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BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 110, NUMBER 46 COPYRIGHT 2014 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 9, 2014



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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The Forsan Boomtown Christmas Parade included the award-winning Forsan High School band, community floats, horses, motorcycles, fire trucks, the Young Marines, the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department's honor guard, a horse-drawn carriage, lots of candy and of course, Santa. Check for more photos in a special edition — Holly Jolly Christmas — in Wednesday's edition.

BSHS presents 'Christmas Carol' Thursday to public

BY LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

The Big Spring High School's top actors will tackle a timeless Christmas classic in their next production "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens.

"This is a radio version so there will not be any scenery or costumes but we will have sound effects," said Chelsea Prettyman, high school theater teacher. "The actors are going to have to play several different parts and will have to change up their voices to fit the part they are playing.

A public performance will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, at the high school auditorium, 707 E. 11th Place. There is no admission fee.

After the public performance, Prettyman said the group will take the show on the road touring all the elementary schools and a local nursing home.

A Christmas Carol was first published in novella form in the 1800s and has since been retold numerous times in several formats from film and stage productions and TV adaptations. The story follows the main character Ebenezer Scrooge, a bitter man

See **BSHS**, Page 3



Special needs children get opportunity to meet Santa

By ANDREIA MEDLIN
Staff Writer

Santa Claus, with the help of Spring Creek Fellowship, is making a special trip to Big Spring specifically to visit with a select group of children.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, Spring Creek Plaza will close its doors at 9 p.m. to allow children with special needs their own time to visit with Santa himself.

Deacon Jim Billings invites any family with children who have special needs to make plans to take part in the event. The families of these children are invited as

well.

"We want this to be a family thing," Billings said. "This is a group of children who are often overlooked this time of year. They've been doing this in Midland for years and we thought it would be a great idea for Big Spring."

However, getting an audience with Santa requires a little planning.

"The parents can go to any of the merchants to register or they can call the church. We will need the parent's names, how many will attend and a contact number or email address. The deadline is 3 p.m. the day of the

visit," he explained.

At 9 p.m., the mall will only be available for those who have registered. There is no age limit and Santa will be seated at floor level to provide a more enjoyable visit for everyone.

"They won't have to climb stairs and Santa will go around and visit anyone who is in a wheelchair."

Cookies and hot chocolate will be served for all who attend.

To register for the event, call Spring Creek Fellowship at 432-714-4584, or Billings at 270-3049.

To contact Andreia Medlin call the Herald at 263-7331.

Scouts to help elderly with packages

By ANDREIA MEDLIN
Staff Writer

If anyone is looking for a place to do a good deed, the Walmart parking lot is a good place for it.

This Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Boy Scout Pack 305 will be on hand to serve the elderly.

"They will be there to help the elderly load packages into their cars," said Boy Scout leader Gary Tidwell.

While there is no specific badge for helping the elderly load up their recently procured Walmart items into their cars,

the holiday service project will help towards the Scouts advancement. "It's part of their citizenship," Tidwell explained.

It will also help relieve a little of the stress of holiday shopping for the older set.

The unique idea stems from an iconic image, as Tidwell explained how his wife came up with the idea for the project.

"It comes from the idea of a Boy Scout helping a little old lady cross the street," he said.

To that end, the pack leader wants the public to know that the Scouts will be available for those two hours to assist any senior who would like a little helping hand.

To contact Andreia Medlin call the Herald at 263-7331.

To reach us:
Please call 263-7331.
Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7331 before 6 p.m. weekdays.



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16 shopping**



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Obituaries

Carolyn Simpson Rebber



Funeral services for Carolyn Simpson Rebber of Lamesa will be held Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014, at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Lamesa with Pastor Alan Korinek officiating. Interment will follow in O'Donnell Cemetery under the direction of Branon Funeral Home. Carolyn, age 69, went to be with her heavenly father Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014, in Lamesa.

She was born Dec. 28, 1944, in O'Donnell to Mack and Eugie Simpson. She graduated from O'Donnell High School in 1963 and then received her Vocational Nursing diploma in Brownfield in 1964. She moved to Lamesa and married Paul Rebber on Jan. 28, 1966.

Carolyn received her associate's degree, bachelor

of science degree and master of science degrees in nursing during the course of her life.

Carolyn "Nana," a member of Grace Lutheran Church for 48 years, is survived by children, Eddy Rebber and wife, Cynthia of Odessa, Sherry Rebber of Lamesa, Sandra Thompson of Big Lake, and David Rebber of Lamesa; sisters, Maurice Chamberlain and husband, Homer of Fort Worth, and Mary Husted of Carmel, Ind.; brother, Ralph Simpson and wife, Virginia of Minnesota; grandchildren, Misty Bohon, Kyle Welcher, Wendy Ramirez, Brandon Rebber, Kali Ybarra, Justin Rebber, and Chelsea Rebber; and seven great-grandchildren.

Carolyn is preceded in death by her husband; her parents; three sisters; and one brother.

The family suggests memorials to Grace Lutheran Church, 1002 N. 11th St., Lamesa, Texas, 79331. To send condolences online, please visit www.branonfuneralhome.com

Paid obituary

Billy Ray Wells

Billy Ray Wells, 40, of Midland, Texas died on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas.

Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday at Belvue Church of Christ, located at 611 Carroll St., Stanton, Texas 79782. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery, Stanton, Texas.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, at the Gilbreath Funeral Home, 209 North St. Charles, Stanton, Tex-

as.

Billy was born Jan. 11, 1974 in Andrews, Texas. He grew up in Odessa and was a construction contractor his whole life. He loved long walks and having fun.

He is survived by his father, Johnny W. Wells and wife Jan, of Stanton; mother, Donna Stroope, of Midland; two sisters, Trisha Wells of Odessa and Kasey Peters of Spring Branch; numerous nieces and nephews and many friends in South Carolina.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.npwelch.com

Police/Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- RANDY WAYNE JOHNSON, 50, of 4400 Callahan Road, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- LINDA SALGADO, 41, of 607 Caylor, was arrested on a warrants from another agency.
- BILLY LEE JOHNSON III, 19, 2406 Old Highway 80, was arrested on a charge of theft, more than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500 — shoplifting.
- DENNIS MICHAEL RICHARDSON III, 30, of 1604 S. Benton St., was arrested on charges of possession of a control substance, less than 1 gram (two counts).
- JESSE JARON PERRY, 22, of 700 E. 16th St., was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and on two warrants.
- MATTHEW LEON BURNETT, 20, of 810 Baylor Boulevard, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.
- JESUS FLORES, 36, of 3708 Caroline St., was arrested on warrants for driving while license invalid, failure to appear and no driver's license-when unlicensed.
- MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN, 28, 7405 N CR 19 was arrested on a charge of theft of a firearm.
- DANIELLE JORDAN SALINAS, 28, of 3724 Franklin Ave., Midland, was arrested on a warrant for driving while intoxicated.
- DISTURBANCE was reported in the 600 block of Avondale Drive.

- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 3100 block of W. Highway 80 and in the 2400 block of S. Gregg St.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1200 block of Lamar Avenue.
- UNWANTED SUBJECT was reported in the 1200 block of W. Sixth St.
- ASSAULT was reported in the area of Presidio and West Second streets and in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- THEFT was reported in the 1900 block of E. 25th St. and the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- FORGERY was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1300 block of Barnes Avenue.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this report.

- DANIELLE JORDAN SALINAS, 28, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for begin sentence-driving while intoxicated.
- LINDA SALGADO, 41, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for driving while license invalid, failure to drive in a single lane, and possession of a dangerous drug.
- BILLY LEE JOHNSON, 19, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property, more than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500 — shoplifting.
- DENNIS MICHAEL RICH-

ARDSON, 30, was booked by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram (two counts).

- JESSE JARON PERRY, 22, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for burglary of a vehicle (two counts); criminal mischief, more than or equal to \$500 but less than \$1,500; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- MATTHEW LEON BURNETT, 20, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.

- JESUS FLORES, 36, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for driving while license invalid; failure to appear; and no driver's license.

- MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN, 28, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of firearm.

- MANUEL ROMERO LOZANO III, 42, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- ANDREW AGUILAR, 45, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- TONYA RENA COGBURN, 44, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.

- DANIEL CEDILLO TREVIÑO, 22, was booked by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance, more than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams; possession of a controlled substance, less than 28 grams and possession of a controlled substance, less than or equal to 2 ounces.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

- "A Journey to a New Normal," a grief support network, meets from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 602 S. Main. For information, call 263-5999.

