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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 23, 2010

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 322

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50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 SUNDAY



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

David Baird, owner of The Wish List on Scurry Street, tunes one of the guitars for sale at the store Wednesday afternoon. Baird reports brisk sales this Christmas season.

Retailers: Shoppers buy locally

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Local shoppers aren't necessarily buying more this Christmas, but they appear to be shopping at home, which has Big Spring retailers happy.

An informal survey of several local businesses shows an increase in holiday sales over last year. While several businessmen declined comment, citing company policy, others said it appears that Howard County residents are shopping Big Spring first.

"Things are very good for us," said Tim Walsh, manager of the Big Spring Wal-Mart Supercenter. "It's going better than last year — much better. The biggest thing seems to be that a lot of people are staying in Big Spring to do their shopping, and I think that's where a lot of our increase comes from."

See **SHOP**, Page 3

Ambassadors bringing their bounce to Big Spring

Salvation Army seeks donations to make community event possible in February

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The world-famous Harlem Ambassadors basketball squad will be coming to the Crossroads area in February, part of a community project the Big Spring Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club is putting together for area children.

According to Sonnet Hildebrand, director of the local Boys and Girls Club, the Ambassadors are slated to perform Feb. 23, but before the first slam dunk can be driven home, her and her staff will have to raise funds for the project.

"We need monetary donations to be able to make this happen," Hildebrand said. "I'm currently working on some local sponsorships for the show, and I'm meeting with many local businesses, but it would be really nice if we could get local residents in on the project, as well.

"We're not expecting folks to step up and kick in hundreds of dollars, especially when we know most everyone is financially strained already because of the Christmas holiday. However, something as small as just pocket change could make all the difference in the world for this project. It's pretty amazing how quickly the change

See **DONATE**, Page 3



218351
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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Department of Public Safety troopers and Big Spring emergency medical personnel responded to the scene of a one-vehicle accident a mile west of town on Interstate 20 Wednesday morning. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with undisclosed injuries.

Blum's JEWELERS
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Give The Gift Of Time from Our Seiko Selections
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One vehicle wreck sends local man to emergency room



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

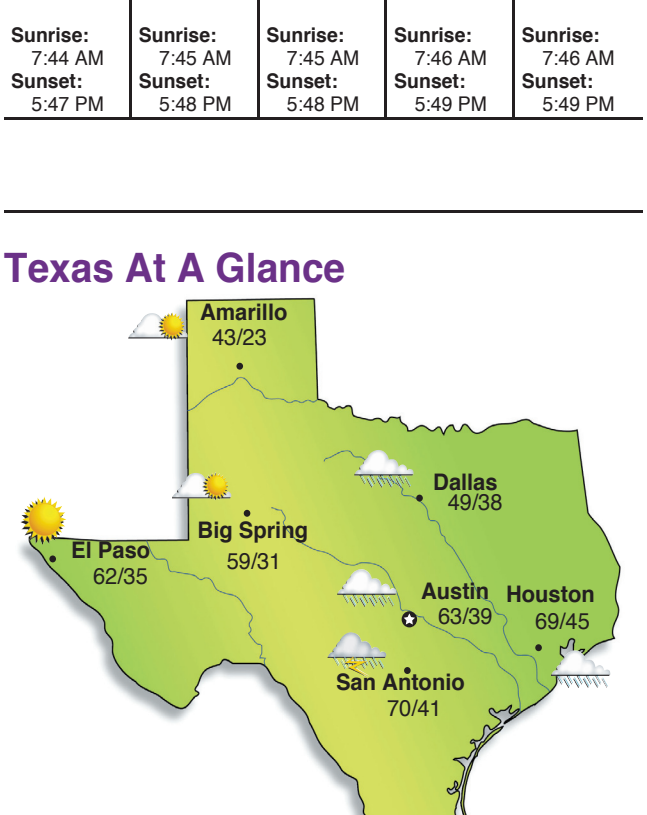
Emergency responders with the Big Spring Fire Department prepare a local man — Terry Wilcox — to be transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a one-vehicle traffic accident near the intersection of Mobile and W. Highway 80. According to witnesses, Wilcox was traveling west on Highway 80 when his vehicle left the roadway, careening into an empty lot nearby.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 12/24	Sat 12/25	Sun 12/26	Mon 12/27	Tue 12/28
59/31 Partly cloudy skies. High 59F. Winds NNW at 10 to 20 mph.	**56/26** Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 20s.	**60/31** Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.	**61/36** Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	**63/41** Cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 5:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 5:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:49 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:49 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	49	33	rain	Kingsville	80	45	t-storm
Amarillo	43	23	pt sunny	Livingston	67	41	rain
Austin	63	39	rain	Longview	54	38	rain
Beaumont	68	47	t-storm	Lubbock	53	25	sunny
Brownsville	81	54	pt sunny	Lufkin	66	41	rain
Brownwood	57	36	rain	Midland	55	33	sunny
Corpus Christi	78	45	t-storm	Raymondville	81	50	pt sunny
Corsicana	50	38	rain	Rosenberg	70	44	rain
Dallas	49	38	rain	San Antonio	70	41	t-storm
Del Rio	69	42	t-storm	San Marcos	65	40	rain
El Paso	62	35	sunny	Sulphur Springs	46	38	rain
Fort Stockton	61	33	sunny	Sweetwater	52	33	rain
Gainesville	45	31	rain	Tyler	53	37	rain
Greenville	46	34	rain	Weatherford	48	33	rain
Houston	69	45	rain	Wichita Falls	48	30	rain

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	53	33	pt sunny	Minneapolis	25	14	sn shower
Boston	34	20	mst sunny	New York	39	26	mst sunny
Chicago	31	22	sn shower	Phoenix	67	44	sunny
Dallas	49	38	rain	San Francisco	61	52	cloudy
Denver	47	27	mst sunny	Seattle	49	45	rain
Houston	69	45	rain	St. Louis	33	29	snow
Los Angeles	66	50	pt sunny	Washington, DC	39	29	mst sunny
Miami	71	53	mst sunny				

Obituaries

William 'Bill' J. Jackson

William "Bill" J. Jackson, 93, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Doris Vieregge

Doris Vieregge, 68, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Bonnie McNeese

Bonnie McNeese, 84, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010, in a Lubbock hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

• HENRY JOHN RAYMOND, 37, of 1905 Wasson Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• MARK TIMOTHY STANLEY, 49, of 1800 S. Lancaster, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal trespass.

• RAYMOND JOSEPH BONNER, 29, of San Angelo, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid – DWI related.

• LETISHA KAY MENDEZ, 29, of 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 25, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid – no insurance.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 2300 block of Morrison.

• HARASSMENT was reported:
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
In the 300 block of Tulane.

Take Note

• Big Spring's own Charley Johnson will be inducted as a member of the 2010 Class into the Texas Sports Hall Of Fame on Feb. 7, 2011, in Waco. If you can't attend but would like to list your name in an official program ad that congratulates Charley for this momentous achievement, contact Ken Johnson at 940-325-4366 for details or e-mail at kenrocknj@suddenlink.net. If you want to attend the ceremonies, contact Ken about discount tickets.

• Three-time Grammy Award winner and Tex-Mex artist Little Joe & La Familia, with special guest Robert Pulido, will be at the Howard County Fair Barn for a Christmas Eve dance. Tickets are $20 and table reservations are $15. For more information, call John Ontiveros at 432-816-5231 or Gracie Acosta at 432-599-2891.

• The Big Spring Christmas Bird Count, organized by Midland Naturalists Inc. of Midland, is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 27. Please contact compiler Bill Lupardus at (432) 638-1585 or e-mail him at lupejwl@aol.com for more information. The count, first conducted in 1948, will be done in a 15-mile diameter circle with the center being near Refinery Lake north of Midway Road. No private property will be accessed without permission.

• An account has been set up to help Bob and Jeanine Fishback with Bob's medical and travel expenses: Bob Fishback Medical Account 915967, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 263-8393.

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

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Robert D. Miller P.C.
Attorney at Law
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608 Scurry St. Big Spring, TX
robertdmillerlaw.com

State briefs

Tarrant County employee fired over computer porn

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Tarrant County employee in charge of a court records software system has been fired after pornographic images allegedly were found on his work computer.

Mark O'Neal, who worked for the county since 1985, says he'll appeal. County commissioners are expected to consider the matter on Jan. 24.

O'Neal was a senior project manager when audit issues were raised last month. KTVT-TV reports O'Neal was in charge of a project that has taken several years to develop and the software is still not online.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports documents indicate O'Neal's laptop had more than 150 inappropriate images and records of visits to an adult dating site.

Dec. 1 submitted his resignation, effective Jan. 27. He was terminated Dec. 6.

About 850 Houston workers take voluntary furloughs

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Mayor Annise Parker says about 850 city employees have taken voluntary furlough days as the city faces a nearly $30 million budget shortfall.

Parker on Wednesday said the city has saved about $250,000 so far. She says additional voluntary furloughs could push that figure to $500,000 as more employees take days off between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Parker has not ruled out mandatory furlough days for employees of the state's largest city. The mayor also says she hopes to make progress on reforming the city's pension obligations.

The Houston City Council on Dec. 15 voted to hike fees on almost 150 municipal services to help close the budget gap.

3 dolphins back at State Aquarium

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Three dolphins featured at the Texas State Aquarium are home after an upgrade to their facility.

Shadow, Kai and D.J. are back at the aquarium in Corpus Christi after spending several weeks at Sea World in San Antonio.

Aquarium spokeswoman Krisin Ralls said Wednesday that the animals are in good health after being transported in a refrigerated truck.

Fraud: $250,000 worth of coins seized for Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott says $250,000 worth of gold coins linked to fraud have been recovered to benefit Medicaid.

Abbott's office says authorities on Monday seized the 101 coins from a depository account in Wilmington, Del. The FBI in San Antonio took custody of the coins late Tuesday.

Investigators on Wednesday said pharmacist Marcellius Jhekwuoba Anunobi is believed to have bought the coins using fraudulent proceeds from Medicaid overbilling. The account belonged to his wife.

