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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016



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Big Spring ISD hires new athletic director

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials believe they have found the right man for the job — the athletic director job.

Mitch McLemore, who has been head football coach and athletic director at Junction High School for the past three years, was named the new head man at Big Spring High School (BSHS) Wednesday.

McLemore succeeds Clint Finley, who resigned after only nine months on the job and an 0-9 football record at BSHS.

In three seasons at Junction, McLemore led the Eagles to an 18-17 record and a spot in the state playoffs each year. Before that, he was a defensive coordinator during an eight-year tenure at

Stamford, helping to lead that team to two state football titles.

His 27-year coaching career also includes stops in Archer City, Mundeen, and Knox City.

"The biggest thing that attracted me to Big Spring is the people," McLemore said. "I'm from North Central and West Texas, and the chance to get back in West Texas is very appealing, and I'm very familiar with the history and traditions of the area schools. I'm a coach's son, so I knew Big Spring had a lot of good traditions, and I thought it would be a blessing to work here."

His coaching philosophy is simple: "Be aggressive, keep it simple, work the heck out of the fun-



See **AD**, Page 3

DPS to launch traffic patrols over holidays

Special to the Herald

In an effort to protect travelers on our roadways, DPS (Texas Department of Transportation) troopers, as well as local law enforcement across the state, will conduct traffic patrols throughout the holiday weekends of Dec. 23 – 26 and Dec. 31 – Jan. 1, looking for drunk drivers, speeders, seat belt violators and other dangerous drivers.


"Impaired driving or reckless behavior on the road can turn holiday celebrations into tragedies, and these DPS patrols are designed to help save lives by identifying drivers who disregard the law and endanger others," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "By always driving sober, obeying traffic laws, and slowing down or moving over a lane when vehicles are stopped on the side of the road, Texans can help make our roads safer for everyone."

During the eight-day Christmas/New Year holiday enforcement effort last year, DPS troopers made 466 DWI arrests. DPS enforcement efforts also resulted in 9,174 speeding citations, 893 seat belt/child safety seat citations, 320 fugitive arrests and 286 felony arrests during the enforcement period.



DPS offers the following additional tips for safe travel during the holidays:

- Don't drink and drive. Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Slow down — especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.
- Eliminate distractions, including the use of mobile devices.

See **DPS**, Page 3



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Smack! Marcy principal kisses pig



Marcy Elementary School Principal Alecia Hancock (right) poses with a local pig before she gives him a kiss. Hancock made a deal with Marcy students that if they could earn 3,000 Accelerated Reader points that she would kiss a pig. The students did so in about five weeks.

Students earn AR points, principal loses bet

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Marcy Elementary School Principal Alecia Hancock was beaming with excitement as she bent down to give an awaiting pig a big smack on the lips, fulfilling her part of a bet with her students Wednesday morning.

In the excitement department, the pig was not at all amused.

"Many of the children had not seen a live pig, and they kept asking me 'Are you really going to kiss a real pig,'" said Hancock, who as a former stock show contestant and the daughter of an agriculture teacher was quite comfortable with the farm animal. "The little ones didn't want me to. They kept saying 'I don't want you to kiss a pig.' And then the older ones, of course, were like 'I hope its muddy and nasty.'"

The pig kissing moment was made possible by the elementary students. About five weeks ago,

the principal made a deal with the student body. If they could amass 3,000 Accelerated Reading (AR) points she would kiss a pig.

"Actually, I really didn't think they would meet 3,000 AR points in about five weeks," Hancock admitted. Even so, she still went through with her deal.

On Wednesday, which was also the day the district let out for Christmas vacation, Hancock and the staff were having fun with the pig kissing spectacle as they pumped up the student body gathered in the school's cafeteria.

"Should she keep the mask on when she kisses the pig? Thumbs up or thumbs down," asked the announcer to students while Hancock dramatically pointed to a dust-mask she had donned a few minutes earlier.

"No!," replied the children loudly.

"Okay, the children decided. Take off that mask," the announcer instructed Hancock.

"Should she use the fake lips? Thumbs up or thumbs down," the announcer asked again while Hancock held large, rouge-colored paper lips over her mouth. "No!! Take off those lips."

"Then you can use your own lips, Mrs. Hancock," the announcer directed.

With dramatic flair, Hancock then edged closer to the young pig and planted a big kiss on his lips, followed by a huge cheer from the audience and the loud squeals coming from a nervous pig.

"I think he is a little upset. I don't think he likes human kisses," Hancock said immediately afterwards and then asked the crowd to settle down to help calm the pig's nerves. "I am super proud of you. You were well over 3,000 points in just a little over a month. See what you can do. You really lived up to Marcy Steers never quit. I am so proud of you."

See **PIG**, Page 3

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PIG

Continued from Page 1

In fact, the student body amassed 3,118 AR points in the five-week challenge, Marcy staff said.

Students earn points by first reading a book, then testing their comprehension using a computer program. Each book is assigned different AR points depending on the reading level of the literature.

To help encourage reading, the school held two Family Reading nights inviting students and parents to come to school for an evening to read in November and December. But Hancock said stu-

dents would have had to read at home to gather so many collective AR points.

"We do have it where they can take tests at home," she said. "The program is available until 7 at night."

After Christmas vacation, the school plans another incentive-based reading bet, Hancock said, but don't expect any "fur" to fly.

"I told them it would not involve any animals," Hancock quipped.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or email citydesk@bigspringerald.com.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

AD

Continued from Page 1

damentals and get into the weight room."

McLemore said turning the program around from last year's winless campaign starts with the right attitude.

"The first thing you have to do is show them they can trust you," he said. "You do that by making your presence felt and getting to know them on a personal basis as time allows. But the biggest thing is ... you have to show them you care. If they think you care, they're going to give you all they have, and that's all you can ask for."