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

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

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. 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. Flexible payment options.

- 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).

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

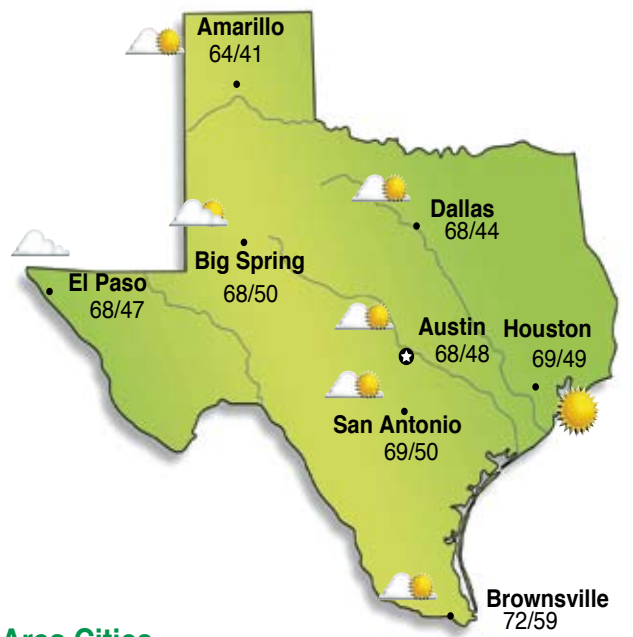
- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaz Open meeting at 7 p.m.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 12/10	Thu 12/11	Fri 12/12	Sat 12/13	Sun 12/14
68/50 Partly cloudy skies in the morning will give way to cloudy skies during the.	63/52 Cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 50s.	67/52 Cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 50s.	73/53 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.	73/53 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	69	49	pt sunny	Kingsville	71	56	mst sunny
Amarillo	64	41	pt sunny	Livingston	67	44	sunny
Austin	68	48	pt sunny	Longview	67	40	sunny
Beaumont	67	42	sunny	Lubbock	64	45	pt sunny
Brownsville	72	59	pt sunny	Lufkin	69	43	sunny
Brownwood	69	46	pt sunny	Midland	67	47	cloudy
Corpus Christi	69	56	mst sunny	Raymondville	73	58	pt sunny
Corsicana	67	42	mst sunny	Rosenberg	68	46	sunny
Dallas	68	44	pt sunny	San Antonio	69	50	pt sunny
Del Rio	68	55	cloudy	San Marcos	69	49	pt sunny
El Paso	68	47	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	68	40	sunny
Fort Stockton	64	48	cloudy	Sweetwater	68	49	pt sunny
Gainesville	64	40	mst sunny	Tyler	68	43	sunny
Greenville	68	40	sunny	Weatherford	66	44	pt sunny
Houston	69	49	sunny	Wichita Falls	63	40	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	50	31	mst sunny	Minneapolis	28	19	pt sunny
Boston	50	44	rain	New York	42	38	rain
Chicago	37	28	cloudy	Phoenix	78	55	pt sunny
Dallas	68	44	pt sunny	San Francisco	64	54	cloudy
Denver	59	33	mst sunny	Seattle	57	52	rain
Houston	69	49	sunny	St. Louis	38	29	mst sunny
Los Angeles	74	56	sunny	Washington, DC	44	39	rain
Miami	74	52	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 12/10	Thu 12/11	Fri 12/12	Sat 12/13	Sun 12/14
3	2	1	3	3
Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 indicates no protection needed, 1-2 indicates minimal protection, 3-5 indicates moderate protection, 6-7 indicates maximum protection, 8-10 indicates extreme protection, 11 indicates very extreme protection.

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More photos from Forsan Parade

Herald photos by Lyndel Moody



Contact
the Herald
at 263-7331

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Ruben Gonzales, Sr., 31, died Thursday. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Stevan Valencia, Jr. 34, died Thursday. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Norman Rockwell Calendars are in!

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BSHS

Continued from Page 1

and miser, through the night on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is visited by three supernatural beings — the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present and the ghost of Christmas yet to come to teach him the true meaning of Christmas.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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



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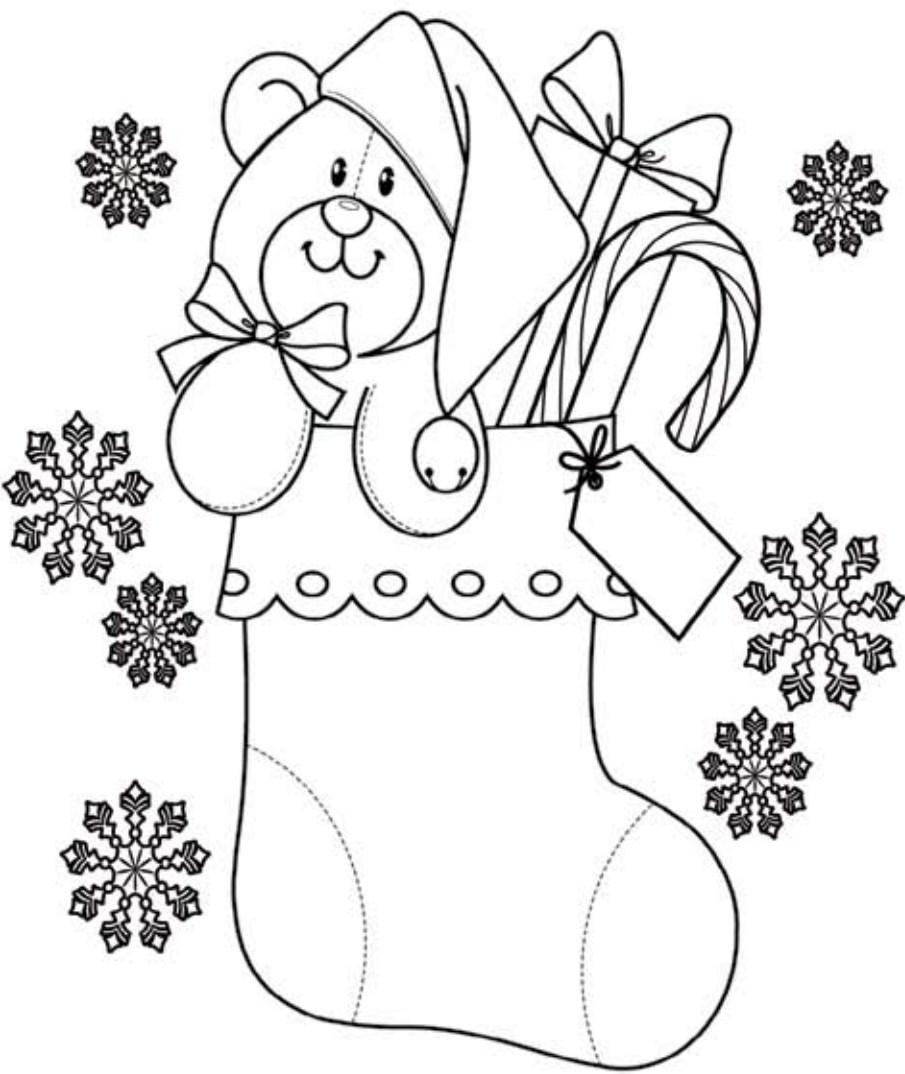
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DEC 8
HISTORY

- 1854: POPE PIUS IX PROCLAIMS THE DOGMA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY.
- 1941: THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR II.
- 1980: JOHN LENNON IS MURDERED BY MARK DAVID CHAPMAN IN NEW YORK CITY.

BOOK FACT:


TRUE OR FALSE?
MUCH OF THE IMAGERY SURROUNDING JESUS' BIRTH, SUCH AS MANGERS, DONKEYS AND INNKEEPERS, IS NEVER MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE.

ANSWER: TRUE

New Word

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How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Holiday
SPANISH: Fiesta
ITALIAN: Festa
FRENCH: Vacances
GERMAN: Feiertag

Did You Know?