Anunobi was president of Advanced Doctor's Prescribed Pharmacy. He was convicted of billing the Texas Vendor Drug Program for prescriptions that were never filled.

Anunobi was convicted of Medicaid fraud, theft and money laundering. He was sentenced in September to 20 years in prison and ordered to make $2.2 million in restitution.

Capital murder suspect sought

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police say a man sought over the killing of his girlfriend's infant son in Tyler has fled after being shot at by an officer.

Dallas police early Thursday said a man believed to be 26-year-old Simon Lopez had been located at a hotel. Police trying to serve the capital murder warrant had their guns drawn late Wednesday as they approached a room.

Police say the suspect suddenly appeared and grabbed an officer's gun. The officer fired his weapon and the suspect ran away.

No officers were hurt. Police are not sure whether the fleeing suspect was wounded.

Tyler police say Lopez is sought over the November death of his girlfriend's 1-year-old son, Jeremy Silva.

Car crashes onto Bush's lawn

DALLAS (AP) — Police and security agents were sent scrambling when a driver crashed onto the front lawn of former President George W. Bush's home near Dallas.

Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan says the single-car accident happened Wednesday, and neither Bush nor his wife were injured. He says there was no reported damage to their house.

Donovan says the driver was questioned but released after the accident. He says the man had been visiting one of Bush's neighbors.

SHOP

Continued from Page 1

Not surprisingly, Walsh said electronic items are big sellers this season.

"We're selling a lot of game consoles, such as the Wii and X-Box," he said. "Plus, we're doing good business selling the I-Pod Touch."

The supercenter will be open until 8 p.m. Christmas Eve to handle last-minute shopping, Walsh said.

Wal-Mart is Big Spring's biggest retail outlet, but even smaller "mom and pop" operations report that business is good this season.

"It's going real well," said David Baird, owner of The Wish List at 1701 Scurry, which sells musical instruments, hand-made jewelry and a variety of other items. "I'd hate to guess the percentage of sales increase, but it's been steady here for weeks, and things have picked up even further this week. Sales Monday and Tuesday were spectacular, and I'm hoping the same thing applies (later in the week)."

Baird said that guitars, which were added to the store's inventory just a few months ago, have been a big seller this season.

"We've only been carrying guitars for about two months ... and they're selling very well," Baird said. "As for our cosmetic jewelry, we can't hardly keep them on the shelves. Crosses have been another big seller. I'd hate to think about how many crosses we've sold so far."

In response to increased sales, Baird said his store would be open until 7 p.m. Christmas Eve, "or until the last shopper is done."

Michelle Barton, assistant manager of Beall's in Big Spring Mall, agrees there's been an uptick in shopping this Christmas season.

"It just feels busier," Barton said. "I think people are still being careful about how much they're spending and what they're spending it on, but they do seem more comfortable shopping this Christmas season."

Barton said children's items were big sellers this year, but added that sales across the store were going very well.

"There were just several things that went really fast this year," she noted.

Gregg Brooks, owner of Blum's Jewelers, also said sales are up from last Christmas.

"It's another late Christmas," he said. "Our sales have really picked up the last 10 days, just like they did last year. Business is up a little bit from last year."

"Chocolate jewelry" — items with a golden-brown hue — are the most popular items at Blum's this year, Brooks said.

"If it's chocolate, it's selling," he said. "We've got chocolate diamonds, chocolate pearls and chocolate gold."

Blum's will be open until 4 p.m. Christmas Eve, he said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

DONATE

Continued from Page 1

can add up."

Hildebrand said bringing the Ambassadors to Big Spring certainly isn't cheap, but the life lessons the players bring to area children is well worth the price tag.

"There's a lot to pay for. We have to cover the rental of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, shirts, hotel rooms for the team, as well as the cost of bringing them here," she said. "While they are here, they will do assemblies at some of the local schools to emphasize the importance of staying in school and staying off drugs. It's one thing for kids to hear these things from their parents and friends, but it's something else for them to see what amazing things they can accomplish by keeping their lives on the right track.

"The kids in the community deserve to experience the kind of show the Ambassadors bring with them. They deserve to be spoiled just a little from time to time. That's why we decided to bring the Ambassadors to Big Spring, and we're also hoping to be able to take the children in the Boys and Girls Club program on some educational and fun reward trips."

The Harlem Ambassadors professional show basketball game is family-friendly, and, since 1998, the group has partnered with hundreds of non-profit organizations in all 50 states and 19 foreign countries.

"The Harlem Ambassadors are young men and women who have attended college, played college basketball, and are drug-free," Ambassadors creator Dale Moss said. "The Ambassadors have college degrees in a variety of disciplines, such as exercise science, elementary education, and criminal justice. Some of our performers have even earned advanced degrees. The athletes selected to be Harlem Ambassadors have made positive choices to maintain healthy lifestyles and make great role models for young people."

For more information on how to make a donation, contact Hildebrand at (432) 267-8239 or e-mail her at sonnet_hildebrand@uss.salvationarmy

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Virginia "Virgie" Munoz, 53, died Sunday. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. today at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Jack Hanson, 87, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 3 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Christmas Day - No Services
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218058

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

There are many questions about the wise men, who traveled to see Jesus. We can only speculate about their home country and their understanding of "the King of the Jews." We do not know how many were in their group or how much gold, frankincense and myrrh they carried.

We do know they spent time and effort to find Jesus. We know they offered gifts associated with kings, priests and prophets. We know they bowed down and worshiped Jesus.

Although the magi followed the star, they needed instruction from scripture. "Where...Bethlehem...for it is written by the prophet..." (Matthew 2:1-6). *Seekers today need instruction from scripture.*

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217979

EDITORIAL

"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.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Good cause to consider if you are really lucky

Sometimes Santa Claus is better to some people than to others. That's a given ... something all of us realize and perhaps why those of us who can don't mind dropping a couple of bucks or loose change in the Salvation Army kettles, pick up gifts for one of the Angel Trees or any of the other charitable efforts that always seems to draw attention at this time of year.

And now we have another. The Big Spring State Hospital is in need of television sets and is hoping residents of the community can help with a donation or two.

We're not taking about these new flat-screen, plasma TVs. No, as a matter of fact, the hospital needs used tube televisions for patient areas.

That means if someone gets one of those high-tech flat-screen, plama jobs, and really don't need the working television it replaced, the state hospital will be happy to take it off your hands.We don't know what Santa plans to put under your tree this Christmas, but if you happen to be surprised with a new flat-screen, plasma television set, Big Spring State Hospital would be more than happy to take the old one off your hands.

"We are always in need of television sets, and we thought Christmas would be the perfect time to ask the public for their used television sets," explained BSSH Assistant Superintendent Lorie Couch.

Donated television sets will be used in patients' shared living areas where they relax, visit, watch television, read or play games.

"Our only requirement is that they be at least a 13-inch screen and that they be in working condition," Couch said. "Remote controls are not necessary, but we will take them with the television set."

So, if Santa's really good to you Saturday morning and leaves you a new television, we here at the Herald hope you'll consider giving the old television being replaced to some folks that would appreciate having it more than you'll probably ever know.

Televisions can be taken to the Community Relations office on the state hospital campus, 1901 North U.S. Highway 87.

And, if for some reason you can't take the a donated TV to the them, the hospital can arrange to pick up televisions from a local address.

What's more, donations are tax-deductible, and the Community Relations office can provide receipts for the donations.

For more information, call the Community Relations office at 268-7535.

Troop support, volunteerism reflect an American holiday



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

For many, the holiday season is truly the most wonderful time of the year. It is a time for cross-generational gatherings, when families celebrate old traditions and create new ones. It is a time for sharing memories and a time for giving to one another and caring for the less fortunate.

And it is a time to count our blessings and reflect on our faith.

Few things weigh more heavily on me during Christmas season than the troops who are protecting our country overseas during the holidays.

Recently, my children and I were privileged to be able to welcome home a flight of troops returning to the U.S. from Afghanistan as part of the SLANT 45 "Welcome Home Heroes" initiative. The Super Bowl 45 Committee in North Texas has sponsored kids' charitable giving projects throughout the area — and greeting the troops was very inspiring. DFW airport welcomes service members coming in for their two week "rest and relaxation" every day of the year. Individuals or organizations wishing to show appreciation to our troops in this special way can find volunteer information at the following website: www.dfwairport.com/heroes/index.

It was both humbling and inspiring to meet with those brave men and women and to see them reunite with their families after months of separation.

But so many others will not get to come home for the holidays. While we attend church services, enjoy family reunions and partake in the bustle of the season in our own communities, there are nearly 150,000 troops serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq — apart from their families.

They are honorably carrying on a tradition of sacrificial service that was first heroically displayed by General George Washington and the American Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777.

Just before Christmas that year, Washington's war-weary men settled in for a harsh winter with little food, tattered clothes and insufficient shelter from the brutal elements. Many died from exposure and malnourishment, but the Army kept up its training regimen and ultimately survived the winter and continued to fight until it had secured our nation's independence.

Because of their sacrifice more than 230 years ago, you and I live in freedom. And the service of today's military men and women ensures the preservation of our liberties now and into the future.

We must honor their service by keeping military personnel in our thoughts and prayers over the holidays, bolstering them with gratitude and encouragement, and supporting their families who are also sacrificing.

On Dec.11, thousands of citizens laid wreaths at the graves of fallen soldiers at VA cemeteries across America. Nearly 24,000 wreaths were placed at Arlington National Cemetery outside the nation's capital, and from Dallas to the Rio Grande Valley, volunteers in 33 cities throughout the state of Texas took part in "Wreaths Across America" to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

There are still opportunities for individuals and families to serve our troops and veterans and to honor the fallen this holiday season. Americans can send care packages and mail to deployed service members and post messages of gratitude and support. The Department of Defense outlines ways to get involved on their website at www.ourmilitary.mil.

As we send support to our servicemen and women overseas, we must also look around our own communities and attend to the needs of those less fortunate. Many have been hit hard by the economic downturn and are struggling to make ends meet.

