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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

DECEMBER 22, 2015



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## Spreading joy (and gifts, too)

Hometown Christmas volunteers hit the road today to give Christmas cheer to needy families

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Santa Claus may be planning a Christmas Eve takeoff, but some of his helpers are getting a jump on the jolly ol' elf.

Volunteers with Hometown Christmas, a Wells Fargo Bank-sponsored Christmas gift drive, will fan out across Big Spring and Howard County today and Wednesday delivering holiday cheer to needy families in the area.

Jeannie Knocke, who heads the drive for Wells Fargo, said volunteers will deliver gifts to more than 100 children and 55 families in the next two days.

Donations from the community — in both cash and gifts — has been overwhelming, Knocke said.

"Wal-Mart even donated 25 Christmas trees," she said. "So, if anybody needs a tree this Christmas, just give us a call."

This is the sixth year for the holiday gift drive.

"Well Fargo (Bank) started it," Knocke said. "We work on it all year. We start collecting gifts in January and we keep them in the (bank) storeroom until now."

The group obtains names of needy families through Big Spring Independent School Dis-



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Hometown Christmas volunteers, from left, Gilbert Garcia, T.J. Gonzales and Jeannie Knocke are shown with some of the gifts which will be distributed to needy children during the next two days.

## Seliger lauds oil export decision

Staff and wire reports

The United States has ended restrictions on oil exports put in place in the mid-1970s. The lifting of the embargo was part of a spending deal that was pushed through the House and Senate and signed by President Barack Obama last week.

"Lifting the decades-old ban on crude oil exports is a tremendous victory. American producers will once again have access to a global market, providing an opportunity for growth in investments, GDP, and job creation," stated Texas Sen. Kel Seliger in a press release. "I am pleased to see that Congress can pass common sense legislation at a time when our nation needs it the most."

Senator Seliger (R-Amarillo) and Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) joined together to applaud Congress for voting to lift the 40-year old ban on American crude oil exports, the release said.

Seliger and Anchia worked



Seliger

See GIFTS, Page 3

See OIL, Page 3



## Prosecutor: No indictment on Hempstead jail death

By MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD — A grand jury decided that neither sheriff's officials nor jailers committed a crime in the treatment of a black woman who died in a Texas county jail last summer, but has not yet determined whether the state trooper who arrested her should face charges, a prosecutor said.

Prosecutor Darrell Jordan said Monday that the Waller County grand jury will return in January to consider whether to indict the trooper who arrested 28-year-old Sandra Bland in July.

The Chicago-area woman was pulled over July 10 for making an improper lane change. Dashcam video showed the traffic stop quickly became confrontational, with trooper Brian Encinia at one point holding a stun gun and yelling at Bland, "I will light you up!" after she refused to get out of her car.

Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw has said Encinia — who in June completed a year-long

probationary stint as a new trooper and has been on administrative duty since Bland's death — violated internal policies of professionalism and courtesy.

Bland was taken in handcuffs to the county jail in nearby Hempstead, about 50 miles northwest of Houston, and remained there when she couldn't raise about \$500 for bail. She was discovered dead three days later, hanging from a cell partition with a plastic garbage bag used as a ligature around her neck.

Her arrest and death came amid heightened national scrutiny of police and their dealings with black suspects, especially those killed by officers or who died in police custody.

Bland's relatives, along with supporters fueled by social media postings, questioned a medical examiner's finding that Bland killed herself.

In the days after Bland died, county authorities released video from the jail to dispel rumors and conspiracy theories that she was dead before she arrived at the jail or was killed while

See DEATH, Page 3

## Crimestoppers

Big Spring/Howard County Crimestoppers is asking for the public's help in locating a stolen car.

The 2009 Honda Venza was stolen on Sunday around 7 p.m. The Texas license plate number is FNZ1109.

"The vehicle does not have a front grill and the rear bumper has a crack in it and has tape holding it together," reads a Crimestoppers bulletin.

If you have any information on the stolen Honda, Crimestoppers asks you to call the TIPS line at 432-263-8477. Calls are always anonymous.



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**OIL**

Continued from Page 1

jointly during the 2015 Legislature to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 13, "Urging the U.S. Congress to end the ban on crude oil exports."

The measure was passed with support from both the Texas House and Senate. A bipartisan group of more than a hundred Texas legislators added their names as co-authors to the resolution.

"As the world's largest producer of oil and gas, America can now freely export these valuable resources to our allies Lifting the crude export ban makes our allies less dependent on hostile regimes like Russia and Venezuela. At the same time, it will also bolster our domestic economy and create Texas jobs," Anchia stated.

Here are the reasons why the ban was in place, why it was lifted, and how consumers and businesses will be affected.

**Gas lines**

Of all the bad memories seared into the American consciousness from the 1970s, never-ending lines at the gas pump tops the list for many people. OPEC put into place an oil embargo after the U.S. sided with Israel in the Yom Kippur War and the price of oil spiked from \$3 a barrel to \$12. A ban on oil exports was put in place in December 1975, with some exceptions. Companies were allowed to export oil to some

countries with special approval, and exports to Canada have increased in recent years.

**Production reduction**

The country's oil supply problem was made more precarious when domestic production began a long decline in the 1970s as oil fields matured. Even with a temporary surge in production from Alaska in the 1980s, the United States was forced to rely more and more on imports. U.S. production, which had reached almost 10 million barrels per day in the early 1970s, was halved by 2008.

**So what has changed?**

Technology. U.S. energy companies have developed new techniques that have dramatically increased oil production from fields once thought to be virtually empty or unreachable. U.S. oil production rose from 5 million barrels a day in 2008 to more than 9 million barrels a day this year, increasing global supply faster than demand. Crude prices are near \$35 per barrel, down from more than \$100 per barrel in June of last year.

**Winners and losers**

Companies including Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips, along with the American Petroleum Institute, an oil and gas lobbying group, have been the biggest proponents of ending the ban. But the economic benefits could be very broad. Economists say exports could help the economy by reducing fuel prices — there are a lot of U.S. industries for which

energy is a huge cost, from agriculture to airlines to manufacturing. Exports should also encourage investment in oil and gas production and transport, create jobs, make oil and gas supplies more stable and reduce the U.S. trade deficit.

Still, environmental groups worry that the rush by U.S. energy companies to supply the world with crude will lead to more local pollution and higher global emissions.

**The price is right**

Allowing U.S. oil to compete in overseas markets should help lower the price of international oil, as measured by the price of Brent crude. U.S. refiners still import a large amount of foreign oil to produce gasoline and other fuels, so the price that U.S. drivers pay at the pump is closely tied to the price of Brent. Right now, thanks to low oil prices, many U.S. consumers are paying around \$2 on average for a gallon of gas.

**Battle lines**

The end to the four-decade ban on U.S. crude exports was the big prize in the budget battle for Republicans, who saw it as an arcane policy given the nation's exploding production of oil and natural gas. In return, they agreed to the demand from Democrats for a five-year extension of credits for wind and solar energy producers and a renewal of a land and water conservation fund. Democrats also blocked Republican proposals to impede Obama administration clean air regulations.

**Take note**

- The Big Spring Art Association meets every third Tuesday, September through May at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Memberships are available. The annual dues are \$20.

- 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: 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.

- Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to sit with patients, make items for patients and help with office work. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7911 or 432-213-0150.

- Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Kim Plew at 263-4016 or 213-7960.

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

- 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.

**GIFTS**

Continued from Page 1

strict and other sources, determines what the children want for

Christmas, then gets busy filling that wish list, Knocke said.

It's not just children who benefit from the group's efforts. Along with toys and clothes

for the little ones, Hometown Christmas will also deliver turkeys and hams to their families, along with toiletry, household, and clothing items for needy adults..

Interested people can donate either items or money to the drive — a special account has been established at Wells Fargo to accept monetary gifts, and items can be

dropped off at the bank as well.

Knocke said community response to the program has been heartwarming.

"We've received many,

many anonymous donations," Knocke said. "People have come through with money and toys and all kinds of items. We're very grateful for that."

Wells Fargo accepts Hometown Christmas donations year-round, Knocke said.

For more information, contact Knocke at the bank at 432-267-5513.

**DEATH**

Continued from Page 1

in custody. County officials said they themselves received death threats.

Cannon Lambert, an attorney representing Bland's family, said Monday that the grand jury's decision is consistent with what the family believes has so far been an attempt by authorities to cover up the events after Bland's arrest.

"They continue to do things we are disappointed in," he said.

Bland's mother, Geneva Reed-Veal, told a news conference held in Chicago before Monday night's announcement that she wants to see all

the evidence and has been frustrated by delays in the case.

Attorney Larry Rogers acknowledged grand juries usually meet in secret, but that the process means lawyers for Bland's family haven't been able to examine the findings of a Texas Rangers investigation into her death because the report is grand jury evidence.

Waller County District Attorney Elton Mathis, who appointed five special prosecutors to handle the Bland case, has said there is nothing in that investigation "that shows anything happened but she killed herself."

"After presenting all the evidence as it relates to the death of San-

dra Bland, the grand jury did not return an indictment," Jordan, one of the five appointed prosecutors, said after the grand jury met Monday for about 11 hours. "The grand jury also considered things that occurred at the jail and did not return an indictment."

Lambert said late Monday he believes prosecutors' decision to have the grand jury return in January is another attempt to delay releasing the Rangers' report. He said he expects to ask a federal judge to compel Texas authorities to turn over the document.

Reed-Veal couldn't be reached for comment on the grand jury's decision late Monday. She

has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court in Houston against the trooper, the Texas Department of Public Safety, Waller County and two jail employees. A judge last week set a January 2017 trial date in that case.

Bland family attorneys contend Waller County jailers should have checked on her more frequently and that the county should have performed mental evaluations once she disclosed she had a history of attempting suicide.

County officials have said Bland was treated well while jailed and produced documents that show she gave jail workers inconsistent information about whether she was suicidal. Reed-Veal also contends in her lawsuit that Encinia, the trooper who arrested her daughter, falsified the assault allegation to take Bland into custody.

Melissa Hamilton, visiting criminal law scholar at the University of Houston, said Bland had no legal right to remain in her car after the trooper ordered her out.

"Whether you like it or not, the Supreme Court has made it clear police are in charge at a traffic stop, and they can make anybody get out of the car — driver or passenger — for no reason whatsoever," she said. "The idea for that is to allow police to control a potentially dangerous situation."

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Chester Pulliam, 57, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Prairie Haven Cemetery in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Hershel Johnson, 97, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



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# Opinion

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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## Falsehoods and false alarms

Why does Donald Trump repeat talking points that he knows are untrue? During Tuesday night's debate, The Donald asserted that before 9/11, terrorists put their “friends, family, girlfriends” into planes, and “they were sent back — for the most part to Saudi Arabia. They knew what was going on. They went home, and they wanted to watch their boy-friends on television.”



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Trump made similar claims — but that the 9/11 terrorists sent back their wives — earlier this month. Washington Post fact-checker Glenn Kessler shredded the claim. Only two of the terrorists were married, Kessler reported, and neither wife had been in the United States. The German girlfriend of one terrorist visited America, but she flew home months before the attack, of which she was unaware.

It speaks volumes about Trump's character (or lack thereof) that rather than drop the bogus 9/11 claim, he edits it in a way that corrects one error — from wives to girlfriends — but remains totally false and utterly scurrilous. What does

he get out of saying things that are patently untrue? It makes you wonder whether his goal is to lower the bar so that the next time he belches out a whopper, his groupies will just shrug and say it's Trump being Trump. As if that's a good thing.

What he gets: If Trump backs out of his pledge not to run as a third-party candidate, then he'll have cover because he can claim that only a chump would believe he meant what he said.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie stuck to a false narrative with introductory remarks on the one-day closing of Los Angeles schools.

“Think about the effect that that's going to have on those children when they go back to school tomorrow, wondering, filled with anxiety about whether they're really going to be safe,” quoth Christie. “Think about the mothers who will take those children tomorrow morning to the bus stop wondering whether their children will arrive back on that bus safe and sound.”

He knew it was false; by the time the Las Vegas prime-time TV debate began, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti had disclosed that the threat made on the schools was a hoax. It was a hoax that disabled Los Angeles but did not gull cooler heads in New York.

I like Christie. I see his appeal as a governor during scary times and as a former federal prosecutor who put away terrorists plotting on American soil. Still, it bothers me that the Jersey guy doesn't know when not to play the terrorism card. He should have known better than to address the Los Angeles scare as anything but a prank. He was giving too much credence to a false alarm. It's counterproductive.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was the only candidate to get under Trump's skin. Bush asked the billionaire how he expected to handle Vladimir Putin if he couldn't keep his cool about his CNN coverage. Trump — inaccurately, of course — threw back his poll numbers at Bush. “I'm at 42 (percent), and you're at 3,” Trump sputtered. For the record, the RealClearPolitics average shows Trump at 33 percent and Bush at 4 percent. If Trump had not ruled out a third-party run if he is not the GOP candidate, that little outburst would have led debate news.

Email Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.com). To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).



## 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 at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please follow these guidelines:

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

## DAILY PRAYER

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

Amen

## An apology to Bernie Sanders

Hardly a week goes by without some demand for an apology populating my inbox. I have never apologized for two reasons: The usual one is that I'm not sorry. The other is that calls for an apology have become an irritating tactic in American political discourse, a kind of bullying.

That doesn't mean I haven't regretted things I've said or the tone used. I have. So here's a compromise: I will issue one apology a year.

And the winner for 2015 is ... Bernie Sanders.

Why Bernie? Some liberal friends complain that I've been overly dismissive of the senator from Vermont's candidacy. They have cause.

I was especially rough in pointing out the cracks in Bernie's self-portrait of a national force for civil rights. Perhaps I overdid it.

But the fact remains that he fled the troubled New York of the '60s for the whitest state in the nation. It baffles that he shares his campaign stage with Cornel West, a black academic who condemns Barack Obama in nasty racial terms.

On advancing civil rights, Bernie's been totally on board. Still, one can see why ordinary African-Americans seem to relate better to Hillary Clinton. Bernie, you're really good on

most concerns: Reining in Wall Street's power. Expanding Medicare to all Americans.

You also rise over conventional liberal stances, opposing gun control measures that come off as more anti-gun than pro-control. You've clearly been talking to hunters in your rural state.

Your views on immigration are well-nuanced. You support a path to citizenship for otherwise law-abiding undocumented people. But you oppose calls for massive temporary-worker programs that would replace American workers — and not just farmworkers — with lower-cost substitutes.