CHRISTMAS TREES DATE BACK TO CELEBRATIONS OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE. THE TREES MADE THEM THINK OF THE SPRING TO COME.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

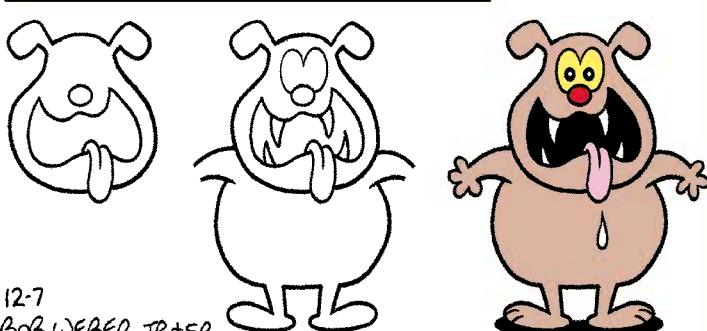
ANSWER: GINGERBREAD HOUSE

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS **BY BOB WEBER JR.**

One of these suspects robbed Sir Hound's safe after guessing that the combination is Sir Hound's birthdate, June fifth, 1946. Both insist they are innocent. Patrick Opossum says he is on his way home from a party, and Harry Ape claims he just left home to buy a lottery ticket with his lucky numbers. Who does Slylock Fox suspect is the thief?



Solution -- -- Harry's "lottery numbers" are the digits of Sir Hound's birthdate.

HOW TO DRAW a hungry dog


12-7
BOB WEBER JR+SR

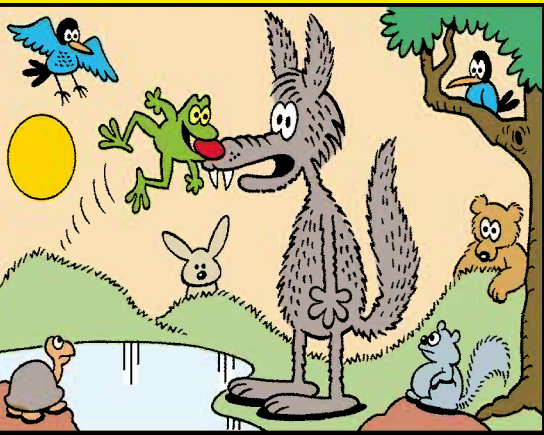
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Each month a person's hair grows about ...

- a) One-quarter inch
- b) One-third inch
- c) One-half inch
- d) One inch

Answer -- c)

Spot six differences between these panels.

www.facebook.com/SlylockFox

Answer -- Bear, rabbit, star, water, branch and fangs.



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COLORING CONTEST RULES

1. Contest open to children ages 2-12
2. Limit one contest submission per person
3. Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
5. All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 15, 2014.
6. Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 21, 2014 edition.
7. Decision of judges is final.
8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Age: _____

Phone#: _____

Alt. Ph#: _____

A bossy Northern mockingbird takes flight

A week into December, she was still sweeping and raking leaves. Blown by the wind and leaf-blowers, they had journeyed from her own and the neighbors' trees. Now turned shades of brown, red, and yellow, summer's brittle remains were deposited everywhere.

For insulation, she scattered buckets of leaves throughout and around tender plants in her front flowerbeds. No bare spot escaped what she considered nature's mulch.

The weather channel's forecast had prompted her frantic effort to have in place as many leaves as possible. Arctic fronts were to be taken seriously.

Soon she was carrying and strewing leaves in the adjoining lot. The carpet she laid would ensure healthy spring wildflowers.

Then she hurried toward the narrow walkway on the north side of her home. Leading to the gate that provided the entrance to the backyard, the area acted as a wind tunnel. It seemed to beckon every unwanted leaf in the neighborhood.

Once these haphazard piles had been gathered, she would take a break. Her thoughts of tea and honey, or a cup of hot chocolate, were interrupted by a movement near the open gate.

Pacing back and forth along the side of the house was a bird. Expecting it to fly, she was startled by its inability to elevate more than a foot from the concrete.



Courtesy photo

Preferring elevated locations, the Northern mockingbird is often seen on the top of houses, telephone poles, chimneys and trees. The "mock" was declared the state bird of Texas some 87 years ago.

With white wing bars and patches on its gray wings, she easily recognized the Northern mockingbird. With only a rake and a bucket, she was trying to figure out what to do when the bird hopped through the entry and into the backyard. Closing the gate behind her, she knew it was confined until she could get help in catching it.

When she called, she told me a family member had helped her corral the bird. Grateful for a six-foot fence, the woman said they had guided the bird toward a corner. Exhausted, the mockingbird had finally given up after being covered by a pet's blanket.

Suspecting a hairline fracture or bruising of the wing, we took the

mockingbird to Midge Erskine in Midland. As she examined the bird, we could see how its striking brownish-gray mantle contrasted with its whitish belly and chest. Its long tail had white feathers on either side, and a line at the front of its eyes lent to its distinction.

At Eos Wildlife Sanctuary, no breaks were found. Thinking it might have flown into a window and bruised one or both wings, Midge placed the mock in a large enclosure. Once it could master the highest perch and was flying from end to end, the bird would need the space of an aviary where it could exercise even more.

When released at this time of the year, the mockingbird would take advantage of yaupon and juniper berries.

As our West Texas winter weather would fluctuate from cold to warmly mild, the bird would use its hunting

abilities to find bugs under leaves. Earthworms and ants were yet another staple.

During spring and summer, this tentative guest with an insatiable appetite would be looking for grasshoppers, moths, butterflies and spiders. When the fruit of the prickly pear cactus ripened, it would peck holes in the tough skin to reach the juicy pulp hidden inside. Any resident with grape vines or fig trees might expect a visit from this opportunist.

With Midge's call two weeks later came news of the mockingbird's release. Bossy to extremes, the bird would attempt to dominate any neighborhood it adopted. Offsetting its attitude would be its melodious and varied songs.

Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop from Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

So what? Look for another opportunity

Recently I heard someone mention the window of opportunity. I got to thinking about that window, and began to wonder why some folks say that opportunity only strikes once. Yes, opportunity is sometimes by chance, but

opportunity is available to those who prepare for it.

It has been said that the most important characteristics of a successful person is to be prepared for the opportunities of life when they come along. This means developing self-discipline, honesty,

the ability to get along with people, and working harder and smarter than most other people.

In the process, you need to know what you want, believe in the possibility of success, then go for it with patient persistence; develop good people skills; choose supportive rela-

tionships and partners; and be willing to do the things that others aren't willing to do. By doing these things, which are totally within everyone's power, we can greatly improve our odds of being prepared when the window of opportunity is opened.

How many times have we heard someone say, "It's no use," "My luck failed" or "No sense in trying." These statements are incredibly disempowering. We all know people who gave up after failing.

A pessimist sees failures, problems and difficulties. An optimist learns from mistakes, and sees opportunity and new possibilities everywhere, and says "Whatever happens, I'm going to make the most of it. I can turn any lemon into lemonade."

Opportunity surrounds us all the time.



DARRELL RYAN

PARENT'S CORNER

It's as prevalent as the air we breathe. All we have to do is open our eyes and look around, and be ready. Opportunity is like a wonderful buffet from which we can pick and choose. If we fail to pick or choose, then we lose. For example, back in the 1920s, a young man from Kansas City borrowed \$15,000 (a lot of money back then and a lot to some of us today) and started his own business. He failed, and went bankrupt, but he didn't quit. With only the clothes he was wearing, he headed for California to look for another opportunity. His name was Walt Disney, and you know the rest of the story.

Just remember, something can go wrong with any plan. How successful we are at handling these obstacles depends on how fast we can "get over it" and "get on with it." When faced with a breakdown of plans, don't get angry, frustrated, disgusted and fearful.

Don't make judgments and evaluations; don't offer explanations and look for someone or something to blame for the problem. None of these emotional outbursts produces positive results. They only put us in a deeper hole.

So, as quickly as possible, get back in stride. If necessary, ask for directions and help; look to see what's wrong, and get moving forward again in the right direction. As quickly as possible, we must rise above our emotions, recommit to our plan and get back into action. We must focus our energy and attention on where we want to go and how we're going to get there. We must remember that commitment and focus keeps us on track.

So what are we waiting for? Let's look for another opportunity and be ready to take it!

Darrell Ryan is director of school safety for the Big Spring Independent School District.

Letters to Santa!

Deadline For Letters is
Friday,
December 12, 2014

Letters will be published in
the Letters to Santa Special on
Sunday,
December 21, 2014

432-263-7331

composing@bigspringherald.com

Widow places diamond ring in Salvation Army kettle

BOSTON (AP) — The Salvation Army found an unusual surprise inside one of its red donation kettles: a diamond engagement ring given by a widow in honor of her late husband.

The charity said Monday the anonymous benefactor placed the diamond ring — valued at \$1,850 — and her wedding band in one of the kettles placed outside Boston's North Station last week.

