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H BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016



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Victim identified in Friday night bus crash

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

According to a Department of Public Safety (DPS) preliminary report, a Freightliner truck tractor hit a school van carrying an Iraan cheerleading squad after the driver lost control of his vehicle when he attempted to avoid a collision with a third car.

One person was killed in the accident which occurred in Howard County late Friday night around 11 p.m. on Interstate 20 near mile marker 173, about a mile west of Big Spring. The person was identified as the Iraan cheerleading sponsor, Elizabeth Pope.

The 52-year-old was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center by Howard County Justice of the Peace Judge Robert Fitzgibbons, according to the DPS report. She was a passenger in the van driven by Christina Garlock, 48, who is the sister of Pope, according to a report by News West 9.

Nijimbere Eliphase, 40, of Richardson, driving the truck tractor towing a semi-trailer, "was traveling eastbound on IH-20 in the outside lane behind a black passenger car," the DPS release said. "The black passenger car slammed on its brakes and (the freightliner) veered to the right to avoid colliding with the black passenger car."

Eliphase lost control of the truck which crossed the medium, entered the westbound lanes of I-20, and collided with the 2015 Chevrolet van, the release said. The van was carrying the Iraan cheerleading squad returning from a playoff game in Colorado City held earlier that night.

See **BUS**, Page 3

The Big Spring Herald's Community Christmas Parade, postponed because of inclement weather Saturday, will be rescheduled at a date and time to be determined, officials said today.

Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com





Bad weather can't keep Santa away



Courtesy photo
 Bad weather may have canceled the Forsan parade but it wasn't enough to deter the after-parade party. Santa and the Grinch were at Forsan Baptist Church to visit with children on Saturday morning which was marked with cold rain and cloudy skies. Hot chocolate and cookies were available to those who attended.

HOPE Foundation now open for 2017 grants

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

The HOPE (Help Our Pupils Excel) Foundation is now accepting applications for the Innovated Teaching Grants, a program meant to help support Big Spring ISD teachers implement creative ideas in the classroom.

"Teachers have a lot of good ideas that maybe they can't implement in classroom because funding is not there," said Linda Conway of the Hope Foundation. "This gives teachers an opportunity to try new, innovated ideas in their classroom."

The HOPE Foundation, established in Nov. 2014, is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation that awards grants to Big Spring ISD teachers to enable them to implement innovative and creative instructional activities in their classrooms that might not be possible without this funding, according to a news release from foundation.

According to Conway, funding is an obstacle for many teachers to implement great activities in the classroom.

"The goal of the HOPE Foundation is for classroom teachers in the BSISD to apply for grants from the foundation to put these ideas into action," she said. "Grants will be awarded as long as funds are available to make these ideas for learning activities into a reality."

Conway said the grants go toward supporting programs. The foundation is meant to enhance the classroom setting, not to replace lost state funding or the district's operating budget.

"Last year, one of the grants was given to the culinary arts program (at Big Spring High School)," she said. "The money did help to purchase supplies but it was to help get the program started. They are teaching these students certain skills, and they receive a special certificate when they finish the program."

More information about the grant application process can be found at www.hopefoundationbigspring.org or by emailing hopefoundationbigspring@yahoo.com.

The foundation will have an informational table set up during the HEB Feast of Sharing event — set for noon to 4 p.m., Dec. 11, at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum — to answer question from the public. Students from the culinary program will be available at the table to answer questions about the program.

The deadline to apply for an Innovated Teaching HOPE Foundation grant is March 1, 2017.

Dec. 5
 20 shopping days to Christmas



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Courtesy photo/Big Spring ISD
 Big Spring ISD Superintendent Chris Wigington presents a check in the amount of \$9,150 to Mike Tarpley, president of Chapter 47 of the Disabled American Veterans and U.S. Army veteran. The funds were donated by Big Spring ISD employees in conjunction with a Jeans for Troops event held on Veterans Day. Employees who wanted to wear jeans donated \$5 each in an effort to help the local DAV chapter raise funds for a new roof for its headquarters.



Did You Feel Left Out This Thanksgiving?

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Dr. Sally Rand, AuD, CCC-A, Audiologist

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **AMANDA HEAVILAND**, 28, of 400 E. 10th St. was arrested on warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.
- **ALICIA FAYE LAROCQUE**, 30, of 1408 S. Runnels St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MELINDA MACHADO GAMBOA**, 40, of 1112 Mulberry Ave. was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **CHRISTOPHER ANDREW**

YANEZ, 23, of 1100 E. Fifth St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

- **CAROLYN JEAN HANKE**, 22, of 302 S. Cauble in Stanton was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **JAMES ARTHUR WHITED**, 51, of 309 W. Fifth St. was arrested on charges of public intoxication and theft of property (less than \$100).
- **SEAN CAMERON FULLER**, 24, of 508 Sunset Blvd. was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **JASON CLARENCE SHAIR-**

RICK, 31, of 2708 S. Anderson Rd. was arrested on a warrant for theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1100 block of Mulberry Avenue, the 1100 block of East Fifth Street, and the 600 block of State Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 3200 block of Fenn, the 400 block of Birdwell Lane, the 1200 block of East 11th Place, the 600 block of East FM 700, and the 600 block of North Lamesa Highway.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2300 block of Kentucky Way.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 93 inmates at the time of this report.

- **BOBBY LEE AGUERO**, 34, was booked by BSPD on charges of false report to police officer, duty on striking fixture or highway landscaping, and driving with an invalid license.
- **ADRIAN AGUILAR**, 23, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for graffiti (less than \$20,000).
- **SIMON JACOB ARENIVAZ**, 26, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for criminal mischief (\$750 to \$2,500), and a charge of possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram).
- **MARK ARGUELLO**, 43, was booked by BSPD on a parole violation warrant, and on a warrant for theft of property (\$50 to \$500).
- **CONSTANCE LEE BRAMLETTE**, 26, was booked by HCSO on two speeding warrants and two warrants for violation of promise to appear.
- **JOSEPH RAY BRIM JR.**, 46, was booked by BSPD on a child support warrant.
- **KENNETH RAY COX**, 19, was booked by BSPD on a charge of theft of property (\$100 to \$750)/

shoplifting.

- **SEAN CAMERON FULLER**, 24, was booked by BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **MELINDA MACHADO GAMBOA**, 40, was booked by BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **JOSE GARCIA**, 21, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.
- **L.C. GIBBS**, 64, was booked by HCSO on a charge of duty on striking fixture or highway landscaping.
- **CAROLYN JEAN HANKE**, 22, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for theft by check.
- **RONALD STANLEY HASELBY SR.**, 66, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for criminal trespassing.
- **AMANDA HEAVILAND**, 28, was booked by BSPD on warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.
- **JAMES MICHAEL INGRAM**, 61, was booked by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated (third offense or more).
- **ALICIA FAYE LAROCQUE**, 30, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **VERA LEE LUJAN**, 55, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for

sale of alcohol to minors.

