pictures and it took a little while before it was balanced on each side,” Dallas coach Jason Garrett said. “It’s a challenge (to be without that technology). We got so used to looking at those and verifying your thoughts.”

UP AND DOWN: The Redskins had won their past five home games, including a 20-14 victory over the Giants last weekend, but they continued

a pattern: Washington has not collected consecutive wins all season. “We’ve shown flashes. Good quarters, good games, here and there,” coach Jay Gruden said. “But the great teams, the ones that advance in the playoffs and win Super Bowls are consistent. And we have not been.”

JACKSON: With score 9-all and about 1 1/2 minutes left, Washington’s DeSean Jackson fielded a punt at his own 16 and headed to the field. Jackson, who hadn’t been used as a punt returner this season until last week, got past the 20, before reversing course and heading backward all the way to the 1, with various Cowboys in pursuit. As he again tried to move forward, Jackson was surrounded and the ball popped out, recovered by punter Chris Jones at the 15 with 86 seconds remaining. Two plays later, Dallas turned that fumble into its only TD. Jackson

said he heard some encouraging words from Gruden afterward. “The best thing I could say was, ‘I laid an egg; I messed up,’” Jackson said.

WITTEN’S 1,000TH: Dallas TE Jason Witten became the second NFL player at that position to reach 1,000 catches, joining Tony Gonzalez. Witten already was one of only two tight ends — Gonzalez is the other — with more than 10,000 yards receiving. “I was happy to get it,” Witten said. “I’m just humbled by it.”

QUITE A QUARTER: There were 18 points over the first 58 1/2 minutes, 17 the rest of the frenzied way. The first quarter-plus was particularly ugly. The first nine possessions resulted in eight punts — five after three-and-outs — and one turnover, a combined four first downs, only 68 yards of offense, and a half-dozen penalties for 66 yards. In all, the teams totaled four turnovers and 16 penalties.