It says the rings were accompanied by a note in which the woman said she hoped they would be sold and the money used to buy toys for needy children. She

said her husband always had a giving spirit — especially at Christmas.

"To honor his memory, I donate this ring. I'm hoping there's someone out there who made lots of money this year and will buy the ring for 10 times its worth. After all, there's no price on love or the sentimental value of this ring. But money will help the kids. May everyone have a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!" her note read.

Salvation Army Major David Davis said Monday the "incredible" donation warmed the hearts of bell-ringers

and other volunteers.

"We're so moved and incredibly grateful to the generous individual who made such a loving and kind donation," Davis said. "This heartwarming gift boosts all of our staff, bell-ringers and volunteers."

The Salvation Army says the red kettles date to 1891, when Salvation Army Capt. Joseph McFee wanted to help feed the needy in San Francisco. The containers were modeled after those McFee saw at ferry landings in Liverpool, England, where people would sit with small kettles and collect spare change from travelers.

Five things to know about signing up for your medical care

By BOB MOOS

If you don't have health insurance through your job or a government program like Medicare or Medicaid, you'll want to read on. You have until Feb. 15 to shop for health care coverage for 2015 through the federal health insurance marketplace or your state's exchange.

The marketplace's open enrollment period got off to a strong start in mid-November, with tens of thousands of people now signing up every day. Here are five things to know about it:

This is comprehensive health insurance, with benefits similar to what many employers offer their workers.

Insurance protects you from unexpected medical expenses. With it, you'll have peace of mind. Without it, you'd bear the full brunt of any bills. Fixing a broken leg can cost you up to \$7,500. A three-day stay in the hospital runs, on average, \$30,000.

The health plans sold through the marketplace cover a broad range of medical services, including emergency care, hospital stays, doctor visits and prescription drugs.

Insurers can't deny you coverage, or charge you higher premiums, because you have a pre-existing medical condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure. The price you pay for insurance is based only on where you live, how old you are and whether you smoke.

Even if you signed up during the marketplace's first enrollment period a year ago, you'll want to update your personal information and shop around again to make sure you get the best deal.

It's true that you'll be automatically re-enrolled in your current health plan if you do nothing. But you could end up cheating yourself. The plan that was your best choice for 2014 may not be for 2015. It may be changing its benefits, its cost sharing or its network of hospitals and doctors.

You also may have more choices. Nationally, there are 25 percent more health plans than last year. The increased competition among insurers is reining in prices in many cases. If you don't compare all your options for 2015, you could miss out on a plan that would save you money.

It's also important to review your application from last year and update any personal information that's changed. If

you've had a drop in income, for example, that could boost any financial help you're receiving for your premiums or out-of-pocket costs.

Look beyond the monthly premiums in comparing health plans.

Some plans have lower premiums but charge you more out-of-pocket when you require care. Other plans charge higher premiums but cover more of your medical expenses. You'll need to decide how you want to balance your premium costs with your out-of-pocket costs.

The easiest way to compare health plans available in your area, along with their estimated cost, is to use healthcare.gov's new "window-shopping" feature. Even before completing an application, you can browse plans by entering your ZIP code, household income and family size.

Check whether you qualify for financial assistance.

About 85 percent of the people who enrolled in a marketplace plan a year ago received tax credits that made their premiums more affordable. Nearly seven in 10 consumers who qualified for help paid \$100 or less per month for their coverage. Almost half got covered for \$50 or less per month.

If you're new to the marketplace this year, you can find out whether you're eligible for a tax credit by visiting healthcare.gov and creating an application with your most up-to-date income information. This year's application has been shortened and simplified for most people.

Ask for help in enrolling if you need it.

The healthcare.gov website is running much more smoothly this year. But if you're not computer-savvy, don't fret. Call the marketplace assistance center at 1-800-318-2596 and speak with a trained counselor. Local organizations are also available to help. For a list of groups in your community that can provide in-person assistance, visit localhelp.healthcare.gov/

The deadline for enrolling in a health plan is Feb. 15. Coverage begins on Jan. 1 for those who sign up by Dec. 15. Don't delay. Once this open enrollment period is over, your next chance to buy insurance and apply for help may not come for another year.

Bob Moos is Southwest public affairs officer for the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Navy returns Orion after test flight

SAN DIEGO (AP) — NASA's new Orion spacecraft returned to dry land in Southern California after a test flight that ended with a plunge into the Pacific Ocean.

A Navy ship, the USS Anchorage, delivered the capsule to Naval Base San Diego and unloaded the 11-foot-tall cone late Monday. Orion made an un-

manned flight Friday that carried it 3,600 miles above Earth to test the spacecraft's systems before it carries astronauts on deep space missions. During re-entry into the atmosphere, the spacecraft endured speeds of 20,000 mph.

It parachuted into the ocean about 600 miles southwest of San Diego, where the ship picked it up.

News in brief

White House: US embassies preparing for security risks from release of torture report Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — American embassies, military units and other U.S. interests are preparing for possible security threats related to the release of a report on the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques at secret overseas facilities after the 9/11 terror attacks.

The report from the Senate Intelligence Committee will be the first public accounting of the CIA's use of what critics call torture on al-Qaida detainees held at "black" sites in Europe and Asia. The committee on Tuesday was expected to release a 480-page executive summary of the 6,000-plus-page report compiled by Democrats on the panel.

"There are some indications that the release of the report could lead to a greater risk that is posed to U.S. facilities and individuals all around the world," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday. "The administration has taken the prudent steps to ensure that the proper security precautions are in place at U.S. facilities around the globe."

Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said "there is certainly the possibility that the release of this report could cause unrest" and therefore combatant commands have been directed to take protective measures.

U.S. officials who have read the report say it includes disturbing new details about the CIA's use of such techniques as sleep deprivation, confinement in small spaces, humiliation and the simulated drowning process known as waterboarding. It alleges that the harsh interrogations failed to produce unique and life-saving intelligence — a conclusion disputed by current and former intelligence officials, including CIA Director John Brennan.

Defense Secretary Hagel in Baghdad to meet with Iraqi officials, US commanders

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel arrived in Baghdad Tuesday to consult with Iraqi government officials and confer with U.S. commanders about the campaign to defeat Islamic State fighters.

In remarks to a group of U.S. and Australian soldiers, Hagel said the U.S. wants to help Iraq regain the territory it lost to Islamic State militants earlier this year, but said the only lasting solution must come from the Iraqis themselves.

"In the end, that's where this all goes," he said in remarks on an outdoor stage shielded by portable concrete walls at Baghdad International Airport.

"Just as in Afghanistan, it is their country," Hagel said. "They have to lead. They are the ones that are going to have to be responsible for end results."

Hagel said the Baghdad government must bring the country together after disastrous years of sectarian division that undermined much of what the U.S. did to train Iraqi security forces.

Before yielding gavel, GOP's Issa readies a final shot at 'Obamacare,' and 'stupidity' remark

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the Obama administration's harshest congressional critics will get a final high-profile shot when the House Oversight Committee grills witnesses about the president's health care overhaul and a former adviser's remark about voters' "stupidity."

For four years, Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., has used the committee chairmanship to probe and attack the administration on issues such as the IRS scandal, misplaced guns and U.S. deaths in Benghazi, Libya. Talk radio conservatives love him. But even some GOP colleagues say he overdoes the combative partisanship at times.

Issa, who surrenders the chairmanship next

year due to term limits, will lead the questioning of former health adviser Jonathan Gruber. Gruber, an MIT economist, recently apologized for saying Americans' "stupidity" was vital to passing the health law in 2010.

The committee also will question a top administration official who wants to be queried separately from Gruber.

The hearing comes as prominent Democrats debate the wisdom of devoting much of 2009 — Barack Obama's first year as president — to the bruising battle for the health care legislation, which finally passed without a single Republican vote. Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York is among those Democrats now criticizing the timing. Top liberals are defending Obama, creating new divisions among Democrats right after major losses in this year's elections.

Bay Area demonstrators block highway, stop train in third night of protests

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of people marched through Berkeley for a third night a row, blocking a major highway and stopping a train as activists in this ultra-liberal bastion protest grand jury decisions not to indict white police officers in the deaths of two unarmed black men.

Protesters blocked traffic on both sides of Interstate 80 in Berkeley, while another group stood on and sat on train tracks, forcing an Amtrak train to stop Monday night.