- **JOSEPH ALTON MURLEY**, 37, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for speeding.
- **STORMY CAISE MURPHY**, 24, was booked by BSPD on warrants for failure to appear and driving with an invalid license.
- **DUSTIN RAY RILEY**, 27, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for prohibited weapons (switchblade/brass knuckles).
- **RANDOLF ROBLEDO JR.**, 29, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for harassment.
- **STEPHANIE SERRATO**, 32, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for failure to identify/fugitive giving false information.
- **JASON CLARENCE SHAIR-RICK**, 31, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).
- **MICHAEL ALAN WATSON**, 18, was booked by BSPD on a charge of theft (less than \$100)/shoplifting.
- **JAMES ARTHUR WHITED**, 51, was booked by BSPD on charges of public intoxication and theft of property (less than \$100).
- **CHRISTOPHER ANDREW YANEZ**, 23, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near mile marker 174 on Interstate 20. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain

Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near Exit 169 on Interstate 20.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the the 100 block of East 15th Street. One person was

transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of State Street.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Drexel. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **HAZMAT RELEASE INVESTIGATION** was reported in the 2700 block of Central.

Support Groups

MONDAY

• 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.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympa-

thetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.



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Obituaries

Sarah J. Salisbury

Sarah J. Salisbury, 72, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, at her home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home.

Take Note

• The Salvation Army of Big Spring is seeking volunteers to ring a bell for their Red Kettle program this Christmas season. Each year, more than 25,000 Salvation Army volunteers raise money through the program to help serve more than 3 million people in need during the holiday season from Thanksgiving to Christmas. All money raised in the Red Kettle program stays in the communities where it is raised. For more information call 432-352-2005. If you don't have time to ring a bell, you can visit Red-KettleReason.org to create an online kettle to raise funds for the program.

• H-E-B is looking for non-profits agencies to set up information tables at the annual Feast of Sharing. Please contact Sandy Stewart at 432-935-1604 to reserve a spot. Feast of Sharing will be held on Dec. 11 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

• 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.

The next sacking session will be at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6 at the old Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 N.W. Seventh St. To get there, take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney, which is the block just past the Salvation Army retail store. Delaney turns into Seventh Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost is \$8 per person.

Meetings

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

• The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

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

• 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.



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FSA extends deadline for county elections

Special to the Herald

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Judith A. Canales, Friday announced that the deadline to submit ballots for the 2016 County Committee Elections has been extended to ensure farmers and ranchers have sufficient time to vote.

Eligible voters now have until Dec. 13, 2016 to return ballots to their local FSA of-

fices. Producers who have not received their ballot should pick one up at their local FSA office.

"We're extending the voting deadline to Dec. 13 to give farmers and ranchers a few additional days to get their ballots in," said Canales. "I urge all eligible producers, especially minorities and women, to get involved and make a real difference in their communities by voting in this year's elections. This is your opportunity to have a

say in how federal programs are delivered in your county."

FSA has modified the ballot, making it easily identifiable and less likely to be overlooked. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 13, 2016. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2017.

Nearly 7,700 FSA County Committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11

elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of County Committee seats are up for election each year. County Committee members apply their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support, conservation, indemnity, disaster and emergency programs.

Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the County Committee elec-

tion. Approximately 1.5 million producers are currently eligible to vote.

Farmers and ranchers who supervise and conduct the farming operations of an entire farm, but are not of legal voting age, also may be eligible to vote.

For more information, visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. You may also contact your local USDA service center or FSA office. Visit <http://offices.usda.gov> to find an FSA office near you

Texas news in brief

System brings record rainfall to parts of Southeast Texas

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — More than 12 inches of rain fell in parts of the Houston area over the weekend and the precipitation will continue Monday before moving out of the region.

National Weather Service meteorologist Matt Stalley says Galveston set a single-day record Saturday with nearly 8 inches of rain.

Stalley said Monday that nearby Texas City received nearly 13 inches through the weekend.

He says the storm system also brought up to 5 inches of rain in the greater Austin and San Antonio metro regions, causing rivers to rise and some flooding.

Rain will continue to fall in East Texas on Monday before moving out of the state.

2 cars submerged in San Antonio sinkhole; 1 man rescued

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio official says a 60-year-old man has been rescued after two cars were submerged inside a sinkhole created when a large sewer line ruptured.

San Antonio Fire Battalion Chief Brian O'Neil tells the Express-News (<http://bit.ly/2fYkHJN>) that a woman sustained minor injuries when she rescued the man who drove into the sinkhole Sunday night.

O'Neil says the man and woman were taken to the hospital and are "in good shape." Authorities were trying to determine if there was another person inside one of the vehicles.

Officials were trying to figure out a way to stop the flow of the sewer line to allow emergency crews to get through. The San Antonio Water System reports that there had been four other sewer spill overflows on Sunday.

Prominent Dallas personal injury attorney dies

DALLAS (AP) — A prominent Dallas personal injury attorney has died about a week after the suicide of his 16-year-old daughter.

The Dallas County medical examiner's office says Brian Loncar died Sunday but that a cause of death has not yet been determined. Police said he'd been taken to a hospital overnight.

The 56-year-old was well-known in Texas for his television advertisements, in which he branded himself the "strong arm." His firm has offices across Texas.

A statement from Brian Loncar's family on Sunday said they were filled with "enormous sadness and profound grief" following his death. It also said they were "hurting and struggling to understand."

Grace Loncar's funeral was held Friday. According to her obituary, she'd long battled depression.

Plane landing gear collapses on landing in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Authorities say everyone was safely evacuated from a United Express plane after its nose gear collapsed when it landed at San Antonio International Airport.

San Antonio Fire Department spokesman Woody Woodward says that when the plane landed Sunday afternoon its nose gear collapsed. He says 55 people were safely evacuated from the plane via emergency slides. He says there was no fire.

Woodward says there was only one minor ankle injury reported but the person refused treatment because she was concerned about making her connecting flight.

Skywest Airlines said Skywest Flight 5588 operating as United Express from Houston to Monterrey, Mexico, diverted to San Antonio after the crew got a gear indication.

Rain may have been factor in crash that killed 4 in Texas

FREDERICKSBURG, Texas (AP) — Authorities say they're still investigating a three-vehicle collision in Central Texas that killed four people but say rainy weather could have been a factor.

Texas Department of Public Safety officials said Sunday that rain could have been a factor in the collision Saturday on U.S. 290 just outside Fredericksburg.

