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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 24, 2015



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VOLUME 111, NUMBER 372 COPYRIGHT 2015 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

2 more arrested on vandal charges

Two more local men have been arrested in connection with a vandalism spree which hit Big Spring and Howard County within the past week.



Boadle

Benjamin Boadle, 18, and Timothy Craig, 20, both of Big Spring, were arrested by local police on criminal mischief charges.

They join Christian Anthony Torrence as suspects charged in a recent spate of vandalism.



Craig

During the past week, the Big Spring Police Department and Howard County Sheriff's Office have taken 47 reports of criminal mischief, 44 of which were inside the city limits and three were in the county.

"The offenses consisted of someone using a BB gun to shoot out windows of houses, buildings, vehicles and even a church, causing over \$16,000 in damage," the release stated.

Investigators with the police department and sheriff's office began jointly following leads which led to the arrest of Torrence at his home on Benton Street earlier this week. Boadle and Craig were both arrested Wednesday, police said.

No further arrests are expected.

— Steve Reagan

Happy Harley-days

For members of the Cossacks Motorcycle Club, their annual toy run is a way to help the needy and give back to the community



Clockwise, from top: Cossacks Motorcycle Club members fill gift packages prior to beginning their annual toy run Saturday; a trailer is loaded with bicycles, which will be given to children of every family on the club's gift list; a club member waves as the group begins the toy run.



Story and photos by Steve Reagan

Everybody knows Santa uses reindeer to deliver his Christmas gifts. But a pack of growling Harleys works quite nicely, too.

That was the case this weekend, as Santa mounted his Hog, and with the able assistance of a large group of leather-clad "elves," delivered some much-needed holiday cheer to needy families in Big Spring.

The occasion was the Cossack Motorcycle Club's annual toy run, an event that drew club members from across West Texas this past Saturday.

"We've been doing toy runs all over the state for a long time, at least since I started with the club in '69," said "Hob-

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To reach us:
Please call 263-7331.
Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



NORAD keeping an eye on Santa

Set the milk and cookies out and finish wrapping those presents because Santa Claus is on his way!

For the 60th year, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is tracking Santa on his route across the world via satellites, radar systems, and SantaCams.

"We turn the cameras on about one hour before Santa enters a country, then switch them off after we capture

the images of him and the reindeer," the NORAD Santa website reads.

NORAD has tracked Santa Claus and his eight, tiny reindeer after a misprint in a Colorado Spring based Sears Roebuck & Co advertisement. The misprint directed children to call CONAD, (the predecessor to NORAD) rather than Santa Claus.

See NORAD, Page 3

Friday's Christmas edition of the Big Spring Herald will be delivered to homes and newsstands late Thursday or early Friday so that carriers can enjoy the holiday, Publisher Rick Nunez said. Herald offices closed at noon today and will reopen Monday morning. We wish all of our readers a very Merry Christmas.

60 AHEAD... OPEN ONE ON CHRISTMAS EVE!



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1 shopping day to Christmas



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Obituaries

Patricia Carol Mills Albers



Patricia Carol Mills Albers of Mather, Calif., age 57 years, passed on Dec. 15, 2015, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Patricia was a native of Big Spring, Texas and former resident of Tooele, Utah. Loving wife of Randall Albers. Cherished mother of Joseph Thomas and Angela Thomas and step-mother to Stephan, Jason, Nathan, Krista and Melina. Fourteen grandchildren. Beloved daughter of Tom and Carolyn Mills

of Big Spring Texas and Ellen and Art (deceased) Mikesell of Tooele, Utah. Sister of Cynthia (Ephram) Gillette and Kathryn (Rick) Johnson. Step-sister to Garret (Lisa) Riley, Karalee Riley, Natalie (Horace) Wheat, Christi Harrison, Brenda (Trey) Terrazas.

Aunt to Jennifer, Joshua, Stephen, Paul, Thomas, Jared, Kyndra, Logan, Ryen, and Casen, beloved friend to countless. Pat worked at Franklin Templeton in Rancho Cordova, Calif from 1997. Funeral services were held on Friday, Dec. 18, 2015, 10 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Mather Ward Chapel. Interment will be on Dec. 28, 2015 in Garden City, Kan.

Paid obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **BENJAMIN ROBERT BOADLE**, 18, of 3807 Conally St. was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• **STEPHEN YANEZ**, 22, of 2100 S. Main St. was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **TIMOTHY JAMES CRAIG**,

20, of 4203 Wasson Rd. was arrested on a warrant for criminal mischief, more than \$2,500 but less than \$30,000.

• **GRADY KIRKLAND SMITH**, 19, of 413 S. Adams St., Coahoma, was arrested on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon and criminal trespass with a deadly weapon.

• **JAMES TIMOTHY WILSON**, 43, of 721 FM 17, Grand

Saline, Texas was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1600 block of E. FM 700, the 1600 S. Gregg St. and the 3400 block of Randolph Rd.

• **BURGLARY IN PROCESS** was reported in the 2700 block of Highway 176.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 900 block of Dallas St.

Take Note

Meetings

• 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.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring meets at noon every Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Visitors are welcome.

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 271-2176.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

Volunteer opportunities

• 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.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring Needs You! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call 432-935-3998.

Sacking dates are as follows (please note the group starts at 5:30 p.m.) Jan. 4 – 5.

Our sacking location has moved to the Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 NW 7th. To get there take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney which is the block just past the Salvation Army Store. Delaney turns into 7th Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

Currently we are distributing food at Goliad, Marcy and Moss Elementary Schools. If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9-11 a.m. and get two for one, plus a rehab

meeting.

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

• An account has been set up at Western Bank (account number 1017623) for Blantyn Gusman and Zachary Duncan, who were seriously injured in an accident.

• For information on Garrett Parrish's condition, or to post messages of support, visit his Facebook page (#GPSTRONG). Parrish was seriously injured in a sledding accident.

Silver Wings Ball

• The largest fundraiser for the Hangar 25 Air Museum, the Silver Wings Ball will be held at the Hotel Settles, Jan. 23, 2016. Cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased from any board member. To find out more information or to become a sponsor for the event, contact Hangar 25 Air Museum at 432-264-1999.

Join the Young Marines

• The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

Let's go dancing

• The Big Spring Senior Center dance is open to all ages. No alcohol or smoking. We are handicapped-accessible. Cost is \$8 per person.