A large group of people began peacefully marching earlier Monday through downtown Berkeley. The first stop for demonstrators shouting, "Who do you protect? Peaceful protest" was the Berkeley Police Department. A line of officers in riot gear blocked them from getting close to the building. The group then headed to a Bay Area Rapid Transit train station and sat outside, prompting authorities to briefly shut down the station.

But as the night went on, the protesters divided into smaller groups that disrupted traffic and train passengers.

The California Highway Patrol said in a tweet that some in the crowd tore down fencing to enter the freeway.

Mother, 2 young sons among 6 killed when plane crashes into Maryland home, explodes

GAITHERSBURG, Md. (AP) — Residents of a suburban community adjacent to a small, regional airport said they don't give much thought to the jets that fly over their homes daily.

But the sound they heard Monday — a plane flying much too low and struggling to remain aloft — was different. It was followed by a horrifying scene on the ground.

A mother and her two young sons, one of them just a month old, were killed Monday morning when a private jet crashed into their two-story wood-frame home, which was engulfed in a fireball immediately, authorities and witnesses said. All three people on board the plane also died.

Marie Gemmell, 36, tried to protect 3-year-old Cole and 1-month-old Devon from the smoke and fire, but there was nothing she could do, Montgomery County police spokesman Capt. Paul Starks said. Her body was found in a second-floor bathroom, lying on top of her sons.

The jet's fuselage crashed into the front lawn of an adjacent home, which was heavily damaged by fire, and investigators believe one of its wings, which had fuel inside, sheared off and tore through the front of the Gemmell home, said Robert Sumwalt, a National Transportation Safety Board member.

Sudoku Answer on Page 3

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Detection Through Deduction

East dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 10 9 7 2

♥ J 6

♦ A 10

♣ A K 8 3

WEST

♠ K 8 4

♥ Q 8 3

♦ Q J 5 2

♣ 5 4

EAST

♠ J 6 3

♥ 10 9 5 4 2

♦ K 8 7 4

♣ 6

SOUTH

♠ Q 5

♥ A K 7

♦ 6 3

♣ Q J 10 9 7 2

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	6 ♣

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

A declarer usually assumes that the defenders are doing their best to try to defeat him. He therefore bases many of his plays on the method of defense chosen by his opponents, and this reliance on their plays often assists him greatly when he is faced with a difficult situation.

Consider this deal where West leads the queen of diamonds against six clubs. Superficially, it seems South must go down one, since he has a spade loser and a diamond

loser. However, South can make the slam if he plays correctly.

He takes the diamond with the ace, draws trumps, cashes the A-K of hearts and ruffs a heart. The ten of diamonds is then led, presenting East with the option of winning the trick with the king or letting his partner win with the jack. But whichever option East exercises, declarer makes the slam.

First, let's say East lets his partner win the diamond with the jack. In that case, West must yield a ruff-and-discard or return a spade that allows South's queen to score the slam-going trick.

Now let's say East wins the diamond with the king. He must then also yield a ruff-and-discard or return a spade. Obviously, East's best choice is a low spade return because that gives declarer a chance to go wrong in deciding whether to play the five or the queen.

But South should have no trouble deciding which of the two cards to play. He should reason that if East had the king of spades, he would have allowed West to win the diamond trick. East's willingness to take the lead strongly suggests that he does not have the king, so South should play the five. If he does, he traps West's king and makes the slam.

Tomorrow: Experts are human too.

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Heisman finalists: Mariota, Cooper and Gordon

NEW YORK (AP) — The Heisman Trophy finalists would make one heck of an offense.

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota, Alabama receiver Amari Cooper and record-breaking Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon are set to make the trip to New York for the Heisman presentation after the finalists were announced on Monday.

Mariota is considered the clear front-runner to win the 80th Heisman on Saturday night in New York. He would become the first Oregon player to earn college football's most famous player of the year trophy.

"It is humbling to be consid-

ered for an award that I have admired for a very long time," Mariota said in a statement. "I would like to thank my teammates and coaches as I could not have been recognized as a finalist without their help."

Mariota and the second-seeded Ducks will face Florida State and last year's Heisman winner Jameis Winston at the Rose Bowl in the College Football Playoff semifinals on Jan. 1.

Cooper helped Alabama earn the top seed in the playoff. The Crimson Tide plays Ohio State at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

Winston becomes the seventh player since 2003 to take

a shot at a Heisman repeat and come up short. Ohio State's Archie Griffin is the only player to win two Heismans.

Finalists are determined by percentage of votes received from 929 media members and former winners.

Mariota didn't even break the top 10 in the Heisman voting last season, but entered 2014 as one of the preseason favorites.

He delivered a spectacular season in his third year as the Ducks' starter. He is the nation's top-rated passer (186.3) and has thrown for 3,783 yards and 38 touchdowns with just two interceptions. He also has run for 669 yards and 14 touch-

downs for the Pac-12 champions.

He is Oregon's third finalist, joining quarterback Joey Harrington (2001) and running back LaMichael James (2010).

Gordon leads the nation with 2,336 yards rushing and 179.7 yards per game. Gordon broke the single-game FBS rushing record with 408 yards against Nebraska, a record that only stood for a week. He needs another huge game in the Outback Bowl against Auburn to break Barry Sanders' single-season record of 2,628, set in his Heisman winning season of 1988 with Oklahoma State.

He is the fourth Wisconsin running back to be a final-

ist. The Badgers have had two Heisman winners: Alan Ameche (1954) and Ron Dayne (1999).

Cooper set a Southeastern Conference record with 115 catches for 1,656 yards and 14 touchdowns for the top-ranked Crimson Tide.

Cooper is the fourth Alabama finalist since Mark Ingram became the Tide's first winner in 2009.

"This will be my first trip to New York City, and I can't put into words how much it means to me and my family," Cooper said in a statement. "I am privileged to have the opportunity to represent our team at the Heisman ceremony."

Banister looking forward to a healthy lineup

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Texas Rangers manager Jeff Banister is spending plenty of time getting to know his new players, and he's especially interested in how several stars are recovering from injuries.

He's got good reason, too: A successful first season as a big league manager depends heavily on the health of Prince Fielder, Shin-Soo Choo and Yu Darvish.

"Healthy and ready to play, I mean, that's a pretty good core group of players," Banister said Monday at the winter meetings.

The Rangers were plagued by injuries while going 67-95 last season, when key offseason acquisitions Fielder and Choo missed considerable time along with Darvish and several other pitchers.

Banister has already watched Choo and Darvish work out. The manager said Darvish is exercising but has not yet begun a throwing program. Banister will leave the timetable for his ace to throw off a mound to pitching coach Mike Maddux.

Choo, who had operations late in the season for a bone spur in his left elbow and torn cartilage in his left ankle,

looks terrific, according to Banister. He said Choo hopes to return to his form with the Cincinnati Reds in 2013, when he had a .423 on-base percentage.

"One of my wishes for him is to go back to being that type of player, that aggressive player on the basepaths," Banister said. "A guy that can draw a walk, but also hit the ball in the gap and be an on-base machine."

Fielder had neck surgery after playing in only 42 games in his first season with the Rangers.

As a coach with the Pirates, Banister was awed by Fielder's power. He knows the big lefty's absence from the lineup was a big reason why Texas finished near the bottom in the AL in several offensive categories.

So far Banister has only exchanged texts with Fielder, but he's planning a trip to Florida to meet the first baseman.

"I mean, he's an impact player. He's a power threat. He's an RBI threat," Banister said. "He changes the dynamic of how other teams play against you, how they use your bullpen."



Tony Claxton Photos (www.claxtonphotography.com)

BSHS to face Grady

Jackie Castillo and the Big Spring High School Steers will travel to Lenorah this evening to face off with the Grady Lady Wildcats in a non-district basketball matchup. The varsity game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. start.

Nagurski Award goes to Arizona LB

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Arizona linebacker Scooby Wright won the Bronko Nagurski award on Monday night given to the nation's top college defensive player.

Wright was considered a two-star recruit coming out of high school and said the Wildcats were the only FBS school to offer him a scholarship.

The 6-foot-1, 246-pound linebacker used that slight as motivation. He took aim at the rest of the Pac-12, turning in a stellar sophomore season with 89 tackles — 27 for a loss — and 14 sacks, helping the 12th-ranked Wildcats earn a spot in the Fiesta Bowl against Boise State.

He became the first underclassman to win the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year honor.

He started 12 games as freshman for the Wildcats and had 89 tackles.