BSISD Superintendent Chris Wigington said McLemore, who was among the final candidates for the BSHS position before Finley was hired, was the clear choice from among the finalists to fill the current vacancy.

"He's the man Big Spring needs right now," Wigington said. "He loves kids, he's the type of man who's going to take care of his coaches and take care of his kids and take care of everything Big Spring needs right now."

McLemore's hiring ends a month-long search for a new head coach and athletic director.

Wigington said he interviewed 10 coaches for the position before deciding McLemore was the right man for the job.

"Coach McLemore was actually one of the finalists for the job last year," Wigington said. "We went through the process again, and it just kept coming back to him ... I just know he's the guy."

DPS

Continued from Page 1

- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle — it's the law.
- Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks that are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated — it's

the law. Also, show the same courtesy to fellow drivers stopped along the road.

- Don't drive fatigued.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and check the weather forecast before your trip begins.

County, City offices holiday closures

The city of Big Spring closed at 3 p.m. today for the Christmas holiday. City offices will remain closed until Tuesday. County offices will close Friday and reopen on Tuesday.

The city golf course will close Saturday and Sunday and open on Monday.

The city landfill will be open Friday but closed for a three-day weekend reopening at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

There will be no sanitation pick up

on Monday. Monday routes will be picked up on Tuesday; and Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday.

Emergency services for both the city and county will continue as normal throughout the holiday. Emergency Utilities will be on call and can be contacted at 264-2392.

Area public schools and Howard College have already suspended classes for the mid-semester holiday.

Pope in Christmas speech blasts Vatican resistance to reform

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis on Thursday denounced the resistance he's encountering in reforming the Vatican bureaucracy, saying some of it is inspired by the devil and that the prelates who work for him must undergo "permanent purification" to serve the Catholic Church better.

For the third year in a row, Francis took the Vatican bureaucracy to task in his annual Christmas greeting.

He said the reform process he was elected to push through in 2013 isn't aimed at a superficial face-lift for the Holy See, but rather a profound change in mentality among his collaborators.

"Dear brothers, it's not the wrinkles in the church that you should fear, but the stains!" he said.

In 2014, Francis stunned the Vatican

Curia, or administration, when he listed the 15 "spiritual ailments" its members were suffering. He accused them of using their careers to grab power and wealth, of living "hypocritical" double lives and of forgetting — due to "spiritual Alzheimer's" — that they're supposed to be joyful men of God.

Last year, Francis listed a "catalog of virtues" they were supposed to show instead, including honesty, sobriety, respect and humility.

This year, he gave the priests, bishops and cardinals who work for him 12 guidelines that are inspiring his reform process, which has involved consolidating Vatican departments and creating new ones.

He called for a "definitive end" to the Vatican's face-saving way of getting rid of unqualified or problematic staff by promoting them to a higher office.

Queen, Philip set off for Christmas trip after delay

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip are on their way to their country estate to celebrate Christmas

after the couple delayed their trip for a day due to illness.

Royal officials said Wednesday that both the queen and Philip were suffering from heavy colds and had to call off their train trip to Sandringham, the queen's private estate in the Norfolk countryside 110 miles (175 kilometers) north of London. The royal family traditionally gathers at Sandringham each Christmas and spends the festive season there.

The couple appeared to have recovered somewhat Thursday, with of-

Francis said.

Francis said it's entirely natural that there should be resistance during such a profound process of reform — but he said there's good resistance and bad.

Positive resistance is an open willingness for dialogue but "hidden" resistance comes from the "fearful or hardened hearts" of people who say they want change but really don't, he said.

And then there's "malevolent resistance ... when the devil inspires nasty intentions often dressed as lambs."

He urged his collaborators to undergo an ongoing process of spiritual purification guided by the Gospel.

Later, he told staff who work for the Vatican City State that the Gospel also should dictate the Vatican's labor practices to make sure people have proper con-

tracts. "No employment off-the-books. No subterfuge," he said.

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Jose "Joe" Alvarez, 53, died Monday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Edgar Ray, 83, died Wednesday. A Celebration of Life will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Viola Lopez, 72, died Tuesday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Lionso Lee Jimenez, Jr., 57, died Sunday. A vigil will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Mabel Chute, 91, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Beloved

by: Aimee Solis

*I never thought this day would appear,
Me kneeling by your tombstone in stare
Wishing you were still here
Thinking about all the times we share.
Late at night I start to think,
Never coming over to say "hi"
Just to have a drink
And never knowing that would be our last goodbye.
Now I just have memories
No, running into your room to ask how your day was
No, talking about your past families
You're gone and you're not coming back because...
It was your time to go
And now I just need to learn to let go.*

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What Rhymes with...

SHINE



List 10 words that rhyme with "shine."

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____

10. _____

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

Jokes and Riddles

Question:

Why are Christmas trees such bad knitters?

They are always dropping their needles.

Answer:

Question:

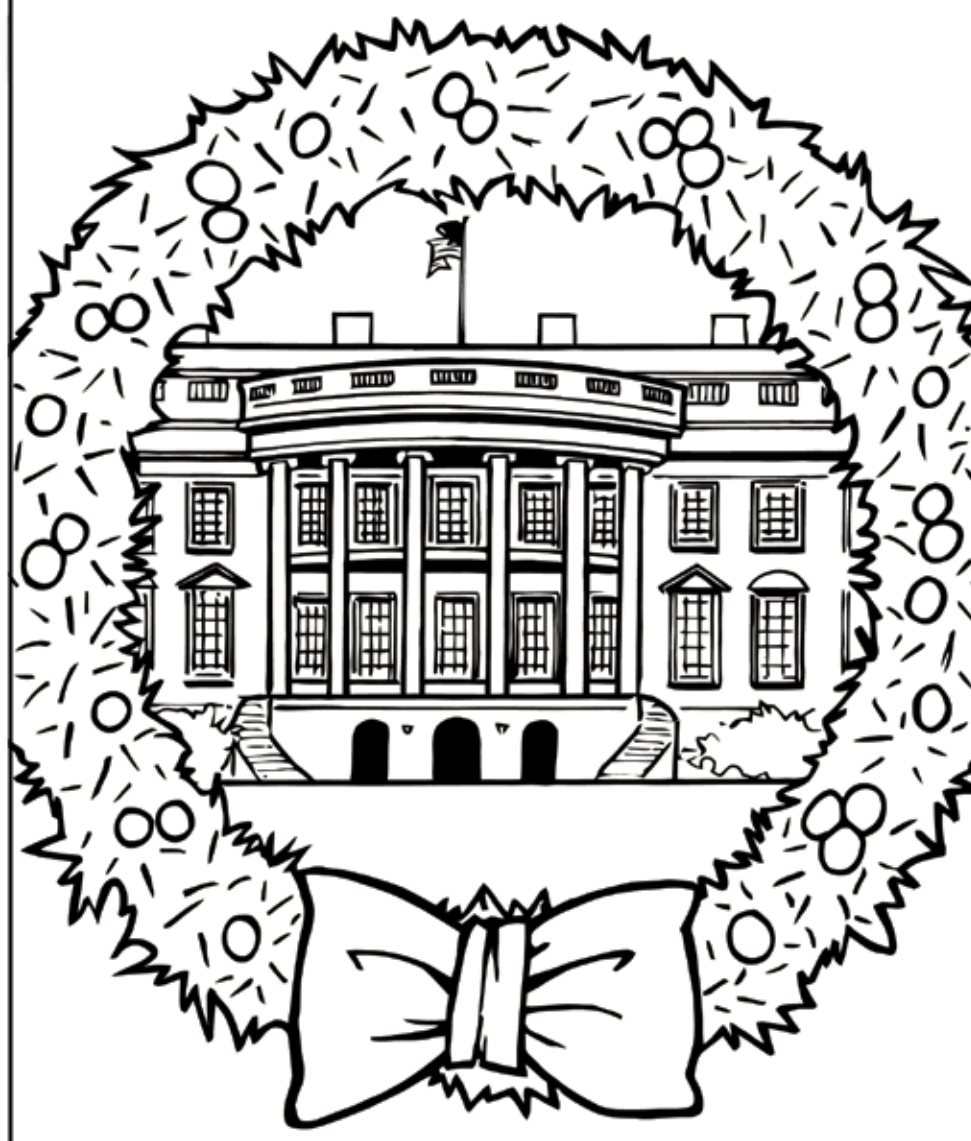
How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing. It was on the house!

Answer:



COLORING PICTURE



O Christmas Tree

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

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

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

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



Fact or Fiction?

Gingerbread House Challenge

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

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



NAME THAT FIRST LADY

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

1) MI ___ ELLE OB ___ A

2) N ___ NC ___ R ___ GAN

3) PA ___ NI ___ O ___

4) ROSALY ___ CA ___ TE ___

5) BE ___ Y FO ___ D

6) LAU ___ A BU ___

7) HI ___ ARY C ___ INTON

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

Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fact, 3) Fiction, it takes pastry chefs several weeks to make the gingerbread house, 4) Fiction, the gingerbread house has been brown, white and off-white, 5) Fact, 6) Fact, although some families have tried to sneak a peek of the house before it was done, 8) Fact, 9) Fiction, some of the Presidents' kids have admitted to nibbling on the gingerbread house, 10) Fact

College basketball roundup

Texas Tech beats Longwood for 2nd straight 11-1 start

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Anthony Livingston led Texas Tech with 19 points and six assists in a 91-60 romp over Longwood Wednesday, helping the Red Raiders surge to their second consecutive 11-1 start.

Zach Smith added 15 points and 12 rebounds for Texas Tech (11-1). Aaron Ross finished with 14 points and Keenan Evans had 11. The Red Raiders shot 55 percent from the floor and outrebounded the Lancers 42-18.

"The first day (Texas Tech coach Chris Beard) recruited me, he told me he was going to make me an all-around player," Livingston, a graduate transfer from Arkansas State, said. "Today showed that. And I want to get better and better as the season goes on."

Chris Shields paced Longwood with 15 points. Khris Lane scored 12 points and Isaiah Walton added 11.

Longwood (3-8), which has not beaten a Big 12 team since a 2013 win over Texas Christian, endured a scoreless stretch of more than 25 minutes in the first half and trailed 43-25 at halftime.

"We played Creighton and now Texas Tech," Longwood coach Jayson Gee said. "And I would say Texas Tech is in that category. Even though Creighton is ninth or tenth in the country. Creighton's got a really special point guard that makes them go, but in terms of depth, size and athleticism, I was very impressed."

By intermission, Longwood hadn't attempted a free throw and it committed 10 turnovers to Texas Tech's three.

This season, Texas Tech has consistently won the points off turnover margin and bested Longwood in that area, 20-3.

Mack's 18 points helps Texas beat UAB 96-60

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Andrew Jones knew he would receive significant playing time as a Texas freshman this season.

Jones, after all, was a big-time recruit on a team that lost all five starters from last season. Jones knew something else.

"I had to grow up quickly," he said. "It's not high school basketball."

Jones, like most of his teammates, has struggled. But the Longhorns' point guard appears to be making a breakthrough. Jones produced 16 points, six assists, five rebounds and two steals during a 96-60 victory over Alabama-Birmingham on Wednesday night.

That performance came one game after Jones had 17 points, seven assists and three steals during a 77-74 loss to Arkansas on Saturday.