Those killed were identified Sunday as 15-year-old Evan Langbein of Fredericksburg, 17-year-old Destiny Conaster of Round Rock, 58-year-old Keith Hoover of Azel and 61-year-old Don Corley Jr., also of Azel.

Officials say a car carrying the two teenagers collided with a pickup truck that then struck a sport utility vehicle. Two men in the sport utility vehicle died.

Plans to restore NASA mission control room remain in limbo

HOUSTON (AP) — Plans to restore the NASA mission control room that served as the nerve center for the Apollo missions, when man first reached the moon, have been discussed for more than 20 years, but its restoration and preservation remain in limbo with no set date for work to begin.

Officials at Johnson Space Center in Houston say the restoration of Mission Operation Control Room 2 is a priority, but note that NASA has other priorities, too — including the space flights managed in

the large, active building where the control room is located. The room was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985 and retired seven years later.

The Houston Chronicle (<http://bit.ly/2g87794>) reports that in the room that had its glory days during the decades of Gemini and Apollo and the shuttle programs, many of the carpet squares are stained and taped together. Behind the glass in the visitor area — where dignitaries and media observed mission control at work — the seats are worn. Ash-tray covers have been pried loose and pieces of upholstery cut away for souvenirs.

Gene Kranz, a flight director during NASA's Gemini and Apollo missions who was portrayed by Ed Harris in the film "Apollo 13," told a group of preservationists touring the room last month, "This is a place of history. But what I see is a tired Mission Control, worn of its heart and soul. It's time to start the battle for its restoration."

Like others from NASA, Kranz usually refers to the room by its acronym, MOCR2 — pronounced "Mo-ker Two."

The most recent proposal to restore the room, released last year, would cost about \$3 million and require about 18 months of work. That would restore the room to the way it was for Apollo missions 11 through 17 — right down to the headsets, pencil holders and amber glass ash trays. The result would make MOCR2 — already a popular attraction — the crown jewel of Space Center Houston.

Bacon found on Galveston restaurant owned by Muslim

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — A Muslim restaurant owner in Galveston says that in the past week he found the front of his business covered in bacon on one day and the front door handles smeared with bacon grease on another.

Asad Khan, who adheres to the religion's prohibition against pork, says he's worried about the safety of his employees at ZaZa Bar & Bites.

He found the bacon Nov. 27 and the bacon grease on the door handles Thursday.

Khan tells the Houston Chronicle though that he doesn't have a "victim mentality" and feels blessed to live in the U.S. Galveston police Lt. Joshua Schirard tells the Galveston County Daily News that with no security camera footage "there are very few solvability factors."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Mary Patricia Ward Smith, 89, passed away Thursday. Funeral Catholic Mass was held at 10:00 AM this morning at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will be at 10:00 AM Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at Trinity Memorial Park.

Carroll Hardison, 76, died Thursday. Graveside service will be at 2:00 PM today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

BUS

Continued from Page 1

Also hurt in the accident were Garlock, 48, and six teenagers, 17-years-old or younger. All victims were first transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Cen-

ter and four were then transported to another hospital according to earlier news reports. No information was given on the condition of the driver of the truck or for his passenger Michael Dick, 23, of Pilot Grove, Mo., in the release.

Word of the crash has

quickly spread through the Crossroads area through mainstream and social media.

"Please join me in praying for all involved in the bus crash in Big Spring last night," U.S. Congressman-Elect Jodey Arrington said in the statement issued

Saturday. "I am praying for wisdom for the doctors, comfort for their families, and healing for the injured."

Staff Writer Lyndel Moody can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mailing citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FORSAN ISD'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing before the Board of Trustees of the Forsan Independent School District will be held on

Monday, December 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Forsan ISD Board room Located at 411 W. 6th Street, Forsan, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Forsan ISD's rating on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST Report), the State's Financial Accountability System.

Forsan ISD received a rating of "A" = Superior"

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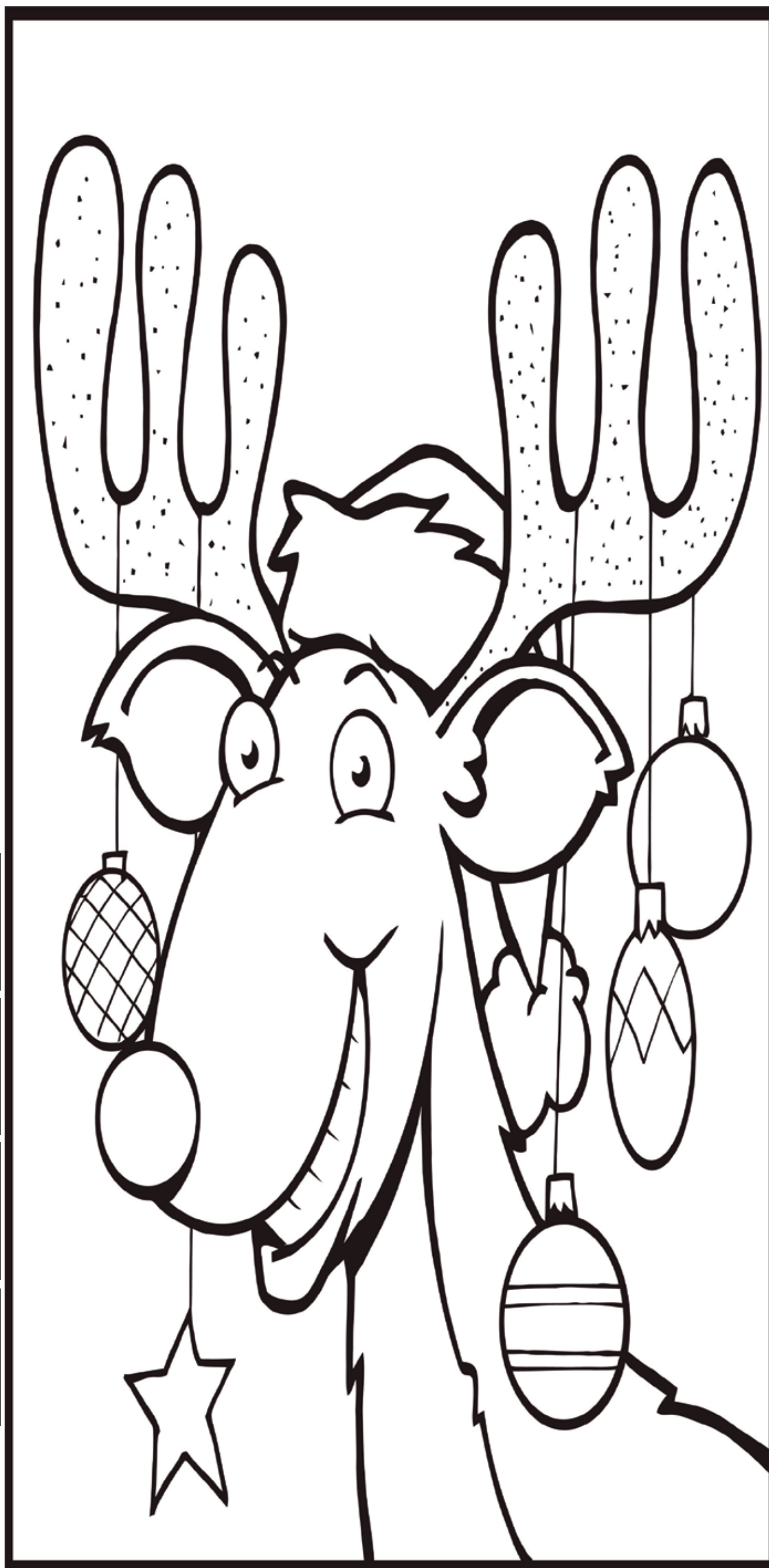
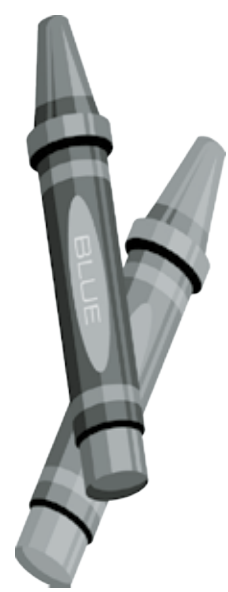
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COLORING CONTEST RULES