Assistance programs

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

Michael Bell

Michael Lee Bell, 66, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 12/25	Sat 12/26	Sun 12/27	Mon 12/28	Tue 12/29
72/51 Partly cloudy skies with gusty winds developing during the afternoon. High 72F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph.	58/25 Windy, and mainly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 20s.	28/20 Watching a potential winter storm. A wintry mix changing to all snow, windy. Highs in the upper 20s and lows in the low 20s.	32/16 Watching a potential winter storm. Some light snow early, windy. Highs in the low 30s and lows in the mid teens.	37/18 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the upper teens.
Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:49 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:50 PM

Texas at a Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	70	42	Sunny	Kingsville	82	67	Cloudy
Amarillo	51	31	Sunny	Livingston	76	67	Cloudy
Austin	79	58	Sunny	Longview	76	61	Sunny
Beaumont	77	69	Cloudy	Lubbock	61	33	P Cloudy
Brownsville	84	71	Cloudy	Lufkin	75	65	Foggy
Brownwood	74	41	Sunny	Midland	70	43	Sunny
Corpus Christi	76	66	Cloudy	Raymondville	85	70	Cloudy
Corsicana	78	55	Sunny	Rosenberg	79	71	Cloudy
Dallas	74	49	Sunny	San Antonio	80	60	Sunny
Del Rio	79	51	Sunny	San Marcos	79	58	Sunny
El Paso	62	41	P Cloudy	Sulphur Springs	76	54	Sunny
Fort Stockton	72	46	Sunny	Sweetwater	67	42	Sunny
Gainesville	67	41	Sunny	Tyler	76	60	Sunny
Greenville	73	51	Sunny	Weatherford	71	44	Sunny
Houston	79	71	Cloudy	Wichita Falls	66	39	Sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	72	66	T-Storms	Miami	83	75	P Cloudy
Boston	68	48	Cloudy	Minneapolis	27	22	Cloudy
Chicago	45	38	P Cloudy	New York	72	58	Showers
Dallas	74	49	Sunny	Phoenix	67	49	M Cloudy
Denver	37	17	Sunny	San Francisco	53	44	Cloudy
Houston	61	35	P Cloudy	Seattle	43	36	Cloudy
Los Angeles	62	42	P Cloudy	Saint Louis	55	40	P Cloudy

Moon Phases

First Dec 18	Full Dec 25	Last Jan 2	New Jan 10

UV Index

Fri 12/25	Sat 12/26	Sun 12/27	Mon 12/28	Tue 12/29
3	2	1	3	3
Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

0 11

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Support Groups

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 6:06 p.m. to 7 p.m.

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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News in brief

4 Palestinians die in West Bank attacks on Israelis, clashes

JERUSALEM (AP) — Four Palestinians were killed on Thursday, among them three who Israel said were carrying out attacks on soldiers in the West Bank, the latest in a three month-long wave of unrelenting Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The four separate incidents came as revelers were gathering in the West Bank city of Bethlehem for Christmas celebrations, festivities that are being dampened by the latest outburst of violence.

Israeli authorities said that three Palestinians were killed after they carried out or attempted to carry out attacks against Israelis across the West Bank. A fourth Palestinian was killed in clashes with Israeli troops, according to a Palestinian hospital official.

In the first incident, police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the attacker approached the entrance to an industrial zone in the Ariel settlement and stabbed two security guards, wounding them moderately, before they shot and killed him. Two other Palestinians were killed in two other incidents, including an attack by a motorist on Israeli troops, with one soldier lightly wounded.

The fourth Palestinian, who died in clashes with the Israeli military in the Qalandiya refugee camp in the West Bank, was hit in the head by live fire, according to Ahmad Bitawi, the director of Ramallah hospital.

Afghan officials: Southern district remains in state control

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan forces backed by U.S. air strikes pushed back a Taliban onslaught Thursday in a strategically important district in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, officials said.

Sangin district had been besieged by the insurgents for weeks before an uptick in the ferocity of the fight this week sparked concerns it could fall to Taliban control.

But civilian and military officials said Sangin remained in government hands after the United States conducted two airstrikes overnight, and Afghan military helicopters dropped food and ammunition to soldiers and police who had been surrounded and trapped inside the district army base for days.

The presence of a small contingent of British troops, who arrived in the Shorab base — formerly Britain's Camp Bastion during their Afghan combat mission — Wednesday had helped boost morale of both civilians and security forces, officials said.

Overnight, the Taliban captured parts of the center of Sangin district around the district governor's compound, but the Afghan forces, bolstered by reinforcements, soon succeeded in driving them further out, said Akhtar Muhammad, a police commander in Sangin.

Deadly storm system scatters damage across the South

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (AP) — Mulester Johnson was at home with relatives in northern Mississippi when a fierce storm that has killed at least six people across the country hit.

The wind tore the back of Johnson's Holly Springs house from its foundation and multiple sheds were missing afterward, he said. Trees rested atop several trucks on his property, and slabs of brick walls were strewn throughout his yard after the storm.

"The chimney is the only thing that saved us really," Johnson, 67, said.

The deadly spring-like storms came Wednesday amid unseasonably warm weather that made the perfect recipe for destructive weather.

Johnson opened the door to what had been a bedroom and looked past his disheveled belongings to clusters of broken trees in the backyard. The room's walls had been blown away.

Christians in Bethlehem mark Christmas amid violence

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Christian faithful from around the world descended Thursday on the biblical city of Bethlehem for Christmas Eve celebrations at the traditional birthplace of Jesus, as an outburst of Israeli-Palestinian violence dampened the typically festive mood.

Before the celebrations began, Israeli authorities said three Palestinians involved in attacks against Israelis were killed in violence across the West Bank. Another Palestinian was killed in clashes with Israeli troops, a Palestinian hospital official said.

Bethlehem has been a focal point for clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian protesters during the three month-long wave of violence that has gripped the region. While the annual festivities in the city's Manger Square were set to go on, other celebrations in the city were cancelled or toned down because of the violence.

"We're in Bethlehem celebrating Christmas, celebrating the birthday of our lord Jesus Christ. This is the birthplace of the king of peace so what we want is peace," said Rula Maayah, the Palestinian Tourism Minister.

Thousands of people were crowding into Manger Square, admiring the town's Christmas tree and listening to holiday music played by marching bands and scout troops.

Activist: Mall of America protest 'decoy' for airport block

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Mall of America was used as "a decoy" to start a protest that quickly moved to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and blocked a terminal on a busy holiday travel day, one organizer of the demonstration said.

Access to one of two terminals was closed after more than 100 protesters gathered inside and blocked roads leading to the airport Wednesday, airport spokesman Patrick Hogan said. He said the protest caused some flight delays but no cancellations.

Protesters hoping to draw attention to the police shooting last month of a black man in Minneapolis had described in advance their plans to target the

mall, but not the airport. They started at the shopping mecca in suburban Bloomington, where there was a heavy police presence, then took a light-rail train to the airport.

"The mall was a decoy," said Black Lives Matter organizer Miski Noor, who protested at the airport. "I think it was really effective."

Paris climate goals mean emissions need to drop below zero

STOCKHOLM (AP) — If governments are serious about the global warming targets they adopted in Paris, scientists say they have two options: eliminating fossil fuels immediately or finding ways to undo their damage to the climate system in the future.

The first is politically impossible — the world is still hooked on using oil, coal and natural gas — which leaves the option of a major cleanup of the atmosphere later this century.

Yet the landmark Paris Agreement, adopted by 195 countries on Dec. 12, makes no reference to that, which has left some observers wondering whether politicians understand the implications of the goals they signed up for.

"I would say it's the single biggest issue that has to be resolved," said Glen Peters of the Cicero climate research institute in Oslo, Norway.

Suspect in Vegas Strip crash is distraught, attorney says

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A woman accused of intentionally plowing a car carrying her child through crowds of pedestrians on a Las Vegas Strip sidewalk is distraught and overwhelmed, her defense attorney said after she briefly appeared in court for the first time.

Lakeisha Nicole Holloway, 24, pursed her lips and blinked Wednesday as she was led in shackles into a courtroom. She was not asked to enter a plea, but she nodded to acknowledge that she would remain in jail through the holidays while both sides investigate Sunday's crash that killed an Arizona woman and injured dozens of others.