Jones converted 6 of 9 shots, including four 3-pointers. Tevin Mack scored 18 for Texas, Jarrett Allen had 16, and Kendal Yancy added 14.

Dirk Williams led UAB (6-6) with 13 points.

Texas coach Shaka Smart has four freshmen and three sophomores in his nine-player rotation. As Texas has struggled to a 6-5 start, Smart has encouraged them to trust the process.

"They have to trust each other," Smart said. "I can tell them that every day, but it's something you have to learn and go through."

The Longhorns have been most deficient on offense, where they rank last in the Big 12 in several categories. Burt against UAB they hit 53.7 percent of their field goals, 12 of 29 3-pointers and all 12 free throws.

Texas used its pressure defense to induce 18 UAB turnovers, including six steals by Texas guard Kerwin Roach Jr.

"Their pressure bothered us," UAB coach Robert Ehsan said. "They made a lot of threes. It felt like 25 threes. Coming off the Arkansas loss, they came out today with a very good mindset. We did not answer very well."

Texas A&M beats Saint Francis (Pa.) 81-58

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Texas A&M vows it's ready for Southeastern Conference play, while Saint Francis (Pa.) is simply ready to put a tough stretch behind it in time for Northeast Conference action.

D.J. Hogg scored 15 points and fellow sophomore Tyler Davis added 14 as A&M defeated SFU 81-58 on Wednesday night.

The Aggies (8-3) led 46-19 at halftime and kept their overwhelmed opponent from Loretto, Pennsylvania, at bay the rest of the way in cruising to the 23-point victory. Five A&M players scored in double digits, with Admon Gilder, J.C. Hampton and Robert Williams adding 10 points each.

Keith Braxton and Josh Nebo scored 11 points each, the only Red Flash (3-8) players to reach double digits.

"We knew coming down here was going to be a daunting task," SFU coach Rob Krimmel said.



Houston Rockets guard James Harden, left, and Phoenix Suns forward P.J. Tucker huddle for the ball during the second half of their NBA basketball game Wednesday in Phoenix. AP photo

Rockets return to win column

PHOENIX (AP) — A night after their 10-game winning streak came to a halt with a two-point loss at home to San Antonio, the Houston Rockets looked ready to start a new run of victories.

The Rockets went from making 38 percent of their shots, including just 6 of 38 3-pointers, to a 53.5 field goal percentage and 18 made 3s on 38 attempts. It added up to a 125-111 win over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday.

James Harden had 27 points and 14 assists, and the Rockets earned their 11th victory in 12 games.

"We've been playing good basketball. (Tuesday against) San Antonio is just a different animal," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It's a good bounce-back win, back-to-back, and the guys showed some heart."

Eric Gordon added 24 points off the Rockets' bench, shooting 7 of 13 on 3s. Patrick Beverley

finished with a season-high 18 points, nine assists and nine rebounds.

Harden's biggest shot came with 4:19 left, a pull-up 3 for a 120-100 lead. He bent down and moved his arms in a swimming motion in celebration as he ran back to the bench.

"He just knows when to pick the spots and he knows what he has to do, and he controls the whole game," D'Antoni said.

Devin Booker's 28 points led the Suns, who have lost four in a row. T.J. Warren added 19 and Brandon Knight 17.

Gordon hit back-to-back 3s midway through the fourth quarter, the second one at the 6:39 mark for a 110-95 lead.

"It's tough to really slow us down, knocking the 3s down and also knocking the 2s down," Gordon said. "Teams just have to pick their poison against us."

The Rockets led by as many as 13 in the third, only to see the

Suns cut it to 86-84 on a tip-in by P.J. Tucker with 1:19 left. Harden drew a questionable foul call against Tucker on a 3-point try with 4.3 seconds left and made all three free throws to give Houston a 91-84 lead entering the fourth.

The Rockets led 30-26 after the first quarter, when the Suns struggled to get back in transition. Houston scored 12 fast-break points in the period.

Harden took only two shots in the quarter but excelled as a passer, handing out seven assists.

"Stopping people in transition, it's mostly on the defense. It's something we have been working on in practice but in game time we still are not doing," Booker said. "Obviously, James being the playmaker, he finds the open man..."

Gordon hit four 3s in the second quarter, Harden drove for a layup with 0.3 seconds left and Houston took a 61-55 lead into halftime.

Barnes scores 28, Mavericks hold off Trail Blazers, 96-95

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Wesley Matthews spent enough time with Damian Lillard in Portland to know exactly what he was going to do in the waning seconds Wednesday night.

"Dame to get the ball and Dame to shoot it," Matthews said.

The former Trail Blazers guard pressured Lillard into missing a potential game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer, and the Dallas Mavericks held off a furious Portland rally for a 96-95 victory.

"Obviously, I've been his teammate so I know the kind of clutch gene he has," said Matthews, who played in Portland from 2010-15. "We ended up getting the stop that we needed."

Harrison Barnes had 28 points and Deron Williams added 23 for the Mavericks, who led by 25 in the third quarter.

Lillard finished with 29 points, including 20 in the third. It was Portland's fourth straight loss.

The Blazers were slow to get going for the second of a back-to-back, but Lillard paced the comeback. His reverse layup pulled Portland to

88-82 with 6:31 remaining.

Allen Crabbe pumped his fist after his 3 with 2:42 left trimmed it to 90-88. After Williams' jumper for the Mavericks, Al-Farouq Aminu made a 3 and the Blazers were back within two.

The teams traded baskets but Dallas turned over the ball on a shot-clock violation leading 96-95 with 20.3 seconds to go. Lillard's turnover on the other end gave it back to the Mavs, but Mason Plumlee grabbed Williams' bad pass and Portland called a timeout with 9.8 seconds left.

Then came Lillard's final attempt at the buzzer.