The Democratic debates have shown you at your best.

On Saturday, you graciously offered ... an apology ... over your campaign's breach of Clinton's proprietary data. (Hillary responded in kind, saying it was time to move on.) That was quite noble of you in light of the Democratic National Committee's decision to temporarily cut your campaign's access to its voter database. The DNC has not treated you fairly.

You've been taking the high road in this campaign, sticking to issues and even occasionally praising Hillary. Your dismissal of the right wing's obsessive harping over Clinton's use of private email while secretary of state will not be forgotten.

Bernie, the poll numbers show you slipping further behind Hillary among Democratic voters. That alone is not reason enough to downplay your quest for the presidency. Candidates have come roaring back, and Hillary's

performance over the years has not been flawless.

But there's a big question besides “can you win?” That is, What would happen if you did? For all your solid thinking, you've never been able to work with others in Washington, and we're not just talking about Republicans. You often can't get along with liberal Democrats.

Your “holier than thou” attitude, as former Rep. Barney Frank put it, has kept you from actively participating in the formation of laws. That bill you negotiated with conservatives to improve veterans' health care doesn't count. Helping veterans is not a hard sell.

But let's end the criticism here. I'm glad you're running. Without you, hardly any attention would have been paid to the Democratic side. The other remaining challenger, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, simply isn't original enough. (Sorry, Martin. This year's apology has just been used up.)

Finally, I never tire of hearing you describe your smart liberal ideas with force and conviction. I still don't think you're going to be IT. But if I ever came off as not respecting you, Bernie, I apologize.

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at [fharrop@gmail.com](mailto:fharrop@gmail.com). To find out more about Froma Harrop and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## What Rhymes with...

# SHINE



List 10 words that rhyme with "shine."

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Some answers: dine, fine, mine, pine, shine, spine, stein, tine, vine

## Jokes and Riddles

**Question:**  
Why are Christmas trees such bad knitters?

**Answer:**  
They are always dropping their needles.

**Question:**  
How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

**Answer:**  
Nothing. It was on the house!



## COLORING PICTURE



## O Christmas Tree

Each year, volunteers decorate the White House from top to bottom for Christmas. The centerpiece is the official White House tree. Since 1929, the First Lady has been in charge of decorating the tree.

The tree is much too large for the First Lady to decorate all by herself. A lot of volunteers help her.

Some make ornaments to go with the theme she has chosen. Others hang the ornaments on the tree. When First Lady Pat Nixon decided to have an American Flower Tree in 1969, a group of disabled workers in Florida made the state flower ornaments.

It takes hundreds of volunteers to turn the White House into a holiday showcase. Every year, they give it their all, as the First Lady looks on with pride.



## Fact or Fiction?

### Gingerbread House Challenge

Each year pastry chefs at the White House make a gingerbread house for the holiday season. Here are some questions about the gingerbread house. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) Plans for the gingerbread house begin in the summer. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) The First Lady must approve the plans. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) Pastry chefs take about a week to make the gingerbread house. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) The gingerbread house is always white. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) The gingerbread house is big, often weighing over a hundred pounds. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) Sometimes the gingerbread house has pets that look like the First Family's pets. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) No one in the First Family is supposed to see the gingerbread house until it is finished. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) When it is finished, the gingerbread house is placed in the state dining room. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) No one ever nibbles on the gingerbread house. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) The 2012 gingerbread house was made to look like the White House before 1798 when it had not yet been painted white. **Fact or Fiction?**



Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fact, 3) Fiction, 4) Fact, 5) Fact, 6) Fact, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fiction, 10) Fact

## NAME THAT FIRST LADY

Many First Ladies have overseen the holiday decorating of the White House. Fill in the blanks to name some of them.

- 1) MI \_\_\_ ELLE OB \_\_\_ A
- 2) N \_\_\_ NC \_\_\_ R \_\_\_ GAN
- 3) PA \_\_\_ NI \_\_\_ O \_\_\_
- 4) ROSALY \_\_\_ CA \_\_\_ TE \_\_\_
- 5) BE \_\_\_ Y FO \_\_\_ D
- 6) LAU \_\_\_ A BU \_\_\_
- 7) HI \_\_\_ ARY C \_\_\_ INTON

Answers: 1) Michelle Obama, 2) Nancy Reagan, 3) Pat Nixon, 4) Rosalynn Carter, 5) Betty Ford, 6) Laura Bush, 7) Hillary Clinton



# Life, love & chaos: A love for the ages

I know this couple that has one of the most amazing marriages. They are true marriage partners in that they support one another, respect one another, and approach everything as a unified team.

When Connie and Jeff were about 10 years old, their families lived on farms next to one another. Jeff was best friends with Connie's older brother Mike and spent a lot of time hanging out with the kids next door.

Jeff ended up moving away his senior year

and wrote a letter to his friend Mike.

Unfortunately, Mike had joined the Army and deployed, so Connie wrote him back to explain.

One thing led to another and soon, she and Jeff are writing letters back and forth.

Connie was quiet, shy, obedient, and very artistic. Jeff was

always on the go, made good grades, and worked hard. The two grew close and were married the December after they graduated from high school.

Over the years, they had kids, Jeff graduated from college, and they had more kids. They built a good life together full of love and respect.

They raised their kids with hard work, love, patience, discipline, tears, and God. There were many trials and tribulations that they faced as a team and managed to overcome.



JULIE  
BASS

## Texas and Southwest

### Former Houston-area teacher gets 8 years in child porn case

HOUSTON (AP) — A former Houston-area high school arts teacher must serve eight years in federal prison for receipt of child pornography.

Scott Burns of Alvin was sentenced Monday in Houston. The 46-year-old Burns in May pleaded guilty in the child porn case in 2012 and 2013.

Prosecutors say the Alvin High School teacher received and possessed child pornography. Burns was arrested last December. He was suspended and lost his job after being accused of using adult former students as the subjects of sexually suggestive photos and paintings.

The investigation began when an abandoned briefcase turned over to the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office was found to contain child pornography. Computer-related items in the case yielded about 600 images and videos of child porn.

### 3 killed, 7 hurt in multi-vehicle crashes in SW Arkansas

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP) — Three people were killed and at least seven others injured in separate chain-reaction collisions involving more than a dozen vehicles on an interstate in southwest Arkansas, authorities said.

Arkansas State Police said the first wreck happened at about 11:45 p.m. Monday on Interstate 49 near the town of Fouke. A tractor-trailer driving south slowed down and was rear-ended, causing a chain-reaction crash involving 10 vehicles, state police said.

At about the same time, three tractor-trailers collided in the northbound lanes — which are separated from the southbound lanes by a median. State police said one of those trucks was carrying a large amount of glue that has spilled onto the highway.

Seven people were injured and taken to hospitals in Texarkana. Several others who suffered minor injuries declined hospital care, authorities said. State police said troopers are investigating whether fog may have contributed to the crashes.

The interstate remained closed Tuesday morning and traffic has been detoured onto U.S. 71 as the investigation and cleanup continues.

Fouke is about 160 miles southwest of Little Rock and lies close to the Texas and Louisiana state lines.

### Man falls, dies trying to jump to Dallas 7th-floor balcony

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police say a man accidentally fell to his death while apparently trying to jump from a parking garage to a seventh-floor apartment balcony.