"This is sad and tragic for everybody involved," defense lawyer Joseph Abood said after the hearing.

NORAD

Continued from Page 1

"The Director of Operations at the time, Colonel Harry Shoup, had his staff check the radar for indications of Santa making his way south from the North Pole," according to the NORAD Santa website.

"Children who called were given updates on his location, and a tradition was born."

In order to join in on the fun today, go to www.bigspringherald.com and click on the NORAD link to track Santa with your family. The countdown to Christmas has begun!

— Amanda Elston

TOYS

Continued from Page 1

bit," a Midland club member who joined the Big Spring run Saturday. "We just try to give back to the community."

The Cossacks begin taking applications for gift recipients early in the year and hold several fundraisers throughout the year to finance the bounty of food and toys to be delivered.

"We try to decide who is most in need, then we decide where we're sitting financially,"

Hobbit noted. "Basically, we try to help everybody we can."

True to the club's identity, every child receives a two-wheeler (bicycle instead of motorcycle) and every family receives a food box with turkey and everything else needed for holiday dinner.

That's what the families receive. What the Cossacks receive in return can't be quantified so easy.

Playing Santa this year was the somewhat inappropriately nicknamed "Grumpy," a large, hulking man who

starts to get emotional when he discusses his memories of past toy runs.

"The memory that stands out the most was the first year I went out on a run," he said.

"There was this little girl about 11 ... and she said, 'All I want is for my grandma to feel better. She's got cancer.' I just about fell apart."

"Eddie," the president of the local club chapter, was much more direct with his answer.

"Come with us on one of these runs and see how the kids and

the families react, and you'll see what we get out of this," he said.

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

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Hershel Johnson, 97, died Tuesday. Graveside services were at 10:00 AM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Merry Christmas!

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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.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
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• **KEL SELIGER**
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• **CARMEN HARBOUR**
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— Cell: 816-1015.

• **JUSTIN MYERS** —
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• **STEVE WAGGONER**
— Home: 267-8058.

• **RAUL BENAVIDES** —
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• **KATHRYN WISEMAN**,
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• **OSCAR GARCIA** —
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• **CRAIG BAILEY** —
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• **JIMMIE LONG** — 432-267-4224.

• **JOHN CLINE** —
Home: 263-7158.

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 editor@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We ask you to 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 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

Closing schools for terrorist threats

What if the Los Angeles public schools get another email promising a terrorist attack on Monday? And Tuesday? And Wednesday? If you close the schools the first time, what do you do the next time?

If I were a lazy terrorist with no guns, bombs or desire for martyrdom, I'd be keeping up a steady stream of blood-curdling forecasts to the school authorities in Los Angeles — and every other major city in America.

Well, maybe not New York. The people in charge there, after getting the same threat, read it, deleted it and proceeded with the business of educating kids.

Los Angeles, however, decided to take no chances, forcing 640,000 kids to stay home. It was an understandable choice. “I was not going to let something happen on my watch,” said Superintendent Ramon Cortines the next day. “My priority yesterday was our children, our staff and our property.”

New York City police commissioner William Bratton took a different view. “I think it was a significant overreaction,” he said, and Mayor Bill de Blasio dismissed the email as “outlandish.” They were willing to act on their best judgment and put their careers on the line rather than surrender to efforts to create mass panic and disruption.

Parents generally seem to have supported the Los Angeles closure despite the inconvenience. One father also told *The New York Times* that henceforth, he will drive his 10-year-old daughter to school. “The bus, it's a soft target,” he said. “There's no safety on the bus.”

True. But there's no safety in his car, either. A couple of fanatics who could attack a school bus with bombs and guns could do the same with other vehicles pulling up to drop off kids. They

could do the same thing on the playground, in the cafeteria or in classrooms.

About 99 percent of the world is soft targets. Very few places are beyond the reach of those plotting bloody mayhem. Short of stationing the National Guard on every campus, schools are vulnerable, just like shopping malls, supermarkets, restaurants and soccer fields.

But nearly every place also happens to be amazingly safe. Since 9/11, the think tank New America reports, 45 people have died in jihadi attacks on U.S. soil — about as many as were killed by dogs last year alone. The ladder in your garage is more to be feared than the Islamic State.



STEVE CHAPMAN

Since 9/11, the think tank New America reports, 45 people have died in jihadi attacks on U.S. soil— about as many as were killed by dogs last year alone. The ladder in your garage is more to be feared than the Islamic State.

In their new book, “Chasing Ghosts: The Policing of Terrorism,” scholars John Mueller and Mark Stewart calculate the average American's chance of dying at the hands of terrorists in a given year at 1 in 4 million. Your chance of dying in a car wreck is more than 100 times greater. That guy driving his daughter to school is ignoring the bigger hazard.

Since 9/11, we have spent more than \$1 trillion on domestic homeland security, note Mueller and Stewart, but the share of people who expect “another terrorist attack causing large numbers of Americans to be lost” has remained around 70 percent since 9/11.

This sum doesn't count all the money we've spent in Iraq acting on George W. Bush's theory:

Democrat's 3rd term blues

History tends to make Democrats nervous about the 2016 White House election. They know that since 1951 and the ratification of the 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution — which limits a president to just two four-year terms — there have been seven elections in which the party that has held the presidency for eight consecutive years has sought another term. They also know that six of those seven times, the candidate seeking to make it 12 years in a row for his party has lost. (The lone exception was in 1988, when George H.W. Bush might be said to have won President Ronald Reagan's third term.) The 2016 Democratic standard-bearer will be fighting both history and the Republicans.

But a closer look at the record makes a strong case that there is no historical iron rule against third terms. For example, after eight Republican years beginning in 1968 — during which both the president and vice president, Richard M. Nixon and Spiro Agnew, were forced to resign their offices to avoid certain removal by Congress and criminal prosecution — Gerald R. Ford, the only U.S. president never to have been elected to national office, best-known for his then-broadly-unpopular pardon of Nixon, came within a whisker of winning a third straight Republican term. In fact, a switch of just 5,559 votes in Ohio and 7,233 in Mississippi and Ford would have defeated Democrat

Jimmy Carter.

Earlier, Nixon — seeking to follow popular President Dwight Eisenhower's eight years — had come within 118,000 votes of winning the 1960 popular vote against John F. Kennedy, and in 2000, if Democrat Al Gore could have changed the minds of only 3,606 New Hampshire voters, he would have won the Granite State's four electoral votes and the presidency outright, bringing a third Democratic term after Bill Clinton's eight years, without any Florida recount or Supreme Court case.



MARK SHIELDS

“73% of Americans want the next president to take a different approach from” President Barack Obama's.

Of course, the quality of the candidates and the campaigns they run do matter in the outcome of every national election.

But two other factors — whether voters are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country at the time of the election and voters' approval or disapproval of the incumbent president — can boost or doom the nominee of the incumbent party.

Consider the all-but-impossible uphill struggle of Republican nominee John McCain in 2008. Just two weeks before Election Day, in the Gallup Poll, a mere 7 percent of Americans said they were satisfied with the direction of the country, whereas a whopping 91 percent were dissatisfied. At the same time, the Republican McCain was running

“We will fight them over there so we do not have to face them in the United States of America.” The Islamic State didn't take that offer. The Iraq War spawned new enemies, so in reality maybe we are justified in feeling no safer now than 14 years ago. Even so, the danger is much less than commonly assumed.

