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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



BIG SPRING HERALD



See **KINDLES**, Page 3

A Very Merry Christmas to you!

Obituaries

Thelma Banks Manuel Money



Thelma Banks Manuel Money, 93, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014, at her great-niece's home. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Lester Brown, Pastor Holston Banks and Minister Bernadette Banks Young officiating.

Thelma was born June 5, 1921, in Webberville, Texas, to Jim Etta (Banks) and Robert Banks. During World War II, she worked at the air craft plant in California. She moved to Big Spring in 1963. She married James Manuel on Sept. 7, 1966. He preceded her in death on Aug. 18, 1989. She later married L.C. Money on June 19, 1996, and he passed away on March 18, 2009.

She went to Howard College and was the first black woman to attend Valta Reeves College of Cosmetology. She was also a cook, having worked at Howard College, Webb Air Force Base and The

Ramada Inn. She accepted Christ as her savior at an early age and loved Jesus, her family, church, Bible and music. Thelma helped start at least four churches as well as organizing the Big Spring Chapter of NAACP. She was also active in the Democratic Party of Howard County. Although Thelma was not a biological mother, she was "mother" to many, from potty training, playing sports to teaching how to drive a car. She wrote more than 500 songs. Thelma's other hobbies included fishing and sewing.

She is survived by one step-daughter, Hattie B. Wilson of Pecos; one step-son, Donald Lee Hall of Pecos; her first cousin, Gladys Banks; and several nieces and nephews, including Elizabeth Wheat, Christine Bolden, Merle Jefferson and Shirley Brown; several great-nieces and great-nephews, including Bernadette Young and family, Holston Banks and family, Phillip Wheat and family, all of Big Spring, and Robert Canada and family from Pflugerville.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by seven brothers and three sisters.

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

Paid obituary

Inez Grant Shivers



Inez Grant Shivers, 89, passed away on her birthday, Friday, Dec. 19, 2014. Graveside funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

She was born Dec. 19, 1925, in Howard County, Texas to Mollie and Emmitt Crittenden. She married Jim C. Grant Jan. 25, 1941.

Jim preceded her in death and she later married Howard L. Shivers. He preceded her in death in 2007.

Inez lived most of her life in Big Spring. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Celia and Johnie Williams, Linda Davidson and Sue and Chuck Carey; her sister, Dot Gay and husband Dale; three brothers, twins George Crittenden and wife Nita and James Crittenden and Don Crittenden; 17 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Alma Shaffer, Eunice Winn and Charlene Shipp; and her brothers, Curtis, Eugene, Robert and Morris Crittenden; and a great-grandson.

The family suggests memorials to any charity that benefits veterans or to a favorite charity.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at: www.npwelch.com

Police/Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **MATHEW CASTILLO**, 19, of 1205 Harding, was arrested on warrants for no driver's license-when unlicensed and failure to appear.

- **DEEANNA KAY WOODARD**, 33, of 817 Timothy Lane, was arrested on charges of expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, drove without being secured by a safety belt, and possession of marijuana, less than or equal to 2 ounces.

- **DEREK TRAVER MOFFETT**, 35, of 200 E. 11th Place, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.

- **CHAD EVAN HALL**, 41, of 1434 Hilltop, was arrested on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was

reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the I-20 176 exit service road.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 100 block of N. Johnson St.

- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 800 block of Andree St. and the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700., the 2300 block of Langley Drive and the 600 block of S. Goliad St.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1600 block of Sunset Avenue.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 60 inmates at the time of this report.

- **CHAD HALL**, 41, was booked

by the HCSO on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.

- **MATHEW CASTILLO**, 19, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for failure to appear and no driver's license.

- **DEREK TAVER MOFFETT**, 35, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram.

- **DEANNA KAY WOODARD**, 33, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces; and on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate and no seat belt.

- **CHRISTOPHER SALAZAR**, 27, was booked by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief, less than \$50; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- **JIMMY FRANKLIN MASSINGILL**, 47, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of terroristic threat of family/household.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

- **Alcoholics Anonymous**, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

- **Spring Tabernacle Ministries** has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m.

until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

- **Weight Watchers** meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to.

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- **Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous** meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears). Open meeting at 7 p.m.

- **A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group** meeting is at 6:30

p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

- **7 p.m.** — The Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears).



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Al Aton

Al Aton, 95, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Local 5-Day Forecast

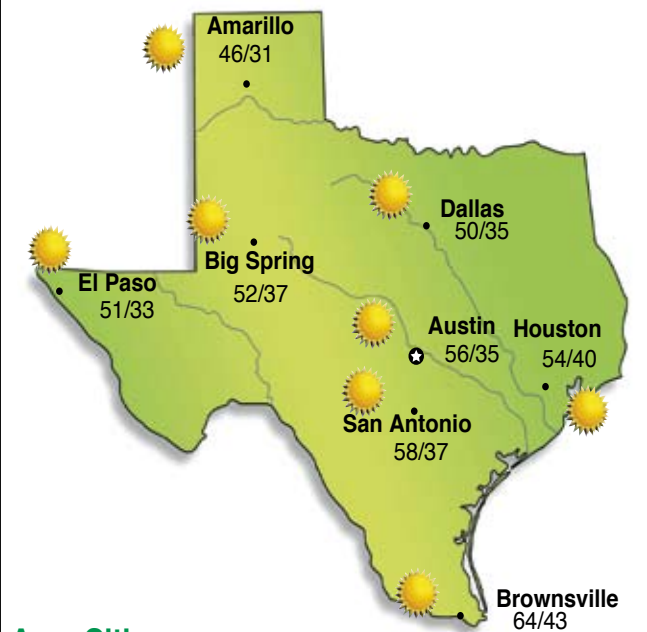
Thu 12/25	Fri 12/26	Sat 12/27	Sun 12/28	Mon 12/29
 52/37 Sunny skies. High 52F. Winds WNW at 10 to 15 mph.	 63/42 Mostly sunny and windy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	 67/35 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	 45/32 Cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 30s.	 53/32 Clouds giving way to sun. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:49 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:49 PM



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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	52	36	sunny	Kingsville	61	40	sunny
Amarillo	46	31	sunny	Livingston	51	35	mst sunny
Austin	56	35	sunny	Longview	49	34	pt sunny
Beaumont	52	35	mst sunny	Lubbock	49	31	sunny
Brownsville	64	43	sunny	Lufkin	53	35	mst sunny
Brownwood	52	33	sunny	Midland	52	36	sunny
Corpus Christi	59	43	sunny	Raymondville	63	41	sunny
Corsicana	50	34	sunny	Rosenberg	56	38	sunny
Dallas	50	35	sunny	San Antonio	58	37	sunny
Del Rio	58	35	sunny	San Marcos	57	36	sunny
El Paso	51	33	sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	34	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	52	37	sunny	Sweetwater	51	37	sunny
Gainesville	47	33	sunny	Tyler	50	35	mst sunny
Greenville	48	33	sunny	Weatherford	49	34	sunny
Houston	54	40	sunny	Wichita Falls	49	32	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	66	38	t-storm	Minneapolis	35	27	cloudy
Boston	52	52	rain	New York	55	54	rain
Chicago	37	31	mixed	Phoenix	62	42	mst sunny
Dallas	50	35	sunny	San Francisco	59	46	rain
Denver	49	29	mst sunny	Seattle	46	38	rain
Houston	54	40	sunny	St. Louis	40	32	mixed
Los Angeles	69	49	mst sunny	Washington, DC	62	51	rain
Miami	82	70	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



New
Dec 22



First
Dec 28

UV Index

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

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

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BIG SPRING HERALD

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Opinion

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

DAILY PRAYER

As the day of Your birth approaches, Lord,
let us be at peace with everyone.