Photo courtesy Cindy Smith

Hawks enter break

Travis Charles and the Howard College Hawks enter the holiday break with a 9-3 record and an impressive 7-game win streak. The Hawks will return to play on Jan. 5 with a game against Weatherford.

Lacy, Packers hold off Falcons' second-half surge for 43-37 win

(AP) — Eddie Lacy and Aaron Rodgers powered the Green Bay Packers to another big first half in a home victory. But the Atlanta Falcons' furious late rally provided the Packers' potential playoff foes some hope.

Maybe Lambeau Field won't be that impenetrable after all in the post-season.

Lacy ran for a touchdown and caught one of Rodgers' three TD passes, and Green Bay built a 24-point halftime lead before holding on for a 43-37 victory Monday night.

The Packers (10-3) earned their fifth consecutive victory to stay a game up on Detroit in the NFC North. They remained tied with Arizona for the NFC's best record.

"There's been some ups and downs on both sides of the ball all season," Rodgers said. "But we're really getting this home-field advantage thing going, with the crowd noise, with the footing, with the way we're playing being really balanced on offense."

Rodgers acknowledged there may have been a

"slight relaxation" at halftime up 24.

What matters most in the end to Green Bay is that it held on for a victory, even though this win didn't go quite according to the script the Packers had written earlier this year against NFC foes.

The Falcons dropped to 5-8, but remained in a first-place tie with New Orleans in the woeful NFC South.

Julio Jones had a career-best 259 yards receiving for the Falcons before leaving with a hip injury.

IOC grants full recognition to Kosovo

MONACO (AP) — Athletes from Kosovo will be able to compete at the 2016 Summer Games after being granted full recognition on Tuesday by the International Olympic Committee.

The IOC formally rati-

fied a decision made in October by the executive board that clears the way for Kosovo to compete as an independent nation.

Kosovo becomes the 205th national Olympic committee recognized by the IOC.

"This is one big day, one historical day for athletes of Kosovo," Besim Hasani, head of the Kosovo Olympic Committee, told the assembly. "This is the beginning of a new era for the Olympic movement in Kosovo."

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An open hearing notifying the public of the insufficient performance, the improvements in performance expected by the TEA, and the intervention measures in place for the Big Spring Independent School District (BSISD) and three campuses in the district not meeting improvement required in the 2013-2014 school year will be held on Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room. At the public hearing, the following Targeted Improvement Plans (TIP) will be shared. If you would like to preview these plans ahead of time, they are available on the BSISD website and on the subsequent campus webpages. Paper copies may be obtained at the district office at 708 East 11th Place. 2014-15 District Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) 2014-15 Goliad Elementary TIP. 2014-15 Marcy Elementary TIP 2014-15 Washington Elementary TIP #8544 December 5, 7, 8, 9, & 10, 2014



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's not always easy to ask for help. You worry about racking up a debt, but not everyone is stingily keeping track. If you can't bring yourself to ask for help from a loved one or colleague, ask for help from the generous universe.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's like you're putting together one of those super-complicated jigsaw puzzles in which every piece seems to be a similar color. The only way is to keep flipping the pieces every which way until something fits.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's something in human nature that likes to knock down things that are arrogantly presented. That's why humility is the virtue to keep in mind today. Go into situations knowing you have nothing to prove.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The most powerful story is the one you tell yourself. Consider whether it needs a rewrite. How could you tell it to yourself differently to make a more favorable (and positive) emotional impact?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are days when you feel like everyone is a part of everyone else, and you are vitally connected to all. This is not one of them. As isolated or different as you feel from the others, the feeling is both illusory and temporary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some believe that close friends should be candid with one another, and others believe that's a job better left to enemies. You'll be inwardly negotiating just how honest you should be with a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'd rather work with a person than for a person, and that's part of the struggle of the day: figuring out how to show that you respect authority without changing who you are to please that authority.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today your need to

give is pronounced. It is much greater than your need to receive. In fact, you feel as though if you don't give something of substance and meaning, your day won't be complete.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). For the minor things, you don't have to agree with people to cooperate with them. Everyone has their methods, and cooperation is easier and more productive than haggling.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The action will move along much faster when the funding comes in, but don't wait until that happens to get going. Much can be accomplished in the meantime.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Before you set out to try to change things, think about the big picture. What changes will really matter in the long run? It's best to focus on one specific shift that's likely to make a difference.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There will be little you can do that's more satisfying than dumping out a drawer, cleaning out a file cabinet or getting into a neglected area of the closet. Organization leads to clarity; clarity leads to success.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 9). The next six weeks represent peak productivity times. You'll be interviewing in January, and in February, it's you who will have to make the choices about whom to "hire." Your help of a loved one boomerangs back in the form of an opportunity to be enjoyed by your whole family. May brings a property purchase. Aries and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 11, 38 and 45.

HOLIDAY HACKS 2014: In recent columns, we've looked at "life hacks" to make the holidays merrier for Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer and Leo (see archives). As the great organizer of the zodiac, VIRGO is among the

likeliest to embrace aspects of the holidays that others dread and may even feel a rush of happiness at the prospect of this kind of extra work and effort. Indeed, many Virgo people have received such a positive response for past efforts that the holidays seem less like a hassle and more like a thrilling challenge. Even this sign's tendency toward perfectionism may not be a cause of stress for Virgo, who gets so involved in the processes and performances of the holidays that a kind of tunnel vision often sets in, bordering on obsession. The normalities of life, like proper rest, food and exercise, sometimes fall through the cracks because Virgo is so focused on getting all of the special things done that the usual things don't seem to matter. The holiday hack for Virgo is, therefore, self-care. Checking in with the higher self several times a day to handle daily physical and emotional needs and to keep a healthy perspective on it all prevents post-holidays illness and burnout. Tying a ritual to this check-in, such as a hot cup of tea, helps to cement the habit.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sagittarius is the sign of exploration, exemplified by Simon Helberg exploring outer space as his character Howard Wolowitz of "The Big Bang Theory." Three natal Sagittarius luminaries suggest that Helberg is an independent thinker who loves to travel and learn different cultures. His moon and Mars in Capricorn indicates a highly structured approach to life and stellar business instincts.

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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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear _____ **in the Middle**

Annie: My husband, "Ricardo," is a naturally curious man. He usually asks questions in a charming manner, showing genuine interest in family and friends.

We have a teenage son. Ricardo often asks him probing questions about his girlfriend, which upsets our son. I totally get that Ricardo is interested and concerned for our son, so often I try to smooth the waves and attempt to let Ricardo know that he is being too pushy. I try to say this in a lighthearted way during the conversation in order to defuse the tension.

This infuriates Ricardo. He says I am undermining his parental authority. Annie, our son is a fine, outstanding young man. He does well in school, has great friends and participates in meaningful activities. It's not as if he is up to something just because he doesn't want to talk about his girlfriend. He just wants some privacy.

I only intervene in these conversations when I see the tension rising and my son getting frustrated or angry. Ricardo has told me that I should mind my own business and tell him in private what I think and not do it in front of our son. Is he right? It makes me feel that I'm not being supportive of our son. Should I just walk away from their conversation and keep my feelings to myself? Right now, I have an upset son and a furious husband. -- Stuck



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Stuck: You both need a new approach. Grilling a teenager about his social life will backfire every time, and Ricardo should know better. And when you intervene, even with good reason, Ricardo thinks it makes him the bad guy in front of your son. Have a private conversation with your husband and tell him that peppering the boy with questions will simply make him clam up and become resentful. It's easier to get information when you aren't trying so hard. (Perhaps he remembers his own teenage years.) The two of you should instead agree upon a silent signal when his questions get out of hand. In return, promise to share what you learn.

Dear Annie: Do you know why I'm not interested in sex with my husband? It gives me no satisfaction. My husband's idea of sex is 30 seconds of satisfying himself. He is boring, boring, boring. My husband is a controlling person, so if I initiate sex, he isn't interested. It always has to be his idea. I've read everything I could about having a good sex life and tried for years to please him. But he thinks sexual pleasure is only for him and the rest is a tool to punish me. I've told him how I feel, but he is never wrong and can't handle criticism. He refuses counseling.

Sometimes, I wonder whether he is gay.

I had an affair, and the sex was wonderful, but I broke it off. Now I'm considering divorce in the hope that I can find a man who believes that sex ought to be fun and enjoyable for both partners. Boring sex might be a reason some women lose interest. That's my two cents. -- Tired of It All

Dear Tired: Dissatisfaction can be a reason to avoid sex, but your real problem is a husband who doesn't care that you are unhappy. His disinterest in your concerns goes beyond the bedroom. Whether or not you divorce, please get counseling on your own so you can better navigate the rocks ahead.