Charitable organizations, like the Salvation Army, known for its iconic and impactful Red Kettle campaign, give all Americans the opportunity to contribute to important causes during the holidays. The proceeds from the Red Kettle campaign, which are typically collected outside neighborhood grocery stores and retailers, help provide gifts and meals for shut-ins in hospitals and nursing homes and hot, sit-down dinners at homeless shelters.

Other charitable drives, like Toys for Tots sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps, use donations to give less fortunate children a memorable holiday through gifts of toys, books, and clothing. There are numerous opportunities for families to share this holiday season — whether through a trustworthy charitable organization, church offerings, or simple acts of generosity in one's own neighborhood or community.

We can all look for ways to support our troops and to help those in need — not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year.

I hope all Texans will have a joyous holiday and a blessed New Year. Merry Christmas from my family to yours.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.



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HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News 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.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- 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 submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You, Lord, inspire us to do more in our life.

Amen

Birthdays filled with emotion

By the time you read this, it won't be my birthday anymore. Thankfully. But it is right now, and birthdays don't get easier as you get older.



SUSAN ESTRICH

I'm not talking about mortality, although that is certainly a piece of it. I am five years older than my father was when he died. And I'm not talking about wrinkles and sore joints, although there are mornings when I wake up and ask myself what hurts before even thinking about what I have to do that day.

No, it is the sense of loss that makes birthdays harder as you get older, or at least it is for me.

I remember that my mother used to always call me every year on my birthday around the time of her labor pains. Each year, as if I couldn't remember from one year to the next, she would recount for me the circumstances of my birth — the big snowstorm, the substitute obstetrician, my grandfather's disappointment that I wasn't a boy.

It has been four years since I got such a call.

I remember, even after my parents divorced and my father had married a woman who resented everything about me, that my father always found a way to take me to lunch on my birthday. Just the two of us. Our last lunch was on Dec. 16, 1976 — a very long time ago.

But the truth is that even when I was younger, even when my parents were still alive, birthdays were always hard days for me. I would be so excited and, inevitably, disappointed.

When I had children of my own, I went overboard on their birthdays. We would celebrate for days — Disneyland, ponies, Spider-Man, laser tag, you name it.

I never got to have a friend sleep over when I was a kid, so for my daughter, I moved the dining room table into the backyard so there would be room in my little house for all her friends.

I was one of those mothers who always invited everybody in the class so no one would be slighted, as I so often was as a kid. Even so, I fretted. Did my children have a good enough time? Did the other kids? And what about the cake? One year, I went nuts about the cake. I wanted everything to be perfect. In a way, I needed those parties more than my kids did, to wipe away, once and for all, my own painful memories.

But it doesn't work that way. There is no such thing as perfect. You can't change the endings of your childhood. The most you can do is leave them in your childhood and move on as an adult.

Most days, that's what I do or at least try to do. But birthdays catch me. Birthdays overwhelm me with memories, many of them so painful that I have trouble leaving my childhood behind. I fight all day to hold on to the adult me. Writing this column is part of that fight. I tell the little girl still inside me that it will all be OK.

I am grateful to be working too hard, when so many are unable to find work at all.

I am grateful for the blessings of my children, and for the love of my sister and brother and friends. What more could I ask for?

Only this. What I want — and this is the adult me — is for my family and friends to be healthy and well, to find joy and satisfaction, to be strong and safe.

I want what I didn't have as a child, the gifts you can't find in a store and can't wrap but in the end are all that matters.

Happy holidays.

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Big Spring Animal Control has a number of animals ready for adoption immediately. These animals will only be available Monday; the shelter will be closed until that day. Anyone interested in adopting an animal is encouraged to contact Animal Control at (432) 264-2372 by 5 p.m. Monday to set up an appointment.







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Merry Christmas

Join Holy Trinity Parish for our Holiday Services

La Posada's:

12/22 - 7 p.m.; 12/23 - 7 p.m. and 12/24 - 6 p.m.

Contact: Arthur & Cruz Olague for more information 935-2100

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS:

12/24 - 5 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Campus - Christmas Story
Call Carolyn Hervatich 267-2341

7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church
La Posada's and Billingual Mass

10 p.m. at Immaculate Heart with Christmas Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY
5 p.m. at Sacred Heart

218057

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Inside The Big Spring Mall
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Thank you to the best jewelry customers for trusting us to repair your precious jewels, purchase your finest extraordinary jewelry pieces in town and to serve you continuously throughout the years. Blum's wishes you all a safe Holiday Season. For the last minute shopper we will be open till 8 p.m. Christmas Eve and closed Christmas Day to be with our family.







218444

Cam Newton named AP Player of Year

The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Cam Newton lifted Auburn from the back of the Top 25 to No. 1 in the nation.

The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback led the Tigers into the national title game against No. 2 Oregon with a mix of flair and poise and enough highlight reel plays to widely split the vote among a handful of coaches and teammates asked for their favorite.

Newton has already raked in the Heisman Trophy and Davey O'Brien and Maxwell awards for his spectacular season. He added AP Player of the Year to his collection on Wednesday.

An NCAA investigation into Newton's recruitment, which threw his eligibility into doubt during November, had no effect on how he played down the stretch — or the voting for the AP award. It was about as lopsided as the Heisman vote.

Newton received 51 votes from the 60-member AP football poll panel. Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore received three, Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck got two and four ballots went unreturned.

In less than a year, Newton has gone from the obscurity of junior college to helping transform a team that went 8-5 last season and started this one ranked No. 22 to a perfect Southeastern Conference championship.

It wasn't all about the big plays, though. Offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn said he was more impressed by Newton's leadership in repeatedly bringing the team from behind, including a 24-0 deficit at Alabama.

"The sign of a special quarterback is one that has the abilities to make his teammates better and make his teammates believe in things that maybe they wouldn't believe without him," Malzahn said. "We've faced some major adversity earlier in the year when we didn't know each other that well.

"We were down to Clemson 17-0 at home and it was ugly as all get out. But he didn't change then. He's a rock, as far as all that's concerned. Doesn't panic."

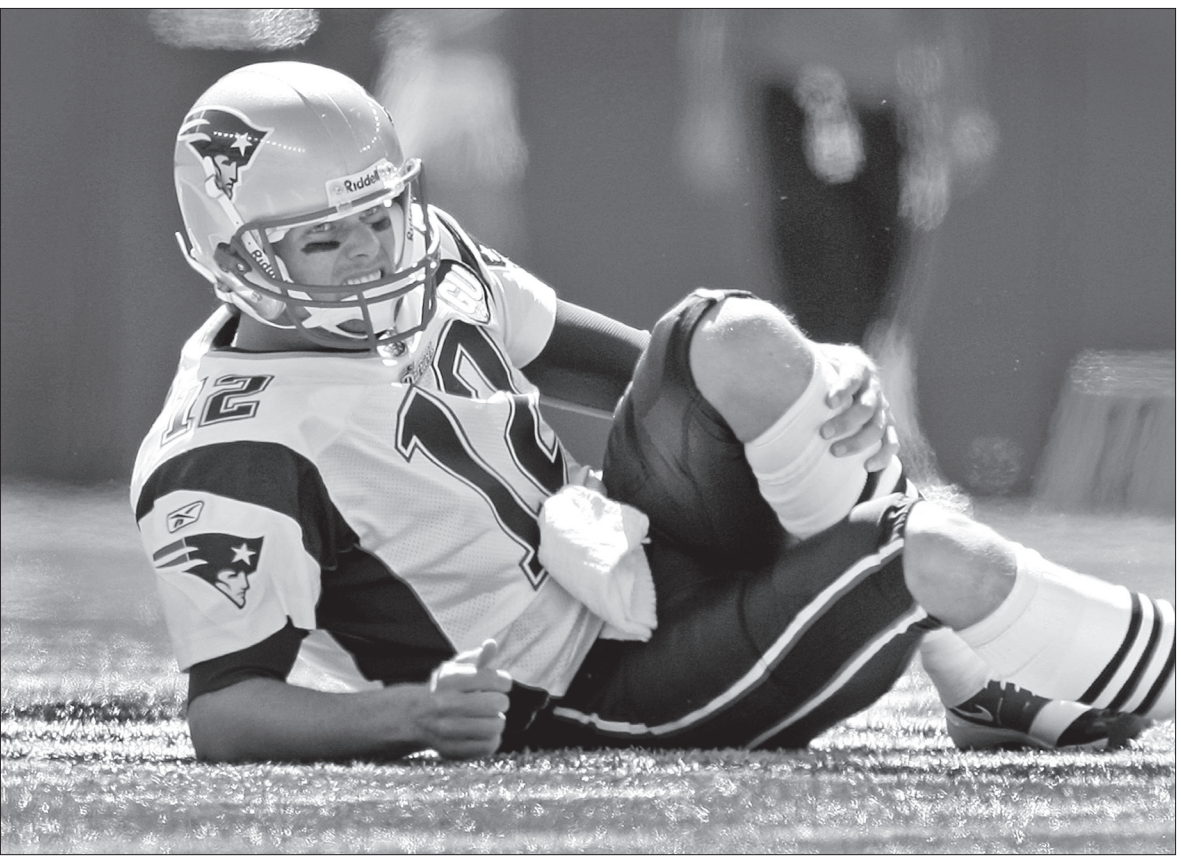
It doesn't hurt that Newton's 6-foot-6 and 250 pounds with deceptive speed, nifty open-field moves, power and a nice arm. He broke the single-season SEC rushing record for a quarterback in the eighth game, a 28-carry, 217-yard effort against LSU. Malzahn also says Newton has proven he's "not a good thrower, he's an excellent thrower."

As the season wore on, Newton's skills bloomed and not even a scandal could slow him.

He deftly played through an NCAA investigation into a pay-for-play recruiting attempt involving his father, Cecil, at Mississippi State. The NCAA said Cecil Newton sought payment

See **NEWTON**, Page 11

Brady passes Vick to top final fan Pro Bowl voting



AP File Photo

New England Patriots' quarterback Tom Brady had nearly 1.9 million votes from fans to lead Pro Bowl voting this year.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tom Brady has overtaken Michael Vick to lead all players in the final fan voting for the Pro Bowl.