- Contest open to children ages 2-12
- Limit one contest submission per person
- Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
- Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
- All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 12, 2016.
- Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 18, 2016 edition.
- Decision of judges is final.
- Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
- All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

**Prizes Awarded
 To Each Age Group**

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Age: _____

Phone#: _____

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Lamun-Lusk (432)268-8387
1809 US-87 Big Spring 79720

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\$16-\$18 per hr
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Stands,trellis,Ltgs,mics,cable s,amps,spkr,table, storage,1 TB Tosh drive w/ 11yrs of music
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1 acre of land for RV/Mobile Home (not in trailer park) 1 trailer for \$500/month
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1 BR/1BA \$599 OPEN HOUSE 10:00 -3:00, December 17, 2016. Come see what all we have to offer. 3304 W. Hwy. 80 -Call Tamara 432-714-4840

1010 A Nolan. New duplex. 2 bed/2 bath w/kitchen appliances. No bills paid \$975/month, \$500/dep. Call 432-267-7449 or 432-634-8101

107 East 25th St. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. No smoking/no pets. References required. \$1,000/month, \$1,000/dep. Call 432-213-2319

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ANSWERS

9	8	7	4	6	1	5	2	3
1	5	2	8	7	3	4	6	9
3	4	6	5	2	9	1	7	8
5	7	9	6	3	2	8	4	1
4	6	3	9	1	8	7	5	2
8	2	1	7	5	4	9	3	6
7	1	5	2	9	6	3	8	4
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BIG SPRING HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

affirmation of a worse one, while the acceptance of a bad condition is in and of itself a move toward good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's no clear definition of what your role is supposed to be in the social scenario at hand. Choose a fantasy model to help you navigate this weirdness more comfortably. Who has the charm and grace you'd like to embody?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It is when you don't need the relationship/job/deal (yet are still fascinated by the challenge of it) that you are the likeliest to get a good offer. There is something powerfully attractive in self-sufficiency.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've a lot to offer today and many takers -- so many in fact that there's no time to waste on the unappreciative. The one who starts to give you a problem is better let go early on. You're better off without high-maintenance customers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The avoidance of worry is a form of worry. It's a struggle to avoid struggle and

a pain to avoid pain. In light of this, avoid avoidance altogether. Take life head-on, at face value. Forward march!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Not everything that happens (SET ITAL) to (END ITAL) you is (SET ITAL) about (END ITAL) you. And even if it is about you, it's only about the "you" that another person is experiencing, which is not the whole or core "you" at all. Today happiness is... not taking it personally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you're faced with an overwhelming project, the natural, normal thing to do is to do anything but focus on that project. This manifestation of fear is what you're dealing with today. Be brave. Dive in. To the victor go the spoils.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you see them all line up and start marching in one direction, there's something inside you that wants to do an about-face and dance yourself in the opposite trajectory. It's not that they are wrong and you are right; it's just that it's

your job to challenge conformity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There will be humble domestic chores and errands to contend with. If left undone, they would make your life overly and unnecessarily complicated. That automatically relegates them to the status of "very important."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The big aims come with big sacrifices, but don't let that deter you. Everything involves a sacrifice. The trick is to find a sacrifice you're well-matched to so it doesn't seem so bad.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you were younger, you tried to avoid embarrassment at all costs. Now you realize that embarrassment is a rite of passage on the way to becoming proficient at something worthwhile.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 5). Your gratitude toward the many who've helped you will be the spiritual practice that opens the way for new mentors and helpers to enter your scene. Love will be the main attraction in February, but be

sure to do what's right for you and not just what seems good for your special relationship. June brings a windfall. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 23, 11 and 45.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "I'm a Leo guy, and I have the same problem over and over with the girls I date. I take them out, and no matter how romantic the date is designed to be, I always end up in the friend zone -- and a lot poorer than I was at the start of the night. I don't mean to be a jerk about it, but I would hope that girls would go out with me because they like me, not because they just want me to buy them a nice dinner. How do I keep from going broke while being rejected? I deserve a nice girlfriend. And what sign might she be?"

You could hit it off with girls from any sign, but a close encounter with Aries, Sagittarius or a fellow Leo might do wonders for your confidence now. These fire-sign women can be feisty and direct, which you might find to be a refreshing change.

But before you change your astrological agenda, consider changing your entire approach to dating. Instead of spending your hard-earned cash on a fine dining experience, consider investing in your own ability to create rapport and communicate effectively with women. More on this tomorrow.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The legacy of Walter Elias Disney shines through animation, entertainment, theme parks and smiling faces of children of every age around the world. The original imagineer's most important work was born of his love of the natural world and his commitment to conservation. Disney's natal sun and Uranus in Sagittarius, the sign of exploration and expansion, are complemented by a moon in the sign of harmony and art (Libra).

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Aquarius Moon Humility Challenge

The minute a person starts to believe that he is in control of the universe (or even his little part of it) is the same minute he becomes a fool. The Aquarius moon suggests moving through the hours with the humility of one's own powerlessness. Once accepted, life gets simple. We stop trying to own and rule everything and start having fun inside it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The wise shaman doesn't boss people around, yet because of this person, the group behaves differently. This is you today -- influential in manner, and how.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Paradoxically, the desire for a better life is an

A Situation That's Not a Comedy

Dear Annie: For the past two decades, my life has been an episode of the sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond" on steroids.