Amen

The many ways of celebrating

Within mere hours almost every family in America will be celebrating Christmas in some manner. It's the most anticipated and famous holiday on the calendar for most people, especially youngsters. Someone said there are three phrases that sum up Christmas: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries Not Included. Bernard Manning wrote, "I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included."

For the majority of us Christmas is much more than lights, decorations and gifts. It even transcends the greatest human connection for the holiday's meaning, family. Billions of Christians around the world understand it to be a birthday celebration for Jesus. W.J. Cameron said, "There has been only one Christmas — the rest are anniversaries."

Erma Bombeck said, "There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child." I really like what author David Grayson said; "I sometimes think we expect too much of Christmas Day. We try to crowd into it the long arrears of kindness and humanity of the whole year. As for me, I like to take my Christmas a little at a time, all through the year. And thus I drift along into the holidays — let them overtake me unexpectedly — waking up some fine morning and suddenly saying to myself, 'Why, this is Christmas Day!'"

Along with the religious aspects of Christmas there are, of course, the various traditions associated with the season. Believe in Santa? Well, here's a little math for you to ponder.

Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical).

This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney,

fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Now, don't share that bit of data with your children if you're trying to keep the fantasy alive for them.

Unfortunately I have not experienced the honor of being in another country at Christmas-time but I have always found it fascinating to read about the way other peoples celebrate the day.

In America children hang stockings over the fireplace. When they are asleep Santa Claus arrives with his reindeer, slides down the chimney and fills them with presents.

British children receive their gifts from Father Christmas. They enjoy a Christmas dinner of roast turkey and mince pie or plum pudding. People often go around from house to house and sing carols.

Children in France welcome the visit of Pere Noël. They leave shoes by the fireplace so that he can fill them with gifts. After midnight mass many families have a special supper called "Le reveillon." They eat a "Buche de Noël," a special cake that looks like a log.

In many Italian homes a nativity scene called "presepio" is the center of celebrations. Many families have fried eel, called "capitone," as a Christmas Eve supper. Other special dishes are "panetone," a bread with dried fruit, and "torrone," candy made with nuts and honey.

In Sweden, Christmas presents are brought by Jultomten, who has elves as helpers. In this northern European country the Christmas season begins on December 13 — St. Lucia Day. On this day the oldest daughter of the house puts on a white dress and wears a wreath with candles on her head. She serves coffee and buns to the rest of her family.

For German and Austrian children, festivities begin on December 6, when St. Nicholas comes to their homes and gives them a bag filled with sweets, oranges and nuts. Christmas presents are brought by the "Weihnachtsmann" or "Christkind." Families like to eat stollen, bread filled with fruits.

In Bethlehem, a small town in today's Israel, there is a color-

ful procession on Christmas Eve. People walk through the narrow streets and carry a picture of Jesus in a cradle to the Church of Nativity. There it is put into a glass manger. Pilgrims from all over the world travel to Bethlehem to take part.

In Mexico, children have a Christmas party and hang a "piñata," on a rope from the ceiling. This is an earthenware jug or a paper figure that is filled with candy or small toys. Then they blindfold themselves and try to hit it with a stick until it breaks and the sweets and toys fall out. Many people take part in processions that show how Mary and Joseph searched for a place to stay in Bethlehem.

In the southern hemisphere Christmas comes during the hot summer season. In Brazil people have outdoor picnics and fireworks, Australians gather outdoors and spend the holidays on sandy beaches. For pupils it's the end of the school year and the beginning of the summer holidays.

I remember reading the words of Danish author Sigrid Unset, who wrote, "And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused — and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself." To me, that's Christmas.

Whatever your plans for tomorrow, when people unwrap the gifts you will be sharing, perhaps you should consider the words of Oren Arnold who offered; "Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect." Merry Christmas!

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.

A heartfelt Christmas card for you

This column has been published previously in the Herald.

Signed Christmas cards the other night. There's something kind of special about writing "Merry Christmas" over and over that helps me get in the holiday spirit. At least until I get bleary eyed, which these days is pretty quickly. To those of you who receive a "Mary Chrissmus" card from Bull McClellan, I apologize. It wasn't an attempt at humor. It was writer's cramp. And it's not that you were among the last on the list, either. It's just that... Well OK, it is because you were last on the list. But hey, at least you were on the list. Lucky you, huh?

Actually, no one can send a card to everyone, I don't care how cheap the Dollar Store has marked them down. At darn near 50 cents per stamp... well, some of you just aren't worth it. But if you didn't get a card from me, don't assume I didn't send you one. Blame the post office. Everybody does.

Seriously, signing those cards gave me a moment to reflect on some things and I decided that what I would do is just write a Christmas card column here, for all of you. Sort of a Merry Christmas from Bull, err, Bill.

First, the obvious... Merry

Christmas.

I hope your Christmas is everything you want it to be. I hope you get whatever you wish for except woofers for your car stereo system.

Mostly, I wish for you a spirit of joy. If I could personally give you anything, it would be a smile on your face and peace in your heart.

Mainly, I hope you have a wonderful time experiencing those things that are not material. Those opportunities where you pause long enough to hold the door open for someone, carry packages or groceries out to a car for a stranger, wave another motorist toward that parking place right near the door. That last one's a tough one, I know.

A quick aside here. The other day I checked out of a local store and was having difficulty getting my bags down a curb and into my pickup. I asked a young teenager if he would help, and he did so with a smile. I went home glad to have had some help and I'm pretty sure he went home feeling a little better about himself.

I hope you'll sing your favorite carols out loud whether you can keep a tune or not, shout "Merry Christmas!" to someone you don't know and pour a cup of eggnog or hot chocolate for a new friend.

I hope you'll put work aside for a bit. Take a reprieve from worrying about the bills, put off the wash and the ironing, wait before you rake the leaves from the yard. Take some time to relax and enjoy what's going on around you, even if it's just for a few

hours. If it means telling a loved one, "Get off your rear and get your own piece of pumpkin pie," then do it — in a Christmasy way, of course.

I wish for you the spirit of giving. Place a dollar in a kettle, buy an extra toy for a child you don't know or purchase a warm robe for an elderly person you may never meet. Because no matter how much or little you have, sharing it with others gives you the greatest feeling in the world.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to thank your maker that you live where you live and savor the freedoms you have. Say a prayer because while you are enjoying your holiday meal, opening gifts and treasuring the smiles on the faces of your children or grandchildren, somewhere your brothers and sisters are under fire, crawling on their bellies through the rubble of a bombed out building in a hostile land they barely know.

Celebrate a little extra for them. They — and their comrades before them — are the reason we live in a land where celebrating Christmas is a choice we make, and not one that someone makes for us.

Finally, I wish for you the joy and happiness of celebrating what Christians call the true reason for the season — the birth of Christ. We consider the Lord's gift the greatest gift of all — and I couldn't wish for you any better gift than that.

Bill McClellan is editor of the Big Spring Herald and can be reached at editor@bigspringherald.com



EDDY PRINCE



BILL MCLELLAN

News in brief

Ex-President George H.W. Bush taken to hospital

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H. W. Bush was admitted to a Houston hospital Tuesday evening after experiencing a shortness of breath, a family spokesman said.

Bush, 90, was taken by ambulance to Houston Methodist Hospital as a “precaution,” according to spokesman Jim McGrath. He “will be held for observation, again as a precaution,” McGrath said in a statement.