"There's nobody like Wes Matthews on defense at the end of the game," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "The guy's unbelievable — one of the guys that really willed us to win."

Lillard said afterward that in the time it took to try and shake Matthews, the clock had run down and he was forced to shoot.

But the star guard is confident the Blazers will pull out of the funk they're in.

"Our team has faith,"

he said. "The best thing is we know we haven't shown our best."

The Trail Blazers were coming off an emotional game the night before in Sacramento, where they lost 126-121.

The Mavericks were again without Dirk Nowitzki because of a strained right Achilles, but the 13-time All Star is nearing a comeback. Nowitzki could return as early as Friday night against the Clippers.

Dallas will ease him back slowly.

"He's made gradual but steady gains in his recovery," Carlisle said.

Portland was without reserve Evan Turner, who has an ankle injury and was wearing a boot before the game. But the Blazers did get back Aminu, who had been out the previous four games with a sore back.

The Mavericks built a 12-point lead in the first quarter and Seth Curry hit a 3 at the second-quarter buzzer to send the Mavericks into halftime with a 62-38 lead.

In the second half, Barnes' 18-foot fade-away put the Mavs up 69-44. Crabbe's 3 narrowed Portland's deficit to 88-80 with 7:24 left.

Duke suspends player for trip

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Duke suspended Grayson Allen indefinitely from the team Thursday, one day after he was caught tripping an opponent for the third time in a year.

In a brief statement announcing the suspension, coach Mike Krzyzewski said the program "needed to take further steps regarding his actions that do not meet the standards of Duke basketball."

Allen picked up a technical foul for tripping Elon's Steven Santa Ana on a drive in the first half of a 72-61 win Wednesday night. That earned him a seat on the bench for the final 4:15 of the half and the start of the second half.

Afterward, Allen met with Santa Ana and Elon coach Matt Matheny to apologize before hanging his head and fighting back tears while talking to reporters.

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If you could add a section to the paper what would it be?
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 Other _____

If you could change anything about the newspaper, what would it be?
 Types of Stories Political Slant Variety of story subjects
 More feel-good news stories More recognition of local resident achievements
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Comments or Suggestions to make the paper better?

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you want the same thing they want, but that in and of itself won't help you get there any more easily. Their reasons will barely move you there. Figure out your reasons. Your reasons will be big time motivation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some will be threatened by what you believe. Some will challenge you. This is good. Beliefs should be tested. Otherwise, how will you know which ones aren't stable enough to support you?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Many great works of art infuriated people at first then were gradually accepted and appreciated after the minds of the audience caught up with the ideas of the art. You'll be an early adopter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You honor your commitments to the people in your life and your social circle grows from there. You don't always get to choose who you're around. That's what makes the friends you do get to choose so special to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Remember

Tomorrow's Horoscope

when you got some long, consecutive, non-interrupted time chunks to organize your life around? Boy, that does seem like a thing of the past now, but don't worry, it will also be a thing of the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a logic behind your attraction to certain people and things. Those motives are worth investigating. What feels natural isn't always the best choice, but today it will be a pretty solid one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're ready to get deep, but your life is filled with a million shallow tasks. Let your heart provide the depth. Later you can avoid any source of shallow work, but right now it's pretty unavoidable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay relaxed as you make your requests of others. Your charisma is turned up and people will be inclined to make you happy. They will go to extra lengths to see you smile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

So much will be subject to interpretation. Assume that things mean what you want them to mean. Choose the meaning that energizes you; the more energy you have, the better you'll enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Here's what holds you in place: family, work, routine, the "boring" stuff. But it's not really boring, especially when you consider that all the best bits life will spring from these sources.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're embroiled in a fantasy about not having to compromise, doing it your way and actually being supported in it. Truly, the compromises are good for you, and yet too much of anything makes you long for the other things.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 22). You'll learn new disciplines, methods and ways of thinking this year. Kindred spirits working together will bring immense pleasure to your world. Lifestyle preferences come into play in February and March, driving you to travel to find

inspiration. January and October represent financial highs. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 2, 22 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My wife is a Taurus, and I'm a Sagittarius. She believes that money is meant to be spent and that if you have extra money after you've earned enough to survive you should use it to enjoy your life.

"I believe that material things don't make your life better; in fact, they make it worse. Everything you buy makes you spiritually heavier and the accumulation of things is like a jail cell. You have to maintain all of this stuff, and you're not free anymore. You have to think twice before you decide to go off on an adventure, because who will guard the house and take care of the pets? You can't up and move anywhere, because you have 10 tons of stuff and it's too much of a hassle.

"I feel trapped. How can my wife and I come together on this?"

You're both right, so don't try and make her wrong. As the sign of money, Taurus has an appreciation for quality things and will assign deeper meaning to them than you do. It's not just "stuff" to her. Get sensitive to the material expression of her values as you come up with a financial plan that suits both of you. You absolutely can agree on a plan, stick to it, and feel free.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: She wrote for Rascal Flatts and Sabrina Carpenter before breaking out with her own hit single "All About That Bass." Hit-maker Meghan Trainor is an ambitious Capricorn born on the cusp. For Trainor, the sun, Mars, Uranus and Neptune are all in Capricorn. Mercury and Venus are both in Sagittarius. This is a blend of optimism, luck and excitement mixed with a serious work ethic.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact."
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Partnership Proposals Under the Libra Moon

The Libra moon rules this first day of the new season. This is a relationship moon and in spite of the Mercury retrograde, there will be many receiving holiday wedding proposals this weekend. Mars in the first degrees of Pisces has us concerned with knitting together the soul fabric of our lives.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What would you tell your best friend to do? Not your actual best friend -- your fantasy best friend who needs to make a few decisions just like you do. You love that crazy-cool person! Advise then apply it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe

Annie's Mailbox

Well, Tara came over recently, and before I could suggest going out for coffee, she sat in my beautiful living room chair again. Immediately, there was a loud pop.