Police identified the man as 27-year-old James Gabriel Shandorf. Authorities do not suspect foul play in the death before dawn Monday.

Police believe Shandorf was on a parking garage ledge when he attempted to jump to an apartment balcony.

### Texas man charged with killing his mother, arrested in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — U.S. Marshals say a multi-agency task force

arrested a 31-year-old Texas fugitive found in Las Vegas after he was charged with killing his mother.

The joint agency said Garth A. Claytor was arrested and booked at the Clark County Detention Center on Friday as he awaits extradition to Texas for trial.

The agency says a warrant issued for Claytor includes a homicide charge in connection with the death of his mother in Collinsville, Texas.

Clark County Detention Center's online site shows Claytor has a hearing scheduled Tuesday but court records weren't immediately available.

It isn't clear if Claytor is represented by an attorney and attempts to locate his legal representation were unsuccessful. A request to interview Claytor in jail was unanswered.

### EPA: Stone cover at Southeast Texas Superfund site damaged

CHANNELVIEW, Texas (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency says divers have discovered damage to the stone cover of the protective cap for a structure at a Southeast Texas Superfund site that contains toxic waste from a paper mill.

EPA spokesman David Gray says it's not known if the cap itself is damaged at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site in Harris County. He says the potentially responsible parties submitted a repair plan Monday that the EPA is reviewing.

The EPA has said the plan must include sampling to assure the agency that no materials have been released from the site.

This December will mark the 51st anniversary of Jeff and Connie Rumbaugh, the people I have been blessed to call Mom and Dad all of these years.

They are strong role models.

My mom constantly attempted to make me a lady with her manners and etiquette lessons. My dad worked hard to make me tough and strong to face the outside world and take care of myself. They both taught me the love of God's grace and mercy.

I am the youngest of

four so I also had the added benefit of learning from my older brothers and sister, especially from their mistakes.

Throughout my marriage, being a mom, and life in general, I have looked up to my parents.

I think back to the countless lessons they taught me over the years, I try to make decisions similar to what they would choose and I still call them for advice and guidance.

Most people grow up wanting to give their

kids a better life than they had growing up. I just hope to give my kids as good of a life as I had growing up.

Happy Anniversary Mom and Dad, and Merry Christmas to all of you!

Contact Lifestyle Editor Julie Bass at 432-263-7331, ext. 232, or email [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

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The site consists of a set of impoundments. Collection of wastes started there in the 1960s.

Part of the waste material that has been capped is sometimes flooded by the river.

### Killer whale dies at SeaWorld San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A killer whale at SeaWorld San Antonio has died after suffering from a fungal infection.

The San Antonio Express-News (<http://bit.ly/1Phpge0>) reports the park said it would conduct a necropsy to determine the cause of the Monday death of

the killer whale named Unna.

According to a news release, the 18-year-old whale contracted a strain of fungus called Candida and was under the care of the park's veterinary team in recent months.

Unna is the third whale to die at the park in the past six months. The park canceled all killer whale shows Monday.

SeaWorld's killer whale shows have been a source of controversy since the critical "Blackfish" documentary was released in 2013. The company announced last month that it was phasing out orca shows at its San Diego park.

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## LOGAN TERRAZAS

14 years old  
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Freshman



Freshman post player Logan Terrazas, who was recently called up to the varsity squad, is not new to the

bigger stage. Terrazas was also called up to varsity during volleyball season. Though she wasn't a major piece of the varsity team, she quickly found a role as an outside hitter for head coach Lynn Osborne. She recorded six kills in her first varsity game. As a 5' 9" freshman, Terrazas is still getting used to playing as one of the taller players on the court. Terrazas has been playing basketball since the 5th grade. Her favorite basketball player is Jessica Wash who played at the University of North Carolina. Her favorite team is the red-hot Golden State Warriors. Terrazas is always

working to get better, living life by the quote, "The day you are satisfied is the day you stop playing." Terrazas says she plays because not only is it fun to play basketball, but playing with this group of girls is always fun, win or lose. Fans, coaches, and teammates are excited to see if she can have a similar impact on girls varsity basketball team as she had on girls varsity volleyball team, where she meshed quickly with fellow teammates.

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

## Lady Buffs take second district game

By TAYLOR ELLIS  
Sports Editor

FORSAN — The Forsan varsity girls basketball squad won their second district game in as many contests with a convincing 50-20 victory over McCamey. The Lady Buffs came out strong on both ends of the court, winning the first quarter 14-1. "It's always a good night when all 10 players on the team score," head coach Lindsey Schmidt said. Sophomore Chasidy Grantham led the team in scoring with 11 points. Kaylee Kemper added nine points. The two district wins are more impressive

than usual due to the added pressure of finals. "This is always a hard week to start district and remain focused on our job when everyone is looking forward to the holiday break. I was very proud of the focus that the girls brought to this game," Schmidt said. The Lady Buffs next game will be held at the Sands Tournament on Dec. 28 and 29.

F. 14. 14. 11. 11.  
M. 1. 5. 7. 7.

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

# Clemson's Swinney wins AP coach of year after perfect season

Clemson's Dabo Swinney is The Associated Press college football coach of the year after leading the Tigers to an unbeaten regular season and the longest run as the No. 1 team in the country in school history.

Swinney received 35 of 60 votes from the AP Top 25 media panel. Iowa's Kirk Ferentz was second with 10. Michigan State's Mark Dantonio and Houston's Tom Herman each received five votes. Oklahoma's Bob Stoops received three votes and Notre Dame's Brian Kelly and Florida's Jim McElwain each had one. "I am very honored to receive the AP National Coach of the Year award," Swinney said in a statement to the AP on Monday. "Football is

a great team sport and any individual honor is a result of having a great group of players and staff. I am blessed to have student-athletes and coaches that believe in what we do. This award is a reflection of their hard work and commitment."

Swinney is the first Clemson coach to win the award, which was first handed out in 1998, and the first ACC coach since Jim Grobe from Wake Forest in 2006. Last year's winner was TCU's Gary Patterson. Behind Swinney, the Tigers (13-0) won the Atlantic Coast Conference and enter the College Football Playoff as the top seed. Clemson will face fourth-seeded Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl semifinal on Dec. 31 for a spot in the

national championship game. Clemson's last and only national title was 1981.

The Tigers were No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the final five weeks of the regular season and in each of the six playoff rankings. Clemson had never been No. 1 in the regular season.

The 46-year-old Swinney is in his seventh full season leading Clemson after being promoted from wide receivers coach in 2008. Since going 6-7 in his second full season with the Tigers, Swinney has won at least 10 games each year, building one of the most consistently successful programs in the country.

"After seven years of beating the drum, our foundation has taken root," Swinney told the

AP in an interview last month. "I have to continue to protect that culture. And you do that through every decision that you make. Staying true to who you are. "You do that through the people that you hire. You do that through discipline. You do that through recruiting. More importantly you do that through walking it every day. I've had 120 seniors and 114 graduates. That's uncommon. That's not the norm. That's my scorecard. I'm more proud of that than anything."