My mother-in-law has made a wonderful grandmother, but she has constantly criticized my weight, my hairstyle, what I feed my children and how I dress and discipline them. She always does this out of earshot of her husband

and son. I have kept my mouth shut to keep the peace, and I respect my dear father-in-law and husband too much to tell her off and cause a family rift.

Six months ago, she got a Facebook account for the first time. She wrote something rude about another family member, not knowing everyone could see it. We went over to show her how to remove it and explained that the whole world could see her inappropriate comment. She got de-

fensive and called me hurtful names. I called her a troublemaker and walked out.

She hasn't spoken to me since, and neither has my father-in-law. He was not even there, so I can't imagine what she told him. My husband was there and knows I didn't do or say anything wrong and is not reaching out to them because he knows his mother was wrong.

I tried writing my father-in-law a letter but got no response. His alienation hurts me more than anything because I can't believe he would go along with this. I know she will never apologize, but how do we rectify this if they continue to ignore phone calls, cards and letters? They are elderly, and I am afraid something will happen and my husband will

live the rest of his life with regret over this. -- Daughter-in-Law in the Middle

Dear DIL: The thing about sitcoms is that no matter how bad a family feud is, everything is neatly restored by the end of the 30-minute time slot, and the studio audience issues a collective "aww." If only. Your husband has the biggest role here. Encourage him to set his (justified) anger aside and pay his parents a visit. No matter how big a drama queen she is, it will be hard for his mother to slam the door in the face of her baby boy. Once he's made amends, he can help smooth things over for you, too.

I'd also like to say that your husband and in-laws are lucky to have you. You are a tolerant and caring

person. Major props for holding the family together.

Dear Annie: The other day, you published a letter from "Senior in Connecticut," who is discomforted by public workers who call older patrons "honey" and other such terms.

If I may offer a view from the other side: Public servants, as we might be referred to, are often subjugated to these terms, as well. As a young woman in the public workforce, I am often subjected to older men calling me such names.

I have been told, as you offered, that it's more of a personal preference to be called by these names or not. As you can probably guess, it makes me incredibly uncomfortable. Just like "Senior in Con-

necticut," I interpret these names to be derogatory and demeaning, not flattering.

A good solution to both of our problems might be this: Don't call someone by one of these names unless you are sure that the person is comfortable with it. Asking certainly never hurts. And to those who are shaking their head and disagreeing, saying that it's "harmless": Is respecting someone else's wishes really that much of a burden on you? -- Disgruntled Public Worker

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠K 8 2
♥K 7 3
♦A Q 8
♣K 8 7 6

WEST
♠A J 5 3
♥A J 8 4
♦9 4
♣A J 4

EAST
♠Q 10 9 7 6 4
♥10 6 5 2
♦6
♣Q 10

SOUTH
♠—
♥Q 9
♦K J 10 7 5 3 2
♣9 5 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
3♦ Dble 3NT 4♣
Pass Pass 4NT Pass
5♦ Dble

Opening lead — ace of spades.

It is true that he was assisted by the opening lead of the ace of spades, which was induced by East's four-spade bid. However, this lead in itself did not present Huang with the contract; he still had to play his cards correctly.

After ruffing the spade ace, Huang drew two rounds of trumps, ending in his hand, and then led the nine of hearts, placing West on the horns of a dilemma. Had West followed low, declarer would have won the heart with the king, discarded his queen of hearts on the king of spades, and later lost two club tricks to bring the contract home.

In practice, however, West took the nine of hearts with the ace and returned a heart to South's queen. With dummy's king of spades and king of hearts now available to furnish two club discards, Huang eventually lost only one club trick after leading a club toward dummy's king. Making five diamonds doubled was worth 550 points.

The contract would have failed had West led a trump, a heart or a club originally. However, the actual ace-of-spades lead gave declarer an advantage in the play from which the defenders could not escape, and Huang made the most of it.

Tomorrow: East sells South a bill of goods.

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sudoku

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

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

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5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	News	Tele	News	Uri Harel	Over	Mama's	American	Fam. Guy	Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy	Monday Night Countdown	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	Mod Fam	The First 48	Street Out-laws
5:30	ABC	Notic.	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticiero	News	D Stringer	Business	Mama's	American	Fam. Guy					Mod Fam	The First 48	Street Out-laws
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-	News	McDonald	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy			College Basketball	Golf Life	Mod Fam	The First 48	Street Out-laws
6:30	Wheel	Guadalupe	Big Bang	ET	News	News	R. Booker	Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy				Sportsday	Mod Fam	The First 48	Street Out-laws
7:PM	The Great Christmas Light Fight	Despertar Contigo	Showtime at the Apollo	Kevin Can Man-Plan	Silvana Sin Lana	The Voice	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	Supergirl	Fam. Guy	Movie: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (DVS)	(15) NFL Football: Indianapolis Colts at New York Jets.		Mavs Pre-NBA Basketball: Hornets at Mavericks	WWE Monday Night RAW	The First 48	Street Out-laws: Full
7:30		Vino el Amor		Broke Girl	La Doña (SS)		Discovery	Antiques Roadshow	Hap.Days	Supergirl	Fam. Guy			CrossFit Games			The First 48	Street Out-laws
8:PM				Big Bang					Gilligan					CrossFit Games			The First 48	Street Out-laws
8:30									The Greeks	Heroes	Seinfeld						The First 48	Street Out-laws
9:PM	(01) Conviction	El color de la pasión	News	Fashion Show	Señora Acero 3	(01) Time-less			Heroes	Seinfeld	Full							
9:30				TMZ					Heroes	Seinfeld	Full							
10:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	House	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy	(20) SportsCenter	30 for 30	Mavs	(05) Movie: A Madea Christmas	Live PD: Rap Sheet	(04) Street Outlaws
10:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	Mani		Perry Mason	King					Cowboys			
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto	Cleveland	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Rocks	Newsline	(Off Air)	Rules	People of			Baseball	Texans			
11:30	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met	James Corden	La Doña (SS)	Seth Meyers	Yohanan	T. Smiley		Rules	Conan			Shorts	Sportsday			
12:AM	Extra	La Mujer del	How I Met	Insider	Señora Acero 3	News	News	1st Fruits		Raising	Alfred Hitchcock Jr.	Law & Order	NFL Prime-Time	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Hornets at Mavericks	CSI: Crime Scene	The First 48	Street Out-laws
12:30	Paid	A Que No Me Dejas	Law Order: CI	ET	Pagado	(08) Today	Light of the Southwest		Kojak	Cheaters	Seinfeld	Law & Order	SportsCenter	Nación ESPN	CSI: Crime Scene	The First 48	Street Out-laws	
1:AM	Paid									Cheaters	Movie: Resi-dent Evil: Distribution							

DENNIS THE MENACE

12-5

"YOU KNEW THE JOB WAS DANGEROUS WHEN YOU TOOK IT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

12-5

"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."