The New England Patriots quarterback had nearly 1.9 million votes when balloting ended Monday. The NFL said Wednesday that Vick topped the NFC with more than 1.5 million.

Almost 100 million votes were cast online and via mobile phones.

Fans account for one-third of the selection process. Players and coaches vote Wednesday and Thursday.

The 43-man rosters will be announced Tuesday.

Players leading their position voting include Houston Texans running back Arian Foster and wide receiver Andre Johnson, Pittsburgh Steelers strong safety Troy Polamalu and Indianapolis Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney.

The Pro Bowl is Jan. 30 in Honolulu.

Foster is the NFL's leading rusher with 1,345 yards. An undrafted rookie, Foster also leads the league in rushing touchdowns (13) and yards from scrimmage (1,895). He finished eighth overall in fan voting (710,166).

"That's a nice gesture that the fans showed towards me," Foster said Wednesday. "It shows what they think about my game. It's humbling. It feels kind of good. It's nice to be recognized for the work that you've done."

Johnson, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, ranks fourth in yards receiving (1,216). Earlier this season, he became the first receiver in NFL history to catch at least 60 passes in his first eight seasons.

Foster and Johnson have been two of the few bright spots for the Texans (5-9).

Longhorns beat No.12 MSU, 67-55

The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The scoreboard at Michigan State's arena malfunctioned.

The Spartans did on the court, too.

Jordan Hamilton scored 21 points, Tristan Thompson had 17 points and 15 rebounds and No. 18 Texas beat No. 12 Michigan State 67-55 on Wednesday night.

The Longhorns (10-2) became the first nonconference team to win at the Breslin Center since Duke on Dec. 3, 2003, snapping a 52-game winning streak.

"That means a lot," Hamilton said. "Michigan State is a great program."

The Spartans (8-4) have advanced to half of the past 12 Final Fours, winning the 2000 national title, but they've got to improve a lot to make it to college basketball's next showcase. They have failed to live up to their preseason billing as the second-ranked team in country with only one quality win over then-No. 13 Washington in the Maui Invitational and four losses in a nine-game stretch.

"We have to regroup," Michigan State's inconsistent shooting guard Durrell Summers said.

Texas trailed only once in the first half and once just after halftime on Michigan State's home court, where Tom Izzo has won nearly 92 percent of his games over the last 14 years.

"We got beat by a better team," Izzo said.

The Longhorns were too athletic and aggressive on both ends of the court for the turnover-prone and poor-shooting Spartans, but their coach didn't want to make too much of the streak-breaking win.

"I did tell the team, 'It's December,'" Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "Hopefully, it'll help us later on."

Michigan State's Kalin Lucas scored 17 points and didn't have much help. Lucas moved past Morris Peterson on the school's all-time list and into a 10th-place tie with Raymar Morgan with 1,597 points.

The Spartans' do-it-all forward, Draymond Green, fouled out with 5:12 left, shortly after making his first field goal on his eighth attempt. Green finished with a season-low four points and eight rebounds.

Summers had a slow start before making shots toward the end of the first half to help Michigan State get within a point at halftime after trailing by as many as eight.

> ***"I think this is the most talented team we've played so far."***
>
> Tom Izzo,
> Michigan State head coach on Texas Longhorns

Summers, though, scored just two points in the second half and finished with nine.

"Our best players have to play better," Izzo said.

Michigan State freshman Adreian Payne, who got his first start, had a putback for the first basket of the second half to give the Spartans their second and final lead.

"It could've been a great opportunity for us," Summers said. "We just couldn't get a basket or key stop. They were pretty athletic at every position."

The Longhorns took control with a 16-3 run, scoring on dunks and layups in the open court off turnovers and making 3-pointers in half-court sets.

"In the second half, we played harder on the defensive end and our defense led to offense," Hamilton said.

Gary Johnson scored 14 points for Texas, which held the Spartans to 29 percent shooting and scored 19 points off their 16 turnovers.

The Longhorns have won four straight — including impressive back-to-back wins over North Carolina in Greensboro and on Michigan State's home court — and also have a win over Illinois.

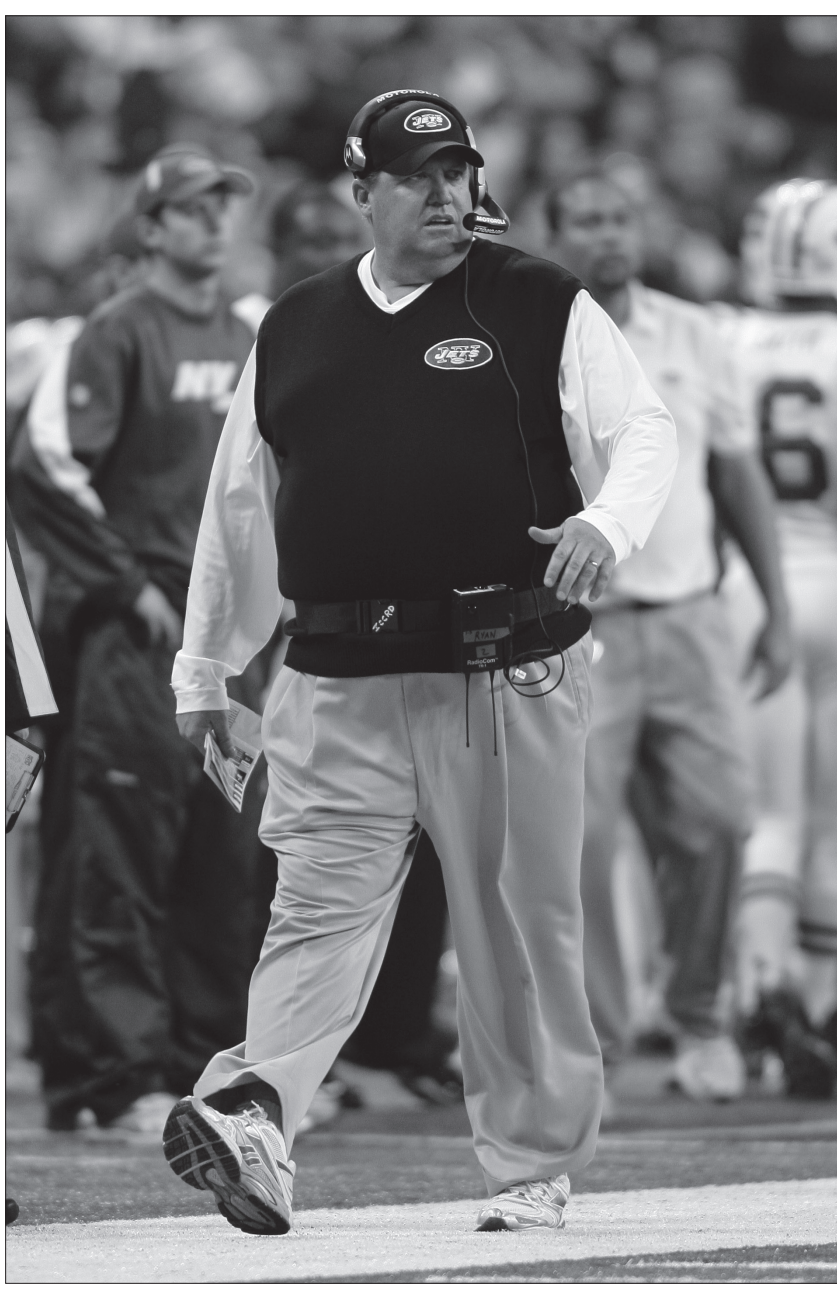
"I think this is the most talented team we've played so far," said Izzo, whose team lost on the road to top-ranked Duke, against Connecticut in Maui and to Syracuse in New York.

Izzo coached the Spartans after serving a one-game suspension because the school employed someone associated with a potential recruit during a basketball camp in June. The person was paid $475 for five days to work with middle school-aged campers.

At times, Izzo displayed his vintage rage — screaming at his players during timeouts — and sometimes stood silently and seemed to stare at no one in particular.

Izzo was livid after the Spartans lost by 14 to Syracuse a couple weeks ago, but sounded simply discouraged after the latest double-digit defeat.

"We'll bounce back," Izzo said softly as if he was trying to convince himself.



AP File Photo

New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan is pictured during a Jets game last season.

Jets' Ryan: Foot-fetish report 'a personal matter'

The Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — New York Jets coach Rex Ryan says it's a "personal matter" and declined to talk about a "foot-fetish" report posted by the sports website Deadspin that show four videos of a woman who bears a close resemblance to Ryan's wife, Michelle.

The videos show a woman displaying her toes to an off-screen cameraman who, in one video, sounds a lot like the coach. The two are having an intimate chat about her feet.

During his news conference Wednesday, Ryan declined several times to discuss the situation.

"I understand I'm going to get

See **RYAN**, Page 11

BIG SPRING HERALD CLASSIFIEDS

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Help Wanted

******ATTENTION DRIVERS****** Duncan Disposal – Coahoma – Now hiring a driver for our Coahoma area, need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Drivers must be able to pass a mandatory DOT and a corporate drug testing requirements. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon-Fri, with some Sat mornings. Please send resume to LucasR@repsrv.com or apply at 8220 W. Hwy 80, Midland, TX 79706 – no phone calls please. – Equal Opportunity Employer.

BLAST MASTERS has positions available for:
* Crew Tech
Must have valid Texas Drivers License, will train, Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., Pick up application. No phone calls please.

BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA taking applications for Sales Clerk all shifts. Experience preferred but will train. Apply at 4911 South Hwy 87. No Phone Calls.

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY located in Austin, TX seeks an experienced Commercial Superintendent for a remodel project at the VA Hospital in Big Springs, TX.
Must have previous experience as lead foreman/super and a minimum of 5 yrs experience with OSHA certification.
We are looking to fill this position immediately. Send resumes to resumessa2010@aol.com.

COOKS & **CARHOP.** Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest & Dependable. No experience necessary will train. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!

EZ PAWN, Now Hiring 2 Full time & 1 Part Time Sales and Loan Representatives. Must have High School/GED, pass background & drug test. Apply online at www.ezpawnjobs.com

FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. $550.00 Weekly plus Bonus. Call after 7:00p.m. (432)684-5418.