Scoreboard

NBA	Baseball	Football	Hockey		
Sunday's Games Memphis 95, Phoenix 93 Golden State 114, Brooklyn 98 Detroit 111, L.A. Lakers 91 Dallas 116, Washington 104 Oklahoma City 98, Sacramento 95 Monday's Games San Antonio 119, Philadelphia 68 Charlotte 104, Detroit 84 Toronto 102, L.A. Lakers 93 Dallas 104, New York 97 Washington 114, Miami 103 Phoenix 103, Chicago 101 L.A. Clippers 110, Minnesota 106 Boston 111, New Orleans 93 Milwaukee 90, Portland 88 Tuesday's Games Portland at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Golden State at Indiana, 7 p.m. Houston at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8 p.m. Orlando at Denver, 9 p.m. Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Wednesday's Games Chicago at Boston, 7 p.m. Houston at Washington, 7 p.m. Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m. San Antonio at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Detroit, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 8 p.m. New York at Utah, 9 p.m. Orlando at Phoenix, 9 p.m. Atlanta at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.	Carolina 5, Arizona 4 Chicago 3, Winnipeg 1 New Jersey 4, Florida 2 N.Y. Rangers 4, Ottawa 1 Edmonton 4, Buffalo 2 Anaheim 2, Pittsburgh 1 Los Angeles 3, Tampa Bay 1 Monday's Games Nashville 3, Boston 2 Colorado 2, Minnesota 1, OT Vancouver 5, Buffalo 2 Tuesday's Games N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m. Detroit at Washington, 7:30 p.m. New Jersey at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Ottawa at Florida, 7:30 p.m. Arizona at St. Louis, 8 p.m. Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Carolina at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. San Jose at Calgary, 9 p.m. Wednesday's Games Boston at Montreal, 7:30 p.m. San Jose at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m. Pittsburgh at Colorado, 10 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, 10 p.m.	no for assignment. Claimed OF Joey Buttler off waivers from Tampa Bay. KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Chris Young on a two-year contract. National League LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Claimed RHP Danny Reynolds off waivers from the L.A. Angels and OF Daniel Fields from Milwaukee. MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Named Derek Johnson pitching coach, Pat Murphy bench coach, Carlos Subero first base/infield coach and Jason Lane coach. PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with OF Danny Ortiz, INF Cole Figueroa, LHP Robert Zarate and RHPs Curtis Parth, Wilfredo Boscan and Deolis Guerra on minor league contracts. Atlantic League SUGAR LAND SKEETERS — Named Jay Miller president. Frontier League FLORENCE FREEDOM — Signed RHPs Austin Delmotte and Tony Vocca to contract extensions. Signed RHP Steve Chapter and OF RHP Mercurio. RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed RHP Derek Cape to a contract extension. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINERS — Signed RHPs Edward Cruz and John Kimborowicz. WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Signed RHPs Cam Giannini and Thomas Nance to contract extensions. Signed C Corey Bass and RHP Clay Chapman. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association CHICAGO BULLS — Re-	called F Cameron Bairstow from Austin (NBADL). CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed OL Joel Bitonio injured reserve. Claimed OL Gabe Ikaroff off waivers from Buffalo. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Named Jerry Colangelo chairman of basketball operations. FOOTBALL National Football League NFL — Suspended Baltimore TE Nick Boyle four games for violating the league policy on performance enhancing substances. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released CB Cary Williams. ST. LOUIS RAMS — Fired offensive coordinator Frank Cignetti. Arena Football League ORLANDO PREDATORS — Agreed to terms with OL Adam Sheard. Canadian Football League WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed OL Matthias Goossen to a contract extension. HOCKEY National Hockey League CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Reassigned F Tanner Kero to Rockford (AHL). Recalled F Dennis Rasmussen from Rockford. DETROIT RED WINGS — Reassigned G Jake Paterson from Toledo (ECHL) to Grand Rapids (AHL). LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled F Joel Lowry from Manchester (ECHL) to Ontario (AHL). MONTREAL CANADIENS — Recalled D Dalton Thrower from Brampton (ECHL) to St. John's (AHL). NEW YORK RANGERS — Reassigned G Cedrick Des-	jards from Hartford (AHL) to Manchester (ECHL). PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Recalled D Maxim Lamy from Reading (ECHL) to Lehigh Valley (AHL). American Hockey League ALBANY DEVILS — Released G Doug Carr from a professional tryout agreement. BAKERSFIELD CONDORS — Recalled G Ty Rimmer from Norfolk (ECHL). LAKE ERIE MONSTERS — Returned F Derek DeBlois to South Carolina (ECHL). ECHL ADIRONDACK THUNDER — Released F Garrett Ladd. EVANSVILLE ICEMEN — Added G Brent Troyan as emergency backup. INDY FUEL — Released F Walker Wintoneak. MANCHESTER MONARCHS — Released G Steve Mastalerz from an amateur tryout agreement. NORFOLK ADMIRALS — Announced the retirement of F Nicolas Blanchard. SOUTH CAROLINASTAR RAYS — Released F Louis Belisle. TOLEDO WALLEYE — Added G Josh Unice as emergency backup. SOCCER Major League Soccer COLUMBUS CREW — Exercised options on Ds Harrison Afful, Chad Barson, Sergio Campbell, Waylon Francis, Chris Klute and Michael Parkhurst; Ms Romain Gall, Hector Jimenez, Justin Meram and Wil Trapp; and G Brad Stuver. Declined options on D Emanuel Pogatzetz and M Kristinn Steindorsson. D.C. UNITED — Traded M Chris Pontius to Philadelphia	for general and targeted allocation money. Exercised options on Fs Fabian Espindola and Conor Doyle; Ms Miguel Aguilar and Jared Jeffrey and Ds Sean Franklin, Steven Birnbaum, Taylor Kemp, Chris Korb and Luke Mitsu. Declined options on F Jairo Arrieta and M Michael Farfan. Waived F/M Fernando Coria. LA GALAXY — Declined options on F Edson Buddle and Charlie Rugg; Ms Mikka Vayrynen and Kenney Walker; D Tommy Meyer and Gs Brian Perik, Donovan Ricketts and Andrew Wolverton. PHILADELPHIA UNION — Traded Ms Cristian Maidana and Andrew Wenger to Houston for a first-round draft pick and general and targeted allocation money. PORTLAND TIMBERS — Re-signed M Jack Jewsbury. Exercised the 2016 contract options on M George Fochive; Ds Athony Manning, Taylor Peay and F Michael Seaton. SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Traded M Lamar Neagle to D.C. United for general and targeted allocation money. COLLEGE FAYETTEVILLE STATE — Fired football coach Lawrence Kershaw. KENTUCKY STATE — Named John L. Smith football coach. PENN STATE — Suspended Penn State men's hockey F Eric Scheid one game. RUTGERS — Named Chris Ash football coach. SOUTH CAROLINA — Named Will Muschamp football coach and signed him to a five-year contract. TEMPLE — Agreed to terms with football coach Matt Rhule on a six-year contract.