Bush spent nearly two months in the same hospital and was discharged in January 2013 after treatment for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues.

The White House said President Barack Obama, who is vacationing in Hawaii, has been notified about Bush’s hospital admission.

“President Obama and the first lady send their good wishes to the former president and the entire Bush family during this holiday season,” said White House spokesman Eric Schultz.

Bush, who can no longer use his legs, made two public appearances last month. He attended at an event at Texas A&M University with his son, former President George W. Bush.

The elder Bush also served as the coin toss captain for the Houston Texans during a Nov. 23 game that honored the U.S. Armed Forces.

Bush, the 41st president, had served two terms as Ronald Reagan’s vice president when he was elected in 1988. Four years later, after a term highlighted by the success of the 1991 Gulf War in Kuwait, he lost to Democrat Bill Clinton amid voters’ concerns about the economy.

He was a naval aviator in World War II — at one point the youngest in the Navy — and was shot down over the Pacific.

The elder Bush has skydived on at least three of his birthdays since leaving the White House. In June, he celebrated his 90th birthday by making a tandem parachute jump near his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine. During the winter, Bush and his wife, Barbara, live in Houston.

Janek: Texas health agency misled on no-bid deals

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Health and Human Services Commissioner Kyle Janek said Tuesday he takes ultimate responsibility for \$110 million in no-bid contracts that have thrown his massive agency into upheaval and are now the focus of a criminal investigation.

But Janek also told reporters he was misled by two high-ranking officials who resigned this month, including one at the behest of Gov. Rick Perry.

“I never forget that, ultimately, I’m responsible,” said Janek, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Janek’s agency hired Austin-based 21CT to help the state root out Medicaid fraud. He said the original contract was procured through inappropriate channels and said he approved a \$90 million contract extension this year based on the case made by former agency general counsel Jack Stick.

Stick resigned earlier this month. Doug Wilson, the agency’s inspector general, resigned on Friday after a Perry spokeswoman said the governor had lost confidence in his ability to prevent waste and abuse.

Efforts to reach Stick have been unsuccessful. He has previously defended the contracts and the performance of 21CT. A phone message left for Wilson on Tuesday was not immediately returned.

The head of the state’s Public Integrity Unit said last week that his office was preparing to open a criminal investigation. State auditors are also digging into the deal, which received intensifying scrutiny after investigations by the Statesman and the Houston Chronicle.

The widening fallout includes revelations that two state oversight boards designed to scrutinize major purchases, including the 21CT deal, never reviewed the deals before approval, according to state officials.

Contracts of that size typically receive extra scrutiny before approval, but the Statesman re-

ported that the 21CT deals bypassed those routine reviews, including from a panel called the Quality Assurance Team that asked the agency to review the project in September 2013.

Strong holiday shopping season expected in Texas

DALLAS (AP) — As Texas retailers see a stream of shoppers checking items off their Christmas lists, lower gas prices and a growing state economy are among factors fueling forecasts that consumers here are spending more this holiday season.

“We are expecting a good, strong season,” said Ronnie Volkening, president of the Texas Retailers Association, who expects the state to do even better than the upbeat national prediction.

The National Retail Federation, the nation’s largest retail trade group, expects sales nationwide to rise 4.1 percent for the holiday season — November and December. That’s higher than last year’s 3.1 percent increase for the same time period. Volkening said he expects Texas, with its strong economy, to see an even better percentage increase, possibly a rise of 5 to 6 percent over last year.

Lea Ann Capel, who bought a couple of Christmas gifts for her 11-year-old daughter Tuesday at a Toys R Us store in Dallas, said she’s feeling more confident when it comes to spending this holiday season. She said she could see that in other shoppers as well, as they loaded up on gifts instead of just browsing.

“You just notice it — all the traffic at all the malls, they are all packed,” said Capel, whose caution about holiday shopping stemmed from the 2008 economic downturn. She said it helped this year that she and her husband both received larger work bonuses.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts says that as of October, the latest month available, the state has had 56 consecutive months of increased sales tax revenues. For November 2013, Texas had sales tax revenue of about \$2.3 billion, up about 4 percent from the year before. In December 2013, Texas had sales tax revenues of \$2.3 billion, up 8.3 percent from the year before.

Jim McIngvale, owner of two Gallery Furniture stores in Houston, said sales are up about 20 percent for December so far. He attributes the increase to better marketing, especially in social media, as well as an increase in higher-end furniture and a good economy.

Houston grand jury doesn’t indict officer in shooting

HOUSTON (AP) — A grand jury has declined to indict a Houston police officer in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man, a decision that follows similar outcomes in officer-involved deaths in Missouri, New York and Wisconsin.

The Harris County panel returned its decision Tuesday in the case of Juventino Castro, who shot 26-year-old Jordan Baker on Jan. 16. Castro, who is Hispanic, was off duty but in uniform, working security at a mall where there had been robberies.

Police say Castro told investigators Baker briefly struggled with him and ran, then charged back at the officer. Baker’s mother said Castro wrongly profiled her son as a criminal.

Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson said the grand jury found no probable cause that a crime was committed and wasn’t endorsing Castro’s actions.

Fired Travis County prosecutor could get \$270K

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Travis County prosecutor who was fired after making racial comments to a jury could receive \$270,000 to settle his wrongful termination lawsuit.

The Austin American-Statesman reports Travis County commissioners on Tuesday approved allocating the funds for Steve Brand, pending a final settlement. The money would come from the risk management fund.

The assistant district attorney lost his job last June. Brand’s dismissal came a month after his

comments dismissing a prospective juror who was a member of the NAACP, comparing the juror’s membership to white supremacy.

District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg has said the comments were racially insensitive.

The tentative \$270,000 settlement could be finalized in early 2015 for Brand, who won’t return to the district attorney’s office.

His attorney declined comment Tuesday.

3 rescued after boat runs aground in Trinity Bay

HOUSTON (AP) — The Coast Guard has rescued three people after their boat ran aground in Trinity Bay near Houston.

Coast Guard officials in Houston on Wednesday announced nobody was hurt in the late-night rescue.

A Coast Guard helicopter was dispatched Tuesday night after a relative called to say a boat carrying two men and a female was overdue.

Crews located the boat, which was hung up on a sandbar, after seeing a flare that was a fired from the scene. The boaters also used a flashlight to signal for help. Lt. Brian Seekatz says the boaters did not have a working radio or reliable cellphone.

A rescue swimmer was lowered to the boat. Two people were hoisted into the helicopter. The third person was picked up after trying to walk for help.

Houston police give drivers \$100 from Secret Santa

HOUSTON (AP) — Some drivers in Houston have been getting a pleasant surprise during traffic stops this holiday season.

Instead of writing tickets to people they have pulled over for traffic violations, Houston police officers have been giving away money.

Officers have been distributing \$100 bills to 100 unsuspecting motorists during traffic stops.

The police department says a “Secret Santa” donated \$10,000 to help people in need this holiday season.

Police say they will distribute the private donation to motorists until all the money has been given away.

2 injured after truck crashes into Texas home

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A woman and a young boy were injured after a truck crashed into their San Antonio home.

Authorities say a man was driving his truck on Tuesday when he had a seizure and lost control of his vehicle.

The truck ran through a fence and plowed through the living room of the home.

The woman and boy were thrown across the room they were in when the truck crashed into their home.

The two were taken to a local hospital but authorities say their injuries were minor.