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LEARN TAXES - EARN MONEY!
Jackson Hewitt Tax Service is enrolling for FINAL TAX CLASSES NOW!
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PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab now hiring charge Nurse for 10pm-6am shift. Competitive pay plus benefits. Great family working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway or on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net

Help Wanted

NEW FULL-TIME Position: CLINIC NURSE -LVN- In a busy community health center in Lamesa. The Clinic Nurse works as part of the clinic provider team and assists the physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in the provision of primary health care. The Clinic Nurse provides limited direct patient services and performs specifically designated independent procedures.
Must have a current license. Bilingual a plus. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/applicatons to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM RD 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. EOE. No phone calls please.

NEW FULL-TIME Position: Certified Medical Assistant- In a busy community health center in Lamesa. The Certified Medical Assistant works as part of the clinic provider team and assists the physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in the provision of primary health care. The Clinic Nurse provides limited direct patient services and performs specifically designated independent procedures.
Must have a current license. Bilingual a plus. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/applicatons to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM RD 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. EOE. No phone calls please.

NURSES UNLIMITED, inc. seeking sitters/CNA'S to work for private duty clients. Hourly rate call 1-800-201-5904, all shifts available, office hours, M.-TH. 8-5, FRI. 8-12, EOE.

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab is now taking applications for an Admissions/ Marketing Director
*Must have strong organizational skills and computer knowledge
*Must have strong people skills and be outgoing
*Must be self-motivated
*Must be able to travel and have own dependable transportation
*Must have high school diploma but college degree and/or college classes is preferred
*Must be flexible. Most weekends off.
Great working environment and benefits. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway.

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring Area.
Electrician– Trouble shoot, service, and maintain pump control panels, electric motors up to 3000hp, power distribution systems, electrical sub-stations, submersible motors, and commercial and residential wiring. Intermediate level position, basic understanding of electronics/electricity needed.
CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.
Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org

INTERIM HEALTHCARE is expanding! We are looking for a FT RN Case Manager and FT CNA in Colorado City. Experience preferred. Please fax resume to 432-618-0307 or call 432-550-7593 to have an application mailed. You may also come by the office for an application at 4610 N Garfield, Ste. B20. Midland, TX
218632

Help Wanted

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for CDL Driver, roustabout pushers and helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

SEEKING EXPERIENCED female for temporary clerical position at natural gas plant NE of Big Spring, Must have good typing skills and good knowledge of computers. Must have good telephone skills and be able to work with others.
Send resume to:
Plant Supervisor
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mwcol@wtggas.com
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SPECS. & Company is seeking a self motivated employee with excellent communication and customer skills. Will train right person. Apply at 2311 Scurry. Monday-Thursday, 8:30-5:30 Friday 8:30-12:00.

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(after 12/28) or
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for information.

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Lost and Found

LOST FEMALE chocolate brown Chihuahua in the vacinity of Dallas st., has blue collar with pink hearts, call Sonya 436-816-2460.

LOST MALE boxer, brown & white, no collar, Kentwood area, call 432-517-4772.

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FREE PUPPIES, boxer/shepard mix, call 432-816-9208.

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Real Estate for Rent

1101 DOUGLAS-- Very Clean 1 Bdrm, Central Heat/Air, washer, dryer, stove and refrigerator. References required. $600. month, $600. deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

1635 SQ. ft office space for lease at 1308 Scurry, Suite A. Completely remodeled, ample parking. Would make great Dr. office or clinic. Call (432)714-4001 for details or viewing.

2 SMALL Houses- 3 Bdrm & 2 Bdrm. $500. each. Call Diane 951-797-3752.

3/2 HOUSE, Forsan ISD, on 3 acres. $1,000.00 month, $1000.00 deposit. Spacious w/stove, fenced, carport, horse stalls & more. References Required. Call (432)816-9130 or (432)935-3457.

403 GALVESTON 75x50 Shop/Warehouse with large fenced yard. $750/$750. Call (432)213-2319.

4200 PARKWAY, 3 bdr/1bth, newly remodeled, with carport, fenced yard, no pets, non-smoker preferred, no HUD, $800.00 month, $500.00 deposit, call 432-270-3849.

BUILDING FOR Rent- 501 East 1st Street (Big Spring). $350 month, $350 deposit & 1 year lease required. Please contact Lucy (432)263-5000 for more information.

BUY or **RENT** 1 Thru 6 bdrm Homes. 24 Hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, Pool with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Rosa.

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COMMERCIAL BUILDING 1903 Gregg Street. Recently Remodeled. $500.00 Month, $500.00 deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

COUNTRY LIVING. Just outside city limits. 1 Bedroom with CH/A, washer & dryer. Call (432)263-7769 for more info.

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2 BEDROOM, 2 bath Mobile Home for Lease or Sale on North Service Road off I-20 East of Big Spring. Coahoma ISD. Call (254)643-1145. SOLD

900 ACRES 1.5 miles of Colorado River, Highly improved. Saba County. Beautiful Game Ranch. $4,500,000.00. OBO. Must Sell. Call 903-326-4851, 903-872-2022 or 325-623-5651.

HERE'S FLORIDA! Florida Manufactured Home Magazine. A guide to finding and buying a manufactured home in the Sunshine State. Call to request your FREE copy today! Toll Free: 1-888-739-3530 Or Visit our website www.flmanufactured homes.com

NEW 3BDR/ 2bath on half acre lot. Forsan ISD, $3975 down, $588 a month. WAC. 432-517-0062.

OWNER WILL finance, 510 State, One bedroom efficiency, $1000.00 down, $200.00 month, call Elaine, 432-230-8022.

OWNER WILL finance, 1505 Cherokee. 3 bdr/1bth, CH/A, $4,000.00 down, $440.00 month, negotiable, call patience, 432-349-5242.

OWNER WILL finance, 2535 Gunter Circle, remodeled, CH/A, $5000.00 down, $550.00 month, call Patience, 432-349-5242.

OWNER WILL finance, 603 Circle, 2 bdr/1bth, CH/A, $3000.00 down, $400.00 month, call Elaine, 432-230-8022.

Vehicles

1996 TOYOTA Camary LE. Good shape. One Owner. 4 Cylinder. $2,000.00. Call 254-780-6618.

Legals

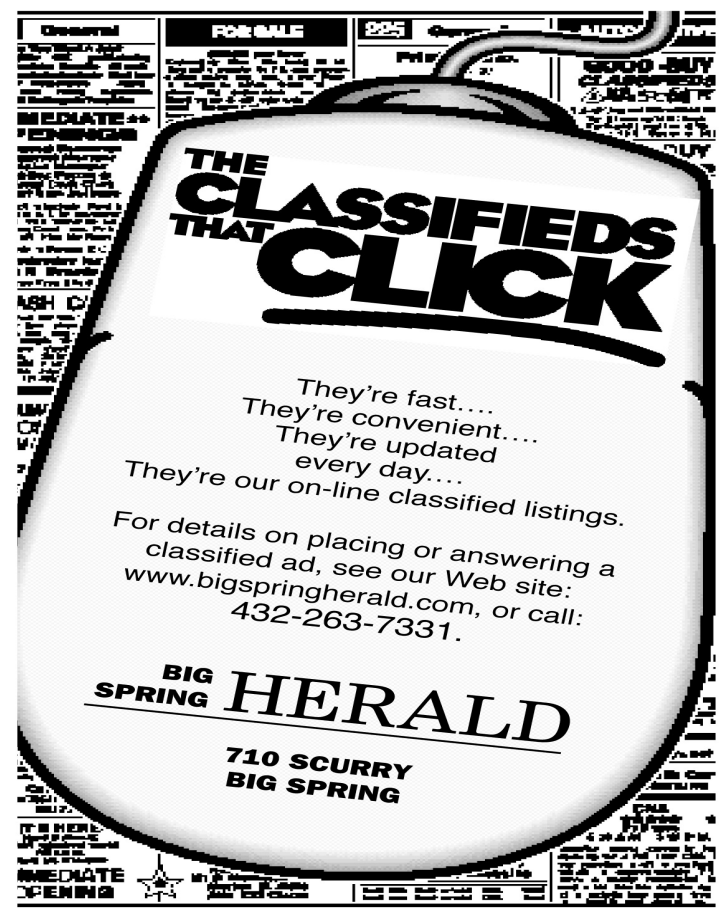
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, PO Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 PM, Thursday, December 30, 2010, for the purchase of he following item(s):

Loading and Hauling of Approximately 17,300 Cubic Yards of Material in Big Spring, Texas

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.
Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721 during normal business hours. Inquiries regarding equipment specifications are to be directed to **Chris Wingert,** P.E., telephone (432)267-6341, email: cwingert@crmwd.org
In care of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the Colorado River Municipal Water District reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, to reject any or all bids, and to waive formalities. The District anticipates that it will notify the successful bidder(s) by issuing a Purchase Order within ***fifteen (15) days*** after the bid date. No bid may be withdrawn within ***thirty (30) days*** after date on which bids are opened.
COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
John W. Grant, General Manager
#6804 December 16 & 23, 2010