Dear Annie: "Dumfounded Niece" was upset that she hadn't received any acknowledgment of the flowers she sent to her aunt's funeral. My mother sent flowers to the funeral of her brother in another state. When Mom asked my aunt whether the flowers looked nice, she was told they never arrived. Our local florist discovered that the flowers had never been sent from the florist in the other state. - - Arlene in North Dakota

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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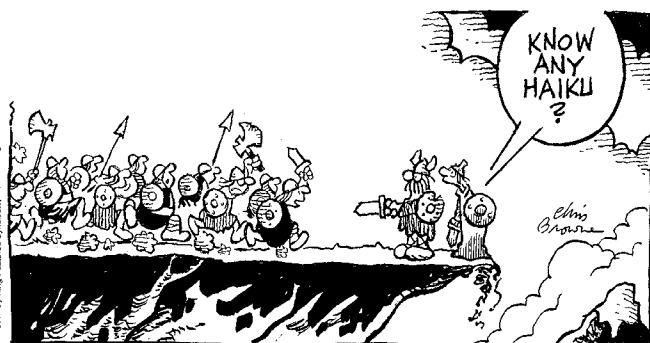


Explore
the
World

READ

BIG SPRING HERALD

HAGAR



BLONDIE



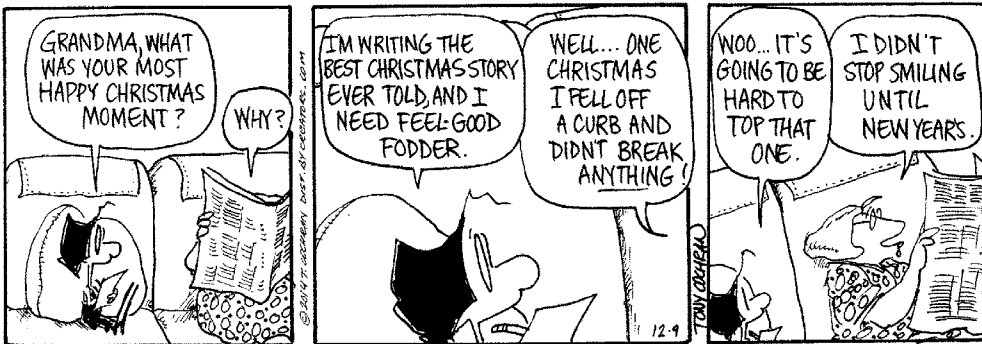
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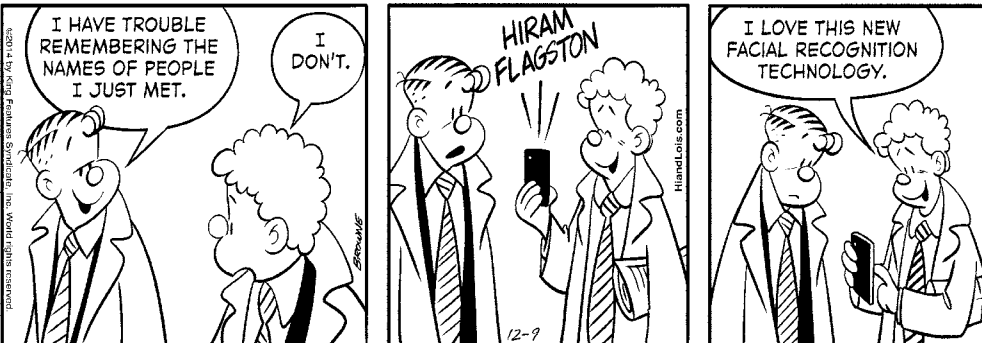
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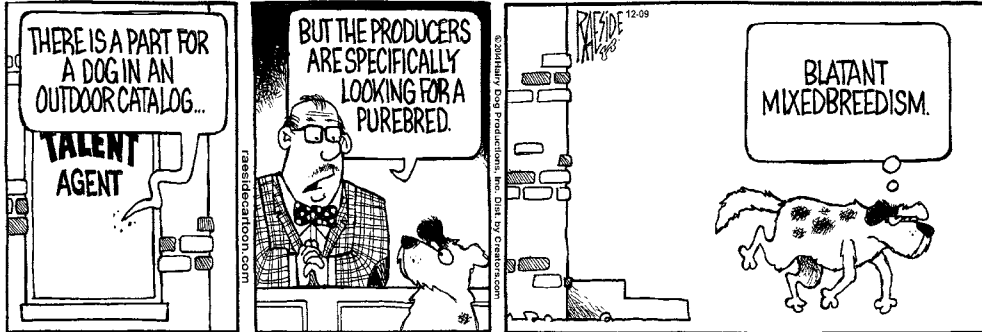
AGNES



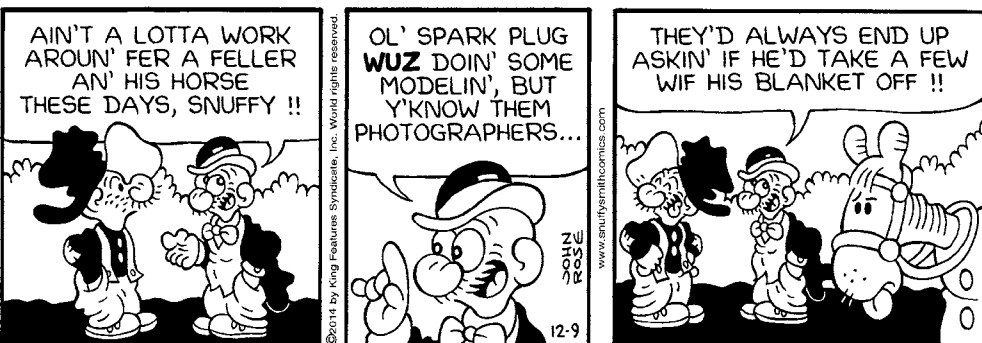
HI AND LOIS



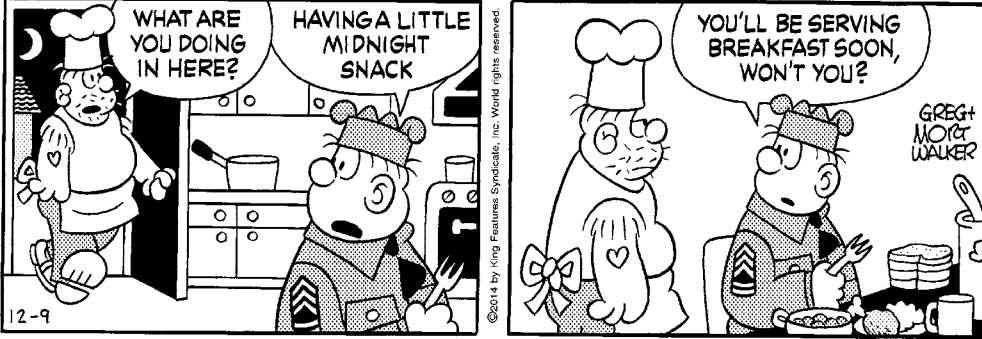
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2014. There are 22 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1854, Alfred, Lord Tennyson's famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," was published in England.

On this date:
In 1608, English poet John Milton was born in London.
In 1911, an explosion inside the Cross Mountain coal mine near Briceville, Tennessee, killed 84 workers. (Five were rescued.)
In 1940, British troops

opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1942, the Aram Khachaturian ballet "Gayane," featuring the surging "Sabre Dance," was first performed by Russia's Kirov Ballet.

In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis.

In 1962, the Petrified Forest in Arizona was designated a national park.

In 1965, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," the first animated special featuring characters from the "Peanuts" comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, was first broadcast by CBS-TV.