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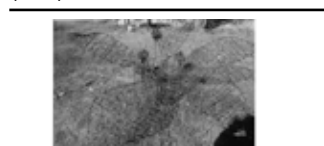
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James R. Begley, Deceased, were issued on November 23, 2015, in Cause No. P-14490, pending in the County Court of

Legals

Howard County, Texas, to: Sheila Ward.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Sheila Ward**
2005 Morrison Dr.
Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 3rd day of December, 2015.

Robert D. Miller
Attorney for Sheila Ward
State Bar No.: 14108500
608 Scurry
Big Spring, Texas 79720
Telephone: (432) 267-7449
Facsimile: (432) 267-1043
E-mail: cirrusr22@att.net

#8909 December 8, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harland B. "Steve" Birdwell, Deceased, were issued on November 23, 2015, in Cause No. P-14492, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: Cynthia Marshall.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Cynthia Marshall**
3 Highland Cove
Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 3rd day of December, 2015.

Robert D. Miller
Attorney for Cynthia Marshall
State Bar No.: 14108500
608 Scurry
BIG SPRING, TX 79720
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5	9	2	3	1	8	6	4	7
6	4	8	7	2	9	1	3	5
4	2	1	8	3	5	9	7	6
8	8	5	9	7	1	4	2	3
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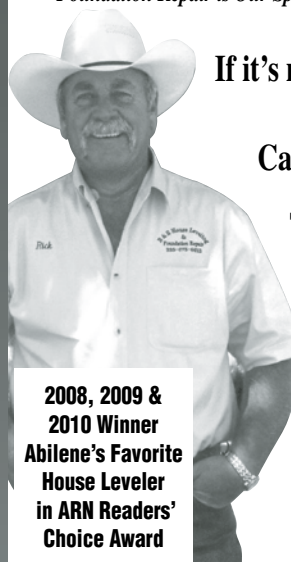
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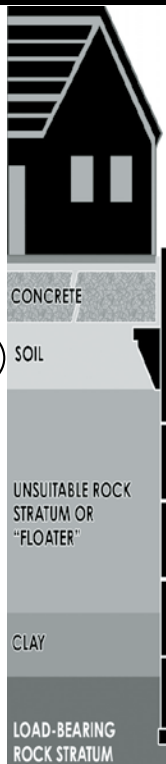
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Optimist Trine

The aspect involving the sun and Uranus is a harbinger for excellent moods, spontaneous smiling and random acts of kindness. People will be increasingly interested in one another's business, in a good way -- curiosity brings about bonding moments. This is a rare and wonderful cosmic atmosphere, so soak it up.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It won't be enough for you to know a person's name. You'll want to also know that person's story. And if a person can't deliver you said "story," you'll respect that person all the more -- a clean slate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The Internet tells you to spoil the one you adore with hugs and kisses -- not bad advice, though much depends on timing. You're playing a sophisticated game.