Critics lament the obsession with terrorism in Tuesday's Republican debate. But politicians wouldn't pander to popular distress if it weren't already there. Gnawing anxiety has become part of our collective psyche. Any new act of terrorism confirms our worries and makes us yearn for invulnerability.

But succumbing to fear is exactly what our enemies want us to do. The Islamic State legions have only faint hopes of carrying out attacks on American children. But if malefactors can shut schools down by merely sending messages, they don't need to. They can impose a heavy burden on us at little expense or risk to themselves.

Officials in Los Angeles may have figured out by now that they can't be so quick to keep students at home. Otherwise, there will be no end to the threats. Authorities elsewhere have already taken heed. San Francisco schools opened Thursday despite a threat received Wednesday evening.

When two Dallas schools got an ominous email, Mayor Mike Rawlings said, “Someone is trying to scare Dallas. And that's not going to work.” Somewhere a terrorist wannabe was disappointed. The children of Dallas were fine.

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

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to succeed, President George W. Bush, had a favorable job rating of just 24 percent. Given such a toxic environment, the McCain campaign did not feature any posters or billboards urging “4 More Years.” By contrast, when George H.W. Bush did win a “third term,” he was helped enormously by Reagan's 54 percent favorable rating and the electorate's 60 percent satisfaction with the direction of the country.

Democrats cannot be encouraged by the most recent Wall Street Journal-NBC News national survey, in which Democratic pollster Peter D. Hart finds that some “73 percent of Americans want the next president to take a different approach from” President Barack Obama's, adding, “That's identical to late 2007, when 73 percent favored taking a different approach from” George W. Bush's. If President Obama's job rating is below 40 percent next Halloween, the Democratic nominee, in order to win, will need to establish her/his independence from Obama without looking disloyal to him — a difficult balancing act.

More than any third-term precedents, keep your eye next autumn on how voters feel about whether the U.S. is headed in the right direction and how they rate the job the president is doing. Those things matter more.

To find out more about Mark Shields and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!

Nowitzki passes Shaq, helps Mavs pull out OT win over Nets

NEW YORK (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki talked about how much it meant to him, after working so hard, so long to get it.

The victory, not the milestone.

Nowitzki moved past Shaquille O'Neal into sixth place on the NBA's career scoring list, then made the go-ahead basket with 19.2 seconds left in overtime in the Dallas Mavericks' 119-118 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night.

Nowitzki will have plenty of time to think about what it means to pass O'Neal, a longtime rival who beat him in the 2006 NBA Finals. But on Wednesday, the most important thing was getting a win a night after a loss in Toronto, and ahead of a long flight back to Dallas.

"That's what I play for, is to compete at the highest level for

this franchise, for this team," Nowitzki said. "Obviously No. 6 in the bigger picture is a lot bigger than this win in Brooklyn in December, but when you're out there you don't think about that. You want to get this win bad and fight out there against a talented team."

J.J. Barea had a career-high 32 points and added a season-best 11 assists for the Mavericks. Nowitzki scored 22 points, giving him 28,609 in his career, and Wesley Matthews finished with 17.

Thaddeus Young had a season-best 29 points for the Nets.

"He definitely was at another level," Nets center Brook Lopez said. "It was clicking for him. He was making all the right plays."

The Mavericks led by 16 in the first half, trailed by 11 in the fourth quarter, and the

game went to OT when Young followed Barea's three-point play with a 3-pointer to tie it at 108, then blocked Barea's shot on the final possession.

Matthews then hit two 3-pointers and Barea added one in the OT, but the ball went inside the arc to the big German with Dallas down by one. After his layup, Jarrett Jack missed a jumper on Brooklyn's final possession.

Nowitzki came in needing 10 points to pass the 28,596 O'Neal scored in a career that could be capped with him being inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame next year.

Nowitzki is sure to get there someday, too, whenever he ends a career that saw him redefine the power forward position, and perhaps create the notion of a stretch-4 that teams now

crave. "You're talking about a guy who's a generational great player. (He) totally redefined the game, redefined a position," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said.

Nowitzki moved ahead of O'Neal with one of his high-arching jumpers from the corner with 9:51 left in the second quarter, when just about everything the Mavs threw up went in. Dallas started 20 for 25, and Barea made his first eight shots and didn't miss until shooting an airball with the shot clock running out late in the period.

The Nets then made 12 of their first 14 shots of the third to surge into the lead and had a 92-81 advantage in the fourth that it couldn't hold in its fifth straight home loss.

Point guard Deron Williams was sidelined with a strained hamstring,

sitting out what would have been his first game back in Brooklyn after the Nets bought out the final two seasons of his \$98.5 contract during the summer.

TIP-INS
Mavericks: Nowitzki is eighth on the combined NBA-ABA scoring list, behind No. 6 Julius Erving and No. 7 Moses Malone. ... Devin Harris, another former Nets point guard, remained out with a strained right hamstring.

Nets: On Tuesday, Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov's company signed an agreement to purchase full ownership of the Nets and Barclays Center. He had acquired 80 percent of the team and 45 percent of the arena from developer Bruce Ratner in 2010. The transaction is expected to be completed by early 2016. ... Backup point guard Shane Larkin returned after miss-

ing four games with a concussion and had seven points.

WILLIAMS' WISH
Williams said he understood why fans might have booed him had he played.

"I think the way I played was disappointing for fans. When you're given a max deal and you don't perform to it, especially in New York, you're going to hear it, and so I understand," Williams said. "I wish things were different, I wish it would have worked out differently but I can't control that and I just move forward."

ROAD-COURT ADVANTAGE

The road team has won eight of the last nine meetings.

UP NEXT
Mavericks: Host Chicago on Saturday.

Nets: Host Washington on Saturday.

Leonard, Spurs beat up Wolves for 7th straight win, 108-83

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kawhi Leonard's expression never changed, from stretching in pre-game warmups to shutting down prized Minnesota Timberwolves forward Andrew Wiggins to stepping out of the shower and getting ready to head back home.

"Just another day for me," he said.

And for the San Antonio Spurs, who are running roughshod over the rest of the NBA.

Leonard had 19 points and six rebounds, and the Spurs bullied the young Timberwolves in the paint during a 108-83 vic-

tory Wednesday night.

Danny Green broke out of a season-long shooting slump with 11 points, including 3 for 4 from 3-point range, and seven rebounds in the seventh straight victory for the Spurs (25-5). San Antonio outrebounded Minnesota 47-31 and outscored the Wolves 54-24 in the paint to breeze to the win.

"Guys are competing at a high level. We're paying attention to detail and playing defense," said LaMarcus Aldridge, who had 12 points and eight rebounds. "If we keep doing that, things

should go well for us."

Karl-Anthony Towns had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves (11-18). Zach LaVine scored 17, but the Wolves were 3 of 10 from 3-point range while the Spurs went 10 for 24.

The Golden State Warriors have grabbed all the early attention with their 24-game winning streak to start the season, and the Spurs have only been too happy to lay in the shadows while they work to get Aldridge and David West incorporated into a system that has been the NBA's gold standard over the

Vucevic scores 21 to help Magic hold off Rockets 104-101

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Maybe it's a mark of the Orlando Magic's progress that they weren't particularly happy with the way they played in a victory against one of the hottest teams in the NBA.