In 1971, Nobel Peace laureate Ralph Bunche

died in New York. In 1982, special Water-gate prosecutor Leon Jaworski died at his Wimberley, Texas, ranch at age 77. In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

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Answer to previous puzzle

B	O	S	S	O	K	A	I	F	L	O	P	S
A	B	L	E	F	I	R	E	L	E	G	A	L
L	O	A	N	A	L	A	S	E	A	R	L	y
L	E	T	I	T	G	O	B	O	y	A	P	E
		O	R	E		E	A	S				
T	I	A	R	A	P	A	S	S	E	A	R	
A	D		C	A	R	T	S	L	A	T	E	d
L	O	O	K	T	H	E	O	T	H	E	R	W
E	L	P	A	S	O		L	I	E	n	A	C
	S	T	N		Y	A	L	E		D	A	R
			G	A	S	P		A	T	T		
	F	R	A	T		P	A	Y	N	O	M	I
P	E	A	R	L		A	L	O	T		F	R
G	E	N	O	A		L	O	A	D		E	A
A	L	T	O	S		L	E	A	D		E	N

Newsday Crossword

OCEANIC by Sally R. Stein
 Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**

1 Divided Asian nation

6 Very much

10 Small falsehoods

14 Counting everything

15 "Uh-uh"

16 Run ___ (rage)

17 Bus terminal

18 Parting words

19 Women's links org.

20 Naval group based at Pearl Harbor

23 Long-distance runners

26 Signal for an actor

27 Sandwich bread

28 Exist

29 Health clubs

32 School-support grps.

34 Ultimate objective

36 Overly eager

38 Selected

41 Small-eared pachyderms

44 High-tech prefix for space

45 Have a fine meal

46 Sheep sounds

47 Helper, for short

49 Co. subdivision

51 Make a knot in

52 Baseball great Ripken

54 ___ and aah

56 Cavalry swords

58 New Jersey casino site

62 Lowly worker

DOWN

1 Joke around

2 Washington's bill

3 Hip-hop music

4 Wed on the run

5 Church platforms

6 Prefix for freeze

7 Package of bread

8 Of vision

9 Pekoe holder

10 Season starting in September

11 Pretend to be

12 Four on a par three

13 Play ice hockey

21 Congressional cable channel

22 Go get, to a dog

23 Illusionist's act

24 Literary twist

25 Figurative flop

30 Matured

31 Well-constructed

33 *Moby-Dick* captain

35 Falsehoods

37 Bit of DNA

39 Elevator alternative

40 Double-curve letters

42 Fire-starting crime

43 Coke competitor

48 Adds up to

50 Tell a secret

52 Romantic Italian isle

53 Had a home-cooked meal

55 New staffer

57 Play it ___ (improvise)

59 Colonizing insects

60 Minimal money

61 Pets that purr

65 Hoopsters' grp.

66 Oceanic distress signal

67 Before, in poetry

Scoreboard

National Football League American Conference						State Semifinals						May 60, Blum 38									
East						Allen (14-0) vs. Dallas Skyline (14-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Dallas' Ford Stadium						State Championship									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Cypress Ranch (12-2) vs. Converse						Crowell (13-0) vs. May (12-2), 3 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium									
New England	9	3	0	.750	378 253	Judson (10-4), 3 p.m. Saturday, SA's Alamodome						CLASS 1A DIVISION II									
Miami	7	6	0	.538	314 260	CLASS 6A DIVISION II						State Semifinals									
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	281 241	State Semifinals						Groom 72, Loraine 54									
N.Y. Jets	2	11	0	.154	214 349	Cedar Hill (12-2) vs. Spring						Throckmorton 76, Calvert 72									
South						Westfield (13-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Georgetown ISD Stadium						State Championship									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Katy (13-1) vs. Cibolo Steele (13-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Houston's NRG Stadium						Groom (13-1) vs. Throckmorton (13-0), noon Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium									
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	407 307	CLASS 5A DIVISION I						BASKETBALL									
Houston	7	6	0	.538	314 260	State Semifinals						National Basketball Association Eastern Conference									
Tennessee	2	11	0	.154	220 374	Aledo (13-1) vs. Tyler (12-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Mesquite's Hanby Stadium						Atlantic Division									
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	199 356	Temple (12-1) vs. Austin Vandegrift (12-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, SA's Alamodome						W						L	Pct	GB	
North						CLASS 5A DIVISION II						Toronto						16	5	.762	—
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Canutillo (13-1) vs. Ennis (12-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field						Brooklyn						8	11	.421	7
Cincinnati	8	4	1	.654	281 289	Crosby (13-1) vs. Cedar Park (11-3), 8 p.m. Friday, Austin's Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium						Boston						7	12	.368	8
Pittsburgh	8	5	0	.615	362 319	CLASS 4A DIVISION I						New York						4	18	.182	12½
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	356 255	State Semifinals						Philadelphia						2	18	.100	13½
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538	276 270	Graham (12-2) vs. Argyle (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aledo						Southeast Division									
West						Navasota (14-0) vs. Liberty Hill (12-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Waco's McLane Stadium						W						L	Pct	GB	
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	CLASS 4A DIVISION II						Atlanta						14	6	.700	—
Denver	10	3	0	.769	385 293	State Semifinals						Washington						14	6	.700	—
San Diego	8	4	0	.667	279 249	Celina (12-2) vs. Gilmer (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dallas' Ford Stadium						Miami						9	11	.450	5
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	291 241	West Orange-Stark (12-2) vs. Sinton (11-3), TBD						Orlando						9	14	.391	6½
Oakland	2	11	0	.154	200 350	CLASS 3A DIVISION I						Charlotte						5	15	.250	9
National Conference						State Semifinals						Central Division									
East						Shallowater (13-1) vs. Mineola (11-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Brownwood						W						L	Pct	GB	
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Cameron Yoe (10-4) vs. Edna (9-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Cypress' Berry Center						Cleveland						12	7	.632	—
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	389 309	CLASS 3A DIVISION II						Chicago						12	8	.600	½
Dallas	9	4	0	.692	343 301	State Semifinals						Milwaukee						11	11	.500	2½
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308	293 326	Sonora (11-2) vs. Waskom (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Glen Rose						Indiana						7	14	.333	6
Washington	3	10	0	.231	244 346	Newton (11-3) vs. Blanco (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Waller						Detroit						3	18	.143	10
South						CLASS 2A DIVISION I						Western Conference									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Canadian (13-0) vs. Mart (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Wichita Falls' Memorial Stadium						Southwest Division									
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	328 342	Centerville (10-3) vs. Mason (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Georgetown ISD Stadium						Houston						16	4	.800	—
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	333 359	CLASS 2A DIVISION II						Memphis						16	4	.800	—
Carolina	4	8	1	.346	269 341	State Semifinals						San Antonio						15	5	.750	1
Tampa Bay	2	11	0	.154	237 348	Seagraves (13-0) vs. Albany (13-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Snyder						Dallas						16	6	.727	1
North						Tenaha (11-1) vs. Bremond (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nacogdoches' Bryce Stadium						New Orleans						9	10	.474	6½
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	CLASS 1A DIVISION I						Northwest Division									
Green Bay	10	3	0	.769	423 304	Crowell 100, Turkey Valley 50						Portland						16	4	.800	—
Detroit	9	4	0	.692	265 224							Denver						9	12	.429	7½
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	263 281							Oklahoma City						7	13	.350	9
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	281 378							Utah						5	16	.238	11½
West												Minnesota						4	16	.200	12
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA							Pacific Division									
Arizona	10	3	0	.769	275 238							Golden State						18	2	.900	—
Seattle	9	4	0	.692	322 235							L.A. Clippers						15	5	.750	3
San Fran.	7	6	0	.538	244 268							Phoenix						12	10	.545	7
St. Louis	6	7	0	.462	285 285							Sacramento						11	10	.524	7½
Monday's Game												L.A. Lakers						5	16	.238	13½
Green Bay 43, Atlanta 37												Monday's Games									
Thursday, Dec. 11												Washington 133, Boston 132, 2OT									
Arizona at St. Louis, 8:25 p.m.												Atlanta 108, Indiana 92									
Sunday, Dec. 14												Toronto 112, Denver 107, OT									
Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.												Cleveland 110, Brooklyn 88									
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 1 p.m.												Golden State 102, Minnesota 86									
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.												Sacramento 101, Utah 92									
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.												L.A. Clippers 121, Phoenix 120, OT									
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.												Tuesday's Games									
Jacksonville at Baltimore, 1 p.m.												Toronto at Cleveland, 7 p.m.									
Green Bay at Buffalo, 1 p.m.												Portland at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.									
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.												New York at New Orleans, 8 p.m.									
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.												Milwaukee at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.									
Denver at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.												Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m.									
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 4:05 p.m.												Miami at Phoenix, 9 p.m.									
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.												San Antonio at Utah, 9 p.m.									
Minnesota at Detroit, 4:25 p.m.																					
Dallas at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.																					
HIGH SCHOOL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS CLASS 6A DIVISION I																					