Ugh! The spring is completely out of the bottom of the chair again. And the upholsterer says it will cost at least another \$90 to repair it.

What is the etiquette for telling a neighbor with whom you're friends that she has obviously broken

an item of yours? How should I bring it up? She will have cost me about \$200 in furniture repairs. I have to think she knows she breaks furniture when she sits in it, because after each incident, she immediately said, "Did I break it?"

Tara can afford to pay for the damage. And she states all the time that she is a good Christian woman, which I wholly think is true. I'm out a lot of money, and I'd like her to pay for it. I just do not know how to bring it up while preserving the friendship. -- Broken Living Room

Dear Broken: If you remain silent, resentment will pile on until you reach your own breaking point. To preserve your friendship and your furni-

ture, you need to tell Tara the truth.

Put your discomfort aside and give her a call. Keep it short and sweet. Tara's weight is really not your concern here, so don't focus on that or feel guilty because of it. The simple fact is that she broke your chair and you would really appreciate it if she would help you to repair it. It's nothing personal. If she's the good friend and neighbor you think, she'll ask you to send her the bill.

Dear Annie: A recent letter in your column from "A Little Space, Please" reminded me of a similar incident that happened to me. I was at the pharmacy counter talking to the assistant pharmacist and com-

pleting my transaction, when suddenly, a huge angry-looking man appeared and leaned right past me, putting his elbow on the counter and looking over my shoulder.

Needless to say, I was startled, and I knew immediately he was trying to intimidate. So I politely asked him to wait back a little and said that I was nearly finished. He became enraged and started screaming horrible insults! The assistant pharmacist said nothing as I proceeded to tell this Neanderthal what I thought of him. I then told her that she should direct customers to wait behind the line and take control of the situation.

It was a most unpleasant experience that I will never forget. That guy probably

didn't think I would stand up to him and his rude behavior. I could still hear his ranting while I was leaving the store. -- Carol in Florida

Dear Carol: Way to stick up for yourself. My only caveat: Don't put yourself in danger; always make sure you are in a safe environment, surrounded by others, and don't resort to violence. Often the best defense is a good exit plan. But kudos to you nonetheless, courageous Carol.

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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It Happened Again

Dear Annie: I wrote to you earlier this year about my lovely, charming neighbor and friend named "Tara," who is quite overweight and broke my living room chair. I was so embarrassed for her that I did not say anything, and neither did she. I've never mentioned it since. That repair was over \$90 -- a lot of money to me.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Haste makes waste

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♥ 7
♦ A 8 7 6 3
♣ K 10 4

WEST
♠ A 4
♥ 9 6
♦ Q J 9 4 2
♣ J 8 5 3

EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ 10 8 5 3 2
♦ 10
♣ Q 9 7 6 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 9 8 5
♥ A K Q J 4
♦ K 5
♣ A

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

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

At trick two, he led a spade toward dummy. West alertly rose with the ace and returned a diamond. East ruffed dummy's ace, and that was that.

South certainly did not give himself the best chance to make the slam. Before playing to the second trick, he should have stopped and asked himself what, if anything, could defeat him. He might then have spotted the imminent danger and seen how to guard against it.

From the outset, it was obvious that the only real threat to the contract was a diamond ruff. This was not a far-fetched possibility, particularly in view of East's play of the ten of diamonds — a card pregnant with danger — on the opening lead.

Declarer should therefore have sought a way to avert the potential ruff. This could have been accomplished very easily by adopting a more cautious line of play.

After taking the opening diamond with the king, South cashes the ace of clubs and ace of hearts. He then ruffs the four of hearts with the spade seven and discards the five of diamonds on the king of clubs.

Now declarer can safely tackle trumps. He drives out the ace of spades and has the rest of the tricks regardless of how the opposing cards are divided.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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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	Local 2 ABC	Hotel Notic.	The List	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News	Yohanah	Mind Business	Mama's	American	Seinfeld	Bones	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Cowboy Cowgirl B	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Diesel Brothers
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Noche de Estrellas	Big Bang	News ET	Caso Cerrado	News	Rik	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Broke Girl	Bones	College Football: Famous Bowl -- Idaho vs. Colorado State	College Basketball	Texans Cowboys	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Diesel Brothers
7:PM	Charlie Brown	Latin Grammy 2016	Hell's Kitchen (DVS)	Big Bang Great In	Silvana Sin Lana	Football Night	Upd	Holidays-State	Griffith	Terry Crews	Broke Girl	NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Miami Heat	College Basketball	College Basketball	High School Football	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Diesel Brothers
8:PM	The Great American Baking Show			Life in	La Doña (SS)	Football: New York Giants at Philadelphia Eagles.	Light of the Southwest	Chef's Life Holiday	MacGyver	Supernatural	Big Bang					Law & Order: SVU	Nightwatch	Diesel Brothers
9:PM				Pure Genius	El Chema (SS)			Eamonn McCrystal	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Clippers	SportsCenter			Falling Water	Gangland	Diesel Brothers
10:PM	Local 2 ABC	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele		J. McGee	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan					Law & Order: SVU	(:03) The First 48	Diesel Brothers
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men Cleveland	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	News	D Stringer	Newsline	Perry Mason	King						(:04) Shooter	(:03) The First 48	Diesel Brothers
12:AM	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met James	James Corden	La Doña (SS)	Tonight Show	Israel	T. Smiley	(Off Air)	Conan						(12:04) Falling Water	(12:03) Nightwatch	Diesel Brothers
1:AM	Extra Paid	La Mujer del Middle	Insider		El Chema (SS)	Seth Meyers	Upd BAS					Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	College Basketball	High School Football	Law Order: CI	Gangland	Diesel Brothers
2:AM	Paid	A Que No Me Dejas	Law Order: CI	ET	Pagado	News	Light of the Southwest					NBA Basketball: Los	SportsCenter					Diesel Brothers

DENNIS THE MENACE

12-22

"SANTA MUST REALLY BE BUSY IF HE'S GOT YOU HELPING HIM WRAP PRESENTS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

12-22

"Joy to the world, the Lord has gum ..."