One answer does not fit all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The Bible suggests that we are dust and will return to it. Joni Mitchell echoed the sentiments when she sang, "We are star dust. We are golden." You'll feel the profundity of those words today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is a person who depends on you. This is real and important. Be all you can be to that person today. This is one of many days in a chapter of time, and yet it is the only day we can do something about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Maybe you don't even know how you got into it, but boy, you are in it now. Are you ever. For a lot of the day you'll wonder how to get out of it. The expression that rules after that: Good riddance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). I takes a long time to be a master. That's why the masters are exonerated. You'll praise one today without knowing how

Tomorrow's Horoscope

your praise will land. Truly, it will mean more than the master lets on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When someone makes an effort, you encourage. Words help; actions speak louder. You've a good idea about the action you should take, so go for it: You are always on the ready to make things better for you and yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You attract good friends; there's no question about that. Do they measure up to the standards that others set for you? Maybe not. Are those people in a position to set your standards? Maybe not.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's fine if you don't make sense. In fact, stop. Then realize: No one makes sense all of the time. Your nonsense will have a certain genius to it today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Playing the game -- that's where the fun is for you. The score only matters in as

much as it's a marker for who gets to play and who doesn't.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Art is not science. As much as one tries to measure it and weigh it and make sense of it, it can never work on a logical scale. And neither can a certain relationship you have that is prettifying up the walls of your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll use all of the tools available to you to connect with like minds. This will accentuate your tendencies. By finding kindred spirits, you'll feed the person you are.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 8). The happiness you feel now will carry forward, so focus on it and feel more of it! New family additions come in February. March is for educating yourself, and April is for finding people who can publicize what you do. June will bring a beautiful environment and July will help you pay for all of that. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers

are: 5, 14, 3, 39 and 13.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Would you give a few business tips to a Sagittarius entrepreneur? I have dabbled in several areas but have yet to create a successful business."

Sagittarians have two definite advantages in business. The first one is that the sign of the archer has a natural inclination toward goal-setting and will work diligently to meet the target. The second is that Sagittarians are usually quite adept at marketing and networking, processes that come so naturally to the sign that they often don't even realize they are doing this. Sagittarians will typically engage in enthusiastic conversations about their work and product, not even realizing that they are winning a new client or customer with the pitch.

What Sagittarius has to work hard at is sticking to one aim at a time. Yours is a wandering sign and you become easily bored once you've

gotten an endeavor right. But a successful business requires that you work through that stage. To merely do a job well won't create a successful business. You must be able to repeat successful actions and systemize them until you master a job. Beyond that you must define and organize the steps so you can teach others.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: As a young girl Nicki Minaj created fantasy characters and alter egos to escape from the turmoil of reality. Sagittarius is the sign of adventurers and a rich fantasy life can stand in when real life adventures are not possible. Minaj was born when the sun, Mercury, Venus, Uranus and Neptune were all in the passionate, fiery sign of Sagittarius.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click "Write the Author" on her page or visit her website at HolidayMathis.com.
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My boyfriend and I have been dating for 18 months and would like to move in together and eventually marry. It would be a second marriage for both of us. He has been divorced for four years and has three children who are just into their teens. I have no children, but have been actively involved in the lives of my many nieces and nephews, and the children of my friends.

His kids are the problem. I'm ready to give up the best relationship of my life because of them. They curse me, blatantly disrespect me, and are generally unpleasant to be around. They are physically and verbally violent toward each other, their peers and other family members. They lie and are disrespectful of adults and authority. They gossip and spread rumors.

I've told my boyfriend about their bad behavior, but they are well-mannered and courteous in his presence, so he claims not to see it. I've attempted a heart-to-heart with them, only to be mocked, have my words twisted and lies told about me. I am currently taking anti-anxiety medication over this situation.

How can I convince my boyfriend how his children really act? Should I bother? I was raised in a loving respectful home and feel totally out of my element. -- Heartbroken in California

Dear Heartbroken: Becoming a stepparent can be difficult and it doesn't help that your boyfriend closes his eyes to the problem. If his children are violent toward each other and other family members, he is undoubtedly aware of it, but unwilling to deal with it.