Police allege Texas armored car driver took cash

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Authorities are accusing a Texas Panhandle armored car driver of taking more than \$200,000 in cash after initially believing the man was missing following a robbery of his vehicle.

Amarillo police say an arrest warrant has been issued charging 24-year-old Trent Michael Cook with first degree felony theft.

The armored car that Cook was driving had been found running Monday morning. Cook was missing as well as the vehicle’s contents.

Police say they have arrested Cook’s father, 43-year-old Brian Hodge and charged him with tampering with or fabricating evidence connected to the case.

Investigators say evidence indicates Cook, who is from Amarillo, had discussed how to commit a theft like the one being alleged by authorities.

Police say Cook might be in a white Ford-15 passenger van.

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News in brief

St. Louis County police: City officer shot, killed man who pulled gun at gas station

BERKELEY, Mo. (AP) — A suburban St. Louis police officer shot and killed a man who pointed a gun at him at a gas station late Tuesday, police said.

A crowd of about 100 people were gathered early Wednesday at the scene in Berkeley, Missouri, a few miles from Ferguson, where a white police officer fatally shot black 18-year-old Michael Brown in August.

According to a statement from St. Louis County police spokesman Sgt. Brian Schellman, a Berkeley police officer was conducting a routine business check at a gas station around 11:15 p.m. Tuesday when he saw two men and approached them.

One of the men pulled a handgun and pointed it at the officer, Schellman said. The officer fired several shots, striking and fatally wounding the man.

The second man fled, and the dead man's handgun has been recovered, according to Schellman.

Iraqi officials: Suicide bomber attacks pro-government Sunni militias, kills 22 people

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber blew up himself on Wednesday among a group of pro-government, anti-Islamic State group Sunni militias near Baghdad, killing at least 22 people, a latest bold attack by militants seeking to undermine government efforts to fight extremists.

The attacker managed to mingle with the militiamen who gathered at a military base in the town of Madain to receive their monthly payment, two police officers said. At least 15 of the dead were Sunni militiamen and the rest were soldiers, while 55 others were wounded, they said.

The town is located about 20 kilometers (14 miles) south of Baghdad.

The group, known as Sahwa or the Awakening Councils, is made up of Sunni militiamen who joined U.S. troops in the fight against al-Qaida during the height of Iraq's insurgency in 2007 and 2008. They are viewed as traitors by the Sunni militants.

Three medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information to the media.

Sony tries again: Limited 'Interview' release gives moviegoers chance to send protest message

ATLANTA (AP) — Sony's flip-flop on releasing "The Interview" shows the studio is working furiously to try to chart the right course through political and public-opinion minefields.

Although analysts don't believe the decision will have any effect on Sony's image, it will at least give the movie-going public a chance to vote with their wallets and send North Korea a protest message.

Last week, Sony canceled the Christmas Day release of "The Interview" in the wake of an extensive hacking attack and release of confidential emails by a group linked with North Korea. The movie stars Seth Rogen and James Franco as journalists tasked by the CIA with killing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The hackers threatened violence if Sony didn't pull the movie. Sony did so after major theater chains decided not to screen it.

But the company then wavered in the face of public outcry and criticism from President Barack Obama. On Tuesday, Sony Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton said Seth Rogen's North Korea farce "will be in a number of theaters on Christmas Day."

The film is set to open in over 200 theaters, down from an original release planned in 3,000. Atlanta's Plaza Theater and 16 theaters that are part of the Alamo Drafthouse chain in Texas are among those that plan to show it.

Dismissing doubts, Indonesian mom reassembles a family

MEULABOH, Indonesia (AP) — It all started with a dream that led to a chance meeting: A girl who had been swept away by the Indian Ocean tsunami

nami a decade ago.

For three nights, the child's uncle said she visited him in his sleep. When he told the girl's mother, Jamaliah, it was hard to believe. The daughter was only 4 when a towering wave ripped her away with her 7-year-old brother, clinging to a board.

But the mother had always been convinced both children were still out there and that the family would be reunited.

Soon after the dream, the uncle ran into a 14-year-old orphan girl who had survived the disaster and washed up on a remote island with her older brother. They had stayed alive by riding a slab of wood.

The odds were impossible, but after the uncle sent a photo of girl, the mother became convinced God was giving their family a second chance.

Travel headaches for some across the US from Christmas Eve through to Christmas Day

CHICAGO (AP) — Travelers setting out for the holidays could face trouble, with anticipated Christmas Eve snow around the Great Lakes states and heavy rain expected along the East Coast.

National Weather Service meteorologists predicted rain that would turn into snow for some parts of Missouri to Michigan, with several inches expected Wednesday in portions of Illinois. Officials at both airport hubs in Chicago readied for the potential of holiday delays and cancellations, particularly with more people expected to fly this year.

"I would definitely make plans about possibly staying put or doing something else," said Chicago-area meteorologist Charles Mott. "Same for the roads. If you're not going to fly, the roads are not going to be getting any better."

About 4.2 million passengers are expected through O'Hare and Midway international airports during an 18-day holiday travel period ending Jan. 6, said Chicago Aviation Department spokeswoman Karen Pride. That would be a 3 percent increase at O'Hare and a 9 percent jump at Midway compared with last year. Pride urged travelers to allow plenty of time and monitor airlines closely.

On Tuesday, a storm system developed in the Gulf States, generating tornadoes that left four people dead, damaging some buildings and leaving thousands without power. It was expected to drop rain along the East Coast.

Denver area shelters cite legal marijuana as a reason for rise in homeless population

DENVER (AP) — Chris Easterling was sick of relying on drug dealers in Minneapolis when he needed marijuana to help ease the pain of multiple sclerosis. They were flaky, often leaving the homeless man without the drug when he needed relief the most.

So he moved to Denver, where legal pot dispensaries are plentiful and accessible.

Easterling is among a growing number of homeless people who have recently come to Colorado seeking its legal marijuana, and who now remain in the state and occupy beds in shelters, according to service providers.

While no state agency records how many homeless people were drawn by legal weed, officials at homeless centers say the influx they are seeing is straining their ability to meet the needs of the increasing population.

"The older ones are coming for medical (marijuana), the younger ones are coming just because it's legal," said Brett Van Sickle, director of Denver's Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter, which has more than doubled its staff to accommodate the increase.

Activists say move to ease ban on blood donations from gay men doesn't go far enough

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials have moved closer to overturning a decades-old ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men, but activists say the proposed alternative would continue to stigmatize men who have sex with men.

The Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday it will recommend lifting the lifetime ban early next year,

replacing it with a policy barring donations from men who have had sex with another man in the previous 12 months. The change would overturn a 31-year-old policy that many medical groups and gay activists say is no longer justified, given advances in HIV testing.

But activists questioned whether requiring a year of celibacy from gay men amounted to a significant policy shift.

"Some may believe this is a step forward, but in reality, requiring celibacy for a year is a de facto lifetime ban," Gay Men's Health Crisis, a New York-based nonprofit that supports AIDS prevention and care, said after the announcement.

The blanket ban dates from the early years of the AIDS crisis and was intended to protect the blood supply from what was a then little-understood disease. But many medical groups, including the American Medical Association, say the policy is no longer supported by science. Australia, Japan, the U.K. and many other countries previously moved to a one-year period.

Yazidis return to Iraqi villages after militants routed, searching for lost loved ones

HARDAN, Iraq (AP) — After he fled from this tiny northern Iraqi hamlet four months ago, Hayder Khalef got panicked phone calls from his relatives who had remained behind. They were at that moment being led by Islamic State group gunmen toward a checkpoint on the edge of town.