Evan Fournier hit a short bank shot with 14.2 seconds left and Tobias Harris made two free throws with 1.1 seconds remaining to help the Magic hold off the Houston Rockets 104-101 on Wednesday night.

"It's true we won the game, but the way we did it, I thought we could have done a little better," said Fournier, who scored 17

points. Nik Vucevic's 21 points led six players in double figures for the Magic, who have won five of six. They have 17 wins, only eight fewer than all last season.

Marcus Thornton's 3-pointer missed at the final horn, ending Houston's three-game winning streak.

James Harden scored 10 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Rockets, who rallied from a 14-point deficit to lead by one on two occasions late in the game.

Former Magic center Dwight Howard finished with 12 points and seven rebounds

for Houston. Harris had 19 points and six rebounds for Orlando, which shot 52.4 percent but turned the ball over six times in the final quarter.

"We got some stops at the end, and that's pretty much how we won today," Harris said. "We were up 13 points in the fourth quarter and we kind of let them slip back in."

Aaron Gordon, who had scored 14 points in the five previous games, came off the Orlando bench with 14 points in a 7-minute span of the second quarter, helping the Magic (17-12) to a 59-53 lead following a first half in which the Rockets shot 52 percent. Houston missed its first five shots of the second half and fell behind 65-53, but Trevor Ariza hit two straight jumpers and then Harden scored four consecutive baskets to keep the Rockets in it.

The loss was only the fifth in 15 games for Houston (15-15).

"We can't have mental lapses where we do everything the right way for a couple possessions and go back to just taking it easy on teams," Howard said. "We have to do a better job of playing the same way for 48 minutes."

Scoreboard

NBA
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 104, Philadelphia 90
Toronto 93, Dallas 99
Detroit 103, Miami 92
L.A. Lakers 111, Denver 107
Wednesday's Games
Cleveland 91, New York 84
Sacramento 108, Indiana 106
Orlando 104, Houston 101
Washington 100, Memphis 91
Boston 102, Charlotte 89
Dallas 119, Brooklyn 118, OT
San Antonio 108, Minnesota 83
New Orleans 115, Portland 89
Milwaukee 113, Philadelphia 100
Atlanta 107, Detroit 100
Denver 104, Phoenix 96
Golden State 103, Utah 85
Oklahoma City 120, L.A. Lakers 85
Thursday's Games
No games scheduled
Friday's Games
No games scheduled
TRANSACTIONS
BASEBALL
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended Pittsburgh RHP Clairo Perez 80 games (Altoona-EL), Minnesota C Kerby Camacho (GCL Twins) and N.Y. Mets SS Jose Martinez (GCL Mets) 60 games and Baltimore LHP Will Dennis 50 games for violating the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with OF Hyun Soo Kim on a two-year contract.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Claimed OF Jerry Sands off waivers from Cleveland.
DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with INF

Alberto Gonzalez, OF Jardy Schierholtz, INF/OF Jordan Valdespin and RHPs Logan Kensing, Melvin Mercedes and Dustin Meliken on minor league contracts.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Claimed RHP Danny Reynolds off waivers from the L.A. Dodgers.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Claimed LHP Rob Rasmussen off waivers from Seattle.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Assigned OF Dan Robertson outright to Tacoma (PCL).
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Released INF Brendan Ryan. Claimed LHP Edgar Olmos off waivers from Baltimore.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Claimed OF Kirk Nieuwenhuis off waivers from the N.Y. Mets and 1B Andy Wilkins from Texas.
NEW YORK METS — Assigned C Johnny Monell outright to Las Vegas (PCL). Agreed to terms with OF Alejandro De Aza on a one-year contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with 1B/OF John Jaso on a two-year contract. Claimed RHP Yoervis Medina off waivers from the Chicago Cubs.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with C Jhonatan Solano on a minor league contract.
Can-Am League
NEW JERSEY JACKALS — Signed RHP Danny Moskovits.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Waived C Ryan Hollins. Signed G/F Jarell Eddie.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Fined Carolina CB Josh Norman \$26,044 for his actions during last week's game.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed G Collin Rahrig to the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed S Jonathan Dowling to the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed WR Andrew Hawkins on injured reserve. Signed LB Jayson DiManche from the practice squad and OL Conor Boffeli to the practice squad.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed LB Derek Akunne and CB Buddy Jackson to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Placed S David Bruton on injured reserve. Signed DB Shaun Prater.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Placed LB Tony Washington Jr. on the practice squad-injured list. Signed LB Jordan Dewart-Onidjo to the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed LB Edwin Jackson to the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed RB Jahwan Edwards to the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Placed FB Nikita Whitlock on injured reserve. Re-signed S Brandon Meriweather.
OAKLAND RAIDERS — Placed DE Mario Edwards Jr. on injured reserve. Signed LB John Lotulelei from the practice squad.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Placed RB Melvin Gordon on injured reserve. Signed RB Dreamius Smith from the practice squad and P Kasey Red-

fern to the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Waived RB Travis Cadet. Signed RB DuJuan Harris from the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released DT Justin Hamilton from the practice squad. Signed WRs Deshon Fox and Antwan Goodley to the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed WR Evan Spencer from the practice squad and WR Andre Davis to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Released WR Rico Richardson and QB Mike Kafka from the practice squad. Signed WR Gavin Lutman and QB Bryn Renner to the practice squad.
Arena Football League
ORLANDO PREDATORS — Agreed to terms with DE Donte Paige-Moss.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Signed RW Conor Garland to a three-year, entry-level contract.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned D Xavier Ouellet to Grand Rapids (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS — Assigned D Josh Brown from Portland (AHL) to Manchester (ECHL).
MINNESOTA WILD — Assigned D Guillaume Gelinas from Iowa (AHL) to Quad City (ECHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned G Magnus Hellberg and D Chris Summers to Hartford (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned F Jordan Caron to Chicago (AHL).
American Hockey League

AHL — Suspended Hershey LW Liam O'Brien and Rockford RW Ryan Hartman three games.
IOWA HAWKS — Returned D Austin Coldwell to Quad City (ECHL).
LAKE ERIE MONSTERS — Returned F Joe Devin to South Carolina (ECHL).
SAN DIEGO GULLS — Recalled D Eric Knodel from Utah (ECHL).
ALLEN AMERICANS — Signed D Nolan Descoteaux. Released G Nolan Bowker as emergency backup.
TULSA OILERS — Signed D/F Justin Mansfield.
UTAH GRIZZLIES — Signed G Mark Owuya.
SOCCER
U.S. SOCCER — Named John Hackworth U-17 men's national team coach.
Major League Soccer
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed Ms Chris Thorsheim and Mael Corboz and M/D Scott Thomsen.
North American Soccer League
MIAMI FC — Signed G David Sierra.
COLLEGE
EAST CAROLINA — Named Kenwick Thompson defensive coordinator, Deke Adams defensive line coach, Phil McGeoghan wide receivers coach and Terrell Smith assistant athletics director for football operations.
MISSOURI — Reinstated senior QB Maty Mauk to the football team.
TCU — Announced basketball G Alex Robinson has transferred from Texas A&M.