A willing and enthusiastic postgame dancer and always good for a memorable sound bite — "Bring your own guts!" — Swinney has become a star during Clemson's best season since the Tigers won the 1981 national title. He hosted a pizza party for thousands of Clemson fans at Memorial Stadium after the Tigers won the ACC title game and rented out an amusement park for his players last Saturday. "He's very inspiring. Very positive. Very confident, but incredibly humble," defensive coordinator Brent Venables said. "He's got a very unique spirit in him. Love for people. Love for life." This season started with high hopes for Clemson, but some caution. The Tigers had to replace most of the starters from last season's top-ranked defense, along with offensive coordinator Chad Morris, who left after last season to become SMU's coach.

Under Venables, who was hired away from Oklahoma after the 2011 season, the defense is tied for ninth in the country, allowing 4.68 yards per play. The offense under coordinators Jeff Scott and Tony Elliott, who were promoted from within by Swinney, is 22nd in yards per play (6.43) and set a school record with nine straight games of at least 500 total yards. Swinney's ability to surround himself with quality coaches might be his greatest strength. "Good coaches are a dime a dozen. Guys that know football, dime a dozen," Swinney said. "Good coaches that are about the right things. Good men. Good husbands. That's a whole different deal."

## Scoreboard

**NBA**  
Sunday's Games  
Miami 116, Portland 109  
Minnesota 100, Brooklyn 85  
Cleveland 108, Philadelphia 86  
Milwaukee 101, Phoenix 95  
Sacramento 104, Toronto 94  
Atlanta 103, Orlando 100  
New Orleans 130, Denver 125

**Monday's Games**  
Washington 113, Sacramento 99  
Boston 113, Minnesota 99  
Orlando 107, New York 99  
Brooklyn 105, Chicago 102  
Houston 102, Charlotte 95  
Atlanta 106, Portland 97  
San Antonio 106, Indiana 92  
Utah 110, Phoenix 89  
Oklahoma City 100, L.A. Clippers 99

**Tuesday's Games**  
Memphis at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Dallas at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.  
Detroit at Miami, 7:30 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 9 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
New York at Cleveland, 7 p.m.  
Sacramento at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
Houston at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Memphis at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Boston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Dallas at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.  
San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Portland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.  
Detroit at Atlanta, 8 p.m.  
Denver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
Utah at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

**NHL**  
Sunday's Games  
Florida 5, Vancouver 4, SO  
Boston 2, New Jersey 1, SO  
Tampa Bay 5, Ottawa 2  
Detroit 4, Calgary 2  
Washington 7, N.Y. Rangers 3  
Chicago 4, San Jose 3, OT

**Monday's Games**  
N.Y. Islanders 5, Anaheim 2  
Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 3  
Pittsburgh 5, Columbus 2  
Washington 2, Carolina 1  
Nashville 5, Montreal 1  
Dallas 6, Minnesota 3  
Toronto 7, Colorado 4  
Edmonton 3, Winnipeg 1

**Tuesday's Games**  
St. Louis at Boston, 7 p.m.  
Anaheim at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.  
New Jersey at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Vancouver at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.  
Ottawa at Florida, 7:30 p.m.  
Montreal at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.  
Toronto at Arizona, 9 p.m.  
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
No games scheduled  
**TRANSACTIONS**

**BASEBALL**  
**American League**  
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with LHP Tom Gorzelanny and LHP Joe Thatcher on minor league contracts.  
SEATTLE MARINERS — Named Tyrus Bowman, Amanda Hopkins, Jackson Laumann, Taylor Terrasas, Stephen Tromblee and Ross Vecchio area scouts. Promoted area scouts Ben Collman, Chris Pelekoudas and Mike Moriarty to regional supervisory scouting positions.  
TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP A.J. Griffin on a minor league contract.  
**National League**  
COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHP Adam Ottavino on a three-year contract.  
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Named Bill Haselman manager of Oklahoma City (PCL), Ryan Garko manager of Tulsa (Texas), Drew Saylor manager of Rancho Cucamonga (Cal), Gil Velazquez of Great Lakes (MWL), Shaun Larkin manager of Ogden (Pioneer) and John Shoemaker manager of the Arizona League Dodgers.  
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Acquired LHP Kyle Lobstein from Detroit for cash considerations.  
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with LHP Buddy Baumann on a one-year contract. Designated C Josmil Pinto for assignment.  
**Frontier League**  
FLORENCE FREEDOM —

Signed RHP Cody Gray, OF Josh Henderson, LHP Pat McGrath and LHP Zach Wendorf to contract extensions. Signed 1B William Beckwith, RHP Kaddidy Gaines, 1B Eric Kalbfleisch, 1B Zach Mathieu and catcher Matt Rubino.  
LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Signed RHP Frushers Gallegos and OF Connor Oliver.  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINNERS — Sold the contract of RHP Adam Lopez to San Diego (NL).  
**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
NFL — Suspended New York Giants WR Odell Beckham Jr. one game for his conduct during a Dec. 28 game against Carolina.  
ATLANTA FALCONS — Reached an injury settlement with G Jon Asamoah.  
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Activated TE Andrew Quarless from injured reserve-return. Placed WR Ty Montgomery on injured reserve.  
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed WR Griff Whalen and DT Billy Winn on injured reserve. Waived RB Zurlon Tipton. Signed DE Earl Oline and DT Kelcy Quarles from the practice squad and RB Trey Williams from Miami's practice squad.  
OAKLAND RAIDERS — S Charles Woodson announced his retirement, effective at the end of this season.  
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Placed WR Andre Roberts on injured reserve. Signed WR Colin Lockett to the practice squad. Placed TE Ray Ham-

ilton on the practice squad injured list.  
**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
NHL — Suspended Boston F Max Talbot two games for interference against New Jersey F Jiri Tlustý during a Dec. 20 game.  
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Michal Jordan from Charlotte (AHL).  
MINNESOTA WILD — Signed D Jared Spurgeon to a four-year contract extension.  
**American Hockey League**  
AHL — Suspended Binghamton D Mark Fraser two games for his actions during an altercation in a Dec. 18 game at Syracuse and Rockford C Marco Dano one game for slew-footing in a Dec. 19 game at Chicago.  
CHARLOTTE CHECKERS — Released F Drayson Bowman from his professional try-out contract.  
SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Signed F Nick Drazenovic to a professional tryout contract.  
**SOCCER**  
**Major League Soccer**  
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed M Derrick Etienne and F Brandon Allen.  
SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC — Signed F Andy Craven and G Tyler Miller to one-year contracts.  
**North American Soccer League**  
JACKSONVILLE ARMADA FC — Signed M Pekka Lagerblom.  
MIAMI FC — Signed F Darío Cvitanich.

**COLLEGE**  
ARIZONA — Announced cornerback coach David Lockwood will not return next season. Promoted football analyst Jahmile Adadze to cornerback coach.  
AUSTIN PEAY — Named Will Healy football coach.  
DENVER — Announced the resignation of director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation services Eric Ziady, effective Dec. 31.  
FLORIDA — Announced RB Kelvin Taylor, WR Demarcus Robinson and DE Alex McCaister will enter the NFL draft.  
GEORGIA — Suspended LB Tim Kimbrough for the Tax-Slayer Bowl.  
MICHIGAN — Named Don Brown defensive coordinator.  
SOUTH FLORIDA — Signed football coach Willie Taggart to a three-year extension through 2020.  
TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE — Announced the retirement of men's and women's golf coach Louie Bledsoe.  
SOUTHERN CAL — Named Tee Martin offensive coordinator, in addition to his duties as wide receivers coach.  
TEXAS TECH — Suspended WR Devin Lauderdale. Announced DL Mike Mitchell and DBs Jalen Barnes and Derrick Dixon will transfer.  
WINTHROP — Promoted men's associate head soccer coach Daniel Ridenhour to head coach, effective Jan. 1.