"If you don't hear from us, you'll find our bodies near the checkpoint," Khalef said they told him in the calls.

He is back in his hometown for the first time since, after Iraqi Kurdish fighters last week drove out the extremists holding the village. Khalef and a few other residents who escaped followed the Kurds in, hoping to discover what happened to hundreds of their relatives and neighbors who vanished after the jihadis overran Hardan in early August.

They fear they know where they are: four mounds of recently dug-up earth. The sites have not yet been excavated,

but Khalef and others are convinced they are mass graves, possibly holding dozens of dead. From the loose top soil, they and Kurdish fighters pulled out pieces of clothing as an Associated Press reporter watched.

At one point, they tugged on the elastic waistband of pants visible in the dirt — and it seemed a body was still wearing them. The ground bulged with the weight of a body being pulled up with the waistband. They stopped pulling, fearing booby traps, before a body could be clearly seen. But an ID card and some prayer beads fell out of the pants pocket — the ID of a 44-year-old man named Khero Khudeda Ruffo. One returning resident, Khaled Wase, recognized the name as a neighbor who is among the missing.

A surge of support, gratitude for police across US after NYC deaths, nationwide protests

NEW YORK (AP) — Rocker Jon Bon Jovi donned a New York Police Department T-shirt on stage. Well-wishers delivered home-baked cookies by the hundreds to police in Cincinnati. In Mooresville, North Carolina, police and sheriff's officers were treated by residents to a chili dinner.

At a time when many in the nation's police community feel embattled, Americans in cities and towns across the country are making an effort to express support and gratitude.

"I'm showing a little solidarity for my brothers in the NYPD and all of those who protect and serve us every day," Bon Jovi told a cheering crowd at his concert Monday in Red Bank, New Jersey.

The surge of support is linked to two distinct but overlapping developments.

The immediate catalyst was the execution-style killings of two New York City police officers as they sat in their patrol car in Brooklyn on Saturday. For many of those making appreciative gestures, there also was a desire to counter the widespread protests — steeped with criticism of police — that followed grand jury decisions not to charge white officers for their roles in the deaths of black men Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York.



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Grebe kicks Navy to Poinsettia Bowl win

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pardon coach Ken Niumatalolo for being perhaps a bit befuddled amid the euphoria of Navy's 17-16 Poinsettia Bowl victory against San Diego State on Tuesday night.

"I have no idea how we won the game," Niumatalolo said. The Midshipmen won it by not being the last team to make a critical mistake in a game full of them.

Navy's Austin Grebe kicked a go-ahead, 24-yard field goal with 1 minute, 27 seconds left. The Midshipmen won it after Donnel Hageman was right on a 34-yard field goal attempt with 20 seconds left.

Hageman had made his first

three field goal attempts for the Aztecs.

The winning drive was set up when Navy's Chris Johnson forced and recovered a fumble by Donnel Pumphrey, who earlier set San Diego State's single-season rushing record.

Fullback Chris Swain converted on a fourth-and-1 and Ryan Williams-Jenkins took a pitch and ran 28 yards to help set up the game-winner by Grebe.

"Honestly, I wasn't thinking I was going to have to kick it because whenever we get that close, Keenan scores," Grebe said, referring to quarterback Keenan Reynolds. "I was just glad to make it and send our se-

niors out on a positive note."

San Diego State then got to the Navy 17 before Hageman missed. Hageman earlier made field goals of 43, 37 and 30 yards. His third field goal gave SDSU a 16-14 lead late in the third quarter.

Pumphrey gained 112 yards on 21 carries to set SDSU's single-season rushing record with 1,867 yards. The old record was 1,842 yards by George Jones in 1995.

"It's great but we didn't get the win," he said.

Navy (8-5) lost four fumbles. SDSU (7-6) had three turnovers.

"We played really, really well on defense," Niumatalolo said.

"Our defense gave us a chance. We put our defense in some bad spots with turnovers on offense, but they didn't flinch. They played phenomenal.

"We pride ourselves in trying not to turn the ball over and not make penalties," he said. "To our kids' credit they just kept battling. Things looked ugly there. We put our defense in some bad spots but they didn't flinch. They made some big plays to keep them out of the end zone."

Reynolds ran for two touchdowns, extending his own NCAA record for scores by a quarterback to 64.

He scored on a 1-yard keeper for the game's first score and

then somersaulted into the end zone at the end of a 6-yard run to give Navy a 14-13 lead midway through the third quarter.

"It wasn't pretty but we were able to pull it out," Reynolds said. "That's football. A win is a win."

"Our defense came up huge for us," he said. "Hats off to those guys. If they didn't play as well as they did we wouldn't have had a chance."

The Midshipmen won their fourth straight and for the sixth time in seven games. They've won consecutive bowl games for the second time in history. They were playing just 10 days after beating Army for the 13th straight time.

Dallas puts 6 in Pro Bowl matchup

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys are sending six players, including quarterback Tony Romo and leading NFL rusher DeMarco Murray, to the Pro Bowl.

In addition to Romo and Murray, also chosen on Tuesday were: wide receiver Dez Bryant; center Travis Frederick; rookie guard Zack Martin; and tackle Tyron Smith.

This will be Romo's fourth Pro Bowl and his first since 2009.

Bryant, Murray and Smith will be making their second Pro Bowl appearances after first being selected in 2013.

Martin is the first Cowboys rookie offensive lineman to make the Pro Bowl. This will be Frederick's first Pro Bowl appearance.

The game will be held at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, and will be played on Jan. 25, one week before Super Bowl XLIX.

The AFC West champion Denver Broncos led the NFL with nine players selected for the Pro Bowl on Tuesday.

Quarterback Peyton Manning was picked for the 14th time. Joining Manning from the Broncos will be Ryan Clady, Chris Harris, Von Miller, Aqib Talib, Demarius Thomas, Julius Thomas, T.J. Ward and DeMarcus Ware. Denver also led the league with five defensive players selected.

Dallas was second with six selections.



Tony Claxton photos (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Ty Sealy and the Big Spring Spring Steers will return to the hardwood on Dec. 29 when they begin play in the 2014 Sandhills Basketball Tournament in Monahans. Forsan will also be playing in the three-day event.

Big Spring, Forsan to play in Sandhills tourney

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers and Forsan Buffaloes will be among the 110 teams competing for the 2014 Sandhills Basketball Tournament next week in Monahans. The two teams are slated to top off the final tournament of the year on Dec. 29.

Big Spring, fresh off a pre-Christmas win over Seminole, is scheduled to begin its outing with pool play at 9 a.m. on Monday when they face off with Midland Christian. They will face New Way

Christian at 3 p.m. On Tuesday, they will play El Paso Riverside at 9 a.m. and then close out pool play at 1 p.m. with a matchup against Alpine.

Forsan, which will play in Pool A, will open the tournament with a 9 a.m. game with Levelland on Monday. They will play Midland Classical at 3 p.m. On Tuesday, they will face Monahans at 11 a.m. and Presidio at 5 p.m.

The top two teams from each pool will advance to the finals at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Cato, Shuler lead Marshall past No. Illinois

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Quarterback Rakeem Cato and receiver Tommy Shuler have played together since high school, so they were able to communicate without a lot of conversation Tuesday in their final game for Marshall.

"We don't need to talk," Shuler said. "Just a head nod."

What does a head nod mean?

"I'm open."

He was, time and time again. Shuler and Cato capped their careers with record-setting performances in the inaugural Boca Raton Bowl to help Marshall beat Northern Illinois 52-23.