Teenagers can be notoriously rebellious, even under the best of circumstances. And their mother could be influencing them negatively, as well. You need to be extremely kind and patient, but the cursing, lying and disrespect must end. And that will happen only if your boyfriend insists on it. Please ask him about family counseling before the relationship disintegrates. Also, look into the National Stepfamily Resource Center (stepfamilies.info).

Dear Annie: It's taken a while, but I want to respond to "Forever Trapped," who feels she was born the wrong gender, but worries about surgical solutions.

My son (he was born female, but is

living his life as a male) was also confused. When younger, he exhibited so much male behavior that I thought he was a lesbian, but that wasn't it. He realized he was transgendered and transitioned from female to male many years ago. He had surgery, and you now cannot tell he was ever female.

My son is happily married, living as a gay man in the Boston area. There is nothing wrong with "Forever Trapped." Her gender identity didn't match her body. I hope she can find a therapist who works with the transgendered community. Surgery is expensive and not covered by insurance. Please

don't give up. Be the person you were meant to be. -- Proud Parent of a Transgendered Son

Dear Parent: We wish all parents would be as accepting and supportive as you. Thank you for writing.

Dear Readers: Sunday, Dec. 13, is The Compassionate Friends' Worldwide Candle Lighting in memory of all the children who have died. Please light a candle in the evening at 7 p.m., local time, and remember them with love. For more information, log on to compassionate-friends.org.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email

your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at Facebook.com/AskAnnie. 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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sudoku

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

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Haste Makes Waste

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 9 6 3
 ♥ J 10 7 4
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ A Q 10 5

WEST
 ♠ A K 7 4
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ K J 6 3
 ♣ 9 4 2

EAST
 ♠ 2
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ 10 9 8 7 4
 ♣ K J 8 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ Q J 10 8 5
 ♥ A K Q 9 2
 ♦ Q 2
 ♣ 7

The bidding:
 North East South West
 Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
 4 ♥

Assume you're West and your opponents get to four hearts on the bidding shown. You're unlikely to beat the contract on high cards alone, so you lead the king of spades, hoping to engineer a spade ruff for East.

When dummy shows up with three spades, your wish is granted, since East is marked by the bidding with a singleton spade even though

he plays the discouraging deuce on your king. He cannot have a doubleton spade, since with that holding he would have started a high-low signal. However, you must not be so swept away by the brilliance of your analysis that you hastily continue with the ace and another spade. East would ruff, all right, but South would then take the rest of the tricks after drawing trumps and discarding dummy's diamond loser on one of his high spades.

Instead, you should lead a low spade at trick two rather than the ace! Once you do this, South is doomed. East ruffs and returns a diamond, and declarer cannot avoid losing a spade and a diamond to go down one.

In fact, South will probably go down two against this defense. After East returns a diamond at trick three, South will probably draw two rounds of trumps and lead a club to the queen, hoping to discard his diamond loser on the ace of clubs if the finesse succeeds. This attempt to salvage the contract would fail as the cards lie, and after you collect a diamond and a spade, you would have a right to congratulate yourself for a well-planned defense.