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HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

**Solstice Celebration**

Many celebrated the winter solstice yesterday, and many will celebrate it today, including the hundreds of visitors who will visit Stonehenge to watch the sun rise over the mysterious ancient monument. On a personal note, this passage represents new hope. Ward away darkness and hold onto the promise that illuminates the brighter days ahead.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). It's easy for you to admit when you're wrong. What's hard, however, is being right and simultaneously too classy and/or compassionate to gloat about it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're in the mood to take a financial risk. The others will protest this investment. Maybe they want to be able to say, "I told you so" if it fails. Don't let that stop you. Act on your

hunch.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). There's a time for thinking, wondering, obsessing -- this isn't it. It's know-and-go time. (Also, if you don't know, don't go.) The plan is simple, and if you refuse to complicate it, you'll win.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You get to decide who you are. Don't let your circumstances impose an idea that you're not comfortable with. Take control of the scene, even if it means you have to bring your own scenery.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). When you don't know the answer, silence will help you. It takes confidence and wisdom to be quiet, but the truth is that you don't owe anyone an explanation or a solution.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Give your loved one a responsibility and let that person know that you believe wholeheartedly that he or she can deliver on it. This will help you and simultaneously lift up

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

your loved one.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Promises are best made in a somber mood or not at all. Happiness tends to override reason, giving way to bloated promises that later you won't want to keep.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even the best of relationships benefit from occasional absences. You'll give space and time and breathing room what you'll get back is affection, fondness and appreciation.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have the best intentions and a clever plan to match. The moment may bring a different reality than expected. There's brilliance in the clash between what you expect and what you get.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Whatever the outcome of today's interaction, there's something good in it. Maybe that good won't be so obvious, but it really is there. Mentally dig around

until you find it.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The most brilliant ideas will come to you while you're driving, showering, walking, doing dishes or participating in a similarly (relatively) mindless task.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You probably won't be able to keep yourself from hearing untrue rumors, but at least you won't spread them. Ignore negativity and something worthwhile will drop in to earn the best of your attention.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 22). In some part of your life you've been in a position to make due. That's about to change with a stroke of luck and a pro-active mindset. Next month brings a symbol of the new you that you can hold. February opens a professional chapter, starting with a challenge. Your family will expand in June. Virgo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 7, 19, 2 and 28.

**HOLIDAY STRESS RELIEVERS:** So many feel spent and blue in December. What can you do to counteract holiday stress?

**CAPRICORN:** This is the time of year Capricorns come into their power and it's as though the challenges of the season are custom-made opportunities for them to become stronger. That's not to say that Capricorn is immune to the stressors of the season -- in fact, many Capricorns feel them more acutely. But the sign of the mountain goat believes that giving in to the weaker parts of their natures and avoiding challenges is tantamount to failure. For Capricorn, the key to handling stress is facing it head-on.

Momentum is the best stress-buster for the Capricorn. Just as a goat might back up in order to get a running start up the hill, Capricorn breaks through mental barriers by assessing the pitch of the challenge

ahead, throwing it into reverse, gathering up the gusto for a moment and then gunning it up the mountain with a quick, bright burst of energy. The running start is key. Once in motion it's harder to stop than it is to make it all the way

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** John Legend, Charlie Puth and Ariana Grande are just a few of the voices Meghan Trainor has been heard with lately. The Capricorn hit maker figured out early in her career that success is more fun when shared with friends. Trainor was born when natal sun, Mars, Uranus and Neptune were all in hard-working Capricorn. Mercury and Venus in Sagittarius add the fiery optimism.

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**Annie's Mailbox**

**Dear Annie:** Please help us with an upcoming dilemma. Our son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren all live in another state. We spend Christmas with them every other year.

In October, our daughter-in-law told our son she was leaving him, but would wait until after Christmas to tell the children so as not to upset them during the holidays. She has decided that she would rather run around with her single girlfriends from work, but right now, she still remains in the home they own. She has already said she does not want to take the kids and is leaving them with our son. She did the same thing five years ago, but then decided to return and our son let her back into their lives.

Our daughter-in-law knows that we are aware of their situation. How can we possibly give the same very generous Christmas gift to someone we know is walking out the door on Jan. 1? -- Stuck in the Middle

**Dear Stuck:** You do not have to give your daughter-in-law the same gift you have in the past. You don't, in fact, have to be generous to anyone, and can decide only to give presents to the children.

However, since Ms. Flighty has left before and returned, there is a good possibility she will do the same thing again. If so, will your stingier gift create a problem at that time?

We suggest you talk to your son about this. Ask him how he would like you to handle the situation, and then follow accordingly. Your daughter-in-law sounds immature and selfish. Be grateful that she prefers to leave the children with their more stable father.

**Dear Annie:** Two months ago, I became a grandmother for the first time. But I'm not allowed to see my grandchild nor is anyone in my family. Yet my son's father, who has not been in his life for more than 20 years, is apparently welcome to visit the baby any time.

This is causing a lot of fighting in my family. My other children are worried that I did something to upset my son and his wife. But believe me, I have done nothing to cause either of them to act this way. I am incredibly hurt and don't know what to do. -- Looking for Answers in Pennsylvania

**Dear Pennsylvania:** These sad circumstances are only too common. We wish we had a magic potion to make family

relationships smoother, more loving and more rational, but we don't. There could be old hurts that you are unaware of. Your son may be looking to include his father now that he is a father himself. Your ex-husband could be poisoning your son's mind with tales about you, or he could demand that you be excluded. Your daughter-in-law may simply not like you or someone else in the family. Unless you can speak to your son, you will not know. Please try to contact him, without judging or being angry, and ask what you can do to fix this. You might also enlist the help of any friend or family member still in their good graces to get to the bottom

of it.

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.creators.com).  
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**HERALD**



**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.

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker  
*Good, Better, Best*

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

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

**WEST**  
♠ K 9 8 6 3  
♥ 10 9 4  
♦ 5 2  
♣ K 8 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 5 4 2  
♥ 7 6 3 2  
♦ —  
♣ J 10 9 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A  
♥ K 8 5  
♦ K Q 10 8 6 3  
♣ A Q 7

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

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

**Bridge players** go through several stages as they attempt to improve their game. Where they are at any given moment can sometimes be defined by how they play a particular hand. An interested observer might be able to measure just how far an aspiring player has come by watching the play of a deal such as today's.

**South is in six diamonds**, and West leads a heart. If South is more or less a beginner, he might think there is exactly an even chance for the contract. He'd plan to finesse the queen of clubs at some point, and if East had the king of clubs — a 50-50 proposition — he'd make the slam. But if West had the king, South would go down one.

A bit later in his bridge career, this same declarer would realize he had far better than an even chance for the slam. He would win the heart lead with the jack, draw trumps, cash the ace of spades, play a heart to the queen, ruff the queen of spades, lead the heart king to the ace and return a club from dummy.

If East followed low, South would play the seven, endplaying West and thus guaranteeing the slam. The flaw in this method of play is that East might play a club higher than the seven to thwart the endplay.