HAGAR

12-22

DID YOU FINISH YOUR TURNIPS AND TRIPE? YES, DEAR.

GOOD! MAYBE YOU'LL FIND IT ON YOUR PLATE AGAIN SOON!

MAYBE SOONER THAN YOU THINK!

BLONDIE

12-22

LET'S WALK AROUND AND SEE EVERYBODY'S DECORATIONS

GREAT IDEA!

WHOA!! IT'S LIKE THE ARCTIC OUT HERE!

MY NOSE JUST FROZE!

OH, HOW PRETTY! THE MCMULLENS REALLY OUTDID THEMSELVES THIS YEAR!

LEMME SEE!

WIZARD OF ID

12-22-16

OF COURSE IT STILL MADE A SOUND!

YOU LOOK GREAT AS SANTA, SIRE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I AGREED TO THIS

WHY, SIRE?

THIS IS SUCH A BAD IDEA

IT'S A BUNCH OF RANDOM KIDS IN MY LAP DURING FLU SEASON!

AGNES

12-22-16

I'M RUNNING OUT OF YARN FOR THE AFGHAN.

IT DOES SEEM SMALL

I FOUND ONE OF GRANDMA'S OLD SWEATERS. I CAN UNSWEATER IT TO USE ON THE PROJECT.

IF I RUN OUT AGAIN, I'LL JUST MAKE IT A HANDKERCHIEF.

NO ONE WANTS TO BLOW THEIR NOSES ON CROCHETED THINGS.

HI AND LOIS

12-22

I USED AN EMPTY DIAPER BOX FROM THE BIG BOX STORE.

ARE ALL YOUR PRESENTS IN THERE?

THE OTHER COAST

12-22

AND HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR MEAL SO FAR?

MMP.

UMPF.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THEY ALWAYS WAIT UNTIL YOUR NOSE IS RIGHT INSIDE THE BOWL BEFORE THEY ASK HOW YOUR MEAL IS?

SNUFFY SMITH

12-22

AN' FER TH' UMPTENTH YEAR IN A ROW, TH' HOOTIN' HOLLER CHRISMIS DECKERATIN' CONTEST HAS BEEN POSTPONED... UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE GIT SOME 'LECTRICITY 'ROUN' HERE !!

BEELE BAILEY

12-22

HOLD MY DONUT WHILE I GET OUT MY WALLET

MY HANDS ARE FULL

HERE'S YOUR CHECK

OH, AND THIS DONUT IS MINE, TOO

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 22, the 357th day of 2016. There are nine days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 22, 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

On this date:

- In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.
- In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)
- In 1910, a fire lasting more than 26 hours broke out at the Chicago Union Stock Yards; 21 firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning building.
- In 1937, the first, center tube of the Lincoln Tunnel connecting New York City and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River was opened to traffic. (The second tube opened in 1945, the third in 1957.)
- In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, California,
- while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before.
- In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.
- In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.
- In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator at the Continental Grain Company plant in Westwego, Louisiana, exploded.
- In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo), the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising. Playwright Samuel Beckett died in Paris at age 83.
- In 1991, the body of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage slain by his terrorist captors, was recovered after it had been dumped along a highway in Lebanon.
- In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)
- In 2010, President Barack Obama signed a law allowing gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military, repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.
- Ten years ago: Rape charges were dropped against three Duke University lacrosse players, but kidnapping and sexual offense charges remained. (Those charges were later dropped as well.) Space shuttle Discovery returned to Earth after a smooth, 13-day flight to rewire the international space station.
- Five years ago: A wave of 16 bombings ripped across Baghdad, killing at least 69 people in the worst violence in Iraq in months. It happened days after the last American forces left the country, heightening fears of a new round of sectarian bloodshed. Melanie Amaro, a 19-year-old vocalist from Sunrise, Florida, won the first U.S. season of "The X Factor"

Answer to previous puzzle

SCOPE	ABLY	PUSH
TOXIN	LOOM	ONTO
ELECTRONIC	PAYS	
PENSION	SALABLE	
	COGS	ERRED
POCKET	TAHITI	
AVOID	BALES	DUD
GALA	PYREX	OGRE
ELL	LATEX	SIEGE
	ERASER	MELDED
EDGER	SPIN	
DRINKER	ANDANTE	
GOAT	DICTIONARY	
ANTE	ALOE	UNTIE
REED	MENS	TEEMS

12/22/16

Newsday Crossword

HOT PURSUIT by Clive Probert
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Parts of overalls
- 5 Defeats easily
- 10 Bake sale orgs.
- 14 Restarting fresh
- 15 Plane-seat selection
- 16 "Horrors!"
- 17 Palm-tree berry
- 18 Forster novel setting
- 19 Inventor Rubik
- 20 Zealous drive for success
- 23 Zealous
- 24 Bench-press muscle
- 25 Sodium hydroxide solution
- 26 Beast of burden
- 27 Per ___ expenses
- 30 One standing in a 51 Across
- 32 Certain bun filler
- 34 Amalgamates
- 35 Short fuse
- 38 Obi-Wan in three films
- 40 Trojan War hero
- 41 Fire starter
- 44 Horse color
- 45 Humanities course, for short
- 48 Ft. Worth summer setting
- 49 Amp (up)
- 51 Betting setting
- 53 Ruckuses
- 57 Not ___ many words