Tomorrow: Reducing the luck factor.
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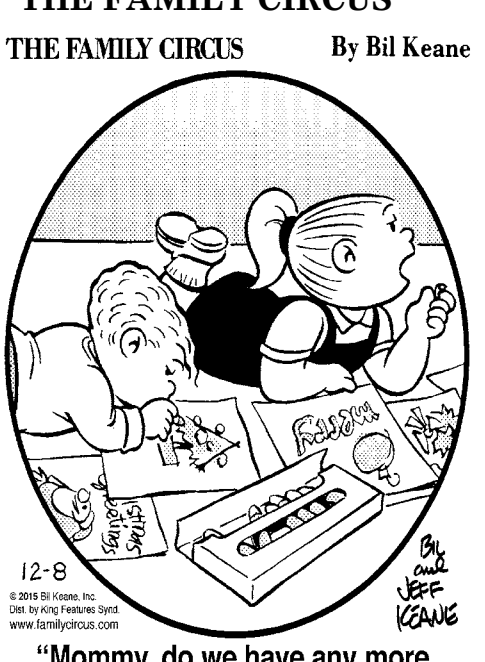
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM :30	News ABC	Hotel Notic.	Big Bang Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News CBS	Justice Called	Focus Business	CHiPs	American American	Seinfeld	Castle (DVS)	College GameDay	SportsCenter	Polo Big 12	Law & Order: SVU	Married-Sight	Moonshiners
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Muchacha	Mod Fam Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Ent	McGee HaYesod	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Castle (DVS)	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	College Basketball: Florida at Miami.	UFC Stars In.	Mod Fam	Married at First Sight	Moonshiners
7:PM :30	Muppets Fresh-	Antes Muerta que	Scream Queens (DVS)	NCIS (DVS)	Celia (SS)	The Voice	Upd M:25	Off the Menu	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	Castle (DVS)	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	College Basketball: Florida at Miami.	NHL Hockey: Carolina Hurricanes at Dallas Stars.	Mod Fam	Married-Sight	Moonshiners: Outlaw
8:PM :30	S.H.I.E.L.D.	Pasión y Poder		NCIS: New Orleans	Bajo el Mismo Cielo	Chicago Med	Light of the Southwest	Chef's Life Holiday	Hill Street Blues	iZombie	Big Bang	Castle (DVS)	College Basketball: Jimmy V Classic	College Basketball		Chrisley Donny!	(:01) Born This Way	Men, Women, Wild
9:PM :30	Shark Tank	Creo/los Hombres	TMZ Broke Girl	Fashion Show	Señora Acero (SS)	Chicago Fire		Frontline	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Castle (DVS)						
10:PM :30	News	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	With Schol-ars	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	Cougar	Conan	Castle (DVS)		SportCtr	Stars Live	Mod Fam	(:02) Married at First Sight	(:01) Moonshiners
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley	Perry Mason	Raising Cougar	Broke Girl	CSI: NY		Football	Cowboys	Mod Fam		To Be Announced
12:AM :30	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met Cleveland	James Corden	Bajo el Mismo Cielo	Seth Meyers	Upd	McCloud	King	Cougar	Conan	CSI: NY	SportsCenter	Baseball NBA	World Poker Tour	Mod Fam		
1:AM :30	Paid	Alma	Law Order: CI	Paíd	De'siones				Gallery	King	Cougar	CSI: NY	SportsCenter	30 for 30	NHL Hockey: Hurricanes at Stars	Chrisley Donny!	Married-Sight	Moonshiners

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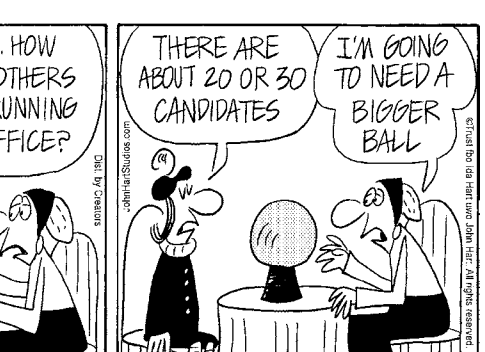
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



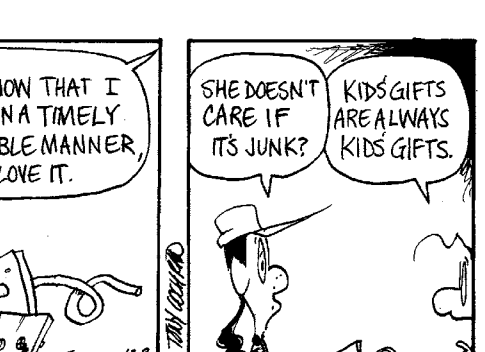
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2015. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date:

In 1765, Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, was born in Westborough, Massachusetts.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1865, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius was born in Haemeenlinna.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1940, the Chicago Bears defeated the Washington Redskins, 73-0, in the NFL Championship Game, which was carried on network radio for the first time by the Mutual Broadcasting System (the announcer was Red Barber).

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1962, the first session of the Second Vatican Council was formally adjourned. Typographers went on a 114-day strike against four New York City newspapers.