The final stage of improvement comes when declarer, after winning the first heart, draws trumps, cashes the ace of spades and Q-A of hearts, and then leads the queen of spades. When East follows low, South discards a club to assure the slam whatever West returns.

While it is true that East might have the king of spades and play it on the queen, the slam might still be made by falling back on one of the aforementioned lines of play. The point is that it costs declarer nothing to try this approach first to give himself the best chance for the slam.

**Tomorrow:** A crucial defensive play.

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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	News ABC	Hotel	Big Bang	News	Tele	News	Justice	Focus	CHiPs	American	Seinfeld	Castle (DVS)		SportsCenter	Lombardi Stars In.	Joe: Retaliation (DVS)		Moonshiners
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Muchacha	Mod Fam	News	Noticiero	News	Called	Business	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Castle (DVS)	College Football: Marmot Boca Raton Bowl -- Toledo vs. Temple.	College Basketball	Mavs Live		Married-Sight	Moonshiners
7:PM	Fresh-	Antes Muerta que	Simpsons	NCIS (DVS)	Celia (SS)	Chicago PD	Upd	Prohibition (DVS)	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	Movie: Four Christmases (DVS)				WWE SmackDown!	Married-Sight	Moonshiners: Outlaw
8:PM	Muppets	Pasión y Poder	White Hot Holidays	NCIS: New Orleans	Bajo el Mismo Cielo	Chicago Med	Light of the Southwest		Wonder Woman	iZombie	Big Bang		College Basketball: California at Virginia.				Married-Sight	Moonshiners
9:PM		Creo/los Hombres	TMZ	Limitless	Señora Acero (SS)	Chicago Fire		Frontline	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Movie: Four Christmases (DVS)			Mavs Live	Chrisley	(:01) Born This Way	Moonshiners
10:PM	News	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	With Scholars	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	Cougar	Conan		NFL Live	Champ Spotlight	Mod Fam	What Would		Moonshiners
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ministerios	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	McCloud	Commun	Conan	CSI: NY	SportsCenter	NBA	World Poker Tour	Mod Fam	Married-Sight	Moonshiners
12:AM	Extra	Corona de lágrimas	Friends	Insider	Señora Acero (SS)	News	Chevalme		Gallery	Cougar	CSI: NY	SportsCenter	SportsNation	College Basketball	Law Order: CI	(:02) Born This Way		Boss Hog
1:AM	Paid	Alma	Law Order: CI	ET	Paid				Gallery	Paid	Movie:							

**DENNIS THE MENACE**



"I CAME OVER TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR MARBLES. DAD SAYS YOU DON'T HAVE 'EM ALL."

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**

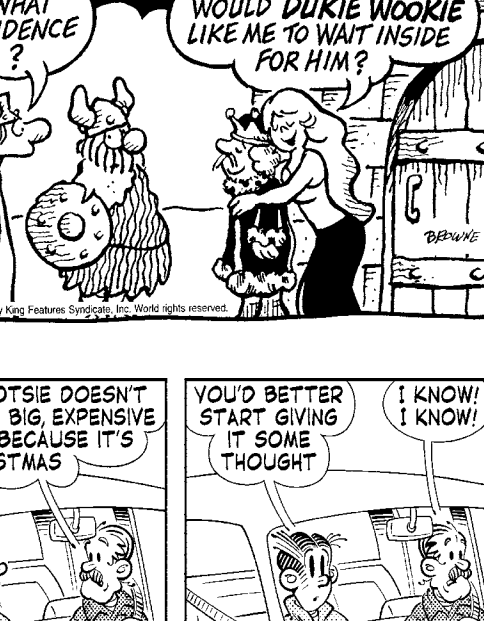


"'Twas the night before the night before the night before Christmas..."

**HAGAR**



**BLONDIE**



**BC**



**WIZARD OF ID**



**This Date In History**

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2015. There are nine days left in the year. This is the first full day of winter.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1965, "Doctor Zhivago," David Lean's epic film adaptation of the Boris Pasternak novel starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie, had its world premiere in New York.

On this date:

In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1910, a fire lasting more than 26 hours broke out at the Chicago Union Stock Yards; 21 firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning building.

In 1937, the first, center tube of the Lincoln Tunnel connecting New York City and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River was opened to traffic. (The second tube opened in 1945, the third in 1957.)

In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, 27, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, California, while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.

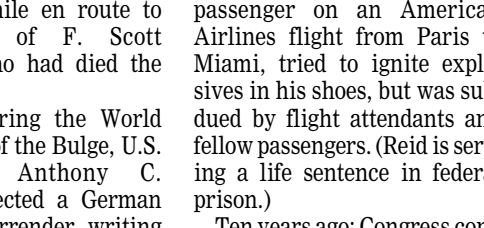
In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator at the Continental Grain Company plant in Westwego, Louisiana, exploded.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo), the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising. Playwright Samuel Beckett died in Paris at age 83.

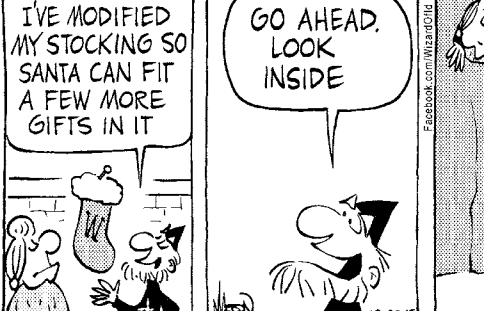
In 1990, 21 sailors returning from shore leave to the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga drowned off Haifa when the Israeli ferry they were traveling on capsized. Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) took the oath of office as Poland's first popularly elected president.

In 1995, actress Butterfly McQueen, who'd played the scatterbrained slave Prissy in

**AGNES**



**HI AND LOIS**



**THE OTHER COAST**



**Newsday Crossword**

**TRAFFIC TRIO** by Sally R. Stein

- Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Mine passageway
  - 6 Keogh alternatives: Abbr.
  - 10 On the summit of
  - 14 Hot winter drink
  - 15 Foolish one
  - 16 Volcanic flow
  - 17 Sci-fi being
  - 18 See a city's sights
  - 19 Plow-pulling bovines
  - 20 Sailor's warning sign
  - 23 Heart chart, for short
  - 24 Expected to arrive
  - 25 Rose's sharp part
  - 28 Rose's stalk
  - 30 Swelled head
  - 33 Pull from behind
  - 34 Honolulu's island
  - 36 Prizefighter
  - 38 Beatles animated film
  - 41 Restaurant patron
  - 42 Leg joint
  - 43 Female choral voice
  - 44 Tooth pro's deg.
  - 45 Backtalk
  - 47 Makes furious
  - 49 Container for peas
  - 50 Transgression
  - 51 Broccoli, cucumbers, etc.
  - 60 Ventilates
  - 61 Heroic tale
  - 62 Thug
  - 63 Minor argument
  - 64 Take a break
  - 65 Angry
- DOWN**
- 1 Lasting impression
  - 2 Golfer's target
  - 3 Battery fluid
  - 4 Adversaries
  - 5 Ship carrying petroleum
  - 6 Luggage attachment
  - 7 Underground plant part
  - 8 Grad
  - 9 Took long steps
  - 10 Without assistance
  - 11 Car for hire
  - 12 Pizzeria appliance
  - 13 Feeling of hunger
  - 21 Informal conversation filler
  - 22 Cuban dance
  - 25 Tire's groove pattern
  - 26 Quits marching
  - 27 Stare at
  - 28 Steers clear of
  - 29 Toothpaste holder
  - 30 Banish
  - 31 Well-mannered guys
  - 32 Best-selling sandwich cookie
  - 33 Changed the color of
  - 35 Makes a request
  - 37 Word-of-mouth
  - 39 Film legend Welles
  - 40 Be deserving of
  - 46 Part of speech like "overly"
  - 48 Very soon
  - 49 Green pasta sauce
  - 50 Religious factions
  - 51 Sound frightened
  - 52 Ready to harvest
  - 53 Periods of history
  - 54 Fencing sword
  - 55 Main idea
  - 56 "It's really cold outside!"
  - 57 Feast in
  - 58 Suffox for bachelor
  - 59 Clairvoyant one