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

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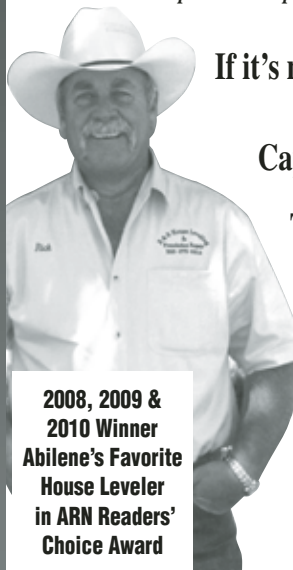
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HERALD



Merry Christmas Eve!

It's very good that you're not paying attention to some things. After all, some things don't warrant your attention. The Gemini moon suggests that this is an excellent time to distinguish the things that warrant your attention from the things that don't. Place your amorous gaze on beauty and it will gaze amorously back at you. Merry Christmas Eve!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The ones you're around will make up the games, but they have no idea the warrior-competitor you are. Whoops! Major whoops. At best, the result will be laughs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're doing something. People notice. People respond. Sometimes it's favorable, but not always. When it's not favorable, take refuge in the earlier fact. You're doing some-

thing! Many aren't. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You're not typically drawn to the fire, but doing something a little bit dangerous will exhilarate your mood today and favorably affect those around you as well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People are expecting you to deliver a product, service or presentation. Something new is going on inside you -- you're not even nervous. It feels like all your life has prepared you for this.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Savor the day. The best things will happen as you move slowly through, always inching forward, never standing still. Your allies will be Sagittarius and Aquarius.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sleep has reset your subconscious mind. What didn't make sense yesterday is now so clear. You'll act on the information and make good. Take a picture; this is one for the album.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Once upon a time you gave up

too quickly, only to find out that if you had hung on for a short while longer your would have succeeded. Now you have the determination that only experience can teach and the tenacity to see it through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Should you settle an old score, or write it off? The sure part is that you have to do something because this problem is taking up way too much mental space. A truthful and brief conversation will put the issue to rest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). For every echo there is an origin. You are the origin. Be careful what you say. Even your utterances will have resonance. It's a power not to take lightly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sure, you would prefer to be in charge, steering a project to its glory. Since that's not always possible, especially considering the politics at play in your current situation, you'll try hard to be adaptable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll communicate in an open and effective manner and this will relay more than you would have thought. In fact, you'll probably have to rewind to figure out what exactly you said.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Kindness is an under-rated glory these days. Luckily, in the case of this cause, you're a leader. Rate it high and the others will do the same. You'll start a wave, and who knows whom it will affect?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 24). You'll be inspired by a fire sign (Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius) this year. Who do you give your heart to? That's the question that will haunt the early months of 2016. You'll make a decision and be ready for the February adventure. June is your chance to make a difference in the world, probably done in a small gesture. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 8, 2, 19 and 7.

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

PISCES: Pisces is the sign of the healing touch. This evolved spirit has ways of making people feel better though the actual methods are mysterious even to the Pisces delivering health, comfort and relief. The intuitive knowledge that Pisces possesses doesn't have a logical language. Pisces can speak the language of love. Under favorable circumstances Pisces will naturally exude this healing energy. But when Pisces is feeling stressed, who relieves the fish's tension?

The answer is never too distant or difficult. Pisces will easily find the right relief once this sign recognizes a need for it. Focused on the feelings and moods of others, Pisces has a difficult time tuning into his or her own requirements. The first step

in de-stressing is to decide that it's important. The second step is to reach out and touch someone. Touch in the form of a hug, hand holding, cuddling, massage therapy and more will relieve anxiety, reduce irritability and promote a feeling of calm well-being.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Radio star, television personality and producer extraordinaire Ryan Seacrest is the busiest man in Hollywood. The hard-working Capricorn was born when the Sun, Mercury and Venus were all in Capricorn, the sign of public standing and business savvy. A tenacious Taurus moon ruled the day he was born. Jupiter in Pisces indicates great empathy and compassion.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband and I adopted our daughter from foster care when she was 12. We were told by the social worker that she had mental health issues, but we already loved her and went through with the adoption.

The 10 years since have not been easy, but we thought she had grown to love us. She is a smart, beautiful girl, and we never regretted adopting her. She was the light of our lives. She is now in college in another town. Last week, she called and said she is never coming back to our house and no longer wants to have anything to do with us.

We have tried to talk to her, but she either doesn't answer the phone or hangs up when we press for answers about what is wrong. She is dating a young man who has expressed his dislike of us. We have learned through other people that they are getting married and his family is paying for the whole thing. We don't know what to do. When she learned that we knew about the wedding, she did call and say we could come if we wanted, but it seemed a half-hearted invitation. I suspect if we had not been told by someone else about the

wedding, she never would have told us herself.

Should we go to the wedding or not? We do not know what kind of lies she may have told his family and are concerned it may be a problem. We love her and want to see her get married. What should we do? -- Broken-hearted Mother in Georgia

Dear Georgia: Please go to the wedding. Don't worry what the groom's parents think. Prove them wrong. You need to be supportive of your daughter on her big day and let her see that you still love her enough to do this. Don't cry or become angry or try to get her to tell you what's wrong. Simply be happy for her as best you can. And we always worry about relationships where the husband or wife prevents the spouse from seeing family members. It could lead to an abusive situation. Please keep your eyes open and make sure your daughter knows you will always be there for her.

Dear Annie: In a recent column, you mentioned people not feeling comfortable visiting a friend or relative in a nursing home.

I have been a patient in a nursing home while recover-

ing from surgery and I also worked in one where I had dealings with visitors. Most residents in these facilities like to have visitors no matter how long they stay -- even if it is only a few minutes. Any diversion from the regular routine is so welcome. Just talking a bit does a world of good. Other residents may join in, as they like to see a new face, too.

I know folks feel uneasy because they have a problem seeing friends or relatives in a poor medical state, but it can be dealt with. Your visit can be the best medicine. -- Canaan, Connecticut

Dear Canaan: Thanks so much for reminding readers

how much short visit means to people in nursing homes. It can be a boost and a breath of fresh air, and your kindness means more than you will ever know.

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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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.

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

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MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Key-Card Blackwood

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8
♥ 8 6
♦ A 7
♣ A K J 6 2

EAST
♠ Q 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K Q 6
♣ 7

Bridge — being the kind of game it is — lends itself to the use of many bidding conventions. However, most good partnerships try to limit the number of conventions they use, since too many conventions lead to too many misunderstandings.

One convention that has grown in popularity among expert pairs in recent years — indicating that it is considered worthy of the effort to remember it — is Key-Card Blackwood. Today's hand illustrates how it works.

The deal occurred some time ago in a team-of-four match between teams from Los Angeles and New York. As it happened, it was the very first deal of a 160-board match to determine which team would represent the United States in the next world championship.

When a Los Angeles pair sat East-West, the bidding went:

West
1♣
2♣
4♣
5♥

East
1♠
3♥
4NT
6♣

East-West, of course, went down

one, losing the ace and king of trumps.

When a New York pair held the East-West hands, the bidding was virtually the same, but with one important difference:

West
1♣
2♣
4♣
5♥

East
1♠
3♥
4NT
5♣

At this table, the bidding stopped at five spades. However, there was more to making the winning decision than meets the eye. This East-West pair was using Key-Card Blackwood, where the responder to four notrump treats the king of trumps as an ace. In effect, this means there are five aces in the deck.