Legals

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as required by title 18, United States Code, section 983(a)(2)(A) and/or title 19, United States Code, section 1607 *et seq* of seizure at Big Spring, Texas, on the dates specified below, of the following merchandise, liable to forfeiture to the United States under provisions of various statutes cited. Any person claiming such property is hereby notified to file his claim at the Customhouse, 7501 Esters Blvd., Suite 160, Irving, Texas 75063 (or by mail to P.O. Box 619050, D/FW Airport, Texas 75261), within 20 days (or 35 days if case is denoted as C.A.F.R.A.) after the first publication of this notice together with a bond in the amount of $5000 or 10% of the value of the claimed property (for cases not denoted as C.A.F.R.A.), whichever is lower, but not less than $250, with approved sureties as provided for in title 19, United States Code, section 1608. The cost bond amount, if required, is specified below for each referenced case. Once the cost bond and/or claim to the merchandise has been filed, the case will be forwarded to the United States Attorney for the institution of forfeiture proceedings in federal district court. If you are indigent (needy and poor) you may not be required to post the monetary bond. If no claim is filed (or bond given) as provided in the aforesaid statute, the property herein described will be declared forfeited to the Government of the United States and disposed of in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury:
2010552100003101: 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche (Blue), VIN#3GNEC13T22G160282 valued at $7,650.00 – in violation of 18 USC 981 & 18 USC 1956, because the property was involved in transactions that involved the proceeds of drug sales and/or represents the proceeds of specified unlawful activity related to the smuggling of controlled substances into the United States, in that it facilitated the carrying on of the illicit transportation, sale, receipt, and/or possession of controlled substances and 21 USC 881 & 21 USC 841, because it is unlawful to introduce or attempt to introduce into the United States from any place outside thereof any controlled substances contrary to law that was smuggled into domestic commerce - seized on August 5, 2010 at Big Spring, Texas (CAFRA No Cost Bond Required)
2010552100003201: 2003 Lexus ES300 (Gold), JTHBF30G930097904 valued at $8,425.00 – in violation of 18 USC 981 & 18 USC 1956, because the property was involved in transactions that involved the proceeds of drug sales and/or represents the proceeds of specified unlawful activity related to the smuggling of controlled substances into the United States, in that it facilitated the carrying on of the illicit transportation, sale, receipt, and/or possession of controlled substances and 21 USC 881 & 21 USC 841, because it is unlawful to introduce or attempt to introduce into the United States from any place outside thereof any controlled substances contrary to law that was smuggled into domestic commerce - seized on August 5, 2010 at Big Spring, Texas (CAFRA No Cost Bond Required).
#6774 December 9, 16 & 23, 2010



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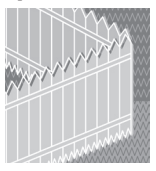
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Annie's Mailbox ®

A Family's Holiday Hubbub

Dear Annie: Our two children are married with families of their own. The siblings used to get along quite well, but over the past few years, they hardly speak to each other. I don't know what happened.

We threw ourselves an anniversary party, and our son refused to speak to anyone because we had missed his youngest son's birthday celebration. The reason we didn't attend was because our daughter had left her three little kids with us when she took a vacation. The kids were specifically not invited to the birthday party, so none of us could go.



Kathy Mitchell
Marcy Sugar

We explained this, but our son still feels we were in the wrong. Yet he rarely attends the birthday parties of his sister's children.

I am dreading the holidays. Our son usually spends Christmas Eve with us and the following day with his in-laws.

Our daughter has invited us to spend Christmas Day with her. I'd love to have them together, but my son tends to say "no" to any family celebration. Do we ask these two couples point blank what is happening or just ignore it? — *Trying Not To Step on Toes*

Dear Trying: These are your children. Talk to them individually. Ask what is going on and how you can help resolve the issues. Don't accuse either of them of behaving poorly.

Focus only on what would make things better. Frankly, your son sounds as if he is looking for reasons to be angry with his sister.

That means he is likely to become defensive and, consequently, resistant to any of your suggestions. If that is the case, there's not much you can do. But you won't get anywhere if you don't try. We hope they will listen to their mother.

Dear Annie: A few months ago, we invited newlyweds to visit us for a long weekend at our vacation home in Arizona.

These are young friends in their early 30s. As a gift, we paid for their airline tickets and wined and dined them during their visit. We also gave them a wedding card with a significant check.

Three weeks after the visit, we received a two-line e-mail thanking us for the plane tickets and the wedding gift. That was it. No handwritten note. Not even a personal call.

I'm appalled to think this is how young adults thank others for their generosity.

Have they forgotten good manners? Can't they be bothered to write a gracious note, put a stamp on the envelope and mail it? Or do they have no clue? — *Perplexed in Chicago*

Dear Perplexed: We're going to go with door number three. They have no clue. Either they were never properly taught, or they don't believe a handwritten note is necessary these days. At least you received a two-line e-mail. Some folks don't get even that much.

You were exceedingly generous to this young couple, and if you don't feel it was sufficiently appreciated, you are under no obligation to be so magnanimous in the future. But it also wouldn't hurt to casually mention that, based on their brief response, you weren't sure they enjoyed the visit.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Crowded by the Ex" and agree that it seems many exes are not letting go, passive-aggressively attempting to crowd out the most recent wife.

My husband was divorced 46 years ago, and we've been married for 18 years.

Early in our marriage, his ex could not wait to become part of our family, frequently showing up at our house unexpectedly to "see how we were doing," bringing gifts, etc. Mind you, their now 50-year-old son lived in a distant city.

But we got even. On one occasion when all of us were present, we were approached by a woman who knew the ex, but not us. My husband introduced me as his wife, whereupon the woman turned to the ex and said, "Oh, Judy, so THIS is your son!" — *Shook Her Loose*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 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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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The sun in Capricorn adds structure, reverence and a strong sense of tradition to the atmosphere as we near the end of the year. The Leo moon is a creative placement that encourages putting one's talent to good use. Chances are, the thing that entertains you will also be fascinating to others, so share with enthusiasm.



Holiday Mathis

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are generous with your attention, and you'll give it to the deserving and undeserving alike. You don't see it that way, of course. You see everyone as deserving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You love someone, but you don't love what he or she is doing presently. Luckily, you're able to separate the person from the action. You give your understanding and love but not your approval.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be proud of your blisters and scars. They prove you got into the work of life and risked injury for what you wanted, and now you have the souvenirs to show for it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't feel that you must figure something out with your downtime. You'll be happier if you use that time to do nothing at all. Today, there's no decision so urgent that you can't make it tomorrow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not in an overly competitive mood. Yet, you'll get more accomplished when there's someone as fast paced as you in your vicinity to keep up with. It's human nature at work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll save a situation at work with your quick thinking and spirit of collaboration. The way you unite people is heartening. You remind everyone that we are in this together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There is a part of your life that needs healing. You wish someone could wave a magic wand over it so it would be done already. It turns out, you have all the magic you need. You just need to concentrate it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There is nothing to figure out. Stop trying already. If you don't "get it" now, then it's because you're not supposed to. Things will occur to you when they are most useful to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Lean back and let life come to you today. This slight pulling-away energy will be particularly useful in regards to a certain relationship. You've been doing all the work. If you simply stop, the healing begins.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). New resources open up to you. You won't ask directly, but your welcoming energy is an invitation. Colleagues, family and peers will give you their best suggestions, tips and tools.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can pull off the most amazing feats when you feel like it, and today brings just the right mood. Like a Hollywood stunt pro, you plan out the daring act and rehearse each move carefully.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Discussing conflicts only makes things more complicated — or worse, you could be angrier at the end of the conversation than you were going into it! Instead, work things out within yourself. Forgive and forget.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 23). A bold energy takes hold this year, and you are willing to move mountains to make your world the way you want it. You'll get a big break in January. Your public image gets a boost in March. Your ideas, projects, creations and/or children will blossom in May. There's a windfall in August. Sagittarius and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 22, 31 and 35.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "You have often written that Aquarius is one of the more helpful signs of the zodiac. Is it possible to be too helpful, though? I'm an Aquarius who is addicted to helping others. I sacrifice my own needs all the time, dropping whatever I'm doing so that I can help whoever needs it. And though it makes me happy in the moment, I feel like something is suffering in me. My stuff never gets done. There's so much I want to do in this lifetime, and I'm pretty much stuck in a job I don't like with an overweight body and a tired soul. Sounds pathetic, doesn't it?" — *Altruistic Aquarius*

No, you don't sound pathetic, but you'll have more to contribute when you can give from a happy place. Having a sense of boundaries doesn't make you selfish. Your problem is simply a matter of organizing your schedule. Put your needs on the calendar, and keep the appointment just as you would for any of your loved ones. Schedule your helping time, as well. As for spontaneous helping, disallow it until you get your life in better balance.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: At any given moment, this Capricorn is responsible for what happens on at least four different shows. Arguably one of the hardest working talents in Hollywood, Ryan Seacrest reports the latest in entertainment on "E! News," "On Air with Ryan Seacrest," "American Top 40" and "American Idol." With his sun, Mercury and Venus in cool, calm and collected Capricorn, he's a dream under pressure.

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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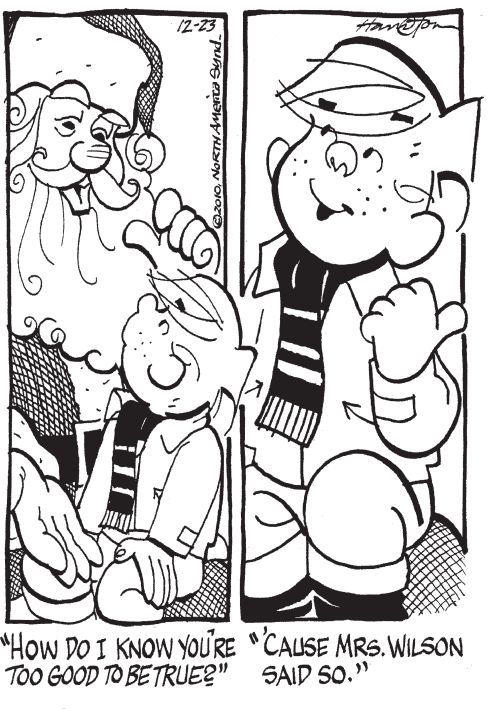