DOWN

- 1 Sounds at a shearing
- 2 Brings on
- 3 Parts of Santa costumes
- 4 Loathsome ones
- 5 More delicate
- 6 Shape with no end
- 7 Food-stamping agcy.
- 8 Skycam locale
- 9 Lobster habitat
- 10 Lyricist, essentially
- 11 Mystery tale
- 12 Less than pleased
- 13 Oklahomans
- 21 Sundance Festival film
- 22 Antarctic vista
- 28 Irish singer
- 29 Utility device
- 31 Bowls over
- 32 Hurricane product
- 33 Silver State city
- 35 Disney's "concert feature"
- 36 Admission of fault
- 37 TWA competitor
- 38 Sort of art print
- 39 Made broader
- 42 Bard's "before"
- 43 Plywood source
- 45 Tongue, to Tacitus
- 46 Office apprentice
- 47 Threw out
- 50 Big name on Wheel...
- 52 Naval commandos
- 54 Stage trophy
- 55 Heckle
- 56 Electrical system

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2016 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/22/16

Father/daughter dance at Washington Elementary School



Emma Rodriguez and dad



Liliana Anderson and stepdad



Tatyonnah Clemmons and dad

Parent's Corner: What I wish for

The Christmas season is special. Every year when it rolls around, you think it can't be time for another one, but there it is with all its hope and joy and the promise of wishes granted. What do I wish for?

I wish for the power to return some of the love that's been given me; to share in the beauty of this earth. A drop of water is a wondrous thing, especially in West Texas.

A spade full of earth is a kingdom in itself as the people in Holland has discovered. A desert dweller has found that a cloud is worth watching till it passes from one horizon to another. A construction worker notices that a bird building its nest is as wondrous as men building a pyramid.



DARRELL RYAN

It all comes into focus at Christmas. We grow cautious because we open ourselves to love. We exchange gifts, but what those presents really say is "I love you." Some folks are uncomfortable to say or hear these words. Maybe it's because they never learned the secret of the giving heart.

We, as Americans, are people with giving hearts and I pray that it will always be so. It's part of our strength. It's something we learned as innocent children that we can share with the fellow who's down on his luck, with those who have suffered calamities, the loss of their home, their land, or their hope.

Let's take pleasure in the trappings of Christmas. Be merry like the songs say, revel in the tinsel and the glitter and the sparkle and sing the old songs for all the joy that's in them and the memories they bring

back. But to touch the real Christmas, to feel the true spirit of the season, look to your own heart and find all the secret treasures that have been stored there.

There is nothing sadder in this world than to awaken Christmas morning and not be a child. Not to feel the cold on your bare feet as you rush to the Christmas tree in the living room. Not to have your eyes sparkle at the wonderment of discovery.

Not to rip the ribbons off the shiny boxes with such abandon. However, a child of Christmas doesn't have to be a toddler or a teen. A child of Christmas is anyone who believes that kings have birthdays. Children of Christmas are givers; that's what the day is for. They give thanks, love, gratitude, joy, and themselves to one another.

Yes, in many ways it is very sad indeed to awaken on Christmas morning and find that time, self-pity, apathy, bitterness, and exhaustion has taken the Christmas spirit from you, but in reality you cannot take the spirit out of Christmas; it's in the air; it's in the greetings of people; it's in the warmth of the lights on the Christmas tree and the wreath hanging on the door.

It's in the attitude of giving and for learning what giving is all about; it's to enjoy the act of giving instead of receiving. It's to see the twinkle in the eye of the receiver and glean reward from seeing it. And it's to marvel with amazement as we watch children, and in our minds to become a child again and once more enjoy the glory of Christmas.

From all of us at the Big Spring Independent School District, we wish you a blessed and enjoyable Christmas season.

Darrell Ryan is the Big Spring ISD director of school safety.

HSWCD poster contest

The Howard Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring its annual poster and essay contests.

This year's contest theme is "We All Need Trees".



Winners are invited to a banquet in their honor. The top two winners will be sent on to area and state competitions.

Deadline for the contests is Feb. 1, 2017. For further information contact, Judy Tereletsky at 432-267-1871, Ext 3 or by e-mailing Judith.Tereletsky@tx.nacdn.net.

Perfect attendance



Shonda Folsom, Rotary Chair, and Emily McCann, President of the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, along with BSI Principal Patsy Sanchez and BSI Vice Principal Nicole Woodard present 5th grader Zuleimy Castillo and 6th grader Daisy Partlow Hererra with a water park pass for having perfect attendance for the 1st semester.

Courtesy photo/BSISD



Courtesy photo/Big Spring ISD

Coach Sara Crowley with her breakfast club, The Creators, talked about what the holidays meant to them recently. The students said they were thankful for their families and they also said they were thankful for people who will give when they can't. So they decided to donate money to purchase gifts for kids who did not get picked off the Salvation Army Angel Trees this year.

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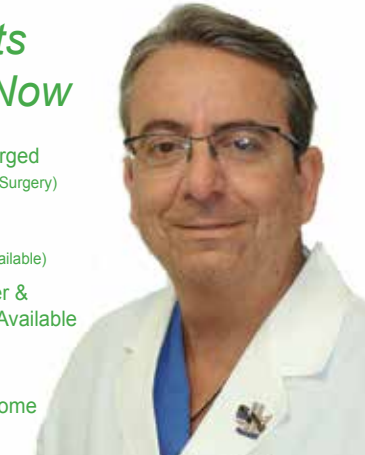
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Christmas at Forsan Elementary School



What's happening in our schools
The *Herald* encourages public and private school teachers/administrators to send articles, photos, and upcoming events for publication on our Education page published Thursdays in the *Herald*.

Submit school news to:
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'Tis the Season

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