HAGAR

12-5

ROLL THE DUKE UP IN THIS RUG! WE'LL TAKE HIM HOSTAGE!

NO! PLEASE DON'T DO THAT- I BEG YOU!

12-5

IT'S MY FAVORITE RUG!

BLONDIE

12-5

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BUMSTEAD?

BOSS, WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THOSE CLOUDS?

I SEE A SAD OFFICE MANAGER CARRYING THE CONTENTS OF HIS DESK IN A CARDBOARD BOX!

BLONDIE

12-5

IT LOOKED MORE LIKE A GUY RELAXING IN A COMFORTABLE HAMMOCK TO ME

BC

12-5-16

JOHN, YOUR BRAKING RATE DOESN'T COME CLOSE TO MATCHING THE ACCELERATION.

WIZARD OF ID

12-5-16

WIZARD OF ID

12-5-16

NOW THAT'S A POKER FACE

AGNES

12-5-16

I'M GOING TO DO CELEBRITY IMPERSONATIONS FOR MY NEXT BIG CAREER.

YOU HAD OTHER BIG CAREERS?

UH...HM. WELL, MAYBE NOT BIG CAREERS, BUT CAREERS NONETHELESS.

YOU MADE MONEY? GOT FAMOUS? HELPED OUT MANKIND?

I CAN'T HELP IT IF YOU HOLD THE TERM "CAREER" TO IMPOSSIBLE STANDARDS.

DON'T BUG ME. I'M RETIRED.

AGNES

12-5-16

HI AND LOIS

12-5

WA!

TRIXIE IS AWAKE.

I'LL GO CHECK ON HER.

WHILE YOU'RE UP, COULD YOU DO A LOAD OF LAUNDRY?

I HOPE THAT'S A JOKE.

HI AND LOIS

12-5

THE OTHER COAST

12-5

THIS IS SO CUTE. I SHOULD BUY THIS FOR SAKURA FOR CHRISTMAS.

"BUT SHE DESTROYED THE TOY I BOUGHT HER LAST CHRISTMAS."

"AND HER TOY THE CHRISTMAS BEFORE THAT."

DO YOU HAVE THIS IN KEVLAR?

AH, YOU MUST BE SHOPPING FOR A SMALL DOG.

THE OTHER COAST

12-5

SNUFFY SMITH

12-5

WOULD IT KILL YOU TO SHAKE HANDS AN' TRY TO GIT ALONG ?!

DRAMABILLIES !!

CROAK !!

GASP !!

SNUFFY SMITH

12-5

BEEBLE BAILEY

12-5

UR ON KP!

DID YOU GET MY TEXT ?

YES, BUT I COULD DO WITHOUT THE EMOJI

BEEBLE BAILEY

12-5

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 5, the 340th day of 2016. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 5, 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

On this date:

- In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, New York; he was the first chief executive to be born after American independence.
- In 1831, former President John Quincy Adams took his seat as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- In 1916, British Prime Minister Herbert H. Asquith resigned (he was succeeded by David Lloyd George).
- In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.
- In 1945, five U.S. Navy torpedo bombers mysteriously disappeared after taking off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a training mission with the loss of all 14 crew members; "The Lost Squadron" contributed to the legend of the Bermuda Triangle.
- In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.
- In 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union announced a bilateral space agreement on exchanging weather data from satellites, mapping Earth's geomagnetic field and cooperating in the experimental relay of communications.
- In 1979, feminist Sonia Johnson was formally excommunicated by the Mormon Church because of her outspoken support for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.
- In 1988, a federal grand jury in North Carolina indicted PTL founder Jim Bakker and former aide Richard Dortch on fraud and conspiracy charges. (Bakker was convicted on all counts; Dortch pleaded guilty to four counts and cooperated with prosecutors in exchange for a lighter sentence. Bakker was initially sentenced to 45 years in prison; the term was eventually reduced to eight years, and he served a total of about five.)
- In 1991, Richard Speck, who'd murdered eight student nurses in Chicago in 1966, died in prison on a day short of his 50th birthday.

In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

In 2013, Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first black president, died at age 95.

Ten years ago: Robert Gates won speedy and unanimous approval from the Senate Armed Services Committee to be secretary of defense.

Five years ago: The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service announced \$3 billion in reductions, with cuts to first-class mail service by the spring of 2012 and elimination of more than 250 processing centers. Former Chicago Cubs third baseman Ron Santo was posthumously elected to the baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee.

Answer to previous puzzle

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

12/5/16

Newsday Crossword

UP AND UP AND UP by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Look without blinking
 - 6 Venetian-blind strip
 - 10 Arrests, slangily
 - 14 More adorable
 - 15 Rail-riding wanderer
 - 16 ___ mater (one's former school)
 - 17 Backyard swimming spot
 - 20 Note from the boss
 - 21 Remove from power
 - 22 Vote into office
 - 23 Windowsill, for one
 - 25 Pub beverage
 - 26 Portrait painter's surface
 - 29 Throb
 - 33 Woodwind instruments
 - 34 Goatee's location
 - 36 Color of Santa's suit
 - 37 Feature of engraved invitations
 - 41 Letter before tee
 - 42 Des Moines' state
 - 43 Joke around with
 - 44 Clipped wool from
 - 47 Talked back to
 - 48 Pecan or cashew
 - 49 Awaken rudely
 - 51 Joggers' paces
 - 54 ___ Canaveral, FL
 - 55 Reach across
 - 59 Sweltering weather
- DOWN**
- 1 Con game
 - 2 Toothpaste holder
 - 3 Molecule part
 - 4 Spins in circles
 - 5 Poet's "before" gesture
 - 6 "I don't know" gesture
 - 7 Off the leash
 - 8 Share a border with
 - 9 2,000 pounds
 - 10 Italian port
 - 11 Skin-soothing ingredient
 - 12 Popular college guy, briefly
 - 13 Pretzel topping
 - 18 Mythological figures
 - 19 Farmer's place of song
 - 24 Make simpler
 - 25 Uncle's spouse
 - 26 Centers of apples
 - 27 Embarrass
 - 28 Loud racket
 - 29 Greek pocket bread
 - 30 Opera solos
 - 31 Feeling nervous
 - 32 Barely defeated
 - 34 Clumsy person
 - 35 Chop down with an ax
 - 38 Weight loss plan
 - 39 When planes are expected: Abbr.
 - 40 Where a driver takes a break
 - 45 National song
 - 46 Corrosion of iron
 - 47 Court plaintiff
 - 49 Quick
 - 50 Newspaper essays, for short
 - 51 The one here
 - 52 Take a bus or train
 - 53 Make eyes at
 - 54 "We gotta get going!"
 - 56 Drag from behind
 - 57 Region
 - 58 Bird's tree home
 - 60 Day before a holiday
 - 61 Donkey

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BUFFS

Continued from Page 4

As might be expected from an early season game, both coaches saw room for improvement.