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	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	News	[illegible]	Inside Ed.	Raymond	Acquire	Cybercrime	Payne	Oddities	Lombard	Blood Part II	Law & Order	Chris	Phineas	Around	Pardon
5 :PM	News	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Granger	World	Lyrics!	Oddities				106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake it	Nation	SportsCenter
:30	ABC	Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticiero	News	King	Brad	Business	Lyrics!	Oddities					Good	Pardon	
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Sala	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	Oddities		Movie: Rambo, Matthew Marsden	Bones		Good	NFL Live	
:30	Wheel		Two Men	Ent		Millionaire	Seinfeld	Charles		'70s	Auction					Good	Pardon	Football
7 :PM	Grinch	Eva Luna (SS)	Million Dollar Money Drop	Big Bang	Aurora (SS)	Commun	Movie: Meet the Browns, David Mann	Upd	Local	The Vampire Diaries	Christmas Un.	Movie: Nanny McPhee		NBA Basketball: Spurs at Magic	Movie: Soul Food, Nia Long	Santa Clause 3: Escape Clause	College Basketball	College Football: San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl
:30	Movie: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas			Dad Says		30 Rock		Sid Roth	Parks									
8 :PM		Soy Tu Dueña (SS)		CSI: Crime Scene	El Fantasma de	Office		Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Nikita	American Chopper		TNA Wrestling			Deck		
:30						Out												
9 :PM		Rosa	Simpsons	The Mentalist	Alguien te Mira (SS)	The Office	Fam. Guy		Lincoln Highway	Married	Auction	Movie: Prancer, Cloris Leachman		NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Phoenix Suns.	Game	Fish	College Basketball	
:30			How I Met				Fam. Guy			King	Oddities				Game	Fish		
10 :PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Alewine	Charlie Rose	South Pk	Christmas Un.		TNA ReACTION		The Mo'Nique	Deck		
:30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno		Van Impe		South Pk						Deck		SportsCenter
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Bill Cloud	World	South Pk	American Chopper		Movie: First Blood, Brian Dennehy		Wendy Williams	Hannah	NFL Live	
:30								Swallow	T. Smiley	South Pk		Movie: Nanny McPhee				Hannah	MMA Live	
12 :AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid		Decision		Conan	Upd	(Off Air)	Cops	Auction			Inside the NBA	Movie: How to Be a Player	Wizards	2010 Poker	SportsCenter
:30	Paid		Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News		World		ACTIVE	Oddities					Wizards		
1 :AM	Paid	Mujer...	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Influence	Ghost Lab		Movie: Bad Santa, Brett	Leverage		Suite Life	2010 Poker	SportsCenter
:30	Paid	Cero	King-Hill	(:37) Up to	Pagado					Born		Movie: Co-				Suite Life		

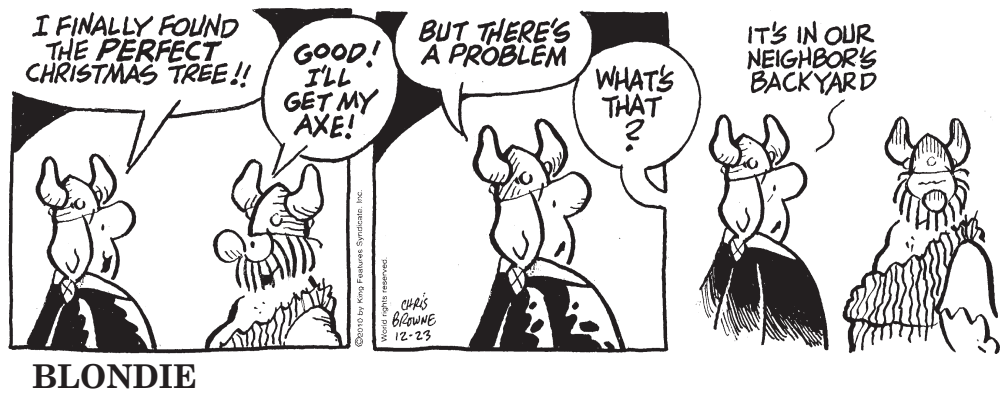
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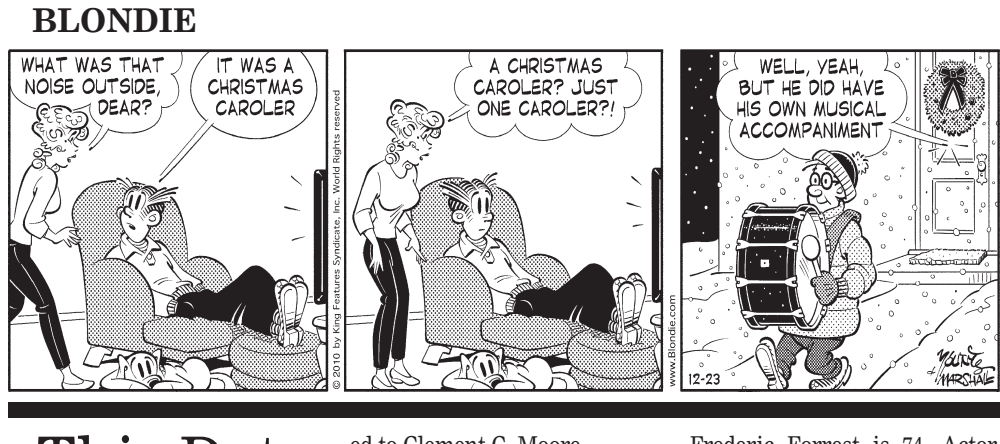
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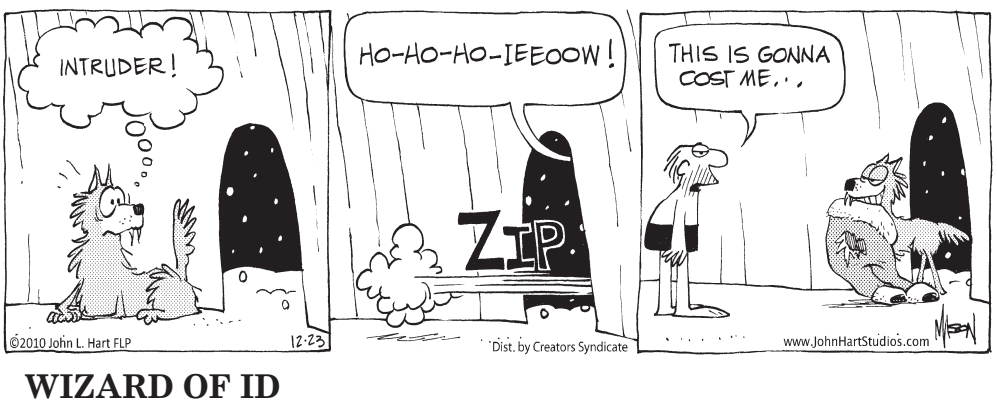
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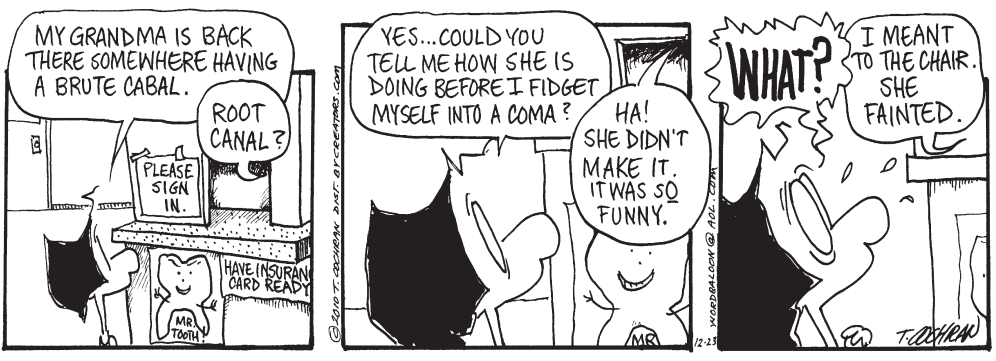
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 2010. There are 8 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 23, 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.

On this date:

In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Va.

In 1788, Maryland passed an act to cede an area "not exceeding 10 miles square" for the seat of the national government; about 2/3 of the area became the District of Columbia.

In 1823, the poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" was published anonymously in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel; the verse, more popularly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attributed to Clement C. Moore.

In 1893, the Engelbert Humperdinck opera "Haensel und Gretel" was first performed, in Weimar, Germany.

In 1928, the National Broadcasting Company set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson held an unprecedented meeting with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.

In 1975, Richard S. Welch, the Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Athens, was shot and killed outside his home by the militant group November 17.

In 1980, a state funeral was held in Moscow for former Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, who had died Dec. 18 at age 76.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gerald S. O'Loughlin is 89. Actor Ronnie Schell is 79. Emperor Akihito of Japan is 77. Pro Football Hall of Famer Paul Hornung is 75. Actor Frederic Forrest is 74. Actor James Stacy is 74. Rock musician Jorma Kaukonen is 70. Rock musician Ron Bushy is 69. Actor-comedian Harry Shearer is 67. Gen. Wesley K. Clark (ret.) is 66. Actress Susan Lucci is 64. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 61. Rock musician Dave Murray (Iron Maiden) is 54. Actress Joan Severance is 52. Singer Terry Weeks is 47. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 46. The first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, is 43. Rock musician Jamie Murphy is 35. Jazz musician Irvin Mayfield is 33. Actress Estella Warren is 32. Actress Anna Maria Perez de Tagle is 20.