**SNUFFY SMITH**



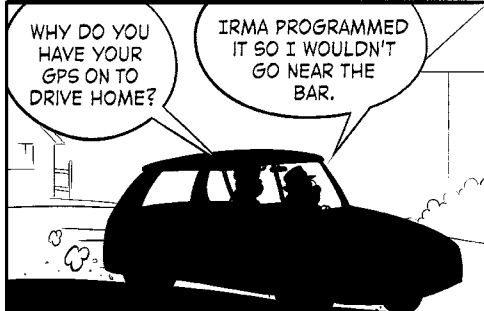
**BEEETLE BAILEY**



**BEETLE BAILEY**



**BEETLE BAILEY**



Answer to previous puzzle

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



# Niemi comes off bench to lead Stars past Wild 6-3

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Down by a couple of goals midway through the game, the Dallas Stars didn't panic. And by the time it was over, they had picked up two crucial points against a division foe.

Antti Niemi stopped 30 shots in relief and Dallas scored four straight goals to beat the Minnesota Wild 6-3 on Monday night.

Vernon Fiddler scored twice for the first-place Stars, who have won five of seven and are 8-2-2 in their last 12 games. Jordie Benn, Tyler Seguin, Antoine Roussel and Cody Eakin also had goals.

"It's important to rack up wins wherever you're at, but we're in the Central Division now, it's our next test," Dallas coach Lindy Ruff said. "Five of six, starting tonight, are against the Central Division and we'll see where we're at."

The Stars improved to 4-2-0 against division foes.

Last season, Dallas had the worst record within the division (8-14-7) and missed the playoffs. The Stars' next three games are home Tuesday against Chicago and a home-and-home set with St. Louis immediately after Christmas.

Dallas has an eight-



Dallas Stars goalie Antti Niemi (31), from Finland, blocks a shot by Minnesota Wild left wing Jason Zucker (16) as Stars defenseman Jason Demers (4) reaches for the puck, in the third period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, in St. Paul, Minn. The Stars won 6-3.

point lead over the Blackhawks and Blues.

"It's such a strong division that they're all going to be great games," Fiddler said. "Minnesota's a great team, Chicago, St. Louis, you could go right down the line."

Jared Spurgeon, Charlie Coyle and Nino Niederreiter scored for Minnesota, which lost its second in a row after getting points in nine straight. Minnesota is 7-5-4 against the other six division teams.

"We want to prove

that we're one of the top teams in the league. It was a good opportunity to do that tonight," coach Mike Yeo said.

Trailing 2-0, and with Niemi having replaced Kari Lehtonen in the first period, Dallas scored three times in 4 1/2 minutes late in the second to take the lead.

"They want to be physical and we know we're a fast, skilled team. We respond well. We weren't ready right away but we got back in the game and took

over," Seguin said.

Less than a minute after a Jumbotron comparison of Yukon Cornelius from "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

to the thick, bushy-bearded Benn elicited laughs from the sell-out crowd,

the Dallas defenseman silenced those in attendance — and snapped a 33-game goal drought — when his wrist shot from the blue line beat

Devan Dubnyk on the stick side with 5 minutes to play in the period.

Fiddler added a power-play goal off a double deflection to tie it 2-all with 90 seconds left in the period, and Seguin converted Spurgeon's defensive-zone turnover into a goal a minute later, taking a pass from Patrick Sharp and beating Dubnyk between the pads.

Roussel added an insurance goal early in the third, swatting in a rebound of a shot by Johnny Oduya to make it 4-2.

It was needed because Niederreiter poked home a rebound of his own shot midway through the final period for his first goal in 16 games to get Minnesota within one.

Eakin added an empty-net goal with 1:53 to play and Fiddler added

**"We weren't ready right away but we got back in the game and took over," Seguin said.**

another in the final 15 seconds as Dallas improved to 12-3-2 on the road.

Spurgeon, who signed

a four-year, \$20.75 million contract extension earlier in the day, gave the Wild a 1-0 lead nearly 5 minutes into the game when his wrist shot from the right circle snuck in between Lehtonen's left shoulder and the top corner of the net.

Barely 3 minutes later, Coyle's shot from the left circle beat Lehtonen on the glove side to make it 2-0.

Lehtonen, who entered with a 7-0-0 record and 2.00 goals-against average in road starts, was replaced by Niemi after stopping just two of four shots.

"I think our sense of urgency kind of dropped and we stopped going as hard for pucks, and winning those loose-puck battles and what we were doing before to make us successful," Coyle said.

NOTES: Dallas won the two previous meetings in overtime this season. ... Wild C Mikko Koivu was chosen the NHL's No. 3 star for the week that ended Sunday. Minnesota's captain had three goals and five assists in three games. ... Despite playing at home, Minnesota wore its white road sweaters and Dallas wore its home green.

## Moore set to be 4th starting QB for Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Kellen Moore will be the fourth starting quarterback for Dallas this season at Buffalo on Sunday.

As for whether he will back up Tony Romo next year, coach Jason Garrett isn't interested in talking about auditions even though the Cowboys (4-10) are eliminated from the playoffs with two games to go, as are the Bills (6-8).

"A lot of people will start pointing that way that this is a great opportunity to evaluate players in regular-season games," Garrett said Monday. "That's not really the way we think. We have one objective going to Buffalo, and that's winning a ballgame."

Making his first regu-

lar-season appearance late in his fourth year in the NFL, Moore sparked the offense after replacing an ineffective Matt Cassel in the second quarter of a 19-16 loss to the New York Jets on Saturday.

Romo missed seven games with a broken left collarbone and was lost for the season after breaking it again in his second game back. Cassel was 1-6 filling in for Romo after Brandon Weeden went 0-3 following the first injury.

Although he threw an interception on his second career pass and three for the game, Moore beat a blitz with a quick toss to Dez Bryant in the flat, letting the receiver get around cornerback Darrelle Revis for the 10-yard touch-

down.

Moore also led a drive to a tying field goal in the final two minutes before the Jets drove the other way for the winning points.

"Obviously I took this opportunity for what it was," Moore said after going 15 of 25 for 158 yards. "We'll grow from it and learn from it and see what happens."

An undrafted free agent out of Boise State, Moore signed with Detroit in 2012 and spent two seasons there with Cowboys offensive coordinator Scott Linehan.

Moore joined the Dallas practice squad in September, before Romo got hurt, and was moved to the active roster after the injury.

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