Cato tied an NCAA mark for touchdown passes, threw for three scores and was voted the most valuable player. Shuler had 18 receptions for 185 yards and broke the Conference USA record for career catches with 322.

Cato and Shuler were high school teammates in nearby Miami, and they gave a large throng of family and friends plenty to cheer about.

"To do that playing your final game in your backyard is special," Marshall coach Doc Holliday said. "They're just tremendous players, and they're great friends."

Marshall finished 13-1, with its lone loss to Western Kentucky, 67-66 in overtime. Northern Illinois finished 11-3.

"Give credit to Marshall; they made a ton of

plays," Huskies coach Rod Carey said. "I didn't think we played real well, and that's too bad because we've had an unbelievable season."

Cato extended his streak of throwing at least one touchdown pass to 46 consecutive games. That tied the NCAA all-division record set by Central Washington's Mike Reilly.

As usual, Cato's favorite target was Shuler.

"Anybody who knows Shuler, against a no-man matchup, he's going to hurt you," Cato said. "I'm going to continue to go at him until they show me something different, and they didn't show me anything different."

Cato finished the season with a school-record 40 touchdown passes. He threw for scores of 6 yards to Shuler, 11 yards to Angelo Jean-Louis and 27 yards to Deon-Tay McManus.

All of those touchdowns came in the second half.

Cato completed 25 of 37 passes for 281 yards and ran 5 yards for a score.

"Cato made the plays when he needed to," Huskies safety Dechane Durante said.

The game drew a crowd of less than 15,000 in Florida Atlantic's 30,000-seat stadium, but both coaches praised the event.

"This will be a huge bowl," Holliday said. "The community has embraced this bowl, and when all is said and done, it's going to be one of the best bowls in America."

LeBron set for Christmas showdown against Heat

IAMI (AP) — LeBron James doesn't have any apprehension for this homecoming.

There's nothing to fear, no real worries about his safety, unlike what awaited him the last time he had one of these return games. Then again, this might not even classify as a homecoming — because, it turns out, Miami was never truly his home, just a place he called home for four years.

He came. He won. He left.

On Thursday, James returns to face the Heat, the team that turned him from a superstar to a two-time NBA champion superstar. And as he and

the Cleveland Cavaliers prepare for what will certainly be an emotional visit, James said he's expecting to be flooded with positive vibes.

"To say I haven't thought about going back, I would be lying," James said.

For their part, the Heat insist that they're looking forward to the reunion.

James remains in contact with some Heat players, and his close friendship with Dwyane Wade continues.

"It hasn't changed," Wade said. "It won't change. ... We have a great friendship and great respect for each other. It won't change."



Tony Claxton photos (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Jackie Castillo and the Big Spring Lady Steers will face off with Dimmitt in the first round of the Caprock Invitational tournament at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 29 in Lubbock.

Stanford upsets No. 9 Texas in overtime, 74-71

AUSTIN (AP) — Anthony Brown knew he could play a lot better after Stanford lost at BYU last week. He did just that to help the Cardinal pull off the upset of No. 9 Texas.

"I wanted to be aggressive," Brown said.

The Cardinal forward scored a season-best 25 points, including the go-ahead basket in overtime, helping Stanford defeat the Longhorns 74-71 on Tuesday night.

Chasson Randle added 22 points, including a clutch shot in overtime to help Stanford beat a top 10 team on the road for the first time since 2008.

"Our guys played with a lot of passion," Stanford

coach Johnny Dawkins said.

Brown converted all four of his 3-point attempts, but his final basket, with 1:08 remaining in overtime, was on a drive inside.

After Texas (10-2) guard Javan Felix missed a 3-point shot, Randle made a jumper with 10 seconds left for the final margin of victory. He then made a jump shot with 10 seconds left to give Stanford (7-3) a three-point lead.

Felix and Demarcus Holland then missed forced 3-point shots as Texas tried to tie the game. Felix led Texas with a season-high 19 points.

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Howard County Appraisal District is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Appraiser trainee. The successful applicant will do office and field work associated with appraisal of residential, rural, commercial and personal property in HCAD. Candidates must have organizational skills, along with effective communication and people skills. A high school diploma is the minimum educational requirement, college preferred. RPA registration with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation is preferred.

Previous appraisal experience and knowledge of a CAMA software system is preferred. Must be physically able to complete on site measurement and inspection of property over rough and uneven terrain, as well as stand and/or sit for extended periods of time. Position requires bending, reaching, lifting heavy file boxes and moving up and down steps and steep grades. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The Appraisal District provides excellent Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Long Term Disability and 401A Retirement Plan, and optional 457b Deferred Comp. Retirement Plan.

Howard County Appraisal District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes will be accepted until position is filled. Mail resume to:
Ronny Babcock, RPA, RTA/C Chief Appraiser
Howard County Appraisal District
PO Drawer 1151
Big Spring, TX 79721-1151



BLUE SKY Pipeline Services is looking for Experience Back Hoe Driver w CDL Big Spring, Colorado, & Sweetwater Area Medical Benefits Are Offered For more information please call 432-580-7332 For Application

Help Wanted

CNA'S NEEDED for Sterling County Nursing Home
We offer medical, dental, & vision insurance plus retirement benefits, competitive pay, shift differentials, & travel allowance. For more information call Brad Howard or Amanda Arispe at 325-378-2134

COUNTER & SALES person needed for local Furniture and Appliance Store. Bilingual and outgoing personality a plus. All inquires are to be made in person at 1611 South Gregg, Big Spring. Starting pay \$10.50 a hour.

CREW LEADERS and Crew Techs – Will Train. Vacation and Holiday Pay with opportunity for Advancement. 40+ hours/wk. Apply @ Blast Masters 1711 E Hwy 350

CROSSROADS HOSPICE is hiring for a Marketer in the Big Spring & surrounding areas. Bilingual a plus. Come by 421 Main St or fax resume to 432.263.5304 Attn: Debbie Read (EOE)

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RAINBOW CHRISTIAN
Preschool Is Hiring For a Full Time Caregiver/Teacher Experienced Preferred High School Diploma Required Come By 409 Goliad To Apply

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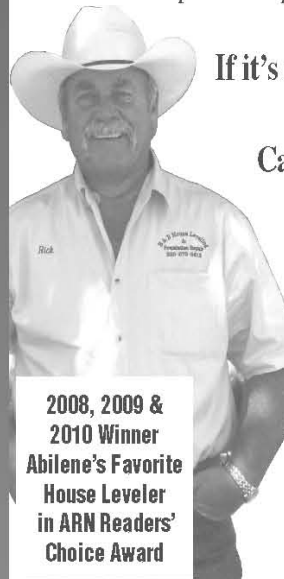
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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids for LRA Paving to be used for maintenance of County Roads.
330-2002 LRA PAV TY-1 GR-A Specifications may be obtained at Howard Road & Bridge office, 1011 N. San Antonio St, Big Spring, Texas 79720. If you have any questions please call, 432-264-2208.
Bids must be received by 10:00 A.M. on Friday, January 09, 2015 in the office of the County Auditor, Drew Lopez, 300 S Main, Room 202 and will be opened at that time.
Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on January 12, 2015 for their consideration.
The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Drew Lopez, County Auditor
www.co.howard.tx.us
#8563 December 24, 2014 & January 4, 2015

Legals

Notice of Suddenlink Channel Changes – Midland, Andrews, Big Spring
Effective January 28, 2015 the following channel changes will be made to the channel lineup.
Bloomberg on Digital Family Tier channel 371 will be removed from the lineup but will remain on the Digital Sports & Info Tier.
Game Show Network will move from Digital Family Tier channel 333 to Expanded Basic channel 86.
Game Show Network HD on HD Digital Family Tier channel 433 will be moved to the HD Basic Tier on channel 286.
The following channel changes are coming soon, no date has yet been determined.
BBC America on Digital Family Tier channel 317 will move to Expanded Basic channel 87.
BBC America HD on HD Digital Family Tier channel 417 will move to HD Basic Tier channel 287.
El Rey will be added to Expanded Basic channel 85.
If you have any questions about these changes, please call us at 1-866-269-4386.
#8568 December 24, 2014

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Capricorn Power

Mercury and Pluto meet up in Capricorn, adding strength to the many planets in that zone. Currently, the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus and Pluto are all visiting the realm of the ambitious sea goat, so Capricorn power is strong. Capricorn is the keeper of tradition. What traditions will you be passing forward with tonight's observance?