First-year Coahoma coach Joe Mireles said his team is still adjusting to his up-tempo style of play.

"We're trying to learn who we are," Mireles said. "Our identity for the last 30 years has been different, and I'm trying to put a different fin-

gerprint on it, as far as running faster ... Forsan a good team — I don't want to take anything away from them but we just didn't get to the right places at the right time. They just jumped on us early, and we couldn't recover from it."

Richardson also saw things

his team can work on.

"Tonight, we didn't make any outside shots," Richardson said. "We made nine the other night against Midland Classical, and I was hoping that would carry over. Our decision-making process when we got a little tired was

lacking, so we've got to get in there and get used to being in the gym and taking what the defense is giving us."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@big-springherald.com

HAWKS

Continued from Page 4

growing process."

Defensively, the Hawks were impressive, as well, outrebounding Weatherford 30-27, as well as forcing 14 turnovers and stealing the ball seven times.

"I thought our defensive pressure, especially our steals, was big," Raines said. "I think

our pressure just wore on them, and again, I give a lot of the credit for that to Marcel being really hard-nosed, and I think KJ and Shawn (Jones) off the bench gave us a lot of energy."

The Hawks return to action Thursday against Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde. Game time is 3 p.m.

Women's game

A pair of defensive

lapses proved fatal to Howard's hopes for victory in the women's game Saturday.

The first occurred when Weatherford closed the second half with a 9-1 run to tie the game, then the other came early in the fourth quarter, when the Coyotes scored eight straight points to take a 60-52 lead, and were able to hang on for the win.

DeAuja Thompson

and Ashlyn Hoover scored 14 points apiece, and Camille Hoover added 13 for Howard, which dropped to 4-8 for the season.

Howard had its way in the early going, leading by as much as eight points through much of the first half. But Weatherford's defensive adjustments — not to mention those two crucial scoring runs — proved to be the differ-

ence, Howard College Coach Earl Diddle said.

"They overplayed us," Diddle said. "We didn't do a very good job of getting into our offense, and then we got into our offense, we couldn't get the ball moving. We had players open, we just couldn't get the ball to them. The plays you don't make are just as important as the plays you do make."

"I thought we were in

pretty good shape the first half, but our inability to make free throws and run our offense really hurt us," he added.

Howard's women return to action Saturday when they play Seminole College at 2 p.m. in Lawton, Okla.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@big-springherald.com

CFP

Continued from Page 4

lost to Pitt and Michigan (by 39) before closing the season with nine straight victories.

Several times, Hocutt cited Penn State's non-competitive loss and Ohio State's strong non-conference victory at Oklahoma.

So the key is to play a difficult nonconference schedule?

Well, maybe not.

The final spot came down to Penn State (11-2) and Pac-12 champion Washington.

The Huskies' only loss was to 10th-ranked Southern California and its nonconference schedule featured FCS Portland State, Rutgers and Idaho. Penn State

played Pitt, Temple and Kent State out of conference.

"I think because of Washington's strength of schedule, their margin for error was very slim," Hocutt said. "I think our discussions and our decision would have been much easier if Washington would have had a stronger strength of schedule this college football season."

You could say Washington benefited because it did not play a difficult nonconference opponent.

But you can also say that if Penn State beat Pitt it would have benefited from playing a difficult nonconference schedule.

Hocutt said the committee dug deep into the Huskies and Nittany Li-

ons.

"As we looked at those key statistics from an offensive standpoint, from a defensive standpoint, from starting field position differential, the edge was to Washington," Hocutt said. "You look at turnover margin, Washington ranks first in the country in turnover margin compared to Penn State, ranking 50."

If there is a pattern to be found in the committee's work over three years it may be this simple: For the most part, the teams are ranked by the number in the loss column.

No two-loss team has made the playoff. Even a close head-to-head win over Ohio State and a conference title was not enough for Penn State to

overcome two losses.

Maybe next season will be different.

In many ways the College Football Playoff is no different than the Bowl Championship Series, a highly subjective system that relied on poll voters to pick the top two teams. The one crucial difference, though, is enormous. Four instead of two makes the CFP better than the BCS.

What could provide more consistency, more objectivity while removing much of the subjectivity, is bigger playoff. Eight teams, with five automatic qualifying Power Five conference champions, the best team from the Group of Five and two wild cards. Fewer debates, plus it could put some juice

back into championship weekend, which has become a little anticlimactic.

It would also bring Cinderella into college football's postseason, providing an opportunity for a non-Power Five team to win a meaningful postseason game and an underdog conference championship game winner to move on and play for the national title.

Sounds interesting, but it is not happening anytime soon.

Hancock said expansion of the playoff is not up for consideration by the conference commissioners. The CFP is in year three of a 12-year television deal with ESPN.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney cautioned that

more postseason would lessen the value of the regular season and that adding another round would require eliminating other games.

"I don't think you can go past 15 games in college football," said Swinney, whose did just that last season and lost to Alabama in the national championship game. "Something would have to give."

Ohio State's Urban Meyer said he empathizes with Penn State and would not mind seeing a system that rewards all conference champions.

"I'm not sure there's an easy answer," said Meyer, who has won two BCS championships and the first College Football Playoff. "I think we're heading in the right direction."

SNOW

Continued from Page 4

weather and go out there and be at your best."

The Packers, meanwhile, were playing in their element.

"In a wet-weather game and a ball that's a little bit slick, you're actually not thinking about overthrowing, you're just thinking about how that ball feels on your hand before you throw it," Rodgers said in recounting the throw to Nelson.

The score capped a 12-play, 98-yard drive that took 5:20.

"So I was just trying to loosen my grip slightly as I was releasing it to

make sure the ball came out right, and thankfully it did," he said.

The Texans got burned in the snow several other times.

Aaron Ripkoski's 3-yard touchdown run with 4:11 left that took up eight plays in 89 yards and chewed up another 4:41.

That drive included catches of 21 and 28 yards by Nelson.

"Playing in the snow, I know it's no excuses, man, but things happen, so we've just got to let that go and move on to the next game," safety Corey Moore said.

Nick Novak, who was 18 of 19 on extra-point tries coming in, missed one following DeAndre Hopkins' 44-yard touch-

down catch with 1:51 left.

Running back Lamar Miller, who left the game for a part of the first half with a rib injury, said he had to switch to cleats with more studs because he kept slipping. Miller finished with 22 yards on 14 carries.