Consequently, when West responded with five hearts, indicating two key cards, East knew his partner had either two aces without the king of trumps or one ace with the king of trumps. A slam would therefore either automatically go down, or at best depend on a finesse. So East quit at five spades, and the New York team got off to a flying start with a 500-point gain on the deal.

The Los Angeles team ultimately won the match, but the advantage of Key-Card Blackwood was not lost on those who witnessed what happened on the first hand.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

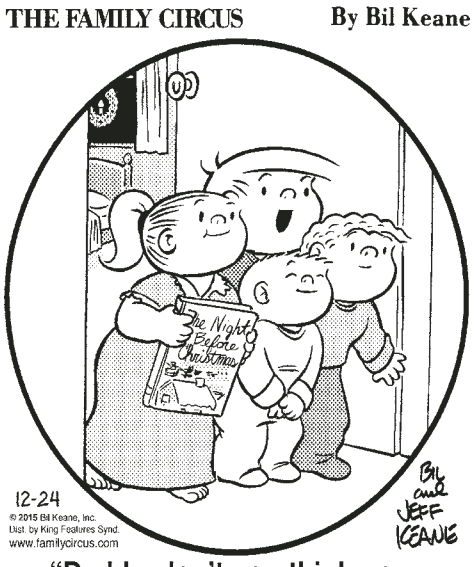
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM :30	News ABC	Hotel	Big Bang	News	Tele	News	Yohanah		CHiPs	American	Broke Girl	Castle	SportsCenter		Cowboys	NCIS (DVS)	Nightwatch	Last Frontier
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Muchacha	Mod Fam	News	Noticiero	News	Messiah	Danube	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Broke Girl	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		30 for 30	Texans	NCIS (DVS)	Nightwatch	Last Frontier
7:PM :30	It's Your 50th Wheel	Antes Muerta que	Big Bang	ET	Noticiero	News	Messiah	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Broke Girl	College Football: Hawaii Bowl -- San Diego State vs. Cincinnati.	30 for 30	Rangers Top	NCIS (DVS)	Nightwatch	Last Frontier	
8:PM :30	Charlie Brown	Pasión y Poder	TV's Funniest Animated Stars: A Paley	Big Bang Life in	Noticiero	News	Messiah	Curious George: A	Griffith	Mr. Magoo	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)			Rangers Top	NCIS (DVS)	Nightwatch	Last Frontier	
9:PM :30	Light Fight	Creo/los Hombres	TMZ	Elementary	Noticiero	News	Messiah	Christmas Carol	Honeymnr	Whose? Whose?	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		30 for 30	High School Football: UIL Class 6A, Division I: Teams TBA.	NCIS (DVS)	Nightwatch	Last Frontier	
10:PM :30	First Baptist	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Noticiero	News	McGee	Darla Z's Christmas	C. Burnett	Cougar	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)			Mod Fam	Nightwatch	Last Frontier		
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Misa de Gallo	First Baptist	May Peace Prevail	Noticiero	News	McGee	Choir	Raising	Cougar	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		30 for 30	Mod Fam	Nightwatch	Last Frontier		
12:AM :30	Nightline (:32) Extra		Friends Middle	SG Christmas	Noticiero	News	McGee	(Off Air)	Commun	King	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)			Mod Fam	Nightwatch	Last Frontier		
1:AM :30	Christmas From	Navidad en el Vaticano	Law Order: CI	ET	Pagado	News	McGee	Light of the Southwest	King	Paid	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)		30 for 30	Rangers Lombardi Big 12 Sportsday	NCIS (DVS)	Nightwatch	Last Frontier	

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

HAGAR



"Does Rudolph's nose have a high beam?"

"Daddy, don't you think now would be a good time for us to gather 'round so you can read us a story?"

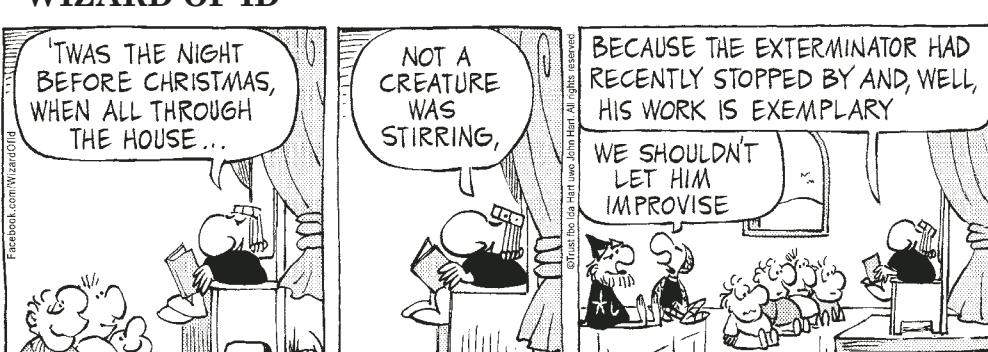
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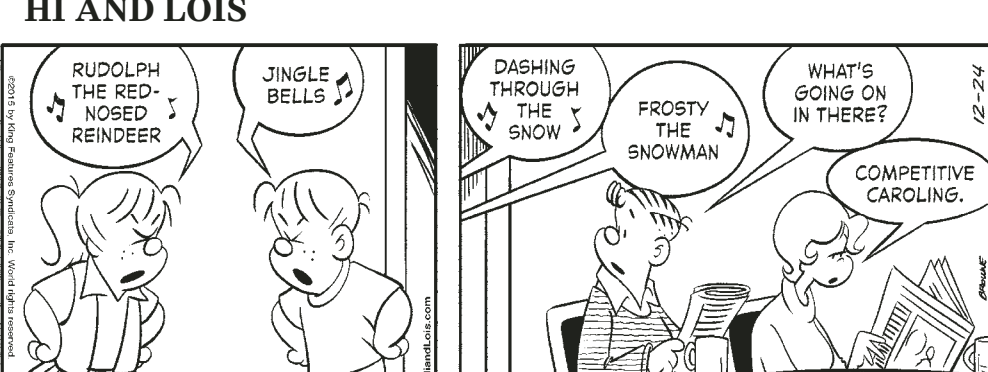
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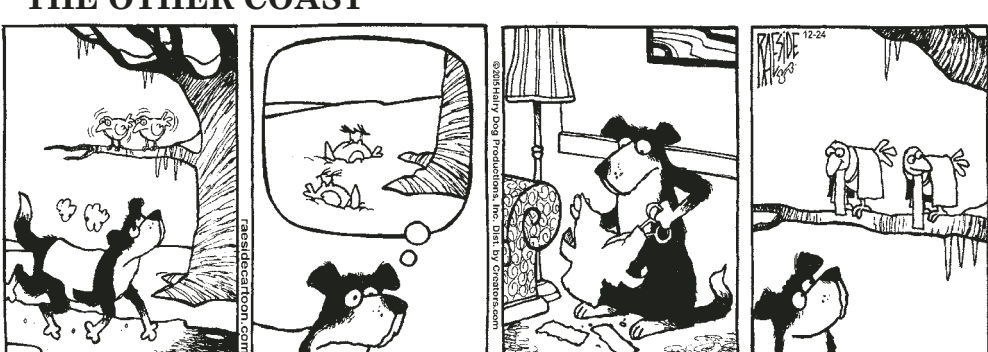
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2015. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1955, the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, found itself fielding phone calls from children wanting to know the whereabouts of Santa Claus after a newspaper ad mistakenly gave the Center's number; the result was a tradition continued by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) of tracking Santa's location the night before Christmas.