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your passion will inspire others, even those who don't share your subject of interest. It's not the topic that matters anyhow; it's your intensity level. There is great joy coursing through your veins.

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I am a concerned uncle at an impasse. I have a young adult nephew who seems perfectly content not to go anywhere in life. "Peter" wasn't the smartest kid in school, but he managed to graduate. He now moves from job to job, never keeping one for more than six months. He seems perfectly fine with living at home and visiting my elderly father in senior housing.

When I talk to Peter about his behavior, he pays no attention. He only wants to hang around and play video games and see friends who don't help. He doesn't think very highly of himself, though I tell him he is capable of being anything he wants. He seems to be immature for his age and still in the self-gratification stage. He has no interest in becoming an adult, earning a paycheck and moving out.

I worry he sometimes takes advantage of my dad, who is reluctant to see Peter's faults. The kid really needs a hard dose of reality, but I can't get through to him. I don't

want him to be like this and live in his mother's house for the rest of his life or, worse, end up in trouble and be a burden on society. Is there any way to enlighten him? -- Run Out of Ideas

Dear Run Out: You sound like a caring uncle, but Peter has to want this for himself, and he's not there yet. It also doesn't help when others around him enable his freeloading, irresponsible behavior. This includes his parents, who should be the first in line to handle this. We recommend you stop trying to "enlighten" Peter and simply be a good role model for him. Demonstrate adult male behavior and the respect it engenders. Be someone he can turn to for help, and not another person in his life who is chastising him for coming up short.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Indy," the 62-year-old woman who was forced to retire, and who is lonely and struggles to make ends meet. I, too, am from Indiana, and I thought, "You don't have to feel that way!"

Tomorrow's Horoscope

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can read about an experience and get a taste for it, but what really counts is first-hand experience. Wherever possible, put yourself in the situation. There is no substitute for real life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Stay keen to interpersonal dynamics. The one who is in charge doesn't always have a title. The one running the show may be the smallest, youngest and weakest.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Begin with the end in mind -- the end you want, that is. Don't even think about the end you don't want. Avoiding pain won't work half as well as aiming for pleasure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some shrink from danger, others seek it, and still others meet it when they must -- that's you. Risk doesn't bother you, as long as it's calculated. You'll get busy assessing your odds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The surface of things will tell one story, but the whole story requires more effort. When they know you are really interested, they will want to tell you the truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The actors know it, and now you do, too -- it's hard work to be someone you're not, but it can be fun and enlightening work, as well. A bit of pretending will expand you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once you establish your standards, you will live up to them -- and so will those around you. Each choice you make to improve your health and vitality will greatly enhance your personal life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know the secret: The seemingly mundane is actually quite miraculous. That's why you try to understand the science behind things and figure out what makes them work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will anticipate what others need before they need it. You'll be humble and honest, even as you sell yourself. Just don't forget the part where you sell yourself -- it's necessary.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An enchanting presence lets you know you are wanted, not needed. This is the ideal

As you suggested, getting involved is the answer. I am a 61-year-old former schoolteacher, and my husband travels a lot. I was getting into the same rut, and it's not a nice place to be. I thought about the things I really like doing. I was an art teacher, and I love to sew. So last winter, I formed a group of neighborhood women who would come to my house once a week to sew items for our children's hospitals. It was a huge success and a lot of fun, and it made my home a happy place.

I also worked at a large fabric store that offers several rooms for local use, so I moved our little group to the store and opened it up to the entire community. We tell people to just come and sew with us -- everything is provided. If you don't sew, we can show you how, or you can do other things, like iron seams, pin pieces together or cut out patterns.

We are currently working on Christmas pillowcases for the children's hospitals. We also make hero capes for the kids, and with the scraps, we make fun

scrub hats for the doctors and nurses. We also make lap quilts and dining cover-ups for nursing homes, as well as little knit caps for newborns.

There is so much to do that we run out of time, but what a great time it is. It breaks my heart to think of someone feeling the way I used to. We would love "Indy" to join us, not only to do something purposeful, but to connect with others. -- Carmel, Ind.

Dear Carmel: What a lovely community project! We hope others (men, as well as women) will look into these opportunities as a way of feeling good while doing good. After all, 'tis the season.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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dynamic. The pressure is off, and you feel you can really be yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People tell you much more than you wanted to know, and this will entertain you. You'll learn of colorful pasts and secret intentions. Maybe you should write a book.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 24). Pick up the phone and call -- you'll get what you want. In February, sense what's on the horizon for your group, and lead the way. The summer highlights your diplomatic skills. You'll make friends in high places and enjoy exclusive and expensive arrangements. The person you meet in August will brighten your future. Scorpio and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 29, 1, 11, 33 and 14.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What do you have to say for a nonreligious person who wants to celebrate the holidays in a way that's not overly materialistic? I'm a Taurus, a lover, a peaceful, open-minded person who wants to create rituals that will bond my 3-year old daughter to myself for years to come."

It's simply a matter of picking, choosing and perpetuating your favorite parts of the holiday. As the sign of

money, your sensitivity to the commercial aspects of the season cannot be understated. The pressures and expectations of the season tend to hit you directly in the pocketbook and then leave you hollow. You need a formula that's not based on anyone else's story of what your holiday should be.

A good holiday combination will include the following: family, friends, food, music, giving personally, receiving, giving anonymously, being grateful, taking a picture.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: She has one of the bestselling vampire series of all time under her belt, and Stephenie Meyer has the Capricorn tenacity to keep the stories coming. With her sun and moon both in this tradition-minded, hardworking and goal-oriented earth sign, Meyer has a keen business sense to combine with the imaginative powers of Venus and Jupiter in dreamy, otherworldly Aquarius.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Contract
Bridge

By Steve Becker

Sylvia Strikes Again

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 5
♥ K J 10 8 4
♦ 10 9 2
♣ Q J

WEST
♠ A 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ K Q J 5
♣ 8 7 4 3

EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ A Q
♦ 8 7 6 4 3
♣ K 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K 10 9 8 6 3
♥ 9 7 2
♦ A
♣ A 10 9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

It was next to impossible to predict how Sylvia's mind would work in a given situation. Her approach to the game was so different from what ordinary mortals would regard as rational that just about anything was possible.

Take this example from a game at the club. Sylvia held the East hand. Looking at all four hands, you would think that South would have no trouble making four spades after a diamond lead.