Weather shouldn't be a factor the next two games, with Houston traveling to Indianapolis next week before hosting Jacksonville. Both games will be in domed stadiums.

"These are games that we have to figure it out," O'Brien said. "If we don't, we're not going to be where we want to be. If we do, we'll have a shot."

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News in brief

Investigators search for clues in fatal fire, friends mourn

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — As investigators searched for signs of a crime in the fire that killed at least 33 in an Oakland warehouse during a late-night dance party, survivors and teary-eyed friends of those who perished viewed the charred building from a distance, placed flowers on several small memorials and embraced each other to mourn their losses.

Bouquets of sunflowers, single white roses, lilies and carnations were stuck in chain-link fences, votive candles burned on sidewalks and post-it notes paid tribute to the missing and the dead in the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade.

Kai Thomas and a group of red-eyed classmates from an arts high school in San Francisco pressed against police tape Sunday near the street corner where the "Ghost Ship," a warehouse converted to artist studios and illegal living spaces, rapidly went up in flames late Friday, taking the life of a friend.

Three of the boys had been in the cramped and dark building, Thomas said, but one got separated from them 30 seconds before someone yelled, "Fire."

"It was just really smoky and hard to see," said Thomas, a high school junior who wasn't there, but recounted what he had been told by two others who didn't want to speak. "They jumped off the second-floor balcony and ran out."

After major victory, ND pipeline protesters to defy deadline

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Protesters celebrated a major victory in their push to reroute the Dakota Access oil pipeline away from a tribal water source but pledged to remain camped on federal land in North Dakota anyway, despite Monday's government deadline to leave.

Hundreds of people at the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires, encampment cheered and chanted "mni wichoni" — "water is life" in Lakota Sioux — after the Army Corps of Engineers refused Sunday to grant the company permission to extend the pipeline beneath a Missouri River reservoir.

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters argue that extending the project beneath Lake Oahe would threaten the tribe's water source and cultural sites. The segment is the last major sticking point for the four-state, \$3.8 billion project.

"The whole world is watching," said Miles Alard, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux. "I'm telling all our people to stand up and not to leave until this is over."

Beijing faces decision on how to respond to Trump's tweets

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese leaders face a challenge: How to deal with Donald Trump.

Weeks before taking office, the incoming American president is riling Beijing with confrontation and online statements that appear to foreshadow a tougher foreign policy toward China.

China awoke Monday to sharp criticism posted by Trump on Twitter, days after Beijing responded to his telephone conversation with Taiwan's president by accusing the Taiwanese of playing a "small trick" on Trump.

Trump wrote, "Did China ask us if it was OK to devalue their currency (making it hard for our companies to compete), heavily tax our products going into their country (the U.S. doesn't tax them) or to build a massive military complex in the middle of the South China Sea? I don't think so!"

That was apparently prompted by China's response to Trump's talk Friday with Tsai Ing-wen, the first time an American president or president-elect is known to have spoken to a Taiwanese leader since the U.S. broke off formal diplomatic relations in 1979.

Michigan to begin recount; legal fight moves to Pennsylvania

Presidential candidate Jill Stein's fight to force presidential recounts in three states focuses Monday on Pennsylvania, where her Green Party is seeking an emergency federal court order for a



Firefighters clear an entry to a smoldering building after a fire tore through a warehouse party early Saturday in Oakland. Oakland fire chief Teresa Deloche-Reed said many people were unaccounted for as of Saturday morning and authorities were working to verify who was in the cluttered warehouse when the fire broke out.

statewide recount, and Michigan, where a federal judge has ordered a hand recount to begin by noon. The recount is underway in Wisconsin.

President-elect Donald Trump narrowly defeated Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in all three states. The recounts were not expected to change enough votes to overturn the result of the election.

Stein says her intent is to verify the accuracy of the vote. She has suggested, with no evidence, that votes cast were susceptible to computer hacking.

Italy hit by market volatility after referendum defeat

MILAN (AP) — Italy was plunged into political and economic uncertainty following voters' resounding rebuke of Premier Matteo Renzi's proposed constitutional reforms.

Renzi announced he would quit following Sunday's referendum vote, in which 60 percent of voters rejected his reforms and signaled they wanted a change in political direction. Renzi is expected to hand in his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella later Monday.

The Milan Stock Exchange opened down 2 percent, but many bank shares were suspended due to excessive volatility meaning the hit could be even deeper.

Japanese leader Abe to visit Pearl Harbor with Obama

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday he will visit Pearl Harbor with U.S. President Barack Obama at the end of this month, becoming the first leader of his country to go to the U.S. Naval base in Hawaii that was attacked by Japan in 1941, propelling the United States into World War II.

Abe said he would visit Hawaii with Obama on Dec. 26 and 27 to pray for the war dead at Pearl Harbor and hold their last summit meeting before Obama's presidency ends.

"We must never repeat the tragedy of the war," he told reporters. "I would like to send this commitment. At the same time, I would like to send a message of reconciliation between Japan and the U.S."

Earlier this year, Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to visit the memorial to victims of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima at the end of World War II.

Children who lived through Pearl Harbor attack remember

HONOLULU (AP) — In some ways, it could be any class photo from the 1940s. The sepia-toned

image shows 30 fifth-graders — 26 girls and four boys — at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Waikiki. Most are smiling, some look stern. A few have no shoes.

Yet this picture is different in one striking way: Each child is holding a bag containing a gas mask, a sign of how war had suddenly broke apart the routines of their adolescence on Dec. 7, 1941.

Three of the students, now in their mid-80s and all friends who have kept in touch over the years, reflected recently on the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor 75 years ago and the mark it left on their childhoods.

Joan Martin Rodby remembered the carefree walks to school, and her family building an air raid shelter in their yard. Florence Seto, who is Japanese-American, recalled sharing ice cream with Rodby, and being worried that her family would be taken away.

Emma Veary reminisced about her days singing, and her family covering the windows at night so Japanese pilots couldn't use the light of homes to guide them.

'We have lost everything': Syrians return to ravaged Aleppo

ALEPPO, Syria (AP) — Amina Hamawy burst into tears and then fainted when she returned to eastern Aleppo to find that looters had ransacked her home. "Where am I? What happened?" she asked after her husband and daughter revived her. "We have lost everything."

They were among a few hundred residents who fled fighting in the Hanano neighborhood last month and were able to return after government forces drove out Syrian rebels, whose besieged and bombed out enclave in eastern Aleppo has begun to collapse.

After registering with authorities, Hamawy's family was driven past blackened shells of buildings and mounds of rubble, devastation wrought by more than four years of near-daily airstrikes, including explosives-filled barrels dropped from helicopters.

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