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Answer to previous puzzle

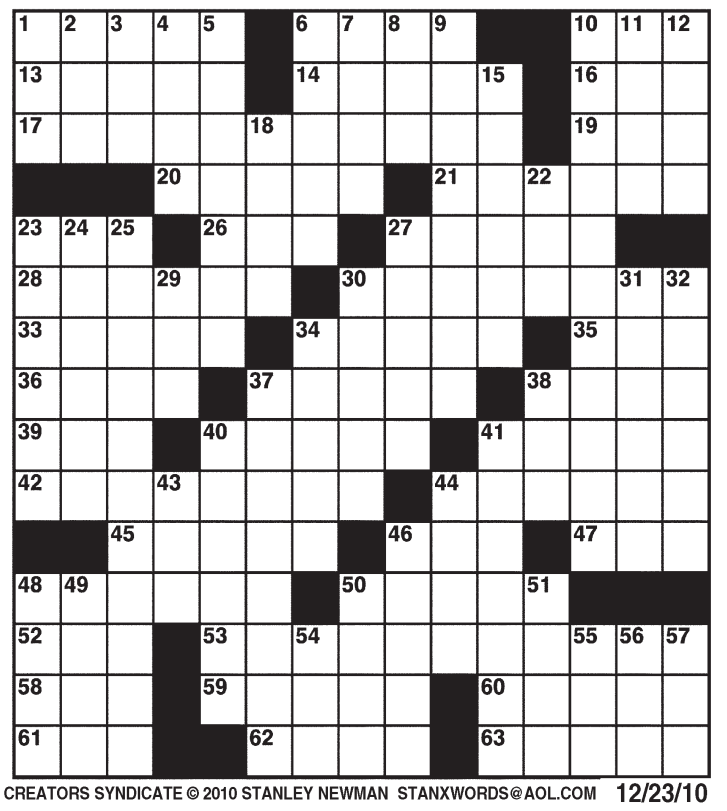
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H	A	V	E		N	I	N	E		E	V	O	K	E
O	V	E	N		L	O	T	S		M	E	R	G	E
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N	E	U	R	O		M	A	C	A	W		P	E	A
A	P	P	E	L	L	A	T	E	B	R	I	E	F	S
G	E	E		T	I	L	E	D		E	N	D	I	T
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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

Newsday Crossword

SAME TO YOU by Norma Steinberg
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Visit unexpectedly
6 Blueprint datum
10 Part of an 18-wheeler
13 Legendary frontiersman
14 Mountain lions
16 Cal.'s northern neighbor
17 Couple's filing
19 Soccer star Hamm
20 Daring exploit
21 Naval rank
23 Country singer Tillis
26 Was in front
27 Deal with
28 Entertained
30 Legendary attorney Darrow
33 Famous
34 Chances to play
35 One of two American League teams
36 In __ (bored)
37 Springs
38 Criminal, to cops
39 Calf call
40 Calmness
41 Verb form
42 Solo
44 Tasty crumb
45 Peel off
46 Order partner
47 UFO crew
48 Beast in a Williams play title
50 Navigation tool
52 Chip off the old block
53 Smartphone ancestor
58 Plus
59 Course with leaves
60 Quaff
61 "You bet!"
62 Yearnings
63 Tries to catch

DOWN
1 Lunch-box sandwich, for short
2 Tic-tac-toe winner
3 Luau offering
4 B&B's
5 Irritated
6 Put forth
7 Complete a hole
8 Ostrich kin
9 Automotive safety devices
10 Thomas Paine pamphlet
11 Soprano's showcase
12 Noggin
15 Shows contempt
18 Felt bad about
22 Grabbed a bite
23 Summer hat
24 Unprincipled
25 Investment vehicles
27 Incline
29 No longer changeable
30 Try to catch
31 Scarlett O'Hara garment
32 Ousts
34 Water near the Eiffel Tower
37 Avert one's eyes
38 Chance prefix
40 Sows
41 In the direction of
43 In the fashion of
44 Umpteen
46 Freight hauls
48 Exeter exclamation
49 Somewhere else now
50 Graceful swimmer
51 Steakhouse specification
54 Encouraging word
55 It may be cast
56 Printer-cartridge filler
57 Green-lights



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RYAN

Continued from Page 6

asked this question frontways, sideways, backways, and all this, but it is a personal matter," he said.

Asked if the NFL might look into the report, spokesman Greg Aiello said the league also considered it a personal matter.

Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said in a brief statement that he and owner Woody Johnson met with Ryan and the coach has their "full support."

Like everyone else, they considered it a personal matter.

This isn't the first time the Jets have turned up on Deadspin this season.

Men's Caprock Bowling Report

The end of the first season is here. Next Monday is the position round and on Jan. 3, the second half will begin. The winner of the first half is guaranteed first or second place for the league.

At the end of the first half season high scores are: Team Scratch Game is The Real Deal with 963 total pins; Team Scratch Series is The Real Deal with 2666 total pins; Team Handicap Game is Team 8 with 1063 total pins; Team Handicap Series is Team 8 with 2971 total pins; Individual Scratch game is Steve Barker with 298 game; Individual Scratch Series is Eddie Gonzalas Jr. with 734 series; Individual Handicap Game is Steve Barker 343 game; Individual Handicap Series is Kyle Lacey with 852 series.

Team standings are: Pollard with 88 points won and 40 points lost; Team 8 with 74 points won and 54 points lost; Frickin' Ten Pin with 74 points won and 54 points lost; Claibornes with 69 points won and 59 points lost; Those Guys with 68 points won and 60 points lost; And 1 with 68 points won and 60 points lost; The Veterans with 67 points won and 61 points lost; Team 2 with 66 points won and 62 points lost; United Country with 64 points won and 64 points lost; Boozz Brutha's with 62 points won and 66 points lost; The Real Deal with 60 points won and 68 points lost; H&S Construction with 58 points won and 70 points lost; Culligan with 54 points won and 74 points lost.

Bowler of the week are: Tim Helmsteller 224 game; Josh Helmsteller 257 game; Eddie Gonzalas Jr. 214 game; Jared Ringener 246, 204 games 629 series; Charles Garcia 246, 205 games 636 series; Phillip Ringener 245 game 626 series; Paul Johnson 203 game; Sam Gonzales 205, 238 games 638 series; Luis Davila 201 game; Randy Nix 226 game; Don Ewing 204, 265, 208 games 677 series; Stephen Ewing 205 game 601 series; Simon Saldana 223 game; Blake Lance 240, 232 games 662 series; Tony Saldana 235 game 604 series; Brian Whitford 202 game; Richard Rowden 222 game 605 series; Tony Shankles 204 game; Sammy Torres 235, 230 game 646 series; Fabian Ontivaros 202, 225 games 617 series; John Dodd 223, 224, 236 games 683 series; Jackie Lecroy 216, 224 games 624 series; Junior Barber 211 game; Kyle Lacey 211 game; Gregg Clarke 228, 220 games 635 series; Jimmie Wood 246 game; Jeff Keliner 258, 236 games 692 series; Fred Gutierrez Jr. 213, 237, 223 games 673 series; Chris Munoz 255, 213 games 638 series; Florencio Hewtty 223 game; Adrian Zarate 238, 201 games; Daniel Mata 204 game. Good Bowling.

The Men's City Tournament is just around the corner. All entry forms are to be turned in by January 17, 2011. The tournament will be January 22nd and 23rd. Entry forms can be picked up at the Bowl-A-Rama. The local USBC chapter is donating 150 dollars to the prize fund. For more information contact Diana Ewing at 432-816-7631, Claud Fryar at 432-517-0475, Sheila Armstrong at 432-270-7596.

The officers' of the Men's Caprock League would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

su|do|ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

NEWTON

Continued from Page 6

from the Bulldogs, but there was no evidence that his son or Auburn knew about it.

The week before the SEC title game, the NCAA said Newton could play and he accounted for six touchdowns in a 56-17 victory against South Carolina. That locked up a spot in the BCS title game on Jan. 10 in Glendale, Ariz.

It's the second straight season Newton has led his team to the national championship game. He guided Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, to the JUCO championship last year — only few noticed.

"We probably have more people in this room here alone than the whole junior college national championship game," Newton said recently.

Auburn coach Gene Chizik was asked about the highs and lows of Newton's season. He confined his answer to the field.

"I don't recall a lot of lows with him, but I recall a lot of highs," Chizik said. "I'm just impressed with him period, both as a person on and off the field and the way he has progressed as a football player for us in this system week by week.

"Obviously, he's one of the huge reasons why we're here, along with many others."

A snapshot view Newton's on-the-field exploits includes a handful of plays that helped a player whose bio consumes a scant quarter of a page in Auburn's media guide become the biggest thing on The Plains since Bo Jackson.

Newton's choice for his top play is TBA.

"I hope my favorite play comes during this BCS championship game," he said. "I still have one more game to play and I probably could tell you after this game."

Other players have already picked favorites going into the game.

—Against Kentucky, Newton leapt in the air and, falling backward out of bounds, managed to flick the ball downfield for a 33-yard completion to Kodi Burns.

"He scrambled out of the pocket and had guys all over him, fell out of bounds and threw it sideways about 45 yards on a scramble play," Malzahn said. "It's one of those plays when it happens right in front of you, you say did that really just happen?"

Not surprisingly, that was also Burns' choice for favorite play.

—A 71-yard touchdown run in the opener against Arkansas State before Malzahn really turned Newton loose as a runner 20-30 times a game.

"We had like a play-action rollout to the right side, and I think they just blitzed into where he was supposed to be rolling out and he just took off up the middle and basically followed (tailback Onterio McCalebb) where the fake was going and just took off down the sideline," recalled backup quarterback Barrett Trotter. "It was a long, long run. That being the first game of the year, I think that was one of the most impressive plays I can think of."

su|do|ku

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ANSWERS

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Self-Imposed Challenge

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 9 5
♥ 9 4
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ A K 3

WEST
♠ 7 3
♥ 10 8 6 5 2
♦ 8 7
♣ J 8 7 4

EAST
♠ 4
♥ K Q 7
♦ A Q 10 4 2
♣ 10 6 5 2

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

Bad bidding sometimes makes for good drama. Witness this deal where South got to six spades. He was clearly entitled to investigate the possibility of a slam after North had raised one spade to two. North might have had a hand that would make six spades a laydown.

South had planned to stop at four if North had bid three spades over three hearts, but when North elected to cuebid four clubs, South pressed on to slam. Having made a slam try with his three-heart bid, South would have been better advised to return to four spades, and North would undoubtedly not have taken another bid.

West led a diamond, won by East with the ace, and — because the lead could have been a singleton — East returned a diamond. This proved fatal, as East later discovered to his sorrow.

South took the king, drew trumps and ruffed the nine of diamonds, hoping the queen would fall. When it didn't, South played all his remaining trumps, producing this position:

North
♥ 9
♦ J
♣ A K 3

West
Immaterial

East
♥ K Q
♦ Q
♣ 10 6

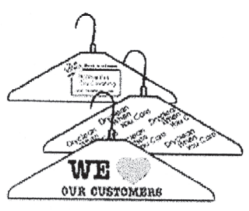
South
♥ A J 3
♣ Q 9

South cashed his three club tricks, and on the third one, East couldn't afford to part with the queen of diamonds, so he discarded a heart. Declarer then scored the last two tricks with the A-J of hearts.

The outcome would have been different had East shifted to the king of hearts at trick two. This would have severed a crucial line of communication between the North-South hands, and the slam would have gone down one.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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