And no doubt he would have,

Tomorrow: The feline philosophy.
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sudoku

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

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

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	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWWT (14)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	P. Luche Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News News	Seinfeld Seinfeld	With Schol-ars	Around-World	CHiPs	Last Frontier	Movie: Big Jake, Maureen O'Hara	Cops Cops	Castle (DVS)		I Didn't Ultimate Cmas Pres-ent	Around Pardon NFL Rank Review	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Pelicula: Jesus, el Niño Dios, Gayle Bedall	Big Bang Ent	Big Bang Ent	Pelicula: The Nativity Story (SS)	Newswest 9 at 6P	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mani House	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S'H M*A*S'H	Last Frontier		Cops Cops	Castle (DVS)	Movie: A Very Larry Christmas			
7 :PM	Middle Gold		Burgers	I Love Lucy		Movie: It's a Wonderful Life, Lionel Barrymore (DVS)	Movie: A Christmas Story, Me-linda Dillon	Upd Dollars	Silent Night	Griffith Griffith	Last Frontier		Cops Cops	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)			Movie: 'Twas the Night	Bskball Hour College Football: Sheraton Hawaii Bowl -- Fresno State vs. Rice.
8 :PM	Mod Fam blackish	Pelicula: Jesús, María y José	Brooklyn Brooklyn	Madam Secretary	Premios Tu Mundo 2014 (SS)		Movie: A Christmas Story, Me-linda Dillon	Light of the Southwest	Christmas Carol	Heroes Gilligan	Last Frontier	Movie: Rio Bravo, Ricky Nelson	iMPACT Wrestling			Dog		
9 :PM	blackish		Mod Fam	Scorpion				Movie: A Christmas Story, Me-linda Dillon		Christmas in Norway	Odd Cple. Honeymnr		Last Frontier			Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	Nellyville	Girl Dog
10 :PM	News Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Impacto Noticiero	Cleveland	News Christmas at	Tele Titulares	News (:34) Christ-mas Eve Mass	Rik HaYesod	Charlie Rose	Cheers Perry Mason	Last Frontier			Bar Rescue		Chris Rock: Pain	Austin Jessie	SportCtr NFL Live	SportsCenter
11 :PM	Nightline	Misa de Gallo	How I Met TMZ	Hollywd-Grove	Premios Tu Mundo 2014 (SS)	TBA News	Movie: A Christmas Story, Me-linda Dillon	Chevalme McDonald Zola Lev.	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Last Frontier		Movie: A Dream for Christmas		Movie: Cahill, United States Marshal	Bar Rescue	Wendy Williams The Real	Movie: 'Twas the Night So Raven	NFL Rank Profile NFL Live
12 :AM	Extra (:37) Peace on Earth		Friends	Insider	Pagado	To Be An-nounced	Movie: A Christmas Story, Me-linda Dillon	Light of the Southwest						Bar Rescue	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	FamFeud Queen	Sonny Hannah	NFL Rank
1 :AM	Paid	Pelicula: Jesús, el Niño Dios	Law & Order: SVU	Ent Paid	Pagado					L. Young	To Be An-nounced			Bar Rescue	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)			

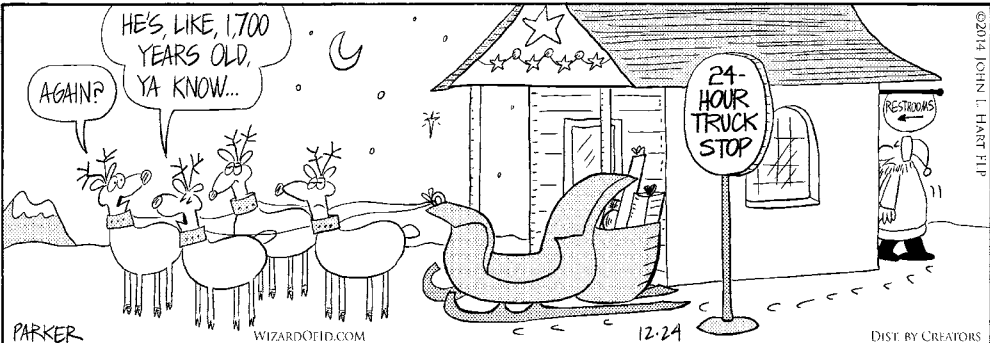


HERE'S TO DECEMBER 24TH. THE ONE NIGHT WE DON'T STRUGGLE TO GET DENNIS TO GO TO BED.

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



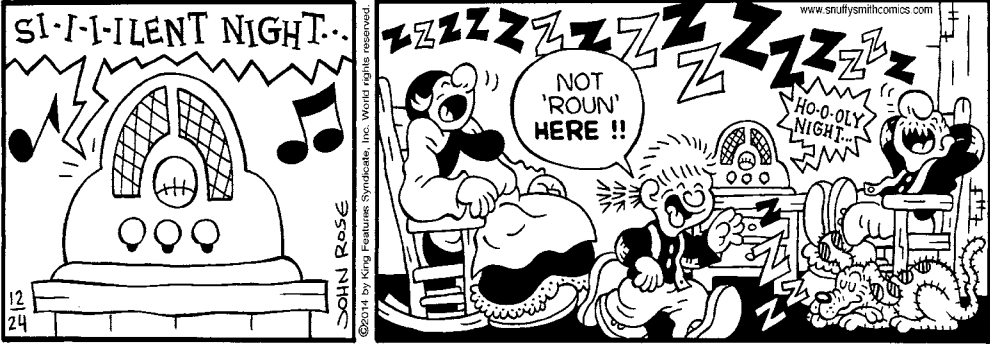
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



HAGAR



Sierra Club, died in Los Angeles at age 76. On this date: In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama - who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India - died in Cochin, India. In 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate. In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes. In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt.

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2014. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve. Today's Highlights in History: On Dec. 24, 1914, during World War I, impromptu Christmas truces began to take hold along parts of the Western Front between British and German soldiers who, in some cases, exchanged gifts and even played soccer with each other. Conservationist John Muir, founder of the

In 1939, Pope Pius XII delivered a Christmas Eve address in which he offered a five-point program for peace and denounced "premeditated aggressions." In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

Answer to previous puzzle

WISC	CHUMP	NAME
ODOR	RATIO	EVIL
LONE	ALAMO	OILS
FLYOFF	THEHANDLE	
LIT	STS	
ASSET	ABE	VILLA
SHE	ISLAND	GOER
HAVING	ITDOWN	PAT
EVEN	TAHITI	ESS
SERVE	SET	NASTY
ELM	GAL	
LET'S	KEEP	INTOUCH
OMIT	SALSA	TRUE
AMMO	ARENT	OGRE
DYER	SLATS	FEED

Newsday Crossword

TIMELY TALE by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Chef's seasonings

6 Like a wet noodle

10 At one's ___ and call

14 Banish

15 Snakes like Cleopatra's

16 Saudi Arabia neighbor

17 Happen again

18 Spicy Asian cuisine

19 Fork prong

20 Classic yuletide tale

23 Dog-biting bug

24 Initial stage

25 Poor-quality

29 Before the deadline

32 Carbonated drink flavor

33 Blame-avoiding explanation

34 Mai ___ cocktail

37 With 40 Across, author of 20 Across

40 See 37 Across

42 Officeholder, for short

43 Cropped up

45 Shirt-pressing tool

46 Major muddle

47 Dime-making facility

49 Hocus-pocus activity

52 Annoying one

54 Main character of 20 Across

61 Lug around

62 12/24 and 12/31

63 Diplomatic agent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22			
				23					24			
25	26	27	28			29	30	31				
32					33				34	35	36	
37				38	39		40		41			
42			43			44			45			
			46					47	48			
49	50	51				52	53					
54					55	56			57	58	59	60
61					62				63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

710 Scurry