In 1972, a United Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while attempting to land at Chicago-Midway Airport, killing 43 of the 61 people on board, as well as two people on the ground; among the dead were Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, U.S. Rep. George W. Collins, D-Ill., and CBS News correspondent Michele Clark.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1982, a man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. (After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.)

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a

FOOTBALLISMS

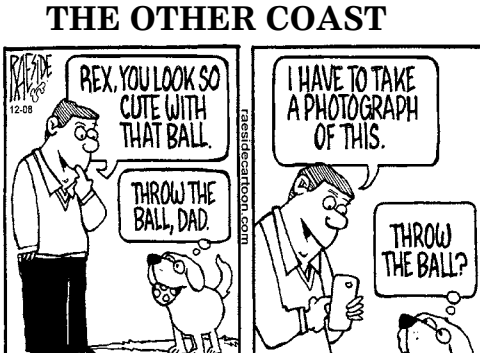
by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

37 Stately shade tree
38 Enemies
41 Snooty person
45 Admired person
47 Soft throws
49 Meeting plan
51 Muslim's faith
52 Brother's daughter
54 Thin coins
55 Counting everything
56 Bit of poetry
57 Inquired
58 Religious offshoot
59 Whittle down
60 Equally balanced
62 Speaker's platform

Answer to previous puzzle

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

WINTER'S COMIN' SOON, LOWEEZY !!



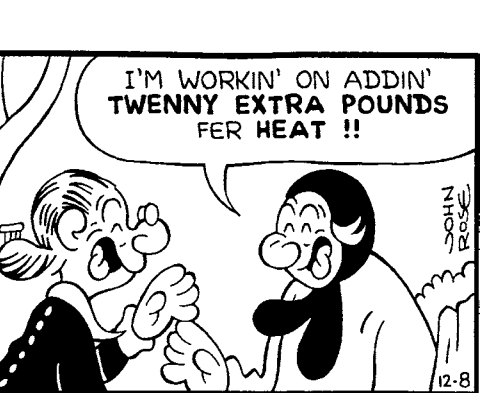
I'M WORKIN' ON ADDIN' TWENNY EXTRA POUNDS FER HEAT !!



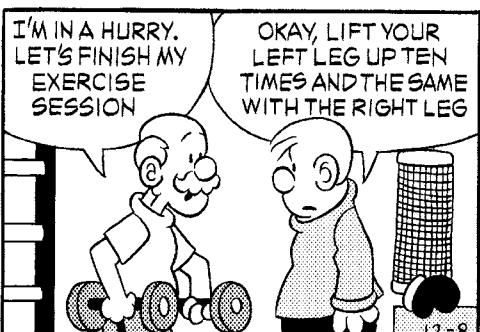
I'M IN A HURRY. LET'S FINISH MY EXERCISE SESSION



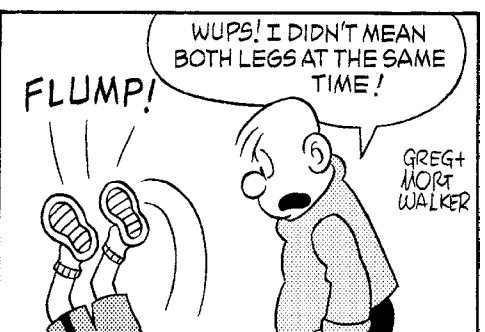
WUPS! I DIDN'T MEAN BOTH LEGS AT THE SAME TIME!