On this date: In 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, that was the origi-

nal version of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt.

In 1914, during World War I, impromptu Christmas truces began to take hold along parts of the Western Front between British and German soldiers.

In 1939, Pope Pius XII delivered a Christmas Eve address in which he offered a five-point program for peace and denounced "premeditated aggressions."

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

In 1974, Cyclone Tracy began battering the Australian city of Darwin, resulting in widespread damage and causing some 65 deaths.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds, a one second for each day of captivity.

In 1990, actor Tom Cruise married his "Days of Thunder" co-star, Nicole Kidman, during

a private ceremony at a Colorado ski resort (the marriage ended in 2001).

In 1995, fire broke out at the Philadelphia Zoo, killing 23 rare gorillas, orangutans, gibbons and lemurs.

Ten years ago: Iraq's governing Shiite coalition called on Iraqis to accept results showing the religious bloc leading in parliamentary elections and moved ahead with efforts to form a "national unity" government. Michael Vale, the actor best known for portraying sleepy-eyed Fred the Baker in Dunkin' Donuts commercials, died in New York at age 83.

Thought for Today: "Christmas comes, but once a year is enough." American proverb

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Answer to previous puzzle

MASH	FLAG	ABATE
ANNE	LINE	TECHS
STAR	ATTN	OGLES
TIPOF	THE	TONGUE
OLE	PEA	
ARTERY	TUT	RASH
CHASM	THREE	TOO
TILTAT	WIND	MILLS
ONE	THINS	GRAVE
REST	INK	TEASED
RON	GEE	
LEANGROUND	BEEF	
HORNS	AVID	AURA
ALICE	MADE	GRIN
SLEET	PLIED	SONG

12/24/15

Newsday Crossword

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 62 Personality | 8 News dispatch | 37 Suffix for salt |
| 1 Wistful remark | 63 Western | 9 Hornets' homes | 39 Cancel |
| 5 Admitted hero's pal | 64 Picnic serving | 10 Biblical wicked | 42 Open |
| 10 Extends outward | 65 Not quite a majority | 11 woman | 43 Planetary path |
| 14 Flout | 66 ___ Martin (British auto) | 11 45th state | 43 Planetary path |
| 15 Be overtheatrical | 67 Monday Night Football ailer | 12 Donut shapes | 46 Texter's closest pal |
| 16 School near Windsor Castle | | 13 Speak sharply | 48 Minestrone bits |
| 17 Exclamation of frustration | | 21 Roof's supply | 49 Playwright Chekhov |
| 18 Deputies | DOWN | 22 Opera star Marilyn | 50 Nonsense |
| 19 Daughter of Princess Anne | 1 Says further | 25 Antler owners | 51 Allocated space |
| 20 Call a spade a spade | 2 Carry on <i>The King of Queens</i> | 26 Lane marking | 52 Win over |
| 23 Formal refusal | 3 Roundish do | 27 Noble bestowal | 53 Myanmar neighbor |
| 24 Express distress | 4 "Actual," for "real" | 28 Become blocked | 54 Ravellings |
| 25 <i>Fantasia</i> reveler | 5 Spinachlike | 29 Vigilant | 55 Quite taken with |
| 28 Bivler | 6 Kuwaiti ruler | 30 Paint finish | 56 Shelf-bracket shapes |
| 31 Sum up | 7 Ruckus | 32 <i>Jungle Book</i> beast | 57 Abrupt increase |
| 35 Cut back | | 33 Go around | 58 Dracula's curfew |
| 36 Lose one's heart | | 34 Dove's desire | |
| 38 Creative output | | 36 Egg ___ yung | |
| 39 Anonymous person | | | |
| 40 Striking scarf | | | |
| 41 Country club feature | | | |
| 43 <i>South Park</i> boy | | | |
| 44 Show that you're leveling | | | |
| 45 Cookbook amts. | | | |
| 46 Windmill part | | | |
| 47 Trophy shape | | | |
| 49 Letters on a union logo | | | |
| 50 Sports diamond | | | |
| 59 Crunch Parfait ingredient | | | |
| 60 Patient person, it's said | | | |
| 61 Court claim | | | |

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Washington fairs well at UIL contest

Washington Elementary School participated in UIL in Sweetwater on Dec. 9, with 46 students who participated in 9 events.

The school had 14 students and four teams place. The awards ceremony was held on Dec. 17.

Results are as follows:



Third Grade Ready Writing Team: Mia Daniels (4th place individual overall), Emalyn Olivas, Braedon Kennedy and Coach Candi Whitehead.



Third Grade Storytelling: Gracie Moore (won 4th place individual overall), Damion Alvarez, and Coach Barbara Carr.



Second Grade Chess Puzzle: (2nd Place Team Overall), Raine Walker (3rd Place individual overall), Alijah Gomez (4th Place individual overall), Joshua Reyes (5th Place individual overall), Trystan Delgado and Coach Natalie Bose.



Fourth Grade Oral Reading: Keagan Baker (4th place individual overall), Maddox Lane, Jack Hamby, Jacob Taylor, Coach Cecelia Gonzales (not pictured).



Fourth Grade Ready Writing Team: Keagan Baker (1st place individual overall), Trinity DeLaCruz, Mia Valle (not pictured), Kendall Brooks, and Coach Candi Whitehead.



Second Grade Storytelling: Emma Rodriguez (5th place individual overall), Caitlyn Morales, and Coach Barbara Carr.



Third Grade Music Memory: (2nd Place Team Overall), Liliana Anderson (1st place individual overall), Emalyn Olivas, Kloe Canales, Breasia Gardner, and Coach Elesha McMeans.



Third Grade Chess Puzzle: (2nd Place Team Overall), Kloe Canales (4th place individual overall), Abigail Bose (5th place individual overall), Jonathan Vardell, (6th place individual overall), Mason Wright, and Coach Natalie Bose.



Fourth Grade Chess Puzzle: (2nd Place Team Overall), Jack Hamby (2nd Place individual overall), Jacob Taylor (3rd Place individual overall), Maddox Lane and Coach Natalie Bose.

Steer Pride Corner

Nice sweater, Teach



Courtesy photo/BSISD

Big Spring Intermediate (BSI) teachers competed in the ugly sweater contest. Pictured on front row, from left, Mrs. Rosemary Sanchez, Ms. Nguyen, Ms. Flores, Ms. Sotelo, and Mrs. Colette, back row, left, Nurse Robles, Mrs. Marca Taylor, Mr. Klint Bratcher, Coach Eric Tuttle, Mrs. Sarah Heffle, Librarian Kristi Mereness, Mrs. Isabel Garcia, Mr. Pat Ray and Coach Steven Arista. The winners were Mrs. Taylor and runner up, Coach Tuttle.

Courtesy photo/BSISD
Pictured from left are: Mrs. Loryn Colette, Ms. Jennifer Shirey, Coach Rebecca Valbuena, Nurse Robles, Coach Eric Tuttle, and Ms. Sotelo



To submit a school news item, e-mail

citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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