GREGG MORT WALKER



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ACROSS

- 1 Junk email
- 5 Lions and tigers
- 9 Facing the pitcher
- 14 Capital of Peru
- 15 Land measure
- 16 Off the leash
- 17 Bigger-than-life story
- 18 Astonish
- 19 Football kicks
- 20 Football rule-breaking punishments
- 22 Do great on an exam
- 23 Gardener's small shovel
- 24 Colorful parrot
- 26 Not many
- 28 Pungent salad veggie
- 32 Account subtraction
- 36 Great weight
- 39 Woodwind instrument
- 40 Image to click on
- 41 Songs for one voice
- 42 Have on, as clothes
- 43 Took a picture of
- 44 Identify
- 45 Prologue, for short
- 46 Reawaken
- 48 Feeling blue
- 50 Batman's partner
- 53 Legendary Lady on horseback
- 58 Eyeglasses, informally
- 61 Where coaches watch football games

DOWN

- 1 Snoozed
- 2 Peter the pepper picker
- 3 With 67 Across, protein building block
- 4 Colorful parrot
- 5 Football parrot
- 6 Start of a play
- 7 More faithful
- 8 Feel intuitively
- 9 Llama cousin
- 10 Six-point
- 11 Football play
- 12 ___ spumante (Italian wine)
- 13 Midterm or final
- 21 Went away
- 25 ___ and crafts
- 27 Hour-stopping shout
- 29 Skeptical remark
- 30 Fly high
- 31 Medal of Honor recipient
- 32 The "D" in CD-ROM
- 33 Reverberate
- 34 Fireworks sound
- 35 Catch the other team's pass
- 37 Stately shade tree
- 38 Enemies
- 41 Snooty person
- 45 Admired person
- 47 Soft throws
- 49 Meeting plan
- 51 Muslim's faith
- 52 Brother's daughter
- 54 Thin coins
- 55 Counting everything
- 56 Bit of poetry
- 57 Inquired
- 58 Religious offshoot
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

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58 59 60 61 62

63 64 65

66 67 68

69 70 71

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Life, Love & Chaos

The season of giving (and giving, and giving)

I think one of the hardest things for me during the Christmas season is the fact that I have three birthdays back to back right before Christmas.

Our youngest daughter's birthday is Nov. 7, our oldest was born Nov. 23, and then my husband's is Dec. 8. This makes it very difficult to splurge on the ones that I love most.

I have come up with several solutions over the years, but none of them really seem to stick or work too overly wonderful for me.

I used to just buy small stuff for birthdays and then purchase good presents for Christmas. My husband has been left behind and ignored his own birthday many years so that he can give his daughters a better Christmas. I have even tried buying in advance throughout the year, but that doesn't always work either due to space for storage. (And I have misplaced a present or two only to find it a few months after Christmas.)

No solution I have tried stays with me the next year. I come up with great plans and then fail to follow through. Sometimes

I remember to get a jump starting or I start to save up sooner, but really it is a paycheck to paycheck kind of life for us.

It is stressful this time of the year when you want to give loved ones the best and greatest items you know that they would love and your bank account is just laughing



for an entire month. We still weren't rich, but we had a better hold on making ends meet and had a little extra. At first we were so ecstatic that we just started buying everything we had been going without for so long. Then it started to catch up to us and we had to come up with a budget (which I am happy to say that we sometimes follow). This was a whole new lifestyle for us. We didn't have to decide between a pair of shoes for the girls and enough food to get through the week. We got to buy

real groceries again and not just boxed food. Since we went so many years living on so little, we adopt an angel off the Salvation Army tree every year since moving to Big Spring. In the good years, we buy for two, one from each of our daughters. In the tougher years, we pick one and shop together. I need my daughters to understand that even if you don't have much, you can still help someone else. It is small acts that mean the most to those who have hardly anything. We talk about the birthdays and Christmases we spent over the years and how we were the recipients of some of those

military toy drives. I am not ashamed of the Army giving my kids presents during the tough years, I am thankful someone made that donation for my girls. I am even happier to let my kids shop for others and donate toys to the different toy drives.

Teach a child that they can live without the expensive jewelry, fancy cars, and other non-essentials. Teach them what it means to be kind and caring. They will learn to appreciate everything that they receive in their lives and they will understand what a gift it is to be able to help others.

JULIE BASS

bright. But we put this stress on ourselves to make it big and wonderful. A lot of people put themselves into debt that they cannot possibly hope to get out from under until about July. When we got out of the Army and moved to Big Spring, my husband's paycheck in two weeks was equal to what we used to live off

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